



## CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room  
112 East State Street

**December 8, 2005**

**5:00 p.m.**

<b><u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
Tony Abbot	Chatham County	X
Brant Attaway	City of Savannah	X
Charles Coover	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
Joe Laufenberg	City of Savannah	X
Henry Levy	City of Tybee Island	X
Helen McCracken, Vice Chair	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Chris Miller	City of Savannah	
Lee Mundell, Chair	City of Savannah	X
Clint Murphy	Chatham County	X
Russell P. Peterson	Chatham County	X
Andrew Rawlings	City of Bloomingdale	
David Saussy	City of Savannah	X
Joe Stephen	Chatham County	X
Stephen Traub	Chatham County	X
James Weaver	City of Savannah	X
<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah Traffic Engineering	X
Jean Iaderosa	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP	MPO Staff	X
Sam Simpson	Interested Citizen	X
Pete Liakakis	County Commissioner	X

### Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Helen McCracken called the meeting to order and proceeded to call the role.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

It was approved that an action item be added to the agenda: a motion from Mr. Stephen Traub.

It was also approved that a presentation from the Landings be added to the agenda as a status report.

**Meeting Format Change**

Mr. Wilkes stated that in response to requests to make the CAC meetings run more smoothly, a new approach is being implemented to help keep discussions on topic with the agenda. A large tablet has been placed at the front of the room. Any time a member has an off-topic (outside of the adopted agenda) item that they would like discussed, it will be written on the tablet and "put in the parking lot" until the end of the agenda. Then it will be discussed under Other Business.

**II. Action Items**

**A. Approval of October 20, 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Traub **moved** to approve the October 20, 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. Mr. Levy seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: The motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting carried with none opposed.**

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

Mr. Stephen **moved** to adopt the Annual Check-Up Form and have all members complete the forms and submit them to the MPO staff at the next scheduled meeting (February 16, 2006) so that the staff can do the tabulation and the Chairman of CAC can submit the tabulation results to the City of Savannah. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: The motion to adopt the Annual Check-Up Form and have all members submit the completed form to the MPO staff at the February 2006 CAC meeting carried with none opposed.**

**C. Approval of 2006 Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Levy **moved** to approve the 2006 CAC Meeting Calendar. Mr. Abbott seconded the motion.

**CAC Action:**       **The motion carried with none opposed.** The motion was to approve the 2006 CAC Meeting Calendar making sure the new members not in attendance forward any discussion they may have over to staff.

**D. Correct Spelling of the DeRenne Avenue Signs**

Mr. Traub **moved** for those responsible for the Truman Parkway directional signs to be notified of the misspelling “Derenne”, with a request that the signs be corrected to “DeRenne”. Mr. Levy seconded the motion.

**CAC Action:**       **The motion carried with none opposed.** The motion was to notify the responsible agency of the misspelling and request correct spelling of “DeRenne” on the Truman Parkway directional signs.

At this point Mr. Levy was given the opportunity to voice his concerns regarding the debris along the bicycle trail on US 80 from Tybee Island to Savannah and back. He felt this could become very hazardous for the cyclists and suggested the County make the effort to clean the lanes. His request was directed to Mr. Liakakis.

Mr. Liakakis responded by asking Mr. Levy to call his office and he would forward this to the appropriate staff.

After deciding that it is the GDOT responsibility to maintain US 80, the Committee decided that a letter will be sent to GDOT and copied to Mr. Liakakis on bikeway debris removal along US 80.

**III. Status Reports**

**A. Connecting Savannah Follow Up Studies**

Mr. Wilkes stated the Metropolitan Planning Commission has sent out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Task Order Transportation Studies and received nine (9) letters of interest. The project will first focus on the development in the southwest of Chatham County. The Consultant Review Committee will review the proposals and select the most qualified consultant team to carry out the study.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission is also preparing RFPs to be advertised by the City of Savannah regarding two of the Connecting Savannah recommendations: 1) DeRenne Six Lane Widening, and 2) Hampstead Avenue Connector.

