



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Virtual Meeting
December 7, 2020 at 1:00pm

DECEMBER 7, 2020 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT) Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
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.	
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	
Terry Tolbert	Economic Opportunity Authority	
Brigitte Morrison	Chatham Area Transit	X
Dr. Frank Lala	GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Assoc of the Deaf Interested Citizen	X
Shannon Ginnsginn	Interested Citizen	X
Voting Alternates	Representing	Present

Others	Representing	Present
Alexia Schwab	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Darlene West	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Cody Jones	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Wykoda Wang motioned to approve the December 7, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. Neil Ligon. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. [ACAT Election of Officers](#)

📎 [ACAT Election Rules.docx](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the current chairperson is resigning. The new chairperson will serve for the next two years according to the bylaws. Mr. James Aberson nominated Ms. Teresa Brenner for Chairperson. Ms. Wykoda Wang nominated Mr. Neil Ligon for Chairperson. Mr. Ligon declined due to overcommitment. Ms. Teresa Brenner accepted her nomination. There were no other nominations. Ms. Teresa Brenner was voted unanimously with none opposed as the newly elected Chairperson.

Ms. Wykoda Wang nominated Ms. Pamela Oglesby, Savannah-Chatham Council on Disability Issues for Vice-Chair. Ms. Oglesby accepted her nomination. Ms. Pamela Oglesby was voted unanimously with none opposed as the newly elected Vice-Chair.

2. [Approval of the October 19, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes.](#)

📎 [ACAT-october-19-2020-minutes-Final.pdf](#)

Ms. Pamela Oglesby motioned to approve the October 19, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Wykoda Wang. The motion passed with none opposed.

3. [FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Adoption](#)

📎 [Revised Draft FY 2021 - 2024 TIP.pdf](#)

📎 [FY 2021-2024 TIP Adoption.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the Draft FY 2021 - 2024 TIP. This is the 4-year program of the highest priority projects to be programmed from the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This TIP includes multi-modal projects -

Highway, Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails. This is a coordinated process that is cooperatively developed by all MPO committees and staff. ACAT has been involved from the beginning with the Calls for Projects for Z230 funds, Z301 funds, and Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds in January. Due to COVID-19 we were not able to evaluate and rank all the projects at that time. The HIP project evaluation was done in June and in August the others were done. In September and October TCC met twice to allocate the HIP, Z230, and Z301 funds based on actual revenues to projects. The preliminary draft for FHWA, FTA and GDOT review received several comments which are in Appendix D of the attached document together with the MPO's responses. The last day for the public review and comment period for the revised draft was last Thursday. Written comments will still be accepted up to the close of business on Wednesday this week. In December, the TIP will go through each of the committees for endorsement and adoption.

The TIP will contribute to achieving the performance targets. For highway, we have adopted the GDOT performance targets. Our adopted transit performance targets come from Chatham Area Transit and GDOT Intermodal.

The Highway Safety Targets were adopted in October 2020.

- Number of Fatalities 1715.0. To maintain the 5-year moving average traffic fatalities under the projected 1,715 (2017-2021) 5-year average by December 2021.
- Number of Serious Injuries 6407.0. To maintain the 5-year moving average serious traffic injuries under the projected 6,407 (2017-2021) 5-year average by December 2021.
- Fatality Rate 1.230. To maintain the 5-year moving average traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled under the projected 1.23 (2017-2021) 5-year average by December 2020.
- Serious Injury Rate 4.422. To reduce the 5-year moving average serious traffic injuries for every 100 million vehicle miles traveled under the projected 4.42 (2017-2021) 5-year average by December 2021.
- Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries 686.5. To maintain the 5-year moving average non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries under the projected 687 (2017-2021) 5-year average by December 2021.

The Pavement and Bridge Conditions performance targets were adopted in August 2018. For these targets, we want to have a higher percentage of interstate pavements, non-Interstate pavements, and bridges in good condition. For the percentage of interstate pavements in poor condition, the smaller the better, preferably 5% or less. Other targets include the percent of non-interstate national highway system pavement in good condition, poor condition and national highway system bridge in good condition and poor condition. For these performance

measures, the targets would be the higher percentage the better for facilities to be in good condition, and the lower percentage the better for facilities in poor condition.

The System Performance targets on freight movement and congestion management were adopted in August 2018. For these targets, we want to make sure the percent of person miles on the interstate system is reliable. The 2-year targets are 73% and the 4-year targets are 67%. For the percent of person miles on the non-interstate national highway system that is reliable, the target is 81%. For the truck travel time reliability index, the higher the better.

