



**CORE MPO Board**

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

**October 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes of the CORE MPO Board**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Teresa Brenner	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	X
Russ Carpenter	City of Richmond Hill	
Wesley Corbitt	Effingham County Commission	
Bill Durrence	City of Savannah	X
Eddie DeLoach	City of Savannah	
Joseph Ervin	Metropolitan Planning Commission	X
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Howard French	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	X
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	X
Caroline Hankins	Town of Thunderbolt	
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonberg	
Curtis Koleber	Chatham Area Transit Authority	
Mike Lamb	City of Pooler	
Tom McQueen	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Gary Norton	City of Port Wentworth	
Ben Rozier	City of Bloomingdale	
Al Scott	Chatham County Commission	X
Estella Shabazz	City of Savannah	X
Lee Smith	Chatham County	X
Bob Tully	Citizens Advisory Committee	
Vacant	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	
Vacant	Chatham County	
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO	X
James Small	CORE MPO	X
Byron Cowart	GDOT-DS5	X
Aidan Ourike	Chatham Area Transit	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Jeff Ricketson	Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission – HAMPO	X
Joseph Capello	City of Savannah Traffic Engineering	X
Ginnie Kozak	Lowcountry Area MPO	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bill Durrence motioned to approve the October 24, 2018 CORE MPO Board meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion was passed with none opposed.

## II. Committee Reports (verbal)

### ACAT

The ACAT met on Monday October 22, 2018. Ms. Teresa Brenner reported that the group did not have a quorum and they heard staff and agency reports.

### CAC

No report

### TCC

Ms. Pamela Bernard reported that TCC met on Thursday October 18, 2018. The action items are the same items going before the CORE MPO Board. The committee voted to endorse all proposed action items.

### Executive Director Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes reviewed the current action items and agenda with the board. It is likely we will begin a call for projects in December to allocate unused transportation alternatives funds in FY 2019 of the TIP. Those funds are currently assigned to projects that are no longer being pursued, in particular the CAT bike share project. We also do not expect the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B to be ready for let in 2019. This is roughly \$1.1 million dollars in federal funds. We will be looking to reallocate those funds to projects that will be eligible and ready to proceed in 2019 so that the funds will not lapse.

Mr. Bill Durrence asked if there will be a problem if a project we reallocated money from moves forward. Will we be able to reallocate that money back? Mr. Wilkes stated that isn't necessarily a problem, the problem lies with the project not being ready for let in the fiscal year, but remaining in the TIP. If this were to happen the funds would not be available for another project. There is nothing to prevent any project sponsor from pursuing the funds in the next fiscal year. About reallocating the funds for a previous project, Mr. Lee Smith stated that typically this has not been a problem.

## III. Action Items

### 1. [Approval of the August 22, 2018 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes](#)

📎 [CORE MPO Board Minutes August 22.pdf](#)

Mr. Joseph Ervin made a motion to approve the August 22, 2018 CORE MPO Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### 2. [Amendment to FY 2018 - 2021 TIP](#)

📎 [FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendment Staff Report October 2018.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the amendment to fiscal year 2018-2021 TIP. The Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) was awarded some FTA discretionary 5339c grant funds in August 2018. They will use these funds to purchase 4 zero-emission battery-electric buses, 4 depot chargers, and conduct any necessary architecture and engineering work. \$1.5 million dollars is the federal portion

and CAT is contributing \$2.5 million dollars. The total for this project is roughly \$4.0 million dollars. For CAT to receive these funds they must be programmed in the TIP. Staff is proposing that the board adopt the proposed TIP amendment so that CAT can use the funds to purchase the buses and begin the project.

The public hearing was opened and closed with there being no public comment.

Mr. Bill Durrence made a motion to adopt the proposed TIP amendment; seconded by Mr. Joseph Ervin. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### [3. Mobility 2045 Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures](#)

📎 [October 2018 MTP Goals Staff Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the 2045 MTP Goals, Objectives, and Performance measures. We have used the information from our surveys and public engagement to refine the goals. We are proposing six goals to adopt and move forward with. The six goals are:

Goal 1: A safe, secure, and resilient transportation system for all types of users and for freight.

