
I. Subcommittee Reports

A. CAC Effectiveness Subcommittee

Mr. Russell Peterson reported on behalf of the committee that Mr. McMillan had asked to evaluate the effectiveness of the CAC. Mr. Abbott, Mr. McMillan, Ms. Love, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Wilkes met on May 2, 2006. The meeting was led by Mr. McMillan. Mr. Peterson expressed the committee's appreciation for Ms. Love's assistance in preparing a summary and communicating with the rest of the CAC.

Issues raised at this meeting were:

- 1) CAC needs to see the actions taken by the PC.
- 2) CAC never finds out the disposition of the action items that they deal with at CAC meetings.
- 3) Good communications will make the CAC more effective. This includes more timely and complete minutes from both the CAC and PC meetings.
- 4) The need for a recording secretary from the ranks of the committee members.
- 5) The need to identify ways of measuring effectiveness. The staff should keep a matrix documenting a two-way flow of CAC recommendations and PC decisions.
- 6) They would like the rationale of the PC's decisions so the CAC doesn't waste time on items that are not "on the radar."

The Sub-committee had postponed discussion of the three questions and focused on the organizational structure of the CAC since June is the turnover month. Ms. Love clarified that actually the election of officers should be in August, according to the CAC bylaws.

Mr. Peterson noted that many e-mail addresses were missing. He sent an e-mail to those with addresses on May 8, 2006 indicating that the subcommittee had met and that they wanted a slate of candidates to present for a vote. Ms. Love had sent a hardcopy of Mr. Peterson's message to all members who did not have e-mail addresses. He asked the CAC members if there were any volunteers for Chair, Vice-Chair or Secretary. One person has volunteered for Chair.

B. CAC Veterans Subcommittee

Mr. Lee Mundell distributed a copy of all the CAC recommendations to the Policy Committee that have been presented since 2001, when Mr. Mundell became Chairman of the CAC. He noted that this document shows that many recommendations have been put forth, all of which have been rejected, save one – the recommendation regarding Whitfield Ave carried forward by Helen Stone.

Mr. Mundell reported that he has been Chair over the years because no one else would take it on. The main recommendations from the CAC have concerned traffic across northern Savannah, the DeRenne problem, the SR 204 problem, and Hwy 17 at Walmart. In the last five years, all have been ignored.

At the April PC meeting, Mr. Mundell was startled to hear both Mr. Liakakis and Mr. Brown express the importance of the CAC. Mr. Brown asked them to act as mediators between the city and the citizens along the Victory Drive corridor where flooding is an issue.

Mr. Mundell mentioned that no one ever tells the CAC what is, and what is not, in their jurisdiction and what items the CAC should consider and what items they should not be concerned about. Therefore, he is never sure what the CAC is supposed to do. In his tenure, the only project they had any success with is the Whitfield Ave. widening project.

Mr. Abbott believes that the CAC has lived up to its responsibilities by bringing items of interest to the PC. If the PC chooses not to act on the CAC's recommendations, that is fine. The CAC has done its job. Mr. Abbott does not believe it is the role of the CAC to act as mediator between the citizens and the city. Therefore, he would like the CAC to decline Mr. Brown's invitation to be the mediator in the Victory Drive neighborhood.

Mr. Mundell pointed out it is not the role of the MPO staff to provide this committee with information in the absence of the GDOT representative. He used as an example the proposed, last minute changes to the TIP. When a CAC member asks for clarification there is no one in the room who can explain it. Then someone from GDOT comes to the next meeting but nothing comes up for action at that meeting. In the April CAC meeting Teresa Scott of GDOT agreed to find out what was going on with the re-timing of the traffic lights. Tonight she is not here to report on it.

Mr. Peterson pointed out that Mr. Mundell has his points well documented. Now he would like the Policy Committee or staff to tell us what it is they would like us to do. Mr. Mundell doesn't believe it is MPO staff's responsibility to tell the CAC what to do. Mr. Peterson asked if Mr. Mundell has ever spoken with the leadership of the PC about this issue. Mr. Mundell suggested that should be the task of the next chair of the CAC. Mr. Mundell has been frustrated with the CAC role and his efforts to follow procedure.

Mr. Mundell explained that the handout is a listing of the CAC reports to the Policy Committee Meeting. These items were lifted from the Policy Committee minutes. No words have been changed. Mr. Mundell offered the CD containing the complete minutes to anyone who wanted to review it.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the April 20, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the April 20, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting minutes.

CAC Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was carried with none opposed.

