



## CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room  
112 East State Street

December 7, 2006  
MPC Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room

5:00 p.m.  
112 East State Street

<b><u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
Tony Abbott	Chatham County	X
Brant Attaway	City of Savannah	
John Bennett	City of Savannah	
Mark Egan	Chatham County	X
Phyllis Hardeman	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Jason House	City of Savannah	X
Chandler Kinsey	City of Tybee Island	X
Beth Kinstler	City of Savannah	X
Jack Knops	City of Savannah	X
Henry Levy	City of Tybee Island	X
Helen McCracken	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Clint Murphy, Chairman	Chatham County	X
Russell Peterson, Vice Chairman	Chatham County	
Andrew Rawlings	City of Bloomingdale	
Linda M. Smith	Port Wentworth	X
Joe Steffen	Chatham County	X
Stephen Traub	City of Savannah	X
James Weaver	City of Savannah	
<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	
Jane Love	MPO	X
Constance Morgan	MPC	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO	X
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP	MPO	X

### Call to Order

Chairman Clint Murphy called the December 7, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Beth Kinstler **moved** to approve the December 7, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda. Mr. Henry Levy seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion to approve the December 7, 2006 CAC Meeting Agenda carried with none opposed.**

**II. Action Items**

**A. Approval of October 19, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Ms. Beth Kinstler **moved** for approval of the October 19, 2006 CAC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Jack Knops seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion for approval of the October 19, 2006 CAC Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.**

**B. Endorsement of the CUTS 2007 Meeting Calendar**

Ms. Beth Kinstler moved to endorse the CUTS 2007 Meeting Calendar. Mr. Jack Knops seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the CUTS 2007 Meeting Calendar carried with none opposed.**

**C. Endorsement of the FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget Amendment to fund a Transportation Coordinator Function**

Ms. Love presented the staff report explaining that this amendment to the staff work program was necessary in order to reflect the recent receipt of the FTA Section 5303 grant that will be used to encourage and coordinate employee carpooling through local employers. This activity will address an item in the Connecting Savannah Action Plan, approved in June of 2005.

Ms. Beth Kinstler moved to endorse the FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget Amendment to fund a Transportation Coordinator Function. Mr. Knops seconded the motion.

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**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget Amendment to fund a Transportation Coordinator function carried with none opposed.**

### **III. Status Reports**

#### **A. Environmental streamlining for transportation projects**

Ms. Jane Love gave a brief review on the recommendations summarized in the staff report which outline the MPO's role in Environmental streamlining for transportation projects. The issue of excessive delays due to environmental reviews had come up in the August 2006 Policy Committee meeting. The environmental review process is well established through the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Although MPOs do not have the authority to change NEPA requirements, staff had outlined the history of NEPA and a few things MPOs can do to help the process. She explained the bulleted items in the report and answered the questions/concerns of Board Members.

Chairman Murphy brought to the attention of the Committee Members the Approval of the Draft Letter to GDOT regarding I-95/I-16 Interchange Lighting in their packets. He stated at the October meeting that this action was voted unanimously for approval. Chairman Murphy stated that this item has been placed on the Chamber's legislative agenda as a top item.

### **IV. Updates from Study Liaisons (verbal)**

#### **A. SR 204/Abercorn Widening Study**

Chairman Murphy stated that he had attended the Public Information Open House for safety improvements along SR 204 (Abercorn Street) from US 17 to Rio Road and from Rio Road to Wilshire Boulevard/Truman Parkway Phase V, held on November 14 & 15, 2006. This was the first phase of public involvement to get comments on the various alternatives of reaching the goal of widening 204. He referred the group to the handout: What are the Alternatives and how will they be evaluated? He reviewed the alternatives listed: 1) No build; 2) transportation systems management (TSM); 3) eight-lane at grade intersection improvements; 4) freeway/frontage road alternatives; and 5) freeway viaduct alternatives.

Ms. Wykoda Wang added the Public Information Meeting was about the concept development. All public comments must be included in the environmental document and placed in the final document. She stated that if the Federal Highway Administration and/or Federal Transit Administration do not see public comments in the final document they will not approve the environmental document.

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Mr. Jack Knops stated the comment period for these projects is ten (10) days. He asked what can be done in order to gain a longer period of discussion for each project that is vital to this community.

Mr. Henry Levy moved to have the CAC Committee write a letter to GDOT submitting the following request: 1) request a longer comment period and 2) outline Mr. Coleman's idea of extending the Truman Parkway to I-95. Mr. Tony Abbott seconded the motion.

Chairman Murphy explained that some of the alternatives under study for Abercorn would essentially provide a freeway from Truman Phase V as far as Hwy 17. Staff added that the consultants for GDOT were not including the portion beyond Hwy 17 in the study because it is currently similar to a limited-access freeway. Mr. Levy amended his motion to request that GDOT study its extension of Truman Parkway to I-95 either in the Rio Road corridor or separately. Mr. Abbott accepted the amendment.

**CAC Action: The motion to have the CAC write a letter to GDOT requesting the following: 1) a longer period for comment and 2) GDOT study its extension of Truman Parkway to I-95 either in the Rio Road corridor or separately carried. Mr. Joe Steffen voted against the motion.**

**V. Status Reports**

**B. Context Sensitive Design Draft Manual**

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave a ten-minute PowerPoint presentation outlining the Context Sensitive Design Manual. He highlighted several chapters: Chapter 5.0, Intent of the Context Sensitive Design Guidelines; Chapter 6.0, Context Types in Chatham County-Savannah; Chapter 7.0, Context Based Roadway Functional Classification System; and Chapter 8.0, Design Guidelines. He explained the content recommendation for the Design Guidelines for Developing Canopy Streets and the index on page 31 that actually explains the Design Guidelines. He encouraged the Committee Members to show support and to attend the Policy Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 10:00 am in the Arthur Mendonsa Hearing Room. He stated the consultant Walter Kulash, who is a nationally recognized expert in Context Sensitive Design, will make the presentation at that Policy Committee Meeting.

There was a question and answer period.

Mr. Tony Abbott asked if he could refer back to the Updates from Study Liaisons and stated he was a self appointed liaison for Effingham Parkway. He explained that GDOT has stated for the record that the connection to Benton Blvd would have little effect. He said that even a 2-lane road in Effingham County, from McCall Road to I-16 could do a lot to help relieve congestion on SR 21. He stated he hopes to have more information on the new alternate route available at the next meeting.

As Effingham County is outside of the MPOs planning area currently, Mr. Henry Levy suggested this idea points to the need for a Regional Planning Authority. He stated we can no longer plan for just Chatham County. The planning needs to include Effingham, Bryan, and maybe Bluffton County. Mr. Wilkes said that even if the planning area was expanded, federal funding will not be sufficient to implement the greater number of projects demanded. GDOT recently announced that several projects will be pushed back due to lack of funding.

**V. Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before this Committee the December 7, 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love  
Transportation Planner