



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CORE MPO BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

December 9, 2015

10:00 AM

Voting Members

James Aberson
Diane Schleicher
Phillip Claxton
Stephanie Cutter
George Fidler
Harold Fowler
Ron Feldner
Caroline Hankins
James Hungerpiller
Edna Jackson
Wendall Kessler
Mike Lamb
Pete Liakakis
Tom McQueen
Jannine Miller
Tanya Milton
Curtis Koleber
Ben Rozier
Al Scott
Lee Smith
Bob Tully

Representing

Chairman, ACAT
City of Tybee Island
City of Port Wentworth
City of Savannah
Savannah Airport Commission
City of Richmond Hill
City of Garden City
Town of Thunderbolt
Town of Vernonburg
City of Savannah
Effingham County
City of Pooler
CAT Board of Directors
GDOT
EDFAC
Chairman, MPC
Chatham Area Transit
City of Bloomingdale
Chairman Chatham County Commission
Chatham County
Chairman, CAC

Present

x
x

x

x

x
x

x
x
x

Voting Member Alternate

Krystal Harris

Representing

GDOT

Present

x

Regional Coordination Guest

Ginnie Kozak
Jeff Ricketson

Representing

LATS MPO
Hinesville Area MPO

Present

x
x

Others Present

Scott Allison
Pamela Bernard
Beverly Davis
Beverly Dumas

Representing

Richmond Hill
Chatham County
RS&H
CAT

Present

x
x
x
x

Cheryl Goldwire	Effingham County	X
Nick Helmholdt	CAT	X
Jane Love	CORE MPO	X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT	X
Emily Ritzler	Jacobs Engineering	X
Tom Thomson	CORE MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO Staff	X
Maggie Yoder	GDOT	X

Call to Order

Chairman Al Scott called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Tom Thomson pointed out for the Board how the final agenda differed from the preliminary agenda. The motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the December 9, 2015 meeting.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the December 9, 2015 meeting, carried with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

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

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Bob Tully reported that the CAC had endorsed the 2016 meeting schedule, the Participation Plan, and the Title VI Program, which had been on the CAC agenda.

C. Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee

No report at this time.

D. Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Tom Thomson reported that the TCC endorsed the 2016 meeting schedule and the proposed authorization to proceed with the amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the I-16 widening.

E. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomson gave his executive report on various items, including the passage of the multi-year congressional transportation authorization called the FAST Act.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the October 28, 2015 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the October 28, 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. Approval of the 2016 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule

Ms. Jane Love, of CORE MPO, directed attention to the draft schedule, noting the CORE MPO Board meeting dates in the far right column. Staff requests approval of the schedule. A motion to approve the 2016 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule was made and seconded.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the 2016 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule carried with none opposed.

C. MPO Board Authorization to Process MTP Amendment for I-16 widening

Mr. Thomson said that GDOT had requested this amendment. The proposal is to do a funding swap with the Ogeechee Rd. project, moving that federal money onto this interstate widening project and then putting state money on the Ogeechee Rd. project to compensate. Thus there would be no impact on the financial balance of the plan. The Ogeechee Rd. project could move faster with non-federal funds. The I-16 widening would be a design/build project. This action today is the authorization to begin processing the amendment. Staff will bring more information back at a future meeting for consideration of approval of the amendment. Mr. Thomson recommended board approval. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the processing of the MTP Amendment for I-16 widening.

CORE Board Action: the motion to authorize the processing of the MTP Amendment for I-16 widening carried with none opposed.

D. FY 2015-2018 TIP Amendments for Continuance

Mr. Al Scott noted that this and the next two items are proposed to be continued to the next CORE MPO Board meeting. He entertained a motion to continue the FY 201502108 TIP Amendments, Approval of the Updated CORE MPO Participation Plan, the Title VI

Program Documents Update, and the public hearings for these items to the February 24, 2016 CORE MPO Board meeting. A motion was made and seconded as entertained.

CORE Board Action: the motion to continue the FY 2015-2108 TIP Amendments, Approval of the Updated CORE MPO Participation Plan, the Title VI Program Documents Update, and the public hearings for these items to the February 24, 2016 CORE MPO Board meeting.

