



CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

April 14, 2021 @ 10:15am
Special Called Virtual Meeting
Draft FY 2022 UPWP Comments

APRIL 14, 2021 CORE MPO SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Anthony Abbot	Chatham County	X
Dr. Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	X
Vacant	Chatham County	
Eric Curl	Savannah / CAT	X
Vacant	Savannah	
Vacant	Garden City	
Brett Bennett	Effingham County	
Vacant	Port Wentworth	
Vacant	Richmond Hill	
Armand Turner	Pooler	X
Bill Grainger	Bloomington	
Mayor Beth Goette	Thunderbolt	X
Vacant	Tybee Island	
Vacant	Vernonburg	
Others	Representing	Present
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO / MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO / MPC	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO	X

I. Approval of Agenda

This is a special called meeting to review and discuss any comments concerning the draft FY 2022 UPWP.

Dr. Daniel Brantley motioned to approve the agenda. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Review and Discussion of Draft FY 2022 UPWP](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the Draft FY 2022 UPWP for review and discussion. Mr. Wilkes stated while this is an action item that is being presented, the MPO is not asking the committee to take a position on the document that is being presented; we are asking for comments and/or questions within the next week to two (2) weeks.

The Unified Planning Work Program is the MPO's staff work program and budget for the upcoming fiscal year that begins on July 1st. This document includes details of the staff budget and work projects that the MPO will be carrying out in support of the federally mandated 3-C (continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive) transportation planning process. It details the funding, the staff work, and the budget allocations among the different staff work projects.

There are two federal planning grants that come to the MPO each year by formula allocation through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) - the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) PL Grant and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Grant, and both grants require a 20% local match that is covered by MPO membership dues. This also includes the opportunity to use in-kind match, where committee members get credit for their jurisdictions based on the amount of time they spend in the MPO meetings and participating with things associated with that. The GDOT match still exists in partial form for the FTA Section 5303 Grant - they pick up half of the local match (10%) and the MPO pays the other half (10%). The funds in the formula grants can only be used for planning. Any funds not spent by the end of the year are forfeited. There is no roll over from one year to another.

The proposed FY 2022 Formula Planning (PL) funds total \$628,420. This includes Formula PL Grant of \$360,143 (Federal portion) and Federal FTA 5303 Grant of \$142,593. The state will pick up half of the Section 5303 match at \$17,824 and the MPO will pick up \$17,824.

The Discretionary PL funds are what becomes of unspent Formula Funds. The forfeited money is combined with unspent Formula Funds from other Georgia MPOs outside of Atlanta. This is pooled at the state level and the money becomes available twice a year through a competitive selection process. Currently the balance is about \$4 million and only about \$1 million of that can be used for studies other than long range plan updates. The prioritization criteria that were set up for this money favors required MPO planning products and the long-range plan is the most important of those.

Awards statewide have included a wide range of non-required plans and studies. Applications are screened by GDOT and Federal Highway Administration staff as well as the PL Funds Review Committee. Awards are approved by the Georgia PL Funds review committee. Each MPO has one (1) voting membership on that committee. A 20% local match is required and provided by the project sponsor.

There is a smaller portion of Discretionary Section 5303 Grants that can be applied for on an annual basis. Plans and studies for this money must be in the MPO's UPWP. Those applications must be submitted by MPOs in December of each year and are reviewed by GDOT staff.

CORE MPO has received several awards. The awards the MPO recently have received for discretionary funding are:

- FY 2018
 - I-16/Little Neck Interchange Study
 - I-95/Airways Avenue Interchange Study
- FY 2020
 - Chatham Area Transit, (\$27,000) for purchase of software tools and data. There will be a similar request made in FY 2023.
- FY 2021
 - SR 21 Access Management Study sponsored by Garden City
 - SR 307 Corridor Study sponsored by Chatham County

In October of 2020, the MPO issued a Call for Plans and Studies. The Call for Plans and Studies focused on the discretionary funds that are available in support of the member jurisdictions' planning priorities.

The FY 2022 planning tasks were reviewed by the CORE MPO Board and Advisory Committees in October 2020. The FTA Section 5303 Grant Application was made in December 2020. The MPO staff developed the draft work program document between December 2020 and January 2021. The draft UPWP was submitted to GDOT and Federal Highway Administration for review and comment on January 8, 2021. The draft was originally submitted for the February CORE MPO agendas. After substantial comments were received from Federal Highway Administration, the

document was continued for redevelopment. The document will go back to the MPO later in April. The revised draft of the UPWP was published on the MPO website for review and comment on April 2nd. The MPO staff is projecting after the endorsement and adoption from the committees and board, the Federal Highway Administration approval process will take place prior to June 30th, 2021.

Priorities in the UPWP:

- 2050 MTP update
- Congestion Management Process update
- MPO Freight Plan update
- SR 21 Access Management Study
- SR 307 Corridor Study
- Respond to recommendations from the Federal Certification Review
- Census 2020 Urban Area planning area boundary

The work program has five (5) major work categories:

1. Administration – Day to day operations of the MPO and oversight of the planning studies, hosting meetings, training and development for staff, equipment and supplies, administering contracts and grants, development and maintenance of the UPWP and the Participation Plan.
2. Public Involvement – Community outreach and education, environmental justice, and Title VI planning.
3. Data Collection/ Analysis/ Forecasting – Congestion Management Process and ITS operations, livability and transportation alternatives, freight planning, intermodal planning, MTP and the Transportation Improvement Program.
4. Transit Planning – This section is funded by a separate grant having its own program and administrative support and subtasks such as long range planning, short range planning, Transportation Improvement Program as pertains to transit projects and MTP.
5. Special Studies – This is funded with discretionary planning money. Every fall the MPO staff issues a Call for Plans and Studies. The SR 21 Access Management Study and the SR 307 Corridor Study have kicked off this month. The MPO works with its members in helping them get funding for qualified studies. The following studies have been identified in the FY 2022 UPWP.
 - Chatham County has proposed a SR 204 Study between King George Blvd and US 17, Islands Expressway Study between Truman Parkway and US 80, and the Old River Road Operational and Capacity Improvements.
 - The MPO staff itself has proposed the purchase of transportation data and analytical tools.
 - The MPO staff has been asked by GDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to update the Freight Transportation Plan. There MPO staff will potentially be proposing a transportation study that will be consultant led. The staff will begin scoping studies with the EDFAC and TCC Advisory Committees to determine if additional support is needed to develop the Freight Transportation Plan.
 - The MPO staff is proposing a Sea Level Rise Study, which is an additional step beyond the current study the County has been doing.
 - The SR 21 Access Management and SR 307 Corridor special studies have been requested to be shown in the FY 2022 UPWP, but the funding is from FY 2021.

The MPO staff is asking the committee for any comments, requests, or concerns. Comments can be emailed or called in anytime within the next two (2) weeks as well. The MPO staff will be asking for endorsement at the next committee meeting.

Dr. Daniel Brantley opened the meeting to anyone in the public for any comments.

Mr. Armond Turner stated he has reviewed the document over the last two (2) days and will share with his team at Healthy Savannah but currently has no comments.

Mr. Tony Abbott with Chatham County stated he had no comments.

No public comments received.

Dr. Daniel Brantley closed the public hearing and adjourned the special called CAC meeting.

III. Status Reports

IV. Agency Reports

V. Other Business

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

VII. Notices

VIII. Adjournment

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.