



## CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

August 23, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.

### August 23, 2021 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	X
Wayne Dawson	Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council	
Brenda Pollen	Housing Authority of Savannah	
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	
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>
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Deborah Olson	Interpreter	X
Jeannie	Interpreter	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X

Ann Popen	Savannah Council for the Blind	X
Shannon Ginn	L.I.F.E.	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

Mr. Neil Ligon motioned to approve the August 23, 2021 meeting agenda; seconded by Ms. Pamela Oglesby. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## II. Action Items

### [1. Approval of the June 21, 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes.](#)

Ms. Pamela Oglesby motioned to approve the June 21, 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Asia Hernton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### [2. August Amendments to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the current FY 2021 – 2024 TIP was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in December 2020. In August 2021, CAT sent in some updates that need to be incorporated. It is important to incorporate these updates and make sure that the information contained in the FY 2021-2024 TIP is current and reflective of the most up-to-date revenue projections, cost estimates and development schedules.

For the Section 5307 program, CAT wants to replace the FY 2022 revenue cost estimate with the actual FTA apportionment. Within the Section 5307 program, CAT had programmed projects such as operating assistance, program management, vehicle replacement, and facilities modification. CAT wants to make some modifications to the projects. The additions that CAT wants to include in FY 2022 are listed below.

- Planning – FY 2022
- ITS – FY 2022
- Preventative Maintenance – FY 2022
- Safety and Security – FY 2022
- Facility Enhancement – FY 2022

CAT also wants to delete the money allocated for operating assistance, vehicle replacement, and facilities modifications.

The MPO staff is working with CAT to make the final updates, so there might be some other corrections and changes.

The MPO staff is asking the ACAT committee to endorse the proposed TIP amendments with the corrections and changes that have been discussed.

Mr. Neil Ligon motioned to endorse the proposed August amendments to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP with the proposed changes; seconded by Mr. James Aberson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### 3. Election of a New Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Ms. Pamela Oglesby will assume Chairmanship as she is the current Vice Chair.

Mr. James Aberson nominated Asia Hernton for Vice Chair; seconded by Mr. Neil Ligon. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## **III. Status Reports**

### 4. Calls for Projects for Z230 and CRRSAA Funds

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Z230 funds have positive balances in FY 2023 and FY 2024. There are approximately \$3.2 million in FY 2023 and approximately \$6 million in FY 2024. FY 2021 has a positive balance of \$900,000, and some left over funds from the Delesseps Avenue ROW acquisition. Combined, there may be over \$1 million from FY 2021 that can be added to FY 2023 and FY 2024.

Z230 funds are the most flexible. They can be used for highway projects, transit projects, bicycle and pedestrian projects, trail projects, and planning studies. There is a local match requirement of 20%. There are eligibility requirements for local sponsors. Local sponsors must be Locally Administered Project (LAP) certified to be eligible or show documentation that they are in the process of becoming LAP certified. Projects must be within the CORE MPO planning boundary.

The project selection criteria have not changed. Once the applications are received, the MPO staff will review the applications to ensure the project sponsors and the projects themselves are eligible. Once the applications are screened, they will be forwarded to the TCC committee members for evaluation and ranking. Bi-monthly reports are expected to be submitted to the TCC once the funds are awarded.

#### Call for Projects Timeline:

August 26<sup>th</sup> – Begin Call for Projects

September 30<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for submittal

October – Prescreen and Rank projects

November – Begin public involvement process

December – Amend TIP to incorporate projects

CRRSAA funds have the same eligibility and timeline as the Z230. The funds can be used for highway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects, and planning studies. The difference between the two is that the CRRSSA is 100% federal funding. The Z230 requires a local match of 20%. The CRRSAA funds are available immediately, therefore the project sponsor must be LAP certified now to apply. The project selection process and ranking criteria are the same as the Z230 funds. For the planning studies there is a separate ranking system, based on the MPO plan consistency, benefit cost ratio, system enhancement, and resilience.

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

L.I.F.E. – Mr. Neil Ligon stated LIFE has hired a new Independent Living (IL) Coordinator in Jessup. The former coordinator from Jessup is coming to the Savannah office to facilitate the Students for Life program as well as service the independent living coordinator. LIFE is giving rides to vaccines for anyone needing a ride that has a significant disability. LIFE has funding for COVID-19 support services. LIFE is helping with the Georgia Rental Assistance. For people that are behind on their rent, if their landlord is willing to participate in the program, LIFE can help the tenants get signed up for the program. In addition, LIFE is working with GA Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide the phone training on assistive devices around the phones. LIFE has a new board president, Shaniqua Gresham. Ms. Gresham works at employability. If there is anyone in the 20-county region with significant disabilities and needs help, please reach out to 912-920-2414.

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

None.

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

No public members came forward.

#### **VII. Notices**

##### [5. Review and Discussion of Proposed Plans and Studies for Discretionary PL Funding](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the MPO is applying for highway discretionary planning funds through the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee for planning studies. The funds will be applied for in September. If funds are awarded, the studies that were approved will be started next year. The studies are:

- Islands Expressway Improvements,
- US 80 Corridor Improvements in Pooler,
- CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update, and
- Urban Flooding Model for the Savannah Metropolitan Area in response to Sea Level Rise

## [6. Amendments to FY 2022 UPWP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated all planning studies to apply for funds must be included in the unfunded illustrative section of the UPWP. If funds are awarded, the studies move to the funded section. The FY 2022 UPWP Amendments include adding the US 80 Corridor Improvements in Pooler to the illustrative section. The project is not currently included in the UPWP. Prior to applying for the funds, the project must be included in the illustrative section. The second amendment is related to the Freight Transportation Plan Update. When the UPWP was developed, there was a cost estimate of approximately \$250,000 for the freight plan update. With discussion from the EDFAC and TCC committees, because we are adding other tasks such as truck parking inventory and resiliency analysis, it is more appropriate for a revised cost of \$300,000.

## [7. Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, October 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.](#)

## [8. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

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

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

## [11. CAT Project Status Report](#)

## [12. LATS Project Status Update](#)

## [13. FTA Announces Funding Opportunity for Transit Improvements in Underserved Communities](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the Federal Transit Administration has announced \$16.3 million in available funds to help lift underserved communities out of poverty. This is a competitive fund and counties are eligible if the area has had 20% or more of the population consistently living in poverty over a 30-year period.

FTA's Areas of Persistent Poverty Program supports planning, engineering, and technical studies, or financial planning to improve transit services in any areas experiencing long term economic distress, in rural and urban communities alike.

## [14. Coastal Georgia Transit Needs Survey](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the Coastal Regional Commission is performing a survey in partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation. The survey is collecting feedback regarding the public transit service in the Coastal Georgia Region. The survey covers a range of topics associated with transit, such as satisfaction with service, where service gaps exist, what presents obstacles to transit ridership and other issues.

### 15. Title VI Plan and Language Assistance Plan update

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the Title VI Plan and Language Assistance Plan are currently undergoing updates. The updates will include new information on Limited English Proficiency populations and the next steps required to adequately support these communities.

### 16. The MPC is Accepting Feedback on Plan 2040 until September 10, 2021

Ms. Asia Hernton stated there is still time to submit your comments and ideas for the Plan 2040. September 10, 2021 will be the last day to provide input.

### 17. August 2021 TIP Administrative Modifications

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated GDOT has requested for information to be changed for two of the bridge projects in the TIP.

- US 17 Bridge Replacement at Savannah River
- US 17 Bridge Replacement at Middle River

The funding was moved from FY 2021 to FY 2022 with a minor cost increase.

### 18. FY 2023 UPWP Development Schedule

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Federal Highway Administration, GDOT, and the MPO coordinated milestone dates for the FY 2023 UPWP development. MPO staff will issue the Call of Plans and Studies in August. The draft UPWP will be developed for review in December. The final FY 2023 UPWP document will be ready for adoption in February 2022.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the August 23, 2021 meeting of 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.