



CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

August 18, 2022 at 5:30pm
Minutes

August 18, 2022 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Anthony (Tony) Abbott	Chatham County	X
Dr. Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	X
Vacant	Chatham County	
A'riel Johnson	Savannah	X
Armand Turner	Savannah	X
Yolandra Shipp	Savannah	
Vacant	Pooler	
Vacant	Garden City	
Brett Bennett	Effingham County	
Vacant	Port Wentworth	
Vacant	Richmond Hill	
Bill Grainger	Bloomingdale	
Robert Milie	Thunderbolt	X
Vacant	Tybee Island	
Vacant	Vernonburg	
Others	Representing	Present
Julie Yawn	MPC/IT	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X
Jasmine Champion	CORE MPO	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO / MPC	X
Joseph Longo	FHWA	X
Ashley Goodrich	Chatham Area Transit	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Armand Turner. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the June 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to approve the June 16, 2022 CAC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Armand Turner. The motion passed with none opposed.

2. FY 2023 UPWP Amendments

Ms. Wykoda Wang said there are three projects included in these amendments.

- I-16/MLK Ramp Removal IMR Update – this project is being moved into the unfunded portion of the UPWP. The project will update the interchange modification report for the I-16/MLK ramp removal, reclaiming some land use for redevelopment. The cost is \$300,000 with \$240,000 federal portion and a \$60,000 local match from the City of Savannah.
- Chatham Area Transit was awarded \$400,000 in FTA's Areas of Persistent Poverty (AOPP) program funding. Chatham Area Transit requested to add the new AOPP funded study to the transit planning section. This will help connect low-income communities to jobs. The total cost is \$444,444 with the federal portion being \$400,000 and a local match of \$44,444.
- The US 17 Corridor Study was amended to the unfunded section of the UPWP in the June meetings. Today we received the new cost estimate from Chatham County. The previous amendment included a cost estimate of approximately \$350,000. The new cost estimate is approximately \$500,000. The federal portion is approximately \$400,000 with a local match from Chatham County of \$100,000. The amendment is to revise the cost estimate.

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to endorse the FY 2023 UPWP Amendments; seconded by Mr. Armand Turner. The motion passed with none opposed.

3. Authorize Study for 2045 MTP Amendment

Ms. Wang stated that GDOT had requested that amendments be made to the CORE MPO's FY 2021-2024 TIP for the SR 404 at Talmadge Memorial Bridge project. The proposed amendments are to add \$175,000,000 to FY 2024 for Construction and \$15,000,000 to FY 2023 for Preliminary Engineering. This project is not currently in the financially constraint 2045 MTP. Before TIP amendments can be made, the 2045 MTP must be amended to include the project.

There is a two-step process when an amendment to MTP is proposed for projects that affect the funding or timing of other projects in the MTP's financially constrained plan. The first step is to authorize the staff to do further analysis of the request and the second step is to present the findings to the committees and the MPO Board. We are asking the CAC committee to endorse the staff to do further analysis such as determining if the project comes with additional revenues, or if another project may need to be removed from the fiscally constrained plan, etc. We will request additional information from GDOT.

Mr. Robert Milie asked is this just having staff do the work? Ms. Wang said the internal staff will do the work. Staff will present the findings at the next round of meetings.

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to endorse further study for 2045 MTP Amendment; seconded by Mr. Armand Turner. The motion passed with none opposed.

4. Non-Motorized Plan - Green Island Road Trail Amendment

Ms. Asia Hernton said CORE MPO staff has coordinated with the Senior Transportation Engineer for Chatham County to add the Green Island Road Trail Project to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The project summary of the proposed changes to the plan is included in the next pages. Chatham County has applied for the statewide Transportation Alternatives grant funds through the GDOT Call for Projects.

The Green Island Road Trail Project is a proposed multi-purpose trail from Diamond Causeway to the end of Green Island Road. The project, which is located near the Landings neighborhood, will add two miles of trail to the existing trail on Diamond Causeway, and will link to neighborhoods and a commercial center. The design is to utilize "Complete Streets" criteria to enable safe, attractive, and comfortable access and travel for users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, golf carts and those with a disability. This enhanced connectivity will encourage non-motorized transportation alternatives and provide a better quality of life for residents.

The project is over \$3,025,000 with an 80/20 match. We are currently in the 15-day public comment period. There have been no comments received at this time. Staff is asking for endorsement of the Green Island Road Trail project Amendment to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

Mr. Armand Turner motioned to endorse the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan – Green Island Road Trail Amendment; seconded by Ms. Yolandra Shipp. The motioned passed with none opposed

5. Call for Projects for Y301 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funds

Ms. Asia Hernton stated CORE MPO will conduct a Call for Projects for the FY 2023 - 2027 Y301 Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds. The TA funding was most recently authorized by Congress in 2021, as a set-aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” (BIL)). The focus of Transportation Alternatives is to promote the feasibility of alternatives to motor vehicle travel, such as through bicycle and/or pedestrian projects. CORE MPO will start the Call for Projects in August 2022 to allocate the Y301 funds.

The application manual, form and schedule are attached for review. Staff will revise the schedule, adjusting them slightly to allow the TCC committee more time to review and score all the applications.

Mr. Armand Turner motioned to endorse the Call for Projects package for Y301 Transportation Alternatives Funds; seconded by Ms. Yolandra Shipp. The motion passed with none opposed.

6. Call for Projects for Y230 Funds

Ms. Jasmine Champion said CORE MPO will conduct a Call for Projects for the FY 2023 - 2027 Y230 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds. The STBG funding was most recently authorized by Congress in 2021, with a program continuation under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” (BIL)). The STBG program funds are flexible funds that can be used to improve regional transportation. CORE MPO will start the Call for Projects in August 2022 to allocate the Y230 funds.

The application manual, form and schedule are attached for review. There will be adjustments to the schedule for this call like the previous call presented. Staff is asking for an endorsement from the CAC committee.

Mr. Armand Turner motioned to endorse the Call for Projects package for Y230 funds; seconded by Ms. Ariel Johnson. The motioned passed with none opposed.

7. AUGUST AMENDMENTS TO FY 2021-2024 TIP

Ms. Jasmine Champion said GDOT requested amendments to be made to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP. There are four projects requesting amendments.

- I-516 @ DeRenne Ave – Remove the ROW phase programmed in FY 2024 and move it to FY 2025.
- SR 404 SPRU/US17 Savannah Harbor Pkwy to Back River – Move the CST phase programmed in FY 2024 to FY 2025.
- SR 26/US 80 @ Bull River – Move the ROW phase programmed in FY 2023 to FY 2024.
- SR 26 from I-516 to CS 188/ Ogeechee Rd - Revise the UTL cost from \$3,436,007 to \$3,951,665.64.

Chairman Brantley asked what is causing the delays on these projects? Ms. Champion said the project manager has requested the project shifts. Ms. Wykoda Wang said each project has a specific reason. Project DeRenne needs additional time to conduct an environmental justice review. In the EIS, the Federal Highway Administration was not satisfied with what the City had done in the Hampstead area, which is a low-income area, suggesting that it needs additional analysis. Previously there was an 18-month schedule for the analysis. The ROW was in FY 2022 but considering the 18-month environmental justice review, we shifted it to FY 2024. Now, based on the GDOT schedule, it takes longer to do the analysis. The cost could rise due to the delays. For the US 80 bridge replacement, the environmental documentation takes longer.

Mr. Armand Turner motioned to endorse the August Amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP; seconded by Mr. Robert Milie. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

8. 2050 MTP Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the CORE MPO staff has started the 2050 MTP update process. There are several ongoing tasks.

Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures - CORE MPO staff is developing a survey. During the last round of meetings, we presented the draft survey questions. There are several rounds of input. Once the survey is finalized, it will then be translated into Chinese, Vietnamese, and Spanish. The survey should be able to launch at the beginning of September. The survey results will help us refine the goals, objectives, and performance measures.

Socio-Economic Data Development – We are currently working with GDOT to resolve some underlying issues with the census data. For example, there are more households than total population in certain census blocks. We are using census data with the base year 2020. This will fit into the Travel Demand Model. After that we will develop the 2050 horizon year SE data.

Travel Demand Model Development – the base year has been completed. Asia has been going through all the travel demand model links, checking the roadway functional classifications and the number of lanes. She has completed Bryan and Effingham Counties and is currently working on Chatham County.

Staff is developing the project lists for various networks and will submit them to GDOT once they are reviewed and approved by TCC.

- 1st Network - projects that were constructed/started construction during 2015 to 2020.
- 2nd Network - projects that were constructed/started construction during 2015 to 2022 if any.
- 3rd Network - 2050 "E+C" project list.

Public Engagement - according to the MPO's Participation Plan, the Citizens Advisory Committee will facilitate the participation process during the development of the MTP. The committee will guide staff through the development process. At a minimum, we will host at least one public meeting early in the development process. There will be a 30-day public review period for the draft document. There will be a final public hearing. Staff is planning three rounds of public involvement opportunities.

- The first round will be in September with the kickoff. Each round will include virtual meetings (daytime and evening) as well as at least three location meetings.
- The second round of meetings we would like to do is in July of 2023. At that time the Freight Plan update will be closing out, the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan will have made a lot of progress. The Congestion Management Process will have started. CAT is developing the Master Transit Plan and Transit Development Plan. Those all will provide specific recommendations to include in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update.
- The third round, we will present the findings and the final list of fiscally constrained plan.

Staff is coordinating with neighborhood associations, CAT, Healthy Savannah, Coastal Georgia Indicator Coalition, Bike Walk Savannah, and others for the public involvement.

Study Review and Update - The City of Pooler is conducting the US 80 Corridor Study while Chatham County is going to conduct the Presidents Street Railroad Crossing Study, US 17 Corridor Study, and SR 21 Railroad Crossing. All of these will feed into the 2050 MTP Plan update.

Currently staff is developing a brochure to introduce the MTP and the MPO. There will be publications, websites, social media, and we will launch the survey at the beginning of September. We will make sure to cover all areas in our public outreach so that individuals without transportation are informed as well.

9. CORE MPO Region Freight Transportation Plan Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the Freight Plan Update has kicked off with several stakeholder and project manager meetings. The consultant presented at the first EDFAC committee meeting in June. The consultant is working on the first set of deliverables which is the freight needs assessment and

analysis. They are working on the data analysis and the regional freight profiles. The consultant is sending out a survey today to the stakeholders. There is a Freight stakeholder survey, a Freight stakeholder map, a public survey, and a public map to be sent out. There will be another Freight manager meeting tomorrow to talk about the freight survey. The public survey will be launched to give the general public a chance to give input. There will be two surveys. One survey will ask respondents to rank their freight priorities. The other survey is a map survey, in which respondents can identify freight problem and opportunity areas on a map.

Mr. Armand Turner asked who some of the freight stakeholders were. Ms. Wang said the stakeholders are the EDFAC committee members including County Managers, Industrial Development Agencies, Effingham IDA, Bryan County Economic Development Agency, SEDA, GA Ports Authority, trucking representatives, railroads, warehouses, Por. Wentworth, Garden City, etc.

[10. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan Update Status](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said CORE MPO staff is currently updating the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan. Those plans address bike and pedestrian needs within the CORE MPO area. Currently staff is identifying the jurisdictions and organizations to work with. We are putting together important population data and information resources, and possible places to hold public outreach meetings. The list of organizations we are currently working with is included in this status report. We would like input on who else we should be working with, and if you see anything missing from the list.

Some of the information resources we want to include are AARP and Livable communities, American Walks, academic resources on Impact of pedestrian and bike infrastructure on communities, as well as other bike and pedestrian plans across the country.

