



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CORE MPO BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY**

**MPC Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
112 E. State Street**

September 17, 2009

10:00 AM

Voting Members

Russ Abolt
LTC Jose Aguilar
John Bennett
Michael Brown
Jason Buelterman
Patrick S. Graham
William W. Hubbard
James Hungerpilller
McArthur Jarrett
Otis Johnson
Glenn Jones
Mike Lamb
Pete Liakakis
Doug J. Marchand
Charles Odimgbe
Andy Quinney
Patrick Shay
Vance Smith
Anna Maria Thomas
Wayne Tipton
Jon Todd
Eric R. Winger

Representing

Chatham County
Hunter Army Airfield
Chairman, CAC
City of Savannah
City of Tybee Island
Savannah Airport Commission
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
Town of Vernonburg
Chairman, ACAT
City of Savannah
City of Port Wentworth
City of Pooler
Chairman Chatham County Commission
Georgia Ports Authority
Chatham Area Transit
City of Garden City
CAT Board of Directors
GDOT
Town of Thunderbolt
City of Bloomingdale
Chairman, MPC
Savannah Economic Development
Authority (SEDA)

Present

x
x
x

x
x

x

Voting Member Alternates

Wanda Doyle
George Fidler
Chris Morrill
Trip Tollison
Cindy VanDyke
Randy Weitman

Representing

City of Tybee Island
Savannah Airport Commission
City of Savannah
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
GDOT
Georgia Ports Authority

Present

x
x
x
x
x
x

Ex-officio Members

Sonny Timmerman

Representing

Hinesville Area MPO

Present

x

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Michael Adams	MPO Staff	X
Susan Broker	City of Savannah	X
Steve Coté	Reynolds, Smith & Hills	X
Jason Crane	GDOT	X
Tim Kassa	GDOT	X
Kurt Hartfelder	SCAD Bike Club	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Kyle Mote	GDOT	X
Brad Saxon	GDOT	X
Teresa Scott	GDOT-Jesup	X
Eve Seibert	Savannah Bicycle Campaign	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Thomas Thomson, P.E., AICP	MPC Executive Director	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP	MPO Staff	X

Call to Order

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the September 17, 2009 CORE Board Special Meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the September 17, 2009 meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

A. Adoption of the CORE Connections 2035 Framework Mobility Plan

Mr. Steve Coté, from Reynolds, Smith & Hills, made the final presentation to the committee and noted that the 30-day comment period was completed and that comments had been addressed and worked into the plan.

Phase I, known as the Framework Mobility Plan, meets all federal SAFETEA-LU requirements and sets the foundation for Phase II, the Total Mobility Plan. Phase II will include more public outreach and much greater project detail and is expected to take about eighteen months to complete. Comments received from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) necessitated including higher inflation rates for certain phases of project development, so the construction phase of the SR 204 project from the Truman Parkway Phase V to I-95 was moved out to the Vision Plan. Only PE funding for this project remains in the constrained plan. Thus the toll portion of the project is no longer on the revenue side of the constrained plan.

Mr. Coté reviewed revenue and funding numbers for the Plan. The federal & state portion and the SPLOST portion remains the same as shown previously. Only the toll portion has changed. The Framework Plan includes Cost Feasible Projects, Projects with other funding sources (i.e. ARRA and TIGER grants), and the Vision Plan. The next steps include adopting the Framework Plan today, submitting the Framework Plan to federal review agencies, and starting work on Phase II, the Total Mobility Plan.

Mr. Liakakis opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Ms. Eve Seibert, representing the Savannah Bicycle Campaign, thanked the committee for looking out for the interests of cyclists. This benefits cyclists and the entire community.

Mr. Kurt Hartfelder, from SCAD bike club, explained that SCAD now has a student cyclist organization and they, too, are grateful for the allocation of resources and greater interest paid to improvements for the bicycling community. He reported that SCAD students have taken notice of these efforts.

There being no further public comments, Mr. Liakakis closed the public hearing.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the CORE Connections 2035 Framework Mobility Plan.

Mr. Tom Thomson noted that Mr. George Fidler has submitted grammatical and other word enhancement changes, but no substantive changes to the project content have been made.

Mr. Patrick Shay looks forward to hearing more about waterway transportation in the future. Mr. Thomson commented that the Transit Vision Plan will include a closer look at waterways and ferry services.

Mr. Chris Morrill, representing the City Manager's office, thanked the MPO for responding to comments issued by the city. He expressed a desire to reconsider the Whitfield Avenue project in the future. He hopes to see projects in the southwest quadrant included in the future and developed in connection with the "Complete Streets" process.

Ms. Wanda Doyle was glad to see included in the plan the widening of the Tybee bridges.

Mr. Thomson noted that there is a resolution that the Chairman will sign that goes with the adoption of the plan.

CORE Board Action: the motion to adopt the CORE Connections 2035 Framework Mobility Plan carried with none opposed.

B. Amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for projects contingent on TIGER grant awards

Mr. Thomson stated that the committee members had received the staff reports on these four projects and asked for any questions from the committee. The four projects listed in the proposed amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program are:

- Truman Parkway, Phase 5
- Hybrid transit vehicles
- Coastal Georgia Greenway
- Jimmy DeLoach connector

If approved, these projects will be included in the current Transportation Improvement Program with funds contingent upon the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant awards.

Mr. Liakakis opened the public portion of the meeting.
There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Liakakis explained that only the following three projects in our community were approved by the State Transportation Board for Phase I of the State's stimulus funding:

- PI#M003910, SR 307 Resurface and maintenance from south of I-16 to south of SR 25, FY09, \$2,827,199
- PI#M003911, SR 30 Resurface and maintenance from SR 21 to SR25, FY09, \$230,526
- PI#533160, SR25/Ocean Highway Bridge Replacement at Norfolk Southern RR 5 miles north of Savannah, FY09, \$4,418,400.

He expressed disappointment in such a small allocation of stimulus funds. Two of these three projects involve state roads which he believes should be in their budget.

Our area received no allocated funding from Phase II of the of the State's stimulus funding and he finds this unreasonable. Savannah and Chatham County is an important region to the state, due to the Port, the military bases, and tourism. Hopefully, we will fare better with these TIGER grant applications.

Mr. Shay agreed with Mr. Liakakis that we seem to be left behind in the stimulus funding program. He noted the need to have a continued presence in Atlanta and in Washington DC to monitor this funding process. It is important that we stay abreast of the rules of the game.

Mr. Otis Johnson offered the clarification that stimulus funds came to the state for distribution and the decisions for distributing these funds were made by the state. We need to inquire of our state representatives why our area came up short in this funding process.

Mr. Thomson commented that our area received a little less than \$20 million in stimulus funds. At the same time, we are expecting \$150 million less to be allocated to our area in the new Transportation Improvement Program than we had in the previously adopted Transportation Improvement Program. This means we can expect a net loss of \$130 million for transportation projects in the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program.

It was moved and seconded to approve the amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for projects contingent on TIGER Grant Awards.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for projects contingent on TIGER Grant Awards.

Mr. Tripp Tollison asked if the TIGER grants were going through the state or came directly from the federal level. Mr. Thomson confirmed that the TIGER awards come directly from the US DOT Secretary.

Mr. Thomson introduced Ms. Cindy VanDyke from GDOT who is replacing Matthew Fowler.

III. Status Report

A. Development of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Thomson reported that this new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is due in December 2009, but he is hoping to move it forward to GDOT in October. It is this new TIP that has \$150 million less money available in it. The draft is currently on the website. The TIGER grants that were just discussed will be carried forward into this new Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Liakakis encouraged the committee members to contact legislators regarding support for the TIGER applications from this area.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the September 17, 2009 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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