



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Virtual Meeting
August 24, 2020 at 1:00 PM

AUGUST 24, 2020 CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT)

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
James Aberson	Chatham County	X
Teresa Brenner	Savannah Council of the Blind	X
Wayne Dawson	Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council	
Brenda Pollen	Housing Authority of Savannah	
Pala Valdez	Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision	
Carol Hunt	NAACP - Savannah Branch	
Jackie Immel	Georgia Infirmary Day Care Center for Rehabilitation	
Neil Ligon	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
Patti Lyons	Senior Citizens Savannah - Chatham County, Inc.	X
Pamela Oglesby	Savannah - Chatham Council on Disability Issues (SCCDI)	X
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind, Local Chapter	X
President & CEO	Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire	
Representative	Effingham County	
Representative	GDOT District Five	
Representative	Richmond Hill	
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Clealice Timmons	Coastal Center for Development Services	
Leslie Wilson	Economic Opportunity Authority	
Brigitte Morrison	Chatham Area Transit	X
Stu Klugler	LIFE Board President	
Dr. Frank Lala	GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Assoc of the Deaf Interested Citizen	X

<u>Voting Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Julie Yawn	MPC	X
Jackie Jackson	MPC	X
Mary Mitchell	MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the August 24, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting agenda; seconded by Ms. Pam Oglesby. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. Approval of the June 22, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes.

- [Final CORE ACAT June 22 2020 Meeting Minutes Final.pdf](#)

Ms. Pam Oglesby motioned to approve the June 22, 2020 ACAT Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Bridgette Morrison. The motion passed with none opposed.

2. Resolution of Support for SR 307 Corridor Study

- [resolution-for-illustrative-project-funding-application-sr 307-8-26-2020.pdf](#)
- [PL Funding Application for State Route 307 Corridor Study.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated Chatham County wants to do a Corridor Study of SR 307 from GA Ports Authority gate to Ogeechee Road. This study will determine what kind of improvements need to be made. Recommendations might include road widening, intersection improvements, or signal synchronization. The TCC has discussed this project at two separate meetings. The amendment to include this study in the FY 2021 UPWP was processed in June 2020. The resolution is to support the MPO staff to submit the funding application through the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee in September. We are asking ACAT to endorse the resolution to the CORE MPO Board. Ms. Oglesby asked if this study would include pedestrian crossing at Dean Forrest Road due to the amount of trailer parks that are in that area. Ms. Wang replied that if it were put in the detailed scope that would be a part of the study.

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to endorse the Resolution of Support for SR 307 Corridor Study; seconded by Ms. Patti Lyons. The motion passed with none opposed.

3. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Project Prioritization

☉ [FY 2021-2024 TIP Priority Establishment Staff Report Updated.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang stated that priority establishment is a part of the development process for the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP. There needs to be Priority Projects listed out due to limited resources, to program the funds to the higher priority projects.

The MPO has authority to prioritize projects funded by urban attributable (Z230) funds, highway infrastructure program (HIP) funds, and transportation alternatives (Z301) funds. The MPO conducted Calls for Projects for expected revenues from these funding sources and received several applications for each funding source. These applications were then scored and ranked by the TCC members based on their respective ranking criteria.

For the HIP funds there were 3 applications.

- Chatham County's I-16 and Jimmy DeLoach Interchange Improvements project ranked #1.
- Tybee Island's US 80 Bridges Replacement project ranked #2.
- Garden City's Pricilla Thomas Way at State Route 21 Signalization project ranked #3.

Because of overlap in eligibilities, these three projects have applied for Z230 funds as well. The MPO also received applications for Z230 funds for four other projects. The Z230 rankings are listed below.

- Tybee Island's US 80 Bridges Replacement project ranked #1.
- Chatham County's I-16 and Jimmy DeLoach Interchange Improvements project ranked #2.
- Garden City's Pricilla Thomas Way at State Route 21 Signalization project ranked #3.
- City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center project Ranked #4.
- Chatham Area Transit's Electric Bus Conversion Initiative project ranked #5.
- Chatham County's Old River Road improvement project ranked #6.
- Pooler's Quacco Road Widening project ranked #7.

If these projects are programmed with HIP funds, they might not need Z230 funds. There will be a special called TCC meeting to focus on how to program the funds to the priority projects.

The transportation alternatives (Z301) funds can be used for bicycle ways, pedestrian sidewalks, and trails. There were two applications received, both from Chatham County. The rankings are listed below.

- Chevis Road Improvement project ranked #1.
- Gerard Avenue Improvement project ranked #2.

Both projects include sidewalk, trails, and bike improvements.

For projects funded by revenues from funding sources other than Z230, HIP and Z301, those already included in Cost Band One of Mobility 2045 should be considered priority projects. They have gone through the two-screening prioritization process of Mobility 2045.

Ms. Pamela Oglesby motioned to approve the FY 2021-2024 TIP Prioritization Projects and methodology; seconded by Ms. Teresa Brenner. The motion passed with none opposed.

[4. Participation Plan Updates for Virtual Public Involvement](#)

📎 [Participation Plan Updates Authorization.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang gave an update stating that the MPO's Participation Plan needs to be updated to accommodate the virtual public involvement process due to COVID 19. She asked for volunteers for this Participation Plan update efforts. Mr. James Aberson and Ms. Teresa Brenner volunteered to help with the plan update.

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to endorse the Participation Plan updates for Virtual Public Involvement; seconded by Ms. Patti Lyons. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

[5. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Development](#)

📎 [FY 2021-2024 TIP Development Schedule.pdf](#)

📎 [Savannah - Total HWY Funds 2021 -2024.pdf](#)

📎 [Savannah Detail - FY 21 - 24.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang gave an overview of the Development Schedule for the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP. The earliest the TIP can be adopted is December 2020 and the latest being February 2021. GDOT has provided the expected revenues and a draft project list, but specific programming is still being worked on. The TIP development requires a 30-day public review period. If we are to adopt the TIP in December 2020, there needs to be a draft in place in November with a preliminary draft in September since the Federal Highway Administration and GDOT will review the preliminary draft and provide feedback and comments before the revised draft can be presented to the general public for review. There will be a special called meeting scheduled with the TCC to work out all technical issues, revenue projections and how to allocate the funds to the priority projects. If we encounter road blocks, the schedule could change. There are still things to be worked out, e. g. City of Savannah's Project DeRenne, Delesseps Avenue, and Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B. We need to make sure these projects are on track with their current milestone dates so the programmed funds can be authorized.

6. SR 21 Access Management Study Garden City

Ms. Wang stated that Garden City submitted a study proposal for the SR 21 Access Management Study since there will be major development around the SR 21 school site. The MPO applied for the discretionary planning funds on behalf of Garden City. The funding was awarded. Now a detailed scope needs to be developed as well as the Request for Proposals, then eventually a consultant firm will be hired to do the study.

Ms. Oglesby asked about the traffic patterns and shared her concerns for the children that are walking and crossing over Hwy 21. She is requesting that bicycle and pedestrian traffic is a focal point. Mr. Aberson asked what the approximate completion time frame for this study is. Ms. Wang explained that right now MPC and GDOT need to sign a funding contract before they can secure a consultant. The funds were awarded but the funding contract has not been signed. CORE MPO will be the project manager with Garden City providing the local match since they are the study proposer. There needs to be a MOU signed between the MPO and Garden City as well.

7. 2021 Update of the Chatham County - Savannah Comprehensive Plan

📎 [MPO Comp Plan Process Timeline_080520.pdf](#)

Ms. Jackie Jackson presented the report for the Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan. The MPC will be updating the Comprehensive Plan for un-incorporated Chatham County, City of Savannah, City of Pooler, and requests to look at Garden City as well. The Comprehensive Plan is the vision document for the community, a long-range document. This plan is called Plan 2040 because it goes out to the year 2040 for these jurisdictions. Community input and community feedback are required on each area of the plan. The focus areas are Housing, Economic Development, Land Use, Transportation, as well as Quality of Life. Quality of Life encompasses more areas with regards to Education and Public Safety, Historic Resources as well as Broadband. Broadband is a new requirement we are looking at, to ensure that everyone in the community at least has access to broadband. An important aspect of the Comprehensive Plan is that it is a pre-requisite to ensure that local governments can access spending money through grants and resources. Examples include CDBG funds, Environmental funds through GEFFA, Water and Sewer loans and One GA Authority funds which are for rural communities. The last full Comprehensive Plan update for un-incorporated Chatham County and City of Savannah was back in 2006. There were amendments done in 2012 and 2016. Pooler and Garden City are following this same timeline. There are processes that the County has in place called the County Blueprint and the recently adopted Vision Savannah Plan. Both of those are goals and strategies

that have also been vetted and will be incorporated into the 2040 plan as well. Natural Resources will be called out as a standalone chapter because of where we are in the coastal community. This is a huge asset we need to ensure we are protecting for the long term. Also included is a strategic plan and work program where the capital projects are listed out and identified. The Transportation focus areas include sustainability, resiliency, climate change, Sea Level Rise, and Transit Oriented Development (TOD). The TOD is looking at development to be focused specifically around the urban centers or nodes where there are bus stops and easy walking distance or bicycling to the important epicenters where people need to go. A big part of this plan update process is the public participation and access. There is a deadline of October 31, 2021 for this plan to be adopted.

Ms. Oglesby asked about walkability and how the visually impaired/blind population will be considered. There is a lack of audible traffic lights. Ms. Jackson replied this is a part of the feedback process so that everyone's needs will be addressed and considered.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

Project status reports from various agencies are included in Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference. Any questions from ACAT will be forwarded to the agency's project coordinator.

V. Other Business

Ms. Oglesby asked what has happened to the wheelchair accessible taxis. Mr. Aberson was unsure if there were any wheelchair accessible taxi providers in existence.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

There were no public members coming forward.

VII. Announcements

[8. Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[9. CORE MPO's Responses to GDOT's FY 2020 Title VI Questionnaire](#)

[📎 FY 20 Annual Title VI Questionnaire August 2020.pdf](#)

[10. August 2020 TIP Administrative Modifications](#)

[📎 TIP Administrative Modification 8-7-2020.pdf](#)

11. GDOT Project Status Report

- 📎 [GDOT Report - Aug 2020_final.pdf](#)

12. Chatham County's Project Status Report

- 📎 [August 2020 Chatham County Report.pdf](#)

13. City of Savannah Project Status Update

- 📎 [City of Savannah Project Status Update.pdf](#)

14. CAT Project Status Report

- 📎 [CAT Status Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Brigitte Morrison gave an update. She stated that the CAT's phone answering services from 6 am to 8 pm are now virtual. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony last week. This is an effort to help with COVID. All the contact information, numbers etc. are the same. Call 912-233-5767 to make reservations. Please remember that it's hurricane season and CAT needs to have evacuation plans in place. They are partnered with CEMA. People can go to the CEMA website at www.chathamemergency.org for information.

15. USDOT/FHWA/FTA Reply to AMPO Letter

- 📎 [COVID AMPO.Reg Relief.pdf](#)

- 📎 [COVID AMPO.Reply.pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 24, 2020 meeting of the CORE MPO ACAT was adjourned.

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.