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<u>Regional Coordination Guest</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rachel Hatcher	Hinesville Area MPO	X
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Al Bungard	Chatham County	X
Beverly Davis	RS&H, Inc.	X
Heather Fish	City of Savannah	X
Rob Hume	Kimley Horn Associates	X
Gary Johnston	Thunderbolt	X
Tim Kassa	GDOT	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Jessica Mayfield	MPO Staff	X
Rose McCombs	Thunderbolt	X
Teresa Scott	GDOT- District 5	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Thomas Thomson, P.E., AICP	MPC Executive Director	
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	
Mike Wiener	City of Savannah	X
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP	MPO Staff	X

**Call to Order**

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the 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 June 23, 2010 meeting carried with none opposed.**

**II. Committee Reports**

**A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation**

Mr. James Aberson reported that the committee endorsed all action items. The committee also received a status report from Teleride noting that new vans would be arriving in a few months.

**B. Citizens Advisory Committee**

Mr. John Bennett reported that the committee endorsed all the action items listed on today's agenda. In addition, the committee continues to focus attention on the West Bay Street improvement project. The committee requested that a GDOT representative attend CAC meetings from time to time to provide information on specific projects that are of concern to the committee.

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**C. Technical Coordinating Committee**

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that the committee endorsed all action items which are on today's agenda.

**D. Executive Director's Report**

In the absence of Executive Director Tom Thomson, there was no report presented at this time.

**III. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the April 28, 2010 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2010 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

**CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2010 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.**

**B. Authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for Fort Pulaski Entrance Road bridge project**

Mr. Wilkes reported that this project is receiving funding designated for National Parks Service. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has asked that it be in the TIP. However, projects in the TIP must be consistent with the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and thus an amendment to the LRTP must be considered first. Today's request is the first step in the LRTP amendment process – to authorize staff to study the project. Staff will come back to this board at a later date for final action on the amendment.

When asked questions about the scope of the project, Mr. Wilkes responded that staff has received no specific information on the project scope. This could be researched during the LRTP amendment process.

A motion was made and seconded for approval of authorization of further study of requested LRTP amendment for Fort Pulaski Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

**CORE Board Action: the motion for approval of authorization of further study of the requested LRTP amendment for the Fort Pulaski Bridge Rehabilitation Project carried with none opposed.**

**C. Authorization for further study of requested LRTP amendment for the Jimmy DeLoach connector project**

Mr. Wilkes requested the board's authorization to study this project before recommending final action on the amendment to the LRTP. Mr. Wilkes noted that the State is seeking bond funding for the project.

A motion was made and seconded for approval of authorization for further study of requested LRTP amendment for the Jimmy DeLoach Connector Project.

**CORE Board Action: the motion for approval of authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for the Jimmy DeLoach Connector Project carried with none opposed.**

**D. FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Public Hearing and Adoption**

Mr. Wilkes reported on the TIP development process including the publication of the draft TIP, the public review and comment period, and the schedule of public hearings for the draft TIP. He reviewed the following three projects that were added since the draft TIP was put published for review:

- Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Phase 2 – partial ROW funding in 2014
- Jimmy DeLoach Parkway/US 80 Interchange – partial ROW funding in 2014
- Ogeechee Road widening – ROW funding in 2013

Mr. Jason Buelterman asked if the US 80 to Tybee Island project is included in the TIP. Mr. Wilkes responded that preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition have been included in previous TIPs and that funding has been authorized for those phases. The project is not currently construction ready. In order for the MPO to include construction in the TIP, GDOT would need to advance the project.

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

A motion was made and seconded for adoption of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**CORE Board Action: the motion for adoption of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) carried with none opposed.**

**E. Approval of the amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Wilkes reported that the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was approved at the last board meeting. Amendments are now necessary to include the following changes:

- Updated apportionments in the JARC funds and New Freedom funds based upon the May 13, 2010 Federal Register notice.
- Inclusion of additional L230 MPO-attributable funds. These funds were not shown in the initial FY 2011 UPWP because local match issues were being resolved. Cash match has now been secured.
- More detail added to the description of activity for the Streetcar Plan in anticipation of possibly applying for federal grants.

A motion was made and seconded for approval of the amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program.

**CORE Board Action: the motion for approval of the amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed.**

**IV. Other Business**

There was no other business at this time.

**V. Status Reports**

**A. Update on Project DeRenne**

Mr. Rob Hume, from Kimley Horn Associates, gave a presentation on the current status of the Project DeRenne study. He presented a map of the general DeRenne Ave. corridor and noted the major stakeholders involved with the project. He reported that the Savannah City Council adopted a resolution for advancing the "Boulevard" concept from the Project DeRenne recommendations into preliminary engineering. This concept would actually be applied to a roadway where Hampstead Ave. is now. The city council also endorsed median improvements along the length of DeRenne Ave. The city resolution includes a review of the real estate policies that need to be in place to insure that the neighbors in the area are treated fairly and equitably. Council also directed the project to include a study for implementing a sound barrier between I-516 and the Taterville neighborhood. Mr. Hume's presentation included a rendering of the proposed Boulevard concept.

He reported that Phase II is concluding and they are now entering Phase III which is the environmental and preliminary engineering process. The immediate next steps are coordinate with GDOT on the concept report, preliminary design, determine funding

sources, consultations with Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF), develop and implement real estate policies that will work locally to be fair and equitable, and begin to define the components of the preliminary design and environmental process.

Mr. Russ Abolt expressed concern about the environmental report becoming outdated and/or needing to be re-done because it takes so long before actual construction begins. Mr. Hume confirmed that environmental approvals are for a finite time period. As with any project, delay is possible, but he believes the will of the people and the council will move this from a study to a project sooner than later. Mr. Abolt is concerned about timing and funding. For funding from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), this project will require specific plans. Mr. Hume hopes to leverage the local funding (approx. \$20 million in SPLOST funding for a DeRenne Ave. solution) to move this quickly to the project level.

Mr. Charles Odimgbe asked about transit and non-motorized interests in this concept. Mr. Hume noted that all modes of transportation were considered in developing this concept. The concept envisions a safe and accessible bicycle facility from HAAF to the Truman Linear Park, via a path along the new Boulevard, bike-friendly facilities on White Bluff Rd., hopeful bike route opportunities in a potential redevelopment of the Lewis property, and use of the existing residential frontage road DeRenne Dr. Medians and sidewalks will meet pedestrian needs. The details for bus accommodations have not been worked out at this time.

Lt. Col. Aguilar commented that timing in this project is essential for him. He has sent a letter to the Mayor outlining the following major interests of HAAF:

- Land net gain/loss – he has some projects under development for the land in question
- Improved ingress and egress from the base
- Anti-terrorist protection

If this project is actually funded, he can move quickly. Mr. Hume confirmed that extensive talks are underway with HAAF and that the city is encouraging him to move forward quickly.

Mr. Hume reported that the cost reported to City Council was a range of \$38 - \$48 million plus \$5 - \$10 million for other median improvements.

Mr. Abolt reminded the board that there is no longer \$20 million of SPLOST funding in the pot for this. It has been drawn down for past studies of DeRenne Ave.

Ms. Rochelle Small-Toney commented that the will of the community is driving this project now. If action is not taken now, this corridor could be negatively impacted. She confirmed that city council has embraced the work done by the community on this project. It is now in the hands of the city council, the county, the MPO, and HAAF to keep this project moving forward.

Mr. Abolt expressed concern that Project DeRenne and the US 80 project to Tybee would be ready for construction at the same time. Mr. Wilkes noted that progress on the US 80 project rests with GDOT. Mr. Abolt would like to know what projects will be ready for the next SPLOST vote. The projects for SPLOST should be in line with the TIP. He sees these two projects as critical because they both have strong constituencies. Mr. Liakakis recommended all board members and staff start advocating with our legislators for funding.

Mr. Abernson, speaking for the ACAT, asked about audible signals and pedestrian refuge opportunities in this Boulevard concept. Mr. Hume confirmed that the connection would be very pedestrian-friendly. The consultants met with residents of the Summit, there on Hampstead Ave., and noted pedestrian needs.

Mr. Hume concluded with the statement that his team and the City leaders are eager to see this move from being a study to being a project.

### **B. Update on Special Grant Opportunities**

Ms. Jane Love reported that the federal government has announced the following four grant opportunities:

- TIGER II
  - National Infrastructure Investments
  - Planning
- HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant
- Federal Transit Administration Alternatives Analysis
- HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

Ms. Love described the type of projects eligible for each grant. MPC and MPO staff is considering filing applications for the Alternatives Analysis grant and the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant, in partnership with local agencies as appropriate.

### **C. HB 277 Transportation Act of 2010 Highlights**

Ms. Cindy VanDyke, from GDOT reported on the highlights of the recent transportation legislation signed by the Governor. Highlights include:

- Creation of special tax districts
- Each district could levy a 1% sales tax for 10 years
- No county can opt out of a regional tax district
- Chatham County is part of the 10-county coastal region
- Money raised in a given region stays in that region
- Creation of a Regional Roundtable and Executive Committee

- Project selection criteria and a draft project lists for regions are developed by the GDOT Planning Director with input from local governments and MPOs
- Executive Committee of a Roundtable collaborates with Planning Director to develop final project list, to be considered for approval by Roundtable
- Roundtable can amend final project list with projects from the original draft list
- If a project list is not approved by the Roundtable, the district is “gridlocked,” which results in local match on Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants being 50% for the local governments in that district, as opposed to a 10% match.
- If the Roundtable approves a project list but the citizen voters do not approve the regional sales tax, then local governments within the district would pay 30% match on the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants.

Ms. VanDyke reviewed the time schedule for selecting projects and the make-up of the Regional Roundtable and Executive Committee.

Mr. Liakakis believes this legislation is unfair in regard to representation and fund distribution since counties with higher population would not have more representatives on the Roundtable than the lower population areas. Also, the Program Director has too much power over the communities in the districts. He asked the MPO to look into the issues in this bill that are unfair to the city and county so that we can speak to our legislators for the purpose of making changes in the next legislative session.

Ms. Small-Toney asked if money already spent on projects can be used as match. Ms. VanDyke could not answer at this time.

Mr. Abolt believes this legislation erodes the credibility of the MPO with the community. This puts the county under the control of a disproportionate distribution of the population.

Mr. Tollison asked if there was a certain population threshold that would entitle a community to another seat on the Regional Roundtable. Several people affirmed this. It has to do with distribution of a county’s population – within municipalities or not.

There was more discussion about how the vote is counted to determine whether a referendum for a tax passes or not.

There was discussion about the distribution of the funds within the region. Issue was taken with Chatham County residents paying the 1% tax to support projects in another county.

Mr. Liakakis again encouraged all board members and all seven cities in Chatham County to speak with all our legislators about getting changes made to this law.

## **VI. Agency Reports**

### **A. Georgia Department of Transportation**



Ms. Teresa Scott said that she would gladly attend the CAC meeting in August, in response to the CAC Chairman's report of the CAC's wish to have GDOT staff present. Mr. Bennett clarified that her presence probably wouldn't be required every month and he would let her know if she should come in August.

Ms. Scott referred to the report that was distributed to the board and highlighted the following projects:

- **#2 SR 307 overpass over rail line & #3 SR 25/US 17 at SR 307** -- both were let this past Friday. There is a low bidder and it should be awarded this week
- **#6 – SR 21 at Gulfstream Rd.** – Preliminary field plan review has been held. They are moving forward. Mr. Liakakis asked what was holding up the Gulfstream projects. It is important to support Gulfstream's presence in Chatham County. Ms. Scott reported that GDOT is in regular contact with Gulfstream and the Governor's office. She also noted that project #7 is undergoing a significant change in scope. Both projects are in preliminary stages now. The money is in the TIP for 2012. Mr. Liakakis wants to be sure that a major employer like Gulfstream is not frustrated by delay on transportation projects. Ms. Scott assured the Board that Gulfstream is fully informed of the status.
- **#9 – SR 204/Abercorn Ext. @ Harmon canal** - completing right of way acquisition
- **#15 –SR 303 Spur/US 17 over Back River bridge** - right of way plans are approved; awaiting funding to being acquisition
- **#23 – SR 204/Abercorn Ext. at King George** - this will be an interchange project; held a Public Information Open House and received good comments
- **#25 – Brampton Rd. Connector** - held a Public Information Open House and received good comments

### **B. Liberty County Projects**

Ms. Rachel Hatcher reported that Liberty County will be starting up their fixed-route transit system. They will be running 7 buses with 1 spare. This was possible due to the American Recover and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Route service should start in the fall of 2010.

### **C. Chatham County**

Mr. Al Bungard noted that change is constant when working transportation projects with the state and federal highway administration. Intergovernmental agreements have changed; things that previously had signatures have to be re-worked. There is not enough SPLOST money left to fulfill all the commitments at this time. Given the decision-making process outlined in the state's Transportation Act of 2010, he believes a future SPLOST should go back to being transportation-focused, as SPLOST was originally in this county.

### **D. City of Savannah**

Mr. Mike Wiener reported the status of city projects:

- West Gwinnett St. Widening – public information meeting last night
- ARRA projects – (LED signal replacement; pedestrian countdown signals, audible pedestrian pushbuttons, & signal pre-emption for emergency vehicles). GDOT has approved the hardware and the training has been scheduled. Activity will begin in July.
- Signal Installation at Jimmy Deloach Pkwy. and Crossroads Pkwy. – Signal was placed on stop and go operation on June 2, 2010.

Mr. Liakakis asked how many out-of-town emergency vehicles were outfitted to use the pre-emption system. Mr. Wiener explained that the city was working with other counties on that, but he doesn't know who is responsible for installing the GPS equipment in the ambulances.

#### **E. Chatham Area Transit**

No report at this time.

#### **F. Georgia Ports Authority**

Mr. Randy Weitman reported that Norfolk Southern has begun construction on the "Y" project. This is funded with SAFETEA-LU earmarked funds and should be completed in 2013. With the letting of the SR 307 overpass project the port can now move forward with their other SAFETEA-LU project. Port volume is up and the port is doing well.

#### **G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport**

No report at this time.

### **VII. Other Public Comments**

Ms. VanDyke clarified her earlier statement on the HR 277 legislation. The results of the referendum will be based on a simple majority of the overall population of the district, not by county.

### **VIII. Announcements**

Ms. Love announced that there are two surveys on the website for bicycle planning and pedestrian planning. The results from these surveys will be used in developing the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. Surveys will be open until mid-July.

Next meeting will be August 25, 2010 at 10:00 AM.

### **IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference**

The items posted and mailed were for information only. There was no presentation.

X. **Adjournment**

There being no further business the June 23, 2010 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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