



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

October 16, 2008

5:00 p.m.

Members

Tony Abbott
John Bennett
Tina Bennett
Gerald Cook
Mark Egan
Phyllis Hardeman
Jason House
Charles Hutchinson
Chandler Kinsey
Beth Kinstler
Jack Knops
Henry Levy
Helen McCracken
Dwayne Simpson
Linda M. Smith
Joe Steffen
Stephen Traub

Representing

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

Present

X
X

X
X
X
X

X
X
X
X

X

Others Present

Michael Adams
Jane Love
Barbara Settzo
Wykoda Wang
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

Representing

MPO
MPO
for MPO
MPO
MPO

X
X
X
X
X

Chairman John Bennett called the October 16, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

CAC Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the October 16, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the August 21, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Beth Kinstler asked that it be noted that upon reviewing the document in question mentioned in the minutes of the last meeting (III-C) she did, in fact, find the changes highlighted as Ms. Wykoda Wang had said, and she offered an apology to Ms. Wang.

It was moved and seconded to approve the August 21, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the August 21, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of the amendment to the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program for additional section 5303 transit planning funds

Mr. Wilkes noted that this amendment was a procedural necessity to carry over Section 5303 transit planning funds from a previous year. This amendment is to move the remaining balance of funds from FY 2007 and FY 2008 to FY 2009.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program for additional section 5303 transit planning funds.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program for additional section 5303 transit planning funds carried with none opposed.

III. Status Report

A. Update on Regional Meetings

Ms. Love referred the members to the summary report in their information packet. There have been four regional meetings – August 2007, October 2007, January 2008, and February 2008. At the August meeting, the assembled officials and staff discussed the ideas of going to state legislators as one regional voice and viewing transportation planning in terms of economic impact area rather than regular jurisdictional boundaries. The October meeting featured a discussion on managed lanes and toll roads and also a status report on the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center's implementation of the Coordinated Rural Transportation Plan.

The January meeting was attended by technical staff to discuss projects in the region, both current and projected. They also discussed drafting a letter of understanding to support continued cooperation and developing a web page for sharing relevant plans.

The February meeting was again attended by the technical staff. They reviewed the draft letter of understanding and discussed an appropriate size of this group. The need to keep it to a workable size would be a challenge if also being politically inclusive of the many jurisdictions. The issue was not settled at that meeting. The MPO was charged with developing a regional map, with help from Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center, and researching Georgia legislative topics that are relevant to transportation. The Lowcountry Council of Governments would bring the South Carolina legislative topics to the next meeting.

They are now planning for the next regional meeting early in 2009.

IV. Agency Reports

Ms. Love had not received any questions from CAC members about GDOT, County, or City projects prior to the meeting.

Mr. Henry Levy asked if GDOT's over-promising of projects that can't be financed is having any effect on us. Ms. Love responded that a lot of projects are on hold state-wide. While GDOT is working on the prioritization process, big spending is on hold. They are more reluctant to sign contracts so some of our consultant work is delayed.

V. Other Business

Ms. Kinstler reported that she and Jack Knops attended the public meeting on future investment that GDOT had in Savannah on September 23, 2008. It was made clear that there is a \$458 million transportation deficit. Looking at the GDOT Chatham County project report, she sees many local projects that she thinks could be eliminated, such as widening of Eisenhower from Abercorn to the Truman which would cost a great deal of money. She recommends critically reviewing the local projects and not just rubber-stamping an approval.

Mr. Michael Adams offered clarification that the Eisenhower project mentioned by Ms. Kinstler is likely to become a safety improvement project, involving installation of a median, rather than a widening project.

VI. Other Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the October 16, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner