



CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

Virtual Meeting
December 3, 2020 at 5:30pm

DECEMBER 3, 2020 CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Anthony Abbott	Chatham County	
Dr. Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	X
Christopher Middleton	Savannah	X
Brent Buice	Savannah	X
Deborah Siege-Bowen	Savannah	
Vacant	Garden City	
Brett Bennett	Effingham County	
Vacant	Port Wentworth	
Vacant	Richmond Hill	
Vacant	Pooler	
Bill Grainger	Bloomingdale	X
Molly Sims	Thunderbolt	X
Vacant	Tybee Island	
Vacant	Vernonburg	
Vacant	Chatham County	
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Megan Dulamal	Public	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Brent Buice motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Bill Grainger. The agenda was approved with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. [Approval of the October 15, 2020 CORE MPO CAC meeting minutes.](#)

📎 [october-15-2020-core-mpo-citizens-advisory-committee-cac-FINAL.pdf](#)

Mr. Brent Buice motioned to approve the October 15, 2020 CORE MPO CAC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Chris Middleton. The motion passed with none opposed.

[2. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Adoption](#)

[Revised Draft FY 2021 - 2024 TIP.pdf](#)

[FY 2021-2024 TIP Adoption.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the Draft FY 2021- 2024 TIP. The TIP is the short-range programming document of the MPO. It is a subset of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. It includes four years of program for fiscal years 2021-2024. The TIP includes Highway projects, Transit projects, Bike and Pedestrian projects and Trail projects. It has been cooperatively developed by the MPO, GDOT, CAT and other member agencies and committees. The Call for Projects process has been conducted for the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds, for the STBG Urban Attributable (Z230) funds and the Transportation Alternatives (Z301) funds. Evaluations with the rankings were done and presented in August of 2020. The funds were allocated to the projects, and the preliminary draft TIP was completed for Federal Highway, Federal Transit and GDOT review. Their comments are included in Appendix D of the revised draft. There is a 30-day comment period for the revised draft TIP with 2 public hearings. One is tonight with the next one being next Wednesday with the CORE MPO Board. The TIP then can be adopted on December 9, 2020. All the TIP projects will contribute to the performance targets. These include:

- Safety
- Pavement and Bridge
- Congestion
- Freight
- Air Quality
- Transit Safety
- Transit Asset Management

The safety targets were adopted at the last meeting. The pavement and bridge conditions and performance targets were adopted in August 2018.

- For Safety, we want to make sure the number of fatalities, the number of serious injuries, total number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries are kept below the target.
- For Pavement and Bridges condition, we want to make sure the percent of interstate pavements are in good condition and maintained at a good percentage. We want to make sure the percentage of non-interstate national highway system is in good pavement along with the percent of national highway system bridges are of a higher percentage in good condition (ex: 60% of bridges in good condition).
- For Freight movement and congestion management, we want to make sure the truck travels are reliable.
- The transit asset management targets are measured by a state of good repair. We have the rolling stock equipment which include buses, mini vans, school buses, ferry boats and paratransit services. For example, we want to make sure 85% of the buses running in this region are in state of good repair. For the ferry boats, we want to make sure 100% of the ferry boats are in state of good repair. The equipment would include automobiles, trucks and other rubber tire vehicles as well as their maintenance. We want to make sure the facilities (including admin/maintenance facility as well as the facilities for passenger and parking such as bus stops) are in state of good repair.

The projects programmed in the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP will help contribute to multiple performance targets.

- Project DeRenne will improve safety, relieve congestion, and promote freight movement.
- Savannah River and Middle River Bridges replacements will improve Bridge and Pavement targets, promote freight movement, and improve safety.
- US 17 widening is ongoing, it will improve safety, bridge, and freight movement.
- Effingham Parkway will provide relief with congestion on SR 21.
- Brampton Road Connector was designed as a freight corridor. This will improve freight movement and reduce freight congestion in the port area.
- I-16 Widening and I-16 at I-95 Interchange Reconstruction will improve the safety in the area. I-16 Widening will increase the capacity which will relieve congestion and promote freight movement. The interchange reconstruction will improve the Bridge condition as well.
- Ogeechee Road widening from I-516 to Victory Drive including bicycle and pedestrian accommodations will promote safety for both motorized and non-motorized people. It will relieve congestion and promote freight movement.

