



CORE MPO Board

August 26, 2020 at 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting

August 26, 2020 Meeting of the CORE MPO Board

Voting Members	Representing	Present
James Aberson	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	X
Scott Allison	City of Richmond Hill	X
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission	X
<u>Nick Palumbo</u>	City of Savannah	X
Joseph Ervin	Metropolitan Planning Commission	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	
JAMES "JAY" JONES	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	X
Beth E. Goette	Town of Thunderbolt	X
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonberg	
Bacarra Mauldin	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Tom Hutcherson	City of Pooler	X
Mayor Van Johnson	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>Voting Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Troy Pittman	GDOT-District5	X
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Ashley Goodrich	Chatham Area Transit	X
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Leon Davenport	Thunderbolt Consulting	X
Rebecca Benton	Mayor of City of Pooler	X
Vivian Canizares	GDOT Planning	X
Ned Green	GDOT Planning	X
Jeff Ricketson	Liberty County Consolidated Planning Commission	X
Charles Walker	GDOT	X
Tanya Milton	Savannah Tribune	X

Temperance West	MPC	X
Melanie Wilson	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Asia Hernton	MPC	X
Stephanie Rossi	Low County MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Jackie Jackson	MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Al Scott motioned to approve the August 26, 2020 CORE MPO Board meeting agenda. There were no objections, the motioned passed by consensus.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

ACAT

Mr. James Aberson spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, August 24, 2020. Mr. Aberson thanked the CORE MPO staff for setting up a platform that allowed the deaf members to be able to see the sign language interpreter. ACAT voted to endorse the action items on the agenda.

CAC

Ms. Wykoda Wang spoke on behalf of CAC. The committee endorsed all the action items as well as having several members volunteer for the Participation Plan update.

TCC

Mr. Mark Wilkes spoke on behalf of TCC. The committee met last Thursday, August 20, 2020. The committee endorsed the action items on the agenda. There was a discussion about the Congestion Management Process. This item was tabled until the next round of meetings.

Director's Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave the Director's report. Mr. Wilkes mentioned that Stephanie Rossi resigned from MPC/CORE MPO and is now leading the Low Country Area Transportation Study, or LATS MPO. CORE MPO expects to have a Call for Plans and Studies this fall. The call will be issued in October.

III. Action Items

[1. Approval of the June 24, 2020 CORE MPO BOARD meeting minutes.](#)

- 📎 [Final june-24-2020-CORE MPO meeting minutes.pdf](#)

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the June 24, 2020 meeting minutes; seconded by **Mr. Nick Palumbo**. The motion passed with none opposed.

[2. Resolution of Support for SR 307 Corridor Study](#)

- 📎 [resolution-for-illustrative-project-funding-application-sr 307-8-26-2020.pdf](#)

- 📎 [PL Funding Application for State Route 307 Corridor Study.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the update on the SR 307 Corridor Study. The study proposal was discussed at the last meeting in June. At that time, it was added to the FY 2021 Unified

Planning Work Program as an illustrative unfunded project. The action we are requesting today is to approve the resolution of support for the SR 307 Corridor Study so that the MPO staff can submit the funding application to the GA PL Funds Review Committee. The applications are due by September 11, 2020. The request for funding then would be presented to the committee at the September 28th meeting. The project would be locally sponsored by Chatham County with the local match provided by GA Ports Authority. Administratively the MPO would serve as the contracting agency and administrative project manager.

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve the resolution of support for the SR 307 Corridor Study; seconded by **Ms. Pamela Bernard**. The motion passed with none opposed.

[3. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Project Prioritization](#)

📎 [FY 2021-2024 TIP Priority Establishment Staff Report Updated.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that the current TIP would expire on June 30, 2021 and the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP needed to be adopted to guide the project programming for the next several years. As a part of the early TIP development process, project priorities need to be established.

Ms. Wang suggested that for projects funded by revenues from funding sources other than Z230, HIP and Z301, those already included in Cost Band One of Mobility 2045 should be considered priority projects. They have gone through the two-screening prioritization process of Mobility 2045.

Ms. Wang then presented the project rankings for HIP, Z230 and Z301 funds. The MPO has authority to prioritize projects funded by urban attributable (Z230) funds, highway infrastructure program (HIP) funds, and transportation alternatives (Z301) funds. The MPO conducted Calls for Projects for expected revenues from these funding sources and received several applications for each funding source. These applications were then scored and ranked by the TCC members based on their respective ranking criteria.

For the HIP funds there were 3 applications.

- I-16 at Jimmy DeLoach Parkway ranked #1 at 54.43.
- US 80 Bridges Replacement ranked # 2 at 54.00.
- Garden City's signal project at State Route 21 ranked #3 at 44.43.

Because of overlap in eligibilities, these projects applied for Z230 funds as well.

For the Z230 funds there were 7 applications.

- US 80 Bridges Replacement ranked #1.
- I-16 at Jimmy DeLoach ranked #2.
- Garden City's Priscilla Thomas/State Route 21 signal project ranked #3.
- City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center Ranked #4.
- Chatham Area Transit's Electric Bus Conversion Initiative project ranked #5.
- Chatham County's Old River Road improvement project which is not included in the Cost Band One of 2045 MTP ranked 6th.
- The City of Pooler's Quacco Rd project was not eligible because it was not included in the financially constrained 2045 MTP. It ranked 7th.

For the Z301 funds there were only 2 applications received, both from Chatham County.

- Chevis Road improvement project ranked #1
- Gerard Avenue improvement project ranked #2.

Ms. Wang asked the CORE MPO Board to adopt the prioritization methodology and project rankings. There is a special called TCC meeting scheduled next Monday to discuss how to allocate these three funding sources to specific projects and phases based on this priority ranking. As a part of the public involvement process, we are required to have an early public meeting to establish TIP priorities. This meeting was advertised to serve as the public meeting.

Ms. Bacarra Mauldin representing CAT asked if there was any information that could be sent to her as feedback in terms of why CAT's application was ranked #5 in priority. Ms. Wang stated that besides the ranking criteria, past funding utilization might be a reason. CAT has applied for Z230 and Z301 funds in the past and received the funds. There has been more than \$6 million awarded to CAT since 2013, including Transportation Alternatives funds in 2014 and Z230 funds from 2015-2018. The federal portion alone was over \$6 million. However, those funds have not been used by CAT to this day. There was also a recent notification that more than \$100,000 allocated to CAT had lapsed. This might have been taken into consideration at the time of the project ranking. The past performance of applying for funds and not spending them had an impact. Ms. Mauldin stated with regards to the electric bus conversion, there has been a delay in terms of the arrival of information. The electric bus project is still in progress. Ms. Mauldin stated that CAT now has a fulltime grant administrator who is working on better management of funding.

Mr. Hutcherson asked about Pooler's Quacco Road Widening project being ranked #7. Ms. Wang stated that the Pooler project is not eligible for TIP programming at this point because the project was not in the financially constraint Mobility 2045. TIP is a subset of the long-range plan. Mobility 2045 has a study for Pooler - the I-95 at Quacco Road Interchange Study. The Quacco Road Widening project in the pooler section is in the vision plan. It is unfunded. Before the project can receive Z230 funds, it has to be included in the financially constraint 2045 plan. At this point the 2045 plan is already balanced. Chairman Scott mentioned that we might need to determine what improvements are needed for Quacco Road before adding a specific project. Mr. Wilkes mentioned that if Pooler would like to pursue a study on specific improvement recommendations for Quacco Road, the MPO can help with pursuing the discretionary planning funds.

Dr. Shabazz motioned to approve the 2021-2024 TIP Project Prioritization; seconded by **Mr. Shawn Gillen**. The motion passed with none opposed.

[4. Participation Plan Updates for Virtual Public Involvement](#)

📎 [Participation Plan Updates Authorization.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang presented the Participation Plan updates. In 2019 the comprehensive updates to the Participation Plan and the Title VI Plan were completed and adopted. In March 2020 COVID-19 hit, therefore the MPO had to conduct virtual meetings and virtual public involvement. This new public involvement method was not in the original plan updates due to the unforeseen nature of the disease. The MPO is starting the update process again to update the language in both plans regarding the virtual public involvement process. Both plan updates need a 45-day public review and comment period. At the TCC, CAC and ACAT meetings there were volunteers to help with this plan update effort. We are asking the MPO Board to authorize the Participation Plan updates for Virtual Public Involvement. Mr. Aberson stated that he will reach out to the ADA groups to see what platforms they use.

The Motion was authorized by consensus from the board.

IV. Other Business

V. Status Reports

[5. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Development](#)

📎 [FY 2021-2024 TIP Development Schedule.pdf](#)

📎 [Savannah - Total HWY Funds 2021 -2024.pdf](#)

📎 [Savannah Detail - FY 21 - 24.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang gave an update on the timeline for the FY 2021-2024 TIP Development. The earliest the TIP can be adopted is December 2020 and the latest being February 2021. The targeted date to adopt the new TIP is December 9, 2020.

[6. SR 21 Access Management Study Garden City](#)

Mr. Wilkes stated that the funds for the study were approved by the GA PL Funds Review Committee on March 30th. A letter of funding approval dated May 27th was received from GDOT. The funding contract is currently being developed by GDOT. The Memorandum of Understanding is being worked on with Garden City for the local matching funds. This will be presented to Garden City's City Council on September 21st. The MOU will go to the MPC as well. Once the MOU is approved and the funding contract is signed, the RFP will be released. A consultant will be interviewed late this year. The study committee will include Mark Wilkes, Ron Feldner, George Fidler, Caila Brown, Pamela Bernard, Cynthia Phillips, Joe Cappello, Troy Pittman, and Mr. Jordan with the school board.

[7. 2021 Update of the Chatham County - Savannah Comprehensive Plan](#)

📎 [MPO Comp Plan Process Timeline_080520.pdf](#)

Ms. Jackie Jackson presented the report for the Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan. The MPC will be updating the Comprehensive Plan for un-incorporated Chatham County, City of Savannah, City of Pooler, and Garden City. The Comprehensive Plan is the vision document for the community, a long-range document. This plan is called Plan 2040 because it goes out to the year 2040 for these jurisdictions. Community input and community feedback are required on each area of the plan. The focus areas are Housing, Economic Development, Land Use, Transportation, as well as Quality of Life. Quality of Life encompasses more areas with regards to Education and Public Safety, Historic Resources as well as Broadband. Broadband is a new requirement we are looking at, to ensure that everyone in the community at least has access to broadband. An important aspect of the Comprehensive Plan is that it is a pre-requisite to ensure that local governments can access spending money through grants and resources. Examples include CDBG funds, Environmental funds through GEFFA, Water and Sewer loans and One GA Authority funds which are for rural communities. The last full Comprehensive Plan update for un-incorporated Chatham County and City of Savannah was back in 2006. There were amendments done in 2012 and 2016. Pooler and Garden City are following this same timeline. There are processes that the County has in place called the County Blueprint and the recently adopted Vision Savannah Plan. Both of those are goals and strategies that have also been vetted and will be incorporated into the 2040 plan as well. Natural Resources will be called out as a standalone chapter because of where we are in the coastal community. This is a huge asset we need to ensure we are protecting for the long term. Also included is a strategic plan and work program where the capital projects are listed out and identified. The Transportation focus areas include sustainability, resiliency, climate change, Sea Level Rise, and Transit Oriented Development (TOD). The TOD is looking at development to be focused specifically around the urban centers or nodes where there are bus stops and easy walking distance or bicycling to the important epicenters where people need to go. A big part of this plan update process is the public participation and access. There is a deadline of October 31, 2021 for this plan to be adopted.

Dr. Shabazz asked what the timeline for City Council's approval is. Ms. Jackson explained when the draft is done, it will need to be presented to City Council at least twice. Then it will go to DCA for review, then it will come back to City Council for final approval. June/ July 2021 is the goal for the initial process to start. Ms. Melanie Wilson stated that a work session will be scheduled with the City of Savannah as well as the Chatham County Commission.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

8. [GDOT Project Status Report](#)

📎 [GDOT Report - Aug 2020 final.pdf](#)

Mr. Troy Pittman gave the GDOT project status report.

- SR 26 Ogeechee Widening Project - the plans are approximately 40% complete. The ROW team is currently acquiring property.
- Effingham Parkway - final plans are approximately 60% complete. The ROW acquisition is underway.
- US 80 Bridges Replacement Project - the project has been split into three PI's with two bridges replacement projects and one roadway project in between.
- Brampton Rd Connector from SR 21 to SR 21 spur - the final plans are approximately 50% complete and ROW acquisition is underway.
- Delesseps project - the plans are approximately 50% complete for final design. ROW has been certified for this project.
- I-16/I-95 interchange with the I-16 widening – the projects are approximately 75% complete with the final designs.
- I-16 at SR 307 operational improvements - the project was let for construction this past June.
- Savannah River Bridge Replacement and Middle River Bridge Replacement - consultants are currently working on the environmental document and preparing costing plans.
- Back River Bridge - it will match the bridge completed as well as the approach to the back-river bridge on the GA side. The initial concept meeting was held last week.

