
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Michael Adams	MPO Staff	X
Beverly Davis	RS&H	X
Brady Finkler	Kimley-Horn	X
Jessica Hagan	MPO Staff	X
Rachel Hatcher	RS&H	X
Rob Hume	Kimley-Horn	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
David Moyer	GDOT	X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Thomas Thomson	MPC Executive Director	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO Staff	X
Julie Yawn	MPC Staff	X
Maggie Yoder	GDOT	X

Call to Order

Chairman Al Scott was delayed by traffic so Vice Chairman Edna Jackson called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Tom Thomson requested that Item #8, Revised CORE MPO Planning Boundary, be deleted from the agenda and that Urban Circulator Study be added as new item #8.

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as amended.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the agenda as amended for the December 18, 2013 meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Mr. James Aberson reported that there had been no quorum, therefore there was no ACAT endorsement of action items, although the members present heard status reports.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Mark Egan reported that the committee endorsed the action items as per staff recommendations.

C. Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that the TCC met last Thursday afternoon and endorsed the 2014 meeting schedule and the FY 2014 UPWP amendments to the Board. In addition, the committee received a presentation from GDOT on the travel demand model validation and calibration in support of the Long Range Transportation Plan Update.

D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tom Thomson noted that Will Murphy from GDOT District Five will be attending in the future, as Brad Saxon's replacement in the position of District Pre-construction Engineer. He is in Atlanta today. Mark Denmark is substituting for George Fidler today on behalf of Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport.

Mr. Thomson noted that the process of expanding the boundaries of the CORE MPO, as necessitated by the Census figures, is moving slowly at the moment but he anticipates action soon. He expects to complete this item by the June meeting. Once approved, the agreement will be prepared for signatures by all the parties.

GDOT Statewide Transportation Plan – CORE MPO is a stakeholder for this project. This plan is a policy-oriented plan, not a project listing. Areas of focus: large urban areas, freight corridors, economic development. Next steps: look at future deficiencies. This should be completed this summer.

Chairman Al Scott arrived and assumed the chair of the meeting.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the August 28, 2013 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the August 28, 2013 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

CORE Board Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the August 28, 2013 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Approval of the 2014 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule

It was moved and seconded to approve the 2014 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule. Mr. Aberson asked that this schedule indicate that ACAT will meet at the new Transit Center.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the 2014 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule carried with none opposed.

C. Approval of the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Mr. Wilkes presented the staff report beginning with a summary of the allocation of funds in the UPWP. The 2014 UPWP was adopted in April. Today's amendment is necessary to move unused PL funds from the previous fiscal year to the current fiscal year. The amount to be moved to this fiscal year is \$98,453.36. After approval of the amendment, the next step will be to submit it to close out the 2013 PL contract with GDOT and request a supplemental FY 2014 contract.

It was moved and seconded to approve the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program amendment.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program amendment carried with none opposed.

IV. Other Business

No other business at this time.

V. Status Reports

A. Total Mobility Plan/2040 LRTP Status Report

Mr. Wilkes reported that work on this plan has been underway for a couple of years and the deadline for adoption is September 2014. A draft will be ready by summer. He introduced Ms. Beverly Davis from RS&H consultants who offered a progress report.

Ms. Davis explained that this plan builds on the last update and the Framework Mobility Plan. It will include many components and this update is due in September 2014. She reviewed the tasks that have been completed and also what remains to be done. She reviewed the work schedule and noted that updates will be offered at each CORE MPO meeting from now until September's completion date. A draft plan will be ready at the June meeting in preparation for public hearings to be held in August. The MPO is expanding and this 2040 plan update will include the Bryan and Effingham plans, but the focus for the update will be Chatham County. A major amendment in 2016 will include a full review of the expanded MPO area.

Ms. Diane Schleicher asked if the Non-motorized Transportation Plan would be included in this Total Mobility Plan. Ms. Davis confirmed that the results of that plan will become a part of the 2040 LRTP Update.

Mr. Wilkes noted that the Non-motorized Transportation Plan and other corridor studies will be incorporated in this plan by reference to appendices, so they will all be reflected.

