



---

<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
Michael Adams	MPO Staff	X
Leon Davenport	Chatham County	X
Jessica Hagan	MPO Staff	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Emily Ritzler	CDM Smith	X
Ramond Robinson	CAT	X
Brad Saxon	GDOT	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Thomas Thomson	MPC Executive Director	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO Staff	X
Julie Yawn	MPC Staff	X
Maggie Yoder	GDOT – District 5	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 December 19, 2012 meeting carried with none opposed.**

**II. Committee Reports**

**A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation**

Ms. Jane Love reported that the committee endorsed the action items and discussed the Teleride service.

**B. Citizens Advisory Committee**

Mr. Mark Egan reported that the committee endorsed all the action items.

**C. Technical Coordinating Committee**

Mr. Michael Adams reported that the committee reviewed and endorsed all the action items. The GDOT representative abstained from voting on the issues involving GDOT.

**D. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Tom Thomson noted that he didn't have a lot to report from the GDOT Board meeting Fuel tax revenues are improving. Mr. Thomson recognized Barbara Settzo for her recent

award as Administrative Professional of the year from the Small Business Assistance Corporation.

Mr. Russ Abolt and Mr. Thomson noted the upcoming deadline for the State DOT's Local Maintenance and Improvement Program (LIMG), which had been forwarded to the MPO members.

**III. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the October 31, 2012 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the October 31, 2012 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

**CORE Board Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the October 31, 2012 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.**

**B. Approval of the 2013 Schedule of Meetings for the CORE MPO Board**

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed 2013 Schedule of Meetings for the CORE MPO Board.

**CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the proposed 2013 Schedule of Meetings for the CORE MPO Board carried with none opposed.**

**C. Approval of resolution to support Phase II of the SR 204 Corridor Study**

It was agreed to postpone action on this item for today and put it on the agenda of the February meeting.

**D. Approval of the resolution to support the recommendations of US 80 Bridges Study**

Ms. Jane Love began the report by offering historical background for this study, focused on the eastern end of US 80 between Wilmington Island and Tybee Island. There had been plans for a four-lane widening in this segment, but it faced a few obstacles. Funding had been tied up on the project for many years and it was not progressing, so the MPO removed it a few years ago from the funded part of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Instead, the MPO, recognizing the urgency to do something less controversial to address the bridges at least, approved recovery act funding for a study of alternatives that could be implemented sooner. Consultant Emily Ritzler, of CDM Smith, introduced the short video of the study process and the recommended alternative. This video had been shown at the public meeting on Tybee Island earlier this month, and has been available on the MPC

web site and through a newspaper story. The recommended alternative is to replace the current bridges over Bull River and Lazaretto Creek with new bridges, having two 12 foot lanes with 10 foot shoulders and a barrier-protected 10 foot multi-purpose path. Also recommended are 10 foot shoulders to the causeway between the bridges, turn lanes at two access points, enhanced parking at the McQueen's Island trailhead, and off-road trail connections to the existing rail trail.

Discussion followed the video. Ms. Ritzler noted that the implementation project is included in the TIP for preliminary engineering and has been moved over to GDOT. The environmental process is part of that, and she expects that phase to begin early next year.

Mr. Abolt expressed concern about citizens fishing from the path on the new bridges and having parts of their equipment coming into contact with passing cars. He said fishing may need to be prohibited and signage communicating that would be necessary. He also asked if construction of the shoulders could begin earlier than bridge construction. Ms. Love answered that it was desirable to have all elements of the project go through the environmental process together. Once that is done, some elements of the project conceivably could be constructed before others.

Ms. Diane Schleicher was concerned about the effective life span of the environmental study. Mr. Thomson commented that this corridor would not be impacted by much substantive change that would create differences over the years. Ms. Ritzler commented that if there was a change in design or if a certain amount of time has passed, the study would be re-evaluated, not done over again. A lot of the environmental work has already been done and now they can use this information and update it to the present conditions.

The environmental study is the beginning of the next stage which should begin early in 2013. She estimated 18-30 months to complete the environmental document. Once environmental clearance is complete, the final design can be submitted for bid. Funding is also an issue. Mr. Thomson commented that GDOT has assigned a project manager for this project. He anticipates that a project schedule will be available in early 2013.

Mr. Liakakis expressed concern about safety issues, particularly relating to emergency evacuations. He asked that this resolution mention that this is necessary for life-saving reasons during evacuations with the intention of speeding up the process for this project. He is concerned that the environmental process will bog down and slow the entire project. This is not an ordinary project; it is critical for peoples' lives. Mr. Thomson agreed that the resolution could be modified to mention "evacuation" as a specific example of the "special situations" already included in the resolution.

Mr. Fidler asked if fill would be required for these new shoulders along the causeway. Ms. Ritzler confirmed that some fill be necessary, but not nearly as much as the original 4-lane widening project would have required.

Mr. Tom McQueen asked that when this study is sent to GDOT that it include all the alternatives that were studied and not just the preferred alternative. Ms. Love stated that a final report would be provided with details of the entire study process.

Ms. Schleicher suggested that the Tybee Council be allowed to vote on support for this resolution before this board votes on it. Mr. Abolt proposed that the CORE MPO go ahead and take action, which does not prohibit Tybee Council from also taking action to support the recommendations at their next meeting.

Mr. Abolt moved that the CORE MPO board approve the resolution to support the US 80 Bridges Study, as modified, with the understanding that the Tybee City Council will consider their action at the Council's January 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Egan asked if it would be appropriate to specifically call out in this motion the priority of the construction of shoulders. Mr. Thomson explained that suggestion can come later in the process.

**CORE board action: the motion to approve the resolution to support the US 80 Bridges Study, as modified, with the understanding that the Tybee City Council will consider their action at the Council's January 2013 meeting, carried with none opposed, and one abstention by the GDOT representative.**

#### **E. Plan B – Transportation Funding**

Mr. Thomson commented on the failure of T-SPLOST to pass in our region. As there will be no financial help from the federal level and the state also has budget problems, he suggested that the CORE MPO board encourage local municipalities to allocate more of the next SPLOST funds (scheduled to be voted on next fall) for transportation. He offered some historical information in support of this suggestion. In the first SPLOST 100% was dedicated to transportation projects. By the fifth SPLOST, there was only 16% allocated for transportation projects. He is putting forward this resolution today to raise awareness and is asking that municipalities allocate 50% of the next SPLOST to transportation projects.

Ms. Jackson does not want to vote on any such resolution before she has discussed it with the city council. Moving forward with the new arena is a city priority. She suspects other municipalities also have priority projects of their own.

Mr. Abolt moved that the board encourage the Executive Director to share with municipalities in Chatham County the historical information presented here today relative to the history of road improvements since the inception of SPLOST in 1985. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion.

**CORE board action: the motion that the board encourage the Executive Director to share with municipalities in Chatham County the historical information presented**

---

here today relative to the history of road improvements since the inception of SPLOST in 1985 carried with one opposed.

**F. Resolution of Appreciation for MPO Board Chairman Pete Liakakis**

Mr. Thomson and Ms. Jackson presented Mr. Liakakis with an award of appreciation recognizing his eight years of service as Chairman of the CORE MPO Board.

It was moved and seconded to approve by acclamation this resolution of appreciation for MPO Board Chairman Pete Liakakis.

**CORE board action: the motion to approve by acclamation this resolution of appreciation for MPO Board Chairman Pete Liakakis carried with none opposed.**

**IV. Other Business**

**A. Estimated cost of portable electronic message sign on US 80**

Mr. Abolt stated that he would recommend to the County Commission that the County pay 1/3 of the total \$22,000 costs (\$7,000 - \$8,000) if the City of Tybee Island and GDOT would do likewise.

Ms. Schleicher responded that she will take this back to the Tybee Island city council in January.

**V. Status Reports**

No status reports at this time.

**VI. Agency Reports**

In light of the holiday schedule, Mr. Liakakis asked if any agency here today had anything of urgency to report. If not, further reports will be held until the February meeting. There were no reports at this time.

**VII. Other Public Comments**

No public comments at this time.

**VIII. Announcements**

The next meeting will be February 27, 2013.

**IX. Non-agenda items**

**A. Updated schedule of Ogeechee Rd. widening project, from I-516 to Victory Dr. (P.I. 521855)**

This report had been provided in the package for information. Mr. Liakakis was disappointed to find 9 more months added to the Ogeechee Rd. project schedule. Ms. Jackson asked if it would be good to write a letter to the legislators and to the Governor. "This project has been going on for "x" number of years and we need to see how it can be moved up on the schedule." I have seen projects come and go so much easier. But this one has become a joke. It is really a joke and it is something that is needed. Talking about having to do assessments over and over, we need to be sure our voices are heard. This is not acceptable."

Mr. Thomson agreed to draft a letter for the signature of the Chairman. Mr. Liakakis will send it up to GDOT Commissioner and to the Governor. Ms. Jackson will send an additional letter in support. Mr. Thomson will send copies to all. Mr. Liakakis requested that the date the project began be included in the letter. He remembers there were many meetings at United House of Prayer with citizens and GDOT. Mr. Abolt suggested this letter be ready for the Chairman by Friday so he can have it for the luncheon meeting with the board and our delegation.

Mr. Liakakis invited all to the dedication in his honor of the new building at Oglethorpe Ave. and Jefferson St. this Friday at 3:00 PM.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business the December 19, 2012 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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