- The US 80 Bridges Replacement at Bull River and Lazaretto Creek as well as the segment in between will improve the bridge conditions. With the wider shoulders, this will reduce congestion and provide safety for both motorized and non-motorized people.
- I-16 Interchange at Little Neck Road will be connecting the Jimmy Deloach extension which will allow freight movement to travel smoothly, improve congestion and improve safety.
- City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center will include signal coordination and signal preemption which will improve safety and improve air quality as well. The transit buses will benefit from the signal coordination.
- There are highway funds that will be flexed to FTA to help CAT with their electric bus purchase. The electric bus will improve air quality, transit asset management and transit safety.
- Old River Widening is a joint project between Chatham County and Effingham County. Most of the warehouse and industrial development are in one tract in Effingham County. This is industrial area with warehouses. This highway project will improve freight development, improve safety, and increase capacity.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B project, Chatham County's Chevis Road Improvement project and Gerrard Avenue Improvement Project include trails, bikeways, bike paths and pedestrian sidewalks. These will improve non-motorized safety and improve air quality.
- I-95 ITS project overall will improve safety, bridge congestion, freight, and air quality.
- The state lump sum projects will have improvements, resurfacing, interchange, and intersection movements. The federal lump sum projects will improve maintenance, safety, grade separation, and rail crossing devices will all improve safety performance measures, improve air quality, relieve congestion, and facilitate freight movement.
- CAT has buses operations, ITS, passengers, water ferry programed with the Section 5307, 5337, 5339 funds. GDOT has Section 5310 program and the rural transit operation for the CRC. Those projects will contribute to transit safety and transit asset management.

The total investment of these projects is approximately \$572 million. 90% of that will be for highway with a total investment of approximately \$516 million. Transit is 10% of total investments with the cost estimate approximately at \$57 million. Each of these projects addresses multiple performance measures. Overall, the TIP will contribute to achieving the performance targets and facilitate economic development of this region.

For the public comment period, we have already received and incorporated the comments from FHWA, FTA and GDOT. Those comments and the MPO's responses are included in Appendix D of the revised draft TIP that is available for review on the MPO website. The review and comment period ends today. However, the comments can be taken in up until Tuesday or Wednesday and be incorporated. We received some additional comments from GDOT today and will incorporate them into the final TIP.

There were two public hearings advertised, today being one, and the second one being Wednesday.

The public hearing was opened. There were no public comments. The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Chris Middleton motioned to accept the endorsement of the FY 2021- 2024 TIP; seconded by Mr. Bill Grainger. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

[3. FY 2021 Federal Certification Review](#)

- [2020-December MPO Cert Presentation.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the FY 2021 Federal Certification Review. MPOs larger than 200,000 in population undergo certification reviews with FTA and FHWA every four years. Our last one was completed in March of 2017. The current one is due in March of 2021. This is about a 6-month process from beginning to end. The process starts with a desk audit. This past September we began submitting all the planning documents to the Federal Highway Administration. They are currently working on the desk audit. We are completing an extensive questionnaire. This will be submitted on Monday. This will complete the submittals for the desk audit. In January there will be a virtual site-visit. This usually takes 2-3 days. There will be interviews with staff, listening sessions for MPO board members and other MPO constituents to get their feedback on how the process is working. There will be a closeout interview that will have their initial impressions. FHWA/FTA will then write up the final report to issue by March 31, 2021. Due to the pandemic, the site visit will be a series of virtual meetings held for the staff, MPO Board, and MPO committees. There will be a public meeting at the end of the first day, January 19, 2021. The site visit is scheduled to take place on January 19-21, 2021. There will be notifications sent out via email, newspaper ads, and posted on website encouraging the public (including the CAC members) to sign up for the

public meeting. This will give the public the opportunity to provide the federal reviewers feedback about the CORE MPO's planning process. This process takes place every four years, and this will be the fifth time that Wykoda and Mark have been through this process here at the MPO.

There were a couple of constructive things that came out of the last certification review, one of which was the Calls for Projects that we have been doing since that time. We do Calls for Studies as well. These were nothing new, but they were new to this MPO. The fact that they came out of a certification recommendation helped give the MPO staff the backing to implement them. Sometimes it is difficult to get people who want or need to advance projects to cooperate by participating in a structured planning process.

For the last certification review, the reviewers were here for a week. The site visit closed out on May 23rd, and we later were given 20 action items and two potential corrective actions. The following November FHWA/FTA issued a follow up letter. There were 7 noteworthy practices and 22 recommendations, the issues of the corrective action items having been addressed prior to November. With those items being addressed, they then were removed. There were no conditions on the certification that was issued in March. We are looking forward to a good outcome.

[4. Participation and Title VI Plan update progress](#)

[PartPlanTitleVI_Update.pdf](#)

[PartPlan_PresentationPDF.pdf](#)

[PartPlanTitleVI_Update.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan update. The Participation Plan refers to how we want to conduct public outreach. COVID-19 necessitated this update, with meeting in person no longer an option. The Title VI Plan refers to ensuring the MPO promotes equality, ensuring non-discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnic/ race, disability, age group or any other type of group, and ensuring that all groups are well represented within the CORE MPO.