Goal 2: An efficient, reliable, multi-modal transportation system that supports economic competitiveness and enhances tourism.

Goal 3: Access and mobility, equitably and reliably available, for people and for freight, through a range of travel options and an integrated, connected transportation system.

Goal 4: A healthy, sustainable environment through the compatible integration with land use and transportation while taking into consideration the impact of transportation, including that of stormwater.

Goal 5: Maintain a state of good repair.

Goal 6: Wise use of public funds through coordination and a performance-based planning process.

The original draft goals presented in February had five goals. Goals 1-3 did not change, clarification was added to goal 4, removing a few of the extra qualifiers and establishing it as a healthy and sustainable environment initiative. We removed “preservation and state of good repair” from goal 6 and made it its own goal. A matrix was provided showing how these goals are meeting our national goal requirements, planning factor requirements, state and local goals, and the comprehensive plan for the region. Staff is requesting that the board adopt the goals, objectives, and performance measures for the plan update.

Ms. Rossi stated that we are not signing a separate formal resolution on the goals because they will be a part of the Metropolitan Plan update which will be adopted in August. This adoption clarifies the general direction of the goals and objectives of the plan.

Mr. Durrence suggested we clarify that these goals are designed to first support our residents and region before we make a point to highlight freight and tourism.

Dr. Estella Shabazz made a motion to adopt the proposed Mobility 2045 goals, objectives and performance measures; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion was passed with none opposed.

#### 4. Request to Re-classify Benton Blvd and Highland Blvd

☞ [FC App ChangeRequestForm \(002\).pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang described the current request to reclassify Benton Blvd and Highland Blvd. Currently Benton Blvd and Highland Blvd are classified as local streets. The City of Savannah is requesting to re-classify Benton Blvd and Highlands Blvd from local streets to a higher classification level, to ensure they will be eligible for federal dollars. The current classification is a 7, which is a local classification. The City of Savannah proposed a principal arterial but during the TCC meeting it was determined it would make more sense to reclassify Benton Blvd as a minor arterial due to GDOT's cap to each category. TCC recommended the City apply to re-classify Benton Blvd as a minor arterial and Highlands Blvd as a collector. This is the first step in the re-classification process. After the board moves forward with the re-classification requirement, we will send this to GDOT.

Mr. Tom McQueen stated that the request before the MPO Board to re-classify the streets start the process, but this body will not be making the final decision of approval.

Mr. Joseph Capello stated that after the board's approval of the request, GDOT will respond to the application, and the City will move forward with the process based on GDOT's response.

Mr. Bill Durrence made a motion to approve the proposed roadway re-classification; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion was passed with none opposed.

#### **IV. Other Business**

NONE

#### **v. Status Reports**

#### 5. Status Update on the 2045 Metropolitan Plan Update

☞ [October 2018 MTP Update Staff Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi gave a status report on the 2045 Metropolitan Plan Update. Concerning community outreach, we initially did public outreach roughly one year ago when we were pursuing our socio-economic data. Most recently we conducted a second round of outreach effort.

We have been working on this with a survey in June and July, and in person meetings during August and October. There was advertising in the Savannah Morning News, the MPC website, and the Savannah Tribune. Many partners shared our advertisements via their social media pages and e-mail distributions. We also utilized flyers and went out to community events and meetings outside of those organized by the department and presented on the Plan Update. Those included City Council meetings of Richmond Hill and Garden City, the Coastal Ga. Indicators, CAT Board, and SAGIS Technical Committee. In addition, we organized 3 public open houses during September and October.

During the open houses, we had several different types of materials and activities for participants that illustrated the functions of an MPO. We had posters that outline the process and maps that illustrate projects completed, underway, or in the pipeline and long rang plan. Staff administered a dot exercise and money game that allowed participants to prioritize transportation needs.

Concerning the schedule, we have recently finalized our goals, started analyzing the existing and future conditions, and are expecting to receive model results from GDOT within the next 2 months. We have started looking at our financial picture for the 2045-time frame plan update. We will be returning to the board with a draft plan in June and July and looking at adoption in August. In June and July, we will do another strong push for public outreach and involvement. During this time, we will have a draft plan with the project list to discuss with residents.

Ms. Teresa Brenner requested that when we do the next round of communication for public involvement, we reach out to the Georgia Radio Reading Service, so they can convey this information to the visually impaired.

Mr. Lee Smith asked if we are collecting demographic information at the community meetings. Ms. Rossi stated that we have not been actively collecting demographic data as part of our survey but are requesting zip codes to ensure we are reaching various parts of the region. We did perform an environmental justice analysis to determine what type of populations are in the areas where we are hosting meetings and speaking opportunities.

Dr. Estella Shabazz requested that we add the Savannah Herald as a form of print media advertisers. She also agreed with holding meetings on the westside of Savannah in effort to ensure the inclusiveness of everyone.

## [6. Proposed Transit Planning Tasks for the CORE MPO FY 2020 UPWP](#)

🔗 [Draft FY 2020 UPWP Transit Program Staff](#)

🔗 [Report.pdf Draft 2020 UPWP Transit Planning](#)

[Tasks.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented on the proposed transit planning tasks for the CORE MPO FY 2020 UPWP. This item is related to the MPO's budget. The MPO's activities are funded by 3 sources, the Highway Planning funding source (PL Funds), FTA Section 5303 (Transit portion), and membership fees/dues that pay the local match. Every November we apply for the 5303 funds, as a part of this, they are requesting our work program for the next year. This year GDOT Intermodal has requested we consolidate several programs. We have 3 programs that include Transit and Paratransit Planning, Long Range Transportation Plan, and the Transportation Improvement program. We are presenting this to the board now, so we will have a relatively stable transit work program by the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. If the board has any comments, please provide the comments by November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated that this is not the draft work program per se. Due to GDOT's administrative deadlines we must submit our transit planning tasks in November for the grant application process. The 2020 UPWP development will start in earnest towards the end of the year, a draft will be provided illustrating all transportation planning activities after the first of the year. We are doing this as an administrative function at staff level.

Mr. Lee Smith asked if the airport studies were included in the 2020 UPWP and Wykoda clarified that we are only reviewing the transit tasks now. Mr. Wilkes stated that we are only submitting the three-transit planning task that are in the draft form because they are required for the grant application.

Mr. Tom McQueen referred to a discussion during TCC about how this is presented for all MPOs. Ms. Wang stated that we coordinated with GDOT Intermodal and they said this one is optional but

from this year, we need to include the estimated transit budget for FY 2021.

Mr. Shawn Gillen asked where in the plan is work of the MPO towards the Tybee Road widening (PI#0010560). Mark Wilkes stated that the MPO was the lead at the planning stage but now the project is under active development by GDOT. Ms. Wang stated that we programmed the Tybee local funds for the right-of-way phase, that facilitated the development of the plan.

## **VI. Information Reports (verbal)**

### **GDOT**

Mr. Byron Cowart, Planning and Programming engineer for GDOT District 5, presented the GDOT/Chatham County Projects Status Report.

Concerning the Tybee Road widening (PI#0010560) Mr. Shawn Gillen spoke on the scheduled public meeting for the Fall and how the meeting has been delayed. He stated that they are concerned about the project being pushed back potentially to 2030 from the original 2021 and 2026 dates. Mr. Cowart stated that once we have a draft environmental document we will be able to present this at a public meeting and have an open house.

Chairman Al Scott asked if there is any real consideration for switching to the North side of the Bull river bridge for the expansion? Mr. Troy Pittman stated that from his understanding there is no plan to go on the North side. That area has been evaluated and there is a host of environmental, historical, and cultural resources there preventing them from exploring that area for expansion. Mr. Gillen feels we should revisit and reverify the reason for the project to go South.

Mr. McQueen stated that the construction year on the progress report match what is in the TIP. This means that no funds have been committed on the construction phase.

### **Chatham County**

Ms. Pamela Bernard, Senior Transportation Engineer for Chatham County, presented the status report for the Chatham County Roadway Improvement Program.

### **City of Savannah**

Mr. Joseph Capello presented the status report for the City of Savannah Projects.

Concerning the DeRenne Ave. project, the environmental aspect has been pushing the project back. We are approaching the point where we can submit the document for review and approval. When the document is approved we can move to the Project Development Phase. Timeline is the end of 2019 beginning of January and 2 years to commence the construction portion steering completion to 2022.

### **Savannah Airport Commission**

Mr. George Fidler stated that the new international arrivals facility next to the control tower will be completed the beginning of 2019. This terminal will assist arrivals only. Four gates will be added including another checkpoint lane, this project will be let next year. The terminal expansion is underway. The I-95 Airways Ave interchange upgrade study that is being funded by the MPOs is underway, traffic counts are being done now.

Mr. Lee Smith asked why the international arrival area is separated. Mr. Fidler stated that much of the international travel is private. Ms. Teresa Brenner asked if there are plans to add more dog relief areas due to the increase in gates, and Mr. Fidler said yes. Chairman Al Scott asked how the Hilton Head Airport impacts Savannah's service. Mr. Fidler said they have limited commercial service, but mostly private service due to the size of the airport.

### **Chatham Area Transit Authority**

Mr. Aidan Quirke stated that CAT has decided to discontinue its bikeshare program and is working with the MPO to reallocate funding.

Ms. Teresa Brenner asked if there were plans to extend public transit to cities that do not have access to CAT transit. Mr. Lee Smith stated it has been adopted by the County Commissioners in 2017 that CAT has eligibility but must demonstrate the need, the County Commissioners put forth a County Wide district, now the City Councils do not have to vote. Chairman Al Scott stated that CAT is authorized to operate anywhere in Chatham County, first you must conduct a study of need and the money must be available to provide that service.

Dr. Shabazz asked if bus routes are planned for the areas of 204, Hwy17, and I-95. Mr. Quirke stated that all current expansion plans will be reviewed in the system redesign project and meetings will begin for this in the next 2-3 months.

Mr. Howard French stated that we have hired the national experts in route redesign. The goal of the redesign is to analyze all the routes that we currently have to ensure we are stopping in the right spots and service is going into the right areas.

### **Hinesville Area MPO**

Mr. Jeff Ricketson, Director of the Hinesville MPO, stated that they are in the process of updating their Transportation Plan.

### **Low Country MPO (South Carolina)**

Ms. Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director of the Low Country Area MPO, gave a report of their current and upcoming projects.

**No report from...**

**Georgia Ports Authority**

**Effingham County**

**Richmond Hill**

**Pooler**

**Garden City**

**Port Wentworth**

**Tybee**

**Bloomington**

**Thunderbolt**

**Vernonburg**

### **VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)**

NONE

### **VIII. Announcements**

[7. Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: December 12, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. in the MPC Mendonsa Hearing Room](#)

## **IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference**

Ms. Teresa Brenner requested that Georgia Reading Services be contacted for all public meetings to ensure proper notice is given to the vision impaired.

Chairman Al Scott asked if there has been any discussion concerning the State of the Port comment concerning a need for new access across the Savannah River. Mr. Tom McQueen (GDOT) stated that there are preliminary discussions and the project is being studied.

Mr. Lee Smith stated that they are implementing a Calling All City and County Managers meeting every 60-90 days. He is inviting the two MPO Directors to the first meeting in January for updates on connectivity. Currently, there is a bi-monthly meeting being held between the various County and City managers. This aids in increasing communication across jurisdictions.

## **x. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the October 24, 2018 meeting of the CORE MPO Board was adjourned.