**B. Skidaway Island Drawbridge**

Mr. Stryker, Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee at the Landings Association asked to speak to the CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee concerning the need to give the

highest priority possible to construct a fixed-span high-rise bridge which will replace the current drawbridge at Skidaway Narrows. Mr. Stryker gave a brief PowerPoint presentation and distributed handouts.

Mr. Stryker stated the residents of Skidaway Island believe that the potential impact of a drawbridge outage in their community warrants the highest priority for construction of a fixed-span high-level bridge. The safety concerns alone should move it ahead of either Phase V of the Truman Parkway or improvements to the Islands Expressway.

Mr. Liakakis echoed this bridge is of great concern. He has directed the County Staff to purchase the right of way on each side of the road. The County will widen the road if the funds come back from the State. He has mentioned to the State Department of Transportation Commissioner, Harold Linnenkohl about looking at a bond issue that may help expedite this matter.

Mr. Abbott **moved** to have the Citizens Advisory Committee endorse to the Policy Committee whole-heartedly and effectively the request of the Skidaway Island Association to expedite the widening of Diamond Causeway and the construction of the fixed-span high-level Bridge. Mr. Levy seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: The motion to endorse the request of the Skidaway Island Association to expedite the widening of Diamond Causeway and the construction of the fixed-span high-level bridge carried with none opposed.**

**IV. Informational Reports (verbal)**

**A. Draft FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Wilkes stated the Draft FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program will begin for the fiscal year on July 1<sup>st</sup> of next year. At the request of the Committee a detailed presentation was not given. Mr. Wilkes referred the Committee members to the draft copies distributed in their packets.

**B. Transportation Amenities Plan**

Mr. Wilkes gave a brief status report on the Transportation Amenities Plan. A pre-proposal conference was held with six or seven different consultants last week. Staff is working toward developing design standards that will stipulate how to incorporate large trees, canopy trees, bicycle, pedestrian and transit amenities in new road construction projects.

**C. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study**

Ms. Iaderosa stated that the CAT Board has asked staff to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an architectural and engineering firm for the new transit station. This has been completed. Recommendations for the preferred firm will be taken in

January 2006.

Regarding other CAT activities, ten (10) replacement buses are on order and are scheduled to arrive in July. These buses will replace ten (10) of the older buses. Eight (8) Teleride buses will also be replaced. CAT has also been contracted by the City of Savannah to provide the Liberty Street Parking Shuttle Service. As an incentive the City has tiered the rate of the parking garage. The rate at the Liberty Street Parking Garage is considerably lower than the State Street Garage. Contingent upon City Council approval the City will restore a Vintage Melbourne Trolley Car to run on the tracts on River Street. In order to implement this plan the occupancy tax for the hotels within the convention district will be raised if allowed. This will allow a ferry, a shuttle and a streetcar.

Ms. Iaderosa also announced the Commission's approval of a new board member, Mr. William Oakley, Executive Director of Goodwill Industries.

#### **D. City of Savannah**

Mr. Weiner gave a brief update on the status of the Traffic Engineering Improvement Projects. He stated that the Henry Street project will finalize in the spring of next year and the traffic signaling installation in front of the SCAD facility on MLK and McDonough will be completed early next year. The consultants are finalizing the Environmental Study on Gwinnett Street and LaRoche Avenue widening and the Traffic Department has installed audible Pedestrian pushbuttons at the intersections of Liberty and MLK Blvd. and Jones Street and MLK Blvd to assist the blind and visually impaired to navigate the intersection.

#### **V. Other Business**

Mr. Attaway stated that SR 204 westbound from Veterans Parkway to King Georgia Blvd. is too congested and something needs to be done.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to have the Committee make a request to keep US 17 widening on the fast track. Mr. Laufenberg seconded.

Ms. McCracken asked if anyone would volunteer in her stead to serve on the Technical Coordinating Committee. Mr. Mundell responded he would serve as interim until someone else is made available.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the December 8, 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

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