The first draft of the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan are done. They were sent to the federal and state governments for review and comments. Some of those comments are coming in now. We are currently incorporating those comments into the revised plans. The updated plans are on schedule to be adopted in February. At the last meeting, we talked about what types of outreach methods were added. There is a copy of the Participation Plan on the agenda. For the measures of effectiveness, we found out meeting attendance has increased for most of the committee meetings except for the CAC.

There is a short demographic survey we are asking everyone to take. The link is on the MPC website. This survey is necessary for the Title VI Plan. It helps to ensure that all groups of people are represented within the CORE MPO. This helps the staff to see who is attending these meetings as well.

Dr. Brantley expressed concern about the attendance being down with CAC. He was asking for clarification - did this mean Board members or public or both. Ms. Hernton stated the number the staff were collecting is attendance in general. Ms. Wang stated there are a lot of vacancies on the CAC. Some of the members who represented their jurisdictions in the past have moved so they can no longer hold those seats. These vacancies need to be filled. Dr. Brantley mentioned there being 10 open/vacant voting seats. There are 15 voting seats in total. Ms. Wang thanked Mr. Bill Granger from Bloomingdale for joining the CAC. This is the first time Bloomingdale has assigned a CAC member. Thunderbolt has not participated for a long time. Ms. Molly Sims is stepping in since the Town Administrator resigned. She is stepping in for both TCC and CAC. Garden City, Port Wentworth, Tybee Island, and Richmond Hill are not attending. We need to contact the agencies and encourage them to appoint a representative who will attend the meetings. The virtual meetings should be helpful since there is no travel involved. Ms. Alicia Hunter will be working closely with the CAC. She will draft a letter to the appointing agencies asking them to fill the vacancies.

Dr. Brantley expressed concern about attendance from members of the public. He feels a public meeting place would be more encouraging for them to participate. Ms. Wangs stated the CAC will be working on specific tasks which will get more attention from the public. Currently they are going through all the agenda items that go through all the committees. Dr Brantley asked the other CAC members of their thoughts on focusing on specific items to attract more public involvement. Mr. Chris Middleton stated this is a very good idea.

IV. Agency Reports

Ms. Wang stated the agency reports are listed below. They can be accessed on the agenda. If anyone has questions on any of those specific projects, please let the MPO staff know.

V. Other Business

None

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No Public Comments

VII. Announcements

[5. Next CAC Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[6. Feedback Needed on Update to Comprehensive Plans for Chatham, Garden City, Pooler and Savannah](#)

📎 [OutreachPoster.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang stated the MPC is currently developing the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. They have posted a survey link on the MPC website. You can take the survey online or in person at the MPC.

[7. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

📎 [GDOT Report - Dec 2020_final.pdf](#)

[8. Chatham County Project Status Report](#)

📎 [December 2020 TCC Report - Chatham County.pdf](#)

[9. City of Savannah Project Status Update](#)

📎 [City of Savannah Project Status Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang Stated the City of Savannah provided the status on three projects.

- The top one is Truman Linear Trail Phase 2B. This was mentioned in the TIP. There is construction programmed in the TIP. Currently the City of Savannah is waiting for the final GDOT review and approval for their cultural resource assessments. Once they get that back they will submit the final categorical exclusion report for final approval. Then they can complete the environmental process and start to acquire ROW. The next step would be construction. They are waiting for GDOT to provide comments on the ROW plans.
- The City of Savannah held a public information open house for project DeRenne in November. They are addressing the comments now. They are still developing the final plans.
- For the Delesseps Avenue widening project, the construction funds have been authorized. The City has advertised for the BID. This project will be LET soon. Construction will start early next year.

[10. CAT Project Status Report](#)

📎 [FY21 Status Report 2020_12-CAT.pdf](#)

- Ms. Wang stated CAT is in the process of purchasing several electric buses. They are already ordered. They should be seen next year.
- CAT is doing the RFP for the facilities rehab. The RFP closing date is December 17th.
- Transit ITS projects contract has been awarded.
- Ferry Boat maintenance and facility ferry docks are going through the environmental process. Currently this is in section 106 review.
- Ferry Boat rehabilitation is going through the A and E process.
- Support vehicles are in the process of doing the contract award.
- Bus Station stops and terminal improvements are in progress. For COVID 19 they installed operator barriers for the safety of the driver and passengers.

Dr. Brantley asked why CAT did not charge any fee for a period. Ms. Wang stated this was due to COVID-19 because the back-door loading prevented the interactions between drivers and passengers, thus helping to prevent the spread of COVID. CAT has installed barriers now to help protect the drivers and passenger and

prevent the spread of COVID-19 by limiting direct interactions. Revenue is down since the ridership has been limited for social distancing.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the December 3, 2020 meeting of the CORE MPO CAC was adjourned.

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.