



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

December 12, 2013

5:00 p.m.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Tony Abbott	Chatham County	x
Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	x
John Chapman	City of Savannah	x
Gerald Cook	City of Bloomingdale	
Philip Cooper	Chatham County	
Mark Egan	Chatham County	x
John Getty	City of Tybee Island	
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	
Patrick J. O'Brien, Jr.	City of Savannah	
Harris Odell	Chatham County	
Deborah Rauers	City of Savannah	x
Linda M. Smith	City of Port Wentworth	
Joe Steffen	Chatham County	
Dale Thorpe	Chatham County	
Robert Tully	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	

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Michael Adams	MPO	X
Beverly Davis	RS&H	X
Jessica Hagan	MPO	X
Rachel Hatcher	RS&H	X
Jane Love	MPO	X
Valerie Ragland	CAT	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 August 22, 2013 meeting minutes

Because the October meeting had been cancelled, the minutes needing approval were those from the August meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2013 meeting.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2013 meeting carried with one member abstaining.

B. Approval of the 2014 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule

It was moved and seconded to approve the 2014 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the 2014 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule carried with none opposed.

C. Endorsement of the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that this amendment is a standard procedural amendment presented each year for the purpose of moving any unspent PL funds from the previous fiscal year (\$98,453) into the current fiscal year in order to avoid losing the funds. He is requesting that the committee endorse this amendment to the CORE MPO Board.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program amendment as presented by staff.

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

III. Status Reports

A. Total Mobility Plan/2040 LRTP Status Report

Mr. Wilkes introduced the staff report. The Total Mobility Plan will be the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which looks ahead at least twenty years. This update of LRTP is due in September 2014. The final phase of the plan, the most technical phase, has just begun. Activity has increased and reports will be made at each future CAC meeting from now until August.

Ms. Beverly Davis, from RS&H presented the status of the development of the Total Mobility Plan. There are many components incorporated into this document. She reviewed the accomplished tasks and reviewed the tasks yet to be addressed – financial analysis, project prioritization, cost feasible plan, on-going stakeholder involvement. She reviewed the project work schedule. She will be presenting at all future CORE MPO meetings through August 2014 in order to meet the deadline in September. The 2040 Update will include the current existing plans adopted by Effingham and Bryan counties due to the recent expansion of the CORE MPO boundaries. The update for the expanded MPO area is not due until September 2016.

B. Update on the Draft Non-motorized Transportation Plan: Project Rankings

Ms. Jane Love presented the staff report which included a list of bicycle projects and a list of pedestrian projects. Tonight she shared maps for each. She reviewed the steps that have been completed. At this time the committees may review the types of bicycle facilities (bike lanes, bike paths, paved shoulders, shared lanes, etc.) recommended on the bicycle network, the pedestrian and bicycle project lists and the ranking that resulted from the selected scoring method. As early as February, staff could be asking this committee to endorse the plan to the CORE MPO board.

When asked if there were any state or federal financial incentives to expand these non-motorized alternatives, Ms. Love noted that both US DOT and GDOT have policies and/or funding programs in place that encourage non-motorized alternatives. GDOT's "Complete Streets" policy and the federal program called Transportation Alternatives are examples.

One member inquired if golf carts are allowed to use bike/ped paths. Ms. Love said it depends on the source of funds used to build the path: most federal funding programs that are specifically for bicycle and pedestrian projects prohibit all motorized vehicle use on the bike/ped path.

One member noted that the proposed networks cover a lot of area and wondered if all of it was needed. Ms. Love said that the plan should take a comprehensive look at the needs over the long-term. Also the more routes there are in the plan, the more likely that an unforeseen road project in the future will include bicycle and pedestrian facilities as part of the construction.

When asked about public participation, Ms. Love explained that the public has participation opportunities at several points during project development and implementation. The MPO provides public meetings and hearings when creating long range plans and when programming federal funds for projects. After that the implementation agency has meetings during the environmental and design phases.

When asked if the federal government designates a percentage of projects be non-motorized transportation projects, Ms. Love replied that the federal government does not have a rule about this, but in 2009, when adopting the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, the CORE MPO decided to set aside about 8% of the funds for bike/pedestrian plans, based on comments at public meetings.

A discussion of political influence and federal earmarks followed. Earmarking of projects by Congress is counter to the federal process that MPOs were created to carry out.

C. Park & Ride Lot Study

Mr. Michael Adams presented the report. He reviewed the project objectives and the ultimate goal of the study. He also reviewed the project schedule noting that it should be completed in July 2014. The study area is the greater Savannah coastal area. They are studying demographic data, regional travel patterns, activity centers, and existing park & ride lots.

In order to propose the locations of additional park and ride lots, the most promising corridors need to be identified and advanced. Workforce and travel patterns have been reviewed for the areas of concentrated employment locations, including downtown, the airport/Gulfstream/Port/industrial sites, Hunter Army Airfield, the hospitals, and the mall areas. The study team obtained some interesting data from Gulfstream, which is one of the largest employers in the region. Mr. Adams displayed a map showing zip code district's percentages of Gulfstream employees' homes. Many live in the surrounding counties. The next steps in the study include more stakeholder meetings.

D. Revised CORE MPO Planning Boundary Per 2010 Census

Ms. Wang reported that the Savannah Urbanized Area has expanded to include parts of Effingham and Bryan counties. MPO staff is still working to formalize the new boundaries of the MPO's planning area, expand the membership of the CORE MPO Board, and revise the bylaws and funding agreements. It is still a work in progress.

E. Urban Circulator Study

Ms. Beverly Davis provided an update on the progress of this study. It looks at potential routes and what the mode should be. She reviewed the study area, goals and the schedule.

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 February 20, 2014 at 5:00 PM.

VIII. Other non-agenda information

Mr. Egan expressed thanks to the CORE MPO staff for all their hard work. He reminded the committee members that they represent the citizens of the county and encouraged members to get involved in the issues and projects so that these meetings have focus.

Mr. Egan also welcomed Bob Tully as a new committee member.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, the December 12, 2013 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner