



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

June 21, 2021 at 1:00pm

JUNE 21, 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	
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)	
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
Voting Alternates	Representing	Present

Others	Representing	Present
Alexia Schwab	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Chris Downey	Sign Language Interpreter	X
Ann Piben	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
Cole Mullis	CRC	X
Paris Anderson	Public	X
Kerri Beiber	Public	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Bridgette Morrison. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

1. [Approval of the April 14, 2021 CORE MPO Special Called ACAT meeting minutes.](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton motioned to approve the April 14, 2021 Special Called ACAT meeting minutes; Seconded by Mr. Neil Ligon. The motion passed with non-opposed.

2. [Approval of the April 26, 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes.](#)

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

3. [June Amendments to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the document being presented is the CORE MPO's short range programming document which provides a multiyear listing of proposed surface transportation projects that use federal, state, and local funding within the metropolitan planning area. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is modified periodically to ensure it is updated with the proper projects, revenue, cost estimates, and development schedules. In May, the CORE MPO staff received transit project updates from the Chatham Area Transit (CAT). GDOT provided funding and scheduling updates for highway projects. There are four proposed projects for this TIP amendment. Three of the projects are related to Project DeRenne, where the pandemic caused unanticipated delays in development. The fourth proposed update relates to various funding updates to the transit projects.

GDOT has provided a confirmation letter for the MPO to move the funds for the Project DeRenne (PI# 0008358) ROW phase. The City of Savannah requested schedule changes for the other two Project DeRenne projects. The changes include the following.

- PI# 0008358, I-516/DeRenne Avenue - move the ROW funds from FY 2021 to FY 2022.
- PI# 0008359, East DeRenne from SR 204 to Harry S Truman Pkwy - remove the ROW phase from the FY 2021-FY 2024 TIP.
- PI# 0010236, SR 21 from CS 346/Mildred Street to SR 204 - delete the ROW phase from the FY 2021 – FY 2024 TIP.

Proposed Transit Project Updates - Chatham Area Transit requested to move several projects from FY 2021 to FY 2022 due to some unexpected delays with the facility modification projects.

- Facilities Modification under FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Funds, used for operating assistance and CAT's capital projects.
- Facility Enhancements under FTA Section 5339 Bus, and Bus Facility Program Funds.
- Facility Rehab under FHWA flex funds.
- Facility Enhancements under FTA Section 5307 Ferry Boat Discretionary Funds, which are for Ferry Maintenance Facility and for Ferry Rehabilitation.

The MPO staff is asking for the committee to endorse the proposed updates to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP.

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that we are still in the 15-day public review and comment period and that changes could still be made. GDOT has been in communication with the City of Savannah regarding the Traffic Control Center Project. The project cannot make FY 2021. The MPO staff is asking for the committee to endorse the TIP amendments subject to the updates to be made.

Mr. James Abernson made a motion to amend the original motion and endorse the June amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP with corrections still to be made; seconded by Ms. Asia Hernton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Status Reports

[4. FY 2021 UPWP Budget Adjustments](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) details the staff budget and work projects expected to be undertaken by MPO staff. There is a budget for each task such as Operations and Administration, Training and Professional Development, Equipment and Supplies, TIP, Long Range Planning, etc. By the end of the fiscal year, an evaluation is done based on the actual work that has been performed. If one task is over or under budget, the funds need to be

moved to cover the cost. The evaluation was done in May. The Operations and Administration budget that covers board and committee meetings needed to be adjusted due to the April special called meetings for the UPWP. In September, there was a special called TCC meeting for the TIP project development and prioritization. There is surplus in the budget for long-range transportation plan and bike and pedestrian planning. Basically, we are just moving funds between tasks. The total budget does not change. The budget adjustment request letter was sent to GDOT and they have approved the changes. The PL budget adjustment has been done as an administrative modification per GDOT request to facilitate final contract close out at the end of the fiscal year. The financial table in the current FY 2021 UPWP reflects the final budget for each task.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

Mr. Shannon Ginn from L.I.F.E. reported they still have the COVID-19 relief funds until the end of September of the next year. L.I.F.E. has also started helping people get transportation to get the vaccine. There is an online Zoom event they are hosting this Thursday with Tele Health. Last week, L.I.F.E. hosted a transportation resource event. Information was shared about resource tips for travel within the Chatham Area rural regions. These resources included services for medical transportation services as well as LogistiCare. There was also a presentation about virtual travel.

V. Other Business

None.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

None came forward.

VII. Notices

Ms. Wykoda Wang mentioned that status reports for GDOT, Chatham County, City of Savannah and LATS are included in the notice. If the ACAT members have any questions regarding any project, please let the staff know so that staff will coordinate with the project sponsors to find the answers.

[5. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

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

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

[8. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Bridgette Morrison presented a CAT project status report. CAT is under the transportation department and is waiting to see if there will be any relaxed restrictions from COVID-19. CAT is working with the CDC and other health organizations. They currently only allow 3 people on the vehicles which is causing

extreme delays. CAT is in the process of hiring more drivers. Some of the transportation issues will resolve once the COVID-19 mandates are relaxed. Paratransit needs more staffing. There are new vehicles that will arrive in August and September. These vehicles were originally due next month but there has been a delay from the factory with the vehicles missing a chip.

Ms. Teresa Brenner mentioned there are several issues with reliability of paratransit services. Riders are having trouble from Paratransit as to whether or not they would be picked up for the return trips. She herself was unable to come in for the MPO meeting because they told her they could pick her up for the meeting but could not guarantee her a ride home. She almost didn't make it to this meeting due to not getting an answer as to her having a guaranteed return trip. Ms. Morrison stated CAT is trying to hire and train more people to resolve these issues. They don't have enough people to work. Mr. James Aberson asked if there were self-reported numbers on how many drivers were vaccinated. If enough of the drivers and riders have been fully vaccinated, there should be no reason some of the restrictions couldn't be relaxed.

Ms. Teresa Brenner asked about going online and purchasing a ticket in advance, asking if the information for half fare is on there for paratransit if you show your phone? Ms. Morrison stated the customer needs to download the app on the phone and yes, the information is on there.

Ms. Brenner asked about being able to schedule a ride to just get out of the house, like going to the mall or somewhere. Ms. Morrison stated yes, the customer can schedule an appointment to go anywhere they would like. If when looking at the schedule they don't have a driver for that time, CAT will call the customer and give them the option to reschedule or cancel.

[9. LATS Project Status Update](#)

[10. The MPC is seeking comments on Plan 2040](#)

[11. US Department of Transportation Strategic Action Plan on Accessible Transportation](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the US Department of Transportation is creating its very first strategic action plan on accessible transportation. The project will be from FY 2021- 2025. The draft of the document will be open for public comment from July 30th – August 16th. There will be a virtual event titled "Breaking Down Barriers, Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act".

Goals of the strategic action plan are:

1. Remove unnecessary barriers to multimodal accessibility of public right of ways.

2. Enhance opportunities for people to walk, roll, cycle and use micro mobility services to the greatest extent possible.
3. Remove unnecessary barriers for people with disabilities to seek licensure to operate and/or ride in passenger and commercial vehicles.
4. Support the development and diversification of the nation's public transit systems and mobility providers to provide accessibility for people with disabilities.
5. Advance accessible intercity transportation systems for people with disabilities.

[12. SR 21 Access Management Study Status Report](#)

[13. Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, August 23, 2021 at 1:00pm \(virtual\)](#)

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 21, 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.