
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Michael Adams	MPO Staff	X
Jason Crane	GDOT	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Jessica Mayfield	MPO Staff	X
Teresa Scott	GDOT - Jesup	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Thomas Thomson, P.E., AICP	MPC Executive Director	X
Stephen Traub	CAC member	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP	MPO Staff	X
Julie Yawn	MPC Staff	X

Call to Order

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the February 24, 2010 CORE MPO Board Meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

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

CORE MPO Board Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the February 24, 2010 meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Ms. Jane Love reported that the committee endorsed the same action items that are on today's agenda and participated in a mapping exercise designed to gather information concerning bicycle/pedestrian issues as staff begins preparation of the Non-motorized Transportation Plan.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. John Bennett reported that the committee endorsed the action items and participated in the mapping exercise for the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. He also reported that the committee is very interested in the West Bay St. plan and would like to see the planners incorporate the traffic calming suggestions put forth by the city consultant and concerned citizens.

C. Technical Coordinating Committee

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported that the committee endorsed the amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and amendments to the Unified Planning Work

Program (UPWP).

D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tom Thomson reported on an upcoming 3-day conference (March 9-11, 2010) on the subject of adapting to coastal risks. He recommended board members attend the March 11th session.

He referred the board members to two handouts outlining the proposed Transportation Investment Act. For more details he suggested members go online to the Georgia Legislature website. A key point of the legislation is that the state would be organized around regions and not congressional districts. Chatham County would be part of a 10-county region. This region would be involved, as a whole, in any referendum with no opting out. Another key point is the method of fund distribution. This bill would change how Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) currently does business.

He reported that the state of Georgia did not receive any of the TIGER grants and neither did Chatham Area Transit (CAT). Mr. Liakakis expressed his concern that Chatham County did not receive funding for the road project between the port and the interstate highway. He has sent a letter to President Obama stating the importance of this project.

Mr. Thomson announced that Mr. Roy Herrington is stepping down from the District 1 seat on the State Transportation Board. He asked the board to issue a resolution of thanks to Mr. Herrington for his support of the Savannah/Chatham County area and to invite him to the next meeting.

It was moved and seconded to prepare a resolution of recognition and thanks to Roy Herrington and to invite him to the next CORE MPO Board meeting.

CORE MPO Board action: the motion to prepare a resolution of recognition and thanks to Roy Herrington and to invite him to the next CORE MPO Board meeting carried with none opposed.

It was moved and seconded that this board support Mr. Liakakis' letter to President Obama.

CORE MPO Board Action: the motion that this board support Mr. Liakakis' letter to President Obama carried with none opposed.

Mr. Thomson noted and Mr. Liakakis agreed to invite Mr. Jay Shaw to a CORE MPO Board meeting in the near future. Mr. Shaw is taking the seat vacated by Mr. Herrington.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the December 16, 2009 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2009 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

CORE MPO Board Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2009 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Approval of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Ms. Wykoda Wang summarized the staff report that was a part of the meeting materials.

- Regularly funded projects
 - SR 307 Overpass – amendment to split the utility phase from the construction phase and revise the project’s construction cost accordingly.
 - Bay Street Improvements – amendment to add additional federal and state funds to FY 2011 to the project for right-of-way (ROW) purchase since ARRA funding is not sufficient to complete the purchase.
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded projects
 - Montgomery Cross Rd signal interconnect project will not be ready in time to meet the ARRA deadline, therefore, this project will be taken out of the TIP and the \$80,000 allotment will be redistributed among the four remaining city ARRA projects.
 - CAT adjusted their transit projects. They are using 10% of the grant for operating expenses so this amendment is offered to readjust the funding to reflect this change. Reductions were made in Capital Maintenance and Security Equipment.
 - The CAT transit center is in the TIP subject to a TIGER grant, but CAT did not apply for the TIGER grant for the Transit Center. This project does not have any associated funding, so the TIP is not financially constrained. Therefore this project needs to be removed from the TIP.

Ms. Wang reported that there is a 15-day public comment period. She reviewed the five public comments she has received.

Mr. Liakakis opened the public hearing. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

It was moved and second to approve the amendments to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

CORE MPO Board Action: the motion to approve the amendments to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) carried with none opposed.

C. Approval of Amendments to the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that these amendments are necessary to carry forward funds from the last fiscal year to this fiscal year and asked the CORE MPO Board to approve this amendment.

It was moved and seconded to approve the amendments to the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program.

CORE MPO Board Action: the motion to approve the amendments to the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed.

D. Resolution in support of Chatham Area Transit's (CAT) Livability Bus Program Grant Application

Ms. Wang reported that CAT is applying for funds through the Livability Bus Program for purchase of hybrid buses, paratransit vehicles, and shuttles, as well as for LEED certified facility modifications. CAT would like to obtain the MPO's support for the grant application in the form of an MPO resolution. The resolution will serve as a supporting document for the grant application.

It was moved and seconded to issue a resolution in support of CAT's grant application through the Livability Bus Program.

CORE MPO Board Action: the motion to issue a resolution in support of CAT's grant application through the Livability Bus Program carried with one abstention.

IV. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

V. Status Reports

A. ARRA Project Status Update

Ms. Wang referred the board to the extensive report included in the meeting materials. She highlighted the GDOT projects in our area, the projects that are part of the MPO

allocation, CAT projects, and the Ferry Boat project. All projects have met the deadline for obligating funds. Three of the GDOT projects are under construction and the fourth has been authorized. The city signal projects have been let and funds for the Bay St. improvements have been authorized. CAT projects are moving forward; buses and shelters have been ordered. CAT is presently negotiating a contract for the new ferry boat.

VI. Agency Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Teresa Scott confirmed that the Bay St. funds have been authorized. She reported on the following projects:

- #2 – SR 307 construct overpass – acquiring ROW
- #3 – SR 25/US 17 @ SR 307 – acquiring ROW
- #4 – SR 204 spur from ‘ Creek to Ferguson Ave. – County continues to purchase ROW; should be completed by April
- #9 – SR 204 @ Harmon Canal – acquiring ROW
- #15 – SR 404 spur/US17 over Back River Bridge – preliminary field plan review was held on 2/23/10
- #23 – SR 204 from King George Blvd. to Rio Rd. – changing it to an interchange project. The concept meeting was held at the MPC on February 19, 2010.

Mr. Brian Johnson asked about the status of #10 (SR 307/Dean Forest Rd.). Ms. Scott reported the project is ready and the plans are on the shelf because state funds are not available.

Mr. Pat Shay asked for clarification of the Bay St. ROW. Ms. Scott confirmed that ARRA designated funds are insufficient to acquire all the ROW. The County will advance monies from the SPLOST fund and be reimbursed to complete the ROW acquisition.

Mr. Trip Tollison asked if GDOT is going to re-evaluate other project costs in light of the actual cost of Truman Parkway Phase V. Ms. Scott commented that construction companies want to work badly enough to keep costs low. The overage from this project was reallocated elsewhere immediately.

B. Liberty County Projects

Mr. Sonny Timmerman reported that Liberty County efforts are focused on transit issues. They are beginning a feasibility study for an intermodal transit center thanks to ARRA funding.

C. Chatham County

No report at this time. Mr. Russ Abolt noted that projects are on track.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Mike Weiner reported the status of city projects:

- Jimmy Deloach Pkwy. & Benton Dr. signal installation – signal will be operational as of today.
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- Jimmy Deloach Pkwy. & Crossroads Pkwy. signal installation – Georgia Power is in the process of adjusting their overhead power lines to provide adequate clearance for the future signal span wire. Contractor started the installation of the strain poles yesterday, February 23, 2010. This should be ready by April or May of this year.
- Victory Dr. signal timing upgrade – The city is working with GDOT on a signal upgrading project for this corridor. All traffic control equipment is being upgraded and new signal timing is being developed.
- Traffic Stimulus Projects – GDOT opened the bids for the 4 projects on February 19th.
- West Gwinnett St. Widening – GDOT is reviewing the environmental study

There was no report on Project DeRenne at this time.

E. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Charles Odimgbe reported that eleven new hybrid buses are on the road and nine more are coming. CAT has been replacing the bus stop signs so as to be consistent throughout the area and compliant with ADA regulations. They are preparing to deploy more bus shelters. The new design for the bus shelter will be ADA compliant and offer maximum space for pedestrians. CAT has begun discussions on how to deploy benches. Once the problem of accumulated trash is resolved, more benches will be placed around the county stops.

Mr. Shay mentioned that many residents of the historic district prefer the old bus stop signs. He believes Mr. Odimgbe handled their comments very well. CAT has created a lottery system to distribute the old signs to those who register.

F. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time. Mr. Randy Weitman expressed appreciation for Mr. Liakakis' letter to the President regarding the Port's road project.

G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

No report at this time.

VII. Other Public Comments

Mr. Stephen Traub, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, made a presentation. He distributed an aerial photo of the Victory Dr./Truman Pkwy. exit ramp corridor to the board members.

Mr. Traub would like to see a slip ramp from the main exit ramp of the Truman Parkway leading directly into the shopping center thereby avoiding congestion at the Victory Dr. interchange.

He asked that a feasibility study be ordered to study this slip ramp. It is mentioned in the larger project study for this corridor but it is currently a long term project. He would like this portion to be moved up to a short-term project.

Mr. Liakakis thanked Mr. Traub for his continued interest and suggestions regarding traffic flow improvements. This suggestion will be put to the staff, and as something comes up then we will have this information.

Mr. Thomson noted that this area was first studied as part of the MPO's context-sensitive design manual preparation. Some citizen ideas came forth at that time. It was studied further as part of the Congestion Management Plan update about 18 months ago. Now it is scheduled to be a focus area in the detailed portion of Long Range Transportation Plan currently under development. One idea is to utilize Roland Dr. as a way to ease congestion on Victory Dr. The corridor signal changes should help this area, too.

VIII. Announcements

Next meeting will be April 28, 2010 at 10:00 AM.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business the February 24, 2010 CORE MPO Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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