Chatham Area Transit is the major transit provider in the Savannah Urbanized Area. They developed their own transit asset management (TAM) targets. The CRC joined the GDOT Intermodal to develop the joint transit asset management targets for the rural areas. The Coastal Regional Commission provides the linking trips in the rural area (outside the Savannah Urbanized Area boundary). There are two service providers in our region. As an MPO we adopted a combination of TAM targets from these two agencies. The TAM targets asset categories include the rolling stock (Buses, Mini vans, Ferry Boats, etc.), Equipment (Automobiles, Trucks, etc.) and Facilities (Passengers and Parking, etc.).

The projects programmed in the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP contribute to multiple targets.

- Project DeRenne contributes to multiple targets - improve safety, relieve congestion, and facilitate freight movement.
- US 17 Bridges will contribute to Safety and Bridge Improvement targets as well as improving freight movement.
- Effingham Parkway will relieve congestion on SR 21.
- Brampton Road connector is designed as a Freight intermodal facility, which will facilitate freight movement and relieve some congestion in the Port Area.
- I-16 Widening and I-16 at 95 Interchange Reconstruction will improve safety, improve pavement, and facilitate freight movement.
- Ogeechee Road Widening will help achieve safety targets. It will help the non-motorized with the bike lanes and sidewalks.
- US 80 Bridges projects include bridge replacements at Bull River and Lazaretto Creek as well as the roadway improvements between the bridges. The projects will increase pavement and bridge performance, improve safety in the area as well as relieve congestion. The bike path will increase the safety for the non-motorized users including bicyclists and pedestrians.
- I-16 Interchange at Little Neck Road will increase and facilitate freight movement, relieve congestion, and improve safety.
- City of Savannah has the traffic control center project. Signal coordination, push button pedestrian crossing, and signals will help improve safety. Traffic will flow better, thus relieving congestion and facilitating freight movement. Buses will benefit from the signal coordination. Air quality will improve with less particles omitted.

- Old River Road Widening will be an improvement to a freight concentrated area by widening to two lanes on each side. This project is in Effingham and Chatham Counties. A lot of Effingham County is not in the Savannah Urbanized Area. The MPO can only spend money in the area within the Savannah Urbanized Area within the MPO boundaries. Effingham will have to pick up the cost on their side.

Mr. Aberson asked if these boundaries would change with the new census, and if so, how long would it take? Ms. Wang stated after each census, the MPO staff review the urbanized area and revise the MPO boundary. The MPO boundary takes in the existing urbanized area and the area projected to be urbanized within the next 20 years. Along SR 21, the MPO boundary might expand to the Rincon area. The staff is not sure regarding the Old River Road area. Ms. Oglesby asked when they will get results from the census. Ms. Wang stated after the release of the census data, there is approximately 2 years.

Ms. Wang continued to present the TIP projects and performance measures.

- I-95 ITS project from Florida state line to the South Carolina state line will help achieve all the performance targets - Safety, Congestion, Freight and Air Quality.
- SR 21 at SR 30 – the Lump sum project will provide Safety Improvements.
- SR 21 from I-95 to SR 30 – the Lump sum project will improve safety.
- I-16 at Chatham Parkway – the Lump sum project will provide Intersection improvements.

The federal lump sum projects will improve maintenance, safety, grade separation, and rail crossing devices. They will all improve safety performance measures, improve air quality, relieve congestion, and facilitate freight movement.

There were Z230 funds allocated to Chatham Area Transit to purchase another electric bus. Transit TIP also programmed Sections 5307, 5337, 5339, 5310, 5311 funds, and included a bus replacement program. Each time there are investments in the transit, they will improve transit safety and help contribute to achieving the transit asset management targets.

The TIP includes three bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects.

- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B
- Chevis Rd Improvement Project
- Gerard Avenue Improvement Project

By accommodating the bicycle and pedestrian bike lane and sidewalks, these projects will help achieve the non-motorized safety improvement targets. Air quality will be improved as well with less omission.

Overall, 90% of the total investment for the TIP would be for the highway projects and 10% for transit projects. The total investments are approximately \$572 million. The Truman Linear Park Trail project is a stand-alone project. The funding is coming from the highway portion. Some Z230 funds were allocated to help CAT purchase another electric bus, so this should be included in the transit percentage. The funds have not been flexed from Federal Highway Administration to Federal Transit Administration yet, so they are included in the FHWA portion. The Ogeechee Road Widening project includes the bicycle and pedestrian improvements, but is not separated out since it is included in the design for the highway improvements. Most of the funding is coming from the highway portion.

85% of the TIP projects' investments are contributing to the safety targets, 82% contributing to achieving congestion targets, 74% contributing to Freight movement, 68% improving pavement and bridges, 24% helping to improve air quality performance targets, and more than 10% helping to achieve transit safety and transit asset management targets. The proposed TIP includes a high percentage of projects addressing Safety, Freight and Congestion. Each project addresses several performance measures. Each project will help to achieve the performance targets as well as contribute to the economic development in the Savannah region.

Staff is asking the ACAT committee to endorse the draft TIP to the CORE MPO Board for adoption, subject to the program changes listed.

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to endorse the FY 2021 - 2024 Draft TIP; seconded by Ms. Pamela Oglesby. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

[4. FY 2021 Federal Certification Review](#)

📎 [2020-December MPO Cert Presentation.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented FY 2021 Federal Certification Review. MPOs with more than 200,000 in population are considered TMA MPOs. For the TMA there is a certification review process every 4 years. The last certification review for CORE MPO was completed in 2017. The review process is to ensure the CORE MPO planning process is consistent with the Federal rules and regulations. The MPO board, GDOT, CAT, Airport, local municipalities, Savannah, Chatham County, Pooler, Garden City, other governmental agencies, interest groups, FTA, FHWA and general public are all involved. We want to make sure the planning process is inclusive, comprehensive, and cooperative. We want to make sure the public is involved, making sure they have accessibility to the planning products and are able to provide comments.

The MPO planning process is the framework to make transportation decisions for our area. It is a framework for collaboration, as we have local input coordinating with local agencies as well as GDOT. The MPO makes investments, determines how

much in our area and how the funds are allocated. This includes Federal Transportation funds as well as the State Transportation funds. This provides the framework for future transportation systems. The 2045 MTP projections are based on land use, social economic information, economic development, employers, locations, and freight warehouses.

A questionnaire with over 300 questions was submitted today to the FHWA. They have requested additional information, including the MPC Handbook, the MOU, and bylaws. Web links were provided to the 2045 MTP, TIP, Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, UPWP, Congestion Management Process, and Freight Plan. FHWA and FTA are conducting the desk audit. In January there will be a virtual site visit. There will be a public meeting on January 19th. The public notice is being sent out this week. All committee members and general public are welcome to participate. The closeout will be January 21st. The final report will include strengths, weaknesses, and corrective actions. We do not want corrective actions; we want to make sure we are Federal compliant. If we do not pass the Federal Certification Review, all the transportation funds (highway and transit) in this area will be held up. We will update the committees as the review progresses. The final report will be presented at the February meetings.

[5. Participation and Title VI Plan update progress](#)

📎 [PartPlan_PresentationPDF.pdf](#)

📎 [PartPlanTitleVI_Update.pdf](#)

📎 [CORE MPO Participation Plan October2020 - V2PDF.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan update. The first draft was done at the end of October and sent to the federal and state governments for review and comments. The comments are just coming in, and we will begin incorporating those. The public review and comment period begins in January. We are on track to adopt the plans in February 2021.

While looking at the measures of effectiveness, for 3 out of 4 of the committees the attendance increased this year. The survey is live, and we encourage everyone to participate. This survey will help ensure all groups are represented equally within the CORE MPO.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

CAT- Ms. Bridgett Morrison stated there is a new COO, Lennie Cooksy, in the Operations Dept. He has made changes within the organization, separating the paratransit from fixed route. This will allow the paratransit to get the focused attention it needs. Bridgett Morrison is the new Paratransit Director.

The fares have started back up on both the fixed routes and paratransit. Based on feedback from the riders, they are pleased to be paying and they have direction in their routes again.

Paratransit is working on a grocery store initiative. The paratransit clients can place their order online, call in with their confirmation number and then the paratransit operators will go and pick up their grocery order based on the confirmation number and deliver it to their homes. A lot of the paratransit clients have underlying conditions and by keeping them at home this would keep them safer. It will help tighten up the transit schedule as well. There has been a lot of good feedback from the customers.

LIFE- Mr. Neil Ligon stated they have COVID - 19 support services available. The person needs to become a consumer with LIFE. There needs to be a COVID link. The idea is to provide bridge services to help people get through this. 912-920-2414 is the number to call.

V. Other Business

None.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

There were no public members coming forward.

VII. Announcements

- [6. Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

- [7. Feedback Needed on Update to Comprehensive Plans for Chatham, GardenCity, Pooler and Savannah](#)

[☞ OutreachPoster.pdf](#)

- [8. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

[☞ GDOT Report - Dec 2020 final.pdf](#)

- [9. Chatham County Project Status Report](#)

[☞ December 2020 TCC Report - Chatham County.pdf](#)

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

[☞ City of Savannah Project Status Report.pdf](#)

- [11. CAT Project Status Report](#)

[☞ FY21 Status Report 2020_12-CAT.pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the December 7, 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.