



## CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

CAT Joe Murray Rivers, Jr. Intermodal Transit Center – 1:00 p.m.  
610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah  
Minutes

### February 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes of the CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT)

| <b><u>Voting Members</u></b>    | <b><u>Representing</u></b>                                 | <b><u>Present</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| James Aberson                   | Chatham County   | X                     |
| Teresa Brenner                  | Savannah Council of the Blind                              |                       |
| Representative                  | Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council             |                       |
| Brenda Pollen                   | Housing Authority of Savannah                              | X                     |
| Pala Valdez                     | Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision               |                       |
| Representative                  | NAACP - Savannah Branch                                    |                       |
| Representative                  | Georgia Infirmary Day Care Center for Rehabilitation       |                       |
| Neil Ligon                      | Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.              |                       |
| 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                     |
| Representative                  | Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire                  |                       |
| Representative                  | Effingham County, Staff                                    |                       |
| Representative                  | GDOT District Five   |                       |
| Representative                  | Richmond Hill, Staff                                       |                       |
| Wykoda Wang                     | CORE MPO/MPC   | X                     |
| Representative                  | Coastal Center for Development Services                    |                       |
| Terry Tolbert                   | Economic Opportunity Authority                             | X                     |
| Brigitte Morrison               | Chatham Area Transit                                       | X                     |
| Dr. Frank Lala                  | GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Assoc of the Deaf | X                     |
| Dr. Michael O'Halloran          | Interested Citizen - Chatham Area Transit Board Chairman   | X                     |
| <b><u>Voting Alternates</u></b> | <b><u>Representing</u></b>                                 | <b><u>Present</u></b> |
|                                 |  |                       |
| <b><u>Others</u></b>            | <b><u>Representing</u></b>                                 | <b><u>Present</u></b> |
| Kara Powis                      | Heart Interpreting   | X                     |
| Joshua Ferguson                 | Heart Interpreting   | X                     |
| James Small                     | CORE MPO/MPC   | X                     |
| Stephanie Rossi                 | CORE MPO/MPC   | X                     |

## I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Pamela Oglesby motioned to approve the February 24, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting agenda; seconded by Ms. Wykoda Wang. The motion was passed with none opposed.

## II. Action Items

### 1. Approval of December 9, 2019 ACAT meeting minutes

📎 [December 9 ACAT.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang motioned to approve the December 9, 2019 ACAT meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Pamela Oglesby. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### 2. Adoption of the FY 2021 UPWP

📎 [FY 2021 UPWP Adoption Staff Report.pdf](#)

📎 [Revised Draft 2021 UPWP.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented on the FY 2021 UPWP. The UPWP outlines the staff budget for the next fiscal year. CORE MPO receives Planning funds from the Federal Highway Administration and Section 5303 funds from the Federal Transit Administration for CORE MPO planning and operations. Both funds require a 20% local match. The CORE MPO will receive roughly \$452,000 for Highway Planning and roughly \$132,000 for Transit Planning activities. The MPO receives local membership dues to fund the local match. The FY 2021 budget totals \$618,382.43. Ms. Wang then showed the budget for each task.

Funding is allocated by work types which are organized into four major categories - Program Support and Administration, Public Involvement, Data Collection and Systems Planning. The Transit Tasks include Transit/Paratransit Planning, Long Range Plan, and Transportation Improvement Program.

Answering questions from the public, maintaining the CORE MPO website, supporting the Citizens Advisory Committee, and Environmental Justice and anti-poverty initiatives fall under the category of Public Involvement. Socio-economic research including Census data collection is a part of Data Collection. This category also includes traffic impact analysis and land use monitoring. The System Planning sub-tasks include congestion management process, freight planning, transit and paratransit planning, long range plan, transportation improvement program, etc.

Mr. James Aberson asked if the addition of Effingham County to the revised MPO boundary will impact representation of the CORE MPO. Ms. Wang stated that it will impact representation of the CORE MPO and that CORE MPO staff will have to revise the MOU and amend the bylaws. This process will take a few years because the data has to be collected and analyzed, and changes will be made. Mr. James Small currently provides the Census Bureau with building permit data. This information will be useful in developing socio-economic data as well.

Administrative and service functions encompass about 38% of the budget. CORE program documents including LRTP will encompass approximately 25% of the budget. Planning analysis such as Freight, Non-motorized, and Strategic planning will encompass roughly 37% of the budget.

For the FY 2021 UPWP document, GDOT Intermodal suggested that staff consolidate several Transit Planning tasks. All Transit/Paratransit Planning will be included in one task, the Long Rang Transportation Plan will be included in a separate task, and Transportation Improvement Program will be its own task.

TMA Certification Review, 2020 Census Data Collection, and Congestion Management Process have been identified as additional priorities for the 2021 Unified Planning Work Program. CORE MPO staff also added a section titled Unfunded Illustrative Studies, due to the discretionary planning funds available to conduct the studies. FHWA/GDOT require the MPO to identify the needs for the studies in the illustrative section before funding application. If granted the discretionary planning funds, staff will have to amend the studies into the UPWP. We currently have 4 studies outlined in the Unfunded Illustrative Studies section.

Ms. Pamela Oglesby motioned to endorse the Draft FY 2021 UPWP; seconded by Dr. Michael O'Halloran. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### [3. Amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan](#)

📎 [Amendments to Non-motorized Plan Staff Report Feb 2020.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the Amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The previous Non-Motorized Transportation Plan was completed in October 2014. Staff is conducting the update to consider new studies and plans such as Tide-to-Town, East Coast Greenway, and Coastal Georgia Greenway, that started after the 2014 plan adoption. MPO staff has developed a comprehensive list of amendments to better align the plan with the area's current trends and needs.

In 2017, MPO staff collected data by reviewing level of service and the non-motorized facilities in the City of Savannah and Chatham County. Staff added new sidewalks to the plan, amending the maps to include the new sidewalks. The plan also reflects an increase in non-motorized facilities due to citizen awareness of these facilities being built in other communities. Staff added a policy statement requiring that any non-motorized project consistent with Mobility 2045 must be included in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan to be eligible for federal funding.

A local working group was formed to review the list of proposed amendments and make necessary changes. All projects listed in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan are eligible for TIP funding if the project has a local sponsor. Staff intends to

have the amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan adopted before the FY 2020 Calls for Projects start.

Ms. Pamela Oglesby clarified that the Truman Linear Park Trail is a part of the Tide to Town Project. Due to the state pulling the funding for the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B project, Ms. Oglesby asked what impact this will have on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Ms. Rossi stated that the plan does not come with funding, the projects in the plan must obtain funding to be implemented. If the project does not secure another funding source, it can impact the funds set aside for the project in the TIP.

Ms. Wykoda Wang motioned to endorse the proposed Amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan to the CORE MPO Board; seconded by Ms. Pamela Oglesby. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### **III. Status Reports**

#### **4.2020 Call for Projects Packages**

- 📎 [Calls for Projects staff report.pdf](#)
- 📎 [CORE MPO TA Application Form February 2020.pdf](#)
- 📎 [CORE MPO TA Manual February 2020.pdf](#)
- 📎 [CORE MPO Z230 Application Form February 2020.pdf](#)
- 📎 [CORE MPO Z230 Manual February 2020.pdf](#)
- 📎 [CORE MPO HIP Application Form 2020.pdf](#)
- 📎 [CORE MPO HIP Manual 2020.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the 2020 Calls for Projects Packages. This process is to prioritize projects for the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or process amendments to the FY 2018-2021 TIP. At the conclusion of this Call for Projects, if we have a new TIP, staff will include all awarded projects into the new TIP. If we do not have a new TIP, the current TIP will be amended to include the new projects. CORE MPO staff plans to issue Calls for Projects in February 2020 for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Attributable (Z230) funds, Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funds, and Transportation Alternatives (TA – Z301) funds. Due to eligibility requirements overlapping, participants can apply for multiple grants based on the project type.

