



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
112 East State Street

April 21, 2005

5:00 p.m.

Members

Representing

Present

Brant Attaway	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	Excused
Johnny Hearn	City of Garden City	
Chandler Kinsey	City of Tybee Island	X
Ronald Kolman	Chatham County	
Joe Laufenberg	City of Savannah	x
Stratton Leopold	Town of Vernonburg	
Henry Levy	City of Tybee Island	X
Helen McCracken, Vice Chair	Town of Thunderbolt	Excused
Mark McDonald	Chatham County	
Chris Miller	City of Savannah	X
Lee Mundell, Chair	City of Savannah	x
Andrew Rawlings	City of Bloomingdale	X
David Saussy	City of Savannah	x
Stephen Traub	Chatham County	x
Jill Weaver	Chatham County	Excused
James Weaver	City of Savannah	X

Others Present:

Representing:

Al Black, P. E.	Chatham County Engineering
Jean Iaderosa	Chatham Area Transit Authority
Tom Thomson, P.E., AICP	MPO Staff
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. The CAC started with the Action Items with the exception of the Endorsement of holding a public meeting for proposed strategies for the Connecting Savannah process. This was deferred to the bottom of the agenda in case there was a request for comments.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of February 17, 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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

CAC Action: The motion to approve the February 17, 2005 Citizen Advisory Committee minutes carried with none opposed. Voting were: Mr. Weaver, Mr. Attaway, Mr. Burgstiner, Mr. Kinsey, Mr. Laufenberg, Mr. Leopold, Mr. Levy, and Mr. Traub.

B. Endorsement of Amendment to FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Wilkes stated that this item was to be for information only. The purpose of the Amendment is to include \$150,000.00 worth of funds for CAT Transportation Development Plan. It was previously described in the Unified Planning Work Program but since the work program is developed before the TIP each year we didn't have the money at the time we did the work program. This was caught by Federal Transit Administration so the Amendment is to put the actual money in.

C. Endorsement of FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Wilkes stated this item is also for information only. This is the staff work program for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1st. There are lists of recommendations that we have received from Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. We did make some modifications to the work task to try to start addressing these recommendations. They are all constructive recommendations and we are trying to be proactive.

D. Endorsement of Draft FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Wang's report was for information only. The status report was handed out in packets. These are proposed projects from GDOT from March to April. The City, County, and the MPO and the GPA staff got together but did not agree with the priority list that GDOT has proposed. We will try to work things out with the DOT. We have written DOT a letter requesting project changes. Staff will present a draft to in mid May.

Mr. Wilkes stated there is a response to our request in your handout dated April 19th. We are still in the process of working out the project priorities so our current status is reflected

by the project list and the letter. We will be meeting the local transportation staff over the next few weeks to continue working on the process.

Ms. Wang stated specifically the projects that we are requesting to move forward are Abercorn widening from Rio Road to King George Blvd and we are also requesting to move forward with Truman Parkway Phase V, Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting, and the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway.

- E. Establishment of subcommittee to develop Measure of Effectiveness (MOE) for the CUTS Public Involvement Plan

Ms. Wang stated staff would like to know the effectiveness of our public involvement outreach. Staff is requesting CAC to designate a subcommittee to work with the CUTS staff to establish the measure of effectiveness so that we can do quantitative and qualitative measurements on our public outreach.

Mr. Wilkes gave further insight to the term Measure of Effectiveness. This would be the tool each year to view the public involvement plan and gage how effective it has been and see where the adjustments should be and make sure we are providing effective involvement.

There were three volunteers accepted for the subcommittee. Mr. Mundell, Mr. Traub, and Mr. Saussy

- F. Endorsement of holding a public meeting for proposed strategies for the Connecting Savannah process.

It was moved to endorse holding a public meeting for the Connecting Savannah process. The motion was seconded.

CAC Action: **The motion to endorse the holding of a public meeting for proposed strategies for the Connecting Savannah process carried with none opposed.** Voting were: Mr. Weaver, Mr. Attaway, Mr. Burgstiner, Mr. Kinsey, Mr. Laufenberg, Mr. Leopold, Mr. Levy, and Mr. Traub.

