



CORE MPO Board

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

February 27, 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	X
Russ Carpenter	City of Richmond Hill	
Wesley Corbitt	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	X
Howard French	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	
Curtis Koleber	Chatham Area Transit Authority	
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	
Pamela Bernard	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	X
Vacant	Chatham County	
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Byron Cowart	GDOT-DS5	X
Jessica Hagan	MPC	X
Rachel Hatcher	RS&H	X
Ginnie Kozak	Lowcountry Area MPO	X
Aidan Quirke	Chatham Area Transit	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO	X
Alan Seifert	HAMPO	X
Grant Sparks	Chatham Area Transit	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bill Durrence motioned to approve the February 27, 2019 CORE MPO Board meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. James Aberson. 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, February 25, 2019. ACAT was pleased to have Dr. Frank Lala from the Georgia Association of the Deaf attend the meeting. ACAT has been working hard to get representation from the deaf community. ACAT endorsed the TIP Amendments and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

CAC

Ms. Wykoda Wang spoke on behalf of CAC. The committee met on Thursday, February 7, 2019 and endorsed the TIP Amendments and UPWP.

TCC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of TCC. The committee met on Thursday, February 7, 2019. TCC reviewed the results from the Calls for Projects and discussed what projects could best use the funds for each year. The committee then agreed on the recommendations for the proposed TIP Amendments and endorsed all the proposed action items.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave the Executive Director report. On January 4th and February 7th, the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Working Group, a sub-committee of the TCC, met to review travel demand model results, including network 4, committed and STIP projects, and network 5, projects addressing transportation needs through 2045. This has resulted in a fiscally unconstrained list of projects. The MTP Working Group will begin to prioritize projects at the upcoming March 7th and 21st working group meetings. The fiscally constrained project list will become the draft of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and will be brought before the MPO Board at the April 24, 2019 meeting.

As of February 7th, staff has reconvened the Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC). This was their first meeting after the completion of the MPO's Freight Plan and Ms. Pamela Bernard was elected Chairperson. The committee was briefed on the MTP update and on-going special studies, and discussed noteworthy freight projects. Staff is continuing to make progress on the I-95/ Airways Avenue and the I-16/ Little Neck Road interchange studies. With the help of the Airport Commission, we hosted stakeholder meetings with government staff and business representatives in the I-95/ Airways Avenue area. Staff has completed the traffic data report for the I-16/ Little Neck Road study and submitted it to GDOT.

III. Action Items

1. Approval of December 12, 2018 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes

☉ [MPO DEC 12 Minutes Final.pdf](#)

Mr. Bill Durrence motioned to approve the December 12, 2018 meeting minutes; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion was passed with none opposed.

2. Amendments to FY 2018 – 2021 Transportation Improvement Program

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the proposed amendments to the FY 2018 – 2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

Z301 Funds

CORE MPO Staff conducted a Call for Projects in December 2018 to January 2019 to allocate the FY 2019-2021 Z301 funds to one or more projects or project phases. The MPO received five (5) applications in total.

TCC members reviewed and scored these applications. Ranked from 1-4, 1 receiving the highest score and 4 receiving the lowest are: 1. Chatham County - Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-A, 2. City of Savannah - Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B, 3. City of Savannah - DeLesseps Avenue, and 4. both Savannah Airport Commission - Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway and City of Tybee Island - Marsh Hen Trail.

For FY 2019 Z301 funds, TCC recommended that the funds be split between City of Savannah - Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-A (CST - \$848,378), and Phase II-B (PE - \$155,583).

For FY 2020 Z301 funds, TCC recommended that the funds pay for the City of Savannah - DeLesseps Avenue project (CST), and release Z230 funds for use by other projects.

For FY 2021 Z301 funds, TCC recommended that the funds pay for the City of Savannah - Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B project (CST).

Z230 Funds

CORE MPO Staff conducted a Call for Projects in December 2018 to January 2019 to allocate the FY 2019 Z230 funds to one or more projects or project phases. The MPO received five (5) applications in total. TCC members reviewed and scored these applications. Ranked from 1-5, 1 receiving the highest score and 5 receiving the lowest are: 1. Chatham County - Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-A, 2. CAT -Intelligent Transit System (ITS) Project, 3. CAT - Electric Bus and Infrastructure, 4. Tybee Island - Marsh Hen Trail, and 5. Savannah Airport Commission - Extend Airways Avenue Turn Lane. Due to the timeline constraints and low rankings, the Savannah Airport Commission - Extend Airways Avenue Turn Lane and Tybee Island - Marsh Hen Trail projects will not qualify for the funds for the proposed TIP amendments.

For FY 2019 Z230 funds, the TCC recommended to split the funds between the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-A (CST - \$491,298) and CAT ITS (\$637,288).

The TCC voted on 2 options for allocating the FY 2020 Z230 funds. Option #1 allocates the entire roughly \$1 million to the I-16 at SR 307 project. Option #2 splits the amount allocating roughly \$500,000 to the I-16 at SR 307 project and the remainder to the CAT - Electric Bus and Infrastructure project. Option #1 received 5 votes and Option #2 received 4 votes. Option #1 won by a majority vote.

As a result, for FY 2020 Z230 funds, the TCC recommended to allocate the funds to I-16 at SR 307 (\$1,008,082).

TIP Amendments

Staff prepared the TIP Amendment report based on the TCC recommendations for public review and comment. Today is the last day of the 15-day comment period. Specific TIP Amendments and project information are presented as follows.

The latest cost estimate for the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-A (PI#0007631) is roughly \$5,400,000. This is an increase of \$441,809 from the current cost of roughly \$4,900,000 programmed in the TIP. The cost increase is covered by additional federal Z230 funds and Z301 funds in FY 2019 in the amount of \$1,334,676. Additional federal funds reduced the local match from 40% to 20%.

The Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B (PI#0015306) needed additional funds for the PE phase. It was awarded \$194,479 of matched Z301 funds in FY 2019. The construction phase has been moved from 2019 to 2021. The current construction cost estimate of \$4,405,623 will be covered by Z301 funds and local funds.

The City of Savannah - DeLesseps Avenue (PI#0010028) UTL and CST cost estimates did not change at \$5,600,000. The funding sources for construction in FY 2020 are now a combination of Z230 and Z301 funds, releasing \$1,008,082 federal Z230 funds in FY 2020.

The I-16 at 307 (PI#0013273) CST cost estimates did not change in FY 2020. The federal Z230 funds increased by \$1,008,082 (portion released from the DeLesseps Ave Project through a TCC majority vote). This reduced the local match of Z230 funds from 33.88% to 20% and reduced the total Z001 funds by \$913,096.

The CAT Intelligent Transportation Systems total project cost estimate is roughly \$2,000,000. The project will receive an additional \$796,610 of matched in Z230 funds in FY2019. The remainder of the project is to be paid with transit Section 5339 funds and local match from CAT.

Staff did not receive any written comments from the public leading up to the Feb 27, 2019 MPO meeting. The verbal comments received were in support of TCC recommendations.

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

Mr. Shawn Gillen asked if the Tybee Island Marsh Hen Trail Project was ever on the TIP in prior years. Ms. Wang stated that the project was awarded Z301 funds in 2014, and the City of Tybee Island could not spend the money. They returned the funds thus making the Z301 funds available for other projects. As a result, the project was removed from the TIP.

Mr. George Fiddler stated that the Airport Commission's projects were not selected for funding award because they did not receive environmental approval from GDOT in the past. However, the projects did have the Corps of Engineers approval for the pathway through the marshes. Ms. Wang stated that projects must undergo the GDOT environmental process if the funds are from FHWA.

Mr. James Aberson asked how long applicants have to spend the money. Ms. Wang stated that applicants have 3 years to spend the funds after receiving authorization.

Mr. Shawn Gillen asked how a project is removed from the TIP. Ms. Wang confirmed that the MPO Board makes the final decision on what projects are removed. Concerning the Tybee Island Marsh Hen Trail project, the City of Tybee requested that the project be removed from the TIP. Mr. Gillen asked if the US Highway 80 project was in the TIP. Ms. Wang stated that PE and right-of-way funds for the bridge replacement project are programmed in the TIP.

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the amendments to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program; seconded by Mr. Bill Durrence. The motion was passed with none opposed.

[3. Adoption of FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program](#)

☉ [FY 2020 UPWP Adoption Staff Report.pdf](#)

☉ [Draft 2020 UPWP consolidated with FHWA-FTA and GDOT comments.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the draft CORE MPO FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program. The Draft FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the proposed MPO staff work program for the coming fiscal year that runs from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The UPWP details the staff budget and work projects expected to be undertaken by the MPO in support of the federally mandated 3-C (Continuing, Cooperative and Comprehensive) transportation planning process. The UPWP outlines what we do and what staff will use the money for. We normally receive money from the Federal PL Grant, from the Federal Highway Administration and the Section 5303 Transit Grant, from the Federal Transit Administration. These funds require a 20% match. The match funds come from MPO membership dues including in-kind match and GDOT (10% for Section 5303 grant). These funds can only be used for planning activities. Any funds not spent during the year is pooled by GDOT. MPOs can apply for the pooled funds in the Spring and Fall. The pooled funds can only be used for required planning products or special studies included in the UPWP.

GDOT is the direct recipient and CORE MPO is the sub-recipient. For FY 2020, the total funding included in the UPWP is \$606,708.83. PL Grant is \$355,741.06 and the local match is \$88,935.27, totaling \$444,676.33. The Section 5303 Transit Grant is \$129,626, the state and local match is \$16,203.25 respectively, totaling \$162,03.50. The PL Grant local match of \$88,935.27 and 5303 Transit Grant local match of \$16,203.25 are paid by the CORE MPO membership dues.

FHWA and GDOT are asking staff to use the current UPWP as the basis to add an estimated transit budget for FY2021. GDOT Intermodal also requested that the FY 2020 transit planning activities be consolidated

into 3 tasks - Task 4.2 (Transit Planning), Task 4.11 (Long Range Plan) and Task 4.12 (Transportation Improvement Program).

All FHWA and GDOT comments and questions have been addressed in the current draft. The revised draft was made available to the MPO Board and ACAT for review and comment on February 20, 2019. With MPO Board approval, staff will incorporate MPO Board, ACAT and additional comments and finalize the FY 2020 UPWP for submittal to GDOT, FHWA, and FTA in early March 2019. Adoption of the FY 2020 UPWP by the CORE MPO Board will continue the federally required 3-C transportation planning process, ensuring continued eligibility for federal transportation funds.

Mr. Bill Durrence motioned to adopt the CORE MPO FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program and authorize staff to make further administrative adjustments as necessary in coordination with GDOT, FHWA, and FTA; seconded by Mr. James Aberson. The motion was passed with none opposed.

IV. Other Business

NONE

V. Status Reports

[4.2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update](#)

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

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the status on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan update. Federal planning regulations require that MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs) be updated at least every five years, and that a twenty-year planning horizon be maintained. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan is a comprehensive, multimodal “blueprint” for transportation systems and services aimed at meeting the mobility needs of the metropolitan area. CORE MPO staff is working on development of the 2045 MTP which will be adopted in August 2019. The plan update involves model development and applications for performance measurement, socio- economic data preparation, multi-modal planning, and more.

The current project prioritization process was developed with the last MTP update and is intended as a method of evaluating new projects that need to be added to the MTP. This is a tool to help create a final project list for the 2045 MTP update. The updated prioritization process required minor changes mostly due to the combining of organizational goals (combining of security and safety goals, and the increase from 8 to 10 planning factors). All goals, planning factors, and additional changes to the planning process have been documented and illustrated in the MTP. CORE MPO staff will apply the updated prioritization process to projects and share the results at the upcoming working group meeting.

GDOT staff provided CORE MPO staff with results that illustrated a list of non-financially constrained projects in an updated travel demand network. The model showed a significant amount of improvement. CORE MPO staff will use the model output and begin applying the prioritization process and financial information to the projects. The next step is to have a financially constrained project list. Staff has scheduled 2 meetings with the MTP Update Working Group on developing a financially constrained project list.

