
<u>Regional Coordination Guest</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Jeff Ricketson	Liberty County	X

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Matt Bennett	GDOT	X
Beverly Davis	RSH	X
Beverly Dumas	CAT	X
Jessie Gatti	CAT	X
Jessica Hagan	MPO Staff	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Thomas Thomson	MPC Executive Director	X
Mike Vaquer	CAT	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 called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

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

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the June 25, 2014 meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Mr. James Aberson reported that the committee endorsed all the action items presented. He also reported that there were some comments from the public expressing concerns that CAT's "Dump the Pump" days were not adequately advertised, particularly to the disabled community. He is working with CAT to improve the distribution of information.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Mark Egan reported that the committee did not have a quorum. Staff presented informational reports but no votes were taken on any action items.

C. Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that the committee endorsed the action items that came before the committee, all with revisions. These revisions will be addressed later in the meeting agenda today. In addition they discussed unmet transportation needs in the Total Mobility Plan and a review of the travel plan model.

D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tom Thomson reported that Mr. Wilkes and Ms. Beverly Davis presented a report on the Total Mobility Plan to the Metropolitan Planning Commission and it generated a great deal of interest. The Planning Commission hopes to be more involved in transportation planning.

There are upcoming public meetings scheduled. One is for the I-16 IMR and the others are for the Long Range Transportation Plan. These will occur in July and August.

We have received five responses to the request for proposals for the Greater Downtown Savannah Parking Study. They are under review.

The Planning Commission approved the contract for jB+a, Inc. as consultant for the Victory Drive Corridor Study. Work will commence shortly.

Re-apportionment meetings for the MPO are proceeding. A working group comprised primarily of MPO members' staffs is working on a Memorandum of Understanding and a set of bylaws for the MPO board and its committees. GDOT is participating by telephone. Three more meetings are scheduled. They plan to have a workshop for the CORE MPO Board in September. Mr. Thomson has been having individual meetings with people who cannot participate in the committee meetings.

GDOT News: For FY 2014 YTD 321 projects totaling \$948 million have been let state-wide. They have discussed the insolvency of the Hwy Trust Fund. Seven projects totaling \$62 million are scheduled for July letting, but there is not certainty that the federal government will be able to reimburse the state for those. There are more projects in the next quarter with uncertainty. Tom McQueen noted that the state will keep projects flowing in July-Aug-Sep. After September 30, the program will be more in crisis. Mr. Thomson noted that state fuel tax collections are above last year.

On the federal level, there are many discussions on how to fund the Highway Trust Fund. MAP-21 re-authorization may be extended to May 2015; a 6-year extension is unlikely. They need \$18 billion to make the Highway Trust Fund solvent.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the April 23, 2014 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the April 23, 2014 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

CORE Board Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the April 23, 2014 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Approval of the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the staff report. This amendment is being made at the request of Chatham Area Transit (CAT) for two additional transit studies: Regional Mobility Management Program and Service Tactical Optimization Process Route Level Profile Analysis, Monitoring and Response. The budget for these tasks had been revised since meeting materials were published and are now \$29,000 and \$45,000 respectively. The total budget is \$74,000.00. No change in the overall budget is necessary; staff will re-direct funds to accommodate this request.

It was moved and seconded to approve the amendment to the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the amendment to the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed.

C. Highway Functional Classification Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the staff report. She explained that after each census highway classifications need to be reviewed and updated. The first step is to have the Savannah urbanized area defined and approved. This has been approved by this board, GDOT and FHWA. The next step is to review the functional classification for each roadway. Those within the urban area boundary would be considered "urban" and those outside of the urban area would be considered "rural". Proposed classification changes need to be submitted to GDOT by August 15. GDOT will review it and balance our recommendations with others in the state. GDOT will work it out with FHWA and FHWA will finalize all the classifications in December 2014.

She then reviewed the characteristics that make up the various roadway categories. The major categories are arterial, collector, and local. There are sub-categories within each and she gave examples of each. Characteristics are such things as number of access points, speed limit, usage, significance, number of lanes. The classification of a roadway impacts funding. Local roads are not eligible for federal funding (except for bicycle and pedestrian projects), but all roadways listed as minor collector and above can receive federal dollars for improvement projects.

For most roadways there is no change in classification. For each proposed classification change, staff must complete a "Reclassification Justification Sheet". The CORE MPO chairman must sign, as well as an official from each jurisdiction impacted by the proposed change. MPO staff is currently working with city and county staff on this project.

Ms. Wang reviewed each proposed change by identifying it on the map and noting the current classification and the reasons for the proposed classification. Some proposed changes are upgrades and some are downgrades. Finally, she reviewed some proposed changes that are being offered to correct obvious mapping errors. The adjusted Savannah urban area includes part of Effingham County Rincon and part of Bryan County. All of Tybee Island is outside of the urban area, and is therefore considered rural.

