



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CORE MPO BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

August 26, 2015

10:00 AM

Voting Members

Representing

Present

James Aberson	Chairman, ACAT	x
Diane Schleicher	City of Tybee Island	
Shedrick Coleman	Chairman, MPC	
Phillip Claxton	City of Port Wentworth	x
Stephanie Cutter	City of Savannah	
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	x
Harold Fowler	City of Richmond Hill	x
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonburg	
Edna Jackson	City of Savannah	x
Wendall Kessler	Effingham County	x
Mike Lamb	City of Pooler	
Pete Liakakis	CAT Board of Directors	
Tom McQueen	GDOT	
Jannine Miller	EDFAC	x
Caroline Nguyen	Town of Thunderbolt	x
Chadwick Reese	Chatham Area Transit	
Ben Rozier	City of Bloomingdale	
Al Scott	Chairman Chatham County Commission	x
Lee Smith	Chatham County	x
Bob Tully	Chairman, CAC	x

Regional Coordination Guest

Representing

Present

Jeff Ricketson	Liberty County	x
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Others Present

Representing

Present

Jessica Hagan	MPO Staff	x
Jane Love	MPO Staff	x
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County	x
Stephanie Rossi	MPO Staff	x
Thomas Thomson	MPO Staff	x
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	x

Mike Weiner	City of Savannah	X
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO Staff	X
Maggie Yoder	GDOT	X

Call to Order

Chairman Al Scott called the meeting to order.

I. Introductions of New Members

Chairman Al Scott extended a welcome to all the new MPO Board members. Mr. Tom Thomson introduced: Phillip Claxton representing Port Wentworth, Harold Fowler representing Richmond Hill, Caroline Nguyen representing Thunderbolt, Wendall Kessler representing Effingham County, and Jannine Miller representing the new Economic and Development and Freight Advisory Committee, at least until that committee officially makes its designation.

II. Approval of Agenda

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the August 26, 2015 meeting, carried with none opposed.

III. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Mr. James Aberson reported that ACAT voted to endorse all action items.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Bob Tully reported that the CAC voted to endorse all action items. The CAC also elected Mr. Tully as CAC Chairman and Mr. Nichols Allen-Tunsil as Vice-Chairman.

C. Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee

Mr. Tom Thomson explained this committee came out of the freight study effort. Ms. Miller had replaced Mr. Page Siplon as Director of the Georgia Center of Innovation for Logistics, and she agreed to represent the MPO's new committee on the CORE MPO Board until the committee meets and chooses their chairman.

D. Technical Coordinating Committee

Ms. Stephanie Rossi reported that the committee had not had a quorum, therefore no votes had been cast on the action items. Status reports had been presented.

E. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomson gave his executive report on various items, including MAP-21 extension, state lettings, State Transportation Board elections, and the Victory Drive charrette that took place in early August.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of the August 26, 2015 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the August 26, 2015 CORE MPO Board Meeting.

CORE Board Action: the motion to accept the minutes of the August 26, 2015 CORE MPO Board Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan for Pedestrian Bridge in Port Wentworth

Ms. Wykoda Wang, with CORE MPO, reviewed the project details of the pedestrian bridge, proposed to be constructed over SR 21 in Port Wentworth. Staff recommended approval of the amendment. Chairman Scott opened the public hearing. There were no comments. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the proposed amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan for Pedestrian Bridge carried with none opposed.

C. Authorization to Initiate Amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan for SR 25/US 17 @ Savannah River in Port Wentworth and for SR 25/US 17 @ Middle River in Port Wentworth

Ms. Wang reviewed the request from GDOT regarding the amendments to add the Houlihan bridge and Middle River bridge projects. This authorization to proceed is simply the first step; as the second step the CORE MPO Board will consider approval at the next meeting, in October. At this point, staff recommends that the Board authorize staff to initiate the amendment process.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve Authorization to Initiate Amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan for SR 25/US 17 @ Savannah River in Port Wentworth and for SR 25/US 17 @ Middle River in Port Wentworth was carried with none opposed.

D. Amendments to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Wang reviewed the proposed amendment to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These included: addition of the pedestrian bridge project on SR 21 in Port Wentworth; changes related to flexing funds for the CAT Bikeshare project to the Federal Transit Administration; and temporarily recombining the Parts A and B of the Truman Linear Park Trail into one project until the revised concept report is complete. She said staff recommends approval of the amendments.

Chairman Scott opened the public hearing. Ms. Kim Dulek said she was very interested in seeing the Truman Linear Park Trail constructed, and asked if this amendment would delay the project. Ms. Wang answered that this does not result in a delay, just a temporary recombination of the project for a bookkeeping process at the state level. Chairman Scott closed the public hearing.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the proposed amendments to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) carried with none opposed.

E. Acceptance of the CORE MPO Urban Circulator Study Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave a brief report stating that the Urban Circulator Study final report is now complete, consistent with the findings and recommendations presented to the Board in February. The staff recommendation is that the Board accept the final report.

CORE Board Action: the motion to accept the CORE MPO Urban Circulator Study final report carried with none opposed.

V. Status Reports

A. Update on Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Modifications for Expanded Area

Ms. Jane Love, with CORE MPO, reviewed the update on the MTP to bring in the expanded area.

B. Participation Plan Update

Ms. Love reviewed the status of the Participation Plan Update.

C. Update on Roadway Functional Classification

Ms. Wang reviewed the responses from GDOT on CORE MPO's previous comments on the classification of arterials, collectors, and local roads in the urban area.

D. Interstate Study Update

Ms. Stephanie Rossi, with CORE MPO, summarized the updates to the Interstate Study in a brief presentation.

E. FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

Mr. Wilkes reviewed the timeline for the development of the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and summarized the content foreseen at this early stage. Input is being solicited from the advisory committees at this time.

VI. Agency Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Maggie Yoder, with GDOT, reviewed the GDOT/Chatham County projects status report and active construction projects. She said they will also include any Effingham County or Bryan County projects within the MPO's expanded planning area in this report going forward.

B. Chatham County

Mr. Nathaniel Panther, with Chatham County, gave updates on the Chatham County projects.

C. Liberty County Projects

Mr. Jeff Ricketson, with the Hinesville Area MPO, stated that HAMPO will meet in September to adopt their Long Range Transportation Plan.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Mike Wiener, with the City of Savannah, gave updates on the City of Savannah projects.

E. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Nick Helmholtz, with CAT, introduced the new Transit Planner with CAT: Mr. William Stewart. He also stated that in October there will be a few schedule changes that can be found on the website. Mr. Stewart presented the statistics to the Board.

F. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. George Fidler, with the Airport Commission, explained a few construction projects that are taking place at the Airport.

VII. Other Business

Chairman Scott again welcomed the new CORE MPO members and reminded all staffs to include the expanded area in their reports as relevant.

Mr. Tom Thomson introduced Andy Edwards with FHWA. He is here to do a desk audit on a few of the transportation contracts. Mr. Edwards stated he will come back to the MPO Board with his finding after the audit.

Mr. Randy Weitman, with Georgia Ports Authority, announced the date for the 2015 State of the Port Address. It will be on September 24, 2015 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Trade Center.

VIII. Other Public Comments

No other public comments at this time.

IX. Announcements

Next meeting will be October 28, 2015 at 10:00 AM.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the August 26, 2015 CORE Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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