



CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

June 16, 2022 at 5:30 pm
Minutes

June 16, 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
Sally Helm	CORE MPO / MPC	X
Ashley Goodrich	Chatham Area Transit	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Tony Abbott. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the April 25, 2022 CORE MPO CAC committee meeting minutes](#)

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to approve the April 25, 2022 CORE MPO CAC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Tony Abbott. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. Amendments to FY 2023 UPWP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) amendments include two parts. One is to include three special studies into the unfunded section of the UPWP. Those three studies are:

- US 17 Corridor Study (from Bryan/Chatham County line to I-516) – Cost is approximately \$350,000.00 with Chatham County as the project sponsor.
- President Street Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study – Cost is approximately \$300,000.00 with Chatham County as the project sponsor.
- SR 21 @ CSX Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study – Cost is approximately \$300,000.00 with Chatham County as the project sponsor.

After the two rounds of discussions, the first being in April and the second being in June, these studies will be eligible to be included in the FY 2023 UPWP. The studies will then be eligible for funding applications for either discretionary planning funds through the Georgia Funds Review Committee or through the CORE MPO's Y230 Call for Projects in August. If the studies are awarded PL discretionary funds, they will be amended into the UPWP's funded section. If they are awarded Y230 funds, they will be amended into both UPWP and the Transportation Improvement Program.

The second part of the UPWP amendment is to include Transit Studies into the Transit Section/Transit Planning Tasks. CAT will use Section 5307 funds to conduct the following studies:

- Zero Emission Implementation Plan – Cost is approximately \$94,000.00.
- Comprehensive Operation Analysis/Transit Development Plan – Cost is approximately \$312,000.00.
- Chatham Area Master Transit Plan – Cost is approximately \$500,000.00.
- ARP Funded Project (ARP Route Restoration) – Cost is approximately \$550,000.00.

The UPWP is the CORE MPO's staff work program. The transit information is included for reference only.

Mr. Tony Abbott motioned to approve the Amendments to the FY 2023 UPWP; seconded by Mr. Armand Turner. Mr. Robert Milie said he recommends approval as long as the budget is there. The motion passed with non-opposed.

3. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Amendments

Ms. Wykoda Wang said this is the end of FY 2022. Any projects or project phases that are currently programmed in FY 2022 that will not have funds authorized by the end of FY 2022 will need to be moved. There was a comprehensive check regarding the project development status of the transportation projects in the TIP. There are several projects that need to be moved.

- Project DeRenne - Since the PE phase is added in FY 2022 for additional EJ analysis, which according to the schedule presented by GDOT will take approximately 18 months, the ROW phase programmed in FY 2022 will be pushed into FY 2024. The City of Savannah has sent a request letter to GDOT requesting to move the phase with the funds to FY 2024. We are awaiting the concurrence letter. The funding amount does not change.
- City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center - Currently, the PE, Utility, and Construction phases are programmed in FY 2022. CORE MPO is going to move the funds with the project to FY 2023. This project's funding authorization was delayed due to administrative procedures with GDOT. This project needs the City of Savannah to send the request letter to GDOT to move the project with the funds as well as concurrence from GDOT in order for the amendments to be final.
- SR 26/ US 80 Bridges at Bull River to Tybee Island - There were more than \$90,000.00 in HIP funds programmed in FY 2022 for the ROW phase. GDOT's Project Manager said this project will not meet the schedule. The ROW phase will be moved to FY 2024. The HIP funds that were allocated to this project were moved to fund Project DeRenne's EJ analysis so they would not lapse. This project now will need to apply for the Y230 funds in the next Call for Projects. The cost for the ROW phase has increased from approximately \$90,000.00 to \$1.4 million. The ROW phase is being moved from FY 2022 to FY 2024. The construction phase is being moved to FY 2025, which is out of the TIP, therefore we will delete the Utility phase and Construction phase out of the TIP.
- US 17 Bridge at Back River - The ROW funds cannot be authorized by June 30th, 2022. Those funds will be moved to FY 2023.
- I-95 at Airways Avenue at Pooler Interchange - The scoping phase was amended into the TIP for FY 2022 at the request of the Savannah Airport Commission. At this time there has not been any progress made, so we are moving the project phase to FY 2023. The Airport in partnership with Chatham County would like to pursue Y230 funds. The locally funded project does not have to appear in the TIP, and it was added in as an amendment with the expectation that it would receive

federal funding in the future. In August, when Chatham County submits an application and the project is awarded Y230 funds, we will amend the TIP to correct the fiscal year and the funding source.

- Transit Updates – FTA Sections 5337, 5339c, 5307h, and 5307 funds not expected to be obligated by June 30, 2022 will be moved from FY 2022 to FY 2023. CAT is also requesting to add 5337 funds for Ferry Boat Rehabilitation (\$446,184) and 5339 funds for vehicle purchase (\$1,039,355) to FY 2024.

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to approve the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP Amendments; seconded by Mr. Armand Turner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Status Reports

[4. CORE MPO Freight Transportation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the Freight Transportation Plan Update was kicked off in late April. The first EDFAC committee meeting was earlier this morning. The presentation file has been attached to the CAC agenda. Currently the selected consultant, Cambridge Systematics, is reviewing the existing plans as well as finished studies like the SR 307 Corridor Study, SR 21 Access Management Study, and GDOT Freight and Rail plans. The study process also involves coordination with the ongoing GDOT Coastal Empire Study. The consultants are collecting data for land use (land use maps, zoning, etc.) and freight needs (Transearch, Origin Destination, INRIX, etc.), and drafting the Vision, Goals and Objectives for the freight plan. In October, there will be an update with initial findings.

MPO staff is asking for your input on the draft freight vision, goals, and objectives. Please send any comments or input you have.

[5. FMT for Optimized Planning of CORE MPO Transportation Infrastructure Systems](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the contract was executed between the MPC and the University of Georgia. The next step is issuing the Notice to Proceed. The study will kick off soon.

[6. Call for Projects Pre-application Workshop](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said CORE MPO will conduct Calls for Projects for the FY 2023-2027 Y230 funds and Y301 funds in support of amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP and the development of the FY 2024-2027 TIP. To help the potential local project sponsors understand the Call for Projects process, particularly the eligibility requirements and tips for funding application, the MPO staff conducted a pre-application workshop on June 2nd. Potential project sponsors are encouraged to coordinate with CORE MPO staff members to ensure plan consistency and meeting other eligibility requirements. Project sponsors are encouraged to pursue GDOT LAP certification as this is a requirement for highway improvement projects. The LAP certification takes several months to complete.

[7. Administrative Modifications to FY 2022 UPWP \(PL Task Budget Adjustments\)](#)

Ms. Sally Helm said the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program is the MPO staff's work program for the fiscal year. The UPWP details the staff budget and work projects expected to be undertaken by the MPO in support of the federally mandated transportation planning process. The MPO can submit budget adjustments to GDOT for various work tasks based on evaluation of ongoing staff efforts and the expected staff work. These adjustments are done as administrative modifications, moving funds between tasks while the funding level remains unchanged. GDOT requested the FY 2022 UPWP summary funding table and the funding tables under work tasks be revised to reflect the final budget adjustments to facilitate the final contract close out. MPO staff has received a concurrence letter from GDOT.

[8. City of Pooler SR 26 from Chatham County line to SR 21 Status Report](#)

Ms. Sally Helm said the City of Pooler received four consultant proposals on the project (PI # 0018344). The highest ranked firm was Kimley Horn. There is a PFA being routed through the City of Pooler. The City of Pooler will approve the PFA and award the study to Kimley Horn on Tuesday at the Pooler City Council Meeting. The Notice to Proceed will follow the award.

IV. Agency Reports

No comments.

V. Other Business

9. 2050 MTP Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang said CORE MPO staff will kick off the 2050 MTP update this summer with an August 2024 adoption date. Currently, staff is developing a survey to help refine the Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures as well as to develop project Prioritization methodology. The survey includes questions on the overall transportation priorities and priorities for different modes. You can choose roadways, electric vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, greenways, transit, and on-demand service on mobility.

Roadways - we want to know what the priorities are - operational improvements, interchange, bridge reconstruction, road maintenance, complete streets, electric vehicles, etc. The EDFAC committee added comments for new construction and road expansion.

Freight Priorities - we want you to rank the selections of roadway improvements, rail grade crossing improvements, bridge replacement, better truck routing and signage, truck parking, operational improvements, and grant application.

Bicycle Priorities - we included bicycle lanes, cycle tracks, greenways, road diet, complete streets, and bike share.

Pedestrian facilities – we included adding new sidewalks or repairing existing ones, making connections to existing sidewalks, adding curb ramps for ADA accessibility, improving crosswalks, making signal improvements, building greenways, constructing pedestrian overpasses, etc.

Transit Priorities - we want to know what the priorities are - add routes, extend service time or hours, improve service frequency, introduce micro-transit, or expand the service area (add job access reverse commute), connect counties, improve shelters, and improve technology.

The general goals and objectives will be focused on safety, congestion, efficiency, and reliability. Staff is asking for input from the Board and committee members. We would like to receive all comments back by the end of June so we can incorporate everyone's comments. Once the draft survey is finalized, it will need to be translated into three different languages. After that, we will distribute the survey to collect input.

Mr. Tony Abbott asked what the three languages are and why those specific languages are required for translation. Ms. Wang said the MPO/MPC are receiving federal funds and must follow federal guidelines regarding public outreach. According to the federal regulations, if 5% of the total population or 1000 people (whichever is less) within a linguistic group are not proficient in English, CORE MPO must provide translated materials in those languages. The language groups in which 5% or 1000 people have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in our region are Spanish and Chinese. The Limited English Proficiency population among residents who speak Vietnamese is 958. Because this population is so close to the 1000 LEP threshold, GDOT has required CORE MPO materials be translated into Vietnamese as well, as they are expected to cross the threshold soon. The LEP plan is updated every three years.

10. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan Updates

Ms. Asia Hernton said the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and the Thoroughfare Plan address important topics for pedestrians, bicyclists, people with accessibility needs, and infrastructure improvements in the area. The goal of this plan update is to compile a list of pedestrian, bike, and trail projects that can be incorporated into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and eventually be prioritized and programmed for funding and implementation.

What we want to add with the update:

- Define what non-motorized transportation is and why it is important.

- Create an overall vision of non-motorized transportation in the area, one that is less car dependent and more open to walking and cycling.
- Increase public input and describe how public participation is used and how it impacts this plan update.
- Discuss topics of safety, equity, and resilience. This is especially important since pedestrian deaths and injuries have been increasing and some areas are more disproportionately impacted than others.
- Identify the safety problem areas and determine how to make improvements.
- Update the status of current projects in the area, such as Tide to Town.

MPO staff is asking the CAC for volunteers for the steering committee as well as input. Chairman Brantley said he will volunteer for the steering committee.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No Comments.

VII. Notices

[11. Next CORE MPO CAC Committee meeting, August 18, 2022 at 5:30 pm](#)

[12. Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Opportunity](#)

[13. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Ashley Goodrich gave CAT's project status report.

- Ferry Purchase Construction is under design by naval architect for the two new hybrid ferry vessels that will be going with the Savannah Bells on the river.
- 33 Paratransit Vehicles are under order but are delayed for delivery due to a supply chain chassis shortage.
- Diesel Bus Replacement – there are three new buses on order (placed in Dec. 2021). The project is expected to be completed in June 2023.
- ITS Clever Devices project is in phase 6 of 9 with a soft completion date of summer 2022.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility and Ferry Dock - we have continued coordination with the City of Savannah.
- Facility Rehab (Interior) renovation project at CAT central - Phase 1 has been implemented and is ongoing.
- Electric Bus Replacement - bus order was placed in April 2022 and estimated completion date is June 2024.

Mr. Armand Turner asked if once the new buses come in, will the old ones be retired, or will this just increase the fleet? Ms. Goodrich said right now CAT is looking at replacing the fleet. CAT staff calculates a state of good repair for every vehicle. The FTA average is sitting at about 12 years. Sometimes it takes CAT closer to 15 years to get some of the fleet replaced. Currently CAT is trying to replace the oldest vehicles first.

Chairman Brantley said as a person who uses CAT, he noticed the personnel issues CAT is having. Is CAT aware of the issues? Ms. Goodrich said yes, we are aware of a driver shortage. CAT is short 35-40 bus drivers. This includes both the fixed route system for the routes such as the 14 Abercorn, the Route 3 West Chatham, and for our complimentary Paratransit Services which are next day ADA services. CAT is undergoing a hiring campaign. We have several different referrals and retention bonuses that CAT has implemented throughout 2022. If you know anyone who would like to work at CAT, please send them our way.

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked about the Transit Master Plan Development and the TDP - when will they start? Ms. Wang also asked if CAT had selected the consultants. Ms. Goodrich said CAT had selected a consultant for the TDP, and is waiting a few more weeks for the grant award with the FTA. The Master Transit Plan RFP has closed in the last week or so. It is currently under evaluation and review by staff. We have a consensus group of stakeholders comprised of Chatham County, City of Savannah, Savannah

Airport Commission, as well as SEDA who have all supported the local match for the Master Transit Plan and each of those stakeholders will be evaluating the proposals for the plan.

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

No questions or comments.

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

No questions or comments.

[16. TIP Project Tracking in June 2022](#)

No questions or comments.

[17. GDOT Project Status Update](#)

No questions or comments.

[18. Administrative Modifications to FY 2023 UPWP](#)

No questions or comments.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 16, 2022 CAC committee 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.