



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Minutes
April 25, 2022 at 1:00pm

April 25, 2022 CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT) Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Vacant	Chatham County	
Vacant	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)	
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	
Vacant	GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Assoc of the Deaf Interested Citizen	
Voting Alternates	Representing	Present
Barbara Shiggs	Para Transit/ Chatham Area Transit	X
Others	Representing	Present
Jessica Mathis	Public	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X

Shannon Ginn	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Julie Yawn	MPC/IT	X

I. Approval of Agenda

There being no quorum, this item was not voted on.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the February 28, 2022 CORE MPO ACAT Committee meeting minutes](#)

There being no quorum, the February 28, 2022 CORE MPO ACAT committee meeting minutes will be voted on at the next scheduled meeting, June 27, 2022.

[2. Amendments to FY 2023 UPWP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang explained the MPO has three required documents to create and update:

- the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP - Long Range document)
- the Short-Range document known as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and
- the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP is the staff budget. It outlines how much money there will be for the fiscal year and how that money will be used. The next UPWP is for FY 2023, which starts on July 1st, 2022 and ends on June 30th, 2023. The UPWP outlines the two revenue sources - the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) highway planning (PL) funds and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 funds. For the FTA funds, GDOT sends out an application and the MPO applies for the 5303 funds, so we know how much is available for the next fiscal year. For the highway planning funds, GDOT tells the MPO how much money will be available.

When the FY 2023 UPWP was developed, staff did not know how much highway planning funds would be available. GDOT advised the MPO staff to assume there would be the same funding level as the previous year. Previously, in FY 2022, there was approximately \$360,000 of PL funding. With the 20% local match from membership dues, the total PL funding amount was around \$450,000. In March, GDOT said there would be approximately \$85,000 more for FY 2023. With the local match, staff will have about \$535,000 to carry out UPWP tasks. MPO staff must add that additional funding into the UPWP. Staff work is divided into different tasks, so we decided to split that extra funding into two planning tasks: the Administration task and the System Planning Development task.

In addition, there will be newly available funds for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options. The total amount is approximately \$13,000 (including the local match). These funds are for a very particular use and can only be applied to tasks that increase safe and accessible transportation. These additional funds will be used on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan update and the Thoroughfare Plan update.

There are two amendments that will be added to the FY 2023 UPWP:

- Adding the additional \$85,000 in PL funding; and
- Adding the “increasing safe and accessible transportation” funding.

There was no quorum, therefore no motion was made on this action item.

[3. April 2022 AMENDMENTS TO FY 2021 -2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the TIP is the short-range programming document. The current TIP covers FY 2021-2024. With the end of FY 2022 approaching, we need to make sure whatever funds that are programmed in FY 2022 are obligated. If the funds do not get obligated, they must be moved to later years or allocated to other projects.

These are the current changes:

- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B project – City of Savannah added a ROW phase which moved the construction phase to FY 2023.
- Old River Road Improvement project – part of this project is located within the MPO planning boundary and part is in Effingham County, outside of the MPO planning boundary. Effingham was unable to identify any funds. The project will be deleted out of the TIP and moved to later years. This releases \$560,000 of federal funding to be allocated to other projects.
- Chevis Road Improvement project – needs more funding due to a cost increase in Preliminary Engineering. Approximately \$330,000 will be allocated from the Old River Rd project.
- Garrard Avenue Improvement project – needs more funding and will receive the remaining \$230,000 released from the Old River Rd project.
- Project DeRenne – the Environmental Justice Process needs more analysis; they will require additional preliminary engineering funds totaling approximately \$1 million.
- Transit Improvement – various projects – CAT’s section 5307 and 5307(h) need amendments.

There was no quorum, therefore no motion was made on this action item.

III. Status Reports

[4. CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the CORE MPO was awarded discretionary highway planning funds in 2021. Staff conducted an RFP process for the CORE MPO Freight Transportation Plan update. The procurement process was from November 2021 to February 2022. We received three proposals. Cambridge Systematics was the top ranked consulting firm. CORE MPO has been working on negotiating with Cambridge Systematics and executing the contracts. Since the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) hosts CORE MPO, the contract agency is MPC. The contract between GDOT and MPC regarding the awarded discretionary PL funds has been executed. The contract between MPC and Cambridge including the detailed scope of services and final fees has also been executed.

The Notice to Proceed was issued on April 18. The CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update is expected to be completed by the end of October 2023. The first kickoff meeting will happen this Friday. The study has an expected completion date of July 2023.

[5. SR 26 From Chatham County Line to SR 21](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the City of Pooler was awarded CRSSAA funds. They were awarded \$285,000 to do the US 80 Corridor Study (renamed SR 26 from Chatham County line to SR 21 by GDOT). The study area will cover multiple jurisdictions. The City of Pooler is the project manager and will coordinate with the City of Garden City, the City of Bloomingdale, the City of Savannah, Unincorporated Chatham County as well as CORE MPO to conduct the study.

The recommendations from this study will feed into the MPO's 2050 MTP update process. Currently Pooler is doing the RFP as well as executing a Project Framework Agreement (PFA) with GDOT. Once the PFA is executed, Pooler will execute a contract with the selected consultant to undertake the study.

The study is anticipated to be conducted from June 2022 to October 2023.

[6. FMT for Optimize Planning of CORE MPO Transportation Infrastructure Systems](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the Dynamic Flood Modeling Tools for Optimized Planning of CORE MPO Transportation Infrastructure Systems was awarded discretionary planning funds in the amount of \$120,000. The total study is estimated to be \$150,000. During the first round of the RFP process, the study only received two (2) proposals. With the minimum requirements being three (3) proposals, we extended the RFP process for another two weeks and received the minimum required three (3) proposals. The Reviewing Committee ranked and interviewed each consultant. The University of Georgia was the highest ranked University. The MPC is negotiating a scope of services contract with UGA. The funding contract between MPC and GDOT has been executed. We hope to have the contract finalized this

week so next week at the MPC meeting the contract can be executed. The project has a projected completion date of August 2023.

7. 2050 MTP Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang said there are three required planning documents of the MPO, the most important being the Long-Range Transportation Plan (also called Metropolitan Transportation Plan or MTP). The current 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan was adopted in August 2019. The MTP must be updated every 5 years. The update process takes approximately 2 years. This current update, titled the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan update, must be adopted in August 2024. With the MPO being short staffed, we want to start the process earlier. Currently there are several tasks that are ongoing.

- Social Economic Data Development – This will be the input for the travel demand model which guides the way for the whole development process. The MPC’s Advanced Planning Department will be working on this task. The base year for the model will be 2019 and the horizon year is 2050.
- Savannah Urbanized Area delineated by the census – The data from the newest US Census will be used to update MPO’s planning boundary. The current boundary is Chatham County, part of Bryan County, and a portion of Effingham County. Once the new boundaries are determined, the by-laws, MOU, and committee structure will be updated. The census data is expected to be released this summer.
- Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures – The process has been started. Staff wants the goals, objectives, and performance measures be adopted by August of this year. This information has previously been shown to the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees. The next step is to receive public input.
- Public Engagement Process – The goal of the public meetings is to collect information on how the public views the goals and objectives, prioritization methodology, etc.
- Several studies will feed into the 2050 MTP: Freight Plan Update, Congestion Management Process Update, Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update, Thoroughfare Plan Update, and the City Pooler’s US 80 Corridor study. Staff has completed two studies: the SR 307 Corridor Study and SR 21 Access Management Study. These study recommendations will feed into the development of the 2050 MTP as well.

Ms. Asia Hernton said Public Engagement is a very important piece of the MTP update. We encourage everyone to participate and provide input during the process.

8. 2022 Z230 Call for Projects

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Z230 Call for Projects relates to the TIP. There is limited funding for project implementation, so only the highest ranked priority

projects from the Long-Range Transportation Plan can be included in the TIP. The Z230 funds are the funds the MPO manages. TIP normally covers four years. Within this four-year program, there are projects like I-16 Widening and I-95/I-16 Interchange. Those are large funding projects that get funding from GDOT. There is a certain amount of funding that the MPO controls, which allows the MPO to do Call for Projects. The MPO committees will rank the applications and award the project funding. There is approximately \$5 million in Z230 funding for each year. The federal portion is \$4 million. These funds are flexible. They can be used for highway projects, transit projects, bike, and pedestrian projects. The project phases can be preliminary engineering, right-of-way, construction, or design.

The FY 2021 and 2022 funds are balanced. There were not enough applications for the FY 2023 and 2024 funds during the previous Call for Projects, so we have positive balances for these two years. More project applications are needed to program those funds into the TIP. There is additional information from GDOT with previous years' allocated Z230 funds that can be available for obligation at any time. Those funds along with some newly available FY 2023 funds from the new transportation funding legislation will be added to the FY 2023 and 2024 funds. MPO staff is collaborating with GDOT to determine how much funding will be available over the next 2 years. Staff can then decide how much to allocate to projects.

During the last Z230 Call for Projects, some local jurisdictions sent applications that were not eligible. MPO staff is going to host a pre-application workshop to help the local jurisdictions understand the eligibility requirements. This will eliminate future obstacles as well as help build a robust waiting list for future projects. For all the planning studies, GDOT and FHWA have special procedures to follow. There is a two-committee meeting discussion requirement with the TCC. Those ideas will then be put into the illustrative section of the UPWP. Once the funds are secured, the studies will then be moved into the funded section of the UPWP.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

Mr. Neil Ligon, Executive Director for L.I.F.E., said he will be in touch with CAT in regard to their process of the intaking of calls and scheduling of rides. We are trying to get a better idea of how that process works for the benefit of our consumers.

V. Other Business

None

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

None

VII. Notices

[9. SR 307 Corridor Study Final Report](#)

[10. GDOT Project Status Update](#)

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

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

[13. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Barbara Shiggs said CRC is still on contract. They provide service for CAT paratransit from Monday through Thursday with 3 operators most days. Currently CAT has hired and released for duty three operators, one full time and two part time. There is an upcoming class for six new hires; we are training them for Para Transit. This will take approximately 6- 8 weeks to complete. CAT is still experiencing some interruptions due to shortage of operators calling out, vacation time, and other absences. As of March 14th, services are operating at full capacity seating. As of April 19th, CAT ended customers required to wear face coverings while riding on fixed route and Para Transit buses.

[14. LATS Project Status Report](#)

[15. TIP Project Tracking in April 2022](#)

[16. Next CORE MPO ACAT Committee Meeting, June, 27, 2022 at 1:00pm](#)

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the April 25, 2022, 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.