



EDFAC

June 17, 2021 at 10:00am

JUNE 17, 2021 Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC) Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	<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	X
Tom McQueen	GDOT Planning	X
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	
Brandt Herndon	Effingham Industrial Development Authority	
Michael Brown	City of Savannah	
Trip Tollison	SEDA	
Dennis Jones	CEMA	X
Alternate	Representing	<u>Present</u>
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
Others	Representing	<u>Present</u>
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
David Thompson	GDOT Intermodal Planner	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Ned Green	GDOT Planning	X
Kerri Beiber	Public	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO	X
Asia Herndon	CORE MPO	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Tom McQueen motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Michelle Strickland. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

1. Approval of the April 22, 2021 CORE MPO EDFAC meeting minutes.

Ms. Michelle Strickland motioned to approve the April 22, 2021 CORE MPO EDFAC meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

2. June Amendments to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the Transportation Improvement Program is the MPO's short range programming document. It provides a multiyear listing of surface transportation projects that are proposed for federal, state and local funding within the metropolitan planning area. The FY 2021- 2024 TIP was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in December 2020 and is referenced in the STIP. The TIP is modified to ensure that the updates to projects, revenues, cost estimates and schedules are incorporated. In May, the MPO received transit project updates from the Chatham Area Transit and highway project updates from GDOT and the City of Savannah. The staff report covers those proposed updates. 3 of the 4 updates are related to Project DeRenne. The pandemic has caused unanticipated delays in project development. The 4th proposed update relates to various funding updates to transit projects.

GDOT provided a confirmation letter to move funds for the ROW phase for PI# 0008358. The City of Savannah has requested some schedule changes. The proposed GDOT and City changes include the following.

- PI# 0008358, I-516 at DeRenne Avenue – move ROW funds from FY 2021 to FY 2022.
- PI# 0008359, East DeRenne from SR 204 to Harry S Truman Pkwy – remove the ROW phase from the FY 2021 – FY 2024 TIP.
- PI# 0010236, SR 21 from CS 346/Mildred Street to SR 204 – remove the ROW phase from the FY 2021 – FY 2024 TIP.

CAT has proposed moving several projects from FY 2021 to FY 2022 due to some unexpected delays in CAT's facility modification projects. The projects include the following.

- Facilities Modification under Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Funds that are used for operating assistance and capital projects.
- Facility Enhancements under Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facility Program Funds.
- Facility Rehab under FHWA flex funds.
- Facility Enhancements under 5307 (H) FTA Ferry Boat Discretionary Funds which are for ferry maintenance facility and ferry rehabilitation.

Included with the staff report there are 4 attached appendices for reference which include all the TIP project pages as well as tables for the TIP amendments.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked about the current schedule for Project DeRenne. Ms. Michelle Strickland stated the City has established a RAP Committee (relocation assistance program). They will be working with the property owners that will need to be relocated. The next step would be ROW acquisition. Mr. Barry Stanton would have more information regarding this project.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated there is a comprehensive check before the end of each fiscal year of projects' status. If any project can not get funds authorized by the end of the fiscal year (June 30), the staff will make administrative modifications or amendments. Most of the programmed projects/phases that are in FY 2021 either already have the programmed funds authorized or expect to be authorized by June 30th.

Ms. Michelle Strickland motioned to approve the June amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP; seconded by Mr. Tom McQueen. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Other Business

3. Freight Transportation Plan Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the MPO is going to update the Freight Transportation Plan. The staff will do freight data needs assessment, the truck restriction mapping and the report card for the project implementation from the last freight plan. The consultant will complete the rest of the freight plan update. The MPO staff has developed a preliminary draft scope for the CORE MPO Freight Transportation Plan Update.

The previous scope of study was used to develop the draft. For the new plan update, the MPO staff would like to have the tonnage converted into truck or rail traffic. We also want to include a truck parking inventory study. We would like to coordinate the study with the ongoing SR 21 Access Management Study, the SR 307 Corridor Study and the GDOT's statewide Freight Transportation Plan.

The MPO staff is asking for comments on the preliminary draft scope. The EDFAC Committee will probably need to meet again in July and August to get the final scope and cost estimate. The MPO would like to apply for discretionary PL funds in September.

The draft scope of the Freight Transportation Plan Update includes the following.

- Project management and coordination.
- Freight needs assessment and analysis - for the previous freight plan, FHWA's FAF 3 data was used. That was based on 2012 data. The new FAF 5 is based on 2017 data. The MPO staff is looking for data to use for the freight plan update.
- Freight performance measures - since FHWA already has performance measures defined in the PBPP, the staff might use that as well as develop additional ones.
- Forecasting of future freight growth - FAF 5 includes some of the projection data. If other data sets are needed, the forecasting for future growth is still needed. For the existing freight movement and future freight growth, the tonnage needs to be converted into truck traffic and rail cars.
- The regional freight profiles and assessment need to be updated. Since the last update there have been many new developments.
- There cannot be any truck movement in restricted areas, therefore, the truck parking inventory and truck restrictions need to be developed.
- The impact from COVID-19 in our region - there is some research already done for the freight impact from emergencies. The staff is looking at the impact in the CORE MPO region and we will include information from CEMA as well such as hurricane impacts.
- The MPO staff would like the horizon year for the Freight Plan to be 2050. The Land Use Assessment would be for the boundary of Bryan County, Effingham County and Chatham County (Savannah MSA). There is already development along Old River Road, and warehouses in Garden City, Unincorporated Chatham County and West Side Savannah. All this needs to be analyzed since there has been a lot of development since 2016.
- The last Environmental and Community Impact Scan and Analysis was done by the staff. The cost needs to be added in the plan update if the consultant is to update this task.
- All the analysis will lead to the recommendations for future land uses related to freight and goods movement.
- Final recommendations for infrastructure improvements will include all modes - highway, rail, airport, Georgia Port, etc.

The cost estimate includes the consultant work and data needs assessment. This will help us figure out how much to apply for the PL discretionary funds. The cost for the last Freight Plan Update is used as the basis. For data analysis and forecasting, if FAF 5 is used, there will be no cost. If data other than FAF 5 is used, the cost is unknown, so the estimate of \$25,000 was given for data purchase. Another \$25,000 is estimated for truck parking study. The cost for the last freight plan update itself was approximately \$180,000. There was an additional piece for the land use impact at \$30,000. In total the last freight plan development cost \$210,000. With the data purchase funds added, this makes the lump sum at approximately \$250,000. This matches the illustrative section of FY 2022 UPWP.

Mr. Tom McQueen stated this was very well put together. He stated the Eastern Transportation Coalition is working on dis-aggregating the FAF 5 data as a project and members will be able to access that data. This will help with reducing the cost.

Ms. Wang stated the preliminary draft scope used the last freight plan scope as the basis. The previous scope was done by CDM Smith and was tailored to what they did in the past. When the RFP is developed for this plan update, there needs to be a wider range of consultants for consideration. Thus, the committee will need to meet again in July and August to refine and finalize the scope.

Ms. Ann-Marie Day stated the MPO staff has participated in the Hinesville MPO Policy Committee, and one of the policy members asked how this freight plan update relates to Hinesville. Hinesville currently has a freight plan. Bi-regional or regional coordination would be good.

[4. Freight Data Needs Assessment](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated new and updated data will help ensure the accuracy in forecasting and identifying the needs and issues of transportation. The data sources that are included in the staff report are publicly available. Some of them are proprietary where there is a fee. They cover different topics such as freight demand, commodity flows, business climate, network performance, infrastructure, and socioeconomics statistics.

The staff report includes a table highlighting the different categories related to freight that we would be interested in and what sources relate to those categories and the cost if any.

The staff is asking for input on data sources to incorporate for the data needs.

