



EDFAC

Virtual Meeting
December 3, 2020 at 10:00am

DECEMBER 3, 2020 Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC) Meeting

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	X
CPT Anthony Moltz	Hunter Army Airfield	
Amanda Clement	Bryan County Planning	
Joseph Drake	Gulfstream	
Jared Downs	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce	
Tom McQueen	GDOT Planning	X
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Brandt Herndon	Effingham Industrial Development Authority	X
Michael Brown	City of Savannah	
Trip Tollison	SEDA	X
<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Jesse Dillon	SEDA	X
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
Justin Farquar	Development Authority Bryan County	X
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Vivian Canizares	GDOT Planning	X
Ned Green	GDOT Planning	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Pamela Bernard moved to approve the Agenda. There were none opposed. The agenda was approved.

II. Action Items

[1. Election of Officers](#)

Mr. Brandt Herndon nominated to re-elect Pamela Bernard as Chairman. All in favor with none opposed, Ms. Pamela Bernard was re-elected Chairperson for the EDFAC committee.

Ms. Pamela Bernard nominated to elect Brandt Herndon as Vice Chair. All in favor with none opposed, Mr. Brandt Herndon was elected Vice Chairperson for the EDFAC committee.

[2. Approval of the June 20, 2019 CORE MPO EDFAC meeting minutes.](#)

📎 [EDFAC June 20.pdf](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard moved to approve the June 20, 2019 CORE MPO EDFAC meeting minutes. There were none opposed. The June 20, 2019 CORE MPO EDFAC meeting minutes were approved.

3. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Adoption

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

📎 [FY 2021-2024 TIP Adoption.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the FY 2021-2024 TIP. The Transportation Improvement Program is the MPO's short range programming document. It covers multiyear prioritized multi modal highway, transit and non-motorized projects. It is a subset of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). It is the highest priority projects from the 2045 MTP that are included in the TIP. It is cooperatively developed by the CORE MPO, GDOT, CAT and other MPO member agencies.

In January, the Call for Projects were started for the expected HIP, Z230 and Z301 funds. COVID 19 hit shortly after that and delayed the process. Eventually the TCC members were able to evaluate and rank all the applications. The TCC has met twice to allocate the HIP, Z230, and Z301 funds based on the actual revenue projections and project rankings.

The preliminary draft was sent to GDOT, FTA, and FHWA. As the comments came back, they were incorporated into the revised draft. The public review period for the revised draft ends today. The target is to have the new TIP adopted on December 9th by the MPO Board. It is currently going through the committees for endorsement.

We are required to incorporate performance-based planning and programming into the Long-Range Plan, UPWP, TIP, CMP and other plans. All the MPO planning products must have Public Participation Plan incorporation. As part of this, we must adopt the performance targets.

For the Highway performance measures, there are safety targets, PM2 targets (congestion and freight), and PM3 targets (pavement, bridge and air quality). For the Transit performance measures, there are transit asset management targets and transit safety targets.

The Long-Range Transportation Plan, TIP, CMP, and Freight Plan all contribute to achieving the performance targets. The MPO has adopted to accept the Statewide Targets since GDOT will be collecting data and will do the evaluation to see the effectiveness of how overall in the state these projects are contributing to these targets.

The Safety targets are adopted annually. They include targets for

- Number of fatalities
- Number of serious injuries
- Fatality rate
- Serious injury rate
- Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

The PM2 and PM3 targets are adopted every 2- 4 years. The baseline, with Georgia 2- and 4-year targets, want to make sure the percentage for interstate pavement is in good condition.

Pavement and Bridge Condition/PM2 Performance Measures and Targets include the following.

- Percent of Interstate pavements in good condition
- Percent of Interstate pavements in poor condition
- Percent of Non-Interstate NHS pavements in good condition
- Percent of non-Interstate NHS pavements in poor condition
- Percent of NHS bridges (by deck area) in good condition
- Percent of NHS bridges (by deck area) in poor condition

System Performance/Freight Movement/ CMAQ (PM3) Performance Measures and Targets include the following.

- Percent of person-miles on the Interstate system that are reliable
- Percent of person-miles on the non-Interstate NHS that are reliable
- Truck Travel Time Reliability Index

There are two transit systems operating in the Savannah region: Chatham Area Transit for the Urban portion and Coastal Regional Commission for the rural portion. The Coastal Regional Commissions' transit asset management targets are developed by GDOT. CAT adopts their own targets. The MPO consolidated both when adopting the MPO's targets.

Transit Asset Management (TAM) Targets include the following categories.

- **Rolling Stock**
 - Bus – Minivan – Van – School Bus – Ferryboat
- **Equipment**
 - Automobile – Trucks and other Rubber Tire Vehicles – Maintenance
- **Facilities**
 - Admin/Maintenance Facility – Passenger & Parking

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan and TIP have projects that contribute to achieving the performance targets. The TIP projects below contribute to multiple performance measures.

