
<u>Regional Coordination Guest</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rachel Hatcher	Liberty County	x

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Michael Adams	MPO Staff	x
Leon Davenport	Chatham County	x
Jessica Hagan	MPO Staff	x
Jane Love	MPO Staff	x
Kaycee Mertz	GDOT Planning	x
Brad Saxon	GDOT	x
Andrew Scott	MPO Intern	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
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 June 22, 2011 meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Mr. James Aberson reported that the committee endorsed the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the amendment to the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the revised Coordinated Plan and Program Management Plan. The committee members also participated in the prioritization survey of the Transportation Investment Act projects (TIA projects).

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Ms. Jane Love reported that the committee did not have a quorum therefore they could not endorse the action items. Those committee members present did participate in the TIA

project prioritization survey.

C. Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that the committee endorsed the FY 2012-2105 TIP, the amendment to the FY2012 UPWP and the revised Coordinated Plan and Program Management Plan. The committee members also participated in the TIA project prioritization survey.

D. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Tom Thomson reported on GDOT Board meetings held last week. He mentioned the new chairman and vice-chairman. He also reported an 8.76% increase in motor fuel collections which is the basis of GDOT's transportation revenues for projects.

Mr. Thomson referred committee members to a memo and list of unconstrained TIA projects and requested members to select their top 25 projects. Ranking is not necessary. Please turn these in to staff by the end of the meeting.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the April 27, 2011 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2011 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

CORE Board Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2011 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Adoption of CORE MPO FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Thomson read an opening descriptive statement of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Wykoda Wang summarized the proposed TIP. The TIP includes projects in four major categories – Highway/Bridge Projects, Non-motorized Projects, Rail Projects, and Transit Projects. Her presentation included a listing of the projects in each category.

MPO staff is coordinating with Chatham County staff for funding in 2013 and 2014 on some phases of a bikeway project along Islands Expressway (Savannah-Whitemarsh Bikeway), but have not received confirmation that Chatham County agrees with the schedule and will provide the minimum 20% match.

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

Mr. Jason Buelterman asked for clarification of the funding and the timeline for the Tybee bridge projects, as it relates to possible TIA funding and/or regular funding as identified in the TIP. Mr. Thomson explained that currently a concept plan is under development with ARRA funds. The new TIP proposes to program FY 2012 funds for the environmental portion of preliminary engineering phase (PE). FY 2013 funds are for the design work within PE. Mr. Thomson noted that by keeping these bridge projects in the TIP it allows them to move forward. If the TIA funding is approved, the projects will be ready, and if the TIA funding is not approved these projects will still be in line for regular funding as it becomes available. Another option is that part of the project could be TIA funded and part regularly funded. Mr. Thomson confirmed that citizens may continue lobbying for full funding through TIA. He also mentioned that tolling, an idea included in the current study's scope, would speed up the construction. He noted that there is competition from other projects that are also moving forward.

Mr. Thompson called the Board's attention to the fact that this TIP is now programming on specific projects some of the "lump sum" for non-motorized projects that the Board had approved as part of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). These federal funds require at least a 20% local match.

Mr. Trip Tollison asked how many projects are shovel-ready at this time. Mr. Thomson reported that at this time no projects are shovel-ready, unless you count the purchase of buses. He defined shovel ready as any project that is 9-months away from actual construction. Most of our projects are in the environmental stage.

Mr. Thomson explained that if the TIA tax is passed, some of the TIP projects will be funded by the TIA. Then the TIP will be amended to include additional priority projects.

Ms. Wang announced that, while Mr. Thomson was answering questions, Mr. Davenport, the County Engineer, had indicated to her that the County agreed with the proposed programming of PE and ROW for the Savannah-Whitemarsh Bikeway in the TIP.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the FY 2012-2015 TIP, including the Savannah-Whitemarsh Bikeway.

CORE Board Action: the motion to adopt the FY 2012-2015 TIP, including the Savannah-Whitemarsh Bikeway carried with none opposed.

C. Approval of proposed amendment to the FY 2012 UPWP

Mr. Wilkes presented staff's proposed amendment to reflect updated apportionments of Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds and New Freedom (NF) funds from the Federal Transit Administration. The amendment will provide \$17,216.80 of JARC funding and \$8,682.50 of NF funding for planning activities shared by MPO staff and Chatham Area Transit.

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. Adoption of the revised Coordinated Plan and Program Management Plan

Mr. Thomson read a descriptive opening statement followed by a detailed presentation by Ms. Wang. JARC funds are designed to provide transportation services to low-income populations. New Freedom funds are designed to facilitate job-related travel for disabled individuals. Ms. Wang described the process that must be followed in order to access the funds, and offered a brief review of this process so far. Part of the process is revising the Coordinated Plan. She reviewed the proposed revisions. ACAT and TCC have endorsed this revised plan.

