



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
112 East State Street

October 20, 2005

5:00 p.m.

Members

Brant Attaway
Harold Burgstiner
Tom Campbell
Charles Coover
William L. Grainger
Phyllis Hardeman
Johnny Hearn
Chandler Kinsey
Ronald Kolman
Joe Laufenberg
Henry Levy
Helen McCracken, Vice Chair
Mark McDonald
Chris Miller
Lee Mundell, Chair
Clint Murphy
Andrew Rawlings
David Saussy
Joe Stephen
Stephen Traub
James Weaver
Jill Weaver

Representing

City of Savannah
Chatham County
Chatham County
City of Port Wentworth
City of Bloomingdale
Town of Thunderbolt
City of Garden City
City of Tybee Island
Chatham County
City of Savannah
City of Tybee Island
Town of Thunderbolt
Chatham County
City of Savannah
City of Savannah
Chatham County
City of Bloomingdale
City of Savannah
Chatham County
Chatham County
City of Savannah
Chatham County

Present

X
X

Excused

X
Excused
Excused
X
X

X
X
Excused

X
X
X

Others Present

Al Black, P.E.
Steven Henry
Jean Iaderosa
Teresa Scott
Tom Thomson, P.E., AICP
Wykoda Wang
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

Representing

Chatham County Engineering
City of Savannah Traffic Engineering
Chatham Area Transit Authority
GDOT – Jesup
MPO Staff
MPO Staff
MPO Staff

X
X
X
X
X
X
X

I. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairman Lee Mundell at the beginning of the meeting, Vice Chairman Helen McCracken called the October 20, 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order. She then called attendance and introduced Ms. Latoya Jones, Community Planner of the Federal Highway Administration.

Ms. Jones briefed members of the Citizens Advisory Committee with an overview of the composition and responsibility of an MPO and the key products of the metropolitan transportation planning process. The presentation includes four parts: 1) What is an MPO; 2) What are the key products; 3) MPO Funding; and 4) How statewide planning is integrated with the Metropolitan Planning process. Ms. Jones also informed the committee of the responsibilities of the different Boards and committees, including the TCC, CAC, ACAT and the Policy Committee. Ms. Jones gave a list of contacts the CAC members could reference if there were further questions along with her contact information.

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked Ms. Jones to give a brief status report on TEA-21 Reauthorization. Ms. Jones gave a brief highlight of a few changes that SAFETEA-LU would have on the MPO, including: 1) The MPO will receive increased funding due to increases in the minimum guaranteed return; 2) The TMA certification has been extended from 3 to 4 years; and 3) the TIP is required to be updated every four years.

Mr. Henry Levy asked if this committee was in effect, why Connecting Savannah was needed which was composed of mostly one issue geeks and freaks that came out with no fiscal responsibility whatsoever. They had no idea how much the projects they were recommending would cost. They were irresponsible and they did not represent the various communities. They were loaded on certain issues particularly DeRenne Avenue. The MPC staff particularly the director started this Connect Savannah and continuously quotes Connect Savannah wants it and no one pays any attention to the CAC. We have recommended things over and over again. We represent a very diverse view of all the communities and the county and we are ignored. Is there any reason for our existence other than the federal regulation requires it?

Mr. Wilkes's response was that there is not a prescriptive federal regulation to his knowledge that requires this committee to exist. This is a very common procedure to have.

Mr. Levy stated you have had a very strong group of the blind, the disabled, and the bicyclist but they did not represent the county equally or proportionately in any way. Whoever volunteered was accepted. So you got the geeks and the freaks on the one issue coming up and then followed them.

II. Informational Reports (verbal)

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Teresa Scott reviewed a status report of projects that are planned for Chatham County. Handouts were distributed. Questions were directed to Ms. Scott regarding overdue projects, particularly the US-17 widening and traffic light at the Wal Mart intersection. The committee asked whether or not there could be some dialogue between the DOT and the contractors that would prevent such lengthy delays. Ms. Scott's response was that once a project is let to a contractor, the only option DOT has is to apply a monetary penalty for each day the contractor is overdue. The US 17 widening project is scheduled for completion in March 2006.

B. Chatham County

Mr. Al Black reviewed the status report on the projects that are underway in Chatham County. The CAC members questioned Mr. Black as to what would be lost in the widening of Bay Street? Mr. Black's response was the right-of-way impasse would be minimized in order to create a wider median. The trees in front of the Fellwood Homes Projects would be placed in the median and the median would taper down.