It is estimated that roughly \$5 million are available each year in FY 2022 – 2024 for Z230 Funds, including local match. In the past, CAT has applied for Z230 funds for bus purchases.

Roughly \$926,000 FY 2018 HIP funds and \$1.3 million FY 2019 HIP funds are available for allocation. The FY 2018 HIP funds must be authorized by September

30, 2021 and the FY 2019 HIP funds by September 21, 2022. These funds can be used for preliminary engineering, Right-of-Way purchase, or construction. These funds must be authorized and ready to be used immediately. HIP funds can only be used for highway, bridge and tunnel projects.

Z301 Funds can be used for bicycle, pedestrian, and trail projects. With local match, these funds are expected to be roughly \$500,000 each year in FY 2022 - 2024. Local agencies can partner with jurisdictions to produce a local match and apply for the funds. To apply for these funds, the project must be included in the Non-Motorized Transportation plan.

The CORE MPO Project selection schedule is as follows.

- The TCC will review and comment on the three Calls for Projects application packages.
- CORE MPO staff will edit and finalize the application packages based on TCC comments.
- After review and approval by the CORE MPO Board, staff will announce the Calls for Projects.
- The application deadline is March 25, 2020.
- TCC members will screen and score applications and send the scores to MPO staff to compile.
- TCC will review the scores, develop a project priority list, and make award recommendations based on GDOT revenue projections.
- Project recommendations for approval will be presented at the April 22, 2020 CORE MPO Board meeting, and TIP amendments will be processed based on the TCC recommendations.
- The projected adoption date for programming the Z230-, Z301-, and HIP-funded projects that are awarded funds will be June 24, 2020.

Awardees have two years to use the funds and must show adequate progress towards the project implementation. If this is not done, the funds can be taken away. Mr. Terry Tolbert asked if funds can be requested without a local match. Staff stated that applicants must have a local match when requesting funds for a project. Mr. Tolbert asked what will happen if a local match is secured and the project cannot start or is delayed. Mr. Aberson stated that various factors can delay a project without ending the project.

## [5.Resolution to Support Funding Application for SR 21 Access Management Study](#)

📎 [pl-fund-application-Garden City.pdf](#)

MPO staff issued a Call for Plans and Studies in the Fall of 2019. Staff received 3 proposals, 2 from Chatham County and 1 from Garden City. The Chatham County proposals are on hold but have been included in the draft work program for next year. This gives Chatham County the opportunity to produce the matching funds in the future if they decide to proceed. This process will consist of the Technical Coordinating Committee endorsing the resolution and presenting it to the MPO board. If adopted by the Board, staff will begin the application to GDOT and present it to the PL funds review committee.

#### **IV. Agency Reports (verbal)**

##### **Chatham Area Transit**

Ms. Brigitte Morrison stated that CAT started their travel training program on February 17. They currently have 2 clients. Travel training program shows paratransit users how to use the fixed route bus system. The goal is to encourage them to use the fixed route system as an alternative to paratransit. This allows paratransit riders more options and provides more independent users. CAT staff is currently undergoing the 6-month pilot program.

The Paratransit department will be conducting programs to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mr. James Aberson asked if CAT has made plans for increased Paratransit and bus capacity for election day. Ms. Morrison stated that they will take this into consideration.

##### **GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Assoc of the Deaf**

Dr. Frank Lala stated that on March 21, 2020, the group will host their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual celebration at Trinity Lutheran Church on Mercy Blvd. There will be a presentation on transportation.

#### **V. Other Business**

**NONE**

#### **VI. Public Participation Opportunities**

Ms. Pamela Oglesby stated that there will be three days of activities celebrating the Weeping Time. Festivities will begin on Friday, March 6, 2020 at Brock Elementary School and conclude on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at Solomon Temple Church of God.

#### **VII. Announcements**

[6.Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the CAT Joe Murray Rivers. Jr. Intermodal Transit Center](#)

**VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference**

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the February 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.