Ms. Rochelle Small-Toney asked how these monies were tracked and how it was confirmed that the intended population benefitted from these programs. Ms. Wang reported that these monies were awarded to Chatham Area Transit (CAT). CAT is also working with the city regarding accessible taxi service for the disabled. Mr. Chad Reese noted that it would not be feasible or desirable to prevent some of the non-target population from benefitting from services as well; for example, if a middle-income person wished to board the bus on a JARC-funded route, CAT would not want to prohibit them or even inquire of their income at the time of boarding. Ms. Small-Toney suggested that service be extended to the industrial parks where higher paying jobs tend to be.

Ms. Wang referred the committee to the actual document and asked that the members review the priority projects and let staff know of any other projects that need to be included.

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

It was moved and seconded to approve the revised Coordinated Plan and Program Management Plan.

CORE MPO Board action: the motion to approve the revised Coordinated Plan and Program Management Plan carried with none opposed.

E. Prioritization of Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Projects for Coastal Region

Mr. Thomson advised the committee that this is an opportunity to give the Chairman Liakakis an idea of priorities to take to the Executive Committee of the Round Table. He reviewed the process thus far and shared revised projections for future revenue. The

Chatham County project list totals well over the amount of money available. In an effort to scale down the list, staff asked the MPO advisory committees and the MPO staff to select their top 25 projects. The results are presented to this committee today. Mr. Thomson asked if the committee considered this list sufficient advice for the Chairman to take with him to the Executive Committee or did they wish to spend more time selecting projects. He also asked the committee members to select their top projects and return their lists at the close of this meeting.

Ms. Rachel Hatcher, from the Hinesville MPO, described the prioritization process that the Hinesville MPO used to make their select project list.

Mr. Brian Johnson was concerned that most people do not know enough about the specifics of the projects, and that lack of information will skew the selection of projects. As an example, he expressed concern that the proposed grade separation at a railroad on SR 21 shows up in the category as "Freight Project", a term that might not appeal to many, but he believes it is a major congestion-relief and safety project.

Mr. Thomson acknowledged this concern and noted that the entire list of projects will be on the table, not just the top projects. The first formal meeting of the Executive Committee is on June 29th. They have until August 15th to forward a final list to the Round Table.

Mr. Trip Tollison asked about the I-95 & I-16 interchange project.

Ms. Small-Toney noted there was not sufficient time to prioritize these projects for the Chairman. Mr. Russ Abolt voiced his confidence in the list as it is and asked that this committee trust the Chairman to do the best for the county.

Discussion followed about what would occur if the tax proposal did not pass, why this tax proposal is important, how the projects to be included in the final proposal will be selected, and the establishment of the selection organization by the state legislature.

Mr. Reese asked about renaming projects to better define and describe a project; specifically, CAT would prefer "purchase of rolling stock" instead of "bus acquisition". Mr. Thomson agreed new project names could be considered, but needs to be coordinated with GDOT.

It was moved and seconded to support the Chairman in his efforts to select projects in the best interest of the county.

CORE MPO Board action: the motion to support the Chairman in his efforts to select projects in the best interest of the county carried with none opposed.

IV. Other Business

No other business at this time.

V. Status Reports

No status reports at this time.

VI. Agency Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Mr. Brad Saxon reviewed the project list, highlighting projects recently let or moving forward. Mr. Liakakis was particularly interested in the projects around GulfStream. Mr. Saxon reported specifics about three GulfStream-related projects (#1, #5, #11). He confirmed that GDOT has been in communication with GulfStream about these projects.

Mr. Saxon also reported on scheduled Public Open Houses for the Grange Rd project (#12) and the SR 204 project (#29).

Mr. Johnson asked about project #35 (SR 307/Dean Forest Rd). Mr. Saxon reported this acceleration lane project is on hold.

B. Liberty County Projects

Ms. Hatcher reported they are looking at the feasibility of expanded transit service.

C. Chatham County

Mr. Leon Davenport reviewed the project list. He reported that the Whitefield widening project is scheduled for an August letting. The Bay Street project had an open house in April on new alternatives as a result of the historic structure; right-of-way acquisitions are on hold now during alternatives analysis and expected to resume in June 2012.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Mike Wiener reported that the consultant for the Gwinnett St. widening project is submitting responses to comments from Federal Highway Administration. The city conducted a study on MLK Blvd at the intersection of Hall St. which determined that a traffic signal was warranted and that installation will proceed. Upgrade of lighting along Factor's Walk is underway.

E. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Chad Reese reported that ridership continues to rise. There are some capacity issues on the Abercorn route. In the fall they will roll out an express service. Planning and development of new facilities is still underway and they are hoping to break ground this year. CAT has some pending grants they are waiting to hear about.

F. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. George Fidler reported that work has been completed along Gulfstream Road through the airport. Construction has begun on the airfield. GulfStream has submitted plans for their first building. The airport has sidewalk and bus shelter construction projects underway.

VII. Other Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

VIII. Announcements

Next meeting will be August 24, 2011.

Non-agenda items

Mr. Thomson directed committee members to information in their packets about recent Transportation Enhancement awards, an update on the high-speed rail corridor, and an update on the I-3 corridor study.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business the June 22, 2011 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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