



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

April 18, 2013

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
John Chapman	City of Savannah	
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	
Elizabeth Hilliard	City of Savannah	
Paula Kreissler	City of Savannah	x
Larry Longo	City of Port Wentworth	
Helen McCracken	Town of Thunderbolt	
Christopher Middleton	City of Savannah	x
Larry Miles	City of Savannah	x
Patrick J. O'Brien, Jr.	City of Savannah	
Harris Odell	Chatham County	
Deborah Rauhers	City of Savannah	
Linda M. Smith	City of Port Wentworth	
Joe Steffen	Chatham County	
Martin Sullivan	Chatham County	
Dale Thorpe	Chatham County	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 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
Wykoda Wang	MPO	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO	X
Julie Yawn	MPO	X

Chairman 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 21, 2013 meeting minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2013 meeting.

**CAC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2013 meeting carried with none opposed.**

**B. Endorsement of the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the staff report introducing the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program which takes effect on July 1, 2013. This is the annual work program and budget for staff. He highlighted several key projects – Congestion Management Process with a focus on the Traffic Management Center; Freight Plan designed to coordinate with the Hinesville MPO Freight Plan; Park & Ride Study; coordinating with CAT on an Urban Circulator Study to look at feasibility of transportation options for central Savannah. In addition, there are on-going studies – I-16 ramp removal; traffic impact analysis, TIP UPWP, carpool program and other routine annual tasks. Corridor studies will remain under the Strategic Studies category.

There is considerable flexibility in the program. Amendments can be made during the year to address new issues and make budget changes, if deemed necessary. One or two amendments are already foreseen. The MPO boundary will expand into Effingham and Bryan Counties which may require additional funding contracts to integrate existing projects in these counties into our LRTP and TIP. We may need to expand the UPWP budget to accomplish this. We also expect to amend the work program to include rollover funds from the previous fiscal year into the current fiscal year. This will probably occur in December.

Next steps are approval by the CORE MPO Board next week and then it will be sent to GDOT and FHWA by the end of the month.

Ms. Paula Kreissler asked if there were bike racks on all CAT buses. Mr. Wilkes noted that CAT had fully implemented bike racks on buses back in 1999. Staff that this is still the case, but this will be confirmed.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program

**CAC Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed.**

### **III. Status Reports**

#### **A. Report on priorities for the development of CORE MPO's FY 2014-2017 TIP**

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the staff report. She explained the structure and the process for ranking projects in the TIP. In 2006 a priority list was determined. Now the list is very short because so many of the projects have been implemented. At that time the list included only highway and bridge projects. Now it includes a non-motorized project section and they have reserved some money for those projects. GDOT has set aside some funding for smaller, safety projects (lump sum). Now it is time to add some new projects to the list of priorities. Today she is focusing on highway and bridge projects only. She asked the committee members to rank a list of projects on a 0-10 scale; 0 being least important and 10 being most important. Non-motorized and transit projects will be discussed later.

Committee members took a few moments to fill out their sheets. Following the prioritization exercise, Mr. Egan opened the public hearing portion of the meeting. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

#### **B. Non-motorized Project Prioritization Criteria**

Ms. Jane Love presented the staff report. Staff is developing a Non-motorized Transportation Plan which will feed into the Long Range Transportation Plan. This can also be used for the TIP. There will be a list of bicycle projects and a list of pedestrian projects. Due to limited funding, bicycle projects need to be prioritized against each other and pedestrian projects need to be prioritized against each other. Ms. Love presented criteria to be used in ranking the projects and asked the committee members to indicate which, if any, of the criteria should be weighted. She reviewed the list of proposed criteria for them to consider. This includes: usefulness; current level of discomfort; pedestrian or bicycle network expansion; connection to transit; lack of alternative routes; congestion reduction potential; crash reduction potential; and public request.

Mr. Egan asked if there is any correlation between population and miles of non-motorized paths. Ms. Love is not aware of any such study.

Dr. Daniel Brantley spoke of the importance of public safety. Ms. Love noted that, in that case, he might wish to give more points to crash reduction in the weighting. He asked if we can really protect people from themselves. Ms. Love agreed that we could not do that entirely, and added that many crashes are not even caused by infrastructure problems, but are instead caused by road users of all types not following the rules.

Mr. Tony Abbott asked how many miles of bicycle facilities of various types already exist in the planning area. Ms. Love replied that she could calculate that and let the committee know.

Next steps include development of a project list in summer, prioritize the projects by late summer, and have a planned document for adoption in late fall.

Ms. Love noted that next she will meet with advocates to get additional input on the prioritization criteria and method.

Ms. Kreissler asked about the possibility of projects being accomplished through Complete Streets. Ms. Love said some projects could be implemented as part of upcoming road projects, but others would have to be stand alone projects. She confirmed that state road projects would follow the GDOT Complete Streets policy. City of Savannah and Chatham County have not adopted a Complete Streets policy.

Ms. Love explained the criteria weighting exercise that she is requesting all the committees to do. Committee members filled out their sheets and turned them in.

**IV. Agency Reports**

No reports at this time.

**V. Other Business**

No other business at this time.

**VI. Public Comments**

There were no other public comments at this time.

**VII. Announcements**

The next CAC meeting will be on June 20, 2013 at 5:00 PM.

**VIII. Other non-agenda information**

Mr. Egan asked for further clarification on the US 80 message sign. The City of Tybee is still waiting to hear from GDOT on whether the state would agree to fund 1/3 of the project. Tybee had suggested a location for the sign, but that is not final.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the committee, the April 18, 2013 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love  
Transportation Planner