



## CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Virtual Meeting  
April 26, 2021 at 1:00 pm

### April 26, 2021 CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT) Meeting

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
James Aberson	Chatham County	X
Teresa Brenner	Savannah Council of the Blind	
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	
Asia Hernton	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
<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>
Jeannie Settlemer	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Chris Downey	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	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
Denise Grabowski	Tide To Town presentation	X
Armand Turner	Tide To Town presentation with Healthy Savannah	X
Lenny Cooksey	Public	X

## **I. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the April 26, 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting agenda; seconded by Ms. Brenda Pollen. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## **II. Action Items**

### [1. Approval of the February 22, 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes.](#)

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the February 22, 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Brenda Pollen. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### [2. Amendment to FY 2021 UPWP](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated this item is an amendment to move the SR 307 Corridor Study from the unfunded special studies section to the funded portion of the Unified Planning Work Program. The MPO was able to secure the funding with GDOT earlier this year and is ready to begin conducting the study. The MPO asked the ACAT committee for an endorsement to the CORE MPO Board.

Ms. Asia Hernton motioned to endorse the Amendment to the FY 2021 UPWP; seconded by Mr. James Aberson. The motioned passed with non-opposed.

### [3. Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program is the proposed CORE MPO staff work program. It details the staff budget and the work projects that the MPO staff will undertake in support of the federally mandated continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3-C) transportation planning process. The document covers funding, staff work, and budget for each task. The CORE MPO staff activities are supported primarily by two federal planning grants: the FHWA PL grant and the FTA Section 5303 Planning grant. Both grants require a 20% local match. The MPO membership dues make up most of the local match.

GDOT has provided half of the local match for the FTA Section 5303 grant. These funds can only be used for planning. Any funds that are not used each year are forfeited.

The total proposed funding for FY 2022 is \$628,428, of which approximately \$450,000 comes from FHWA PL grant and \$178,000 comes from the FTA Section 5303 grant.

Discretionary PL funds is another funding option. GDOT pulls the left-over funds at the statewide level, which includes all the MPOs in Georgia, with the exception of Atlanta. There is currently a balance of approximately \$4 million dollars. GDOT tries to reserve approximately \$3 million of that for transportation plan updates. Pursuing the discretionary funds is a competitive selection process. The plans and the studies must be in the MPO's UPWP. The prioritization criteria for the discretionary funds largely favor the MPO required planning products. Applications for the funding are screened by GDOT and the Federal Highway Administration staff as well as a PL Funds Review Committee. This funding also requires a 20% local match.

There is a smaller section of discretionary FTA Section 5303 funds that are available each year.

Discretionary funds that CORE MPO has received recently include the following.

- FY 2018 – I-16/Little Neck Road Interchange Study and I-95/Airways Avenue Interchange Study.
- FY 2020 – Section 5303 funds used to help CAT buy some transit planning software and data.
- FY 2021 – SR 21 Access Management Study in Garden City and SR 307 Corridor Study.

The development process for the FY 2022 UPWP began back in October 2020 with a Call for Plans and Studies. The proposed transit planning tasks were reviewed by the MPO committees and board in October as well. In December of 2020, the MPO worked with GDOT to apply for the FTA Section 5303 grant. The draft UPWP was submitted to the committees and board for review and comments back in February. Once the document is adopted by the MPO Board, it will be sent back to Federal Highway Administration and GDOT for approval by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This would enable the MPO to execute the FY 2022 funding contracts with GDOT.

Staff work priorities for FY 2022 include the following.

- Kick off the update to the 2050 MTP.
- Update the Congestion Management Process.
- Kick off the update to the MPO's Freight Plan.

- SR 21 Access Management Study
- SR 307 Corridor Study
- Work on the Federal Certification Review Recommendations.
- 2020 Census Urban Area Delineation

There are 6 major tasks in the UPWP – Administration; Public Involvement; Data Collection, Analysis and Forecasting; Systems Planning and Operations; Transit Planning; and Special Studies (both funded and unfunded).

The budget summary shows both the SR 307 Corridor Study and the SR 21 Access Management Study in the FY 2022 UPWP at the request of FWHA, but the funds are from FY 2021 funds. The total budget is just over \$1 million. A regular formula funded year would be about \$628,000 without special studies.

Mr. James Aberson motioned to endorse the draft FY 2022 UPWP; seconded by Ms. Asia Hernton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

#### [4. 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments started in December 2020. The City of Pooler requested 2 projects to be included in the Vision Plan: The Pine Barren Road Improvements and South Roger Street Improvements. If any projects want to receive federal funding, they need to be included in the fiscally constrained Long Range Transportation Plan and moved into the TIP. The first step is moving the project into the Vision Plan. Chatham County could possibly do a TSPLOST which is why the City of Pooler is trying to align the projects for TSPLOST. The MPO Board authorized the MPO staff to collect a full comprehensive project list from all municipalities.

Based on the current project list, these are the projects that will be amended into the 2045 MTP Vision Plan.

- Bloomingdale – no eligible projects submitted.
- Garden City – Telfair Road Improvements and Old Louisville Road Improvements.
- Pooler – Pooler Parkway Widening, Quacco Road Improvements, South Roger Street Improvements, Pine Barren Road Improvements, and Old Louisville Road.
- Port Wentworth – Gulfstream Road Widening
- City of Savannah – Montgomery Cross Road Bridge/ Casey Canal and Skidaway Road Widening.
- Thunderbolt – No eligible projects submitted.
- Tybee Island – No eligible projects submitted.
- Vernonburg – No eligible projects submitted.
- Chatham County – Quacco Road Bridge Replacement over I-95, Little Neck Road Bridge Replacement over I-95, and John Carter Road Improvements.

The MPO staff is asking the committee to endorse the proposed project list subject to any corrections and changes. The MPO might not pursue the amendment in April; there are still changes being made to the project list, therefore, it might not be ready in April.

Mr. James Aberson motioned to endorse the 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments subject to corrections in the future; seconded by Ms. Asia Hernton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### 5. Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets (2021)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the FTA established transit safety performance measures and ruled that certain transit agencies and MPOs must set transit safety performance targets for the performance measures that the FTA established. This is a requirement for recipients of FTA grant funds. Transit agencies are required to set their performance targets in their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). Once the MPOs receive these targets, they have 180 days to set transit performance safety targets for the region.

Safety performance measures are set by the FTA and are used to measure performance or condition. They are quantifiable performance or conditions to be achieved. They help transit agencies and MPOs assess progress towards meeting safety performance targets.

Safety Performance Measures set by FTA:

- Fatalities
- Serious Injuries
- Safety Events
- System Reliability

Addressing the FTA's four safety performance measures requires seven transit safety performance targets by mode. These performance targets are:

- Total Fatalities
- Rate of fatalities per vehicle revenue miles
- Total serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries per vehicle revenue miles
- Total safety events
- Rate of safety events per vehicle revenue miles
- Miles between major mechanical failures

This is the first time transit agencies and MPOs are going through the process of setting transit safety performance targets. The Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) is the only transit agency in the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Area that falls under the FTA requirements for setting the performance targets. CAT developed their safety plan and set their targets, which they provided to the CORE MPO in January 2021. The CORE MPO has until July 3, 2021 to set transit safety performance targets for the region. Once the CORE MPO adopts the regional

targets, we have until July 20, 2021 to incorporate those targets into the MTP and the TIP.

As CAT is the only transit provider in the CORE MPO's planning area that is required to set these targets, the MPO staff recommends using CAT's targets as the regional targets. This will ensure a common goal and consistency between the two organizations.

Transit providers are required to update their transit safety performance targets annually. MPOs are not required to do this annually. Currently, the MPO updates the system performance report when new performance targets are adopted. The staff is requesting the advisory committee to endorse the proposed regional transit safety performance targets for the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Area.

Ms. Asia Hernton motioned to endorse the Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets for 2021; seconded by Mr. Shannon Ginn. The motion passed with non-opposed.

#### 6. Amendments to FY 2021 - 2024 TIP

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the MPO's short-range programming document (TIP) is modified from time to time to ensure that updates to projects, cost estimates, and schedules are incorporated. The MPO received project updates from GDOT along with new funding and programming information. This included updates to existing highway and transit fund revenue projections, along with additional funds being added. There are three proposed highway project updates and three proposed transit project updates.

The highway updates are:

- The Chevis Road Improvement Project - Chatham County was awarded some lapsing TAP funds and Z301 revenues. The cost estimate for the PE phase has been updated to reflect the changes in funding.
- Savannah River Crossing – GDOT added a scoping phase for the new study which will help identify strategies for bridge improvements.
- There are updates to Lump Sum. Two Lump Sum categories were added - Freight Operations and Rural Developments. Construction Management has been removed from the Lump Sum.

Proposed transit updates include:

- Section 5339 of the Capital and Operations Fund. This is a new fund in programming that is currently not in the TIP. This will be programmed for FY 2021.
- Z950 FHWA Ferry Boat funds. There are updates in FY 2021 and FY 2022. GDOT requested funding from previous years be flexed from FHWA to FTA at the same time, which resulted in all the funds being programmed for FY 2021.
- Section 5311 Capital and Operations funds. GDOT provided updated cost estimates for FY 2022 and FY 2024.

Included in the staff report, the updated TIP project pages and tables are in Appendix A. The MPO staff is asking the committee to endorse the proposed updates to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP.

Ms. Asia Hernton motioned to endorse the Amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP; seconded by Mr. James Aberson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### **III. Status Reports**

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that the staff reports from various transportation agencies are included under Notices. They are listed for information.

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

#### **CAT**

Ms. Brigitte Morrison gave an agency report.

- CAT is currently using Token Transit, which is an application for customers to use along with the Paratransit customers. Anyone using half fare can now download the app on their smart phones and purchase tickets through the app.
- CAT is currently working on getting their travel training program up and running safely. This was put on hold when COVID-19 started early last year.
- CAT is taking in-house consultations for the Paratransit customers.

#### **L.I.F.E.**

Mr. Shannon Ginn gave an agency report for LIFE. Earlier this month the COVID-19 Support Funds have been extended through the end of September 2022.

### **V. Other Business**

None.

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

#### **VII. Notices**

[7. FHWA and FTA Issue Certification Review Final Report](#)

[8. Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, June 21, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

[9. New Cutoff Dates for 2021 Calendar of Meetings](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the staff need an extra week for review and approval of items that are submitted to the agenda. There are three levels of approval, which takes time to review.

[10. Notice of Amtrak Claims Fund Under the ADA](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated Amtrak announced if a person has been harmed by a lack of accessible transportation services between July 27, 2013 to December 2, 2020,

he/she might be eligible to receive compensation. Claims must be submitted by May 9, 2021. Claims can be sent through [info@amtrakdisabilitysettlement.com](mailto:info@amtrakdisabilitysettlement.com) or by calling the Fund Administrator at (888) 334-6165 or TTY: (866) 441-6976

[11. CAT Project Status Report](#)

[12. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

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

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

[15. Signup for Neighborhoods and Faith Based Organization Meetings for Input on the Update to Comprehensive Plans for Chatham, Garden City, Pooler and Savannah](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the staff working on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan are currently having virtual meetings with neighborhood associations and churches. If your community association or church would like to set up a meeting with the staff working on the Comprehensive Plan 2040, please email [plan2040@thempc.org](mailto:plan2040@thempc.org) or call (912) 651-1480.

#### [16. TIDE TO TOWN PRESENTATION](#)

Mr. Armand Turner and Ms. Denise Grabowski gave an overview on the Tide to Town project. REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) is a grant from the CDC. The goal of the grant is to work with the low wealth African American neighborhoods within Savannah and Chatham County to improve their overall health. The focus of this grant is on physical activity, nutrition, and community clinical linkages. Mr. Armand stated that he specifically works with physical activity, and the way to improve physical activity is by encouraging people to walk more, bike more and provide resources and infrastructure that will allow them to do so.

Tide to Town is all about the community. It works with each of the neighborhoods to develop a plan for the neighborhood, by the neighborhood. It focuses on integrating the people who live in the neighborhood to ensure the plans that are developed at the neighborhood level reflect what the neighborhood residents want to see happening in their neighborhood. The goal of Tide to Town is to facilitate the development of safe facilities for walking, for riding a bike, and for access to transit and other modes of transportation.

There are three steps to the Tide to Town public outreach process. The first is making new friends by working with neighborhood leaders to identify the best way to coordinate and work with each neighborhood. The second step is to conduct a Street Safety Audit. This helps to gather and use data effectively. The third step is to make a plan for each neighborhood.

The core route is approximately 30 miles connecting downtown through South Side Savannah and everywhere in between. Much of the route takes place outside of existing canals where there is already existing right-of-way. The other portions that



are not along a canal are alongside the road with a physical barrier to separate the trail from the roadway so that all users feel comfortable using the facilities. The first phase which is the Truman Linear Park Trail has been constructed and goes from DeRenne Avenue to Lake Mayer.

The Tide to Town project leads are working with multiple neighborhoods to address their unique needs. The neighborhoods they are currently working in are Edgemere and Sackville, Carver Village, East Side Savannah and Largo Woods / Quail Forest / Wilshire Estates. Others will be added in the fall and in future years.

The project leads of Tide to Town recognize that not everyone owns a car, and many people rely on transit. Providing safe routes to school is a high priority. Safe Routes to School has been something that Healthy Savannah has been working on for many years. Tide to Town will aid in the process of creating safe walking and biking routes to school. Through Tide to Town, residents can access all three major medical providers in the area without having access to a car. At the neighborhood level, the Tide to Town project leads are going to conduct a Neighborhood Safety Street Audit, where the conditions of the street and sidewalk infrastructure are observed. There is an app for this project, so anyone can access the progress of the project. Through this app, residents can also document the conditions of their sidewalks and streets to aid in their own neighborhood audit. At the end of the planning process, there will be prioritized list of improvements that have been identified by the residents. This is to ensure that they have safe access to the Tide to Town route and their own neighborhood.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the April 26, 2021 meeting of the CORE MPO ACAT was adjourned.

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