III. Status Reports

A. Federal Planning Certification Review

Mr. Wilkes gave a brief review of the status report. He stated that the MPO has had its first triennial certification review which took place March 1-3, 2005 in Savannah. He thanked the staff members that sat through the three day meeting and the committee members that were present for the pubic meeting.

Mr. Thomson gave support to Mr. Wilkes and staff who made it through the certification

process with no corrective actions. The work of the MPO team made this a success.

B. Transportation Amenities Plan

Mr. Wilkes stated that the Department of Community Affairs has given a quality growths grant to develop Phase II of the Transportation Amenities Plan. This will be the design guidelines for new projects. Staff is now developing the scope of work for that study. We are in the development process right now.

C. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Mr. Wilkes stated a consultant Jordan Jones and Golding (JJ&G) Day Wilburn is the sub consultant. They have asked that this committee and ACAT assist in the public involvement effort of that study. We expect to hear from them in the near future regarding this study.

D. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study

Ms. Iaderosa gave a brief update on the status of the downtown transit station. Our consultants have performed very in depth environmental assessments of the two sites that are remaining; the two original sites: Oglethorpe and MLK and the site at Fahm and Oglethorpe. There was no recommendation made, however, there was a request for additional information. That information has been forwarded to the department.

When asked what to describe travel training on buses, Ms. Iaderosa responded it is an initiative that we have to introduce people who have not ridden the buses to riding them. This will answer questions like what bus do you want to catch, where do you want to go and there will be someone to go there with them This would be like taking the rider by the hand and escorting them to their destination. This service is primarily for the Golden Age Centers and Teleride users.

When asked is the Henry, Anderson, Bull and Drayton site still under consideration for the transit station study, Ms. Iaderosa replied this will go back to being under consideration because it was one of the original sites that had been reviewed. Information will also be sent on that site as well to the Department of Natural Resources.

E. CUTS Webpage Development

Ms. Wang announced that staff will published CUTS contact address on the MPC website so that concerned citizens may send CUTS whatever information they may have on how to improve traffic. Ms. Wang demonstrated the CUTS webpage. The website will also be used as an information distribution center.

F. CAC Membership Update

Ms. Wang stated letters have gone out to CAC members that have been inactive and to their jurisdiction asking them to assign members allowing them to keep informed with community updates. There are a couple of new members with us now, Mr. Weaver representing the City, and Mr. Andrew Raulings who represents Bloomingdale. We are still in need of representation for Pooler, Garden City, and Vernonberg.

In answer to a question directed to Mr. Wilkes, regarding the GDOT Improvement study, his response was the state was contemplating major improvements to two existing interchanges and one proposed interchange. The proposed interchange being Pine Barren Rd and I-95. GDOT decided to do a comprehensive study to all the interstate interchanges.

I

Informational Reports (verbal)

A. 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.

B. 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, signals will be upgraded. This project is scheduled for completion at the later part of the year. The consultant for the Gwinette and the LaRoche Street widening projects have finalized the concept report and is working on the environmental study. Regarding the speeding on 52nd Street and Habersham, there will be installation of a flashing beacon to a deter accidents as well. Completion of this project is anticipated in 2 weeks.

C. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Ms. Iaderosa stated that a few others things are going on at CAT. Beginning the 1st of June a fare free shuttle from Liberty Parking Garage will kick off. The Liberty Garage will announce a competitive fee of \$30.00 whereas the other garages in the downtown area will raise their monthly fee. New software will be implemented in our transportation department for scheduling. Ridership has increased 2.61%. CAT is replacing 8 of their old buses with new ones and 8 old teleride vans will be replaced.

V. Other Business

A. Connecting Savannah

Linda Carpenter gave a summary of the concepts that are going forward with the Connecting Savannah process. Handouts were distributed.

In response to concerns, Mr. Thomson stated that dedicated citizens have come out to the public meetings on transportation and are at this point pleased with the progress. Much of the focus has been the DeRenne Street Corridor. There is an availability of funds for the short-term and mid-term projects.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Citizens Advisory Committee, the April 21, 2005 meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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