



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
110 East State Street

September 22, 2004

10:00 A.M.

Members Present:

Russ Abolt
Michael Brown
Tom Cannon
George Fidler, P.E.
Matthew Fowler
Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble
Billy Hair
Otis S. Johnson
Scott Lansing
Lee Mundell
Walter Parker
Randy Weitman, PE

Others Present:

Allan Black
Betty Carter
Alfreda Goldwire
Zoe Hardenbrook
Marianne Heimes
Brett Hulme
Calvin Kennedy
Beth Kinstler
Brian Leighton
Jack McCall
John McMasters

Catherine Maguire
Keith Melton
W. John Mitchell
Fred Noonan
Sid Nutting
Pam O'Brien
Freda Rutherford
Chester Sandeher
Shirley Session
Steve Shearouse

Representing:

Chatham County
City of Savannah
City of Garden city
Savannah Hilton Head International Airport
GDOT – Atlanta
Hunter Garrison Commander
Chatham County, Chair
Mayor, City of Savannah
Chatham Area Transit
Chair, CAC
City of Tybee Island
Georgia Ports Authority

Representing:

Chatham County
GDOT – Jesup
Savannah Federation of Teachers #2069
GDOT - Jesup
Islands Citizens for Logical Growth
Interested Citizen
Interested Citizen
Interested citizen, Magnolia Park
Savannah Council for the Blind
Interested Citizen
Chatham County Commissioner for the 3rd District,
and CAT Board
Interested Citizen
GDOT – Atlanta
New Legacy CDC
Interested Citizen
Southeast Chatham Land Use Plan
Interested Citizen, Tybee Island
Interested Citizen, Tybee Island
Interested Citizen
Interested Citizen, Tybee Island
Interested Citizen

Others Present (cont'd)

Peter Shonka, P. E.
Helen L. Stone
Patricia Stringer,
Thomas Thomson, P.E., AICP
Gwendolyn Waring
Mike Weiner, P. E.
Robert Wilder
Mark Wilkes, PE, AICP
Wykoda Wang

Representing (cont'd)

City of Savannah
Interested Citizen
Interested Citizen
MPC Executive Director
Metropolitan Community
City of Savannah
Interested Citizen
MPO Staff
MPO Staff

Dr. Hair called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections or corrections, Dr. Hair stated that the agenda would stand approved as distributed.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Ms. Wang stated that during the recent meeting, ACAT reviewed the same action items that appear on the Policy Committee agenda. The committee recommended endorsement of the LRTP and the TIP to the Policy Committee.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Mundell stated that members of the CAC approved the TIP and the LRTP. The same recommendations that were brought before the Policy Committee during the August meeting were made again. The recommendation is that the Policy Committee consider as its highest propriety 1) completion of the Truman Parkway; 2) facilitate an east-west solution on the north side of Savannah; 3) adopt a continuation of Phase V of the Truman Parkway which would connect to Interstate 95, and, 4) the widening of State Route 204. There was also a renewal of the motion about the widening of the road to Tybee. The CAC was concerned about the current status of the transfer station. A Resolution was prepared, which stated that the CAC recommends that the CAT Transit Board give serious consideration to the DFCS site, the former Sears building on Henry Street.

Mr. Lansing stated that CAT is currently undertaking environmental assessment and have narrowed it down to two sites. One is the original site; the other site is the Thunderbird Inn on Fahm and Oglethorpe. The DFCS site was listed as an original alternative. However this site did not make the short list of five sites.

Dr. Hair asked that Mr. Lansing be notified of the next CAC meeting in order to make a presentation on the transfer station.

C. Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Transportation Staff

Mr. Wilkes stated that the TCC endorsed the TIP and the LRTP to the Policy Committee.

III. Public Comments on Action Items

Dr. Hair asked if there was anyone present with a question on the Action Items. The Bi-State Authority has been removed from the LRTP that is being approved at this meeting. Following a discussion with the Mayor of Tybee Island, the widening of Highway 80 would remain in the LRTP. The Mayor would take the matter back to the City Council. If changes are in order, the plan could be amended.

Speaking were: Carl Oelschig, seeking information on whether the trolleys and the high-speed ferries were also removed from the plan.

Marianne Heimes, thanked the committee for removing the flyover at Johnny Mercer and U. S. Highway 80. She also noted that Ms. Hardeman asked that the bikeway be removed from her backyard to Bonaventure Road.

Helen Stone, stated that the Roadway Amenities Plan would be a positive step for Chatham County.

John McMasters, was seeking information on the requirements for a quorum relative to voting.

Robert Wilder asked that the project on State Route 21 be moved ahead.

Pam O'Brien asked that the Tybee road project be tabled until the Tybee City Council has addressed the issue.

Shirley Sessions stated that the removal of the CUTS advisory representative from Tybee would be discussed at the upcoming city Council meeting.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Approval of August 25, 2004 CUTS Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Abolt **moved** to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2004 CUTS Policy Committee Meeting. Mr. Lansing seconded the motion.

Policy Committee Action: **The motion carried with none opposed.** The motion was to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2004 as presented. Voting were Mr. Abolt, Mr. Brown, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Fidler, Lt. Col. Goble, Dr. Johnson, Mr. Lansing, Mr. Mundell, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Weitman.

B. Adoption of 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Mr. Thomson stated that a red-lined document was placed at each member's place. This document shows the places where references to the Bi-State Mobility Enterprise have been removed from the document.

Mr. Wilkes reviewed the financial constraints of the LRTP. The 30-day public comment period ran from August 11 to September 10. A total of 164 written comments were received during the plan update process.

Mr. Thomson noted that a summary of the comments appears in Appendix, a response is also shown in the Appendix.

Dr. Hair stated that the comments and responses are an official part of the LRTP.

Mr. Abolt **moved** to adopt the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion.

Mayor Johnson stated that regional growth is occurring whether we like it or not. For the most part all of the governments in this region are working to actively increase growth in their particular areas. Transportation is one of the most important factors in the principles of Smart Growth. Some kind of bi-state agreement is necessary in order to get people to where the jobs are and back home. All mention of the bi-state mobility issue has been removed from this document. However, sooner or later it will become necessary to work on the issue. A public transportation plan is necessary to good, strong regional growth.

Mayor Parker stated that after Tybee City Council makes its interests known, the amendment to the LRTP could be made, if required.

Policy Committee Action: The motion to adopt the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan carried with none opposed. Voting were: Mr. Abolt, Mr. Brown, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Fidler, Mr. Fowler, Lt. Col. Goble, Dr. Johnson, Mr. Lansing, Mr. Mundell, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Weitman.

C. Adoption of FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Thomson stated that this is where the funding priorities are set. The TIP is consistent with the LRTP. The only changes in the document are in the estimate for the Whitfield Avenue project and a change in the recommendation for use of Q23 funds for planning.

Mr. Abolt **moved** to approve the FY 2005-2007 TIP. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion.

Policy Committee Action: **The motion to approve the FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) carried with none opposed.** Voting were: Mr. Abolt, Mr. Brown, Mr. Fidler, Mr. Cannon, Lt. Col. Goble, Mr. Fowler, Dr. Johnson, Mr. Lansing, Mr. Mundell, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Weitman.

IV. Status Report

Connecting Savannah

Mr. Thomson stated that a copy of the draft stakeholder Conference agenda was distributed at the meeting. The process of working with the community will begin with a conference on September 27, 2004. Over 900 invitations were sent out to the conference. The event is also open to the public. Additional information is available on the MPC website.

Dr. Hair commended Mr. Thomson for taking a leadership role in this project. A hallmark of the process will be citizen involvement.

V. Informational Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Hardenbrook reviewed the status of projects that are underway in the area. A report was distributed at the meeting.

There were no questions.

B. Chatham County

Mr. Black reviewed the One-Percent Sales Tax projects in the county. A report was distributed at the meeting.

There were no questions.

C. City of Savannah

Mr. Weiner reviewed the status of projects currently underway in the City of Savannah. A report was distributed at the meeting.

There were no questions.

D. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Lansing stated that CAT is out to bid for eight new Teleride vans. It is anticipated that the new vans would be placed into service in February of 2005. CAT will also be conducting a new Transportation Development Plan, which is a five year plan for transit spending. CAT will be going out to bid for that process in October.

E. Georgia Ports Authority

Mr. Weitman stated that there was no new information to report at this time.

F. Savannah Airport

Mr. Fidler stated that traffic at the airport continues to grow. A four gate addition is being designed for the terminal. Additional parking is also being designed. The Airport has also received a Federal AIP grant to develop the southwest quadrant of the airport. This would include grading, utilities, service roads and connector taxiways.

VII. Other Business

Dr. Hair commended Mayor Johnson for his comments about the importance of regional planning. Hopefully after the first of the year, this process could move forward.

Mr. Thomson stated that staff would fax a letter to the appropriate agencies today to notify them that the LRTP has been approved. This would help to release necessary funds for CAT.

VIII. Other Public Comments

Dr. Hair asked if there was anyone else in the audience with a comment on any transportation issue.

No one came forward.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the September 22, 2004, Policy Committee meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Mark A. Wilkes, P. E., AICP
Director of Transportation Planning