



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CORE MPO BOARD  
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**October 28, 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  
Chadwick Reese  
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  
  
x  
x  
x  
x

**Regional Coordination Guest**

Nils Gustavson  
Ginnie Kozak

**Representing**

Hinesville Area MPO  
LATS MPO

**Present**

x  
x

**Others Present**

Scott Allison  
Beverly Davis  
Denise Grabowski  
Jane Love  
David Moyer

**Representing**

Richmond Hill  
RS&H  
Symbioscity  
CORE MPO  
GDOT

**Present**

x  
x  
x  
x  
x

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Troy Pittman	GDOT	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO	
Tom Thomson	CORE MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Bryan Wingate	GDOT	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

**CORE Board Action:** the motion to approve the agenda for the August 26, 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.

##### B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Bob Tully reported that the CAC did not meet in October.

##### C. Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee

Ms. Janine Miller reported that the EDFAC had not met since the last CORE MPO Board meeting.

##### D. Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Tom Thomson reported that the TCC endorsed the action items.

##### E. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomson gave his executive report on various items, including announcement of a community meeting on Phase 2 of the Victory Drive Corridor Study, scheduled for November 12 at 5:30 p.m. at Beach High School. He also introduced new CAT staff.

#### III. 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.

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

**B. 2040 MTP Amendments for two Bridge Replacement Projects in Port Wentworth**

Ms. Wykoda Wang, with CORE MPO, explained that the proposed amendments for the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan involved the shifting of some phases of the Houlihan Bridge project from Cost Band Three to Cost Band One and the addition of the Middle River Bridge phases into Cost Band One and Three. Her report concluded that there would be no negative impact on the financial balance of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) because the projects are bringing their own funding into the plan. Staff recommended approval of the amendments.

Chairman Al Scott opened the public hearing. There were no comments. He closed the public hearing. Mr. Bob Tully moved that the amendments to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan be approved. James Aberson seconded.

**CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the proposed amendment to the 2040 MTP for two Bridge Replacement Projects in Port Wentworth carried with none opposed.**

**C. Amendments to the FY 2015-2018 TIP**

Ms. Wang explained that, given the approval on the MTP amendment, the CORE MPO Board would now consider adding PE and ROW for the two bridges into the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP would remain financially balanced because funding is being added to the TIP to compensate for the costs of these phases of the projects. Staff recommended approval.

Chairman Al Scott opened the public hearing. There were no comments. He closed the public hearing. Mr. Bob Tully moved to approve the TIP amendments. Ms. Stephanie Cutter seconded.

**CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the amendments to the FY 2015-2018 TIP carried with none opposed.**

**D. Amendment to the FY 2016 UPWP**

Mr. Mark Wilkes, of CORE MPO, reported that the proposed amendment involves carrying forward \$53,623 from the close-out of FY 2015 to include in the FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), so that the funds can be accessed. Staff recommended approval of the amendment. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the amendment.

**CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the amendment to the FY 2016 UPWP carried with none opposed.**

**IV. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**V. Status Reports**

**A. I-16 Flyover Removal Update**

Ms. Denise Grabowski, of Symbioscity, reviewed two options being analyzed in the Interchange Modification Report that will eventually be sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Both options propose additional access at US 17/Oglethorpe Avenue. One option also proposes ramps coming down to intersect mid-block on Cohen Street. Both options propose a street pattern in the area of the existing flyover similar to the Civic Master Plan that was previously developed with extensive outreach. The presentation showed a chart of the differences in travel time of each option compared to the no-build.

Ms. Grabowski noted that the public information open house held earlier this month was attended by 60 to 70 people, many of whom talked with the project team and made notes on the maps. She added that the 3-D animation of moving through the revised street system would be made available on the web site if technically feasible.

Board members expressed concerns about new ramps on Cohen Street where there is already a school. Mr. Tom McQueen, of GDOT, recommended that the team keep the truck routes in mind.

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

Ms. Jane Love, of CORE MPO, summarized the steps that staff and consultants had covered so far. 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 is scheduled with staff. The MTP modification is expected to be wrapped up in February.

**C. Participation Plan Update**

Ms. Love reviewed what has taken place so far to update the Participation Plan. This included changes to reflect the new planning area and also changes to address comments from the most recent federal certification review. The draft Participation Plan was provided for public comment period this week and the period runs until the next CORE MPO Board meeting on December 9. Mr. Thomson added that the draft includes a revised amendment process for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program, to help streamline the process in response to comments from partner agencies.

**VI. Information Reports**

**A. Georgia Department of Transportation**

Ms. Maggie Yoder, with GDOT, reviewed the GDOT/Chatham County projects status report and active construction projects. A public meeting is scheduled for the US 80/Tybee Road projects on November 17, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Tybee Island City Hall. Mr. McQueen added that the meeting is to provide very preliminary ideas and get feedback. Given the especially high tide that covered the road today, due in part to seasonal factors, members asked questions about road elevation. Mr. David Moyer, project manager with GDOT, explained that the department had selected a project team for expertise in hydrology and environmental work, so that these situations will be understood and appropriately addressed by the project.

### **B. Member Governments**

Mr. Ron Feldner, of Garden City, noted that a signal is being installed at Chatham Parkway and Telfair Place.

### **C. Chatham Area Transit Authority**

Mr. William Stewart reviewed the latest transit statistics for ridership, farebox recovery, and complaints. Service changes went into effect on October 26. Mr. Pete Liakakis noted that CAT representatives recently visited Denver, CO, to learn of the economic development impacts there from streetcar.

### **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. Nils Gustavson reported that they are amending their long range plan and Transportation Improvement Program for a couple of bridges.

### **G. Lowcountry Area Transportation Study**

Ms. Ginnie Kozak said they had approved a Participation Plan and were working on finishing the long range plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. She noted that the only project in their plan will be the US 17 widening, due to the project cost and the MPO's small amount of funding. The twin bridge over Back River is not funded within the project so far, but will obviously be needed to maintain the continuity in number of lanes over the relatively short crossing.

## **VII. Other Public Comments**

There were no other comments.

## **VIII. Announcements**

Chairman Scott noted the announcements printed on the agenda.

**IX. Other Non-agenda Information for Reference**

Chairman Scott noted that items had been attached for information.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the October 28, 2015, meeting of the CORE MPO Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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