



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

June 27, 2022 at 1:00 pm
Minutes

June 27, 2022 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation 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	
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.	
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	
Vacant	GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Association of the Deaf	
Voting Alternates	Representing	Present
Barbara Shiggs	Para Transit/ Chatham Area Transit	X
Shannon Ginn	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
Others	Representing	Present
Jessica Mathis	Public	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X

Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Julie Yawn	MPC/IT	X

I. Approval of Agenda

There being no quorum present, the ACAT committee was unable to vote on this item.

II. Action Items

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

There being no quorum present, the ACAT committee was unable to vote on this item.

[2. Approval of the April 25, 2022 CORE MPO ACAT Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

There being no quorum present, the ACAT committee was unable to vote on this item.

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) amendments include two parts.

The first part is the highway portion. There will be three studies amended into the unfunded section of the UPWP. These studies are:

- US 17/ Ogeechee Road Corridor Study – Chatham County is the Project Sponsor and will potentially partner with Garden City and the City of Savannah.
- President Street Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study - Chatham County is the Project Sponsor and will potentially partner with the City of Savannah.
- SR 21 @ CSX Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study - Chatham County is the Project Sponsor and will potentially partner with Garden City.

The 1st round of discussion was started in April for these studies. In June the TCC completed the second round of discussion. These three studies are eligible to be moved into the unfunded section of the UPWP. When CORE MPO starts the Call for Projects or the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee starts the Call for Studies in August/September, these studies will be eligible. If they receive either of the funding sources, they will be moved to the funded section of the UPWP.

The second part of the UPWP amendments involves the Transit Planning Section. CAT wants to include some information about their studies into the UPWP. While the UPWP is not a part of CAT's budget, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) still wants to see those studies included in the MPO's UPWP. The transit studies will be conducted with Section 5307 funds and American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds. The studies are:

- Zero Emission Implementation Plan
- Comprehensive Operation Analysis and Transit Development Plan
- Chatham Area Transit Master Transit Plan
- ARP Route Restoration Study

These studies will be included in the transit planning section of the UPWP for reference.

There being no quorum present, the ACAT committee was unable to vote on this item. The members present supported the UPWP amendments.

4. FY 2021 – 2024 TIP Amendments

Ms. Wykoda Wang said any project or project phase that can not get funds authorized by June 30th must be moved to a later fiscal year. The amendments include both highway and transit projects.

The highway projects being moved are:

- Project DeRenne – since the PE phase is added in FY 2022 for additional EJ analysis, which according to the schedule presented by GDOT will take approximately 18 months, the ROW phase programmed in FY 2022 will be pushed into FY 2024. The City of Savannah has sent a request letter to GDOT requesting to move the phase with the funds to FY 2024. We are awaiting the concurrence letter. The funding amount does not change.
- City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center - currently the PE, Utility, and Construction phases are programmed in FY 2022. We are going to move the funds with the project to FY 2023. This project's funding authorization was delayed due to administrative procedures with GDOT. This project needs the City of Savannah to send the request letter to GDOT to move the project with the funds as well as concurrence from GDOT in order for the amendments to be final.
- SR 26/US 80 Bridge at Bull River to Tybee Island – there were more than \$90,000.00 in HIP funds programed in FY 2022 for the ROW phase. GDOT's Project Manager said this project will not meet the schedule. The ROW phase will be moved to FY 2024. The HIP funds that were allocated to this project were moved to fund Project DeRenne's EJ analysis so that they would not lapse. This project now will need to apply for the Y230 funds in the next Call for Projects. The cost for the ROW phase has increased from approximately \$90,000.00 to \$1.4 million. The ROW phase is being moved from FY 2022 to FY 2024. The construction phase is being moved to FY 2025, which is out of the TIP, therefore we will delete the Utility Phase and Construction phases out of the current TIP.

The US 80 at Lazaretto Creek Bridge Replacement project will have separate environmental documents and the schedule is fine for now. The

Lazaretto Creek ROW, Utility and Construction phases will not all be in FY 2023. They will be more in line with the Bull River Bridge Replacement.

- SR 404/US 17 NE of Savannah Harbor PKWY to Back River – ROW Phase will be moved to FY 2023.
- I-95 at Airways Avenue at Pooler Interchange – the scoping phase was amended into the TIP for FY 2022 at the request of the Savannah Airport Commission. At this time there has not been any progress made. The Savannah/Hilton Head Airport, in partnership with Chatham County, would like to pursue Y230 funds. The locally funded project does not have to appear in the TIP, and it was added in as an amendment with the expectation that it would receive federal funding in the future. In August, when Chatham County applies for and the project is awarded Y230 funds, we will amend the TIP to correct the fiscal year and the funding source.

Transit Projects Updates

- FTA Sections 5337, 5339c, 5307h, and 5307 funds not expected to be obligated by June 30, 2022 will be moved from FY 2022 to FY 2023. CAT has already submitted the applications to the FTA. They are in the FTA review and approval process.
- CAT is also requesting to add 5337 funds for Ferry Boat Rehabilitation (\$446,184) and 5339 funds for vehicle purchase (\$1,039,355) to FY 2024.

There being no quorum present, the ACAT committee was unable to vote on this item. The members present supported the TIP amendments.

III. Status Reports

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the Freight Transportation Plan Update kicked off in April. The presentation was given at the EDFAC committee meeting last week. The presentation file has been attached to the ACAT agenda. Currently, the selected consultant, Cambridge Systematics, is reviewing the existing plans and studies such as the SR 307 Corridor Study, SR 21 Access Management Study, and GDOT Freight and Rail plans. The study process also involves coordination with the ongoing GDOT Coastal Empire Study. The consultants are collecting data for land use (land use maps, zoning, etc.), freight needs (Transearch, Origin Destination, INRIX, etc.), and drafting the freight Vision, Goals and Objectives. In October, there will be an update with initial findings.

6. FMT for Optimized Planning of CORE MPO Transportation Infrastructure Systems

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the contract was executed between the MPC and the University of Georgia. The Notice to Proceed was issued last week. The study is just kicking off. The project manager at the MPC and UGA will hold a kickoff meeting soon.

7. Call for Projects Pre-application Workshop

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the CORE MPO staff will be conducting Y230 and Y301 Calls for Projects in August. To make sure the potential applications are eligible, we hosted a Call for Projects Pre-application workshop on June 2, 2022. We outlined what is included in the Calls for Projects packages, what the potential applicants should notice, eligibility requirements, and how they need to apply. The presentation is attached to the ACAT agenda. More than 20 people attended and the event was well received. A planner from the MPO in Augusta, Georgia contacted us this morning asking for more information on the workshop. They received news from GDOT that we held a workshop and want to use our presentation as an example of best practice.

8. Administrative Modifications to FY 2022 UPWP PL Task Budget Adjustment

Ms. Sally Helm said this is an administrative modification to the FY 2022 UPWP, which is the MPO's staff work program for fiscal year 2022. It was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in April of 2021. The fiscal year runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The planning activities in the work program are supported by grants from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. In addition to federal grants, MPOs must provide a local match, and GDOT must provide a state match for FTA funds.

The MPO can submit budget adjustments to GDOT for various work tasks based on an evaluation of the ongoing staff efforts and the expected staff work. The current budget adjustments involve moving funds between tasks while the total funding level remains unchanged.

In May of 2022, CORE MPO requested and received concurrence from GDOT on several budget changes to the FHWA PL funds. The budget adjustments were based on an evaluation of staff efforts for the year to date, and the expected staff work to be conducted for the remainder of fiscal year 2022.

GDOT requested that the FY 2022 UPWP summary funding table and the funding tables under work tasks be revised to reflect the final budget adjustments in order to facilitate the final contract close out. The tables and the concurrence letter are attached to the agenda.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

Ms. Pamela Oglesby said SCOTI has a guest speaker each time they meet. They had two speakers at this last meeting - Sean Brandon from the City of Savannah Mobility and Parking, and Valarie Ragland from Chatham Area Transit Community Outreach. The two came to speak to the group regarding the accessible taxi situation. There was an accessible taxi in Savannah at some point but went away. The City and the County both are on board with bringing the accessible taxi back. The accessible taxi is like an on-demand taxi service. There are no reservations, you just call and have them come pick you up. The biggest challenge for this type of on-demand service is insurance coverage.

Shannon Ginn with L.I.F.E. said they are posting two new positions. One is for a home modifications assistant. The other is a nursing home transition assistant. They will be up on our website as well as Indeed. We have been trying to find resources for transportation on the service areas we service. When it comes to taxis, one of the other big problems is they don't have accessible vehicles to accommodate people that are in wheelchairs or with walkers. Ms. Oglesby said there were vehicles that took this on, but it was more than he could get or keep insured. Mr. Ginn said when he was doing the actual research, they were just saying they couldn't accommodate people that were in wheelchair care. Ms. Oglesby said they were able to get passed that. With the City and CAT on board, we got passed the wheelchair issues. Yellow Cab got the fleet in place but then the insurance company would not keep them insured.

V. Other Business

[9. 2050 MTP Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the draft survey for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update has been sent out for you to review and comment on. The survey will provide input for us in terms of developing or refining Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures. It will also help us to prioritize projects - highway, transit, freight, bicycle, and pedestrian. Please give us feedback on the survey by the end of this week. In July, we will incorporate the comments we receive, finalize the survey, and then have it translated into three different languages. We would like to get the survey out in July, no later than August.

CORE MPO staff will schedule some public meetings to kick off the 2050 MTP update. If you have any community meetings we can tag along with and do a presentation, please let us know.

We have the draft of the Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures and we are waiting for the survey results to refine them. The Social Economic Data Development will provide the input to the Travel Demand Model, which guides the whole MTP update process. We are collecting data from the census and from the school district.

The Travel Demand Model dictates the MTP update process. Staff is checking the networks to make sure the highway functional classifications and number of lanes of those links are correct. There are more than 5000 links to check. Staff is also developing project lists for the network models. GDOT will add these project links to the base year model to develop the horizon year model. Projects to be included in the Travel Demand Model are:

- 1st Network – projects that were constructed/started construction during 2015 – 2020.
- 2nd Network – projects that were constructed /started construction during 2015 - 2022.
- 3rd Network - Existing plus Committed project list.
- 4th Network – ROW funds that are committed.
- 5th Network – preliminary phase included in the TIP.

Staff is also reviewing other projects. The Freight Plan Update and the Urban Flooding Model have kicked off. Additionally, there will be a new staff member in July, who will be managing the Congestion Management Process (CMP). The CMP update will be completed in coordination with the MTP update. Asia has started the Non-motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan Updates.

There are several studies that have been completed that will feed into the 2050 MTP. The SR 307 Corridor Study and the SR 21 Access Management Study, for example, will feed into the 2050 Plan. There will be a matrix of projects listed and will show which studies the project recommendations come from. The US 80 Corridor study, managed by the City of Pooler, will kick off soon. If Chatham County receives funding awards, they will conduct the following studies:

- The US 17 corridor study
- Presidents Street Railroad Crossing study
- SR 21 @ CSX Railroad Crossing study.

The recommendations from those studies will feed into the 2050 MTP as well.

Since MTP is multi modal, it will include transit improvements. Most of the transit improvement projects will come from the Transit Development Plan. CAT is in the review and consultant evaluation process but hope to kickoff the study in August.

[10. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan Updates](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan address important topics for pedestrians, bicyclists, people with accessibility needs, and infrastructure improvements in the area. The goal of this plan update is to compile a list of pedestrian, bike and trail projects that can be incorporated into the MTP and eventually be prioritized and programmed for funding and implementation.

What we want to add with the update:

- Define what non-motorized transportation is and why it is important.
- Create an overall vision of non-motorized transportation in the area, one that is less car dependent and more open to walking and cycling.
- Increase public input and describe how public participation is used and how it impacts this plan update.
- Discuss topics of safety, equity, and resilience. This is especially important since pedestrian deaths and injuries have been increasing and some areas are more disproportionately impacted than others.
- Identify the safety problem areas and determine how to make improvements.
- Update the status of current projects in the area, such as Tide to Town.

There is a steering committee and anyone who is interested in joining the steering committee is welcome. Please let us know if you are interested in participating. It is important for ACAT to participate to address accessibility issues and opportunities as a part of the plan update. An example of a necessary accessibility discussion to be had as part of this update is the bus stop ADA ramps, specifically where ramps are and which areas need ramps. Ms. Oglesby asked L.I.F.E. staff if they or any of their clients would be interested in participating? Mr. Ginn said send the information and he will ask if any of L.I.F.E's clients would be interested.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

No Comments

VII. Notices

[11. Next CORE MPO ACAT Committee Meeting, August 22, 2022 at 1:00pm](#)

[12. Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Opportunity](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said the SS4A grant is a grant opportunity from the US Department of Transportation. It is a competitive grant that is awarded to projects that support infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives that prevent death and serious injuries on roads and streets. The goal of this grant is to improve safety for all roadway users. The money from this grant, if awarded, will be used to fund creation and implementation of Vision Zero Plans. A Vision Zero Plan is a plan with the goal of reducing all roadway deaths to zero. There are two forms of this grant:

- Implementation Grant – this grant is for applicants that already have a Vision Zero Plan. The funding range is \$3 million to \$50 million.

- Action Plan Grant – this grant is for applicants that do not have a Vision Zero Plan. The funding range is \$200,000 to \$5 million.

The deadline for the grant application is September 15th.

[13. Chatham Area Transit Project Status Update](#)

Ms. Barbara Shiggs said the Travel Training Program is up and running. The only issue is there are not many applying for the program. Ms. Oglesby said she is interested in participating. Mr. Shannon Ginn said they will let their clients know the program is up and running to see if there is any interest.

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

No Comments or questions.

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

No Comments or questions.

[16. City of Pooler SR 26 from Chatham County line to SR 21 Project Status report](#)

No Comments or questions.

[17. TIP Project Tracking in June 2022](#)

No Comments or questions.

[18. GDOT Project Status Update](#)

No Comments or questions.

[19. Administrative Modifications to FY 2023 UPWP](#)

No Comments or questions.

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the Assistant Executive Director sent an email reminding everyone that all meetings will be in person. There will be no more virtual meetings. There will still be a hybrid option but that is more for the public. Voting members need to be in person. We will check the availability of the Transit facility at CAT to see if that room is still available and get back with everyone.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 27, 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.