Mr. Tom McQueen stated there is a link on the webpage with the coalition that will help provide information. Ms. Wang stated research needs to be done for final cost estimate of the budget for the freight plan update. If we use Transearch data, if this will be a three-county region or if we include Hinesville, we will need accurate estimates for the data purchase.

Ms. Ann-Marie Day asked if it was definite the MPO staff will be going to the PL Funds Review Committee for funding and if so, we need to make sure there are two rounds of meetings prior to going to the committee. Ms. Wang stated the freight plan update discussion started in April. Today's meeting would be the 2nd round and with July and August that would be more than 2 rounds. The item will be discussed at both the EDFAC and TCC meetings.

IV. Status Reports

[5. Truck Restrictions Mapping](#)

Ms. Wang stated the staff was directed by the EDFAC committee to develop 3 layers of mapping.

- 1 layer is the truck restrictions on the functionally classified roadways.
- Most of the restrictions in the City of Savannah are on local streets. Thus, a separate layer is for the truck restrictions on local streets.
- The 3rd layer would be for truck load restrictions. There has not been any data provided on load restrictions. Most of the municipalities' local streets have load restrictions. Some of the load restrictions are 10,000 lbs. and others only 6000 lbs. If mapped out, it would show all the streets having load restrictions.

Therefore, staff will focus on the 1st two layers. Most of the trucks will travel on functionally classified roadways. The second layer would be focused on the local streets within the City of Savannah.

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Truck Restriction Mapping that is currently being worked on. Many of the restrictions are in the Savannah area. There is a portion in Tybee Island, Pooler, and the Bloomingdale area. 86% of the restricted roads shown are local roads. A large portion is concentrated in the downtown and midtown areas. The three layers of the map that are being focused on are functional classification, local or non-local, and weight limit. The staff is still asking for weight limit data from the local jurisdictions to add the data to the mapping.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the staff is asking the EDFAC committee for further direction – what is the outcome the committee would like to achieve. The mapping would serve as input for the freight plan update. Mr. Tom McQueen stated if there are any routes where you cross boundaries from one jurisdiction to the other, on one side of the boundary trucks are allowed and then on the other side they are not. This would be very helpful to include in the map. Also, how will this grow when the census comes out? The MPO boundaries in Bryan and Effingham Counties might change. Ms. Wang stated Richmond Hill has restrictions on all local streets. MPO staff is working with Richmond Hill in getting a list of restrictions, and once the data is collected the MPO staff will have to develop the GIS layer for mapping. Ms. Bernard asked about highlighting the roads that have a lot of trucks on them, comparing the truck percentages and truck restrictions and showing roads that have high percentage of trucks on them. Ms. Wang stated GDOT has collected some truck percentage data which is available on the website. The last freight plan included the top 20 roadways where the truck percentage was high.

[6. SR 21 Access Management Study Status Report](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Kickoff was held on March 19, 2021. The first project advisory committee meeting was held on May 13th. A project webpage has been developed. An online survey has been published. There is a wiki map on the website. This is an interactive map for people to comment on areas they feel are problem areas. The first public meeting was held virtually on May 25th. There was a day long road safety audit on June 9th. Most issues noted were maintenance related; however, there is a list of 3-4 intersections that are expected to be signalized. There were accident patterns in between, raising potential for closing some of the median.

Mr. Tom McQueen asked when the SR 307 Corridor Study would be posted on the website. Mr. Wilkes stated he is waiting for the existing conditions report from the consultant. This study will run a couple of months into FY 2022.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

None.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

None.

VII. Notices

[7. The MPC is seeking comments on Plan 2040](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated there has been positive feedback and comments from GDOT regarding Plan 2040. The staff is still accepting comments for the next 3-4 weeks regarding Plan 2040.

[8. Next EDFAC Meeting: Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 10:00am \(virtual meeting\)](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated there will most likely be a special called meeting in July to discuss the detailed freight plan update scope as well as the funding.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 17, 2021 CORE MPO EDFAC 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.