



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

February 17, 2011

5:00 p.m.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Tony Abbott	Chatham County	x
John Bennett	City of Savannah	
Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	x
Gerald Cook	City of Bloomingdale	
Philip Cooper	Chatham County	
Mark Egan	Chatham County	x
Phyllis Hardeman	Town of Thunderbolt	x
Jason House	City of Savannah	
Chandler Kinsey	City of Tybee Island	
Jack Knops	City of Savannah	x
Helen McCracken	Town of Thunderbolt	x
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	x
Stephen Traub	City of Savannah	x
Louis Wilson	City of Savannah	x
Vacant	City of Bloomingdale	
Vacant	Chatham County	
Vacant	City of Garden City	
Vacant	City of Garden City	
Vacant	City of Pooler	
Vacant	City of Pooler	
Vacant	City of Port Wentworth	
Vacant	City of Savannah	
Vacant	City of Tybee Island	
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	

Others Present

Representing

Michael Adams	MPO	X
Jessica Hagan	MPO	X
Jane Love	MPO	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Whitney Shepherd	Reynolds, Smith & Hills	X
Tom Thomson	MPC	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X

In the absence of Chairman John Bennett, Mr. Mark Egan served as chairman for the meeting.

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 October 21, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and second to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Election of CAC Chairperson

Mr. Egan opened nominations from the floor for Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee for 2011. Mr. Mark Egan and Mr. John Bennett were nominated. It was moved and seconded to close nominations.

CAC Action: the motion to close nominations carried with none opposed. An election followed, and Mr. Egan was elected Chairperson by a majority of those present.

C. Election of CAC Vice Chairperson

Mr. Egan opened nominations from the floor for Vice Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee for 2011. Mr. John Bennett was nominated. It was moved and seconded to close nominations.

CAC Action: the motion to close nominations carried with none opposed. Mr. Bennett was elected by acclamation.

D. Endorsement of the amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that this amendment is necessary to move the unspent balance from FY 2010 to FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program.

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

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program carried with one abstention.

E. Endorsement of staff request to submit proposed projects for HB277 regional funding

Mr. Tom Thomson began his presentation by referring the committee to the staff report for the full details. He explained the structure of the taxing districts that was created by HB277 (Transportation Investment Act of 2010). Our taxing district is comprised of ten coastal counties. The Roundtable has twenty members represented by county and municipal officials. Chairman of the Roundtable is Jimmy Burnsed. The Roundtable has selected their five-person Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's responsibility is to develop a fiscally balanced list of projects from an unconstrained master project list given to them by GDOT Director of Planning and present this balanced list to the Roundtable for approval.

Staff has prepared a list of projects to be submitted to GDOT Director of Planning by March 31st for inclusion in the unconstrained project list.

Mr. Thomson also explained how the projected revenue from this regional sales tax will be distributed, and he referred the committee to the chart included in the staff report. Mr. Tony Abbott asked what is the estimated amount of revenue the tax might generate for the region. Mr. Thomson \$1.9 billion total over 10 years, out of which would come the 25% discretionary for local governments and also the 75% for the projects on the region's list.

Discussion followed Mr. Thomson's presentation. Mr. Louis Wilson stated concern about the design of the W. Bay St. project. He doesn't believe that public participation guidelines are being followed, as cited in federal guidelines he found on the Internet. Ms. Jane Love said she had seen Mr. Wilson's comments in a recent email and noticed that he was quoting the Fairbanks, Alaska MPO Participation Plan. Mr. Thomson referred Mr. Wilson to the MPO website for details on our MPO's public participation process and reiterated that public involvement is a requirement that must be complied with in order for any project to move forward.

Mr. Wilson moved that this item be tabled due to the concern he has about the process for W. Bay St.. Mr. Thomson said that the motion is out of order, as it does not speak to the issue of the submittal of the projects for a potential regional tax. He added that Mr. Wilson could nevertheless choose to abstain from this vote.

Mr. Thomson recognized that the proposed list of projects for potential regional tax investment was being presented to the committee on short notice. He requested that the members review the list and send any comments to staff by email between tonight and the scheduled CORE MPO board meeting on Wednesday, February 23rd.

Mr. Jack Knops spoke in favor of the staff efforts to follow the process and create this list.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the list of proposed projects for HB277 regional funding with the understanding that committee members' input will be accepted by email before the MPO Board meeting.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the list of proposed projects for HB277 regional funding with the understanding that committee members' input will be accepted by email before the MPO Board meeting carried with one opposed.

III. Status Reports

There were no status reports at this time.

IV. Agency Reports

There were no agency reports at this time.

V. Other Business

Mr. Mark Wilkes asked the committee to participate in a community choices survey for the Total Mobility Plan. This survey was used at a public participation meeting last month. He introduced Whitney Shepherd, from Reynolds, Smith & Hills, who presented the survey. Members viewed 65 images and rated each on how appropriate each image was for the region. Images were scored 1-8, 1 being least appropriate or desired, and 8 being most appropriate or desired for the region. Staff and consultants will incorporate the CAC's input on community vision with that from the public meetings.

VI. Other Public Comments

Ms. Phyllis Hardeman requested action concerning traffic signal timing in the Thunderbolt section of Victory Drive. Not many cars can get out of the side streets in the time allotted by the signals.

Dr. Brantley stated a concern about pedestrian operations at US 80 and Skidaway Rd.

Mr. Wilson stated that in the last 60 days, three people had been hit on W. Bay St.

Mr. Egan requested that staff prepare a brief presentation for the April meeting on the scope and process of the Citizens Advisory Committee so that all committee members are aware of what they can expect from this committee and their participation on the committee. Mr. Thomson noted that this committee can select a cause and then help that cause along as it goes through the process. Mr. Stephen Traub noted that this committee makes recommendations to the CORE MPO Board and is an advisory committee with no authority to make final decisions or take specific action.

VII. Announcements

Next meeting will be April 21 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