



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

June 20, 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	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	
Patrick J. O'Brien, Jr.	City of Savannah	
Harris Odell	Chatham County	
Deborah Rauers	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	

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Michael Adams	MPO	X
Jessica Hagan	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 April 18, 2013 meeting minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2013 meeting.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2013 meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of FY 2013-2016 TIP Amendments and 2035 LRTP Addendum

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported on two amendments to the FY 2013-2016 TIP. The first one is to add \$40,000 to the Gwinnett Street project for GDOT oversight.. The second project is a bridge replacement project at Montgomery Crossroad and Casey Canal. This project was delayed. GDOT wants to re-start the project and some design revision is necessary. To do this GODT is requesting an additional \$140,000. To keep the TIP in fiscal balance the funding for the SR 204 corridor improvement project will be reduced by \$40,000. The Grange Road project has been significantly reduced due to more accurate cost figures and this reduction more than covers the \$140,000 requested for the bridge replacement redesign costs.

If changes to the project details cause the TIP to not be consistent with the 2035 LRTP, an addendum must be added to the 2035 LRTP listing the changes. Ms. Wang presented the proposed addendum. Staff recommends that the committee endorse the amendments to the FY 2013-2016 TIP and the addendum to the 2035 LRTP. Today's meeting is one of the two public meetings included in the 15-day comment period that is required whenever making amendments to the TIP.

In response to a question Ms. Wang explained that when a project begins, the estimated cost is a rough estimate. As the project proceeds more accurate costs are calculated.

This is what happened with the Grange Road project, thus freeing up funds to be used in the bridge replacement project.

Mr. Egan opened the public meeting. There being no comments from the public, he closed the public meeting.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendments to the FY 2013-2016 TIP and the addendum to the 2035 LRTP.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the amendments to the FY 2013-2016 TIP and the addendum to the 2035 LRTP carried with none opposed.

C. Resolution in support of the Department of Human Services as designated recipient of Section 5310 funds

Ms. Wang reported that FTA Section 5310 funding is to provide transportation services to the elderly and disabled population. There is also a program called New Freedom which was known as Section 5317. Due to new federal legislation the Section 5317 funds have rolled into Section 5310 and have become one program. In Georgia, the Governor has selected the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be the recipient of funds for section 5310 projects, as in the past. CAT used to be the designated recipient for Section 5317 funds, and the MPO used to manage the competitive project selection process, but now those funds will go with Section 5310 to DHS. In the past it has been difficult to coordinate with DHS. In addition to being designated by the Governor, DHS almost must have the concurrence of the local jurisdictions, in large urbanized areas such as ours, in order to receive the combined Section 5310 and 5317 funds. The MPO board is made up of representatives from local jurisdictions, so DHS is seeking concurrence from the MPO board. DHS has drafted such a resolution for the board to approve and sign.

Ms. Wang reported that GAMPO, the state-wide organization of MPO's, is meeting on June 28th and will probably discuss this issue. The need for this resolution is the first time the DHS has coordinated with the MPO and transportation issues. Committee members considered waiting for the results of the GAMPO meeting before endorsing the resolution. They asked if the state officials are aware that DHS has not coordinated much with the MPO in the past. Ms. Wang explained that in Georgia, Section 5310 funding does not require a competitive project process. She encourages coordinated services between CAT and DHS since CAT already provides some services to the elderly and disabled.

It was moved and seconded to table this decision until the August meeting to wait for the results of the June GAMPO meeting.

CAC Action: the motion to table this decision until the August meeting carried with two opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. CAT Transportation Development Plan (TDP)

Mr. Ramond Robinson from CAT presented an overview of the Transportation Development Plan (TDP). The TDP is an outline for transportation services throughout the Chatham County area. He reviewed the blueprint for the TDP and the project schedule. Presently they are at the draft document stage. He described the participants in the Advisory Review Committee and stated the purpose of the Committee. He touched on the base data analysis. He explained the peer analysis process and how CAT fit in with similar systems. An issue that needs improvement is that of headway – frequency of a bus at the same stop. He reviewed the user survey results, spheres of influence, and the impact and effect of tourism.

Mr. Robinson explained about the ease of north/south travel, but that east/west travel is difficult. What are the available east/west routes and what are the main attractions in the east/west corridor? He described four possible east/west routes that would not go downtown, plus one possible airport express route which served tourism and Pooler employment centers.

He reviewed a proposed 5-year implementation plan for fixed route service priorities. He also explained the concept of “flex route” which can utilize smaller vehicles, i.e. CAT Cub vehicles.

More technology is to be utilized in the future, as well as public/private partnerships, economic partnerships, and regional partnerships. A change of image is required to move forward. They want their services to meet the needs.

As the Regional Mobility Manager they will coordinate the core bus service, paratransit service, activity centers, specialty markets, and commuter service.

Mr. Brantley asked why we are reaching out to other counties when we don't serve all of Chatham County? Pooler and Tybee Island do not welcome CAT. How do we get them to sign on?

Discussion followed on how and why Chatham County communities should be fully served before extending to other counties, changing and improving the image of CAT, the importance of being a regional service, selection of peer groups in the TDP and how CAT was compared to them, and opportunities for specialty buses.

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 August 22, 2013 at 5:00 PM.

VIII. Other non-agenda information

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, the June 20, 2013 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner