

MPC Mendonsa Hearing Room – 10:00 a.m.
112 East State Street, Savannah
Minutes

December 14, 2016, Regular Meeting of the CORE MPO Board

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
James Aberson	ACAT	
Phillip Claxton	City of Port Wentworth	
Eddie DeLoach	City of Savannah	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Harold Fowler	City of Richmond Hill	X
Caroline Hankins	Town of Thunderbolt	
James Hungerpillar	Town of Vernonburg	
Wendall Kessler	Effingham County Commission	
Curtis Koleber	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Mike Lamb	City of Pooler	
Pete Liakakis	CAT Board	X
Tom McQueen	GDOT	X
Jannine Miller	EDFAC	
Tanya Milton	MPC	
Ben Rozier	City of Bloomingdale	
Diane Schleicher	City of Tybee Island	X
Al Scott	Chatham County Commission	X
Pete Shonka	City of Savannah	X
Lee Smith	Chatham County	X
Bob Tully	CAC	
Vacant	City of Savannah Alderman	
Vacant	Chatham County Commissioner	

<u>Regional Coordination Guests</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Ginnie Kozak	LATS MPO	X
Jeff Ricketson	HAMPO	X

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Scott Allison	Richmond Hill	X
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County	X

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Byron Cowart	GDOT District Five	X
Nick Helmholdt	MPC Staff	X
Curtis Lewis	Lewis Commercial Properties	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Robert McCorkle	Victory Dr. Comm. Property Owners Assoc.	X
Susan Myers	Victory Dr. Study Advisory Committee	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT District Five	X
Stephanie Rossi	MPO Staff	X
Grant Sparks	Chatham Area Transit	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO Interim Exec. Director	X
Ardis Wood	Victory Dr. Study Advisory Committee	X

I. Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda of the December 14, 2016 meeting of the CORE MPO Board was approved as written.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

2. Report

Ms. Jane Love said that ACAT Chairman James Aberson could not attend today's meeting. She reported that ACAT had not had a quorum at their December meeting.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

3. Report

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Ms. Love said that CAC Chairman Bob Tully had sent his regrets for today's meeting. She reported that the CAC had endorsed their action items.

C. Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee

4. Report

No report at this time.

D. Technical Coordinating Committee

5. Report

Mr. Scott Allison, TCC Vice Chairman, reported that the TCC had endorsed the action items. They also had held elections for TCC officers: Nathaniel Panther was elected Chairman, and he was elected Vice Chairman.

E. Executive Director's Report

6. Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes informed the Board about correspondence from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) received since the last board meeting. These were a report on the review of procurement processes of Georgia MPOs and the interim findings from CORE MPO's certification review last May. The former had been sent to the Board members, while the latter was attached to today's agenda. MPO staff will write a letter of response regarding the interim findings. The findings indicate several tasks to be completed by March. Mr. Wilkes noted which ones are related to today's agenda items.

Mr. Wilkes also noted that staff has sent draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to GDOT and FHWA for a 30-day review period. Staff expects to bring it before the board at the next meeting.

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III. Action Items

7. Approval of the Nov. 2, 2016 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

Attachment: CORE MPO Board minutes_11-2-16.pdf

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2016 meeting of the CORE MPO Board. The motion passed with none opposed.

8. Approval of the CORE MPO Committees' 2017 Meeting Schedule

Attachment: 2017 CORE MPO Committee Meeting Schedule.pdf

Ms. Jane Love noted that the proposed schedule for 2017 has a meeting in March, which is an extra meeting compared to the typical schedule. This is planned in anticipation of the several tasks that will be wrapping up in March. The other meetings follow the usual schedule. There were no questions.

Staff recommended approval of the CORE MPO Committees' 2017 Meeting Schedule. A motion was made and seconded to approved the schedule. The motion passed with none opposed.

9. Amendment to 2040 Total Mobility Plan

Attachment: 2040 MTP Amendment Staff Report November 2016.pdf

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported on the proposed amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan. It is the CORE MPO's long range plan. GDOT had requested to add Preliminary Engineering (PE) for widening I-16 from Pooler Parkway to I-95 into Cost Band Three of the plan, as well as adding Construction into the Vision Plan. The reason is that GDOT anticipates the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be looking for this to be in the long range plan when they review the Interchange Modification Report (IMR) for the already-programmed widening project for I-16 from I-95 to I-516.

She noted that the addition of PE into Cost Band Three does not negatively impact any other projects in the plan. Ms. Wang described the participation process the MPO is following for this proposed amendment. There will be a public hearing today before the Board discusses action. She said staff recommends approval of this amendment to the Total Mobility Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING: For the benefit of the public, Ms. Wang read an explanation of the

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role of the MPO and the purpose of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Chairman Al Scott opened the hearing. Ms. Ardis Wood, of Savannah, expressed a general concern about expenditures on road widenings instead of investing in transit or parking strategies. There were no other public comments. Mr. Scott closed the public hearing.

Board member Diane Schleicher asked if studies had justified the need for the eventual widening. Mr. Tom McQueen, of GDOT, said that yes the Interchange Modification Report (IMR) for the segment from I-95 to I-516 had also shown a need west of I-95.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan. The motion passed with none opposed.

10. Amendment to FY 2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program

Attachment: FY 2015-2018 TIP Amendment Staff Report November 2016.pdf

Ms. Wang reported that the proposed amendment to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) would program an additional PE phase in FY 2017, for I-16 widening from I-95 to I-516. This request came from GDOT. GDOT would provide the additional \$9.1 million of federal and state funding, and thus the financial balance of the TIP is not affected. She described the participation process the MPO is following.

Staff recommended approval of the TIP amendment. She noted a public hearing was scheduled for this item on today's agenda. She read a statement describing the TIP.

Chairman Scott opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, he closed the hearing. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment to the FY 2015-2018 TIP. The motion passed with none opposed.

11. Call for Projects for CORE MPO's Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funds

Attachment: Z230 Funds Call for Projects staff report.pdf

Ms. Wang informed the Board that the proposal is to use a Call for Projects to allocate the CORE MPO's available Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, which are also known as Z230 funds. She reviewed a proposed application and review process, schedule, criteria, and funding amounts. Staff had revised the proposals after discussion and decisions at the TCC meeting. If the MPO Board approves the process, staff will announce the Call for Projects and provide the application and instructions on January 3, 2017.

Staff recommended approval of the Call for Projects process for Surface Transportation Block Grant funds. Ms. Schleicher noted the number of scoring criteria and said one

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consideration would be weighting the criteria. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed process for the STBG Call for Projects. The motion passed with none opposed.

12. Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects Process

Attachment: TA Selection Process staff report.pdf

Ms. Jane Love explained that CORE MPO also allocates a portion of Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding. In recent years, the MPO conducted a call for projects for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding, and this was essentially the same, but the name had changed due the terms and structure in the new federal legislation. She reviewed funding amounts, minimum requests, an application review process, scoring criteria, and eligibilities. The schedule would be the same as the Call for Projects for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBF) funds discussed in the previous agenda item, to avoid confusion. She noted the criteria and eligibilities differ between the two funding types.

Staff recommended approval of the proposed process for the TA Call for Projects. Mr. Tom McQueen asked if points would be given for applicants who can provide more than the minimum required local match. Ms. Love said the MPO had done that last time, but it is not proposed to be specifically rewarded this time because it conflicts with the need to request enough federal funds to make the required federal process worthwhile.

A motion was made and seconded to approved the proposed Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects Process. The motion passed with none opposed.

13. Victory Drive Corridor Study Phase III Recommendations

Attachment: V-III-Draft-Recommendations-FINAL-MPC-lres.pdf

Attachment: comment card_summary_Nov.pdf

Ms. Love stated that this is the third phase of a multi-phase study, with some funding from CORE MPO. This phase looks at Victory Dr., from Bee Rd. to just east of Skidaway Rd. The study provides recommendations, but implementation of these proposed policies or projects would require other agencies to decide to go forward. She said that the action requested from this Board is approval of the recommendations and forwarding to the implementing agencies. She introduced the consulting team: Mr. John Fish, of jB+a, the prime consultant; Ms. Whitney Shephard, of Transport Studio; and Denise Grabowski, of Symbioscity.

Mr. Fish gave the presentation covering the vision and goals of the Phase I master planning

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effort and the goal of Phase III, the segment's existing conditions and key issues, and recommendations under the categories of Landscape/Environment, Land Use/Urban Design, as well as Transportation, which was explained by Ms. Shephard. Mr. Lee Smith was concerned whether this would improve mobility for business and commerce. Ms. Shephard said that the access management recommendations are intended to improve access to business by reducing congestion, thus allowing the area to remain a regional commercial attraction. Mr. Pete Liakakis asked if the sidewalk gaps were quantified. Yes, they were. Ms. Schleicher asked if the hedge screening would block views of businesses. Mr. Fish explained that the height would be only about three feet to block view of parked cars not buildings.

Chairman Scott asked about the public involvement in the study. There had been roughly twenty stakeholder meetings and two public meetings. Mr. Scott added that this is not a stakeholder meeting or a public hearing, but neither is the study a stone tablet. He said that Mr. Robert McCorkle had requested to speak on this item, and he'd allow him five minutes. Mr. McCorkle said he represents the Victory Drive Commercial Property Owners Association. He said the use of the phrase "re-establish historic framework" implies that there is justification to ask property owners to "put it back" when actually the framework hasn't existed in this segment. He questioned whether "urban design" was actually needed in the suburban area. He said the recommendations ask property owners to give right-of-way and install landscaping and east-west streets, with no compensation. There are already some east-west streets and connected parcels. The recommendation for one bay of parking fronting Victory Dr. with the rest behind a building is something no one would build. He said the property owners were not given the survey at their stakeholder meetings, and would bear impacts. They ask the Board to shelve the study and not give it their stamp.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the study on the condition that implementation would follow legal processes. The motion passed with none opposed.

IV. Other Business

14. CORE MPO Staff Contact List

Attachment: MPO Staff Contact List By Subject Area Staff Report.pdf

Attachment: MPO Staff Contacts by Subject Area List.pdf

Mr. Wilkes noted the staff list provides primary and secondary contacts by topic.

V. Status Reports

15. Congestion Management Process Update

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Attachment: cmpagenda12_2016.pdf

Ms. Stephanie Rossi reviewed the proposed tasks, as shown in the staff report, that would be carried out as staff updates the required Congestion Management Process. This would address one of the interim findings of the certification review. The Board will receive summaries of the analysis and a final report in the future. There were no questions.

16. FY 2017 UPWP Budget Adjustment

Attachment: FY 2017 UPWP Budget Adjustment.pdf

Attachment: 2017 UPWP Budget Adjustment Request 12-09-16.pdf

Ms. Wang explained that staff is planning to shift some planning funds within the Unified Planning Work Program, in order to cover staff's time in working on the Congestion Management Process. This is handled administratively since the total UPWP budget is not changing, but staff wants the Board to be informed. Staff is shifting funds from Traffic Impact Analysis activity and Transportation Demand Management with no negative impact expected.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

17. Report

Mr. Byron Cowart reviewed the status of projects on the handout.

B. Member Governments

18. Reports

Chatham County: Ms. Pam Bernard reviewed the status of projects on the handout.

City of Savannah: Mr. Mike Weiner gave an update on Project DeRenne, on which the City had recently provided a public meeting including a simulation.

City of Richmond Hill: Mr. Scott Allison said they anticipate congestion during the Hwy. 144 widening project. The Harris Trail shoulder widening is a safety project. They are

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finishing permitting on the sidewalk project for Hwy. 144 between I-95 and US 17.

City of Tybee Island: Ms. Schleicher said she had nothing to report at this time.

C. Chatham Area Transit Authority

19. Report

Mr. Grant Sparks said that CAT's origin-destination study will allow them to understand common travel patterns and see if areas are over-served or under-served by transit.

D. Georgia Ports Authority

20. Report

No report at this time.

E. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

21. Report

Mr. George Fidler said that the Pooler Pkwy./Airways Ave. corridor will have signal coordination for real-time adjustment, from US 80 to the airport terminal. The airport continues to report growth.

F. Hinesville Area MPO (neighboring MPO)

22. Report

Mr. Jeff Ricketson said that HAMPO is having Cambridge Systematics assist them with their Freight Study.

G. Low-country Area Transportation Study (neighboring MPO)

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23. Report

Ms. Ginnie Kozak reported that US 17 on the SC side of the river would be resurfaced soon, since it can't wait until the widening project begins. All of LATS limited funding is going to the widening. They also are involved with the East Coast Greenway on planning for connectivity.

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

24. Comments

There were no comments at this time.

VIII. Announcements

25. Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Feb. 22, 2017, 10:00 a.m. in MPC Hearing Room (pending approval of the 2017 meeting schedule)

IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

26. FHWA Letter on CORE MPO Interim Certification Findings

Attachment: SavannahTMACerticationInterimImprovements_11_08_16.pdf

27. Georgia MPO Procurement Findings

Attachment: MPOStudyProcurementReviewTransmittal.pdf

Attachment: GeorgiaMPOPlanningStudyProcurementReviewOct_2016.pdf

X. Adjournment

28. Adjournment

There being no other business, the December 14, 2016 meeting of the CORE MPO Board was adjourned.

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The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.