



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

August 21, 2014

5:00 p.m.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Tony Abbott	Chatham County	x
Nicholas Allen-Tunsil	City of Savannah	x
Thomas E. Branch III	City of Savannah	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	
Phyllis Hardeman	Town of Thunderbolt	
Paula Kreissler	City of Savannah	x
Larry Longo	City of Port Wentworth	
Helen McCracken	Town of Thunderbolt	
Christopher Middleton	City of Savannah	
Larry Miles	City of Savannah	x
Harris Odell	Chatham County	
F. Ryan Sewell	City of Savannah	
Linda M. Smith	City of Port Wentworth	
Joe Steffen	Chatham County	
Dale Thorpe	Chatham County	x
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	City of Tybee Island	
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	

Others Present

Representing

Beverly Davis	RS&H	X
Jessica Hagan	MPO	X
Jo Hickson	Coastal Georgia Greenway	X
Karen Jenkins	Savannah Tree Foundation	X
Jane Love	MPO	X
Valerie Ragland	CAT	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO	X

In the absence of Chairman Mark Egan, Mr. Tony Abbott called the meeting to order. Introductions of the new members followed.

I. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the agenda as presented carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of April 17, 2014 meeting minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2014 meeting.

CAC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2014 meeting carried with none opposed.

There being no quorum at the June meeting, there were no official minutes of that meeting.

B. Endorsement of the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the staff report. This is a routine type of amendment which happens each year. The amendment is necessary in order to move the remaining \$64,251.56 in unspent FY 2014 FHWA PL formula funds from the FY 2014 UPWP to the FY 2015 UPWP so that staff can then access these funds through a supplemental contract with GDOT.

Mr. Abbott asked what the funds had been allocated to in the prior year. Mr. Wilkes said these funds will be used for the same kind of planning functions, but simply in FY 2015 instead of FY 2014.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program amendment.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program amendment carried with none opposed.

C. Endorsement of the Total Mobility Plan/2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Mr. Wilkes reported that federally funded projects must be included in the Long Range Transportation Plan, also known as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The CORE MPO's plan, known as the Total Mobility Plan goes into greater depth than is required by federal guidelines. It includes a new Thoroughfare Plan which offers more detail about facilities and serves as a potential development tool for the City and County, if they choose to use it. The federal adoption deadline is in September, so staff is seeking adoption at the August CORE MPO Board meeting.

Ms. Beverly Davis, from RS&H consultant, reported on the current status of the Total Mobility Plan. This plan builds on the 2035 Framework Mobility Plan that was adopted in 2009. It also expands the multimodal approach with coordination with the Non-motorized transportation plan, and the Thoroughfare Plan that incorporates a complete streets policy. The Plan incorporates on-going and recently completed studies, as well as policy and financial updates.

She reviewed the plan goals, the financial plan, projects that were removed because they are underway or completed, and changes that have occurred since the June update. She then presented a review of the projects listed in the Total Mobility Plan and the projects listed in the Vision Plan. The projects in the Vision Plan are unfunded projects.

Public participation activities included four public meetings, an on-line survey, a looping presentation on the local government cable TV channel, and a paper survey. She briefly described the comments that have been received so far, both specific and general suggestions for addition to the plan. They have addressed all of the comments that have been received. The final public hearing will be August 27 at the CORE MPO Board meeting. At that meeting they will ask the Board to adopt the plan. Any comments from the August 27th meeting will be added to the plan by an appendix.

Ms. Paula Kreisler expressed appreciation for the inclusion of a Thoroughfare Plan and the complete streets policy. Mr. Wilkes noted that the Thoroughfare Plan is the latest development in a series of plan improvements begun over ten years ago to promote higher quality transportation projects. Part of the dialogue that prompted this actually took place at a CAC meeting years ago.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the Total Mobility Plan.

CAC Action: the motion to endorse the Total Mobility Plan carried with none opposed.

D. Endorsement of the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the staff report. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a short-range program that covers four years and includes only a portion of the projects that are included in the Total Mobility Plan. Ms. Wang reviewed the TIP development process which includes a public comment period that is underway now. Many comments have been received and every comment will be addressed.

Ms. Wang then reviewed the project list. She listed highway and bridge projects, non-motorized projects (which included three Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects that have been awarded funding), and transit projects. She also reviewed the latest public comments received since the last report.

