



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

April 19, 2012

5:00 p.m.

| <b><u>Members</u></b> | <b><u>Representing</u></b> | <b><u>Present</u></b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tony Abbott           | Chatham County             | x                     |
| Daniel Brantley       | Chatham County             | x                     |
| Gerald Cook           | City of Bloomingdale       |                       |
| Philip Cooper         | Chatham County             |                       |
| Mark Egan             | Chatham County             | x                     |
| John Getty            | City of Tybee Island       | x                     |
| Phyllis Hardeman      | Town of Thunderbolt        |                       |
| Jason House           | City of Savannah           |                       |
| Jack Knops            | City of Savannah           |                       |
| Helen McCracken       | Town of Thunderbolt        | x                     |
| Larry Miles           | City of Savannah           | 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           |                       |
| 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 Savannah           |                       |
| Vacant                | City of Tybee Island       |                       |
| Vacant                | Town of Vernonburg         |                       |
| Vacant                | Town of Vernonburg         |                       |

**Others Present**

**Representing**

|                  |                               |   |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Michael Adams    | MPO                           | X |
| Michael Browning | Savannah Tree Foundation      | X |
| DeShawna Garvin  | Housing Authority of Savannah | X |
| Jessica Hagan    | MPO                           | X |
| Jane Love        | MPO                           | X |
| Sarah Rayfield   | CAT                           | X |
| Barbara Settzo   | for MPO                       | X |
| Wykoda Wang      | MPO                           | X |
| Julie Yawn       | MPO                           | X |

Mr. Mark Egan called the 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 carried with none opposed.**

**II. Action Items**

**A. Approval of February 16, 2012 meeting minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting.

**CAC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting carried with none opposed.**

**B. Endorsement of the FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program**

Ms. Jane Love reported that this is the annual program of staff activities and budget for FY 2013. Many activities from FY 2012 are being continued in FY 2013.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program.

**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed.**

**C. Endorsement of proposed 2035 LRTP Amendments for various projects**

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported that these amendments are necessary because of the projects that wish to move ahead. Before they can be placed in the short-range program (TIP) they need to be properly noted in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). These projects are currently in Band 2 (2016-2025) in the LRTP. They need to be moved to Band 1 so that they can be added to the short-range programming. Ms. Wang reported

that when shifting projects from band to band, fiscal balance must be maintained in each band. The projects in the TIP and the LRTP must be consistent.

Ms. Wang presented the project amendments and the reasons for the amendment request in the following major categories: New projects or phases, Stream-lined projects, Revised scoping projects, Revised schedule projects, and Other project shifts. She also reviewed cost revisions for these amendments considering inflation, over estimates, and under estimates.

Ms. Wang referred the committee members to the spreadsheet report that shows the original project costs and the proposed amended costs. She concluded by reporting that all amendment requests were accommodated and they were still able to maintain financial balance.

Discussion included a request from Ms. McCracken for clarification of the Montgomery Crossroad bridge replacement at Casey Canal. Though local residents refer to it as Hayner's Creek, it was confirmed that Casey Canal and Hayner's Creek are one and the same. Ms. Thorpe asked if the DeRenne project was being removed. Ms. Wang explained that the original "place holder" referred to as "DeRenne Project" has now been divided into three projects. The three projects will be added and the original "place holder" will be deleted. Mr. Egan asked about the Jimmy DeLoach interchange project. If this project is advanced forward, why doesn't the inflated cost number from Band 3 go down to today's dollars? Ms. Wang noted that costs estimates are now based on better scoping of the project. Mr. Egan also asked what was motivating the county to move this project forward. Ms. Wang explained that because the Georgia Port Authority is moving forward with the Jimmy DeLoach Extension (Port's Last Mile) the county wants to construct Phase 2 (southwestern extension) and improve the interchange soon accommodate the traffic from the new Jimmy DeLoach Extension (northeastern end) on which the Port and state are already working.

Ms. Wang further explained the funding process for the LRTP and for the TIP. She noted that there is competition with other state projects for the limited state and federal funds. GDOT will help move projects that are ready, and the best indication of "readiness" is a commitment of local funds by the county. There is a question whether the county has the necessary funds. If they do not, the project will probably have to return to the queue of projects. By putting in this amendment, it sets up the project to move ahead. Once it is in Band 1, then it's the county's responsibility to put up the local funding. When the county shows it has the funds, then the project can be put in the TIP.

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

It was moved and seconded to endorse the proposed amendments to the LRTP for various projects.

**CAC action: the motion to endorse the proposed amendments to the LRTP for various projects carried with none opposed.**

#### **D. Endorsement of proposed FY 2012-2015 TIP Amendments**

Ms. Wang reported since the way has been cleared in the 2035 LRTP for the two Jimmy DeLoach projects now the 2012-2015 TIP needs to be amended to include the right-of-way phase for the same two projects. This amendment is being proposed based on the assumption that the county will provide the local funds.

There are also some administrative modifications required for projects that are not going to make it in 2012 and are being moved to 2013 and 2014.

Mr. Miles asked if the environmental report is completed. Ms. Wang replied that FHWA and GDOT will not review the environmental report until the county commits local funds. The county can show its level of commitment for the project by placing the project in the TIP.

Mr. Brantley asked what constituted proof that the county has funds. Ms. Wang explained that there is probably an agreement but not with the MPO.

Mr. Egan opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Mr. Michael Browning asked about the Truman Trail project and why it was being moved to 2013. Ms. Love replied that the county had to resubmit the application for a categorical exclusion and the update accompanying documents. It is expected that it may go to bid in late 2013. Ms. Wang noted that the part of this project affected is only the portion funded by the earmark. Mr. Browning was surprised to hear that the environmental report is not done.

Mr. Egan closed the public meeting.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the proposed amendments to the FY 2012-2015 TIP.

**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the proposed amendments to the FY 2012-2015 TIP carried with none opposed.**

#### **Status Reports**

##### **A. FY 2013-2016 TIP Priority Establishment**

Ms. Wang reviewed the prioritization process for TIP projects. She reviewed the specific projects in each priority category – Highway projects, Bridge projects, Non-motorized projects, Other projects, Transit projects, Transportation Enhancement projects, Lump Sum projects, and Earmark projects. She also included in her report a list of projects that have already been implemented.

Mr. Egan asked if the Jimmy DeLoach projects, currently listed as 3<sup>rd</sup> priority on this list, will have an impact on this prioritization list if they are moved forward. Ms. Wang noted that this list is a guide to use when money is available, and did not expect the Jimmy DeLoach projects to have any significant impact on the list.

Ms. Thorpe asked if these listed projects were in the TIP. Are they closer to being in the TIP than those in the LRTP? Ms. Love noted that most of them are now or will be in the TIP.

Tonight, during this CAC meeting, is the only public meeting on the priorities, although comments may be submitted up until June.

Mr. Egan opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Mr. Browning asked if any of the priority projects were “complete streets” projects. Complete streets include motorized and non-motorized travel options. He noted that the list separates them into categories. Can any of the non-motorized projects be combined with any highway projects to make a “complete streets” project? Ms. Love responded that federal funding is divided into categories at the federal level, which limits flexibility to some extent. She also explained that project sponsors, such as County, City, or State DOT, are responsible for design, but the MPO has included a policy statement for “complete streets” in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. To see such streets implemented, it would help if such policies were also adopted by the agencies that act as project sponsors. MPO staff knows that some of the road projects in the priority list have bicycle and pedestrian elements in the conceptual phase, but has not seen designs for all of the projects.

Ms. Wang explained that MPO staff is invited to concept meetings for GDOT projects. It is at that time that MPO pushes for bike/ped improvements as part of a roadway project. Mr. Miles indicated there were other opportunities for public comment on projects as they progress.

Mr. Egan closed the public hearing.

### **III. Agency Reports**

There were no agency reports at this time.

### **IV. Other Business**

No other business at this time.

### **V. Public Comments**

There were no other public comments at this time.

**VI. Announcements**

The next CAC meeting will be on June 21, 2012 at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Love announced that there will probably be new CAC members at the June meeting. She will be scheduling an orientation for new members.

Mr. Egan announced that committee member John Bennett has taken a new job in Valdosta so will no longer be on the committee.

**VII. Other non-agenda information**

Ms. Wang defined the JARC program and New Freedom program. JARC funds target the low income population providing transportation to and from employment centers. The New Freedom funds meet the transportation needs for those people with disabilities.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the committee, the April 19, 2012 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love  
Transportation Planner