



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Virtual Meeting
February 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM

FEBRUARY 22, 2021 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	
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
Shannon Ginnsinn	Interested Citizen	
Voting Alternates	Representing	Present

Others	Representing	Present
Jeannie Settlemer	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Alexia Schwab	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Marjorie Schneider	Public	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

Ms. Pamela Oglesby motioned to approve the February 22, 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. Terry Tolbert. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the December 7, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes.](#)

- ☉ [ACATdecember-7-2020-advisory-committee-on-accessible-transportation-acat-Final.pdf](#)

Mr. Terry Tolbert motioned to approve the December 7, 2020 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Pamela Oglesby. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. Title VI and Participation Plan Update Endorsement](#)

- ☉ [PP Adoption PDF.pdf](#)
- ☉ [Title VI Plan V10.pdf](#)
- ☉ [Participation Plan Vinfinitly 1.pdf](#)

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

Updates we have made are:

- New outreach methods that can be conducted at a distance.
- New methods to inform the public, such as using infographics and videos to help people understand CORE MPO.
- Created more accessible outreach methods for people with disabilities.
- Created a survey to understand the demographic makeup of the CORE MPO.
- Completed the 45-day public review and comment period, which included a survey to increase the number of ways that residents can give their input.

We are asking the ACAT committee to endorse the plan updates.

Ms. Pamela Oglesby motioned to approve the Title VI Plan and Participation Plan update; seconded by Ms. Brigitte Morrison. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[3. Approval of Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\)](#)

This item has been pushed to April 2021.

[4. Revisions to FY 2018 - 2021 TIP](#)

• [FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendments Staff Report February 2021.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the FY 2021-2024 TIP was adopted in December, but since the Governor has not signed the STIP yet, the FY 2018-2021 TIP is still the guiding programming document for FY 2021. The current TIP year, 2021, overlaps with the new TIP. This update is to make sure all the projects and revenue projections in FY 2021 match what was adopted back in December.

The MPO asked for an endorsement of the Revisions to the FY 2018-2021 TIP.

Mr. James Aberson motioned to endorse Revisions to the FY 2018 – 2021 TIP; seconded by Ms. Pamela Oglesby. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[5. 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments](#)

• [2045 MTP Amendments Staff Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the City of Pooler proposed to add 2 projects to the 2045 MTP Vision Plan.

- South Roger Street Improvements
- Pine Barren Road Improvements

The City of Pooler wants to be able to apply for federal funding in the future. To be able to do this, the projects need to be included in the fiscally constraint plan. These two projects are not in that plan yet. The goal is to eventually move them into the fiscally constrained Long Range Transportation Plan. Pooler wants to include them as part of the TSPLOST that is expected to be voted on this fall.

The City of Pooler is not the only municipality that is compiling a project list for the TSPLOST. All other jurisdictions are compiling a list of projects for the TSPLOST submittal as well. Garden City, the City of Savannah, Chatham County, Thunderbolt, and Tybee Island are all compiling lists. The MPO would like to get authorization for the MPO staff to reach out to all the municipalities and then do an amendment in April with a full list.

Mr. James Aberson motioned to endorse the 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendment recommendations and have the MPO reach out to other municipalities to compile a list to present in April; seconded by Ms. Pamela Oglesby. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Status Reports

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

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that, because the CORE MPO's urbanized area has a population larger than 200,000, we are a larger MPO and a Transportation Management Area. We are required to go through the Federal Certification Review process every 4 years. The last one was completed in 2017. This review process started back in September with a kickoff meeting, a questionnaire, and responses to FHWA and FTA. Then the desk audit of all the planning documents - the Long Range Transportation Plan, TIP, UPWP, Title VI Plan, Participation Plan, Congestion Management Process, and Freight Plan - was done. In January, the virtual site visit was conducted via Zoom. At the end of the site visit, there were several recommendations as well as commendations. There were no corrective actions mentioned. The final report will be released by the end of March. This will be presented at the April meetings.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

SCCDI

Ms. Pamela Oglesby reported an update on the West Bay Street improvement project. The street is finished, but at the time of the project, no new traffic lights were added. Traffic beacons were placed at certain areas of the street so that pedestrians could cross safely. The City of Savannah's Director of Traffic Engineering, Steve Henry, and Barry Stanton, a traffic engineer, will go back and retrofit the beacons with an audible feature. They have ordered the equipment. GDOT did not make the beacons audible when they originally placed them in the project.

LIFE

Mr. Neil Ligon reported that they are still sending out COVID-19 support services. Mr. Ligon stated that people who have experienced the following conditions or has the following needs can receive support.

Anyone with a disability that:

- Has bills that are arising out of COVID-19;
- Experienced job loss or loss of informal supports;
- Need additional cleaning;
- Has an inability to use certain forms of transportation or be in certain settings;

- Need to buy new technology based on access to medical care and access to social supports.

Mr. James Aberson asked if the recipients must have contracted COVID-19 to receive help and if the funding is different from the City grant money. Mr. Ligon replied that recipients who have not contracted COVID-19 can receive support; they must have to have been affected or impacted by the disease. The funding is through DCA and DAS. This is the only direct service money outside of LIFE's part B money through the state where they can pay for assisted technology and home modifications. If a person has a disability and lives within the 20-county region and willing to sign up as a consumer, LIFE is able to help him/her.

EOA

Mr. Terry Tolbert stated they do the Community Assistance Program for those individuals that are homebound. (The definition of homebound is determined by the Governor's office in Atlanta). If a person is 65 year or older or homebound, they will provide up to \$400 to help with the utility bills. They help pay rent and utilities for a family in Chatham County for up to 3 months, including Unincorporated Chatham County as well. The County has funding to prevent evictions due to COVID-19 related issues. The County recently received \$9 million. The Governor's office will be receiving a lot more than that and will be able to offer the same assistance.

Ms. Oglesby stated the United Way has money available to help people with disabilities as well if they have problems with rent or mortgage payments.

CAT

Ms. Brigitte Morrison reported that the Chatham Area Transit will be launching their mobile ticketing service. They will have a press conference on March 8th at ITC at 10 am. This is a free app they have been working on with a company called TOKEN TRANSIT. This app is available on Apple and Google Play stores. The service will allow the customers to purchase any pass currently available to customers including the half fare, discounted passes, and CAT Mobility Paratransit tickets. Once they download the app they will just show the bus operator their phone with the ticket displayed on the smart phone instead of sticking cash into the fare box. This will add another safety element. It will reduce contact, cash handling, as well as help with time, reducing service delays from having multiple customers putting cash into the cash box.

V. Other Business

[7. Infographics](#)

📎 [What is an MPO PDF.pdf](#)

📎 [What is the CORE MPO and TMA Infographic.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated part of the Participation Plan update was creating infographics. The goal of the infographics is to increase public knowledge on the functions of the CORE MPO and transportation planning.

[8. Animation for CORE MPO introduction](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the MPO has created an animated video. There was a letter sent out to the ACAT members asking for feedback with information that would be helpful to portray through an animated video. The MPO is looking to reach out to more of the community and be more engaging in helping people to understand the process of the MPO in a more comprehensible way. The MPO is asking the ACAT committee for any topics or information/concepts that you or the community would like to learn more about.

Mr. James Aberson asked where people could find the video. Ms. Hunter stated this is just the first draft created. Once it is ready, it has the capability of being uploaded to the MPC website, the CORE MPO homepage, Facebook, YouTube, and many other platforms for widespread exposure.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

No public came forward.

VII. Announcements

[9. Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, April 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[10. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

[D5 Chatham MPO Project Status run on 12-4-20.pdf](#)

[GDOT - CORE MPO Report Feb 2021.pdf](#)

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

[February 2021 TCC Report - Chatham County.pdf](#)

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

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

[13. CAT Project Status Report](#)

[FY21 Status Report 2021_CAT.pdf](#)

[14. LATS Project Status Report](#)

[US 17 Status Update 2-5-21.pdf](#)

[15. New Virtual Meeting Dates Announced for Input on the Update to](#)

Comprehensive Plans for Chatham, Garden City, Pooler and Savannah

📎 [VirtualMeetingPoster_February2021.pdf](#)

16. Demographic Survey

📎 [Survey Monkey Demographics Link PDF.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the Demographic Survey is to help understand the demographic makeup of the CORE MPO. This survey is needed for the Title VI Plan and the Participation Plan update. The MPO encourages everyone to participate in taking the survey.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the February 22, 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.