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

Ms. Jo Hickson, from Georgia Coastal Greenway, spoke in favor of funding and completing the Truman Linear Park Trail and the Ogeechee Canal Trail as it is an important part of the larger trail system that will run along the entire east coast of the United States. She is investigating whether federal funds are still available for this project. If funds are available she would like this project to be added to the TIP and a local match found to support the project. She asked this committee to endorse the state feasibility plan for the completion of the Georgia Coastal Greenway within the next five years, subject to federal funds still being available. Even if no funds are available at this time, that this trail be made a priority. She outlined the route of the greenway as it runs through Chatham County. She asked for a motion from this board for action on this project.

Ms. Hickson confirmed that the costs need to be updated, but she estimates ten million dollars. She reported that these trails tend to pay for themselves in the first five years.

Ms. Wang reported that at this time the status of the S&O Canal Trail project is unknown. GDOT is not pursuing it and Chatham County is not sponsoring it. Staff was unable to locate the project ID number in GDOT's system. A project sponsor is needed before the MPO can consider adding it to the TIP.

When asked about the inclusion of the Truman Linear Park Trail, Ms. Wang confirmed that this project is in the TIP.

There being no other comments, Mr. Abbott closed the public hearing.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

CAC action: the motion to endorse the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program carried with none opposed.

E. Nominations for CAC Chairperson

Mr. Abbott opened the meeting for nominations for CAC Chairperson for the next year. Mr. Mark Egan and Dr. Daniel Brantley were nominated. It was moved and seconded to close nominations.

CAC action: the motion to close nominations carried with none opposed.

F. Election of CAC Chairperson

CAC action: Mr. Abbott called for a vote. Mr. Mark Egan was elected with 6 votes.

G. Nominations for CAC Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Abbott opened the meeting for nominations for CAC Vice Chairperson for the next year. Mr. Bob Tully was nominated. It was moved and seconded to close nominations.

CAC action: the motion to close nominations carried with none opposed.

H. Election of CAC Vice-Chairperson

CAC action: Mr. Bob Tully was elected by acclamation.

III. Status Reports

A. Non-motorized Transportation Plan

Ms. Jane Love presented this status report on the development of this bicycle and pedestrian plan. It will replace the current MPO Bikeway Plan developed in 2000 and include pedestrian projects. She reviewed the steps already completed in the development process.

Ms. Love reviewed the project list and the ranking criteria. This plan looks at stand-alone projects in situations where a larger, thoroughfare plan project may not occur for some time.

The next steps are to complete the draft plan, conduct public meetings and address public comments, and then request adoption of the plan at the October meeting.

Ms. Kreisler asked what the map was showing for a connection of the Truman Linear Park Trail north of Henry St. Ms. Love said that part of a future northern extension of the Truman Trail could possibly consist of a conversion of the westernmost lane of Bee Rd into a two-way cycle track, as there seems to be excess automobile capacity on that segment.

Mr. Abbott questioned how that would work at the intersection with Henry St. Ms. Love confirmed there would have to be adequate controls for all users. There are certain intersection treatments that go along with those kinds of projects. Examples exist in other cities.

Dr. Brantley stated that the plan seems to be mostly a bike plan. Ms. Love pointed out the proposed sidewalks on the map. Dr. Brantley asked what other pedestrian projects can be created other than sidewalks. Ms. Love noted that crosswalks would be part of the proposed projects when a sidewalk is constructed along more than one block. Also, any shared use paths in the bikeway plan would be used by pedestrians. Ms. Love acknowledged there are more bikeway projects, and that is partly because of the MPO's longer history of bikeway plans compared to pedestrian plans. More pedestrian projects will likely be added to the plan in the future. There are other pedestrian improvements, such as pedestrian signals, that are relatively small enough in scale and cost that they should be covered with local funds, and those don't have to be in this plan. Projects in this plan are eligible for federal funding. But if you can fund it locally, it is quicker and easier. Ms. Love summarized that there are multiple ways pedestrian improvements may be made: Local governments may build them with local money regardless of whether they're in this plan; they may build ones in this plan with partly federal money; or pedestrian improvements may occur as part of larger, roadway thoroughfare projects.

IV. Agency Reports

No reports at this time.

V. Other Business

VI. Public Comments

There were no other public comments at this time.

VII. Announcements

There will be a Park & Ride Lot Study final stakeholder meeting Aug 27th at 2:00 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be on October 16, 2014 at 5:00 PM.

VIII. Other non-agenda information

Mr. Tully asked if there was any more information on the reorganization of this committee. Ms. Wang reported that it is part of the overall reapportionment of the CORE MPO Board.

A discussion followed on the progress made regarding this reapportionment. Arrangements are not finalized. The first step is to reapportion the CORE MPO Board; reorganization of advisory committees, such as CAC, will follow.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, the August 21, 2014 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner