



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

August 20, 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**

x  
x  
  
  
  
x  
x  
  
x  
x  
  
x  
x  
  
x  
x

**Others Present**

Michael Adams  
Steve Coté  
Enoch Dumas  
Jane Love  
Barbara Settzo  
Wykoda Wang  
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

**Representing**

MPO  
Reynolds, Smith & Hills  
CAT  
MPO  
for MPO  
MPO  
MPO

x  
x  
x  
x  
x  
x  
x

Chairman John Bennett called the August 20, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

**CAC Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the August 20, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting carried with none opposed.**

**II. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the June 18, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the June 18, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

**CAC Action: the motion to approve the June 18, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.**

**B. Amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program**

- **Modification to project information for PI#522920 Back River Bridge replacement**
- **Addition of CAT Ferry Boat (ARRA Ferry Boat Discretionary Award)**

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported that this amendment is requested by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Since South Carolina has no plan to widen their end of the bridge and US 17, the original 4-lane bridge replacement concept has been changed to a 2-lane bridge replacement concept. This results in reduced right-of-way costs. This concept has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration, but the project description needs to be changed in the Transportation Improvement Program to be consistent. The right-of-way phase is being programmed for 2010. Ms. Wang noted that a future bridge expansion is possible when the funds become available. This 2-lane bridge replacement concept will include 8' bikeable shoulders. Mr. Bennett recommended that some protective barrier be added for cyclists. Ms. Love agreed that the committee could make that recommendation, but she noted that, based on similar requests in the past, that the GDOT staff will cite concern for motorists safety as a reason not to place a barrier right next to the travel lane. The Department's policy requires a certain amount of horizontal clearance. Satisfying that policy and having a protected shoulder would result in a much wider bridge. The increase in cost would be an issue. Ms. Wang explained that this change in the Transportation Improvement Program is necessary before the Federal Highway Administration will approve the environmental document.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the proposed modification to project information for PI#522920 Back River Bridge replacement with the inclusion of a protected bicycle lane.

**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the proposed modification to project information for PI#522920 Back River Bridge replacement with the inclusion of a protected bicycle lane carried with none opposed.**

Ms. Wang reported that CAT has received a \$1,000,000.00 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Ferry Boat Discretionary funding, but the Trade Center will be the administrator. The ferry being replaced is the older catamaran ferry. Discussion followed about the ferry to be replaced and about the specifications for the new ferry.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the addition of a new CAT ferry funded by the ARRA Ferry Boat Discretionary Award with the stipulation that the new ferry boat be durable, with a projected long life expectancy, and that it be environmentally friendly.

**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the addition of a new CAT ferry funded by the ARRA Ferry Boat Discretionary Award with the stipulation that the new ferry boat be durable, with a projected long life expectancy, and that it be environmentally friendly carried with none opposed.**

### **III. Report from sub-committee for short-term improvements**

Mr. Stephen Traub distributed materials to the committee members. He addressed two possible improvements.

He moved that this committee ask the CORE MPO Board to consider the creation of a spur from the Truman Parkway exit directly into the shopping center as a stand-alone project. The motion was seconded.

He explained that as a part of a larger project that improvement will get lost and delayed, but as a separate project, it could solve the immediate congestion problem.

Ms. Love pointed out that the Victory Drive Congestion Mitigation is listed as a project in the proposed Long Range Transportation Plan update. The idea of the spur is part of that.

Mr. Traub commented that he had spoken with the local managers of Staples, Target and Home Depot and found them supportive of such an improvement.

**CAC Action: the motion to ask the CORE MPO Board to consider creating a spur from the Truman Parkway exit directly into the shopping center as a stand-alone project carried with none opposed.**

Mr. Traub moved that this committee ask the CORE MPO Board to encourage City of Savannah to promote the use of 311 as a way for those who are constantly in the traffic

flow to report roadway problems they encounter and offer suggestions for improvement. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Bennett commented that the city is promoting the 311 service much more than before, and that they have increased the service hours.

