



**CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room  
112 East State Street**

April 19, 2007  
MPC Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room

5:00 p.m.  
112 East State Street

**Members**

Tony Abbott  
Brant Attaway  
John Bennett  
Mark Egan  
Phyllis Hardeman  
Jason House  
Chandler Kinsey  
Beth Kinstler  
Jack Knops  
Henry Levy  
Helen McCracken  
Clint Murphy, Chairman  
Russell Peterson, Vice Chairman  
Andrew Rawlings  
Linda M. Smith  
Joe Steffen  
Stephen Traub  
James Weaver

**Representing**

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

**Present**

X  
  
X  
  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
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X  
X

**Others Present**

Jane Love  
Constance Morgan  
Tom Thomson  
Wykoda Wang  
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

**Representing**

MPO  
MPC  
MPC  
MPO  
MPO

X  
X  
X  
X  
X

**Call to Order**

Chairman Clint Murphy called the April 19, 2007 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved and seconded to approve the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. .

**CAC Action: the motion to approve the April 19, 2007 CAC Meeting Agenda carried with none opposed.**

**II. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the February 22, 2007 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Ms. Beth Kinstler **moved** for approval of the February 22, 2007 CAC Meeting Minutes. Mr. James Weaver seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion for approval of the February 22, 2007 CAC Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.**

**B. Adoption of CUTS Participation Plan**

- Staff Presentation

Ms. Wykoda Wang gave a status update on the Participation Plan for compliance with the current Federal act called SAFETEA-LU. This Participation Plan was created to guide the MPO public participation process. This plan has to be in existence before CUTS/MPO can adopt the SAFETEA-LU compliant Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. The Public Involvement Plan was expanded into this Participation Plan. She reviewed the revisions outlined in the report.

Ms. Kinstler commented that if the public is to comment on this plan and do so on the website how is the public to be expected to understand this jargon and make an intelligent comment on it when; a) its buried on the website and; b) it is never in plain English. These are all acronyms for something else. This information has to be accessible, useable and understandable for the average person.

- Public Comments/Public Hearing

Chairman Clint Murphy opened the floor for public comment. There was no comment from the public. The Pubic Hearing/Comment period was closed

It was moved and seconded for the approval of the adoption of the Participation Plan.

**CAC Action: the motion for the approval of the adoption of the Participation Plan carried with none opposed.**

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**C. Requested actions related to proposed widening of Gulfstream Rd (William Wilson Dr) and Robert Miller Jr. Rd**

- Staff Presentation

Ms. Jane Love reminded the Committee that at the last meeting they had approved further study of the amendment to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to include widenings of Gulfstream Road and Robert Miller, Jr. Road. The LRTP amendment application was included behind the staff report for this item. It outlines the traffic projections, zoning and land uses in the area of the widenings and discusses the alternative modes. Ms. Love added that, since the mailing, staff had found that the bus route along these roads has two stops near the Gulfstream plant. Therefore, sidewalks would be important in the widening project, especially for any current or future disabled employees at the plant. It is not clear at this point whether or not GDOT will include sidewalks in the design. GDOT will provide additional funds for this project in the LRTP if the MPO approves the amendment, so that the plan remains financially balanced.

Ms. Love explained that the agenda is set up in three separate action items to allow the amendment to the LRTP to be considered separately before the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In addition, GDOT is requesting a resolution from the MPO to change the functional classification of the two roads from Urban Local Streets to Urban Collector Streets. This is a necessary step for inclusion in the TIP.

- CAC Discussion and Action on Amendment to the 2030 LRTP to include widenings.

It was moved and seconded that staff recommendation be accepted and endorse the amendment to the LRTP.

Ms. Kinstler questioned, if this motion is accepted, how could they ensure that the sidewalks and bikeways would go in. She also questioned why the Board could not insist that sidewalks and bike lanes be included in the project prior to the acceptance of this project.

Ms. Jane Love informed Ms. Kinstler that she could make an amendment to the motion.

Ms. Kinstler moved to amend the motion to include sidewalks and bike lanes  
The amendment was accepted.

**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the 2030 LRTP to include widenings with sidewalks and bikeways carried. Mr. Stephen Traub abstained from the vote.**

- CAC Discussion and Action on Proposed Resolution for the Functional Reclassification of Gulfstream Rd (Gruman Rd and William Wilson Dr) and Robert Miller Jr. Rd

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It was moved and seconded to endorse the Functional Reclassification of Gulfstream Rd (Gruman Rd and William Wilson Dr) and Robert Miller Jr. Rd.

**CAC Action: The motion to approve staff recommendation for the Functional Reclassification of Gulfstream Rd (Gruman Rd and William Wilson Dr) and Robert Miller Jr. Rd. carried with none opposed**

- **CAC Discussion and Action on Amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to include widening**

There was no discussion on this item. Mr. Knops moved to approve the Amendment to the FY 2007 -2009 TIP to include widening. Mr. Abbot seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion to approve the Amendment to the FY 2007 -2009 TIP to include widenings carried with none opposed.**

**D. Endorsement of Amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to shift phase for Diamond Causeway from FY 2007 to FY 2008**

Ms. Wykoda Wang explained that the Transportation Improvement Program is the short range programming document of the MPO. The program is based on the expected funding that the MPO will receive for the next three years. The MPO will program the funds and the projects. There will be projects that are not ready for the year that funding was originally planned. Such is the case with this (Diamond Causeway) project. Ms. Wang explained the amendment process. She stated that the reason for this shift was that the environmental process was still going on and therefore the ROW funds can not be authorized for 2007. By moving this project into 2008, the MPO will allow appropriation of the \$140,000.00 of L230 funding for those projects that are ready. She concluded that staff is requesting the CAC endorsement of this amendment and forward to the Policy Committee Meeting so that the Policy Committee can adopt the amendment.

Mr. Levy questioned how many people actually lived on Skidaway Island. Ms. Kinstler replied that 10,000 people live on the island but there are about 6,000 families. Mr. Peterson added that there are about 6,000 workers on the island each day.

Mr. Thomson interjected that the funding is not what's holding up this project. The process requires an approved environmental document and this document has not been approved yet. There must be a public hearing scheduled by the Federal Highway Administration. The fact of the matter is that this money can not be committed in this current DOT fiscal year.

County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis stepped to the podium and stated that the Diamond Causeway Bridge and the widening of Skidaway Road is very important. This is the only place in the state of Georgia where 10,000 lives are at risk. Mr. Liakakis stated that he has spoken with the Governor of the state of Georgia and Mr. Harold Linnenkohl who is the Commissioner for the Department of Transportation on how important it is to get

this project on the move. He stated emphatically that he was working diligently with those in Government office to make this a top priority.

Mr. Levy moved to endorse the Amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to shift phase for Diamond Causeway from FY 2007 to FY 2008. Mr. McCracken seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion for Endorsement of Amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to shift phase for Diamond Causeway from FY 2007 to FY 2008 carried with none opposed.**

**E. Endorsement of FY 2008-2011 TIP Priority Establishment Policy and Priority Projects**

Ms. Wang briefly highlighted on the TIP Priority Establishment Policy and Priority Projects. She stated that the MPO must develop a transportation improvement program each year. According to the SAFETEA-LU legislation, this TIP will not be a three-year TIP; it will be a four-year TIP. The projects are categorized as Top Priority, First Priority, Second Priority, and Transit Priority Projects. She gave a status report on the present projects.

Chairman Murphy requested copies of the charts showing the shifts in the projects in each priority category. Ms. Wang replied that she would mail the updated version of the report to Board Members.

Mr. Thomson added that he would like the Board Members to leave with as much information as possible on this issue. He stated that the shifts in timing were due to any of three things; adjustments in cost estimates, shortfalls in state funds, and lack of production-readiness on some projects. He explained how the priority list was compiled.

Ms. Wang concluded that staff is asking that the CAC to endorse the established prioritization policy and the priority projects. There was a question and answer period.

Ms. Kinstler commented that she thinks the Skidaway Road widening and Whitfield Road widening should be taken out of the TIP. Also the SR 204 widening should be replaced with transit and ridesharing strategies for the corridor.

Mr. Steffen said he would like to see more bikeway projects. Ms. Wang replied that historically the bikeways have not been stand-alone projects in the TIP, but they are included in road widening projects if the road is designated in the bikeway plan. Also the lump-sum category in the TIP includes any of the Transportation Enhancement projects awarded in our area, which can be bikeways.

James Weaver moved to endorse the FY 2008-2011 TIP Priority Establishment Policy and Priority Projects. Mr. Jack Knops seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2008 -2011 TIP Priority Establishment Policy and Priority Projects carried. Voting against the motion were Beth Kinstler and Joe Steffen.**

### **III. Status Reports**

#### **A. SAFETEA-LU Interim Plan Update.**

Ms. Wykoda Wang gave a brief progress report on the SAFETEA-LU Interim Plan. She listed the completed requirements made by staff: 1) revise the expanding planning factors in security and safety and promotion of the consistency between transportation improvement and planning growth and economic development; 2) expansion of list of agencies and organizations to be consulted in the planning process; 3) the participation plan has been adopted; 4) identification of potential conflict between projects in the plan and environmental assets. She stated thus far two maps and a matrix depicting potential impacts of transportation projects in the 2030 LRTP on historic and natural resources have been created and 5) inclusion of key issues from the Governor's Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Staff has identified 15 high crash locations in Chatham County; 6) inclusion in the LRTP of operations and management strategies to improve the performance of existing transportation facilities to relieve congestion and safety problems. This task included with Operations Management Strategies will be coordinated with the Congestion Management Process.

Chairman Murphy requested a copy of the map created showing the top 15 high-crash locations in Chatham County with the transportation projects in the 2030 LRTP.

#### **C. East President Street Plan**

This report was moved ahead on the agenda to ensure that the Committee received this report, as it had already been delayed from the last meeting. Ms. Love stated that this is a City project and is not in the MPO process unless it becomes federally funded. The City had requested MPC to have the task order consultant study this area to identify transportation alternatives, before developments are constructed in the downtown expansion area. The study has been completed. She presented the slides showing the recommended network and roadway attributes. She then referred Committee Members to the letter included in their packets regarding Mr. Bennett's comments on this plan.

Mr. Bennett explained his concerns regarding the recommended Concept 2.0. He believes that it is not wise to allow three lanes each way for auto traffic on East President Street, even temporarily, because it will likely be very difficult to take the curb lanes away from auto travel and convert to bicycle lanes later. He believes it is very important to provide some type bikeway in the area at the outset, to make it evident to motorists and potential cyclists that bicycle use is to be expected there. Every person who chooses to use a bicycle instead of car decreases congestion and demand for parking, so why not promote this instead of providing more lanes for automobiles?

Mr. Thomson said that staff will be discussing the problem of reclaiming the outside lanes in upcoming meetings with City staff, before the study report is finalized. The cross-section of President Street needs to be determined soon, because the developments underway need access points on the street and the street will be elevated 8-10 feet before such an intersection is added.

Mr. Steffen added that an on-road bike facility in this corridor is too dangerous. He is an experienced cyclist, but he would not want to ride alongside the large trucks that use the corridor. There should be a separate bike and pedestrian path with a markings to delineate the appropriate sides of the path for each type of user.

Mr. Joseph Steffen moved to adopt Mr. Bennett's letter as the sense of the committee. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion to adopt Mr. Bennett's letter as the sense of the committee carried with none opposed.**

**B. Spur 404/US 17 Back River Bridge Replacement**

Mr. Henry Levy moved to table the Spur 404/US 17 Back River Bridge Replacement report and the report on the City of Tybee Island Mayor's letter regarding Lazeretto Creek Bridge and US 80 widening until the next CAC Meeting on June 21, 2007. Ms. Kinstler seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion to table the Spur 404/US 17 Back River Bridge Replacement report and the report on the City of Tybee Island Mayor's letter regarding Lazeretto Creek Bridge and US 80 widening to the next CAC Meeting on June 21, 2007 carried with none opposed.**

Mr. Henry Levy moved to adjourn the April 19, 2007 CAC Meeting. Mr. Jason House seconded the motion.

**CAC Action: the motion to adjourn the April 19, 2007 CAC Meeting carried with none opposed**

**IV. Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before this Committee, the April 19, 2007 Citizens Advisory Committee was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love  
Transportation Planner