



CORE MPO Board

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

April 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes of the CORE MPO Board

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
James Aberson	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	
Russ Carpenter	City of Richmond Hill	
Wesley Corbitt	Effingham County Commission	
Bill Durrence	City of Savannah	X
Joseph Ervin	Metropolitan Planning Commission	X
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Howard French	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	X
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	
Beth E. Goette	Town of Thunderbolt	
James Hungerpillar	Town of Vernonberg	
Curtis Koleber	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Mike Lamb	City of Pooler	
Heath Lloyd	City of Savannah	X
Tom McQueen	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Christopher Middleton	Citizens Advisory Committee	
Gary Norton	City of Port Wentworth	
Ben Rozier	City of Bloomingdale	
Al Scott	Chatham County Commission	X
Dr. Estella Shabazz	City of Savannah	X
Lee Smith	Chatham County	X
Pamela Bernard	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	X
Vacant	Chatham County	
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Caila Brown	Bike Walk Savannah	X
Byron Cowart	GDOT-DS5	X
Ginnie Kozak	Lowcountry Area MPO	X
Patricia Harris-Morehend	Chatham Area Transit	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO	X
James Small	CORE MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ron Feldner motioned to approve the April 24, 2019 CORE MPO Board meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. Bill Durrence. The motion was passed with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

ACAT

Ms. Wykoda Wang spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, April 22, 2019. The committee was updated on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Development and voted on one action item. That item endorsed updating the bylaws to include the Georgia Association of the Deaf as a voting member. This endorsement will be presented to the CORE MPO Board for final approval.

CAC

The committee met on Thursday, April 11, 2019 and reviewed the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update.

TCC

Mr. Mark Wilkes spoke on behalf of the TCC. The Committee met on Thursday, April 11, 2019. The TCC and the 2045 MTP update working group have met several times to create the financially constrained list of projects. The list was also presented at the April 11, 2019 Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC) meeting.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave the Executive Director report. The MPO board will be given the status of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan update and review the proposed list of projects at the April 24, 2019 meeting. The draft 2045 MTP document will be distributed on May 1, 2019 to FHWA and GDOT for review and comments. After FHWA and GDOT comments are addressed, the advisory committees will receive the revised draft document for the June meetings. This will coincide with the public comment period which will run between mid-June and July and include public meetings and open houses. The final plan will be presented to the MPO board on August 7, 2019.

III. Action Items

1. [Approval of February 27, 2019 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes](#)

📎 [MPO Feb 27 corrected.pdf](#)

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to approve the February 27, 2019 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Joseph Ervin. The motion was passed with none opposed.

2. [Update ACAT Bylaws to include Chatham County Coastal Chapter - Georgia Association of the Deaf as a voting member](#)

📎 [ACAT Bylaws Update - GA Assoc of the Deaf.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the changes to the ACAT bylaws. The CORE MPO Board has the final authority to change bylaws. An advisory committee can make recommendations to modify a section of the bylaws, but the revisions must be forwarded to the CORE MPO board for final adoption.

The Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT) is requesting to add the Chatham County Coastal Chapter – Georgia Association of the Deaf as a voting member. The ACAT is made up of representatives from the disabled, elderly, low-income, and minority communities in the Savannah region. Dr. Frank Lala will be representing the GA Association of the Deaf as a voting member of ACAT.

Mr. Joseph Ervin motioned to approve the Updated ACAT bylaws to include Chatham County Coastal

Chapter – Georgia Association of the Deaf as a voting member; seconded by Mr. Howard French. The motion was passed with none opposed.

IV. Other Business

NONE

V. Status Reports

3. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update and Draft Project List

📎 [April 2019 MTP Update Staff Report edit.pdf](#)

📎 [2045-mtp-update-financial-plan-development_12.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented on the status of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan update. A draft financially constrained project list has been developed. The next phase of the process is continuing public involvement and having the recommended plan adopted in August.

GDOT and CORE MPO staff are working to update the CORE MPO Travel Demand Model for use in developing the 2045 MTP. To ensure roadway networks in the 2015 base year model is correct, MPO staff has provided GDOT staff with a list of projects completed in years 2010-2015. The MPO then provided the lists of projects that are completed since 2015, under construction or identified in the 2018-2021 TIP.

GDOT has provided CORE MPO staff a 2015 Base Year Model, “Do Nothing” model results for year 2045, and “Existing plus Committed” system projects model results for the year 2045. These models were reviewed in December 2018. The “Completion of the TIP Projects” model results for 2045 were reviewed in January 2019, and the “Non-financially Constrained project” model results for 2045 were reviewed in February. The Financially constrained project list for 2045 was submitted in March and the GDOT model results have been received. Staff and TCC have reviewed and commented on the travel demand model results from the Financially Constrained Plan network.

Staff ranked the projects used in the unconstrained project model run. By ranking the projects, staff was able to determine which projects in the 2040 MTP did not get included in the 2045 MTP but continued to rank very high. These projects have continued to rank high as priority projects in the region.

2045 MTP Financial Plan

Mr. Mark Wilkes summarized the methodology for developing the 2045 MTP Financial Plan and presented the financially constrained project list. The methodology includes how to determine the revenue projections and cost estimates for projects.

For Highway Revenues, the revenue forecasts for 2022 – 2045 provided by the GDOT Office of Financial Management based on a three-year average of state’s obligation authority are used. Revenues from the adopted FY 2018 – 2021 TIP for FY 2020 and FY 2021 are used for these two years because these are considered committed funds. These revenues are divided into two parts – those for Projects and those for Maintenance. The financial plan for highway revenue projections further assumes \$2.5 million annual local funds adjusted with inflation factors for use by Projects. The revenue projections assume a 1% annual inflation rate and the total revenues are allocated to three cost bands. The revenues for Projects in each cost band include funding for specific projects and funding set asides for Operational Improvements, Transit Improvements and Non-motorized Transportation projects. It is assumed that no additional funding from HB 170 or other funding sources beyond 2021 would be available.

Based on this methodology, it has been determined there are about \$46 million dollars per year. 17% of the funds are allocated to Maintenance. Set asides for Operational Improvements are about 9% of total revenues and are based on recent lump sum spending levels. Non-motorized Improvements are \$500,000 per year based on annual Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding. Transit Improvements are \$700,000 per year based on the recent STBG funding allocation to transit projects in the TIP.

The projects' costs are based on the cost estimates in the FY 2018 – 2021 TIP, or the best available cost estimates from GDOT or local sponsors, or estimates based on per mile costs of comparable local projects as expressed in approved concept reports. The appropriate escalation inflation factors were applied to the cost estimates in each cost band based on the projects' development schedule. The annual inflation rate for cost estimating is 3.5%. For set aside category expenditures, policy statements have been developed for Maintenance, Operational Improvements, Transit Improvements, and Non-Motorized Improvements.

Operational Improvement Set Aside requires that projects are consistent with the MPO's plans including the 2045 Vision Plan, Freight Plan, CMP, etc. The project must improve functionally classified roadways, be in the CORE MPO's MPA, and has a qualified local sponsor to provide matching funds. Transit Set Aside requires that the project is consistent with the needs identified in the cost feasible transit plan of the 2045 MTP, or the project is approved by the CORE MPO Board for inclusion in the TIP, and has a qualified local sponsor committing matching funds. Non-Motorized Set Aside is for bicycle, sidewalk or trail improvement projects. The project is considered consistent with the 2045 MTP if the project is consistent with the CORE MPO Non-motorized Transportation Plan, and the project has a qualified local sponsor committing matching funds.

Mr. Heath Lloyd asked if staff considers revenue forecasting conservative. He asked staff to explain why the costs were referred to as high. Mr. Wilkes stated that the cost numbers are high as compared to the rate that our revenues are growing. The annual revenue inflation rate is 1% while the annual cost inflation rate is 3.5%. The 3.5% annual inflation rate is a figure provided by FHWA illustrating the increase in construction cost over the past few years. Mr. Lloyd asked if staff believes cost will exceed revenues. Mr. Wilkes stated that the cost is growing faster than revenues. The projects currently presented fit within the revenue picture described. The fact that project cost is growing faster than revenues means that we are not able to put as many projects in the financially-constrained plan as we would like to.

Dr. Estella Shabazz asked staff to explain the policies concerning Non-Motorized Set Aside. Mr. Wilkes stated that there is a substantial list of desired projects in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The challenge is getting those projects sponsored. These projects have been supported and endorsed by the MPO Board. When a municipality decides to sponsor a non-motorized project from the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, the municipality staff put in a response to the CORE MPO's Call for Projects. The MPO would consider the project consistent with the financially-constrained 2045 Plan and do not have to process an amendment that returns before the MPO Board for adoption. The goal is to streamline the process when a project receives a sponsor. Dr. Shabazz asked where the matching 20% funds come from. Mr. Wilkes stated that the funds come from the sponsoring entity, normally a qualified local government sponsor. Mr. Lee Smith stated that if it is truly a capital project a municipality could utilize SPLOST funds to sponsor the project.

Mr. Joseph Ervin asked how projects are prioritized. Mr. Wilkes state that once a project has passed the planning stage and is under active development, its advancement has more to do with project development considerations. MPO staff are in the lead at the planning stage, but once the project is handed over to a implementer such as GDOT, it becomes more of a production concern. Chairman Al Scott stated that the board has little control of priorities as it relates to State projects. The State has a separate planning process they follow. Mr. Tom McQueen stated that often, projects advance to the State when local governments come in as a partner. Mr. Lee Smith stated that outside of financial consideration, project priorities concerning safety and mobility can potentially help a project gain more traction with the State.

Mr. Heath Lloyd asked staff if they knew what the improvements were for the East and West DeRenne Ave Projects. Mr. Wilkes stated that he believes they are operational improvements and the City of Savannah is sponsoring these two projects. Mr. McQueen stated that the City has developed a website illustrating design details specifically for these projects. Mr. Lloyd asked if the improvements listed in the 2045 Plan are the improvements outlined for the East and West of Project DeRenne. Mr. Wilkes stated yes and further indicated that they are separate from the Hampstead Connector project. Mr. Wilks stated that he believes these two projects have turning lanes, sidewalks, and non-motorized improvements.

Project List

Ms. Rossi and Mr. Wilkes presented the 2045 Cost Feasible Project List. The City of Pooler is considering improvements on Quacco Rd. and I-95. Due to improvements potentially impacting the interstate, staff recommends adding an Interstate Justification Report (IJR) study to cost band 1. The study should cost roughly \$450,000 and will be funded with 80% Federal Discretionary Planning funds and 20% from local project sponsors. Funding will be pursued through the Georgia PL funds review committee, and the request can be made in the Fall of 2019. Staff recommends including this into the draft plan as a study in the financially constrained project list. By including this as a study, staff can determine if an interchange is appropriate and potentially move forward as a project in the financially constrained plan. With board consent, this will be written into the draft plan and sent to FHWA.

Projects that did not fit into the financially constrained plan were combined into a needs list. This list can be found in the Draft Vision Project List. Identified needs outside of the financially constrained list include locally identified needs; and needs from identified studies as well as the freight, thoroughfare, and non-motorized plans, congestion management process strategies, model results, and public and committee feedback.

Ms. Rossi further reported that from May 2 to June 1, FHWA/FTA/GDOT will review a draft of the plan document. Public meetings and open houses will be held from June to July. The public will review the draft plan from June 13 – July 16. The CORE MPO Board will be asked to adopt the draft plan's financially constrained project list on June 26 and the plan document in August.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

GDOT

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

Chatham County

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

Garden City

Mr. Ron Feldner stated that they have an ongoing beautification project on Highway 307. They received a DOT grant to enhance the median by adding grass, shrubbery, and trees.

Chatham Area Transit

Ms. Patricia Harris-Morehend, Chief Strategy Officer for Chatham Area Transit, gave an update on CAT's redesign project "Lets Go". Staff is performing a comprehensive review of the transit system in Chatham County and the redesign is an 18-month initiative. CAT recently entered Phase II of the project, introducing 2 concepts to the public, one being a high coverage concept and the other being a high frequency concept. CAT staff is working with Jared Walker and Associates and Symbioscity on this project. More information can be found on the project's website at www.letsqo.catchacat.org.

Airport Commission

Mr. George Fiddler stated that soon they will begin paving on the ramp expansion. The construction of another gate will begin towards the end of the year. The international arrivals terminal is still underway and they are currently working with customs and border protection to install equipment.

Low Country MPO (South Carolina)

Ms. Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director of the Low Country Area MPO, stated that they will begin construction on the widening of US-17 before the end of the year. Staff is working with the public transit provider, LRTA Palmetto Breeze, to add services in the small urban areas. They are working on an access management study for SC170. The long-term widening of I-95 is in the planning phase and has been added to the priority list for South Carolina. Ms. Pamela Bernard asked if the Back-River Bridge construction is a part of the US 17 widening project. Ms. Kozak stated that it is a separate project from the US 17 widening.

No report from...
Effingham County
City of Savannah
Richmond Hill
Pooler
Port Wentworth
Tybee Island
Bloomingdale
Thunderbolt
Vernonburg
Georgia Ports Authority
Hinesville

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

VIII. Announcements

4. [Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday June 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chatham County Commission Chamber - Hearing Room : 124 Bull St.](#)

IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

5. [Chatham District 5 MPO Project Status Updates](#)
④ [Chatham District 5 MPO Project Status \(3-31-19\) \(003\).pdf](#)

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the April 24, 2019 meeting of the CORE MPO Board was adjourned.

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.