**CAC Action: the motion to ask the CORE MPO Board to encourage City of Savannah to promote the use of 311 as a way for those who are constantly in the traffic flow to report roadway problems they encounter and offer suggestions for improvement carried with none opposed.**

#### **IV. Other Business**

No other business at this time.

#### **V. Public Meeting for CORE Connections 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft**

Mr. Steve Coté made the presentation to the committee. He reviewed the purpose, the time frame, major elements of the plan, project activities including technical activities and public outreach, cost and revenue projections, and prioritization of projects.

Phase I is the Framework Mobility Plan and is planned for completion and approval by the middle of September 2009. Phase II is the Total Mobility Plan which will include more details and enhancements on the projects and more emphasis on the transit side. Completion for this phase is 2011.

Mr. Coté reviewed the estimated costs and funding sources for projects, noting that costs have greatly escalated. Projects that are funded by alternative sources such as ARRA or TIGER are not part of the constrained plan. He reviewed funding sources through 2035. State and federal estimated funding figures were provided by GDOT. Funding for maintenance and transit are separate. Within the funding amount for roadway projects there are two set-aside amounts – one for small projects such as intersection improvements and another for non-motorized projects such as bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

The next steps in the planning process are to present to the CORE MPO Board on August 26<sup>th</sup>, with a public hearing, and then the final presentation seeking approval of the plan on September 17, 2009.

Mr. Levy asked where the following projects are in the plan:

- Second Bridge to Hutchinson Island
- Truman extension to I-95
- Tybee bridges

Mr. Cote replied that the first one is in the Vision Plan; the second one is in the constrained plan called the Truman Parkway Extension. Ms. Love noted that it is not a separate alignment from SR 204. Mr. Wilkes noted that there are two projects that address this issue. The Tybee bridges project is still being researched. They are looking for ways to put money in the constrained plan for preliminary engineering for the bridges.

Mr. Levy requested that the Tybee bridges be made a priority. Discussion followed about possible projects to drop in favor of the Tybee bridges.

Ms. Helen McCracken suggested the Broad River Bridge in Beaufort, SC and the Ravenel Bridge in Charleston be used as examples of well constructed bridges that accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. Ms. Wang will check on the funding sources that South Carolina used to construct these bridges.

It was moved and seconded to include the Tybee Island bridges in the constrained plan and to remove both the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway (extension and interchange at U.S. 80) projects from the constrained plan.

**CAC Action: the motion to include the Tybee Island bridges in the constrained plan and to remove both the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway projects from the constrained plan carried with one opposed.**

Ms. Dale Thorpe asked that the Transportation Amenities Plan that was adopted previously be given more prominence in the current Long Range Transportation Plan update. She suggests that these actual policies that are already adopted should not be obscurely referenced with the terms "complete streets" and "context-sensitive design". She would like specific references to the Transportation Amenities Plan. Mr. Bennett noted that these issues would be addressed in the second phase of this update.

Mr. Wilkes explained that the Executive Summary was mailed out to the committee last week. He distributed the full Chapter 8 at this meeting, which includes more detail. The full draft of the Framework Mobility Plan which is now available includes the Transportation Amenities Plan. He noted that the projects listed in the Framework Plan will be studied and detailed with great specificity in the next phase which is the Total Mobility Plan portion of the entire Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Levy asked staff for suggestions on how to move along project #31 on the GDOT monthly report. This project is SR26/US80 widening between Bull River and Lazaretto Creek. Ms. Love explained that GDOT doesn't believe there is community consensus on this project so nothing is being done on it at this time.

Mr. Levy asked for clarification on TE#9 project listed on the GDOT monthly report. Ms. Love looked up the Transportation Enhancement application for this project and shared the description with the committee. This project involves re-establishing a planted median along a portion of Butler Avenue. Mr. Wilkes first suggested this at a CAC meeting a year or two ago, and a successful TE grant was subsequently prepared by Tybee Island.

**VI. Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the August 20, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee was adjourned. The next regular meeting will be on October 15, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love  
Transportation Planner