



**CORE MPO Board**

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

**February 26, 2020 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
Mark Ott	City of Richmond Hill	X
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission	X
Vacant	City of Savannah	
Joseph Ervin	Metropolitan Planning Commission	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
Mark Denmark	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	
Vacant	Town of Vernonberg	
Michael Brown	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Tom Hutcherson	City of Pooler	X
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	X
Pamela Bernard	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	X
Vacant	Chatham County	
<b>Voting Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Byron Cowart	GDOT-District5	X
Brenda Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Ashley Goodrich	Chatham Area Transit	X
Deana Brooks	Chatham County Engineering	X
Charles George	Effingham County Engineering	X
Jonathan Guy	Kimley-Horn	X
Jeff Ricketson	Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission	X
Melanie Wilson	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
James Small	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

The February 26, 2020 CORE MPO Board meeting agenda was approved by a majority vote.

## II. Committee Reports (verbal)

### ACAT

Mr. James Aberson spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, February 24, 2019 and voted to endorse the FY 2021 UPWP and the Amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

### CAC

No report. The February 6, 2020 CAC meeting was cancelled.

### TCC

Mr. Mark Wilkes spoke on behalf of the TCC. The committee met on Thursday, February 6, 2020 and voted to endorse the FY 2021 UPWP, funding application for the SR 21 Access Management Study, approval of the 2020 Call for Projects Packages, and the Amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

## Director's Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave the Director's report.

- The application deadline for the Roadside Enhancement Beautification Council Grants offered by GDOT is April 29, 2020.
- Build grants have been announced. These include infrastructure grants but can be used for planning activities. The application deadline is May 18, 2020.

## III. Action Items

### 1. Approval of December 11, 2019 CORE MPO meeting minutes

📎 [December 11 MPO.pdf](#)

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the December 11, 2019 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### 2. Adoption of the FY 2021 UPWP

📎 [FY 2021 UPWP Adoption Staff Report.pdf](#)

📎 [Revised Draft 2021 UPWP.pdf](#)

📎 [FY 2021 UPWP Presentation - Compatibility Mode.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented on the FY 2021 UPWP. The UPWP outlines the staff budget for the next fiscal year. CORE MPO receives Planning funds from the Federal Highway Administration and Section 5303 funds from the Federal Transit Administration for CORE MPO planning and operations. Both funds require a 20% local match. The MPO receives local membership dues to fund the local match. The FY 2021 budget totals \$618,382.43.

Funding is allocated by work types which are organized into four major categories - Program Support and Administration, Public Involvement, Data Collection and Systems Planning. The Transit Tasks include Transit/Paratransit Planning, Long Range Plan, and Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Wang then showed the budget for each task.

Dr. Estalla Shabazz inquired on the Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Wang stated that many of the projects being discussed are in the TIP because these are considered short term projects that are going through various stages of implementation. Because they are considered short term projects, they require a lot of staff operations and management, thus requiring they have their own category in the UPWP.

The CORE MPO has added the TMA Certification Review, 2020 Census Data Collection, and Congestion Management Process as priorities to the 2021 Unified Planning Work Program. CORE MPO staff also added a section titled Unfunded Illustrative Studies, due to the discretionary planning funds available to conduct the studies. FHWA/GDOT require the MPO to identify the needs for the studies in the illustrative section before funding application. If granted the discretionary planning funds, staff will have to amend the studies into the UPWP. We currently have 4 studies outlined in the Unfunded Illustrative Studies section.

The preliminary draft was sent to GDOT, FHWA and FTA and was returned with comments. Those comments

have been addressed and incorporated into the current FY 2021 UPWP draft. No additional comments have been received since the February 6 TCC meeting.

The FY 2021 UPWP has been endorsed by the TCC and ACAT committees. Staff is requesting the MPO Board to adopt the FY 2021 UPWP. Any major comments of the board will be incorporated, and the final document will be sent to GDOT, FHWA, and FTA. When approved by FHWA, CORE MPO staff will begin the contract process with GDOT.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to adopt the FY 2021 UPWP subject to necessary administrative revisions by CORE MPO staff; seconded by Mr. Michael Brown. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### [3.Resolution to Support Funding Application for SR 21 Access Management Study](#)

📎 [pl-fund-application-Garden City.pdf](#)

📎 [Resolution for Illustrative Project Funding Application 2-26-2020.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the resolution to support the PL funding application for the SR 21 Access Management Study. MPO staff issued a Call for Plans and Studies in the Fall of 2019. Staff received 3 proposals, two from Chatham County and one from Garden City. The Chatham County proposals are on hold but have been included as illustrative projects in the work program for next year. This gives Chatham County the option to pursue funding in the future if they decide to proceed.

The Garden City proposal is to conduct an access management study in the area due to current and anticipated development in the SR 21 corridor. This study limits will extend from SR 25 to Grange Rd. in Garden City. The TCC has endorsed the project. With MPO Board approval, staff intends to apply for discretionary PL funds by March 13<sup>th</sup>. The PL Funds Review Committee will meet in Atlanta Ga. to make the awards on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Leon Davenport is the consultant working with Garden City on the project. The intended PL funds request is \$120,000 with a local match of \$30,000.

Dr. Michael O'Halloran motioned to approve the Funding Application Resolution for SR 21 Access Management Study; seconded by Mr. Ron Feldner. The motion was passed with none opposed.

### [4.Approval of 2020 Call for Projects Packages](#)

📎 [Calls for Projects staff report.pdf](#)

📎 [CORE MPO TA Application Form February 2020.pdf](#)

📎 [CORE MPO TA Manual February 2020.pdf](#)

📎 [CORE MPO HIP Application Form 2020.pdf](#)

📎 [CORE MPO HIP Manual 2020.pdf](#)

📎 [CORE MPO Z230 Application Form February 2020.pdf](#)

📎 [CORE MPO Z230 Manual February 2020.pdf](#)

📎 [Call for Projects Presentation - Compatibility Mode.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the 2020 Calls for Projects Packages. This process is to prioritize projects for the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or process amendments to the FY 2018-2021 TIP. At the conclusion of this Call for Projects, if we have a new TIP, staff will include all awarded projects into the new TIP. If we do not have a new TIP, the current TIP will be amended to include the new projects. CORE MPO staff plans to issue Calls for Projects in February 2020 for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Attributable (Z230) funds, Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funds, and Transportation Alternatives (TA – Z301) funds. Due to eligibility requirements overlapping, participants can apply for multiple grants based on the project type.

It is estimated that roughly \$5 million are available each year in FY 2022 – 2024 for Z230 Funds, including local match.

Roughly \$926,000 FY 2018 HIP funds and \$1.3 million FY 2019 HIP funds are available for allocation. The FY 2018 HIP funds must be authorized by September 30, 2021 and the FY 2019 HIP funds by September 21,

2022. These funds can be used for preliminary engineering, Right-of-Way purchase, or construction. These funds must be authorized and ready to be used immediately. HIP funds can only be used for highway, bridge and tunnel projects.

Z301 Funds can be used for bicycle, pedestrian, and trail projects. With local match, these funds are expected to be roughly \$500,000 each year in FY 2022 - 2024. Local agencies can partner with jurisdictions to produce a local match and apply for the funds. To apply for these funds, the project must be included in the Non-Motorized Transportation plan.

The application packages were reviewed by TCC in February. Staff received feedback on the ranking criteria for the Z230- and HIP- funded projects. The ranking criteria were revised to include projects having an environmental impact be ranked on a scale between 0 and 5.

The CORE MPO Project selection schedule is as follows...

- The TCC will review and comment on the three Calls for Projects application packages.
- CORE MPO staff will edit and finalize the application packages based on TCC comments.
- After review and approval by the CORE MPO Board, staff will announce the Calls for Projects.
- The application deadline is March 25, 2020.
- TCC members will screen and score applications and send the scores to MPO staff to compile.
- TCC will review the scores, develop a project priority list, and make award recommendations based on GDOT revenue projections.
- Project recommendations for approval will be presented at the April 22, 2020 CORE MPO Board meeting, and TIP amendments will be processed based on the TCC recommendations.
- The projected adoption date for programming the Z230-, Z301-, and HIP-funded projects that are awarded funds will be June 24, 2020.

