



CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

Virtual Meeting
April 22, 2021 at 5:30pm

April 22, 2021 CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Anthony Abbot	Chatham County	X
Dr. Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	X
Vacant	Chatham County	
Eric Curl	Savannah	X
Vacant	Savannah	
Vacant	Garden City	
Brett Bennett	Effingham County	
Vacant	Port Wentworth	
Vacant	Richmond Hill	
Armand Turner	Pooler	X
Bill Grainger	Bloomingdale	
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

Mr. Eric Curl motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Armond Turner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

1. [Approval of the February 18, 2021 CORE MPO CAC meeting minutes.](#)

Mr. Eric Curl motioned to approve the February 18, 2021 CORE MPO CAC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Armond Turner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

2. [Amendment to FY 2021 UPWP](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated this amendment to the FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is to move the SR 307 Corridor Study from the unfunded special studies section to the funded portion of the UPWP. The MPO

was able to secure the funding with GDOT earlier this year and is ready to kick off the study. The MPO staff is asking the CAC committee to endorse the amendment to the FY 2021 UPWP to the CORE MPO Board for adoption.

Mayor Beth Goette motioned to endorse the amendment to the FY 2021 UPWP; seconded by Mr. Eric Curl. The motion passed with non-opposed.

3. Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Draft FY 2022 UPWP details the proposed budget and work projects the CORE MPO staff will undertake in support of the federally mandated 3-C transportation planning process. The document covers funding, staff work and budget for the six major tasks.

The CORE MPO staff activities are supported by primarily two federal planning grants - the FHWA PL grant and the FTA Section 5303 Planning grant. Both grants require a 20% local match. The MPO membership dues make up most of the local match. GDOT has provided half of the local match for the FTA Section 5303 grant. These funds can only be used for planning. Any funds that are not used each year are forfeited. The total proposed funding for FY 2022 is \$628,428, of which approximately \$450,000 come from FHWA PL grant and \$178,000 come from the FTA Section 5303 grant.

Discretionary PL funds is another funding option. GDOT pools the left-over funds at the statewide level, which includes all the MPOs in Georgia except for Atlanta. There is currently a balance of approximately \$4 million. GDOT tries to reserve approximately \$3 million of that for transportation plan updates. There is a competitive selection process to go after the discretionary funds. The plans and the studies must be in the MPO's UPWP. The prioritization criteria for the discretionary funds largely favor the MPO required planning products. Applications for the funding are screened by GDOT and the Federal Highway Administration staff as well as the PL Funds Review Committee. This money also requires a 20% local match. There is a smaller section of discretionary FTA Section 5303 funds that are available each year.

Discretionary funds recently received by CORE MPO are:

- FY 2018 – I-16/Little Neck Road Interchange Study and I-95 Airways Avenue Interchange Study.
- FY 2020 – Section 5303 funds used to help CAT buy transit planning software and data.
- FY 2021 – SR 21 Access Management Study in Garden City and SR 307 Corridor study.

The development process for the FY 2022 UPWP began back in October 2020 with a Call for Plans and Studies. The proposed transit planning tasks were reviewed by the MPO Committees and Board in October as well. In December of 2020, the MPO worked with GDOT to apply for the FTA Section 5303 grant. The draft UPWP was submitted to the Committees and Board for review and comment back in February 2021. Once the document is adopted by the MPO Board, it will be sent back to the Federal Highway Administration and GDOT for approval by June 30th, 2021. This would enable the MPO to execute the FY 2022 funding contracts with GDOT.

Staff work priorities for FY 2022:

- Kick off an update to the 2050 MTP.
- Update the Congestion Management Process.
- Kick off update to the MPO's Freight Transportation Plan.
- SR 21 Access Management Study
- SR 307 Corridor Study
- Work on addressing the Federal Certification Review Recommendations.
- 2020 Census Urban Area Delineation

There are 6 major tasks in the UPWP – Administration; Public Involvement; Data Collection, Analysis and Forecasting; Systems Planning and Operations; Transit Planning; and Special Studies (both funded and unfunded).

The budget summary shows both the SR 307 Corridor Study and the SR 21 Access Management Study in the FY 2022 UPWP at the request of the Federal Highway Administration, but the funds are from FY 2021 funds. The total budget is just over \$1 million. A regular formula funded year would be about \$628,000 without special studies.

The draft FY 2022 UPWP initially appeared on the Agenda in February, but it was decided after receiving substantial comments from FHWA to put the UPWP back under development. This allowed the MPO staff adequately address the comments and concerns before asking for board action. There were additional comments

received on April 9th. The MPO staff has released an updated draft on the MPO website. There is still time if there are any comments from the committee today to address those.

The MPO staff will ask the CORE MPO Board to adopt the draft FY 2022 UPWP on April 28th, 2021. The document will then be sent to the Federal Highway Administration for approval with anticipation of approval prior to June 30th, 2021 so the MPO can execute the funding contracts and continue to carry out the transportation planning process.

Mr. Tony Abbott motioned to endorse the Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program; seconded by Mr. Armond Turner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

4. 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments started in December 2020. The City of Pooler requested 2 projects to be included in the Vision Plan - Pine Barren Road Improvements and South Roger Street Improvements. If any projects want to receive federal funding, they need to be included in the fiscally constrained Long Range Transportation Plan and moved into the TIP. The first step is moving the project into the Vision Plan. Chatham County could possibly do a TSPLOST which is why Pooler is trying to align the projects for TSPLOST. The MPO Board authorized staff to collect a full comprehensive project list from all municipalities. These projects must be in the CORE MPO Planning boundary and must be in the collectors and above for functional classification. They also must need federal funds. If they are local streets, they are not eligible. These projects might not be pursued until a later time if there is no TSPLOST funds available.

Based on the current project list, these are the projects that will be considered for 2045 MTP Vision Plan amendments.

- Bloomingdale – no eligible projects submitted.
- Garden City – Telfair Road Improvements and Old Louisville Road Improvements.
- Pooler – Pooler Parkway Widening, Quacco Road Improvements, South Roger Street improvement, Pine Barren Road Improvements, and Old Louisville Road
- Port Wentworth – Gulfstream Road Widening
- City of Savannah – Montgomery Cross Road Bridge/ Casey Canal and Skidaway Road Widening
- Thunderbolt – No eligible projects submitted.
- Tybee Island – No eligible projects submitted.
- Vernonburg – No eligible projects submitted.
- Chatham County – Quacco Road Bridge Replacement over I-95, Little Neck Road Bridge Replacement over I-95, John Carter Road Improvements, Truman Parkway improvements and Islands Expressway

We are still in the comment period. If there are any comments, there is still time to address them. The MPO staff is presenting to the Citizens Advisory Committee today for endorsement of the proposed projects to be amended into the 2045 MTP Vision Plan subject to the changes and additional project information provided by the project sponsors.

Mr. Eric Curl asked for details on the Truman Parkway Improvements. Ms. Wang stated the staff was trying to get more details from Chatham County on the project. The staff is still trying to obtain details on several of these projects. Mr. Tony Abbott asked about the Quacco Widening (\$15 million) - is that what is currently being undertaken now, from highway 17 to I-95? Ms. Wang stated the MPO staff needs more answers. If this project is already being funded with local funds, it would not need to be included in the Vision Plan. Mr. Abbott also asked about the Quacco Road bridge replacement over I-95 (\$32 million). Ms. Wang stated this was another project the MPO staff needs more details on.

Mr. Tony Abbott motioned to endorse the 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments; seconded by Mr. Eric Curl. The motion passed with non-opposed.

5. Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets (2021)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the FTA established transit safety performance measures and ruled that certain transit agencies and MPOs must set transit safety performance targets for the performance measures that the FTA established. Recipients or subrecipients of FTA grant funding must follow these requirements. Transit agencies are required to set their transit safety performance targets in their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). Once transit agencies set those targets, they are required to share them with MPOs. The MPOs have 180 days from that time to set performance targets for the region.

Safety performance measures are set by the FTA and are used to measure performance or condition. Safety performance targets are set by transit agencies and MPOs and are quantifiable levels of performance or conditions to be achieved. Safety performance measures help transit agencies and MPOs assess progress towards meeting safety performance targets.

Four Safety Performance Targets set by FTA:

1. Fatalities
2. Serious Injuries
3. Safety Events
4. System Reliability

Addressing the FTA's four safety performance measures requires seven transit safety performance targets by mode. These performance targets are:

1. Total Fatalities
2. Rate of fatalities per vehicle revenue miles
3. Total serious injuries
4. Rate of serious injuries per vehicle revenue miles
5. Total safety events
6. Rate of safety events per vehicle revenue miles
7. Miles between major mechanical failures

This is the first-time transit agencies and MPOs are going through this process to set performance targets. The Chatham Area Transit (CAT) is the only transit agency in the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Area that falls under the FTA requirements for setting these targets. CAT developed their PTASP and set their transit safety targets. They provided those to the CORE MPO in January 2021. The CORE MPO has until July 2021 to set performance targets for the region. Once the CORE MPO adopts the regional targets, we have until July 2021 to incorporate those targets into the TIP and the MTP.

Setting the performance targets for the planning area was coordinated with CAT and GDOT. The CORE MPO recommends using CAT's transit performance as regional targets. This will help ensure a common goal and consistency between the two agencies.

Transit providers are required to update their transit safety performance targets annually. MPOs are not required to do this annually. Currently the CORE MPO updates the system performance report when new performance targets are adopted. The MPO staff is requesting the Citizens Advisory Committee to endorse the proposed regional transit safety targets for the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Area.

Mr. Tony Abbott motioned to endorse the Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets 2021; seconded by Mr. Armond Turner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[6. Amendments to FY 2021 - 2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the MPO's short-range programming document (TIP) is modified to ensure that updates to projects, cost estimates and schedules are incorporated. The MPO has received project updates from GDOT along with new funding and programming information this past January and February. There are updates to the existing highway and transit fund revenue projections along with additional funds being added. There are three proposed highway project updates and three proposed transit project updates.

The Highway updates are:

- The Chevis Road Improvement Project - Chatham County was awarded some lapsing TAP funds and Z301 revenues. The Cost estimate for the PE phase has been updated to reflect the changes in funding.
- Savannah River Crossing – GDOT added a scoping phase for the new study which will help identify strategies for bridge improvements.
- Lump Sum - Two Lump Sum categories were added - Freight Operations and Rural Developments. Construction Management has been removed from the Lump Sum.

Proposed Transit updates include:

- Section 5339 of the Capital and Operations Fund. This is a new fund in programming that is currently not in the TIP. This will be programmed for FY 2021.
- Z950 FHWA Ferry Boat funds. There are updates in FY 2021 and FY 2022. GDOT requested funding from previous years be flexed from FHWA to FTA at the same time, which resulted in all the funds being programmed for FY 2021.

- Section 5311 Capital and Operations funds. GDOT provided updated cost estimates for FY 2022 and FY 2024.

Included in Appendix A of the staff report are the updated TIP project pages and tables. The MPO staff is asking the CAC to endorse the Amendments to FY 2021-2024 TIP.

Mr. Eric Curl motioned to endorse the Amendments to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP; seconded by Mr. Armand Turner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Status Reports

IV. Agency Reports

The project status reports for various agencies are included under Notice for information.

V. Other Business

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

VII. Notices

[7. FHWA and FTA Issue Certification Review Final Report](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the final report was sent out on March 31, 2021. The report is available on the website.

[8. Next CAC Meeting: Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

[9. New Cutoff Dates for 2021 Calendar of Meetings](#)

Ms. Wang stated the MPO staff moved the cutoff dates up 1 week to have sufficient time to go through 3 levels of approval.

[10. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

[11. Chatham County Project Status Update](#)

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

[13. CAT Project Status Report](#)

[14. Signup for Neighborhoods and Faith Based Organization Meetings for Input on the Update to Comprehensive Plans for Chatham, Garden City, Pooler and Savannah](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the April 22, 2021 CORE MPO CAC meeting 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.