



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
112 East State Street

February 17, 2005

5:00 p.m.

Members

Representing

Present

Brant Attaway	City of Savannah	
James Blue	City of Savannah	
Harold Burgstiner	Chatham County	
Tom Campbell	Chatham County	
Charles Coovert	City of Port Wentworth	
William L. Grainger	City of Bloomingdale	
Phyllis Hardeman	Town of Thunderbolt	x
Johnny Hearn	City of Garden City	
Chandler Kinsey	City of Tybee Island	Excused
Ronald Kolman	Chatham County	
Joe Laufenberg	City of Savannah	x
Stratton Leopold	Town of Vernonburg	
Henry Levy	City of Tybee Island	Excused
Helen McCracken, Vice Chair	Town of Thunderbolt	Excused
Mark McDonald	Chatham County	
Lee Mundell, Chair	City of Savannah	x
Joyce Murlless	City of Savannah	x
Bill Reese	City of Savannah	
David Saussy	City of Savannah	x
Stephen Traub	Chatham County	x
Jill Weaver	Chatham County	x

Others Present:

Representing:

Al Black, P. E.	Chatham County Engineering
Jean Iaderosa	Chatham Area Transit Authority
Teresa Scott	GDOT, Jesup
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff
Michael Weiner, P.E.	City of Savannah Traffic Engineer
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP	MPO Staff

I. Call to Order

Mr. Mundell called the meeting to order. Hearing no comments, he stated that the agenda would be approved as submitted.

II. Action Items

- A. Approval of November 10, 2004 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

It was **moved** to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded.

CAC Action: The motion to approve the November 10, 2004 Citizen Advisory Committee minutes carried with none opposed. Voting were: Ms. Hardeman, Mr. Laufenberg, Ms. Murlless, Mr. Saussy, Mr. Traub, and Ms. Weaver.

- B. Endorsement of FY 2005-2007 TIP Amendments

Ms. Wang presented a brief summary on the Transportation Improvement Program amendments. Staff has received requests for three highway projects and three public transportation projects. The projects are in the Long Range Transportation Plan. The County is requesting \$5,000 for PE oversight for the three highway projects. The money would come from Q23 funds. These projects are major amendments and require a 15-day public notice and comment period.

Ms. Wang added that staff has also received requests for three Transit projects. The projects are: 1) to change the scope "Communications" to "Passenger Amenities" to the 5307 Section; 2) to change the funding for more than 10% for "Passenger Amenities" for the 5309 Section; and, 3) to add "Communications" to the 5309 program. All Transit projects are requested by Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT).

Ms. Iaderosa provided details on the requested transit projects. "Passenger Amenities" funding would continue to work on the shelters. This past fiscal year 101 new shelters were installed in the downtown area and throughout the transit district. There are plans to continue installation of additional shelters granted funds are available. In addition the "Communications" is referring to automatic vehicle locating for buses. This will allow CAT to know the locations of buses at any time, their speeds of travel, arrival time at the next destination and signage at major stops (e.g. informing the passengers the next bus will be arriving in 3 minutes).

To a question on the status of the water ferries, Ms. Iaderosa replied that funding has been received for the Water Ferry System. The Federal Government funds \$800,000. The state funds 10% and the Trade Center funds 10%. The goal is to purchase 5 ferries so that people can be transported from the Trade Center to River Street and back. To become a

desirable destination for tourism, it is critical that we have this ferry system in place.

After the discussion, it was **moved** to endorse the FY 2005-2007 TIP amendments. The motion was seconded.

CAC Action: The motion to endorse the requested FY 2005-2007 TIP amendments carried with none opposed. Voting were: Ms. Hardeman, Mr. Laufenberg, Ms. Murlless, Mr. Saussy, Mr. Traub, and Ms. Weaver.

III. Status Reports

A. Connecting Savannah Study

Mr. Wilkes stated that the consultant is currently evaluating the initial ideas that were recommended by the citizens group that has been meeting on this matter. The meetings are being held at the Coastal Georgia Center. The next meeting will be held on February 24 at 5:30 p.m.

B. Chatham Intermodal Freight Study

Mr. Mundell stated that this matter would be deferred until a representative from the Georgia Ports Authority is present.

C. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Ms. Scott gave a brief summary on the GDOT Interstate Improvement Study. Ms Scott stated that a state wide Interstate Study was conducted in the past year. GDOT is now in the process of a more in depth study in this area which would include Interchanges of I-95 at I-16, I-16 and Dean Forest Rd, and I-16 and I-516. More information will be provided at the next committee meeting.