Active Construction Projects

- Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy at US 80 Interchange and Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy extension - the projects are approximately 55% complete. Fall 2021 is the anticipated completion time.
- Islands Expressway at Wilmington River project is approximately 50% complete with an expected completion date in the Fall of 2021.
- SR 144 Widening project in Bryan County is approximately 65% complete with a Fall 2020 completion timeline.
- SR 25 at Pipe Makers Canal Bridge Replacement shows 80% completion based on project schedule, but it is currently open to traffic.
- SR 144 at I-95 Roundabouts – the project is approximately 25% complete with a completion timeline in the Spring of 2021.
- SR 25 from Bryan County line to I-516 - this project has not started but there is an expected completion date in the spring of 2021.
- SR 21 Smith Ave. to Henley Rd is 10% complete with an expected completion date in the summer of 2021.
- SR 30 from Effingham/Chatham County line to SR 21 is approximately 75% complete with completion expected in summer of 2021.

9. [Chatham County's Project Status Report](#)

📎 [August 2020 Chatham County Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard gave the update on Chatham County's projects.

- Quacco Road Widening's ROW acquisition is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year. Construction can begin early 2021. There have been issues with Utility at the intersection, so the County is considering splitting the widening project up - do the clearing first then allow the utilities to come in.
- SR 21 at Pipe Makers Canal culvert expansion should start soon with GDOT's help.
- Little Neck Road near Henderson for the church driveway and median – the County is doing some re-design. Once the ROW is acquired at Quacco, the ROW acquisition at Little Neck can begin.

- Islands Expressway and Walthour Rd are still in design phase.

Active Construction Projects

- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-A and Benton Blvd Widening are scheduled to be completed in the next couple months. Benton Blvd should be open to traffic around the beginning of October.
- Johnny Mercer Corridor Improvements signal improvements are complete.

[10. City of Savannah Project Status Update](#)

📎 [City of Savannah Project Status Update.pdf](#)

No Report from City of Savannah.

[11. CAT Project Status Report](#)

📎 [CAT Status Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Bren Daiss gave the updated report for CAT.

- CAT is working with the FTA in the TRANS system on grant administration of multiple grants, both competitive and formula funds. They have moved through to final concurrence on much of the funding and expect execution of the grants in the next 10 days.
- CAT is working with GDOT on potential flex funding for FY 2021 and preparing a schedule to flex that funding as soon as TRANS opens in November.
- CAT is moving forward on the Susie King Taylor Ferry Boat.
- The ITS contract was awarded as a \$2.5 million project to replace the intelligent transit system with a one year expected project timeline.

[Other Information Reports](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi gave an update report for Low Country MPO. She stated the project lets did receive bids within the acceptable range on the week of August 10th. The plan is to have dirt moving on the road by the end of the year.

I-95 widening through South Carolina - they are advertising for a consultant this fall and hope to have them start work in early FY2021.

Mr. George Fidler gave an update report for the Savannah Airport Commission. He stated the traffic is drastically down due to COVID-19. The terminal expansion for plane parking is complete. The Federal Inspection Services facility is complete which now allows them to receive foreign planes/ international traffic.

Ms. Teresa Concannon gave an update report for Effingham County. She stated they have launched a T-SPLOST for the November ballot.

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

None.

VIII. Announcements

[12. Next CORE MPO BOARD Meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[13. CORE MPO's Responses to GDOT's FY 2020 Title VI Questionnaire](#)

📎 [FY 20 Annual Title VI Questionnaire August 2020.pdf](#)

[14. August 2020 TIP Administrative Modifications](#)  [TIP Administrative Modification 8-7-2020.pdf](#)

[15. USDOT/FHWA/FTA Reply to AMPO Letter](#)

 [COVID AMPO.Reg Relief.pdf](#)

 [COVID AMPO.Reply.pdf](#)

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 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.