



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

MPC Conference Room
112 East State Street

June 17, 2004

5:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Brant Attaway
H. L. Burgstiner
Phyllis Hardeman
Ronald Kolman
Henry Levy
Lee Mundell, Chair
Stephen Traub
Jill Weaver

Representing:

Savannah
Chatham County
Thunderbolt
Chatham County
City of Tybee Island
Savannah
Chatham County
Chatham County

Others Present:

Al Black, P.E.
Valerie Brown
Teresa Scott
Thomas L. Thomson, P.E., AICP
Wykoda Wang
Michael Weiner, P.E.
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

Representing:

Chatham County Engineering
Chatham Area Transit
GDOT, Jesup
Executive Director, MPC
MPC
City of Savannah Traffic Engineer
MPC

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mundell called the meeting to order. Hearing no additions or changes, the agenda would stand approved as presented.

II. Action Items:

- A. Approval of April 15, 2004 CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Burgstiner **moved** to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2004 CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes. Mr. Kolman seconded the motion.

CAC Action: The motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2004 CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee meeting carried with none opposed. Voting were Ms. Hardeman, Mr. Kolman, Mr. Burgstiner, Mr. Attaway, Mr. Traub, Mr. Levy, and Ms. Weaver.

III. Status Reports

- A. CUTS 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Development Process

Ms. Wang reviewed the Public Involvement Process for the LRTP. A summary of the comments received to date was displayed. All comments have been entered into a database. Additional public meetings have been scheduled. Staff is also communicating with neighborhood associations. Information would be posted on the website. Staff is working to establish an e-mail account which would provide another avenue for comments from the public.

Mr. Wilkes displayed a table that documented all of the model runs that were done in order to prepare the LRTP. This material was distributed at the meeting. The draft plan will be published in August. Additional public meetings will be scheduled at that time.

Mr. Thomson stated that staff would review the goals in order to make certain that the criteria under each goal are quantifiable enough to be measured. Committee members are encouraged to comment on these goals. Input is requested on the overall weight that the five criteria would have among each other, and what weights would be assigned to each of the criteria. The intention is to apply a first cut at priorities.

- B. CUTS FY 2005-2007 TIP Development Process

Ms. Wang reviewed the process involved in developing the FY 2005-2007 TIP. Public involvement was also described. The public comment period ended June 16, 2004. Staff would incorporate comments and changes. This would trigger another round of public involvement. It is anticipated that the TIP would be adopted in September following adoption of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The Long Range Plan must be in place before a TIP could be adopted.

Mr. Thomson added that changes have been made to the TIP in order to incorporate technical comments from the City, County, and DOT. Several more technical changes may

be made.

C. Connecting Savannah

Mr. Thomson stated that staff is on schedule to select a consultant for the project. A project schedule was distributed at the meeting. Within a few weeks a contract should be awarded for the project. By July efforts should be underway. Connecting Savannah would be very much a public decision making process. Several neighborhood groups are starting to meet in order to provide input on this topic.

To a question from Mr. Levy, Mr. Thomson replied that the main focus of the Connecting Savannah project is to make moving around Savannah convenient and as uncongested as possible. That may involve east-west, north-south, or other factors.

D. Intermodal Connector Addition to the National Highway System (NHS)

Mr. Wilkes stated that wording on the resolution has been finalized to the satisfaction of the Georgia Ports Authority and GDOT, who is coordinating the process.

IV. Informational Reports (verbal)

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Scott reviewed the status of projects that are currently underway in Chatham County. A report was distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Burgstiner asked when residents would be getting some relief on the entrance to Wal-Mart at U. S. Highway 17.

Ms. Scott replied that she asks about this issue every month and the answer is the same. She has no new information. A new Area Engineer is on board and CAC members are encouraged to contact him because there is nothing that she can do. Letters to the Commissioner or to the Governor may also be appropriate.

Mr. Levy moved to give Mr. Kolman and Mr. Burgstiner authority to write a letter to the Governor regarding the entrance to Wal-Mart at U. S. Highway 17. Mr. Kolman seconded the motion.

CAC Action: The motion carried with none opposed. The motion was to give Mr. Kolman and Mr. Burgstiner authority to write a letter to the Governor regarding the entrance to Wal-Mart at U. S. Highway 17. Voting were Mr. Attaway, Mr. Burgstiner, Ms. Hardeman, Mr. Kolman, Mr. Levy, Mr. Traub, and Ms. Weaver.

B. Chatham County

Mr. Black presented an update on the traffic projects that are currently underway in Chatham County. A status report was distributed.

C. City of Savannah

Mr. Weiner reviewed the status of projects in the City of Savannah. A status report was distributed. I

D. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Ms. Brown updated the committee on the progress toward the mandate of installing 100 new bus shelters by June. Presently 75 shelters have been installed.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Citizens Advisory Committee, the June 17, 2004 meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Wilkes, P.E., AICP
Director of Transportation Planning