Staff is requesting the MPO Board to adopt the Calls for Projects packages and proposed schedule.

Dr. Michael O'Halloran motioned to adopt the 2020 Calls for Projects Schedule and Packages; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion was passed with none opposed.

#### [5. Amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan](#)

- [Amendments to Non-motorized Plan Staff Report MPO Board Feb 2020.pdf](#)
- [NMTP Amendment 2020.pdf](#)
- [Non Motor Update Resolution 2020.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the Amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The previous Non-Motorized Transportation Plan was completed in October 2014. Staff is conducting the update to consider new studies and plans such as Tide-to-Town, East Coast Greenway, and Coastal Georgia Greenway, that started after the 2014 plan adoption. MPO staff has developed a comprehensive list of amendments to better align the plan with the area's current trends and needs.

In 2017, MPO staff collected data by reviewing level of service and the non-motorized facilities in the City of Savannah and Chatham County. Staff added new sidewalks to the plan, amending the maps to include the new sidewalks. The plan also reflects an increase in non-motorized facilities due to citizen awareness of these facilities being built in other communities. The Mobility 2045 MTP includes a policy statement that any non-motorized project which is included in the CORE MPO Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is considered consistent with Mobility 2045 and therefore eligible for federal funding provided that a qualified local sponsor commits to provide the locals match.

A local working group was formed to review the list of proposed amendments and make necessary changes. All projects listed in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan are eligible for TIP funding if the project has a local sponsor. Staff intends to have the amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan adopted before the FY 2020 Calls for Projects start.

Mr. James Aberson requested that as staff catalogue sidewalks they make note of the curb cuts. There are concerns about curb cut compliance and the excessive steepness, making them difficult for wheelchairs.

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to adopt the proposed Amendments to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan; seconded by Mr. James Aberson. The motion was passed with none opposed.

**IV. Other Business**  
**NONE**

**V. Status Reports**  
**NONE**

**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.

**Effingham County**

Ms. Teresa Concannon presented the status report for Effingham County.

**Richmond Hill**

Mr. Scott Allison presented the status report for Richmond Hill.

**Pooler**

Mr. Tom Hutcherson presented the status report for Pooler Ga.

**Garden City**

Mr. Ron Feldner, City Manager, presented the status report for Garden City.

**Tybee Island**

Mr. Shawn Gillen, City Manager, presented the status report for the City of Tybee.

**Chatham Area Transit**

Ms. Brenda Daiss, Planning Manager, presented the status report for CAT.

Mr. James Aberson stated that he would like CAT to consider how they will manage paratransit voters during the upcoming election. They should communicate to encourage paratransit riders to vote early and consider planning for election day.

**Hinesville Area MPO/Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission**

Mr. Jeff Ricketson, Director, presented the status report for the LCPC.

**Lowcountry Area MPO (South Carolina)**

Ms. Ginnie Kozak, Director, presented the status report for the Lowcountry Area MPO.

**No report from... City  
of Savannah Airport  
Commission Port  
Wentworth**

**Bloomingtondale  
Thunderbolt  
Georgia Ports Authority  
Vernonburg  
Other Public Comments (limit to 3  
minutes)  
NONE**

**Board Discussion**

Dr. Estella Shabazz acknowledged newly elected City of Savannah 1<sup>st</sup> District Alderwoman Bernetta Lanier.

Ms. Wykoda Wang announced that MPO staff will be reaching out to jurisdictions with newly elected officials for member orientation. Mr. Wilkes stated that the orientation will take place in March or April.

Mr. Tom McQueen, GDOT Planning, stated he has been appointed Project Manager of the Georgia Ports Authority Savannah River Crossing feasibility study. Ms. Melanie Wilson, Executive Director of the MPC and CORE MPO, stated that the feasibility study will have a direct impact on the area. Will there be additional contact with the local planning commission to ensure residents are properly notified of the process and well informed? Mr. McQueen stated that there will be communication with the local planning commission.

**VII. Announcements**

[6.Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Planning Commission: Mendonsa Hearing Room](#)

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

**NONE**

**IX.Adjournment**

There being no further business, the February 26, 2020 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.