



## CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

April 14, 2021 at 11:00 am  
SPECIAL CALLED VIRTUAL MEETING  
UPWP COMMENTS

### APRIL 14, 2021 CORE MPO SPECIAL CALLED ACAT MEETING

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
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	
President & CEO	Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire	
Representative	Effingham County	
Representative	GDOT District Five	
Representative	Richmond Hill	
Asia Hernton	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
<b>Voting Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Shannon Ginn	L.I.F.E.	X

<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Darlene West	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X

## **I. Approval of Agenda**

This is a special called meeting to review and discuss any comments concerning the draft FY 2022 UPWP.

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Neil Ligon. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## **II. Action Items**

### [1. Review and Discussion of Draft FY 2022 UPWP](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated this is proposed staff work plan and budget for CORE MPO for the fiscal year beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Today the staff is asking for feedback, suggestions, and comments. The staff will be asking for endorsement of the draft FY 2022 UPWP at the next scheduled committee meeting.

This document includes details of the staff budget and work projects that the MPO will be carrying out in support of the federally mandated 3-C (continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive) transportation planning process. It details the funding, the staff work, and the budget allocations among the different staff work projects.

There are two federal planning grants that come to the MPO each year by formula allocation through the Georgia department of transportation - the Federal Highway Administration PL grant and the FTA Section 5303 Grant. Both grants require a 20% local match that is covered by MPO membership dues. This also include the opportunity to use in-kind match, where committee members get credit for their jurisdictions based on the amount of time they spend in the MPO meetings and participating with things associated with this. The GDOT match still exists in partial form for the FTA Section 5303 Grant. GDOT picks up half of the local match (10%). The MPO pays the other half (10% each). The funds in the formula grants can only be used for planning. Any funds not spent by the end of the year are forfeited. There is no roll over from one year to another.

The total funding level for the proposed FY 2022 formula planning funds is \$628,420. This includes formula PL grant of \$360,143 (federal) and federal FTA 5303 grant of \$142,593. The state will pick up half of the Section 5303 match at \$17,824. The MPO will pick up \$17,824.

The Discretionary PL funds are what becomes of unspent formula PL funds. The forfeited money is combined with unspent formula funds from other Georgia MPOs outside of Atlanta. This is conducted at the state level and the money becomes available twice a year through a competitive selection process. Currently the balance is \$4 million. Only \$1 million of that can be used for studies other than long range plan updates. The prioritization criteria that were set up for this money favor required planning products with the long-range plan being the most important of those.

Awards statewide have included a wide range of non-required plans and studies. Applications are screened by GDOT and Federal Highway Administration staff as well as the PL Funds Review Committee. Awards are approved by the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee. Each MPO has one voting membership on that committee. A 20% local match is required and provided by the project sponsor.

There is a smaller portion of discretionary Section 5303 grants. Those funds can be applied on an annual basis. Plans and studies for this money must be in the MPO's UPWP. Those applications must be submitted by MPO in December of each year.

The CORE MPO has received several awards. The awards the MPO recently received for discretionary funding are listed below.

- FY 2018 – I-16/Little Neck Interchange Study and I-95/Airways Avenue Interchange Study
- FY 2020- Chatham Area Transit, (\$27,000) for purchase of software tools and data. There will be a similar request made in FY 2023.
- FY 2021 – SR 21 Access Management Study sponsored by Garden City and the SR 307 Corridor Study sponsored by Chatham County

In October of 2020, the MPO issued a Call for Plans and Studies. The FY 2022 planning tasks were reviewed by the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees in October of 2020. The FTA Section 5303 Grant Application was made in December of 2020. The MPO staff developed the draft work program document between December 2020 and January 2021. The draft UPWP was submitted to GDOT and FHWA for review and comment on January 8, 2021. The draft was originally submitted for the February 2021 CORE MPO meeting agendas. After substantial comments were received from the Federal Highway Administration, the document underwent redevelopment. The document will go back to the MPO later in April. The revised draft was published on the MPO website for review and comment on April 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2021. The MPO staff is projecting after the

endorsement and adoption from the committees and board, the Federal Highway Administration approval process will take place prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

What priorities are in the UPWP?

- 2050 MTP update
- Congestion Management Process update
- MPO Freight Plan update
- SR 21 Access Management Study
- SR 307 Corridor Study
- Responding to recommendations from the Federal Certification Review
- Census 2020 Urban Area planning area boundary

The work program has 5 major work categories.

**Administration** – The day-to-day operations of the MPO and oversight of the planning studies, hosting meetings, training and development for staff, equipment and supplies, administering contracts and grants, development and maintenance of the UPWP and the Participation Plan.

**Public involvement** – Community outreach and education, environmental justice, and Title VI planning.

**Data Collection/ Analysis/ Forecasting** – Congestion Management Process and ITS operations, livability and transportation alternatives, freight planning, intermodal planning, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program.

**Transit Planning** – This section is funded by a separate grant having its own administrative support and subtasks such as long range planning, short range planning, and Transportation Improvement Program as pertains to transit projects and the MTP.

**Special Studies** – This is funded with discretionary planning money. Every fall, the MPO staff issues a Call for Plans and Studies. The SR 21 Access Management Study and the SR 307 Corridor Study have started this month. The MPO works with its members in helping them get funding for qualified studies. The following studies have been identified in the FY 2022 UPWP.

- Chatham County has proposed a SR 204 study between King George Blvd and US 17, Islands Expressway study between Truman Parkway and US 80, and the Old River Road Operational and Capacity Improvements.
- The MPO staff itself has proposed the purchase of transportation data and analytical tools.

- The MPO staff has been asked by GDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to update the Freight Transportation Plan. The MPO staff will potentially be proposing a transportation study that will be consultant led. The staff will also begin scoping studies with the EDFAC committee and the TCC committee to determine if additional support is needed to develop the Freight Transportation Plan.
- The MPO staff is proposing a Sea Level Rise study. This is an additional step beyond the current study the County has been doing.
- The SR 21 Access Management Study and SR 307 Corridor Study have been requested to be shown in the FY 2022 UPWP, but their funding is from FY 2021.

The MPO staff is asking the committee for any comments, requests, or concerns. Comments can be emailed or called in anytime within the next 2 weeks as well. The staff will be asking for endorsement at the next committee meeting.

There were no comments. Mr. James Aberson, Ms. Pamela Oglesby and Ms. Teresa Brenner were willing to endorse the document during the April 14, 2021 special called meeting. Mr. Tolbert suggested waiting until the next committee meeting to endorse since there could be comments received between now and then. No action was taken on the item.

### **III. Status Reports**

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

### **V. Other Business**

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

### **VII. Notices**

### **VIII. Adjournment**

Mr. James Aberson motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Teresa Brenner.

There being no further business, the April 24, 2021 special called 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.