



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CORE MPO BOARD  
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**August 24, 2011**

**10:00 AM**

**Voting Members**

**Representing**

**Present**

|                      |  |   |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Russ Abolt           | Chatham County                                 | x |
| Jason Buelterman     | City of Tybee Island                           |   |
| Shedrick Coleman     | Chairman, MPC                                  | x |
| Mark Egan            | Chairman, CAC                                  | 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                         |   |
| LTC Edward Kovalski  | Hunter Army Airfield                           | x |
| Mike Lamb            | City of Pooler                                 |   |
| Pete Liakakis        | Chairman Chatham County Commission             | x |
| Chad Reese           | Chatham Area Transit                           | x |
| Patrick Shay         | CAT Board of Directors                         |   |
| Rochelle Small-Toney | City of Savannah                               | x |
| Vance Smith          | GDOT   |   |
| Anna Maria Thomas    | Town of Thunderbolt                            |   |
| Wayne Tipton         | City of Bloomingdale                           |   |
| Steven Weathers      | Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) | x |

**Voting Member Alternates**

**Representing**

**Present**

|                  |                             |   |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| George Fidler    | Savannah Airport Commission | x |
| Brian Johnson    | City of Garden City         | x |
| Tom McQueen      | GDOT                        | x |
| Diane Schleicher | City of Tybee Island        | x |
| Randy Weitmann   | Georgia Ports Authority     | x |

**Regional Coordination Guest**

**Representing**

**Present**

|                 |                |   |
|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Sonny Timmerman | Liberty County | x |
|-----------------|----------------|---|

---

| <u>Others Present</u>      | <u>Representing</u>     | <u>Present</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Michael Adams              | MPO Staff               | X              |
| Leon Davenport             | Chatham County          | X              |
| Enoch Dumas                | CAT                     | X              |
| Jessica Hagan              | MPO Staff               | X              |
| Jane Love                  | MPO Staff               | X              |
| Kaycee Mertz               | GDOT Planning           | X              |
| H. Morgan                  | Interested citizen      | X              |
| Emily Ritzler              | Wilbur Smith Associates | X              |
| Brad Saxon                 | GDOT                    | X              |
| Barbara Settzo             | for MPO                 | X              |
| Thomas Thomson, P.E., AICP | MPC Executive Director  | X              |
| Wykoda Wang                | MPO Staff               | X              |
| Julie Yawn                 | MPC 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.

**CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the August 24, 2011 meeting carried with none opposed.**

#### **II. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation**

There was no report at this time.

##### **B. Citizens Advisory Committee**

Mr. Mark Egan reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee endorsed all agenda items.

##### **C. Technical Coordinating Committee**

Mr. Tom Thomson reported that the Technical Coordinating Committee endorsed all agenda items.

##### **D. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Thomson reported on the following items of interest:

Update on the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) – the Executive Committee completed their work on August 3, 2011 with the identification of a constrained list of projects. Two projects were added to the list (I-16 exit ramp removal and two bridges on SR 21 & SR25 over railroad tracks). There will be two public hearings and then the list will go to the Roundtable for approval.

Re-authorization of the Surface Transportation Act – House & Senate have different versions of the bill which need to be reconciled. An extension of the current law will be necessary before the end of September. The structure of a future funding plan is uncertain.

GDOT – as of July the fuel tax collections are up from last year. The Governor may freeze the sales tax rate at the current level. Lettings to date have been \$800 million.

The change of date for the TIA referendum is in jeopardy. Mr. Thomson will keep the board informed.

### **III. Action Items**

#### **A. Approval of the June 22, 2011 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2011 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

**CORE Board Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2011 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.**

#### **B. Approval of revisions to the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported that one major amendment to the FY 2012-2015 TIP is requested as well as several minor administrative modifications. The amendment concerns the shift of the construction phase from FY 2012 to FY 2013 for the US 17 Bridge Replacement over Back River. This shift is due to an environmental delay.

The several administrative modifications concern recently assigned project identification numbers from GDOT for projects in the TIP. There is also a funding code change for the MPO Strategic Studies from L230S to L230 funds. This is to correct a typographical error. There are also two minor project description changes.

These administrative modifications do not require a public comment period, but the major amendment does. During this 15-day public comment period one comment was received concerning bicycle/pedestrian accommodations.

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

It was moved and seconded to approve the revisions to the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the revisions to the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) carried with none opposed.**

**C. Approval of proposed amendment to the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Ms. Jane Love reported that this amendment is necessary to reflect the L230 funding totals for the Strategic Studies that were in the new TIP, adopted in June.

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed amendment to the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

**CORE MPO Board Action: the motion to approve the proposed amendment to the FY 2012 UPWP carried with none opposed.**

**D. Authorization of LRTP Amendment Process for I-16 Exit Removal and SR21 Corridor Improvements**

Ms. Love reported that the projects related to recommendations from the I-16 Flyover Removal study and the SR 21 Corridor Study were not in the approved 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). These projects will need to be included if federal funds are necessary to implement the projects in the future, which is likely. The MPO's LRTP amendment process is a two-step one. As the first step, staff today is requesting the authorization to proceed with further study of these two projects as they relate to the LRTP, for a future report concerning the possible amendment. As the second step in the process, staff will report back to the board for final consideration on including these projects in the LRTP. That second step will include a public comment period.

It was moved and seconded to authorize staff to conduct further study of the two projects as part of the LRTP amendment process.

**CORE MPO Board action: the motion to authorize staff to conduct further study of the two projects as part of the LRTP amendment process carried with none opposed.**

**IV. Other Business**

No other business at this time.

**V. Status Reports**

**A. Update on US 80 Bridges Study – Evaluation of Alternatives**

Ms. Love reported that this study is now at the point where end-to-end alternatives are being evaluated.

Ms. Emily Ritzler from Wilbur Smith Associates gave a presentation highlighting the six end-to-end alternatives. She reported that there was a clear preference among stakeholders and participating citizens for the 10-foot paved shoulder along the road on the causeway, as opposed to the alternative for a 6.5-foot paved shoulder. Safety, multi-modal connections, benefit cost ratio, and life cycle costs are some of the evaluation criteria for the alternatives. The next step is stakeholder and public meetings, followed by a selection of a preferred alternative, development of a draft concept report.

Mr. Abolt requested an emphasis on the approaches to the bridges.

Mr. Egan asked for clarification of the multi-use path along this route.

**B. Update on Chatham Area Transit**

Mr. Chad Reese presented an update on Chatham Area Transit. CAT is doing a comprehensive operational analysis which began eight months ago. Ridership has increased and five markets for transit use have been identified. New service to Savannah State University has begun. Late-night service will begin after Labor Day. Planning for expanded senior service and expanded express service is underway and is expected to roll out in early 2012. Study of downtown routing and integrating various modes of transportation will begin.

Mr. Reese reviewed various grants and programs that CAT is studying and moving forward on implementation.

Mr. Abolt complimented those involved in transforming CAT from a bus service organization to a transportation service organization.

Mr. Liakakis is hopeful about receiving additional grants because of compliments received from FTA officials about CAT's presentation of future plans.

**VI. Agency Reports**

**A. Georgia Department of Transportation**

Mr. Brad Saxon reviewed the project list, highlighting projects recently let or showing activity. Mr. Liakakis was particularly interested in the projects around GulfStream. Mr.

---

Saxon confirmed that Gulfstream officials are aware of the status. An additional briefing for Gulfstream is to be scheduled.

**B. Liberty County Projects**

Mr. Sonny Timmerman reported that the Transportation Investment Act list has been the top issue in Liberty County. He reported that Liberty County's list is multi-modal in nature. They are looking for grant money to connect urban transit and rural transit systems. They have received a grant to study improved access to Fort Stewart.

**C. Chatham County**

Mr. Leon Davenport reviewed the project list. He anticipates Whitefield Ave. widening project to begin construction by the end of this year. Right-of-way is complete on the Dean Forest Rd. widening project and they are scheduled to let in fall of 2011. Replacement of the Islands Expressway bridge construction phase is in FY 2016 in GDOT's Construction Work Program.

**D. City of Savannah**

No report at this time.

**E. Chatham Area Transit**

No additional report at this time.

**F. Georgia Ports Authority**

No report at this time. Mr. Abolt commented on the Port's re-orientation of the whole operation parallel to the river which appears to improve efficiency.

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

Mr. George Fidler reported that construction work is underway on expansion of taxiway A. Gulfstream Road tunnel/bridge is under construction. Construction on taxiway H is underway. They have completed the sidewalk project connecting the hotels, restaurants, etc., and the bus shelter installation project is completed. Gulfstream permitting is nearly completed for their expansion.

**VII. Other Public Comments**

No public comments at this time.

**VIII. Announcements**

The following meetings were announced:

- August 30, 2011 –US 80 Bridges Study public meeting on Tybee Island
- September 12, 2011 – SR 204 Corridor Study public meeting at Armstrong Center
- October 26, 2011 – CORE MPO Board Meeting

**IX. Non-agenda items**

TIA 2010 regional constrained project list.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business the August 24, 2011 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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