D. 2004 Congestion Management System (CMS) Final Report

Mr. Wilkes presented the 2004 CMS final report and summarized the key findings. Multiple a.m. peak, midday and p.m. peak period travel time runs were conducted on all arterials and major collectors in Chatham County, a total of 531 miles of roadway. Typically, eight runs were made in each direction on each route. One second GPS points were collected, which allowed for computation of travel speed, acceleration, deceleration, LOS, queueing, and congestion index. Digital video was also shot on each route, to better illustrate observed conditions.

About 10 percent of the route segments evaluated experienced congestion. Of the congested segments, about 24 percent will be addressed by planned capacity improvements. About 30 percent of congested segments were on constrained corridors identified in the Transportation Amenities Plan. These constrained corridors will receive

only management strategies such as signal retiming and coordination, and small scale TSM improvements as appropriate. An additional eighteen percent of the congested segments (on non-constrained corridors) were recommended for signal timing and coordination improvements based on observed capacity and progression characteristics.

This is Savannah's first CMS. The CMS became a requirement when the 2000 census designated Savannah as a TMA. Future updates will likely be on a smaller scale and focus on a smaller number of priority corridors.

E. 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Final Report

Mr. Wilkes reviewed the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan final report. This report serves as the final write-up of the long range plan which was adopted on September 22, 2004. Mr. Wilkes reviewed the content of each chapter, with emphasis on goals and objectives, public outreach and feedback, transportation amenities, project selection and ranking, the financially constrained project list, and unmet needs.

The final report was included in the pre-meeting materials, and can be downloaded from the website.

F. Federal Planning Certification Review

Mr. Wilkes stated that the MPO is preparing for its first triennial certification review which will take place March 1-3, 2005 in Savannah. A public meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2005 at 6:00pm in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room to discuss views on the transportation planning process.

G. Quality Growth Grant Approval for Context Sensitive Design Standards

Mr. Wilkes stated that CUTS has received a quality growth grant from the Department of Community Affairs to develop Phase Two of the Transportation Amenities Plan.

H. GDOT Regional ITS Architecture Study

Ms. Wang gave a short update on GDOT Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Study. An inventory has been done on all programs which will allow communications with each other. Chatham Area Transit will have a bus announcement system and smart cards will be implemented.

I. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study

Ms. Iaderosa presented an update on the sites for the Downtown Transit Station. Consultants are 60% completed on the environmental assessment. The draft report should be completed by June 2005.

IV. Informational Reports (verbal)

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Scott reviewed the status of the projects that are planned for Chatham County. A status report was distributed at the meeting.

To a question on the lane widening at Abercorn Street and Largo Drive, Ms. Scott replied that this topic would be addressed during Mr. Black's presentation on Chatham County's Road projects.

To a question on the status of U.S. Highway 17 south near the Wal-Mart, Ms. Scott replied that a completion date has been tentatively set for April 2006.

Regarding the concerns of Mr. Kolman, which were mentioned at an earlier meeting, Ms. Scott stated that she has researched the criteria for rest areas along interstates in Georgia and found out that if there is enough development on the other interchanges there is no need to put rest areas in.

B. Chatham County

Mr. Black reviewed a status report on the projects that are underway in Chatham County with SPLOST money. A report was distributed at the meeting.

C. City of Savannah Traffic Engineering Project

Mr. Weiner presented a summary on the traffic projects in the City of Savannah.

On Henry and Anderson Streets, 24 signals will be upgraded. This is being funded entirely by the DOT. This project is scheduled for completion at the later part of the year.

D. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Ms. Iaderosa stated that a few other things are going on at CAT. CAT has initiated services to Crossroads Business Park at the airport in October and there are plans to purchase and place ticket vending machines. CAT is also continuing to provide travel training on the buses.

V. Other Business

Mr. Traub **moved** to have more and better directional signs for the driving public; provide center turning lanes wherever feasible and off street stopping spaces for transit buses. The motion further included that the MPC staff consider publicizing a mailing address for the driving public to submit suggestions for improving traffic flow. The motion was properly seconded.

CAC ACTION: **The motion carried with none opposed.** The motion was to have more and better directional signs for the driving public; provide center turning lanes wherever feasible and off street stopping spaces for transit buses. The motion further included that the MPC staff consider publicizing a mailing address for the driving public to submit suggestions for improving traffic flow. Voting were: Ms. Hardeman, Mr. Laufenberg, Ms. Murlless, Mr. Saussy, Mr. Traub, and Ms. Weaver.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Citizens Advisory Committee, the February 17, 2005 meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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