Her report today incorporates comments gathered from participants at the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC).

When asked if all these proposals had been discussed with the impacted municipalities, Ms. Wang explained that many were covered at the TCC as most of the changes are in Savannah and the unincorporated part of Chatham County. The Effingham County planner is OK with the SR 21 proposal in Rincon. The Bryan County planner did not propose any further changes. Garden City and Bloomingdale and Port Wentworth have not responded yet. Staff is willing to visit these city councils to present. After Chairman Scott signs off, then Ms. Wang will give the documents to either Nathaniel Panther or Mike Weiner to seek approval from the county and city.

Ms. Diane Schleicher was concerned about a Tybee roadway that runs parallel to Butler Avenue not categorized as a collector and therefore not eligible for funding for such things as "Safe routes to schools". Ms. Wang explained the census definition of "urbanized area" and why Tybee Island could not be included in the urbanized area. GDOT works directly with Tybee and other areas outside of the urbanized area. Ms. Wang clarified that transportation enhancement projects, such as "Safe routes to schools" are not affected by this highway classification.

Mr. Thomson clarified that rural roads are still eligible for federal funding. It is simply a different "pot" of money.

Mr. Ron Felder of Garden City offered full support of the proposed SR 21 road classification so there is no need for staff to travel to Garden City for a presentation. Ms. Wang will send the documentation to Mr. Felder for presentation to the city and for signature.

Ms. Schleicher also asked about the method for determining "activity centers" that were on a map in the meeting package. Mr. Wilkes offered the clarification that the Thoroughfare Map is not the same thing as the highway functional classification being reviewed today. The Thoroughfare Plan is on today's agenda for discussion later on. Activity centers in that plan were based on public input.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Highway Functional Classification update.

CORE BOARD action: the motion to approve the Highway Functional Classification update carried with none opposed.

D. Approval of Project Selection for CORE MPO Transportation Alternatives Funding

Ms. Jane Love presented the staff report beginning with a review of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and an overview of the type of projects that are eligible. The MPO is allocating \$814,396.00 of federal dollars from FY 2013 and 2014 in this program. This funding can only cover 80% of the total project cost, so there is a local match required. Six applications had been received in the call for projects. In total, the amount of federal funding requested was 260% of what CORE MPO is allocating in this call. Thus not all of the submitted projects could be funded.

She reviewed the following six applications in detail:

- CAT Bike Share System Expansion
- Canebrake Road Path & Sidewalk
- Heritage Trail
- Whitaker Street Streetscape
- Marsh Hen Trail (on Tybee)
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Path from Gulfstream to Aviation Village

She reviewed and explained the selection criteria: applicant's project delivery experience; project implementation status; level of local match; and expected project outcomes.

The three projects recommended for TAP funding are:

- CAT Bike Share System Expansion
- Canebrake Road Path & Sidewalk
- Tybee Marsh Hen Trail Phase

If these are approved, these projects will be programmed in Transportation Improvement Program in August. At that point the project sponsors can coordinate with GDOT before incurring reimbursable costs.

It was moved and seconded to approve staff recommendation of projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program funding.

CORE BOARD action: the motion to approve staff recommendation of projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program funding carried with none opposed.

E. Resolution to affirm Chatham Area Transit as the designated recipient for FTA formula funding

Mr. Thomson presented the resolution stating that CAT should be the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding (except for 5303 funds) for the Savannah Urbanized Area. CAT already has been the recipient of FTA funding and they of course agree to continue. This is necessary for administrative housekeeping at the federal level.

It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution to affirm Chatham Area Transit as the designated recipient for FTA formula funding.

CORE BOARD action: the motion to approve the resolution to affirm Chatham Area Transit as the designated recipient for FTA formula funding 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 informed the Board that the public comment period for the Total Mobility Plan begins today and runs for the next 60 days. This is twice as long as is required. During the extended comment period, there will be a newsletter, an on-line survey, and a series of special public meetings in July. All comments received during this time will be included in the final plan documents and will be responded to.

While the financially constrained project list, financial plan, thoroughfare plan and related information presented today represent the substance of the plan, a complete summary technical report will be published on corempo.org by July 25th. Mr. Wilkes noted the projects included in the plan should be familiar to the Board members being that most are simply carried forward from the current LRTP. Due to funding constraints, there are not many newly identified projects in the new plan

Ms. Beverly Davis reviewed progress made thus far. Tasks still to be completed are the final documentation and on-going public and stakeholder involvement process. She reviewed the content of the plan and reviewed the finances needed for the plan to be in balance. She explained the solution they have adopted to meet the financial shortfall. The Vision Plan is the unfunded portion of the LRTP.

Public meetings are scheduled for July 21, July 24, and July 30. There will also be a public meeting at the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on August 21 and the final public meeting will be at the CORE Board meeting on August 27. Adoption is anticipated by this CORE Board on August 27, 2014.

Mr. Felder asked for a meeting with Mark Wilkes and Beverly Davis about proposed improvements on the canal culvert projects on SR 21. Ms. Davis confirmed and noted that a Chatham County representative would be included.

Ms. Davis asked board members to encourage public participation.

B. Park & Ride Lot Study update

Ms. Wang presented the staff update. This study began in September 2013. She reported the findings from the study in anticipation of wrapping up the study in August. She reviewed the goals of the study and outlined the territory of the study and the process. The territory studied was five counties – Chatham, Effingham, and Bryan counties in Georgia, and Jasper and Beaufort counties in South Carolina.

She shared statistics and data gathered from the study. Population and regional work travel patterns are very important. The highest growth rate is in Effingham and Bryan. Employment growth is highest along the I-95 corridor. The study identified 10 major employment centers.

Based on this information three major corridors were identified for further consideration:

- Northern – along SR 21
- Western – along US 80 & I-16
- Southern – along US 17 & I-95

She then reviewed the evaluation criteria used to measure the 17 possible sites for park & ride lots. The sites were reduced to three along the northern corridor, two along the western corridor, and four along the southern corridor with the strong possibility that the one existing lot will be closed.

Another consideration will be providing carpool, vanpool and transit services. Transit service from the lots to downtown Savannah and to Gulfstream appear to be the most likely start-up for the system. She offered examples of morning and afternoon service schedules.

Ms. Wang reviewed estimated annual operating and maintenance costs for transit services and for the lots.

VI. Agency Reports

A. GDOT

Ms. Maggie Yoder reported on the following projects:

- #1 SR 25 Connector/Bay St. – Final plans are 60% complete; hoping to hold final field plan review this fall.
- #2 CS 650/Grange Rd. – final plans are 75% complete; hope to hold final field plan review late this year.
- #3 Ogeechee Rd. – narrowed down consultants to a short list; wrapped up phase 2 of the selection process last week; awaiting notice of contract award and then they will begin negotiation.
- #7 & #8 – Jimmy DeLoach interchange and extension - these have been “twinned” and will be let under the same contract; right of way funds should be authorized within the week.
- #10 SR 26 /US 80 @ Bull River & Lazaretto Creek – contract and task order has been routed for signature; expect to have a consultant working on this by next month.
- #11 Airways Ave. – designer has submitted responses to comments from the preliminary field plan review.
- #13 Brampton Rd. Connector – working on concept report; moving forward.
- #18 SR 21 (SR 30 to I-95) – preparing concept report; public information open house to be held in August.
- #21 rapid flashing beacon (Tybee) – addressing comments from the preliminary field plan review.

Under Active Construction projects:

- #2 Intersection SR 204 & Largo Dr. – notice to proceed; work will begin shortly.
- #3 SR 204 widening east of Veterans Pkwy. – cleared and started drainage work.
- #4 King George Interchange – clearing and utility coordination underway.
- #8 Back River bridge – pile driving is underway.
- #9 realignment of SR 204 - complete; coming off the list.
- #12 Jimmy DeLoach Connector – clearing is done; driving piles.

Mr. Thomson asked if the award amount for project #12 included right-of-way costs. It does not. Right-of-way is separate.

B. Liberty County

Mr. Jeff Ricketson shared the process that the Hinesville MPO has used to adopt their Highway Functional Classification updates.

C. Chatham County

Mr. Nathaniel Panther reported on the following preconstruction projects:

- Bay St. widening – ROW acquisition continues. 81 of the 86 parcels have been acquired.
- Jimmy DeLoach Phase II – expect right-of-way authorization any day now.

- Jimmy DeLoach/US 80 Interchange – expect right-of-way authorization in the next couple of months.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Mike Weiner reported on the following project:

- Project DeRenne – the interchange justification report was approved by FHWA. Now we can proceed with the concept report. They had a field exercise for this project in May which provided an opportunity for the public to ask questions of officials and to see what is proposed for this project.

E. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Robinson reported on the public meeting that was held regarding proposed service changes. There will be another meeting in July.

F. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. George Fidler reported that the contract has been awarded for the work at I-95/Airways Ave. The work should be done in time for the opening of the mall. They are coordinating this with the larger GDOT project for this section.

VII. Other Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

VIII. Announcements

Mr. Thomson introduced Mr. Matt Bennett as a GDOT District Five program manager. Mr. Robinson introduced two new CAT staff members.

The next CORE MPO meeting will be August 27, 2014.

IX. Non-agenda items

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 25, 2014 CORE MPO Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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