For the public outreach, currently we have reached out to collaborate with Bike Walk Savannah, Healthy Savannah, CAT, and other organizations. We are trying to have another steering committee meeting soon and welcome more participation. We are looking at population data (ACS) and the Census data and other information resources to serve as precedent on the plan. There will be a bike and pedestrian related questions on the MTP update survey and we will incorporate that data into the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan as well.

[11. SR 26 Chatham County Line to SR 21 Status Report](#)

Ms. Sally Helm said the City of Pooler held the kickoff meeting on July 29th for the SR 26 from Chatham County line to SR 21 study. Kimley Horn, City of Pooler, GDOT, Chatham County, and the CORE MPO staff were present. Kimley Horn presented the goals and objectives of the project.

- Identify and prioritize short-term and long-term improvement projects needed for the SR 26/US 80 corridor to operate at an acceptable level of service.
- Prioritize recommended improvements to facilitate planning and programming of projects through the CORE MPO's metropolitan transportation plan process.
- Justify the future programming of projects in the CORE MPO's Transportation Improvement Program and Mobility 2045 Plan.

A baseline schedule was provided and attached to the agenda.

[12. SS4A Amendment and Updates](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said the US Department of Transportation (DOT) has made technical modifications to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant. The changes include updates to the Safety impact Criterion Rating Methodology and additional language to clarify instructions and terminology. The US DOT also created a new version of the Underserved Communities Census Tracts tool, which includes population data to make it easier for applicants to calculate the percent of the population in underserved communities. DOT has also added additional information to its FAQ and application resources to further assist applicants. The deadline for the SS4A grant application remains September 15, 2022 at 5:00 pm. The links are attached to the agenda.

Effingham County is applying for the action plan grant while they are currently looking for staff or someone that can do their application grant. They are looking at the CRC or partner with another jurisdiction. There has been discussion of partnering with Chatham County or City of Savannah.

[13. Urban Flooding Model Study](#)

Ms. Jasmine Champion said she had been assigned as the Project Manager for this study. The CORE MPO staff and the UGA consultant team held a virtual Kick-Off meeting to discuss project development including project management and public involvement. Both the CORE MPO staff and UGA consultant team identified stakeholders and steering committee members to assist in the development of the Urban Flooding Model Study. UGA will provide the CORE MPO staff with a Project Management Plan and an updated project schedule by the end of the month.

Chairman Brantley asked why we need another model? We have floods all the time and we know how they occur so what is going to be modeled here? Ms. Ashley Goodrich said by updating the flood model, it will account for the changes in our ecosystem around Chatham County and will make sure the water levels that we are reviewing will stay up to date. That in turn will help our roads and bridges for subsidence.

IV. Agency Reports

Written reports attached under Notices.

V. Other Business

No other business

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No public comments

VII. Notices

[14. Next CORE MPO CAC Meeting October 20, 2022 at 5:30 pm](#)

[15. GDOT Project Status Update](#)

Written update attached to the agenda. There were no comments.

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

Written update attached to the agenda. There were no comments.

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

Written update attached to the agenda. There were no comments.

[18. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Ashley Goodrich gave the Chatham Area Transit status update report.

- Ferry Purchase Construction – finished with the Naval Architect design, bid for construction in October.
- Paratransit Vehicle contract – delayed with supply shortages, revising the state contract as shortage continues to delay the order.
- Diesel Bus Replacement – Buses on order.
- ITS Clever Devices – Ferry boat installation for the Apollo camera system complete. Phase 8 of 9 currently in conjunction.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility and Ferry Dock – under review and progress with City of Savannah.
- Facility Rehab – undergoing the Wellness Center Art Mural. Artist was selected last month.
- Electric Bus Replacement – in process.
- Master Transit Plan & Implementation Strategies – awarded in July with kickoff expected later this fall.

- Transit Development Plan – working with consultant for analysis.
- Zero Emission Implementation Plan - working with consultant for analysis.

[19. LATS Project Status Update Report](#)

Written update attached to the agenda. There were no comments.

[20. TIP Funding Tracking - August - 2022](#)

TIP tracking table attached to the agenda. There were no comments.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 18, 2022 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.