



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room 112 East State Street

October 21, 2010

5:00 p.m.

Members

Representing

Present

Table with 3 columns: Name, Representing, Present. Lists members like Tony Abbott, John Bennett, etc., and their respective organizations and presence status.

Others Present

Representing

Table with 3 columns: Name, Representing, Present. Lists other attendees like Michael Adams, Jason Crane, etc., and their presence status.

In the absence of the Chairman's excused absence, the members appointed Mr. Mark Egan as Acting Chairman for the meeting. A quorum was not present, so action items were suspended and Mr. Egan proceeded with Status Reports.

I. Approval of Agenda

Action suspended due to lack of a quorum.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the August 19, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Action suspended due to lack of a quorum.

B. Election of CAC Chairperson

Action suspended due to lack of a quorum.

C. Election of CAC Vice Chairperson

Action suspended due to lack of a quorum.

D. Endorsement of proposed Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) updates

Action suspended due to lack of a quorum.

III. Status Reports

A. Update on Regional Transportation & Sales Tax Use

Ms. Wykoda Wang reviewed the main points of the new state act that created regional tax districts for the purpose of levying a 1% transportation sales tax for ten years. A draft of the project selection criteria may be found on the MPO website. A Roundtable will be made up of county chairs from our 10-county region and one mayor from each county. The eight mayors in Chatham County will elect one to be on the Roundtable. Of the revenue gained from the tax, 25% will go back to the local governments for unrestricted transportation uses. The remaining 75% of the tax revenue must be used for the projects on the approved project list. The project list must be developed in 2011, and the public votes on the tax in 2012. The Roundtable does not approve the project list, or if the voters must approve the tax, then the local communities will be experience in the form of a larger local match required for state aid projects. If the voters approve the tax, then the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will begin the projects.

Ms. Wang stated that some are concerned that Chatham County contributes approximately 50% of the tax revenue and has approximately 40% of the regional population, but will get a far lower proportion of the discretionary funds from the regional tax. While Chatham County may be the loser on the discretionary funds, it is possible that the county will gain the most from the remaining 75% because of the nature of the projects that may be on the list.

B. Update on ARRA-funded studies

Ms. Jane Love reported that all three of the ARRA-funded corridor studies (SR 21 Corridor, SR 204 Corridor and US 80 Bridges) had public and stakeholder meetings in September.

Mr. Michael Adams reviewed the feedback received from the September meetings for SR 21 Corridor Study and SR 204 Corridor Study. They are currently working on data collection. He also highlighted the next steps for each study. The studies need to be completed by December 2011 because they are funded by ARRA funds.

Ms. Love reviewed the feedback received from the September meeting for the US 80 Bridges Replacement Study. The next tasks are analysis of the data and the development of at least three alternatives. Completion of the study is expected in June 2011.

C. Update on the Non-motorized Transportation Plan – summary of surveys

Ms. Love reviewed the survey results from the on-line bicycle survey and from the on-line pedestrian survey. Details are contained in the staff report provided online or in the mail in advance of the meeting. A draft of the complete Non-motorized Transportation Plan is expected in summer 2011.

Discussion followed on such topics as bicycle rules and safety and future sidewalk development in Southside Savannah.

IV. Agency Reports

Ms. Love responded to a pre-meeting question from Mr. Jack Knops concerning the MPO's position on the liquefied natural gas (LNG) truck route. The MPO has not studied the movement of LNG or other goods in and out of Savannah, and currently has no position on this issue. It also does not have a role in the decision for routing of hazardous materials such as LNG. However, the routing is something that is important to be aware of in various planning decisions.

Mr. Carlos Gonzalez, from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), noted that under the Department of Transportation there are several agencies that deal with hazardous materials on roadways. He will confirm the agency names and will get back to staff and Mr. Knops with this information.

Ms. Love introduced Jason Crane, from GDOT. Mr. Tony Abbott commented on the recent truck accident at the intersection of I-516 & I-16. He believes that the trees should

be cut back farther to help with sight distances. He is particularly concerned about this since LNG trucks would be using this same route. He would like to see the trees completely cleared and improvements made to this important intersection of two federally-funded, limited access inter-state highways. Mr. Crane confirmed that there is a GDOT project for the interchange of I-516 and I-16. Ms. Wykoda Wang noted that GDOT checked the sight distances and determined that they meet the minimum sight distance requirements.

Ms. Wang recommended that committee members send any questions for GDOT to the MPO staff in advance of a scheduled meeting so that GDOT has adequate time to research the questions and bring the answers to the next scheduled meeting.

V. **Other Business** – no other business

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

VII. **Announcements**

Next meeting will be December 9, 2010 which is a week earlier than usual due to the holidays.

VIII. **Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference**

IX. **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner