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## Call to Order

Chairman Clint Murphy called the October 19, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order.

### I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Russell Peterson **moved** to approve the October 19, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda. Ms. Beth Kinstler seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion to approve the October 19, 2006 CAC Meeting Agenda carried with none opposed.**

### II. Action Items

#### A. **Approval of August 17, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Jack Knops **moved** for approval of the August 17, 2006 CAC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion for approval of the August 17, 2006 CAC Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.**

#### B. **Endorsement of Amendment to the MPO Bikeway and the 2030 LRTP to include Phase One of the Back River Bridge Bikeway**

Ms. Jo Hickson, Coastal Georgia Greenway, gave a brief overview of the planned route of the Coastal Georgia Greenway, a one hundred fifty mile bike trail that would link from South Carolina to Florida. She stated this bikeway would be part of the East Coast Greenway, a national trail that would link from Maine to Key West. The potential bike routes on Hutchinson Island to allow connection from the Back River bridge to River St. via ferry were also discussed. However, the proposed amendment is for Phase One of the Back River Bridge bikeway, which includes only the bikeway on the future bridge replacement/widening and on ramps to and from the island. Phase Two of the bikeway will be considered for inclusion in the plans later, after a proposed route across the island is identified in the master planning of development on the island.

Mr. Joe Steffen **moved** to endorse the Amendment to the MPO Bikeway Plan and the 2030 LRTP to include Phase One of the Back River Bridge Bikeway. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion.

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**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the Amendment to the MPC Bikeway and the 2030 LRTP to include Phase One of the Back River Bridge Bikeway carried with none opposed.**

**III. Discussion Items**

**A. CAC Liaisons for studies underway**

Chairman Murphy informed the committee that members of the Committee could participate as CAC liaisons in the studies underway. The studies underway are the Chatham County Interstate Needs Study (GDOT), the SR 204/Abercorn Study (GDOT), the Northwest Tollway study (GDOT), and the Statewide Truck Only Lanes Study (GDOT), which will include a focus on Chatham County.

Mr. Wilkes mentioned that the Committee already has three members who are involved in the MPO's development of the Context Sensitive Design Guidelines, and that any of those members could be a liaison for that effort. Staff would invite the appointed liaisons to project meetings and keep them apprised with the same information that staff receives.

Mr. Murphy asked Committee members to let him know if they have an interest in a particular study and want to act as liaisons to keep the Committee up to date on these ongoing projects. Mr. Peterson said he could follow the SR 204 study.

**B. Suggestions of the CAC Effectiveness Subcommittee, as presented Aug. 17, 2006**

Chairman Murphy asked for comments on the suggestions presented at the August 17, 2006 CAC meeting for improving the effectiveness of the CAC. The suggestions from the CAC Effectiveness Subcommittee were: 1) reduce the size of the CAC; 2) involve CAC in creating their meeting agendas; 3) create a suspense calendar; 4) provide a glossary defining the terms used for CUTS products and processes; 5) provide all members with the CAC membership list, including contact information; 6) members should come prepared if the Committee expects to complete its business in one hour; and 7) the CAC and MPO staff should no longer expect representatives from other agencies to attend. Staff and CAC officers are already acting on several of the suggestions: Mr. Murphy contributed to the agenda for this meeting; staff provided a member contact list at the August meeting and a glossary in the October mailing; and staff is trying a new method for handling Agency Reports on the agenda.

Ms. Love welcomed Mr. Jason House, newly appointed by the City of Savannah, to the Citizens Advisory Committee. She agreed to provide updated copies of the CAC Membership list, including contact information, to Committee Members. She said she will also send an electronic file to those members who have e-mail addresses in the database.

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Mr. Henry Levy made the **motion** that, if a member has two absences in a fiscal year, the Chairman shall send that member a letter on behalf of the Committee asking him or her to become active or submit his or her resignation. In the event the member has three absences the Chairman shall notify the appointing authority of the member's attendance requesting that another person be appointed as a replacement. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion and clarified that only unexcused absences would be tracked. Ms. Love stated that the limit of two unexcused absences matches the attendance policy in the current bylaws. Staff will continue to monitor attendance records. Because a new fiscal year started at the August meeting, no one has been in violation yet.

**CAC Action: the motion carried with none opposed.**

#### **IV. Status Reports**

##### **A. Port Priority Projects**

Mr. Thomson gave a brief report on the status of the highway and bridge projects being programmed around the Port of Savannah. MPO staff is presenting this report to all CUTS committees because Doug Marchand identified these projects as priorities for the Ports in the State of the Ports Address. The Georgia Ports Authority's (GPA's) top priority projects were:

- Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Extension (Savannah Northwest Tollway). The GPA is investigating the feasibility of constructing a portion of the Northwest Toll Road as a non-tolled port access road.
- SR 307 Overpass over Norfolk Southern Track. The wetlands delineation is complete for revised concept but is not finalized due to Corps of Engineers awaiting revised guidance from Headquarters Division regarding recent court decisions.
- Grange Road Improvement. This road is currently in substandard condition. Improvement will reconstruct Grange Road from two to three lanes from SR 21 to SR 25 in Port Wentworth.
- Brampton Road Connector. The final concept meeting is to be held October 20, 2006.

There was a question and answer period.

##### **B. I-95 Lighting Improvements at I-16**

Ms. Wang gave a brief update on the status of the I-95 Lighting at I-16. She stated that after investigating complaints from Mr. Trip Tollison, Ms. Teresa Scott of GDOT informed her that GDOT is investing in a study of the interchange for a possible redesign. Ms. Scott also reported GDOT was ready to go with the lighting project but were waiting to receive the signed lighting agreements from Chatham County, City of Savannah, and the City of Pooler. Ms. Wang also mentioned that GDOT will cover 50% of the installation costs (not

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to exceed \$100,000) and the City of Savannah will pay for the other 50% of the installation cost. GDOT will cover the cost of the materials. The City of Pooler, the City of Savannah, and Chatham County will share the maintenance costs. Once GDOT receives an agreement from the locals the installations will begin.

Mr. Levy added he hopes that any further lighting on the highway will conform with the Dark Sky Initiative whereas the lighting is placed where it is needed and not 5 miles away.

Mr. Thomson stated Mr. Levy's request would be forwarded to GDOT. He added interchanges are typically lighted by high-mast lighting which provides the fewest number of lights but creates a dome over the interchange that is lighted. Another method is the laminar lighting which does the job differently. Ms. Wang indicated that the lighting at this interchange would be high-mast lighting.

Mr. Joe Steffen asked would it be of benefit for the Committee to indicate their desire to see the City of Savannah, Chatham County, and the City of Pooler enter into those agreements so that the lighting can take place.

Mr. Thomson's reply was yes. It was his understanding the entering into a co-operative agreement between the municipalities has been the hold up.

Mr. Steffen made the motion to have the Committee encourage the City of Savannah, the County of Chatham and the city of Pooler to sign the cooperative agreement necessary for the lighting project to proceed. Mr. Knops seconded the motion.

Chairman Murphy asked to amend the motion to suggest that letters are sent out to the governing bodies from the Committee.

**CAC Action: the motion that the CAC Committee send out letters to encourage the City of Savannah, County of Chatham and the City of Pooler to sign the co-operative agreement for the lighting project to proceed carried with none opposed.**

**C. Tybee Island requests to GDOT for pedestrian improvements on Hwy. 80**

Ms. Love gave an update on the Tybee Island request to GDOT for pedestrian improvements on Hwy 80. She stated Tybee Island's City Manager Diane Schleicher had requested (in the interest of improving pedestrian safety) that GDOT: 1) install cross-walks and pedestrian signage on Hwy 80 (Butler Avenue) at the intersections of Hwy 80 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 2) Lower the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph in the section of Hwy 80 from the beginning of the business district at Tybee Oaks to the Park of the Seven Flags; 3) install a flashing warning light at the intersection of Hwy 80 and McKenzie Street; and 4) install raised crosswalks/speed tables at each of the Tybee Island crosswalks on Hwy 80 during the already scheduled mill and overlay on Hwy 80. Ms. Love stated that GDOT's response to the City Manager's request was to 1) install a crosswalk (traditional type) on Hwy 80 at

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12<sup>th</sup> Street; 2) perform a signalization study for the intersection of Hwy 80 and Spanish Hammock; 3) perform a speed study along Hwy 80 in Tybee Island; 4) avoid using raised crosswalks/speed tables on a road classified as a major arterial or perceived to be a thoroughfare; and 5) notify Tybee Island City Manager if and when GDOT approves in-pavement LED Crosswalks. In addition GDOT listed its' intention to add left turn lanes at three intersections on Hwy 80 during the resurfacing project. GDOT District Five office had suggested in a separate correspondence that GDOT could take Hwy 80 (within Tybee Island city limits) off of the state system, thereby giving the City of Tybee Island authority to implement their desired improvements, at their own cost. The City would also assume maintenance responsibility in that case. Ms. Love added Ms. Schleicher had informed her that GDOT had added the traditional crosswalk on Hwy 80 at 12<sup>th</sup> Street but that the City of Tybee Island was still waiting for GDOT to put in appropriate and consistent signage at each of the crosswalks on Hwy 80. The City Manager and GDOT representatives are still discussing mutually acceptable methods for improving pedestrian safety on Butler Ave. The issue is not yet resolved.

- V. **Agency Reports:** MPO staff will report answers to any questions regarding other agencies' projects that the CAC members submitted to staff prior to the meeting.

Ms. Love stated she had not received any questions from Committee members prior to the meeting but she had received a call from Mr. Mark Egan (recently appointed Chatham County member) who has comments concerning some of the agencies' projects. He had stated he would contact her regarding his concerns later via e-mail.

VI. **Other Business**

Chairman Murphy referred everyone to the handout regarding SR 204 Improvements Public Open House and asked any interested parties feel free to attend one of the most conveniently scheduled meetings.

Ms. Kinstler stated there seems to be no way to contact GDOT to give input regarding specific projects or to notify them in the event she is unable to attend a meeting. She stated she would like to have something in writing as a back up method of contact. She added she would also like to see the Committee become more proactive rather than reacting to things already occurring.

Mr. Tony Abbott stated he would like to act as CAC liaison for the Jimmy DeLoach Effingham Connector project if one has not yet been appointed.

Mr. Thomson agreed this was a great idea and that someone from the CAC Committee should also be appointed on the SR 204 improvement.

Mr. Wilkes shared information from the Center for Transportation of the Environment of North Carolina State University. They are working on a document for the Federal Highway

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Administration entitled Integrating Context Sensitive Solutions in Transportation Planning. The center is requesting permission to use the MPO as a case study for the Transportation Amenities planning efforts. He stated the MPO is looking forward to concluding this effort in the next few months.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further other business to come before this Committee the October 19, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love  
Transportation Planner