



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

February 21, 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	
John Getty	City of Tybee Island	x
Phyllis Hardeman	Town of Thunderbolt	
Elizabeth Hilliard	City of Savannah	
Larry Longo	City of Port Wentworth	x
Paula Kreissler	City of Savannah	x
Helen McCracken	Town of Thunderbolt	
Christopher Middleton	City of Savannah	
Larry Miles	City of Savannah	
Patrick J. O'Brien, Jr.	City of Savannah	
Harris Odell	Chatham County	
Deborah Rauhers	City of Savannah	x
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
Robin Runnels	Savannah citizen	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO	X
Julie Yawn	MPO	X

Chairman Mark Egan had alerted staff that he would not be able to attend and had asked Mr. Tony Abbott to chair the meeting. Mr. Abbott 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 December 6, 2012 meeting minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2012 meeting.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2012 meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of the FY 2013-2016 TIP Amendments

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the staff report. She began with a reminder that this meeting includes a public hearing following her presentation because the 15-day public comment period is still open. There are four projects in the TIP that require an amendment due to changes brought forth by the City of Savannah, the MPO staff, and GDOT.

The first project is Gwinnett St. widening between I-16 and Stiles Ave. The concept is being revised because FHWA questioned the need for four lanes if the proposed arena is not in this area. So the City of Savannah and GDOT have revised the project to include two 11-foot lanes, one in each direction, with a 4 foot wide dedicated bicycle lane in each direction. The shoulder will be 12 feet wide, with 30-inch curb and gutter, 2-foot grass strip and 5-foot sidewalks on each side. The proposed bridge over the Springfield Canal will be lengthened from 120 feet to 220 feet to accommodate expansion of the canal. The amendment proposes moving right-of-way to FY 2015 and construction to FY 2016, and also reducing the right-of-way funding and increasing the construction funding.

The second project is the DeLesseps Ave. road and sidewalk improvements. The amendment is to increase funding for preliminary engineering by \$150,000 but the scheduling remains unchanged.

The third project is the I-16 Exit Ramp Removal. This amendment is for a schedule change from FY 2014 to FY 2015, but the funding remains unchanged for the scoping and project oversight.

The final project is the Robert B. Miller Rd. intersection improvements. GDOT is ready to begin right-of-way acquisition and requests that the utility and construction phases be advanced from FY 2014 to FY 2013. Costs remain the same.

All of these projects involve L230 funds that the MPO manages, so a financial analysis was necessary to ensure that the TIP remains in financial balance. It is.

Committee members raised questions about the I-16 Exit Ramp Removal project, specifically what the area and the roadway will look like after the removal.

Ms. Wang noted that the Long Range Transportation Plan contains only the scoping and preliminary engineering phases for this project. The Transportation Improvement Program only contains the scoping phase. This is because both documents need to be financially balanced and at this time money for the next phases is not available. Right now they do not know what year the construction phase will be programmed. Once the ramp is removed traffic will utilize the local streets to get to the same destinations.

Different financial options are being explored. Ms. Wang is not certain about where the money will come from to redevelop the area once the ramp is removed. Ms. Wang confirmed the land belongs to GDOT.

Mr. Abbott opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendments to the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendments to the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) carried with one opposed.

C. Endorsement of the amendment to the FY 2013 UPWP

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that this amendment is requested to modify the FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to include the addition of a 2-phase freight study.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

There were no status reports at this time.

IV. Agency Reports

Ms. Deborah Rauers asked for an update on the US80 Bridges Study. Ms. Jane Love said the next step will be for the GDOT to finalize the concept. She clarified the particulars about the width of the two bridges and shoulders, the level of priority for this project, cost versus benefit, and safety issues. The original four-lane widening project would have a very large environmental impact (about 27 acres vs. the 6 acres in the current two-lane proposal). The four-lane project did not get to the point of having FHWA's approval of the environmental document, so no one knows for sure if FHWA would agree that future traffic demand warrants that much impact. Ms. Rauers said that this and other bridge projects, like at Skidaway Island, require a lot of money that could be spent addressing more congested areas instead.

Mr. Abbott asked about the status of the Diamond Causeway Bridge. MPO staff has not heard anything new since the project was put on hold due to beam tension issues.

V. Other Business

No other business at this time.

VI. Public Comments

There were no other public comments at this time.

VII. Announcements

Public meeting on CORE MPO re-certification on February 27, 2013 at 5:00 PM

The next CAC meeting will be on April 18, 2013 at 5:00 PM.

VIII. Other non-agenda information

Ms. Rauer asked staff how many studies are going on now. Mr. Wilkes replied that there are 10-12 going on now.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, the February 21, 2013 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner