



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

October 25, 2021 at 1:00pm
Minutes

OCTOBER 25, 2021 CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Meeting (ACAT)

Voting Members	Representing	Present
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	
Tia Baker	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
Kara Powells	Interpreter	X
Jeannie	Interpreter	X

Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Nick Fazio	MPC/Advanced Planning	X
Julie Yawn	MPC/IT	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the agenda; Ms. Asia Hernton seconded. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the August 23, 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes.](#)

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the August 23, 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Brenda Pollen. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. 2022 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the 2022 CORE MPO and ACAT Meeting Schedule.

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the 2022 ACAT meeting Schedule; seconded by Ms. Asia Hernton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented Amendments to FY 2022 UPWP. Prior to applying for discretionary planning funds, the studies must be discussed at least twice at the TCC committee meetings and those studies must be included as illustrative projects (in the unfunded section of UPWP). Once the funding is awarded, the studies can be moved into the funded section.

There are four studies included in the illustrative section. When the applications were sent to the GA Funds Review Committee, two of the studies have been awarded funding. These two studies will be moved from the unfunded to the funded section of the UPWP. The studies are:

- Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update - \$300,000 (\$240,000 federal portion, \$60,000 local)
- Urban Flood Model - \$150,000 (\$120,000 federal portion, \$30,000 local)

Mr. Neil Ligon motioned to endorse the amendments to FY 2022 UPWP; seconded by Ms. Asia Hernton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Status Reports

4. Z230 and CRRSAA Calls for Projects

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated there were eight applications received for the Z230 funds. Four of those were eligible for funding. The CRRSAA funds received six applications, with four of them being eligible. The TCC committee ranked the eligible projects.

Z230 Funds

1. CAT- (2) 35ft. Fixed Route Diesel Buses - \$936,000
2. Chatham County – Chevis Road Improvement Project - \$1,360,000
3. Chatham County – Garrard Road Improvement Project- \$4,680,000
4. CAT – Bus Stop Improvement Program - \$400,000

CRRSAA Funds

1. City of Pooler submitted US 80 Corridor Study that goes from the county line to the City of Savannah (SR 25 Connector) - \$285,000
2. City of Savannah Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II B - \$1,750,000
3. Chatham County - Chevis Road Improvement Project - \$ 77,897
4. Chatham County – Garrard Avenue Improvement Project

The Z230 Funds have more than the requested amount. FY 2023 has around \$3.1 million in funds and FY 2024 has around \$6 million in funds. The four projects requested about \$2.5 million for FY 2023. The Garrard Avenue project requested less than \$3 million in funding in FY 2024. The TCC recommendation is to award the funds to these projects as requested.

The CRRSAA funds have about \$2.1 million. The total requested amount was over \$4 million. The TCC recommended awarding the funds to the top two projects, the US 80 Corridor Study and the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II B, as requested. The remaining funds will be awarded to the third ranking project.

5. FY 2023 UPWP Development Process

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Draft FY 2023 UPWP will be reviewed by the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees at the December meetings, followed by a 30-day review and comment period by GDOT and FHWA. The final FY 2023 UPWP will be distributed for review and approval at the February 2022 meetings.

There were four study requests from Chatham Area Transit to be included in the unfunded section of the UPWP:

- Transit Oriented Development Study – \$125,000
- Bus Stop Amenities Study - \$125,000
- Mobility Hub Study and Program - \$75,000

- Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - \$200,000

CORE MPO staff is coordinating with GDOT Intermodal inquiring about any available discretionary 5303 funds. If there are funds available, CORE MPO staff will apply for those funds on behalf of CAT. In previous years, CORE MPO staff have secured a portion of those funds to help CAT offset the remix software licensing.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

Ms. Wykoda Wang mentioned that the agency reports of various organizations are attached under VII. Notices, and are available to view for anyone interested. Ms. Wang stated if anyone had any questions, please let CORE MPO staff know so staff can contact the project sponsor and get more information.

V. Other Business

[6. 2050 MTP Update: Survey, Goals, Objectives, & Performance Measures](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the CORE MPO has started the kickoff for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. This plan looks 20 years into the future. It documents the plan development process and transportation needs, and identifies fiscally constrained projects. Federal planning requirements state this document must be updated every five years. These updates help evaluate and refine our planning and programming to ensure the plan stays consistent and updated with changing conditions and priorities.

Performance-Based Planning & Programming is a process for MPOs to evaluate transportation system performance. It is a good way to check if transportation goals are being met. It ensures that transportation investments, long- and short-term programming, are based on performance and the ability to meet established goals.

The proposed goals and objectives for the upcoming plan are built on the previous 2045 MTP. There will be several refinement phases through June. Each phase will be brought before the committees to get feedback, comments, and to participate in surveys.

This is currently the planning phase of the project; this is a preliminary refinement of the goals. There is a draft survey of questions designed to gauge the public's preference on these goals and objectives, including:

- Are these important issues?
- Is this a goal for our region?

MPO staff is asking for feedback on the goals and objectives of the plan.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

Mr. Neil Ligon, a representative for LIFE, stated his agency received an email asking if ACAT can help reduce the loss of CAT Mobility paratransit drivers by helping to address or advocate for the drivers' concerns. CAT Mobility drivers have expressed that one reason they are leaving paratransit is because they are not being paid appropriately. They have an important, hazardous job and do not receive regular raises. The fixed route drivers receive regular raises. Paratransit employees stated CAT Mobility drivers are not treated equally. One driver commented that CAT Mobility is losing dedicated drivers, including herself, because she has not received a raise since she started three years ago. She stated that if the drivers' concerns were heard and addressed, this may reduce driver shortages and stem the tide of departures.

Ms. Tia Baker, CAT, stated the drivers got raises in September. She was unaware of how much and stated she would find out.

Ms. Pamela Oglesby asked if a report could be brought back, to the December meeting regarding this issue.

Mr. James Aberson recommended bringing this to the attention of the CORE MPO Board during the upcoming meeting.

Mr. Ligon stated there is an Independent Living Skill virtual meeting with GBRA regarding employment outcomes this Thursday that is open to the public. The subject is how to work in the existing system to achieve successful employment outcomes for those with disabilities.

VII. Notices

[7. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

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

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

[10. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Tia Baker stated they are still experiencing an operator shortage. They are currently down 7 operators. There are three part time operators in training. They are still experiencing 2-4 call outs per day and operators taking vacation time off. This is causing a major issue with ridership. CAT is scheduling 350-400 customers per day. This does not include the weekend. During the weekend there are 125-150 customers scheduled. They are in desperate need of operators. There are major delays for the customers which is causing several issues. CAT is currently seeking partnership with UBER and LYFT to ease this problem. They

are also seeking partnership with a wheelchair accessible vehicles service called Wave. This is a supplemental paratransit service that can help with the challenges.

[11. LATS Project Status Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the US 17 Widening Project is in the settlement period, so there will not be a lot of activity until the dirt settles.

[12. TIP Project Tracking in October 2021](#)

[13. RFP for CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the CORE MPO staff is preparing for Request for Proposals for both the Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update and the Urban Flooding Model Study. The RFP process will start, and these will be advertised next Monday.

[14. RFP for CORE MPO Urban Flooding Model Study](#)

[15. Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, December 13, 2021 at 1:00pm](#)

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the October 25, 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.