



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Virtual Meeting – 1:00 p.m.
Minutes

June 22, 2020 Meeting of the 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
Representative	Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council	
Brenda Pollen	Housing Authority of Savannah	
Pala Valdez	Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision	
Representative	NAACP - Savannah Branch	
Representative	Georgia Infirmity 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	X
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind, Local Chapter	
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
<u>Voting Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Darlene West	Heart Interpreting	X
Bacarra Sanderson Mauldin	CAT' new Executive Director	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X

Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Mary E. Mitchell	MPC	X
Sally Helms	MPC	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to approve the June 22, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting agenda; seconded by **Ms. Wykoda Wang**. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. Approval of February 24, 2020 ACAT meeting minutes

☉ [ACAT Feb 24 Minutes.pdf](#)

Upon motion of **Ms. Teresa Brenner**, seconded by **Ms. Wykoda Wang** and carried, the meeting minutes of February 24, 2020 were approved.

2. Amendments to FY 2018 - 2021 TIP

☉ [FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendments Staff Report June 2020.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang gave the presentation on the Amendments to FY 2018 - 2021 TIP.

The highway amendments included the following.

- 1. PI# 0015306, TRUMAN LINEAR PARK TRAIL – PHASE II-B** - The construction phase has a cost estimate increase of \$28,000 in FY 2021.
- 2. PI# 0008358, I-516 @ CS 1503/DERENNE AVENUE** – The TIP amendment is to adjust the significant ROW cost increase of approximately \$8,000,000 in FY 2021.
- 3. PI# 0010028, CS 1097/ DELESSEP/LA ROCHE AVE FM WATERS AVE TO SKIDAWAY RD** – The TIP amendments will move the utility and construction phases from FY 2020 to FY 2021. The utility phase will be locally funded with no federal dollars. It has a cost increase of \$1.2 million. The City of Savannah will pay for the utility phase. CORE MPO and the City are still working with GDOT on the construction phase and have requested the federal dollars (Z230 and Z301 funds) be moved from fiscal year 2020 to 2021 with this project. The City of Savannah is supposed to provide milestone dates and other information in a

timely manner. The amendment is based on the assumption that all deadlines will be met. If this does not happen, CORE MPO will probably have to pull the federal dollars from this project in August. But for now, we are assuming that the construction phase funding move will be approved for this project.

4. **PI#0006328, BRAMPTON ROAD CONNECTOR FM FOUNDATION DR TO SR 21/SR25/US80** - The project has significant cost increases for the utility and construction phases in FY 2021.
5. **PI# 0006700, EFFINGHAM PKWY FROM SR 119/EFFINGHAM TO SR 30/CHATHAM** – The project has significant cost increases for the utility and construction phases, to be borne by Effingham County. The local county does not presently have the funds; therefore, we are moving the construction phase to FY 2022 or FY 2023.
6. **PI#521855, SR 26 FROM I-516 TO CS 188/VICTORY DRIVE** – The TIP amendments will remove the utility and construction phases from the present TIP to later years. Therefore, we are deleting these two phases from the current TIP.
7. **PI# 0010560, SR 26 FM JOHNNY MERCER TO OLD US 80; INC BULL RVR&LAZRETTO** - We are adding a new PE Phase in FY 2021 as this project is very complicated. It will probably be split into three different sections. Presently more study is needed. Therefore, GDOT will need to program more preliminary engineering funds in FY 2021 for this project. The current right-of-way phase is programmed for FY 2020, but it will be moved to later years as GDOT determines how to split this project.
8. **PI# TBA, I-16 at Jimmy DeLoach Interchange Improvements** - The project resulted from the recommendations from the strategic planning study. We are programming the preliminary engineering phase in FY 2021 to help start the project development process.
9. **PI# TBA, Priscilla D. Thomas Way (formerly Wheathill Road)/State Route 21 (SR 21) Signalization Project** – This project is being sponsored by Garden City. The PE phase will be added in FY 2021.
10. **PI# 0017411, I-95 FM FLORIDA STATELINE TO S CAROLINA STATE LINE-ITS EXP** – The TIP amendment is to add the PE Phase in FY 2021. The I-95 segment for the TIP amendment will be within Bryan County and Chatham County.

Ms. Wang stated that the transit TIP amendments included the following.

1. All grants from FY 2020 need to roll over to FY 2021 except for the FY 2020 Section 5307 funds which were obligated and utilized in FY 2020.
2. Additional available funds need to be amended into FY 2021 - T007426, FY 2021- CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT-FERRY BOAT + TERMINAL FACILITY and newly awarded Low Emission funds.
3. Current year FTA Program Fund amounts are known as of February 2020 and the funding estimates need to be replaced with these actual allocation amounts.

For **Section 5307 program** – CAT basically just corrected the FY 2021 estimates with the actual apportionment amount.

For **Section 5307 (h) (the Ferry Boat discretionary program)** – CAT is rolling FY 2020 funds for a ferry boat to FY 2021 and adding another ferry boat award. The \$1,600,000 is newly awarded funds and the \$3,218,663 has been moved from FY 2020 to FY 2021.

For **Section 5337 program** – CAT is basically moving the FY 2020 funds to FY 2021 and making corrections based on the actual apportionment amount.

For **Section 5339 program** – CAT needs to move the FY 2020 funds to FY 2021 and make corrections to the estimates based on the actual apportionment amount.

For **Section 5339 (c) program** – CAT is not only moving FY 2020 funds to FY 2021 for vehicle purchases, but also adding the awards CAT received from the Low-No program grant. These funds must be programmed in the TIP before CAT can apply for and acquire them.

For the **Federal Highway Administration Ferry Boat Formula Program**, some of CAT's previous funds were lapsed. But CAT is trying to use whatever funds are available. Therefore, the available un-obligated funds are being added into FY 2021 in the total of \$667,016.

For the **highway funds Flexed to transit (M301, M230 and Z230 funds)**, basically CAT has not applied for those funds in the FTA system, therefore, these funds have not been obligated. They will, therefore, probably not be ready for obligation by June 30, 2020. CAT will have to move these funds to FY 2021.

Ms. Wang further stated that if the projects/project phases did not meet the deadline in development, they need to be moved into later years. If there are updates to cost estimates or actual allocations become available, the MPO will use the numbers to update the TIP information. We want to make sure that the information included in the TIP is correct to ensure funding authorization.

Ms. Wang asked for ACAT's endorsement of the proposed TIP amendments.

Ms. Pamela Oglesby asked if CAT would apply for the funds. If so, will they have to wait for 2021 before the monies can be moved?

Ms. Wang answered "yes", CAT would apply for the funds. She then explained that the current TIP covers FY 2018 to FY 2021. FY 2020 ends on June 30, 2020. Today is June 22, 2020 and there is no way CAT can get the funds obligated by June 30. Even if the application is sent to FTA today, it takes FTA several months to obligate the funds. **Ms. Wang** stated that if the funds remain in FY 2020, we do not know what would happen. Therefore, we want to be on the safe side by moving the funds to FY 2021 so that CAT can immediately submit their applications for FTA's consideration for funding obligation.

Ms. Teresa Brenner moved to endorse the proposed TIP amendments; seconded by **Ms. Pamela Oglesby**. The motion passed with none opposed.

[3. Amendments to FY 2021 UPWP](#)

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

Ms. Wang presented the FY 2021 UPWP Amendments. The FY 2021 UPWP begins on July 1, 2020 and will end on June 30, 2021. GDOT will prepare the planning contract and the Section 5303 contract with MPC. They need to be sure that the amounts included in the contracts are correct.

In March 2020 CORE MPO applied for the discretionary federal highway planning (PL) funds for SR 21 Access Management Study on behalf of Garden City. The study information is currently included in the unfunded Illustrative Studies Section. Now that the MPO has been awarded the discretionary PL funds, the study needs to be included in the funded section of Task 4.13, Strategic Transportation Studies. Both the funding table under Task 4.13 and the summary financial table are updated. GDOT will use the updated financial information to prepare the FY 2021 PL funding contract.

In addition, Chatham County has submitted a new proposal for a State Route 307 Corridor Study which needs to be added to the unfunded Illustrative Section. Chatham County plans to acquire some federal dollars to help them decide what they can do to make improvements on SR 307 from SR 25 in Garden City to Ogeechee Road/US 17. CORE MPO is going to apply for the funds for this study in September on behalf of Chatham County. But, before we do so, we need to include this study in the illustrative section of the UPWP. If we apply for the funds and get the awards, we will amend the study into the funded section of the UPWP.

In summary, for the June 2020 amendments to FY 2021 UPWP, we are basically 1) moving the SR 21 Access Management Study from the unfunded section to the funded section; and 2) adding the SR 307 Corridor Study to the unfunded section.

Ms. Wang asked for ACAT's endorsement for these two changes to the FY 2021 UPWP. She then entertained questions from ACAT.

Mr. Aberson asked if they would be moving funds from the illustrative portion to be funded. The second portion would put the illustrative portion in with hope that it would be funded in September.

Ms. Wang explained that the discretionary planning funds would be applied for in September for the SR 307 Corridor Study. It is a requirement that we need to include the funding information in the unfunded section before we apply for them.

Ms. Teresa Brenner moved to endorse these two changes to the FY 2021 UPWP. **Mr. James Aberson** seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

[4. Congestion Management Process Update](#)

📎 [June2020 CMP Staff Report.pdf](#)

📎 [CMP 2020.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update. We are kicking off the CMP study. The last update was held in 2017.

Mr. Aberson asked Ms. Rossi at what point the MPO is presently with the CMP update?

Ms. Rossi explained that she talked with members of TCC last week inquiring about who wanted to participate in the working/committee group. She informed ACAT that she will send the information to them later as she has not set up the initial meeting. The MPO is hopeful of completing the CMP update by October 2021. The working group will probably meet every other month.

Ms. Rossi informed ACAT that if they had questions or want to participate with the working group, please let her know.

[5. FY 2020 UPWP Budget Adjustments](#)

📎 [FY 2020 UPWP administrative modifications staff report.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang gave the report on the FY 2020 UPWP Budget Adjustments. The current fiscal year ends on June 30, 2020. The MPO has made budget adjustment

requests to GDOT and has gotten concurrences on the planning and transit funds. The total funds do not change. The funding amounts for various tasks do. The budget adjustments are based on evaluations of ongoing staff efforts and the expected staff work. Over the years, things have changed. For example, when the MPO adopted the FY 2020 UPWP last year, we assumed that we would have a new TIP adopted by now, but instead we processed TIP amendments. Consequently, we would not need as many funds for TIP as expected. We are moving some funds from TIP to cover other tasks that need the money. For example, Mr. Small has resigned from MPC/CORE MPO and his position will be filled. Thus, the task for Operations and Administration that includes recruiting for James' replacement would need additional funds.

The FY 2020 UPWP administrative modifications cover the end-of-the-year adjustments in order to facilitate the FY 2020 PL and TR contracts closeout.

Ms. Wang said the information given is for information only. No action is required.

Mr. Aberson asked if there is a hiring freeze at MPC. He believes that the County presently has a hiring freeze. Will they be able to replace James?

Ms. Pamela Everett, Esq., MPC Assistant Executive Director, said Mr. James Small will be replaced. The MPC has not frozen its positions.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

None.

V. Other Business

None.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

None.

VII. Announcements

[6. Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, August 24, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting.](#)

[7. Award of Discretionary Planning Funds for SR 21 Access Management Study Garden City](#)

☞ [March 2020 PL Funds Correspondence Letter 5-27-20.pdf](#)

Mr. Aberson said this information was included in the ACAT's packet.

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[8. Memorandum of Understanding between Chatham Area Transit and MPC for FY 2020 5303 FTA Funds](#)

- ☉ [June 2020 MOU Staff Report MPO.pdf](#)

This information is in ACAT's packet.

9. TIP Administrative Modifications

- ☉ [TIP Administrative Modification 6-4-2020.pdf](#)
- ☉ [TIP Funding Move Request for Z301 6-4-2020.pdf](#)
- ☉ [TIP Funding Move Request for Z230 6-4-2020.pdf](#)

10. GDOT Project Status Report

- ☉ [Project Status Updates MPO 4-3-2020-Bryan-Chatham-Effingham.pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before CORE MPO ACAT, **Mr. Aberson** adjourned the June 22, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting at 1:40 p.m.

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