B. Update on the Draft Non-motorized Transportation Plan: Project Rankings

Ms. Jane Love reported on the project rankings portion of the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. Today's update offered the results of applying weights to the criteria used for comparing the relative importance of the various bicycle and pedestrian projects. These weights are partly based on the feedback from the committees last spring. A simple way to look at it is to know that any criteria above weighted above a "5" is judged to be more important criteria, and any criteria weighted below "5" is judged to be less important. Ms. Love encouraged the committee members to review the listing and offer any comments before February's meeting. MPO staff intends to go over the recommendations with local government staffs and hold a public meeting sometime before February's MPO meeting. Staff aims to propose MPO adoption of the Non-motorized Transportation Plan at the February meeting.

Mr. Russ Abolt asked that attention be directed to sidewalks in the Bradley Point area.

Mr. Egan asked about specific safety construction criteria, specifically in regard to bike paths on the Tybee bridges. Ms. Love responded that there are several respected sources design guidelines for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and these were consulted in recommending facility types.

Dr. Chad Reese asked for clarification about what is recommended in the US17 and Quacco Road area. Ms. Love noted there are existing bike lanes. No other projects are identified for that area. For pedestrians, there is a sidewalk proposal near the Walmart but not near Quacco Rd. Dr. Reese explained that CAT has a need for sidewalks at shelter and stop locations. Safety issues and ADA issues are requiring CAT to relocate some stops and to install shelters and benches. Ms. Love asked for a list of the critical locations. Mr. Scott noted that Quacco Rd. was identified for improvements as part of SPLOST funding.

Ms. Schleicher asked about identifying locations of shared pathways and shoulders on US 80 approaching Tybee Island. Her concern is whether the illustrated map and the written listing agree. Ms. Love enlarged the map on the screen and showed that on US 80 a shoulder is recommended but also a path along the bridges connecting to McQueen's Island Trail, as in the MPO's US 80 Bridges Study. She will provide Ms. Schleicher with an enlarged map of the Tybee Island area for clarity.

Ms. Jackson and Ms. Cutter asked about Skidaway Rd. between DeRenne Ave. and Victory Dr. Ms. Love said that the bike/ped project along Skidaway Rd. from Ferguson Ave. to Victory Dr. was incorporated into the Non-motorized Transportation Plan in recognition that the County and City have worked on design for it. She has not heard if it is moving forward, but, regardless, staff agrees that the area needs some kind of improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians. As far as general utility, that particular segment of the project ranks fairly high in the plan list.

C. Park & Ride Lot Study

Mr. Michael Adams presented the staff report. He outlined the study objectives, approach, and project schedule. This study began in September 2013 and should be completed by July 2014.

The study area is the five counties in Georgia (Chatham, Effingham, Bryan, Liberty, and Bulloch) and Beaufort and Jasper counties in SC. Regional demographics, regional work and travel patterns, various activity centers and employment areas are all being considered in this study. Mr. Adams showed several slides about commuter flows, in the areas of higher employment concentrations, which are downtown, the airport/Gulfstream/Port and industrial sites to the west, Hunter Army Airfield, the hospitals, and the mall areas. The study team also has reviewed existing park and ride lots. The next steps include stakeholder meetings and completion of a technical memo.

Mr. Abolt asked that this study coordinate with CAT so that there is no duplication of efforts.

Mr. Pete Liakakis requested advance information and statistics for this kind of presentation. Mr. Thomson responded that the information is available and that web pages are on-line for the studies.

D. Urban Circulator Study Update

Mr. Wilkes reported that the Urban Circulator Study was begun a couple months ago. The purpose of this study is to conduct a data-driven, technical analysis to determine if we should develop an urban circulator, what should the mode be, where should it be, and what are the likely routes. He hopes to have this completed in time to support CAT's efforts toward the next round of TIGER Grants.

Rachel Hatcher from RS&H presented a brief overview. She reviewed the goals. Coordination with others will be a vital part of this study. The study area is large and varied in character. The study schedule is aggressive, with monthly scheduled meetings with the technical group. She reviewed progress to date.

Mr. Aberson asked if the technical group includes anyone with ADA expertise. Ms. Hatcher responded the committee includes engineers, whose expertise can be expected to include awareness of such standards. However, at the appropriate time, the study will certainly be shared with the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation and the other MPO committees.

VI. Agency Reports

A. GDOT

Ms. Maggie Yoder reported on the following projects:

- #1 SR 204 from Pine Grove Rd. to Veterans Pkwy. – ready to let next month.
- #3 Grange Rd. from SR 21 to SR 25 – Final design work is going strong.
- #7 Islands Expressway Bascule Bridge replacement – preparing for preliminary field plan review as soon as environmental is at 100%.
- #11 US 80 at Bull River and Lazaretto Creek – GDOT has selected the consultant and contract negotiations are underway.
- #12 SR 204 from Veterans Pkwy. to Rio Rd. – it was let last Friday.
- #14 I-95 NB Ramp at Airways Ave. – Concept meeting was held in Sept 2013.
- #18 President St. – project framework agreement executed by the City and GDOT
- #20 I-95 SB Welcome Center – it is to be submitted to the GA State Financial & Investment Commission around February. That agency will let the project to construction.
- #22 Delesseps Ave./LaRoche Ave. from Waters Ave. to Skidaway Rd. (bike/ped) – concept meeting was held in October. Report is being routed through for signature.
- #27 Butler Ave. from McKenzie St. to Tybrisa St. – Concept meeting was held and the concept report has been approved

Ms. Jackson asked for progress on Project #4, Ogeechee Rd. Why is it only 15% through environmental activities? Residents are asking for information. She requested a meeting with the residents, city staff and GDOT staff, at which GDOT can answer questions and provide a schedule. She asked that GDOT set a date with the City Manager, hopefully prior to the Mayor's conference. Her other concern is #16, the I-16 and I-516 interchange.

Mr. Liakakis repeated the question on the environmental status of the Ogeechee Rd. project. Ms. Yoder explained that the hydrology study had to be re-done. Mr. David Moyer spoke on this issue. He should have a new set of plans based on the hydrology study by January 15th, so they can see the impact to residents. He is working with Susan Broker at the City's Citizen Office regarding community outreach. Ms. Jackson asked for a list showing how long ago all the active construction projects in the MPO area started – for comparison to how long the Ogeechee Rd. project is taking.

Ms. Yoder then reviewed the Active Construction Projects List as follows:

- #1 Safe routes to school project at several sites – project has been let.
- #2 Gulfstream Rd. at R.B. Miller Rd. – work has begun.
- #6 Widening & reconstruction on Whitefield Ave. – scheduled to be open to traffic after January 1.
- #8 Intersection improvements on SR 21 at Gulfstream Rd. – Completed.
- #10 Jimmy Deloach connector – project has begun.
- #11 widening SR 307 at R.B. Miller to SR 21 – completed.

She reviewed the following “quick response” projects that are not on the list:

- Extension of the left turn lane at SR 204 at Apache was awarded and work will begin after January 1.
- Right turn lane at intersection of SR 30 and Hodgeville Rd. – work is complete
- Reconstruction of Victory Dr. at Wallin St. (extending the eastbound turn lane) – work is complete
- Extending left turn lane at SR 21 and Bonny Bridge Rd. – awarded and awaiting notice to proceed.

B. Liberty County

Mr. Jeff Ricketson reported that the Hinesville MPO is also updating their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Theirs is due about one year behind CORE MPO's update. They are looking for opportunities to coordinate with the CORE MPO LRTP.

C. Chatham County

Mr. Nathaniel Panther reported on the following preconstruction projects:

- Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy., Phase 2 – public information open house will be held January 23, 2014.
- Jimmy DeLoach/US 80 Interchange – public hearing open house for the environmental approval also will be held at the same place on January 23, 2014.

Projects under construction:

- Dean Forest Rd. widening is substantially complete.

Mr. Thomson requested a memo about the two public hearings so that staff can notify members.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Mike Weiner reported on the following projects:

- DeRenne Ave. – consultant is working on finalizing the concept report.
- LaRoche Ave. at Tompkins Rd. – a public meeting was held, and based on public input, the City will proceed with the roundabout design
- Gwinnett St. – in light of SPLOST being passed and funding of the new arena, the City has asked GDOT to stop design for a 2-lane road and expand it to a 4-lane road.

E. Chatham Area Transit

Dr. Reese reported the Transit Center which opened in October is doing well. They began a new Airport Express service in October and modified Route #2 to serve the Highlands area, farther west in Chatham County. The Operations Center should be opened in first

quarter of 2014. The airport express so far has been serving about 100 passengers per day.

F. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. Mark Denmark reported that the airport is going to begin some interim work at the northbound I-95 ramp at Airways Ave. which should open up that area before GDOT completes their project. These interim improvements will be coordinated with the GDOT project. It should be started early in 2014.

VII. Other Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

VIII. Announcements

The next CORE MPO meeting will be February 26, 2014.

IX. Non-agenda items

Mr. Thomson reminded the members of non-agenda memos that were included in the members' information.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the December 18, 2013 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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