B. Election of Officers

There was a question whether a nominating committee was required. The Effectiveness Subcommittee has taken on the responsibility of creating one. Ms. Love stated that the Bylaws do not require a Nominating Committee. Therefore, nominations can be taken from the floor at the August meeting. It was suggested that if a slate is formed between now and August, that a notice be sent, either via e-mail or hardcopy. The slate needs two individuals – a Chair who attends the PC meeting and a Vice Chair who attends the TCC meeting. Mr. Mundell stated that the City of Savannah has advertised for any people interested in being on the CAC. Mr. Rawlings suggested that the meeting date be changed. He cannot come at this time now that he is active in Bloomingdale. Mr. Mundell commented that changing the meeting time would be very difficult.

Mr. Peterson requested that those attending tonight provide their current e-mail addresses.

Mr. Thomson offered the suggestion that the CAC follow the current bylaws, in keeping with the committee's desire to be more effective. At the August meeting the Chair will take nominations from the floor. They shouldn't worry about new members. New members will need to have a committee structure in place. It is also clear to him that a lot more work is needed to help the committee understand the role and purpose. He and Mr. McMillan will be available to assist with this. Mr. Thomson would like to meet with the Effectiveness Sub-committee before the next CAC meeting in August.

C. Endorsement of FY 2007-2009 TIP

Ms. Wang asked the members to refer to their staff report as she presented the draft of the TIP. The TIP is the short-range programming element of the MPO.

Ms. Wang spoke about transportation priorities, public involvement, and updates to the draft since the committee members received their copy in the mail.

There are 3 tiers of highway priorities. Top priorities are those projects that are programmed for construction in the current FY2006-2008 TIP, and first priority projects are regionally significant projects. She listed these projects in each tier. Second priority projects and transit priorities were also included.

The first round of public involvement included presenting local transportation priorities at all the April committee meetings and holding a public hearing. The development of the draft TIP document requires a second round of public involvement. The comment period for the draft TIP will end on June 27, 2006, and comments received from any of these committees will be included. A public meeting for the draft TIP was held on June 7, 2006, and one

comment was received at the meeting. The MPO staff addresses each comment received from public hearings or these committees.

At the Policy Committee meeting in April, Mr. Michael Brown, the City Manager, had three comments. He wanted to know how new priorities will impact projects in the current TIP. After comparing the FY2006-2008 TIP and the proposed FY2007-2009 TIP it was concluded that some projects have been delayed, mostly due to production schedule. At the same time four projects have been advanced from long range to this new TIP due to additional funding.

Mr. Brown also wanted the MPO to consider safety and security issues for each project. Ms. Wang explained the evaluation system used by the MPO staff in the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. She compared the projects to the CEMA hurricane evacuation map. Major east/west corridors have been designated as evacuation routes.

Mr. Brown's third concern was about the transit priorities. Ms. Wang reported that the transit agency's priorities were very consistent with the transit projects programmed in the TIP.

Other public comments on the TIP had included the advancement of the Benton Blvd. extension and advancement of the Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy extension.

Ms. Wang stated that some corrections had been made to the draft TIP since the committee members received their copy. Most were in the transit section and included more specific funding information. The highway section includes the four Connecting Savannah projects. MPO is requesting \$25,000 for PE oversight on the small projects and \$75,000 for PE oversight on the larger projects. There will also be a local section listing the local projects. Currently there is no federal funding for them, but the MPO wants to list them since they are programmed with local funding.

Mr. Abbott noted that the I-95 interchange, which has been in materials before, was not in the materials now. Ms. Wang and Mr. Thomson stated that the project is in the long range plan and has not yet been programmed in the short-term plan which is just for the next three years.

Mr. Murphy asked if the widening of Abercorn would be before or after the completion of the Truman Parkway Phase V. Mr. Thomson explained that originally Abercorn would be widened first, but funding availability may change the order, and the Truman project may begin before the widening of Abercorn. But the widening may happen while the Truman is under construction.

Mr. Murphy asked about widening DeRenne. He reported that Helen Stone, County Commissioner for his district, said those with whom she had spoken were overwhelmingly opposed to it. Mr. Thomson had discussed this with Ms. Stone and mentioned that he was aware of many in favor of it. Mr. Thomson believes that the *study* of East DeRenne must

move forward in order to make a *decision* about what to do. Those opposed to widening DeRenne are afraid that any forward movement in the process is a decision on action. The process must move forward.

Mr. Murphy asked for a definition of Job Access Reverse Commute. Ms. Wang explained that transit services are trying to match low income wage earners who have no transportation with their job locations, so that these workers can take the bus to and from the work place.

Mr. Murphy asked if the CAT buses were running on state-of-the-art, clean fuel. It would be nice if our new buses were running on the newest technology. MPO staff will research this.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY2007-2009 draft TIP.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2007-2009 draft TIP was carried with none opposed.

Ms. Love reminded committee members to check with their appointing authorities concerning re-appointment to the committee for the new term beginning in August 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner