



**CORE MPO Board**

Chatham County Commission Chambers -- 10:00 a.m.  
 124 Bull Street, Savannah  
 Minutes

**August 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes of the CORE MPO Board**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
James Aberson	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	X
Russ Carpenter	City of Richmond Hill	
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission	
Bill Durrence	City of Savannah	X
Joseph Ervin	Metropolitan Planning Commission	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	
Dr. Michael O'Halloran	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	X
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	X
Beth E. Goette	Town of Thunderbolt	
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonberg	
Michael Brown	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Mike Lamb	City of Pooler	
Heath Lloyd	City of Savannah	
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	
Pamela Bernard	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	X
Vacant	Chatham County	
<b><u>Voting Alternates</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	
Teressa Concannon	Effingham County Commission	X
Jessica Smith	Savannah Airport Commission	X
<b><u>Others</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	
Byron Cowart	GDOT-District5	X
Alan Seifert	HAMPO	X
Jeremy Mitchler	Chatham County	X
Terri Harrison	Chatham Area Transit	X
Andrew Edwards	FHWA	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
James Small	CORE MPO/MPC	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Michael O'Halloran motioned to approve the August 7, 2019 CORE MPO Board meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. Bill Durrence. The motion was passed with none opposed.

## II. Committee Reports (verbal)

### ACAT

Mr. James Aberson spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, August 5, 2019. They voted to endorse the action items on the meeting agenda and held a public hearing for the Title VI Plan updates.

### CAC

Ms. Wykoda Wang spoke on behalf of the CAC. The committee met on Thursday, August 1, 2019. They voted to endorse the action items on the agenda and held a public hearing for the Participation Plan updates.

### TCC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of the TCC. The committee met on Thursday, August 1, 2019 and voted to endorse the action items including the adoption of the Mobility 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, FY 2018 – 2021 TIP amendments, and the updates to the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan.

## Director's Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave the Director's report.

- Today's MPO meeting is a milestone date for CORE MPO in our planning cycle. We are proposing to adopt our Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2045. This is a part of our 5-year planning cycle.
- We also have TIP amendments that are to program additional preconstruction phases and revise cost estimates in 2020 for projects that are ongoing.
- Staff will present updates to the Title VI Plan, Participation Plan, Environmental Justice Plan, and Language Assistance Plan.
- The October meetings will have the outcomes of the two interchange studies, I-95 @ Airways Ave. and I-16 @ Little Neck Rd. A series of public meetings for these studies will be held starting August 14.
- The MPC Executive Director will be speaking at the Revolution Transit and Community Development Conference in Vancouver, Canada in September. The theme is "Rebuilding for a Fair and Equitable Future: Rethinking Planning and Contracting".

## Action Items

### 1. [Approval of the June 26, 2019 CORE MPO meeting minutes](#)

☞ [MPO June 26.pdf](#)

Mr. Ron Feldner motioned to approve the June 26, 2019 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Bill Durrence. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### 2. [Adoption of Mobility 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan](#)

☞ [Public Notice Mobility 2045 Public Comment](#)

☞ [Period.pdf 2045 Project Pages July.pdf](#)

☞ [Resolution Mobility 2045.pdf](#)

☞ [August 2019 MTP Update Staff Report MPO.pdf](#)

☞ [MPO 8 7 19.pptx](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The Goals and Vision statements were formed in the fall of 2018. Six model runs have been performed. Staff has developed the strategies and improvement recommendations. The draft financially constrained project lists were brought to the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees in April for information and in June for endorsement and approval. Between June and August, staff has received some minor cost

changes regarding several projects. These changes have been incorporated into the final financially constrained plan and are outlined below.

- The I-16 Widening and Interchange project's cost increase from \$205.8 million to \$211.9 million due to the ROW phase being moved from FY 2019 to FY 2020.
- The I-16 @ SR 307 project's cost increase from \$20.4 million to \$28,155,497 due to an increase in Construction cost estimates.
- The Brampton Rd. Connector project's cost increase from \$60.3 million to \$62 million due to an increase in Preliminary Engineering.
- The SR 26/US80 @ Bull River and @ Lazaretto Creek project's cost increase from \$93.7 million to \$94.9 million due to additional PE and ROW costs.
- The DeLesseps/LaRoche Ave. project's cost increase from \$5.6 million to \$5.9 million due to an increase in PE and Construction cost estimates.

The 2045 MTP includes \$1.8 billion in projects for the Savannah region over 25+ years. \$1.1 billion is on Highway-focused projects, \$553 million on Preservation, Maintenance and Operations, and \$262 million on Non-Highway projects (FHWA and FTA funds).

Staff has conducted intensive public involvement for the 2045 MTP development, including 81 speaking opportunities. Staff has received 645 responses from the online survey and 484 written comments. Staff has documented these comments and the MPO's responses in Appendix D of the 2045 MTP. The 30-day comment period was open between June and mid-July.

Staff has received many comments concerning US Highway 80 to Tybee Island, I-16 @ SR 307 Interchange Improvements, and DeRenne Ave Improvements. These comments have been forwarded to the GDOT project managers, Chatham County and the City of Savannah. Many of the comments on I-16 @ SR 307 pertained to noise and safety with increased traffic in that area.

Staff has also received comments indicating that the 2045 MTP was lacking specific non-motorized projects. In the 2045 MTP, there is a set-aside category for non-motorized improvements. Specific bike, pedestrian and trail type projects will be selected from the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan which will be updated after the 2045 MTP adoption.

Staff has advertised for a public hearing on the 2045 MTP Update and is requesting the CORE MPO Board to adopt the final 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan after the public hearing.

#### **The public hearing was opened.**

Mr. Bob Maddox, President of the Steeple Run Neighborhood Assoc. at South Bridge spoke on the widening of I-16 project and the possibility of installing a sound barrier. They are concerned with the amount of noise that will result from the increased highway. Many of the neighborhood associations residents' homes abut I-16 and feel they will be severely impacted by the increase in noise. They are also concerned about property values and safety.

Mr. Tom McQueen from GDOT Planning stated that at the projects' public meetings, the comments made concerning noise were recorded at that time. He is unclear if the project is at the point of design, but the project managers for the project at the public meetings will take all concerns into account. These projects typically include a standard air and noise analysis.

#### **The public hearing was closed.**

Dr. Estella Shabazz thanked CORE MPO staff for their efforts on updating the 2045 MTP and providing information to board members and the public.

Mr. Bill Durrence motioned to adopt the Mobility 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### 3. Amendments to FY 2018 - 2021 Transportation Improvement Program

☉ [FY 2018 -2021 TIP Amendments Staff Report August 2019.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the FY 2018 – 2021 TIP Amendments for August 2019.

Staff received 4 requests from GDOT for project amendments.

- PI# 0013727, I-16 @ SR 307. GDOT requested to add a Utility phase to FY 2020 and revise cost estimates for the Construction phase in FY 2020. This project will be funded with Z001 funds and Z230 funds. For the construction portion, the \$2.9 million in Z230 funds will not change but the Z001 funds will be increased to nearly \$24 million.
- PI# 0010560, SR 26 FM JOHNNY MERCER TO OLD US 80; INC BULL RIVER & LAZARETTO CREEK. GDOT requested to add a Preliminary Engineering phase in FY 2020 with \$1 million of HB 170 funds. The additional funds will be used for environmental studies.
- PI# 0006328, BRAMPTON ROAD CONN FROM SR 21/SR 25 to SR 21 SPUR. GDOT requested to add around \$1.6 million in FY 2020 for Preliminary Engineering. Approximately \$1.2 million will come from HB 170 funds and roughly \$500 thousand will come from the Georgia Ports Authority as the local sponsor.
- PI# 0010028, CS 1097/DELESSEPS/LA ROCHE AVE FM WATERS AVE TO SKIDAWAY RD. GDOT requested to add a Preliminary Engineering phase in FY 2020 with \$25,000 of HB 170 funds; and add additional local funds to the Construction phase in FY 2020. Z301 funds with local match and Z230 funds with local match have been allocated to the FY 2020 Construction phase. These funds will not change. The cost increase for construction is roughly \$300 thousand and will be provided by the City of Savannah who is the local project sponsor.

The Transportation Improvement Program must be consistent with the most up-to-date Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). All four projects are included in the financially-constrained 2045 MTP. These project cost changes have been incorporated into the 2045 MTP financial plan.

The 15-day comment period for the TIP amendments was advertised and started on July 24. It would end on August 7. Staff has received written comments from Ms. Jo Hickson concerning bike and pedestrian trails connecting to the McQueen's Island Trail related to the US 80 Bridges Replacement project. Staff also received comments from Coastal Georgia Greenway concerning the US 80 project. These comments were forwarded to GDOT and Chatham County. Ms. Hickson also sent some other comments on bike/pedestrian /trail connections that are not related to the TIP amendments but more relevant to the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. These comments will be addressed during the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan amendment process.

Staff has advertised for a public hearing on the FY 2018 – 2021 TIP amendments and is requesting the CORE MPO Board to adopt the proposed TIP amendments after the public hearing.

**The public hearing was opened and closed with no public comments.**

Mr. Ron Feldner, city manager of Garden City, stated that they are very appreciative of the financial investments being made into infrastructure between the Brampton Rd Connector and the diverging diamond interchange at I-16/SR 307. These improvements are helping to address the increased traffic and truck traffic needs in that area.

Mr. Shawn Gillen motioned to adopt the Amendments to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### 4. Updates to Participation Plan and Title VI Planning Documents

☉ [Title VI and PP Updates Status Report August 2019.pdf](#)

☉ [CORE MPO Participation Plan May2019-public-review-copy.pdf](#)

☉ [CORE MPO TitleVI Plan Consistent with GDOT Template May2019.pdf](#)

☉ [CORE MPO Language Assistance Plan May2019.pdf](#)

☉

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan updates. We need two separate actions for the plan updates, one for Participation Plan and the other for Title VI Plan.

The CORE MPO is a recipient of federal funds and is required to develop a Participation Plan and Title VI Plan. The Participation Plan outlines the public participation process for development and amendments to MPO plans, programs, and studies. This is one of the main planning products for the MPO under FHWA regulations. The Title VI Plan is developed in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, relating to nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders and regulations. The Title VI plan is related to the Environmental Justice Plan and the Language Assistance Plan.

The Participation Plan undergoes a major update every 5 years in coordination with the MTP update cycle. The Title VI Plan must be updated every 3 years and includes updates to the public participation components within the Participation Plan. The August 2019 updates are outlined below.

### **Participation Plan**

- No major updates were made to the development and amendments processes for the MPO's plans and programs. Those plans include the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, UPWP, etc. Only minor administrative corrections were made.
- The quantitative Measure of Effectiveness (MOEs) of the MPO's public involvement process since 2016 have been incorporated.
- The public participation summary for the 2045 MTP development was added to the appendix.
- Additional Title VI related goals and objectives were added to Section 3 – Participation Goals and Objectives.
- The Participation Plan can satisfy the requirements outlined in Appendix F of the Title VI Plan.

Participation Plan updates require a 45-day public comment period. That period started on June 27. Staff did not receive any written comments from the public but did receive comments from the ACAT. Considerations for the visually impaired and deaf or hard of hearing will be added to the Title VI related goals and objectives in the Participation Plan. When we advertise for plan updates, we will include advertising with organizations such as Georgia Public Hearing to ensure that the deaf and hard of hearing will have access to this information.

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with overseeing the Participation Plan update. CORE MPO held a public hearing in conjunction with the August 1 CAC meeting. CAC has endorsed the Participation Plan updates.

Staff has advertised for a public hearing on the Participation Plan updates in conjunction with this CORE MPO Board meeting and is requesting the Board to adopt the updated Participation Plan after the public hearing.

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

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to adopt the updated Participation Plan; seconded by Dr. Michael O'Halloran. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### **Title VI Plan**

A state-wide Title VI Plan template was developed by GDOT in 2018. MPO staff received comments from GDOT on the MPO's existing Title VI Plan. In response to GDOT comments, the MPO's Title VI plan was updated to be consistent with the statewide template. The Title VI Plan updates include revising the summary report to include all required components outlined in the GDOT Title VI Plan template.

- The **Non-Discrimination Policy Statements** have been added to the Title VI Plan and the language revised to match the approved GDOT template language.
- The **Non-discrimination Notice to the Public** has been added to the Plan and language has been revised to match the approved GDOT template. The notice added the assignment of a second person as an Alternate Title VI liaison.

- The **Non-discrimination Complaint Form and Procedures** have been added to the Plan and revised to match the approved GDOT template and procedures.
- **Non-discrimination Records of Complaints and Lawsuits** have been added to the Plan and revised to include records retention procedure requiring the Title VI Plan to be maintained and updated every 3 years.
- **Other** information not included in the previous Title VI plan has been added including 1<sup>st</sup> time applicant requirement, transportation planning board and advisory committee composition and racial breakdown, a Title VI equity analysis, and more.

The **Environmental Justice (EJ) Report** was revised to an **EJ Plan**. It includes the latest census data and the results of the Environmental Justice impact analysis conducted for the 2045 MTP projects. Demographic maps and statistics from the EJ Plan satisfy the requirements outlined in Appendix I of the Title VI Plan. CORE MPO must identify the EJ populations in the Savannah area and outline how we address these populations. The MPO is also required to outline the 2045 MTP project impacts on EJ populations.

The **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan** has been revised to a **Language Assistance Plan (LAP)** that incorporates the latest census data and LAP progress since 2016. Data in the LAP satisfy the requirements outlined in the Appendix H of the Title VI Plan. CORE MPO is required to determine where the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons are located in the Savannah area and develop a LAP. The LAP addresses how to get LEP persons involved in the transportation planning process.

Populations that meet the LEP requirement must be above a certain threshold – either more than 5% of the total population in a region or more than 1,000 in number. For the Savannah area, the Spanish speaking LEP persons meet the threshold with a population of more than 1,000. CORE MPO staff used the latest census American Community Survey (ACS) data when making these determinations.

The Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT) is charged with overseeing the Title VI Plan updates. A public hearing for the Title VI updates was held during the ACAT meeting on August 5. ACAT revised the Title VI non-discrimination statement and added language representing the deaf and hard of hearing communities.

Staff has advertised for a public hearing on the Title VI Plan updates in conjunction with this CORE MPO Board meeting and is requesting the Board to adopt the updated Title VI Plan after the public hearing.

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

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to adopt the updated Title VI Planning Documents; seconded by Dr. Michael O'Halloran. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### III. Other Business NONE

### IV. Status Reports

#### 5. FHWA Announcement and Update

Mr. Andrew Edwards presented a letter from the FHWA Georgia Division Administrator, commending Ms. Stephanie Rossi for her exceptional performance and dedication to service while assisting the delivery of the 2019 Data Workshop held in Atlanta, Ga. The workshop was scheduled as part of Georgia's Division of FHWA and Georgia DOT's ongoing efforts for advanced data analysis and training. This letter was presented to the Executive Director of the CORE MPO and the CORE MPO Board.

### V. Information Reports (verbal)

#### **GDOT**

Mr. Byron Cowart, Planning and Programming Engineer for GDOT District 5, presented the GDOT/Chatham County Projects. Mr. Ron Feldner inquired if the construction on the I-16 Widening will be late this year. Mr. Cowart stated that construction will begin in the fall, and the construction will start at the I-95 and I-16 interchange.

### **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 presented the status report for Garden City.

### **Effingham County**

Ms. Teresa Concannon presented the status report for Effingham County. They have a new County manager, Mr. Tim Callanan.

### **Tybee Island**

Mr. Shawn Gillen gave a status report for the City of Tybee Island. They Hwy 80 road project is complete and appears to be effective during high tides.

### **Chatham Area Transit**

Ms. Terri Harrison presented CAT's status report on the projects they have ongoing. They are working with Georgia Power to install their electrical structure for the electric bus conversion. The West End Ferry Dock, and the Rehab of the 2 Ferry boats are in the preliminary planning phase.

Mr. James Aberson asked where they were in the hiring process for a new Paratransit manager. Mr. Michael Brown, CAT Interim CEO, stated that they are currently recruiting for that position and interviewing qualified candidates. For Paratransit drivers, CAT currently has a class of 9 going into their 5<sup>th</sup> week of training. They should graduate and join the fleet in the next 2-3 weeks.

### **Airport Commission**

Ms. Jessica Smith gave the status report for the Savannah Airport Commission. She stated that they have a jumbo GAFIS facility project underway. They are roughly 90% complete with customs and border patrol setting up in early September. They also have a terminal apron expansion project underway that should be completed by the end of August. This will expand the Airport's capacity to store airplanes overnight.

### **Hinesville Area MPO**

Mr. Alan Seifert gave the status report for the Hinesville Area MPO. They are currently working through their MTP update. They completed their first stakeholders meeting in April and will host the second meeting in November.

### **No report from...**

**City of Savannah**

**Richmond Hill**

**Pooler**

**Port Wentworth**

**Bloomingtondale**

**Thunderbolt**

**Georgia Ports Authority**

**Low Country MPO (South Carolina)**

**Vernonburg**

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

**NONE**

## **VII. Announcements**

6. [Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday October 30, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. \(Location TBA\)](#)

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

7. [Chatham District 5 MPO Project Status Updates \(GDOT\)](#)

📎 [Chatham District 5 MPO Project Status \(period ending 6-30-19\).pdf](#)

## **IX.Adjournment**

There being no further business, the August 7, 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.