



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

April 22, 2010

5:00 p.m.

Members

Tony Abbott
John Bennett
Tina Bennett
Daniel Brantley
Gerald Cook
Philip Cooper
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
Martin Sullivan
Dale Thorpe
Stephen Traub
Louis Wilson

Representing

Chatham County
City of Savannah
City of Port Wentworth
Chatham County
City of Bloomingdale
Chatham County
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
City of Port Wentworth
Chatham County
Chatham County
Chatham County
City of Savannah
City of Savannah

Present

x
x

x

x
x

x

x

Others Present

Michael Adams
Jane Love
Jessica Mayfield
Barbara Settzo
Wykoda Wang
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP
Julie Yawn

Representing

MPO
MPO
MPO
for MPO
MPO
MPO
MPC

x
x
x
x
x
x
x

Chairman John Bennett called the April 22, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the agenda as presented carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the February 18, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the February 18, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the February 18, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of authorization to begin process for requested amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for the Gulfstream projects

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported that this amendment is being considered because the scope of the R.B. Miller Road intersection improvement project has been changed to include widening. Today, the staff is asking for the committee's endorsement to authorize the staff to study and evaluate this amendment and report back to the committee with a recommendation for further action. She confirmed that at the present time no information regarding the project description and cost has been received. This would all be part of the study and evaluation.

It was moved and seconded to endorse to the MPO Board the authorization of the study for the LRTP Amendment.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse to the MPO Board the authorization of the study for the LRTP Amendment.

C. Endorsement of the MPO priorities for federal funding for development of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Wang defined the TIP development process and the prioritization policy. The MPO is dealing only with the federally funded projects. Sufficient funds and production schedule determines when a priority can be programmed. This year staff has added additional priority categories and they have separated highway projects from bridge projects. She reviewed the criteria for each priority category and the projects in each priority category.

- First priority projects – 3 highway projects and 2 bridge projects
- Second priority projects – 3 highway projects and 1 bridge projects
- Third priority projects – 4 highway projects
- Transit priority projects – list of projects provided by CAT
- Non-motorized projects – stand-alone projects that could use L230 funding
- Transportation Enhancement projects – GDOT funded; local sponsors apply; MPO is not involved in this process but presses for implementation
- Lump Sum projects – GDOT funded; MPO has no authority to prioritize these projects
- Earmark projects – random projects selected by Congressmen
- New projects – 3 studies are underway and any recommendations from these studies would be included in this category

Ms. Wang reviewed the public comments she has received thus far. She also presented a list of projects not listed above because they have progressed to implementation and are moving forward. Also, two projects were removed because one was moved out of the Long Range Transportation Plan and the other has become a locally funded project.

Mr. Daniel Brantley asked if there was money available for all these projects. Ms. Wang noted that money was not available for all of them, but funding alone does not reduce the project's priority standing. If we have the money and this project is ready, it will have priority over another project as the next TIP is developed.

Mr. Henry Levy recommended giving projects dealing with safety issues a first priority. Ms. Wang confirmed that the bridge replacement to Skidaway Island has been authorized which is why it is not on this prioritization list.

Mr. Levy moved that the widening of Tybee Rd. from west of Bull River to east of Lazaretto Creek, including the bridges be changed to first priority above all other projects and that all funds go to that before any other project because it is a safety project.

Mr. Tony Abbott seconded Mr. Levy's motion. Discussion followed. Ms. Wang noted that a study will begin next month on the US 80 bridges. Recommendations from this study will be a priority. MPO is trying to secure bridge monies for this project. This motion continues to express the will of the CAC that this project be first and foremost in the plans.

CAC Action: the motion to move the widening of Tybee Rd west of Bull River to east of Lazaretto Creek, including the bridges, be changed to first priority above all other projects and that all funds go to that before any other project because it is a safety project carried with two opposed.

A motion was made and seconded for endorsement of project priorities for the development of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Discussion that followed raised the question of whether the second motion would negate the first motion. It was also asked what the effect would be if this committee did not endorse the staff's recommendation. The CAC chairman will attend the CORE Board meeting and report that the CAC passed both motions.

CAC Action: the motion for endorsement of project priorities for the development of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) carried with none opposed.

D. Endorsement of the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Mark Wilkes explained that this program is the work plan and budget for the upcoming year beginning July 1, 2010. At this time there are few budget changes from last year. Staff's focus for FY 2011 will be the Total Mobility Plan and the three ARRA-funded corridor studies. This program will positively affect Tybee Rd. improvements because it includes funding for working on the study.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the adoption of the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the adoption of the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. Update on the Total Mobility Plan

Mr. Wilkes reported that staff is beginning development of the Total Mobility Plan. In the fall the Framework Mobility Plan was adopted in order to meet federal requirements. The Total Mobility Plan expands on the initial Framework Mobility Plan and includes the following components:

- Framework Mobility Plan
- Transit Mobility Vision Plan
- Streetcar Plan
- Non-motorized Transportation Plan
- I-16 Flyover Study
- Climate Change Assessment
- Detailed plans for areas or corridors

Discussion followed about the streetcar plan. After planning to look at streetcars in the future Total Mobility Plan, MPO staff became aware that the City of Savannah had hired a consultant to study options for streetcar. MPO staff believes a streetcar project would need federal funding support, but is waiting to see the outcome of the City's study before doing any additional study.

B. Update on the three ARRA-funded studies

Mr. Michael Adams reported that the consultant contracts for the three studies will go before the MPC board for approval on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Consultants are as follows:

- SR 21 Corridor Study – Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung
- SR 204 Corridor Study – Jacobs Engineering Group
- US 80 Bridges Replacement Study – Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc.

Studies will begin in May or June. There will be public meetings during the duration of the studies. The studies are projected to take 12-18 months.

IV. Agency Reports

Ms. Love reported that she received a request from Mr. Jack Knops concerning a new recommended practice for walkable urban thoroughfares. Staff is aware of the new publication and has obtained the document but has not had an opportunity to review it. She will present a report at the next meeting.

V. Other Business

Mr. Bennett reported on a recently released statement by Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood encouraging all local agencies to go beyond minimum standards in regard to non-motorized transportation improvements.

Mr. Bennett suggested that the CAC consider a motion to endorse the non-motorized transportation policy statement recently issued by Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. Mr. Jason House made the motion. The motion was seconded.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the non-motorized transportation policy statement recently issued by Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood carried with none opposed.

VI. Other Public Comments - no public comments at this time.

VII. Announcements

- Open House for Input into the Non-motorized Transportation Plan: 6:15 p.m., after this CAC meeting
- Next CAC Meeting: June 17, 2010.

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

No items.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner