



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

June 19, 2014

5:00 p.m.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Tony Abbott	Chatham County	
Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	x
John Chapman	City of Savannah	
Gerald Cook	City of Bloomingdale	
Philip Cooper	Chatham County	
Mark Egan	Chatham County	
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	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	
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	Town of Vernonburg	
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Beverly Davis	RS&H	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

There was no quorum. Those in attendance decided to hear all staff presentations and status reports though no votes would be taken. Chairman Mark Egan was absent. Larry Miles was voted to chair this meeting.

I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was not voted on, but it was agreed to proceed with presentations.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of April 17, 2014 meeting minutes

CAC Action: since there was no quorum the minutes of the April 17, 2014 meeting were not voted upon for approval.

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

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the amendment request for the FY 2015 UPWP submitted by CAT for two programs with costs of \$29,000 and \$45,000. Staff is not requesting an increase in the overall budget. They are going to reduce other projects and redirect existing resources to transit planning.

CAC Action: since there was no quorum no vote was taken to endorse this amendment.

C. Highway Functional Classification Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the staff report. Every ten years we have the opportunity to update our highway classifications. The first step in this process is to define the "urbanized area". This has been done. All the roads within the urbanized area are considered "urban" and all roads outside of the defined urbanized area are considered "rural". Staff will submit their recommendations for highway classification to GDOT by August 15, 2014.

Ms. Wang explained why highway classification is important. There are three roadway types: Arterial, Collector, and Local. How a roadway is classified determines speed limits, advertising allowed, federal and state funding. Local streets are not eligible for federal or state funding (unless for bicycle or pedestrian projects); all arterials and collectors are eligible. She reviewed a chart that shows the different sub-categories of roadways within each of the three major categories and the characteristics that define each.

Ms. Wang noted that GDOT has made their recommendations and now MPO staff is reviewing those recommendations and offering other recommendations. She reviewed a list of recommendations, road by road, and why they were making such recommendation for each roadway. Some were downgraded and some were upgraded.

Staff needs to prepare a Reclassification Justification Sheet for each roadway recommended change. Upon approval each sheet must be signed by the MPO Board and by a city/county official impacted by each roadway.

CAC Action: since there was no quorum no vote was taken to endorse these recommendations.

III. Status Reports

A. Total Mobility Plan/2040 LRTP Status Report

Mr. Wilkes summarized where the plan development currently stands. The draft project list is out and draft summaries will be available soon. Final approvals will be coming in August. Public meetings will be held during the summer.

Ms. Beverly Davis reported on the progress of their work. Adoption is due in September at the latest. The final draft of the plan and public comment period are the two remaining sections to be completed. The public meeting schedule is being set now for late in July. There will also be an online survey. Ms. Davis summarized the financial analysis and how the plan addressed the initial financial shortfall. She itemized each project noting if the project was moved forward or moved back to different cost bands. Some projects were not changed. Projects with alternative funding are progressing.

The next step is the public comment period which will run for 60 days. Public meetings are being scheduled.

Ms. Davis explained that the vision plan referred to unfunded projects.

B. Park and Ride Lot Study

Ms. Wang presented the staff report. The objective of this study is to have a comprehensive evaluation so that a park and ride system can be established to encourage people to carpool and/or use mass transit. The study includes five Georgia counties and two South Carolina counties – Chatham, Effingham, Byran, Liberty, Bullock, Jasper & Beaufort. While Chatham County has the largest population, Effingham and Bryan

Counties have the highest population growth rates. About two thirds of the residents of Effingham and Bryan counties leave those counties for work. This study has identified three major corridors for park and ride lots:

- SR21 Corridor
- US 80 & I-16 Corridor
- US 17 & I-95 Corridor

These three corridors include 17 potential lot locations. The sites were evaluated for site suitability, travel demand, and stakeholder input. Based on this process the number of sites was reduced to eight potential sites as follows:

- two existing lots and one recommended site along the SR 21 corridor
- one existing lot and one recommended lot along the US 80 & I-16 corridor
- three recommended lots and an existing lot phased out along the US 17 & I-95 corridor

Ms. Wang identified each specific site. Each site would be connected to transit service which would serve the major employment centers of downtown Savannah and Gulfstream. She then outlined a potential transit schedule for each corridor.

Ms. Wang reported on the estimated operation and maintenance costs. Fare box recovery would not cover all the costs, therefore a subsidy would be needed to start up the service.

Another issue to consider is the development and maintenance of the lots. To encourage public use, the lots need to be maintained. There are several options for development of park and ride lots such as use of existing lots, building new lots on public land, lease space from private owner. She also presented estimated development costs.

She highlighted the possible funding sources from federal, state and local agencies.

Questions still to be resolved include:

- Who will manage the lots?
- Who will own the lots?
- Who will maintain the lots?

She expects a public meeting will be held in the afternoon of the CORE MPO Board meeting on August 27th and then they will wrap up the study. It has not yet been presented to the CAT Board but will probably be presented later in July.

When asked about serving the two counties in South Carolina, Ms. Wang replied that they may utilize the lot near I-95 & SR21.

When asked about CAT's reaction to extending this service to other counties, Ms. Wang explained that even though CAT is currently restricted in its transit service area, CAT

continues to explore expansion opportunities. CAT is very involved in all aspects of this study. While federal funding from FTA is restricted, other funding sources are not.

Ms. Wang emphasized that any implementation would start with just one lot.

When asked what the projection period for maintenance costs was, Ms. Wang replied that the cost estimates were annual.

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

The next CAC meeting will be on August 21, 2014 at 5:00 PM.

VIII. Other non-agenda information

IX. Adjournment

As there had been no quorum, there was no need to adjourn a meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner