



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

April 23, 2009

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
Harris Odell
Dwayne Simpson
Linda M. Smith
Joe Steffen
Dale Thorpe
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
Chatham County
City of Savannah
Port Wentworth
Chatham County
Chatham County
City of Savannah

Present

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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 April 23, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting to order.

While MPO staff was still engaged in the meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee in the next room, the CAC discussed the idea of a bridge between Wilmington Island and Skidaway Island. It was moved and seconded to study the projected future need for a bridge between Wilmington Island and Skidaway Island.

CAC action: the motion to study the projected future need for a bridge between Wilmington Island and Skidaway Island carried with none opposed.

I. Approval of Agenda

CAC Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the April 23, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the February 19, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the February 19, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the February 19, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of amendment to FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the staff report. Now that the amount of the MPO sub-allocation is known, this amendment is necessary to indicate which projects will be programmed with the ARRA funding and which will be removed from the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She noted the requirements, the amount of funds available state-wide, and explained the deadlines for obligating the funds. Three projects in Chatham County were selected by the State for Phase 1 of the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT's) ARRA funding. Ms. Wang presented the list of projects that the MPO could recommend to GDOT for Phase 2 of the State's funding, as well as a list of projects proposed for MPO sub-allocation, a list of projects proposed for the transit allocation, and a list of projects that may be candidates for the ARRA discretionary grant program.

Ms. Wang reviewed the specific projects that staff proposes the MPO recommend for GDOT's Phase 2 of ARRA funding:

- Truman Parkway Phase V – construction. Chatham County has submitted a request to GDOT to divide this project into 3 phases.
- President St. Widening/CSX Railroad overpass - construction
- SR 307 overpass over New Port Authority Rail line construction

- SR 25/US 17 @ Bourne Ave - right of way
- SR 25/US 17 @ Bourne Ave – construction
- Edge line rumble strips @ several locations
- I-95 resurfacing – construction
- Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd streetscape improvements - construction

Ms. Wang noted that staff has heard that the Broughton St. streetscape project would not be ready in time for ARRA funding. She also noted that the two curve reconstruction projects, E. Anderson St. and W. Gwinnett St., were moved to the MPO sub allocation project list.

Transit projects will be ready as listed on the chart.

Following the staff presentation, Mr. Bennett opened the public hearing on this issue. There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

Committee discussion followed the public hearing. Mr. Bennett commented on the edge line rumble strip project stating that he is against using ARRA funding for any project that excludes any mode of transportation, i.e. bicycles cannot use the shoulder of roadways with rumble strips.

MPO staff asked the committee members to participate in a prioritization exercise that they also had used in the meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). The objective is to prioritize the projects that would be recommended to GDOT for the second phase of State ARRA funding. The results will be shared with the CORE Board.

There were three different ranking exercises:

- Blue ballot – If you could choose only one project which would you choose?
- Pink ballot – Pick your top 5 projects in order of preference.
- Green ballot – List in priority order projects you would select that total \$11 million (this area's "fair share" of the State's allocation, based on population).

Results of the vote:

- Blue - 6 votes for Truman Pkwy., 3 votes for President St., 2 votes for MLK Jr. Blvd. Streetscape.
- Pink – 35 points for Truman Pkwy., 34 points for President St, 23 points for SR 25 @ Bourne Ave. ROW, 19 points for MLK Streetscape, 17 points for SR 25 @ Bourne Ave. construction, 13 points for I-95 resurfacing, 10 points for SR 307 overpass, 2 points for E. Anderson St. curve reconstruction, 1 point for edge line rumble strips (voter stipulated "only on interstates")
- Green – Some part of Truman Pkwy. Phase 5 appeared in three voters' funding combinations; MLK Jr. Blvd. Streetscape also appeared in three voters' funding combinations; SR 25 @ Bourne Ave. ROW and construction projects each appeared in two voters' funding packages; President St. and the SR 307 overpass each appeared in a single voter's funding combination.

The CAC decided that the submission of the results of their votes to the CORE Board would be their only action on this item at this meeting.

C. Endorsement of amendment to FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related update of transit financial information

Ms. Wang presented the staff report. There being no further discussion it was moved and second to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-0211 Transportation Improvement Program related update of transit financial information.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-0211 Transportation Improvement Program related update of transit financial information carried with none opposed.

D. Endorsement of Board authorization to begin the process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Staff presentation highlighted the four projects that would be considered for the LRTP amendment process:

- Diamond Causeway widening project: modify project description from a 4-lane widening project to a 2-lane bridge replacement project.
- SR 204 widening project: modify to describe interchange at SR 204 & King George Blvd. as a separate project.
- Study of Interstate 3 from Savannah to Knoxville: Inclusion due to an earmark from the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users.
- New rail tie-in to Georgia Ports Authority Mason Intermodal Container Transfer Facility: a new project funded with the Port's remaining earmark and with additional funds from the Port.

Following the staff presentation Ms. Beth Kinstler questioned the need for a proposed Interstate 3 between Savannah and Knoxville. Discussion followed. It was moved and seconded to exclude the study of Interstate 3 from Savannah to Knoxville from the committee's endorsement.

CAC action: the motion to exclude the study of Interstate 3 from Savannah to Knoxville from the committee's endorsement carried with none opposed.

Ms. Kinstler objected to the SR 204 widening project. After discussion it was moved and seconded to exclude the SR 204 widening project from the committee's endorsement.

CAC action: the motion to exclude the SR 204 widening project from the committee's endorsement carried with none opposed.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the board authorization to begin the process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan excluding the study of Interstate 3 and excluding the SR 204 widening project.

CAC action: the motion to endorse the board authorization to begin the process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan excluding the study of Interstate 3 and excluding the SR 204 widening project carried with none opposed.

E. Endorsement of the MPO priorities for development of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Wang presented the staff report outlining the previously adopted first, second, third and transit priority projects. In March there had been a public meeting and Ms. Wang reported on the comments received from that meeting.

After discussion it was moved and seconded to move the Truman Parkway Phase V construction from second priority to first priority.

CAC action: the motion to move the Truman Parkway Phase V construction from second priority to first priority carried with none opposed.

F. Endorsement of the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program

The committee decided to forego a staff presentation. It was suggested and accepted that committee members read the Program and forward any comments to staff.

G. Endorsement of the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan

Ms. Wang presented an abbreviated report at the committee's request. In order to receive JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) and New Freedom funding it is necessary to update these two plans. These revisions represent a "housekeeping" process.

Mr. Bennett opened the public hearing. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan.

CAC action: the motion to endorse the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan carried with none opposed.

H. Approval of CORE Board resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and GDOT the study of a high-speed rail link between Savannah and Macon as part of a study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast.

Mr. Michael Adams reported that initially the study was to look at high-speed rail coming as far as Macon, from Atlanta. This resolution states the CORE Board's support for the study to also consider extending the proposed link from Macon to Savannah.

It was moved and second to approve the CORE Board resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and GDOT the study of a high-speed rail link between Savannah and Macon as part of a study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast.

CAC action: the motion to approve the CORE Board resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and GDOT the study of a high-speed rail link between Savannah and Macon as part of a study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. Call for Projects for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Funding

At the committee's request, staff referred the committee to the written report included in the advance materials. There were no questions.

IV. Other Business

No other business at this time.

V. Other Public Comments

No other public comments at this time.

VI. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the April 23, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee was adjourned. The next regular meeting will be on June 18, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner