

Chairman John Bennett called the February 18, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order, followed by self-introductions by committee members.

Prior to addressing regular agenda items, it was moved and seconded to do away with the new electronic agenda management system.

CAC Action: the motion to do away with the new electronic agenda management system was defeated (4 yes/ 6 no).

The meeting then returned to the agenda items.

I. Approval of Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the December 10, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Louis Wilson questioned the omission from the December minutes of a resolution concerning Bay Street improvement project. Ms. Love noted that the discussion and resolution he was referring to were recorded in the October meeting minutes. Mr. Bennett commented that he spoke with Sean Brandon of the City of Savannah and feels progress is being made on this issue. Ms. Love reported that MPO staff and city staff will be discussing what can be done within the current right-of-way limits. Mr. Bennett asked that this issue be discussed later in the agenda.

It was moved and seconded to approve the December 10, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the December 10, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of the amendments to the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Wykoda Wang summarized the staff report. Her report is in two parts – regularly funded projects and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded projects.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) requested an amendment for SR 307 Overpass project in order to split the utilities phase cost estimate from the construction phase cost estimate.

Also to be amended is the Bay St. Improvement project. She read the actual project description directly from the approved concept report. This amendment adds funds for the right-of-way in FY 2011.

The ARRA projects are in three sections. In the MPO sub-allocation section, the amendment is to delete the Montgomery Cross Rd. interconnect project because the city cannot meet the March 2, 2010 deadline. This releases \$80,000 which the city has reallocated to the signal projects in the MPO sub-allocation.

The transit portion needs to be amended to reflect the 10% which is being moved from maintenance and security into operating expenses.

We received no TIGER grant money so the Transit Center project must come out of the TIP to make the TIP financially constrained. This project was in the TIP subject to TIGER funding, but it turns out that CAT never applied for the TIGER grant.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendments to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendments to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program carried with none opposed.

C. Endorsement of the amendments to the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Jane Love presented the staff report. The amendments include moving leftover FY 2009 highway planning funds into the FY 2010 program; showing an additional \$300,000 to the MPO's ARRA allocation for planning studies; and adjusting the 5303 funds (transit planning funds) to match the actual contract amount.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendments to the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendments to the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. ARRA Project Status Update

Ms. Wang summarized the staff report. All deadlines (March 2 and March 5) have been or will be met. GDOT has four projects in our area; three of them are under construction and the fourth has been let with construction to begin soon.

The MPO sub-allocation funds include city of Savannah signal projects. The funds have been obligated and we are awaiting the letting. The MPO has three planning studies. The funds have been obligated and the MPO is in the consultant selection process. Chatham County is also in the consultant selection process for the Islands Expressway Bridge

Replacement. As of today funds have been authorized for right-of-way acquisition on the Bay St. improvement project.

In the CAT transit portion of ARRA, most has been obligated, but \$78,000 still needs to be obligated. CAT also received a ferry boat grant. The deadline is April 10th. At this time CAT is advertising for a contractor.

No TIGER grant monies were received by the state of Georgia.

IV. Agency Reports

Ms. Love offered a response to a question that Mr. Jack Knops sent via email, about why the actual contract for the Truman Parkway V was so much lower than the estimate. Ms. Love has informed Mr. Knops that contractors are eager for any and all jobs so bids are coming in low. This afternoon at the Technical Coordinating Committee, GDOT staff said they are seeing about a 40% reduction in bid amounts across the board. Mr. Levy said he thinks that GDOT should re-evaluate all their estimates to reflect this new bidding climate. When asked what happens to the extra money, Ms. Wang noted that GDOT has reserved some of the extra for contingencies on the Truman project. Staff is not sure what happens to all of the extra money though. Ms. Wang confirmed no local money is being used on the Truman project – it is 80% federal; 20% state match. Ms. Wang referred the members to the GDOT website for further details on the bidding and letting of the Truman project.

V. Other Business

Going back to the West Bay St. discussion, Mr. Bennett expressed concern that widening the lanes on Bay St. from 10 feet to 12 feet will encourage speeding and not be traffic calming. Discussion followed about the GDOT concept report, traffic calming, and the current right-of-way. In response to Mr. Wilson's earlier question, Ms. Love read from the October meeting minutes of this committee the motion to recommend MPO support of incorporating traffic calming into the design. She noted that this committee's chairman reported this action at the CORE MPO Board meeting in October. Ms. Love reported that the city staff and MPO staff will be looking at what traffic calming strategies can be used within the right-of-way allowance in the current concept plan.

Mr. Bennett asked MPO staff to gather details about this project by the next meeting. He would like guidance on how this committee can move this issue forward in a meaningful way.

In response to a question about public involvement, Ms. Love confirmed that the project sponsors have held public information open houses on this project. She will send the committee members the web link to view the GDOT concept report.

Ms. Love introduced the mapping exercise which is the beginning of the development of the non-motorized plan. She asked for members' input about trouble spots, popular bicycle and pedestrian destinations, or desired bicycle/pedestrian routes and amenities.

Committee members are invited to give their input this evening, or at the April meeting, or on-line, starting sometime in March.

Ms. Helen McCracken questioned the amount of paper that is really saved in using the electronic agenda system and stated her dislike of the system. Ms. Love replied that the mailing of meeting materials for this month was a total of 11 packages, compared to the 115 packages that staff sent out formerly for every round of meetings. The system saves a lot of paper and staff now has time to customize the mailed packages so that those members only get the materials pertaining to their committee. To compromise, Mr. Bennett said that voice votes would continue to be taken at the meeting along with the electronic voting.

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

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned, so that members that choose not to participate in the mapping exercise at this time could leave. The next meeting will be April 22, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner