



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Virtual Meeting
October 19, 2020 at 1:00pm

October 19, 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	X
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	X
Brigitte Morrison	Chatham Area Transit	X
Dr. Frank Lala	GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Assoc of the Deaf Interested Citizen	X
Voting Alternates	Representing	Present

Others	Representing	Present
Juliette	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
Joshua Ferguson	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Deborah	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to approve the October 19, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. Neal Ligon. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. Approval of the August 24, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes.

☉ [august-24-2020-core-mpo-advisory-committee-on-accessible-transportation-acat.pdf](#)

Ms. Pam Oglesby motioned to approve the August 24, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Wykoda Wang. The motion passed with none opposed.

2. Adoption of the 2021 ACAT Meeting Schedule

☉ [A_2021_Tentative_Meeting_Schedule_V6.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the 2021 ACAT Meeting Schedule. The December 13th date was rescheduled from the 4th Monday to the 2nd Monday of that month due to the holiday.

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to approve the 2021 ACAT Meeting Schedule; seconded by Ms. Wykoda Wang. The motion passed with none opposed.

3. 2021 Safety Targets

☉ [Safety Targets 2021.pdf](#)

☉ [2021 Safety Targets Oct 2020 MPO.pdf](#)

☉ [SafetyOCT2020 Targets.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the 2021 Safety Targets. The CORE MPO had adopted the state safety targets last year. Staff is recommending that CORE MPO accept and support the following State adopted safety targets through the CORE MPO planning and programming activities for 2021.

- 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.

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to endorse accepting and supporting the 2021 state Safety Targets; seconded by Ms. Bridgett Morrison. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

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

📎 [2020-October MPO Cert Presentation background2.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang stated CORE MPO is a Transportation Management Area, with a population of more than 200,000. Every four years CORE MPO is required to go through the federal certification review. The last one was in 2017. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) review the planning processes and planning projects of the MPO such as the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement program, Unified Planning work Program, Participation Plan, and the Title VI Plan. They make sure the MPO is following the public involvement process and the documents meet the federal requirements. They do site visits as well. All the committees will be updated on the process from now on until the final certification is received. If the MPO does not get certified they would lose federal funding. This would impact the Savannah area in terms of federal highway funding and transit funding. FHWA has already sent an extensive questionnaire that we are currently working on. The documents are being provided on the website for review as well. The kickoff will be in November with the site visit (probably virtual due to COVID-19) being sometime in January of 2021. There will be updates provided at each meeting until the certification review is finished.

5. FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program

📎 [Call For Studies 2022.pdf](#)

📎 [Draft 2022 UPWP TR Portion.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang stated that CORE MPO staff is currently developing the draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is the MPO staff work program and budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. It outlines who is leading/managing what program. For this FY 2022 UPWP there is a Call for Plans and Studies. GDOT sub-allocates the highway planning grants to the MPOs based on population and other criteria. If the grant funding is not spent within the program time, the balance must be returned. These balances are pooled into a discretionary planning grant. GDOT issues the Call for Plans and Studies with the applications due in March and September. Currently the SR 21 Access Management Study, a Garden City request, and Chatham County's request for the SR 307 Corridor Study have been awarded the discretionary PL grant. The MPO is trying to be proactive in doing the Call for Studies to include potential studies in the UPWP so that the funds can be applied for later. This is an opportunity for the local jurisdictions to apply for the grant for a traffic analysis or other study if needed. The due date for this Call is November 12, 2020.

The Federal Transit Grant is managed by GDOT. The MPO is a sub-recipient of this grant. Each year GDOT issues a Call for Projects and we submit the application which goes through a separate process before we receive the planning grants for the transit activities. The application submittal requires a lot of information. Part of that is the transit planning tasks included in the UPWP. There are three subtasks for Transit Planning.

- Transit/Paratransit Planning
- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Transportation Improvement Program

The ACAT meeting falls under the Transit/Paratransit Planning. This task includes the coordination work with CAT such as attending the CAT board meetings and giving assistance to CAT if needed. We are updating the Title VI Plan as well, which also falls into this category. The Long-Range Transportation Plan tasks include developing, maintaining, amending and updating the current Mobility 2045. The TIP is the short-range programming document and all the projects must be programmed in the TIP before federal funds will be granted.

6. Participation Plan and Title VI Plan Update

📎 [PartPlan_PresentationPDF.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan update.

The participation plan creates ways for the public to engage with the CORE MPO and transportation topics. It also creates opportunities for under-served communities to have access to CORE MPO and transportation information. Some of the things we are working on in this plan update include the following.

- Updating Information - Replacing outdated facts and information. Include a discussion about COVID-19 and how it impacted public outreach.
- Focusing on Social Media and Online Resources – Social media gives the CORE MPO the opportunity to reach out to a larger audience while also being a safe option during the pandemic. It also provides an opportunity to communicate through Q&As and comment sections. Livestreaming on a website (YouTube or Facebook) gives the public more opportunities to tune in. Posting newsletters, progress reports and pertinent information online will easily keep people updated.
- Visual to increase Interest and Understanding. Infographics of meetings are a great way to visually display information in a way that the majority of the people can understand. The visuals are eye-catching, and the text is informative.
- General Language for General Public. Defining terms in a way that laymen can understand. Outlining processes of planning, funding, and more to give the public a basic idea of how projects work as well as identifying the parties involved in transportation projects.
- Make Content Accessible to People with Disabilities. Provide sign language translations of meetings and plans. Produce sound bite audios for blind and low vision people. Provide closed captions on meeting videos. Collaborate with organizations (e.g. Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision) to learn the specific needs of disabled people.
- Reach Underserved Communities. Create printed versions of infographics and charts to administer them to elderly communities and nursing homes. Provide translated meetings and summaries for people who speak Spanish.

We would also like to start doing short surveys after these meetings to see demographic information, like who's attending these meetings. We want to make sure there is a good cross section of the community represented. Ms. Wang stated this would be voluntary information, which will help us see who we need to reach out to more and if there are any groups that might be under-represented.

The first draft of the updated plans will be completed by the end of October 2020. It will be sent to FHWA/FTA/GDOT for review with comments expected from these agencies by the end of November 2020. The staff will develop the revised draft with FHWA/FTA/GDOT comments incorporated. There will be a 45-day public review and comment period for the revised draft from January 5, 2021 to February 18, 2021. The target adoption date by the CORE MPO Board is February 24, 2021.

Ms. Oglesby asked about the visually impaired and blind population not being able to use a computer, would it be possible to create this in large print or in brail? Ms. Hernton stated that is something that the MPO staff are working on to help. Ms. Brenner stated that she lives in a complex where there is a large number of elderly population. They do not use computers or have access to them, and some are visually impaired and would not be able to read large print. What means would be available to this population? Would a representative be available to reach out to these communities? Ms. Hernton stated this is something we can look at. This is a good reason to have everyone's input. Ms. Brenner mentioned that the Georgia Radio Reading Services is a good way to reach low vision population. They do local programs as well as reach most of the state. Ms. Wang mentioned providing a phone number for people to access the meetings. That way they could participate without having a computer. The goal is to meet the needs of everyone wanting to participate.

7. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Development

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

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP Development status. In August, the TIP priority rankings were adopted for Z230, Z301, and HIP funds along with the TIP prioritization methodology. There was a special called TCC meeting in September to allocate the funds from these three sources to the priority projects. Staff then developed the Preliminary Draft TIP. The draft document has been sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and GDOT for review and comment. At the last week's TCC meeting the Technical Coordinating Committee had to re-allocate some of the Z230, HIP and Z301 funds due to some new issues. Staff will develop a revised draft TIP to incorporate the changes and comments from FHWA, FTA and GDOT. The revised draft TIP will go through the 30-day public review and comment period from early November to early December. The revised draft TIP will be presented to the MPO Board and the advisory committees in December. The new TIP is still on target to be adopted in December.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

CAT – Ms. Bridgett Morrison gave a report and mentioned that the Ridership for Sundays starting in November will be eliminated on the fixed bus routes through the end of CAT's fiscal year (June 30, 2021). This is due to low ridership. **Paratransit will stay in service on Sundays.** CAT is ramping up some of the higher-demand routes like Route14 since they are eliminating the Sunday service. People can find more information on these routes on the CAT website at catchacat.org. During the day CAT send "hot buses" out when they see operators are letting people know they had to leave passengers because of the social distancing. They can only accommodate a certain number of people per bus. The larger bus can only have

15-16 people. Sometimes this will cause delays. When CAT is notified, they send what they call the “hot bus”. The Free Fare will be ending soon. CAT has installed barriers in all the paratransit vehicles now and is in the process of installing them on the fixed route buses. Once that is complete, CAT will start adding the fares back.

LIFE- Mr. Neil Ligon reported they are putting together their first Cares Act committee. They received funding through Cares Act which will allow them to provide supplemental services around COVID-19 related needs. They are putting together the criteria for qualifications and priorities. Much of the funding will go to trying to knock down home mod list. This list is over a million dollars and about 2 years long. We are preparing for the fact that COVID is going to continue for the foreseeable future in some capacity and recognize that as it continues, the resources will fall away as funding shortages impact other agencies and organizations that are offering it. We would like to be able to step into the void at that point and assist whether it's with transportation, food or whatever else is coming out of COVID. The only qualifications are you live in our 20-county region and you have significant disability. If you are aware of shortfalls in our society, please let LIFE know so they can incorporate that into their service priorities.

Ms. Wykoda Wang mentioned that the other agency reports are attached under Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference. Any questions from the ACAT members will be forwarded to the agency's project coordinator.

V. Other Business

Mr. Aberson would like to resign as the ACAT Chairman. Thus an election will be conducted at the December 2020 meeting to elect a new chairman.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

There were no public members coming forward.

VII. Announcements

[8. Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, December 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[9. MPC Awarded Grant to Form Coastal Empire Resilience Network \(CERN\)](#)

[PR_MPCAwarded_CERN_CIG_100120.pdf](#)

[10. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

[Project Status Updates MPO Bryan Chatham Effingham September 2020 Final.pdf](#)

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

[11. CAT Project Status Report](#)

[CAT FY21 Status Report October 2020.pdf](#)

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

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

[13. Chatham County Project Status Report](#)

📎 [Chatham County Project Status Report.pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the October 19, 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.