



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

CORE MPO BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

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

December 10, 2014

10:00 AM

Voting Members

James Aberson
LTC Clarence Bowman III
Jason Buelterman
Shedrick Coleman
Stephanie Cutter
Mark Egan
Curtis Foltz
Beth Goette
Keith Golden
Tennyson Holder
William W. Hubbard
James Hungerpiller
Edna Jackson
Glenn Jones
Gregory Kelly
Mike Lamb
Pete Liakakis
Chad Reese
Ben Rozier
Al Scott
Lee Smith
Trip Tollison

Representing

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

Present

x
x
x
x
x
x
x
x
x
x
x
x
x
x
x
x
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x
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Voting Member Alternates

Ron Feldner
George Fidler
Tom McQueen
Diane Schleicher
Bob Tully

Representing

City of Garden City
Savannah Airport Commission
GDOT
City of Tybee Island
CAC

Present

x
x
x
x
x

Regional Coordination Guest

Nils Gustavson

Representing

Liberty County

Present

x

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Denise Grabowski	Symbioscity	X
Jessica Hagan	MPO Staff	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Will Murphy	GDOT	X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County	X
Ramond Robinson	CAT	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Thomas Thomson	MPC Executive Director	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah	X

Call to Order

Chairman Al Scott called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

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

CORE Board MPO action: the motion to approve the agenda for the December 10, 2014 meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Mr. James Aberson reported that the committee discussed the ACAT membership list as part of the review of bylaws. Also, concern was expressed at the meeting about several trips being denied by Teleride. Mr. Aberson pointed out that it is against the law to deny service to qualified customers. CAT reported at the ACAT meeting that eight vans were down that day. ACAT members ask that CAT address this problem. Mr. Lee Smith commented that CAT is now reviewing the eligibility of the current ridership. Mr. Aberson said he is on the board of appeals for eligibility and is aware of that. He noted that there has been a steady increase in the use of Teleride services. New applicants must complete a functional assessment before being qualified for the program. When that is complete the existing customers will be reviewed. Mr. Pete Liakakis commented that CAT is encouraging some riders to move to the fixed route service, if able. Mr. Aberson asked that CAT provide additional travel training for these riders who are not accustomed to the fixed route service.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Bob Tully reported that CAC voted to keep the committee's membership selection process as it is now and also that they continue to meet every other month.

C. Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Tom Thomson reported that the TCC discussed proposed bylaws and agreed to minor changes.

D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomson reported that Congress is trying to get an appropriations bill passed before year end. The MAP-21 extension expires in May 2015. The issue is how to fund the trust fund in order to keep funds flowing to transportation projects. The state's joint study committee has not issued a report yet about how to fund transportation at the state level.

Mr. Scott offered the update that Congress has negotiated an appropriations bill that is expected to pass.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the October 29, 2014 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2014 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

CORE MPO Board action: the motion to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2014 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Approval of CORE MPO's Re-apportionment Implementation Plan

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the staff report. She reported the revisions made since the October meeting. Staff has revised the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Bylaws based on input received from Board members and committee members.

The funding agreement now includes a third scenario that was suggested by this Board. The suggestion is that all participants pay \$1,000 as a base plus an additional amount based on population. Mr. Thomson explained that the airport and CAT will also be paying a portion that is not shown here. Mr. Thomson is recommending the \$1,000 base scenario, but he asked for input from the Board members. Mr. Tom McQueen asked the Board members if they were clear that the \$260,000 assumes funding the match for planning (PL), transit (5303), and M230 (studies or projects). Mr. Thomson talked about the benefit gained from the matching dollars applied to studies.

Ms. Wang discussed the changes proposed in membership. Currently there are 22 members. The proposed membership is 24.

She then reviewed the issue of a meeting quorum. Currently the quorum is 7. Originally the proposed quorum was 50% plus 1, but the feedback was that this is unrealistic. Staff is now proposing the quorum be 8, which is 1/3 of the membership (24).

A discussion followed about what other organizations use as a quorum and why. Mr. Thomson noted that it was this Board's choice as to the quorum. Mr. Scott suggested the quorum be 9, which is 1/3 plus 1. This is an odd number and would prevent a tie vote on issues.

Ms. Wang asked the board to authorize the staff to proceed with the MOU and the bylaws. The MOU is almost ready. The bylaws may not be ready until April. If the Board approves then staff will proceed to get the MOU out to the jurisdictions and collect the necessary signatures.

The next step is to get the MOU fully executed, the bylaws approved by April, and the final approval from GDOT and the Governor by July 1, 2015.

Ms. Wang confirmed that GDOT's comments and FHWA's comments that were received will be incorporated into the MOU and bylaws. Staff is working with ACAT and CAC as they review and revise their bylaws. All of the comments from the various committees are being incorporated into the documents.

It was moved and seconded to authorize staff to move forward with the re-apportionment plan.

Ms. Schleicher requested that the MOU contain a reference to the participation of CAT. Ms. Wang confirmed that the MOU outlines the duties and responsibilities for each participant and this includes payment of dues as outlined in Exhibit B.

CORE MPO Board action: the motion to authorize staff to move forward with the re-apportionment plan carried with one opposed.

C. Adoption of Resolution for the Title VI Program

Ms. Wang presented the staff report. To receive federal funds the MPO must meet all requirements, including those in the Title VI program. The MPO must have a specific complaint process and public participation plan, among others. All of these required documents are on the MPO website and have all been approved by FHWA. Although the MPO has the documents in place, an actual resolution was lacking. Today she presented the necessary resolution for the board's approval and signature.

It was moved and second to adopt the resolution for the Title VI Program.

CORE MPO BOARD action: the motion to adopt the resolution for the Title VI Program carried with none opposed.

IV. Other Business

No other business at this time.

V. Status Reports

A. Update on the Victory Drive Corridor Study

Ms. Denise Grabowski, project manager for the Victory Drive Corridor Study, presented the update. The project is divided into two segments – the western segment (Ogeechee Road to Wilmington River) which is more urban in nature, and the eastern segment (Wilmington River to the south end of Tybee Island) which is more suburban and rural in nature. There are two phases – Phase I is the overview and assessment phase of the entire corridor, and Phase II will be a more detailed look at a specific section leading to implementation. It would be followed by other phases focusing on additional sections. Currently, the study is in Phase I.

She reviewed the goal statement of the study, re-capped the historical overview, and summarized what the team learned from corridor analysis and stakeholder input during the week-long charrette in November. This process helped identify corridor strengths and weaknesses.

For each segment the study looks at landscaping, transportation and land use. She identified the sub-areas: Ogeechee Rd. to MLK Blvd., MLK Blvd. to Bull St., Bull St. to Bee Rd., Bee Rd. to Wilmington River, Wilmington River to Bull River, Bull River to Lazaretto Creek, and Tybee Island.

She reviewed the overall vision for the entire corridor, the objectives, the implementation strategies and the schedule for the project. Phase I should be completed in January 2015 and Phase II in May 2015. The study will look at complete streets and public/private participation opportunities.

Mr. Thomson commented that this project was split into several contracts. There is also a Phase III under separate contract.

Mr. Liakakis suggested that a committee be established to protect and replace the palm trees running through Savannah, through Thunderbolt, and out to Tybee Island. Ms. Grabowski commented that they envision a non-profit organization such as “Friends of Victory Drive” to champion things such as this on behalf of the Victory Drive corridor.

Mr. McQueen advised that the transportation aspect of the study include performance measures to fulfill Map-21's requirements.

Ms. Grabowski believes the historic report will be finalized soon and put on the MPC website.

Ms. Schleicher asked about the overgrowth around the palm trees along US 80 on the way to Tybee Island. Who does she contact to request landscape maintenance that would make the palm trees stand out once again? Mr. McQueen believes that maintenance would be included in the original agreement when the trees were planted along for US 80. Mr. Lee Smith commented that the county public works department is reviewing all their maintenance contracts.

B. GDOT Update on the effect of the May 2015 MAP-21 Expiration on Project Authorizations

Mr. McQueen reported on behalf of GDOT. Funding for any projects scheduled in fiscal year 2015 (July 2014 – June 2015) has been put on hold. GDOT was put on notice that funding for the state of Georgia projects would be capped at 19.7%. That amount of funding moved projects along through December 2014. Now there is a "time out" for any lettings or phase funding, until there is further action by Congress. GDOT is waiting for the federal government to authorize the distribution of the full funding for fiscal year 2015. When asked if the state would use state funds to keep projects moving, Mr. McQueen responded in the negative.

VI. Agency Reports

A. GDOT

Mr. Will Murphy reported on the following projects:

- #2 CS650/Grange Rd. – scheduled for a March letting, federal funding permitting.
- #3 Ogeechee Rd. – held up with the federal money issues; moving ahead with what is authorized now .
- #9 – Effingham Pkwy. – concept report approved; should start moving forward
- #10 – US 80 at Bull River & Lazaretto Creek – scoping meeting and initial team concept meeting have been held.
- #11 – I-95 NB Ramp at Airways Ave. – plans are complete; ready for February letting subject to federal funding.
- #14 – I-95 reconstruction of the SB Welcome Center – it is hoped work will begin in early 2015; it was authorized prior to the funding "time out" so it is good to move ahead.
- #18 – SR 21 from SR30 to I-95 (diverging diamond) – environmental activities are 70% complete; this is a design/build project; request for RFP just went out; scheduled for an April letting, subject to federal funding.

- #21 – rapid flashing beacon project on Tybee – safety upgrade plans are complete; should stay on schedule subject to federal funding.

Under Active Construction projects:

- #1 – 11 miles of concrete rehab on I-16 – awarded but no work begun.
- #2 – bridge fender replacement on US 80 over Bull River – work not begun; scheduled for completion in winter of 2016
- #3 – Largo Dr. intersection at Abercorn St. – 56% complete; scheduled to be completed spring of 2015.
- #4 – SR 204 widening from Veterans Pkwy. to Rio Rd. – 44% complete; scheduled completion summer 2015.
- #5 – King George Blvd./SR 204 interchange – 16% complete; completion by winter 2017. Heavy congestion is anticipated when they shift traffic.
- #6 – Gulfstream Rd. at RB Miller Rd. – 73% complete; completion for 2015.
- #7 – Back River Bridge replacement – 70% complete; all the river work is complete; anticipate shifting traffic later this summer and meet scheduled completion of winter 2016.
- #8 – Diamond Causeway bridge replacement – bridge is done; working on punch list items.
- #9 – Jimmy DeLoach Connector – design/build project 50% complete; on schedule for completion in spring 2016.

Mr. Scott asked when the construction office and equipment site at the Diamond Causeway bridge will be dismantled. Mr. Murphy believes that will happen in the next six months, but he will inquire to be sure.

Ms. Schleicher asked if the lighting project at I-16 & I-95 was affected by the federal funding freeze. Mr. Murphy noted that it was a lump sum project. Mr. Thomson noted that this project is held up by local jurisdictions over the issue of light fixture maintenance costs and liability issues.

Mr. Tully asked about the I-95 exit at the Airport in relation to the upcoming mall opening. Mr. Murphy explained the current project. Mr. George Fidler explained the interim improvement for that area (see Item G - Airport Report). GDOT's project will actually widen the ramp in the future.

B. Liberty County

Mr. Nils Gustafson reported on projects in Liberty County. They have two widening projects which are running on schedule. They are working on their Unified Planning Work Program and their Long Range Transportation Plan. Liberty County SPLOST vote failed which has put stress on the budget. They have made some major budget adjustments to compensate.

C. Chatham County

Mr. Nathaniel Panther reported as follows:

- Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy. Extension – ROW authorization received; pre-acquisition proceedings have begun.
- Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy./US 80 interchange – awaiting funding authorization for ROW.
- Bay St. widening – ROW acquisition is complete; demolition underway.
- Skidaway Rd. – the County is proceeding; the scope has been reduced to the area of Montgomery Cross Rd. to Ferguson Ave.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Mike Weiner reported that the temporary traffic light installation at Stiles Ave. & Ogeechee Rd. was finalized last October. They are working with GDOT and FHWA to re-start the Gwinnett St. project from a 2-lane to a 4-lane to accommodate the future arena for that area.

E. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Ramond Robinson reported that CAT has a public meeting this evening at 6:00 PM. This is for the public to ask questions and give feedback. The next board meeting is December 16th at 10:00. CAT will not run service on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

F. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. George Fidler reported that they had the final inspection on the interim improvement project for I-95 exit at Airways Avenue. This project is a public/private partnership project with the airport, GDOT, Gulfstream, and the mall. To add a second left-turn lane, they paved an additional lane on the existing exit ramp shoulder. Studies show this will handle the mall traffic. GDOT will eventually widen the ramp, but this interim project will let us get by until then.

VII. Other Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

VIII. Announcements

The next CORE MPO meeting will be February 25, 2015.

IX. Non-agenda items

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the December 10, 2014 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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