



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CORE MPO BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

June 27, 2012

10:00 AM

Voting Members

Russ Abolt
Jason Buelterman
Mark Egan
Curtis Foltz
Keith Golden
Patrick S. Graham
Tennyson Holder
William W. Hubbard
James Hungerpiller
Edna Jackson
McArthur Jarrett
Glenn Jones
LTC Edward Kovaleski
Mike Lamb
Pete Liakakis
J. Adam Ragsdale
Chad Reese
Patrick Shay
Rochelle Small-Toney
Anna Maria Thomas
Wayne Tipton
Steven Weathers

Representing

Chatham County
City of Tybee Island
Chairman, CAC
Georgia Ports Authority
GDOT
Savannah Airport Commission
City of Garden City
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
Town of Vernonburg
City of Savannah
Chairman, ACAT
City of Port Wentworth
Hunter Army Airfield
City of Pooler
Chairman Chatham County Commission
Chairman, MPC
Chatham Area Transit
CAT Board of Directors
City of Savannah
Town of Thunderbolt
City of Bloomingdale
Savannah Economic Development
Authority (SEDA)

Present

x

x

x

x

x

Voting Member Alternates

George Fidler
Brian Johnson
Tom McQueen
Sarah Rayfield
Diane Schleicher
Linton Smith
Trip Tollison

Representing

Savannah Airport Commission
City of Garden City
GDOT
Chatham Area Transit
City of Tybee Island
Town of Thunderbolt
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce

Present

x
x
x
x
x
x
x

<u>Regional Coordination Guest</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Sonny Timmerman	Liberty County	X
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Michael Adams	MPO Staff	X
Andy Fulghum	Jasper County, SC	X
Jessica Hagan	MPO Staff	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Kaycee Mertz	GDOT	X
Bob Nanni	City of Hardeeville, SC	X
Brad Saxon	GDOT	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Thomas Thomson, P.E., AICP	MPC Executive Director	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO Staff	X
Julie Yawn	MPC Staff	X

Call to Order

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the meeting to order and introduced guests from South Carolina, Andy Fulghum and Bob Nanni.

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 27, 2012 meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Ms. Jane Love reported that the committee endorsed the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program. They also discussed CAT's process for updating the Teleride user guide.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Ms. Love said CAC Chairman Mark Egan had expressed regrets that he couldn't make today's meeting. She reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee did not have a quorum and therefore did not vote upon the Action Items.

C. Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that the committee endorsed the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tom Thomson offered his thanks to the MPO staff for all the hard work preparing the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He reported that there is no change on the status of the federal Surface Transportation Act. The deadline is June 30, 2012 and from now until then, reports change daily.

Mr. Thomson asked Mr. Trip Tollison to report on the Georgia Transportation Investment Act (TIA, also called "T-Splost" by some). Mr. Tollison reviewed the facts and previewed the educational campaign that will roll out in July to inform people about the 1% sales tax vote on July 31, 2012. There is a speakers' bureau that will be addressing many groups and organizations throughout July. Mr. Tollison confirmed that 40% of all of our sales taxes in Chatham County are paid by those who do not live in Chatham County (visitors). When asked about the 25% portion of revenue from this tax, Mr. Tollison reported that the County is expected to receive \$15 - \$17 million with Savannah receiving approximately \$8 million from the County portion. He also noted that if this does not pass, there is no "Plan B". Mr. Thomson explained that the estimated revenue from the TIA for the communities is the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT's) best estimate, based on a formula using population and road mileage. GDOT is re-checking. Ms. Edna Jackson reported that Savannah was working on their project list. If the tax does not pass, there is a penalty in the form of an increased local match on funds from the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) program.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the April 25, 2012 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. George Fidler asked that a correction be made to his report for the Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. He requested that the word "runway" be changed to "taxiway" wherever it occurs in the first sentence.

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the April 25, 2012 CORE MPO Board Meeting as corrected.

CORE Board Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the April 25, 2012 CORE MPO Board Meeting, as corrected, carried with none opposed.

B. Approval of the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the staff report. She reviewed the process for developing the new TIP, including the public participation component. She reviewed the list of projects as they appear in the following categories:

Highway & bridge projects
Non-motorized projects
Transit projects

Ms. Jackson asked about the status of the Ogeechee Road project. Mr. Thomson explained that work stopped to deal with the objections from three property owners. The money was moved out to spend on ready projects. Now that issues have been resolved they are updating the environmental document. When that is approved the next phase is design, followed by right-of-way, and then construction. The construction timeframe is outside of the 2013-2016 scope of this TIP. Mr. Liakakis offered background on this project. Mr. Thomson noted that GDOT has appointed a project manager for this project, and that this project is scheduled and people are committed to it. With federal money involved, this project is now moving as quickly as possible.

Ms. Jackson also asked about the progress and time frame for the DeRenne Avenue projects. When will construction occur? Ms. Jackson is concerned about the reaction of local citizens since there is no apparent progress. Mr. Thomson explained that it takes time to comply with federal regulations when using federal funds. The environmental document is a 2-3 year process.

Mr. Liakakis asked about construction on R.B. Miller Rd. & Gulfstream Rd. Ms. Wang explained it was programmed for 2014.

Ms. Wang also reviewed recent updates including an addendum to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan that is part of this TIP. The addendum includes cost changes. Mr. Thomson reported that none of these changes affect the TIP.

Mr. Liakakis asked how long it takes to replace a bridge that is in bad condition. Mr. Thomson explained that bridges are evaluated and rated according to function and/or safety. If a bridge has safety issues it will move the project up on the GDOT list.

Mr. Thomson read the following statement into the record prior to the opening of the public hearing:

“The CORE MPO is responsible for transportation planning within the Chatham County area. The MPO insures federal spending on transportation for urbanized area of over 50,000 people occurs through a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing process involving the public and a wide range of agencies and policy makers. The Transportation Improvement Program is the MPO’s short-range planning document and is a staged, multi-year listing of surface transportation projects proposed for federal, state, and local funding within the metropolitan area. All transportation projects must appear in an approved Long Range Transportation Plan and in the Transportation Improvement Program before they can receive federal funds for implementation.”

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

It was moved and seconded to adopt the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

CORE Board Action: the motion to adopt the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) carried with none opposed.

IV. Other Business

No other business at this time.

V. Status Reports

A. Local Project Lists for TIA 2010 Discretionary Funding

Mr. Thomson reported that all the jurisdictions have responded. Staff is assembling a project list for dissemination.

B. 2012 JARC and New Freedom Competitive Project Selection Process

Ms. Wang reviewed the process for project selection and reported which projects were awarded funding. JARC funds were awarded to CAT #2 route bus service, CAT #6 route bus service and the Abercorn Express & Expanded bus service. New Freedom funds were awarded to the Accessible Taxi Program.

C. Fort Pulaski General Management Plan, Proposed Wilderness Area, as relates to US 80 transportation projects

Ms. Jane Love reported that the National Park Service's (NPS's) Fort Pulaski draft General Management Plan (GMP) proposes designation of a Wilderness Area, which could complicate transportation projects for US 80 near Tybee Island. Congress is the only body that can designate Wilderness Area, and once established, changing the boundaries takes another act of Congress. The MPO staff is currently reviewing the proposed Wilderness Area boundaries. An area of concern is around the Bull River Bridge, where wilderness would be on both sides. There is no conflict with the Lazaretto Creek Bridge. The MPO staff will recommend in the comment letter that the NPS modify the boundaries of their recommendation for Wilderness designation. That would allow more space around the Bull River Bridge for future improvements. Staff has also notified GDOT and Tybee Island of NPS's public comment period for the GMP which ends on July 13, 2012.

Following Mr. Russ Abolt's request that the MPO take great care with this issue, Mr. Thomson agreed to copy the county and Congressional representatives on correspondence for this issue, and to keep Tybee Island informed.

VI. Agency Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Mr. Brad Saxon reported on the following projects:

#2 – King George Blvd. interchange - right-of-way plans approved; acquisition to begin shortly.

3, 4, 5 – DeRenne Projects – PFA executed by City of Savannah; being routed to GDOT.

7 – Gulfstream Rd. @ RB Miller Rd. – on schedule; environmental document is under review at FHWA; right-of-way plans are complete and await the environmental approval.

#12 – Islands Expressway bascule bridge – moving forward.

#20 – Fort Argyle Rd. to Old River Rd. – project will begin construction shortly.

#27 – Brampton Rd. Connector – concept meeting scheduled for July.

#35 – Eisenhower Dr. – project deleted by FHWA due to lack of activity.

B. Liberty County Projects

Mr. Sonny Timmerman reported that they are focusing on educating the public about the upcoming TIA vote.

C. Chatham County

Mr. Russ Abolt reported that the County's projects are in good shape with this TIP adoption.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Mike Weiner reported that the DeRenne project is moving forward. The city is working with Hunter Army Airfield. City Council is expected to approve the GDOT-selected value engineering (VE) consultant contract on June 28, 2012. The City agreement to pay for this study is a part of the Project DeRenne Project Framework Agreement with GDOT. The VE workshop will begin on September 10th and last three days. The Taterville wall project is likely to go to bid in September.

E. Chatham Area Transit

Ms. Sarah Rayfield reported on recent accomplishments at CAT which include increased ridership (up 2% over this month last year), construction begun on the Transit Center, and ground breaking on the improved Operations Center. There is now a new CAT Board. CAT is currently working on a transit development plan. The new intelligent transportation system project is beginning and should be in place next year at this time. A new "trip

planner” was launched on the website in May. The “back to school” program will be launched on July 21, 2012. When asked, Ms. Rayfield reported that the Transit Center appears to be on schedule for completion next summer.

F. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. George Fidler reported that the Gulfstream expansion project is well underway and that the airport is moving forward on their projects in support of Gulfstream.

VII. Other Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

VIII. Announcements

- The next meeting will be August 22, 2012.
- Mr. Thomson read an update on the status of the Surface Transportation authorization which he had just received over email. Passage by June 30 will still be tight.

IX. Non-agenda items

Package items were for information but not for presentation.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the June 27, 2012 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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