Mr. Heath Lloyd requested more information on the addition of truck traffic as a system performance measure. Ms. Rossi stated that truck traffic was originally listed as an accessibility measure and staff decided to make it a system performance measure. Nothing concerning truck traffic was added or taken away; it was moved to a different category.

Mr. Shawn Gillen asked how the US 80 Bridges Replacement project will be weighted in the planning factors as a project priority. He feels the road is an outlier to the priorities because it does not receive a lot of truck and daily traffic. The traffic is condensed in a very high 6-month period. Mr. Mark Wilkes addressed this concern stating that this prioritization process is for projects that had not been started in the GDOT system. Once a project is started by GDOT, the project is no longer impacted by this process. The project’s priorities in the GDOT system are dictated by project development, schedules, and things that happen with that project specifically. The current prioritization process is a tool for projects that have not begun in the GDOT system. The US 80 bridge project is already a GDOT project and is not subject to this prioritization process.

Mr. Howard French asked staff what they consider as high levels of truck traffic. Ms. Rossi stated that this information and data concerning truck volumes on roadways is outlined in the Freight Plan. Staff will provide the MPO Board with current truck traffic data.

Staff will provide the MPO Board with an MTP update in April.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

GDOT

Mr. Byron Cowart, Planning and Programming engineer for GDOT District 5, presented the GDOT/Chatham County Projects. Mr. Al Scott stated that he was told that Effingham Parkway was changed from a 4-lane to a 2-lane project. Mr. Cowart confirmed that it was a 2-lane project but was not aware of it being a 4-lane project prior to his current role. Mr. Heath Lloyd asked how much longer the Bay St. widening project will be under construction. Mr. Cowart stated that the contract runs through the end of July 2019.

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 are working with GDOT on pedestrian safety improvements on Hwy 21 in and around the area of Groves High School. These improvements should be implemented within the next 6 months.

Tybee Island

Mr. Shawn Gillen expressed the importance of the US 80 Bridge Replacement project and how it impacts the safety of Tybee's residents.

Airport Commission

Mr. George Fiddler stated that they are expanding the southside ramp for the concourse expansion. The expansion is under construction and the concourse expansion is in the design phase. The international arrivals terminal will be opening in April. They are using a TSA grant to install an inline bag screening system. Gulfstream is building a new hangar.

Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Aiden Quirke gave an update on CAT's redesign initiative "Lets Go". They recently completed Phase I of community engagement. In roughly 6 weeks they will receive the 2 route concepts and begin Phase II, which will last about 1 month.

Hinesville

Mr. Alan Seifert gave an update for HAMPO (Hinesville Area MPO). They are currently developing their Long-Range Transportation Plan and have retained a stakeholder group to assist with this effort. They recently amended their TIP to include the 2019 Safety Numbers and are close to submitting their UPWP.

Low Country MPO (South Carolina)

Ms. Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director of the Low Country Area MPO, stated that they are in the process of updating their UPWP and Long-Range Transportation Plan. Construction for the widening of US-17 will begin this calendar year. Mr. Al Scott asked if the 2 new lanes will be added to the West or East sides of Hwy 17. Ms. Kozak stated that lanes will be added on both sides, including a bike lane.

No report from...

Georgia Ports Authority

Effingham County

City of Savannah

Richmond Hill

Pooler

**Port Wentworth
Bloomingdale
Thunderbolt
Vernonburg**

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

VIII. Announcements

[5.Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chatham Area Transit \(CAT\) Central Multi-purpose Rm. 900 E. Gwinnett St.](#)

Note: After the February 27, 2019 CORE MPO Board meeting, it has been decided that the next MPO Board meeting will be held in the Mendonsa Hearing Room at the Metropolitan Planning Commission, 110 E. State St. in Savannah GA.

IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[6.CRC Request for US Bike Route 1 Designation](#)

- ☞ [Email_requesting_USBR_1_Designation.pdf](#)
- ☞ [USBR 1 Resolution Draft 2018.pdf](#)
- ☞ [USBR1 Proposed Route Project.jpg](#)
- ☞ [Draft Letter of Support.pdf](#)

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the February 27, 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