



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

June 17, 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
x

x
x
x
x
x
x
x

Others Present

Michael Adams
Michael Gaster
Jane Love
Jessica Mayfield
Barbara Settzo
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

Representing

MPO
Interested Citizen
MPO
MPO
for MPO
MPO

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 April 22, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

It was noted that Mr. Philip Cooper represents Chatham County and not the City of Savannah. This correction has been made since materials were first posted and mailed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the April 22, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, as corrected.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the April 22, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, as corrected, carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for Fort Pulaski Entrance Road bridge project

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that this project is being funded with federal funds through the National Parks Service. There is still a question about the necessity of this project being in the LRTP. Today's request is to authorize staff to further study the nature of this project and if it needs to be included here.

It was moved and seconded to endorse authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for Fort Pulaski Entrance Road bridge project.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for Fort Pulaski Entrance Road bridge project carried with one opposed.

C. Endorsement of authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for the Jimmy Deloach Connector project

Mr. Wilkes reported that this procedural request is similar to the previous agenda item. This project has been designated for bond funding so it would be 100% state money. Today's request is for further study before amending the LRTP to include the project. Staff will come back at a future meeting with details of the project and any request to amend the LRTP with the addition of this project.

It was moved and seconded to endorse authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for the Jimmy Deloach Connector project.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for the Jimmy Deloach Connector project carried with none opposed.

D. Endorsement of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Wilkes defined the TIP process for the FY 2011-2014 proposed TIP. This multi-year listing of prioritized transportation, transit, and non-motorized projects includes a public comment period and public hearings. On May 19th a draft TIP was published and distributed. Since that date there were three changes to the draft TIP. Mr. Wilkes reviewed those three changes as follows:

- SR26/US80 widening (Ogeechee Rd) – partial funding programmed for right-of-way
- Jimmy Deloach Pkwy Phase 2 – funding for preliminary engineering oversight in 2011; funding for right-of-way in 2014
- Jimmy Deloach Pkwy/US 80 interchange – funding for right-of-way in 2014

The funding source for all three is MPO-attributable L230 funds (surface transportation funds).

Mr. Bennett opened the public hearing for the entire TIP.

Mr. Louis Wilson asked about the Bay Street project. He introduced Mr. Michael Gaster, a candidate for the State Senate, who came tonight to learn more about the Bay Street project. Mr. Wilkes noted that the Bay Street project was in the initial draft TIP so it has been out in the public and is not one of the three changes he reviewed this evening.

Mr. Gaster commented that he came to learn about the process and the project because he is unfamiliar with both and has been approached by interested citizens about this project. He requested a meeting schedule for the future so that he and other interested citizens could attend. Mr. Wilkes briefly explained the structure of the MPO and the general process. The meetings of the MPO are publicized through the local media, newspaper, the MPC website, and a current contact list of interested parties. Ms. Jane Love added that the draft documents such as the TIP are placed in libraries, county government offices, city offices, here at MPC, and on the MPC website. Mr. Bennett commended Mr. Wilson for inviting Mr. Gaster and encouraged all the committee members to bring interested citizens to this meeting or any of the MPO meetings.

Mr. Bennett closed the public hearing.

Mr. Wilson raised the question of pedestrian improvements and how they could be implemented along Bay Street. He would like to discuss safety issues with GDOT. Mr. Bennett ruled that this item be addressed under "Other business".

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program.

In answer to a question the L230 funds being used also for non-motorized transportation projects, Mr. Wilkes explained that there is a set-aside portion for non-motorized projects so that non-motorized projects will not be cut when other projects are added. In this particular case, where the three projects were added to the draft TIP, it was because the total amount of L230 funds was increased, thereby allowing for these three inclusions.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the adoption of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program carried with none opposed.

E. Endorsement of the amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Wilkes explained that the FY 2011 UPWP was adopted in April. Financial changes have come down from the federal level that need to be included. The three amendments are as follows:

- Updated apportionments of Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding and New Freedom (NF) funding from Federal Transit Administration
- Inclusion of MPO-attributable funds as designated in the TIP for strategic planning studies
- Additional description added regarding the Streetcar Plan, under Strategic Planning Studies task

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

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

III. Status Reports

A. Update on Project DeRenne

Ms. Jane Love reported that the City Council endorsed the "Boulevard option" among the recommendations coming out of Project DeRenne.

B. Update on Grant Opportunities

Ms. Love referred the committee to the staff report and asked for questions. There were no questions.

C. HB 277 Transportation Bill Highlights

There were no questions from the committee.

IV. Agency Reports

No reports at this time.

V. Other Business

At this time the committee returned to Mr. Wilson's earlier concern about GDOT's refusal to discuss safety issues on Bay Street with this committee. Mr. Wilson decided to revisit the plans to see where stop lights and other pedestrian-friendly safety features are planned before asking this committee for a resolution.

Mr. Bennett would like GDOT to come to discuss where this project is at this point in time, a discussion of traffic calming features, the existing plan for Bay St., and changes to this existing plan.

Mr. Mark Egan questioned why GDOT will not come to this committee to support this committee's understanding of the projects.

Ms. Love showed the committee the current plan for Bay St. that the county and GDOT are working with as of October 2009. She believes the right-of-way is being purchased based on this kind of design. She also believes there had been a compromise between the involved agencies that any suggestions that come out of the traffic calming committee need to fit into this same right-of-plan since the county has already progressed to the stage of spending funds on this phase. Mr. Wilson is concerned that the suggestions of the city-paid consultant are being ignored. He believes those suggestions may very well fit within the corridor; there is enough room for the consultant's suggested improvements. Ms. Love stated that the most recent information she had heard was that some city staff would be talking with county staff about incorporating changes into this project.

Mr. Knops would like Mr. Bennett to express this committee's concern that the public is not being properly served in regard to this project.

Mr. Bennett clarified that a GDOT representative is not necessary at every meeting, but with advance notice and a request for specific information, would a GDOT representative attend?

It was moved and seconded to send a letter from this committee to GDOT (Mr. Long) identifying the committee's concerns and asking them to come to a specific committee meeting when a concern arises.

CAC Action: the motion to send a letter from this committee to GDOT (Mr. Long) identifying the committee's concerns and asking them to come to a specific committee meeting when a concern arises carried with none opposed.

Mr. Bennett assured the committee that he will relay the committee's concerns and wishes at the upcoming CORE Board meeting.

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

VII. Announcements

- Ms. Love noted that surveys concerning pedestrian and bicycle issues are available on the MPO website until mid-July. These surveys will be used in the development of the Non-motorized Transportation Plan.
- The next meeting is August 19, 2010 at 5:00 PM.

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

The items posted and mailed were for information only. There was no presentation.

IX. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner