



**CORE MPO BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

October 27, 2010

10:00 AM

Voting Members

Representing

Present

Russ Abolt	Chatham County	x
LTC Jose Aguilar	Hunter Army Airfield	
John Bennett	Chairman, CAC	
Jason Buelterman	City of Tybee Island	
Shedrick Coleman	Chairman, MPC	x
Curtis Foltz	Georgia Ports Authority	
Patrick S. Graham	Savannah Airport Commission	
Tennyson Holder	City of Garden City	
William W. Hubbard	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce	
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonburg	
McArthur Jarrett	Chairman, ACAT	
Otis Johnson	City of Savannah	x
Glenn Jones	City of Port Wentworth	
Mike Lamb	City of Pooler	
Pete Liakakis	Chairman Chatham County Commission	x
Charles Odimgbe	Chatham Area Transit	
Lynn Pitts	Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA)	
Patrick Shay	CAT Board of Directors	x
Rochelle Small-Toney	City of Savannah	
Vance Smith	GDOT	
Anna Maria Thomas	Town of Thunderbolt	
Wayne Tipton	City of Bloomingdale	

Voting Member Alternates

Representing

Present

Teresa Brenner	ACAT	x
Tim Kassa	GDOT	x
Diane Schleicher	City of Tybee Island	x
Hugh "Trip" Tollison	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce	x

Regional Coordination Guest

Representing

Present

Sonny Timmerman	Liberty County	x
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<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Michael Adams	MPO Staff	X
Jason Crane	GDOT	X
Abby Ebodaghe	GDOT	X
Jessica Hagan	MPO Staff	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Brad Saxon	GDOT	X
Teresa Scott	GDOT- District 5	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Thomas Thomson, P.E., AICP	MPC Executive Director	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
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

Mr. Tom Thomson asked that approval of the meeting calendar for 2011 be added to the agenda under "Other Business. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda, as amended.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the October 27, 2010 meeting, as amended, carried with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Ms. Teresa Brenner reported that the committee endorsed the proposed changes to the current Long Range Transportation Plan. The committee also had a lengthy discussion with Teleride and Veolia representatives about the proposed changes to the Teleride customer handbook and the quality of current service.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Ms. Jane Love reported that the committee had not had a quorum, therefore no votes had been cast on the action items. Status reports had been presented.

C. Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Tom Thomson reported that the committee endorsed the proposed updates to the current Long Range Transportation Plan.

D. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Tom Thomson reported that Chatham County did not receive any of the TIGER II grant money recently awarded for the projects submitted. Atlanta received a grant for its streetcar project. Staff will speak with appropriate agencies to discuss future opportunities to resubmit projects. The MPO will try to secure regular funding for the Savannah streetcar project.

Mr. Thomson also reported that they plan to re-convene the group from regional transit discussions.

Mr. Thomson asked if Board members were aware of any business to place on the agenda for the December 15, 2010, MPO Board meeting. If not, the staff has nothing scheduled, and he recommended cancelling the meeting in light of the holiday season.

Mr. Pat Shay asked for clarification of the streetcar grant. Mr. Shay and Mr. Russ Abolt reported that a meeting was scheduled with the Washington lobbyist who represents Chatham Area Transit (CAT) and the County. Mr. Thomson commented that the streetcar project and the I-16 removal project would be good projects for federal attention. The I-16 project is related to the project that focuses on the Martin Luther King Blvd. corridor.

Mr. Pete Liakakis raised concern about the Bay St. project and asked if there was any new information about the federal agency pulling the record of decision because of new information about the possible historic status of a building in this corridor. Ms. Teresa Scott reported that the right-of-way acquisition will be suspended and the project will be delayed 12-18 months while the historic review is made of the building known as Marvel Cleaners. Mr. Liakakis asked Mr. Thomson to have staff provide an evaluation. Mr. Thomson agreed but prefers that the state evaluate and report on this issue. Mr. Shay suggested consulting with Priscilla Thomas concerning the cultural heritage of this neighborhood and this building, in particular, since she is very familiar with the neighborhood and its history. Mr. Shedrick Coleman, who chairs the state review board for these issues, will look into whether this item has been placed on the agenda for this state committee. Mr. Otis Johnson believes that there are other issues with the right-of-way acquisition besides the historic significance of one building. Four property owners don't want to relocate. But perhaps those owners would be willing to locate in the commercial strip that Sustainable Fellwood plans, facing Bay St.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the August 25, 2010 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the August 25, 2010 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

CORE Board Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the August 25, 2010 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Approval of the proposed Long Range Transportation Plan Updates

Ms. Wykoda Want reported that the proposed revisions are for the purpose of streamlining the projects in the current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and bringing some project descriptions in line with the results of recent studies.

The first revision is for the Project DeRenne projects. Staff recommends deleting the DeRenne Ave placeholder project that has been in the LRTP and replacing it with the three specific projects that have come out of the Savannah City Council approval of three recommendations from Project DeRenne. These are the Project DeRenne Boulevard Option, East DeRenne Avenue Improvements, and West DeRenne Avenue Improvements. These three projects are more specific in scope than the original project description.

Secondly, a proposed revision is for the Connecting Savannah projects. Bay Street signal and intersection improvements are completed so this needs to be deleted from the LRTP. Another revision is to combine two phases of a project related to the Truman Parkway currently in the Vision Plan into one new project listing in the Vision Plan.

Third, a revision is proposed is to consolidate numerous items related to a given corridor. Projects related to SR 21, SR 204, and US 80, including the ARRA-funded studies, will be combined into a line item for each corridor.

Ms. Wang referred the committee to the staff report for further details. She also noted that there is a 15-day public comment period and today's meeting is the second public hearing.

Mr. Shay questioned the project for a second bridge across the Savannah River. Mr. Thomson replied that this is in the long-term vision plan (i.e. not funded). It was one of the projects that came out of the Connecting Savannah program. If the Jasper port comes about or if Hutchinson Island becomes more populated, this will need to be studied.

Mr. Shay offered his appreciation to Mr. Thomson and Ms. Wang for assistance with the US 80 Wave Ecology project. Mr. Abolt agreed.

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

There being no further discussion, it was moved and seconded to approve the proposed updates to the current Long Range Transportation Plan.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the proposed updates to the current Long Range Transportation Plan carried with one opposed (Mr. Shay).

IV. Other Business

After discussion it was moved and seconded to cancel the CORE MPO board meeting for December 15, 2010.

CORE MPO Board Action: the motion to cancel the CORE MPO board meeting for December 15, 2010 carried with none opposed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed meeting calendar for 2011.

CORE MPO Board Action: the motion to approve the meeting calendar for 2011 carried with none opposed.

V. Status Reports

A. **Update on Regional Transportation Sales & Use Tax**

Mr. Thomson submitted a letter on September 30, 2010 to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) which compiled the MPO's and other agencies' and organizations' comments about the draft criteria, process suggestions, and the shortcomings of the actual legislation. The next steps include the possibility of revised criteria by GDOT by November 15, 2010. All Roundtable representatives' names need to be submitted by November 10, 2010. The Roundtable will meet initially to consider approval of the criteria for project selection and will name an Executive Team. Submission of projects to GDOT will occur in the spring/summer of 2011. GDOT will draw up the unconstrained master selection list. The Executive Team will then compile a constrained project list. The second Roundtable meeting will occur in August 2011 to approve the list or amend it from the unconstrained master list. They will vote, up or down, on a financially constrained list of projects. If they vote it down the process is over and local governments must come up with 50% match for state aid projects. If they vote it up, then it goes to a public vote in August of 2012. The MPO staff will work with the Roundtable members to educate and advise on projects and funding sources. MPO will also coordinate with other agencies that have interests similar to ours.

Discussion followed. Mr. Thomson noted that the Coastal Regional Commission has been asked to facilitate the Roundtable meetings.

B. **Update on CORE MPO ARRA-funded studies**

Mr. Mark Wilkes referred committee members to the details included in the staff report. All three studies are in the same stage. Data collection is nearly complete and the next step will be development of alternatives.

C. Update on non-motorized Transportation Plan

Ms. Jane Love reviewed the results from the on-line bicycle survey and the on-line pedestrian survey, and then highlighted the next steps in the process of developing the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. Details are included in the staff report.

VI. Agency Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Teresa Scott reported on the following projects:

- **#2 – SR 204 spur from Haneys Creek** – ROW certified; working on final plans; construction money in FY2011
- **#4 – SR 21 @ Crossgate Rd. & Gulfstream Rd.** – working on ROW plans now
- **#7 – SR 204 @ Harmon Canal** – ROW certified; ready for letting
- **#13 – SR 404 over Back River** – ROW plans approved; working on final plans for FFPR
- **#18 – Islands Expressway over Wilmington River** – Value Engineering (VE) study held this month

Mr. Abolt took the opportunity to explain that utility poles now located very close to Islands Expressway are temporary while Georgia Power installs permanent new poles that will improve the delivery of power to the islands area.

B. Liberty County Projects

Mr. Sonny Timmerman reported that the new fixed route transit system is up and operating for the past three or four weeks. They plan to develop an intermodal center for the area. They just adopted their Long Range Transportation Plan update this month. He noted that meetings between the two MPO's are on-going to discuss regional issues and the new tax bill.

C. Chatham County

No report at this time.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Mike Wiener reported the status of city projects:

- Progress has been made on the ARRA projects. Installation of the audible pedestrian push buttons at fifty signalized intersections is complete. Installation of the pedestrian countdown signals has been completed at 85% of the

scheduled intersections. Upgrading of the traffic signals along 37th Street is scheduled for completion in mid-November. The installation of the pre-emption system is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

- Traffic safety projects at East Anderson near Skidway and also on West Gwinnett St near Stiles – Contract was awarded on October 7th and a pre-construction conference is scheduled within the next two weeks. Work will begin in November.

E. Chatham Area Transit

No report at this time.

F. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

No report at this time.

VII. Other Public Comments

No other public comments at this time.

VIII. Announcements

The meeting scheduled for December 15, 2010 was cancelled.

Next meeting will be February 23, 2011 at 10:00 AM.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business the October 27, 2010 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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