



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

April 21, 2011

5:00 p.m.

Members

Representing

Present

Tony Abbott	Chatham County	x
John Bennett	City of Savannah	x
Tina Bennett	City of Port Wentworth	
Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	x
Gerald Cook	City of Bloomingdale	
Philip Cooper	Chatham County	
Mark Egan	Chatham County	x
Phyllis Hardeman	Town of Thunderbolt	
Jason House	City of Savannah	x
Charles Hutchinson	City of Bloomingdale	
Chandler Kinsey	City of Tybee Island	x
Beth Kinstler	City of Savannah	
Jack Knops	City of Savannah	x
Henry Levy	City of Tybee Island	
Helen McCracken	Town of Thunderbolt	
Harris Odell	Chatham County	
Dwayne Simpson	City of Savannah	
Linda M. Smith	City of Port Wentworth	
Joe Steffen	Chatham County	
Martin Sullivan	Chatham County	
Dale Thorpe	Chatham County	
Stephen Traub	City of Savannah	
Louis Wilson	City of Savannah	x

Others Present

Representing

Michael Adams	MPO	x
Carlos Gonzalez	FHWA	x
Terri Harrison	CAT	x
Jane Love	MPO	x
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	x
Wykoda Wang	MPO	x
Mark Wilkes	MPO	x

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Mark Egan.

I. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as written. The motion carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the February 17, 2011 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2011 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2011 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the staff report. Included in the work program is the Total Mobility Plan looking out to 2040 and numerous studies that are currently underway.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed.

C. Endorsement of proposed amendments to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported on the amendments necessary to the FY 2011-2014 TIP. Chatham Area Transit is requesting these amendments to carry over unspent funds from previous years to this fiscal year and also to replace estimates with actual allocation amounts. Ms. Wang reviewed the fund category for each amendment and the plans for using the monies in each category. The details were presented to the committee in the written staff report.

Mr. Louis Wilson asked about posted bus schedules at bus stops. Ms. Terri Harrison responded that they are working on enhancing the signage. She referred him to the marketing department at CAT for follow-up. It was confirmed that the county must provide the match for these federal dollars.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendments to the FY 2011-2014 TIP.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendments to the FY 2011-2014 TIP carried with none opposed.

Mr. Egan opened the public hearing portion of the meeting. There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

D. Endorsement of the proposed priority projects for FY 2012-2015 TIP development

Ms. Wang reminded the committee that each year staff revises the TIP. Endorsing the priority projects is the first step in developing the new TIP. The staff plans to have a draft of the new TIP ready in May for the required 30-day public comment period and then adopt the FY 2012-2015 TIP in June at the CORE MPO Board meeting.

Ms. Wang reviewed the proposed priority projects in the categories of highway, bridges, transit, and non-motorized. She also defined the terms “1st priority” as those projects programmed in previous TIPs, “2nd priority” as those projects with regional significance, and “3rd priority” as those projects with a high cost/benefit ratio. The priority list has been significantly reduced in the past few years because many projects have been implemented.

Other categories also included in the new TIP are transportation enhancement projects, lump sum projects and earmarks. The MPO has no direct involvement in determining these projects. There are also several studies that are on-going (SR204, SR21, US80, I-16, Transit Mobility Vision Plan, Project DeRenne). Mr. Wilkes offered an explanation of the I-16 study in response to a question by Mr. Tony Abbott. Further information is available on the website dedicated to the I-16 study.

Mr. Wilson asked about any plans for train transportation in the I-16 corridor westbound. It was confirmed that this particular I-16 study is only about the I-16 terminus in the vicinity of Montgomery St. and MLK Blvd. It does not deal with the I-16 corridor.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the proposed priority projects for FY 2012-2015 TIP development.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the proposed priority projects for FY 2012-2015 TIP development carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. Non-motorized Transportation Plan update – Networks & Focus Areas

Ms. Jane Love explained that staff is proposing networks and focus areas in which to evaluate conditions, as part of the development of the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. The bicycle network is based on the 2000 Bikeway Plan. Other proposed routes have been added to that plan to expand it to the currently proposed network included in this report.

Pedestrian needs were determined by studying population density, employment density, bus routes & bus stops, and schools..

Ms. Love also noted that the bikeway network is proposed to include off-road paths in addition to on-street facilities. Coastal Georgia Greenway, new facilities constructed or installed by the City of Savannah or by Chatham County are also being recognized as part of the network.

She referred the committee to the website for more details.

B. Wave Ecology Study

Ms. Wang reported that this study is the result of Tybee Island and Chatham County combined efforts to identify specific problems and solutions connected to the periodic overcrowding and traffic congestion on Tybee (particularly US 80) when there are special seasonal activities. From July 2010 through April 2011, there have been 9 meetings and 4 work groups formed to study this issue. A consultant was hired to analyze the collected data. Each work group selected 3 priority solutions for a total of 12 solutions to implement. Then it was narrowed to the top five. Now work will begin to determine what is needed to implement these five proposed solutions. The goal is to develop a plan that Tybee can use as documentation for any grant funding that may be available.

IV. Agency Reports

There were no agency reports at this time.

V. Other Business

At the request of the committee, staff had included in the meeting packet a briefing about the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process and the role of this committee in that planning process. She highlighted the MPO structure (Board and 3 advisory committees) and the process. The CAC brings the citizens' view on transportation issues to the process. Ms. Love also defined the various plans and programs, i.e. the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Daniel Brantley commented on the apparent lack of interest of some appointees who do not regularly attend.

Mr. Wilson commented on the difficulty in finding what he's looking for on the MPC website. Often, people cannot attend meetings, so they should be able to access the information on the website. Additionally, Mr. Wilson would like the MPC to obtain plans for all DOT road projects and post on the MPC website.

Mr. Wilkes commented that it should be possible to provide links on the MPO website to the GDOT site where such plans are routinely posted.

Ms. Love gave a brief overview for navigating the MPC website.

Mr. John Bennett asked if the MPC/MPO website could have links to project information from organizations outside of the MPO. Mr. Wilson would like to see all the information on a particular project in one place.

VI. Other Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

VII. Announcements

Next meeting will be June 16, 2011.

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