IV. Other Business

There was no other business.

V. Status Reports

A. I-16 Flyover Removal Update

Ms. Emily Ritzler, of Jacobs Engineering, summarized the work in the Interchange Modification Report (IMR) for the I-16 ramp removal project. The final document is in MPO staff review and will be sent to GDOT for review next week, before being submitted to FHWA. She noted that downtown has five interchanges within a mile, but all are only partial interchanges. The average spacing is one every third of a mile, while current FHWA standards are no more than one per mile. Both of the build options that are covered in the IMR propose making the Oglethorpe Ave. interchange full access. In both, the local street network is based on the Civic Master Plan. The team used eight FHWA policy requirements to develop measures of effectiveness on which to compare the two build alternatives and the no-build alternative. Alternative 1 is estimated to cost about \$70.3 million and Alternative 2 would cost about \$67.3 million. At the community meeting in October, there was more support for Alternative 2, because of concerns about a ramp in Alternative 1 coming down to connect across from the school. Ms. Ritzler reviewed the benefits of the project: Restores of the surface street network; Improves connectivity and mobility; Returns developable land to downtown Savannah; Spurs economic development. The next step is to submit the report. The Board had no questions.

B. Update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Modification for Expanded Area

Ms. Jane Love, of CORE MPO, reported on the current status. This modification is to reflect the new areas of the Metropolitan Planning Area in an addendum to the adopted MTP. Some additional discussion of priorities in Richmond Hill occurred in November. A draft addendum is in a 30-day courtesy review period with federal and state partners. There will be a public meeting in January. The MTP modification is expected to be wrapped up in February. The Board had no questions.

VI. Information Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Maggie Yoder, with GDOT, reviewed the GDOT projects in the planning area. Mr. Harold Fowler, of Richmond Hill, noted that the project length given for the resurfacing of SR 144 was longer than implied by description of the project limits. Another GDOT staff member explained that the resurfacing actually goes farther than those project limits. Ms. Yoder explained that Spring of 2018 is when the contract is to be finished with that.

B. Member Governments

Effingham County: There was no report.

Chatham County: Mr. Nathaniel Panther reported that the Public Information Open House for the Truman Linear Park Trail last week had about 100 attendees, and most comments were positive. The comment period continues until December 14. He said the County hopes to submit the revised concept report in early January. After that the project can be split into the County-managed and City-managed construction segments, as previously planned.

City of Savannah: Mr. Mike Weiner reviewed the handout showing City projects, including Coffee Bluff Rd. sidewalk, intersection and signal improvements on Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Project DeRenne, and the Delesseps Ave. sidewalk and road project.

City of Richmond Hill: Mr. Scott Allison reported that they are finishing a \$400,000 sidewalk project for connectivity between neighborhoods, schools, parks, and commercial areas. Another project is the signal enhancement at SR 144 and US 17, including landscaping and more aesthetic signal structures, to create a city gateway effect. That should be finished in about a year.

City of Tybee Island: Ms. Diane Schleicher said they are very happy about the flashing beacons GDOT is installing. It will be a safer island for pedestrians. She reported that there were some project administration hurdles to overcome on the Marsh Hen Trail project, related to the different funding sources.

C. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Mr. Nick Helmholdt said CAT is applying through the State Road and Tollway Authority for funds for a satellite operations center and for a park and ride lot within Chatham County.

D. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

E. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

No report at this time.

F. Hinesville Area MPO

Mr. Jeff Ricketson wished everyone a happy holiday season.

G. Lowcountry Area Transportation Study

Ms. Ginnie Kozak said they had finished their long range transportation plan; it would be going before their policy committee in early January. They are getting a little more money for their transit service and would like to coordinate with CAT.

VII. Other Public Comments

There were no other comments.

VIII. Announcements

Chairman Scott noted the next CORE MPO Board meeting would be February 24, 2016. Mr. Tom Thomson introduced the new audio/visual technician working for Chatham County and assisting with the recording of this and other meetings.

IX. Other Non-agenda Information for Reference

There were no items.

X. Adjournment

There being no other business, the December 7, 2015, meeting of the CORE MPO Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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