- I-516 @ CS/1503/DeRenne Avenue contributes to the improvement of Safety, relieves congestion, and facilitates freight movement.
- The Savannah River and Middle River Bridges Replacement projects will contribute to safety, pavement, and bridge conditions. Since they are on the US 17/SR 25, they are close to GA Ports Authority and will improve Freight movement.
- SR 404 Spur/US 17 @ Back River - GDOT and SC DOT are cooperatively working on these projects. The US 17 Widening and the building of the new bridge will improve safety, pavement and bridge conditions, relieve congestion and facilitate freight movement.
- Brampton Road Connector is a freight project that will help relieve congestion in the Port area.
- I-16 Widening and I-16 at I-95 Interchange Reconstruction will improve safety. They will improve congestion and freight as I-16 is a major freight route between the Port and the Atlanta area going west. By replacing the current bridge, it will improve the bridge pavement as well.
- I-16 Interchange at Little Neck Road - the study was recently completed. The projects from the recommendations will be implemented and contribute to achieving performance targets for safety, pavement and bridge, freight, and congestion.
- City of Savannah Traffic Control Center project - the ITS signal coordination will help improve safety as well as congestion with the freight corridor movement. The transit will benefit from the signal coordination. Air quality will be improved with the reduction of the stop and go.
- Old River Road Widening – Chatham, Bryan and Effingham Counties are working together to develop this project. With the warehouses, this will help freight, and the widening will improve safety.
- I-95 from Florida State Line to South Carolina State Line-ITS – the project will contribute to achieving each of the performance targets.
- Other Lump Sum Projects – Maintenance and Safety will help with air quality.
- The transit improvement projects will help to achieving the transit performance targets.

The Highway investment and Transit investment Totals are approximately \$572,287,782. Approximately 90.07% is Highway investments. This includes a small portion of funds to be flexed to CAT for bus purchase as well as some Trail Projects (Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B, Chevis Road and Gerrard Avenue Improvement). Transit is approximately 10% of the total TIP investments.

TIP Investments Vs. Performance Measures

- Safety - 85%
- Congestion – 82%
- Freight – 75%
- Pavement & Bridges – 68%
- Air Quality – 24%
- Transit Safety – 10%
- Transit Asset Management – 10%

Overall, the FY 2021-2024 TIP Projects include high percent of projects that address safety, freight, and congestion. Each project normally addresses several performance measures. The TIP projects contribute to achieving the performance targets for various categories. The TIP contributes to the economic development of the Savannah Region.

The MPO is requesting EDFAC to endorse the Transportation Improvement Program to the CORE MPO Board for adoption.

Mr. George Fidler motioned to approve the FY 2021-2024 Revised Draft TIP; seconded by Mr. Brandt Herndon. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Other Business

Ms. Bernard asked about scheduling the next EDFAC meeting. The committee agreed to meet in April 2021.

IV. Status Reports

[4. Status of Recent CORE MPO RFPs](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented status report on recent CORE MPO RFPs. The MPO issued RFPs for the SR 21 Access Management Study and the SR 307 Corridor Study. The proposals for both were due on November 16th. They were reviewed for completeness and compliance and then forwarded to the review teams on November 18th. Review Scores were requested to be turned in by December 1st. There are still some outstanding reviews on both studies. There was a large number of responses for both studies (2-3 times the normal response). The interviews are tentatively scheduled for next Thursday and Friday. If the review scores are not all turned in on time, the interviews will have to be pushed back into January.

The MPO received the funding contract for the SR 21 Access Management Study. Once the selection process is done, the MPO will be able to negotiate a contract with the selected consultant.

Mr. Brandt Herndon asked about the length of the SR 21 Access Management study (linear miles). Mr. Wilkes stated it is from where I-516 ends to Grange Rd. The SR 307 Corridor Study is from US 17 to the Port's main gate near SR 25.

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

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

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the FY 2021 Federal Certification Review. This is a 4-year joint review of the metropolitan planning process for the urbanized areas over 200,000 in population. FHWA and FTA are seeking public input on how the process works. The parties involved include CORE MPO Board, TCC, CAC, ACAT, EDFAC, MPO Staff, Georgia Department of Transportation, CAT, Airport, other governmental agencies, Interest Groups, FTA & FHWA as well as the General Public.

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process is the framework by which transportation decisions are made and projects are planned, selected, and prioritized for implementation within the region. It establishes a framework for collaboration. The MPOs decide how a large part of the federal transportation funding is spent Nationwide. The process helps the MPO to prioritize regional needs and determine the best and most economical solution. It also provides the framework for the future of the transportation system.

We are at the desk audit phase of the certification review process. We have sent and are continuing to send a large amount of information to the Federal Review team. The next step would be a questionnaire that contains detailed responses to well over 100 questions about the process. We plan to submit that on Monday. There will be a virtual site visit in January due to COVID. This will begin on January 19th. The final report will be issued no later than March 31, 2021. The wrap up report will be given to the MPO in April.

For the last certification review, the site visit was May 23-27, 2016. The public meeting was held on the 27th. The follow up letter was received on November 8, 2016 noting 20 Action items and 2 potential corrective actions. The draft certification report was provided by the Federal Highway Administration for review and comment to the CORE MPO on February 28, 2017 with the final certification report issued on March 31, 2017. The 2 corrective action items were successfully addressed before the final certification report was issued. There were 7 noteworthy practices and 22 recommendations.

Mr. Tom McQueen stated this committee is one that would look at Freight as one of the main topics, ensuring the planning process is supportive of Freight and the safety/growth/planning. Ms. Ann-Marie Day mentioned the Talking Freight webinar was good for framework/planning for the MPO. She encouraged involvement with all the committees (and public) to be involved in this review process. It is important to hear from everyone about their concerns and comments.

Ms. Bernard asked about the Map for Freight projects. It just lists the same projects that we have in the TIP. Ms. Wykoda Wang stated there are a series of recommendations in our Freight Plan, both at policy level, land use level and infrastructure level. The Infrastructure improvements are divided into short- term, mid- term, and long- term projects. Some of those are consistent with the long range 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and carried over to the TIP for implementation. For the Rail related projects, since we are not an implementing agency, the MPO has forwarded those recommendations to the implementing agencies. Examples include operational improvements, grade separation and double decking of the rail cars. The MPO does not control the funding but the implementation agencies can use our plan for reference.

Ms. Bernard asked how often this plan was updated. Ms. Wang stated the freight plan is not a requirement for the MPO. It will still be updated before the long-range transportation plan. The current one fits into the 2045 MTP. Recommendations will be carried over to the 2050 plan. There will be updates to the freight plan for the 2050 long-range transportation plan.

Ms. Bernard asked if there have ever been any kind of study done by a consultant to look at the freight movement and truck routes. And if the committee wanted to do a study, would a municipality have to sponsor that or is it something the MPO could get the planning funds? She stated this would be a good idea to do.

Mr. Wilkes stated that the MPO member agencies would probably have to provide the matching funds at 20% of total cost. There was an intermodal freight study done many years ago.

Ms. Wang stated the last freight plan was comprehensive. The SR 307 Corridor Study they are currently planning is a freight corridor. The I-16 at Little Neck Interchange is also a freight related study as well as the I-95 and Airways Avenue Study. These studies included freight and will be incorporated into the new freight plan.

Mr. McQueen stated his concern for the local truck routes and the issues with crossing from one municipality that allows trucks over the line and trucks are not allowed in another jurisdiction. His concern is looking into where the local truck routes are. Ms. Bernard asked if a map of the truck routes can be developed to show where they are restricted. Is this something the MPO staff could do with the help of the committee members? Mr. Wilkes said with the help of committee members or staff representing the governments that maintain the roads in question, this should be doable. Ms. Bernard asked for committee members who have information on truck routes to send it to Mark or Wykoda before the April meeting. Mr. McQueen asked for the MPO staff to put this on their "to do" list.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

6. GDOT Project Status Report

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

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked about the Effingham Parkway still being listed as long-range. Is there a LET date for this? Ms. Wang stated the construction is programmed in the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP for FY 2023. This project is not in long-range. Mr. McQueen stated the GDOT report reflects what the official dates are in the system now. When the governor signs off on the new TIP, the dates will change.

7. Chatham County Project Status Report

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

Ms. Pamela Bernard presented the Chatham County Project Status Report.

Projects Under Construction

- Benton Blvd is open to traffic. The extension is between Highlands Blvd and SR 30. Since Benton Blvd is now open, between Meinhardt and SR 30 the connection where it was bad skew intersection is closed. A cul-de-sac is now being built. Mr. Wilkes asked if anyone had conducted any counting to see what kind of pipeline this has opened. Ms. Bernard stated this has just opened so they want to let people find it and know it's open and useable before they do any studies/counts.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Project Phase 2A had the ribbon cutting. This is finished other than there are a few more cameras to put up.
- Quacco at US 17 Intersection project is continuing to move forward.

The pre-construction projects

- Quacco widening should follow the Quacco intersection.
- The SR 21 at Pipemakers Canal Culvert Expansion was placed on hold, since the railroad crossing part of the project could not be done.
- Little Neck Road Reconstruction is expected to be completed in fall of 2021.
- Skidaway Road Improvements, Islands Expressway at Oatland Island Rd and Walthour Road Slope Stabilization projects should be moving along next year with the big projects out of the way.

8. City of Savannah Project Status Update

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

Ms. Michele Strickland presented the City of Savannah Project Status Update.

- Truman Linear Park Trail, 2B is in GDOT review awaiting approval of the Cultural Resources Assessment of Effects to submit final Programmatic Categorical Exclusion and complete the environmental phase.
- Project DeRenne held Public Open House on November 10, 2020. Public comments are being compiled.
- Delesseps Avenue Widening bid ads started last week.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No Public Comments

VII. Announcements

Next EDFAC meeting is April 2021.

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

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

- ☞ [OutreachPoster.pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the December 3, 2020 meeting of the EDFAC 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.