C. City of Savannah

Mr. Steven Henry presented a summary on the traffic projects in the City of Savannah,

D. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Ms. Jean Iaderosa gave a report of the status of the Chatham Area Transit projects. At the proposed transit center, there is a focus on a Sawtooth for the buses which allows the buses to come in and back up easily. CAT is looking at a daycare for a minority base. The CAT downtown transit station site has not been confirmed. There are 10 new buses on order for replacement along with 8 new replacement vans for Teleride. The CAT Board has approved a consultant called Urbantran based out of New York / New Haven and California. They will perform the Transportation Development Plan. The Transit Authority's marketing strategies are now focusing on increased ridership for the non-traditional riders.

E. Comments Received from CUTS Website

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the MPO received many public comments either directly from the MPC website or through email ever since the MPO posted its contact information on the website. This proves that CUTS website is effective in distributing information.

Ms. Wang further announced that the MPC is now posting all agendas and package materials for the MPO and committee meetings on the MPC website. This will allow the committee members to receive their agenda and packages early.

III Action Items

A. Approval of June 16, 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Steven Traub moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting. Mr. James Weaver seconded the motion.

CAC Action: The motion to approve the June 16, 2005 Citizen Advisory Committee meeting minutes carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Tony Abbot, Mr. Brant Attaway, Mr. Clint Murphy, Mr. Henry Levy, Mr. James Weaver, Mr. Lee Mundell and Mr. Steve Traub.

B. Review and Discussion of City of Savannah's Annual Check-Up Form for Evaluating Citizen Board Effectiveness.

Mr. Mundell stated comments would be made at a later time on this item. This item was deferred.

C. Approval of Revised CUTS Public Involvement Plan.

Ms. Wang gave a brief presentation. She stated updates have been made to the revised Public Involvement Plan, including the incorporation of Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs), revisions of the Long Range Transportation Plan amendment process, additions and corrections to contract information of the media, neighborhood and public review agencies, and administrative changes (meeting dates, meeting locations, and the committee member titles, etc.). Staff is seeking approval from CAC of the Revised CUTS Public Involvement Plan.

The motion was made for approval of the Revised CUTS Public Involvement Plan. The motion was seconded.

CAC ACTION: The motion to approve the Revised CUTS Public Involvement Plan carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Steven Traub, Mr. Tony Abbot, Mr. Brant Attaway, Mr. Clint Murphy, Mr. Henry Levy, Mr. James Weaver, and Mr. Lee Mundell.

D. Endorsement of Amendment to FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program: Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting

Ms. Wang stated that Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting is a safety project and was identified as a priority project in the FY 2006-2008 TIP development process. However, at that time no funding was secured. In August 2005, GDOT identified funding for this project so it can be moved forward from 2008 to 2006.

The motion was made to endorse to the Policy Committee the amendment to the FY 2006-

2008 Transportation Improvement Program to move Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting from 2008 to 2006. The motion was seconded.

CAC ACTION: The motion to endorse the FY 2006-2008 TIP amendment to advance Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting from 2008 to 2006 carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Steven Traub, Mr. Tony Abbot Mr. Brant Attaway, Mr. Clint Murphy, Mr. Henry Levy, Mr. James Weaver, and Mr. Lee Mundell.

E. Review and Comment on Chatham County TE Application Projects

Mr. Wilkes reported that GDOT accepted applications for funding for the next 2 years for the Transportation Enhancement Projects. There were six applications submitted in Chatham County: 1) AASU Bicycle/Pedestrian Path, 2) Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Streetscape Phase 2 Improvements, 3) Pooler Sidewalk Extension, 4) Rehabilitation of Paint Shop Building's Sawtooth Roof, 5) Savannah State University Marsh Front Multi-Purpose Path and 6) Tybrisa Street Streetscape Improvement. These applications were from the first and the twelfth Congressional Districts. Staff has been asked by an MPO member to look at prioritizing the enhancement projects. It does not appear that Chatham County is receiving its proportional share of funding. Staff is recommending that funding in equity be considered. The MPO will contact the TE Application Review Board regarding the MPO priorities.

Mr. Abbot moved to have a contact person communicate with the representatives of the first and twelfth congressional districts by correspondence, have him explain the funding discrepancies and request for funding in equity, and ask him to report that information back to the CAC Committee. The motion was seconded.

CAC ACTION: The motion to have a contact person communicate with the representatives of the first and twelfth congressional districts by correspondence, have him explain the funding discrepancies and request for funding in equity, and ask him to report that information back to the CAC Committee carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Steven Traub, Mr. Tony Abbot Mr. Brant Attaway, Mr. Clint Murphy, Mr. Henry Levy, Mr. James Weaver, and Mr. Lee Mundell.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Citizens Advisory Committee, the October 20, 2005 meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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