



CORE MPO Board

Virtual Meeting
December 9, 2020 at 10:00am

DECEMBER 9, 2020 CORE MPO BOARD Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
James Aberson	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	X
Scott Allison	City of Richmond Hill	X
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission	
Nick Palumbo	City of Savannah	X
Ellis Cook	Metropolitan Planning Commission	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	X
JAMES "JAY" JONES	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	X
Beth E. Goette	Town of Thunderbolt	X
James Hungerpillar	Town of Vernonberg	
Bacarra Mauldin	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Tom Hutcherson	City of Pooler	
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	
Voting Alternates	Representing	
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Linda Cramer	Chatham County	X
Others	Representing	
Jamie McCurry	GA PORT	X
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Ned Green	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Beverly Dumas	Chatham Area Transit	X
Deidrick Cody	Build Custom	X
Christy Lovett	GDOT	X
Heath Lloyd	City of Savannah	X
Melissa Phillips	Pond & CO	X
Melanie Wilson	CORE MPO/MPC	X

Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Stephanie Rossi	Low Country MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Al Scott motioned to approve the December 9, 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, December 7, 2020. The committee voted to endorse the staff recommendations. The committee voted Teresa Brenner as the new Chairperson for the committee.

CAC

Ms. Wykoda Wang spoke on behalf of CAC. The committee voted to endorse the FY 2021-2024 draft TIP.

TCC

Mr. Mark Wilkes spoke on behalf of TCC. The committee met last Thursday, December 3, 2020. The committee endorsed the FY 2021-2024 draft TIP. The committee elected officers for 2021. Ms. Pamela Bernard was elected Chairperson and Mr. Scott Allison was elected Vice Chair.

EDFAC

Mr. Mark Wilkes spoke on behalf of EDFAC. The committee voted to endorse the FY 2021-2024 draft TIP.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Melanie Wilson spoke on behalf of the MPC. She stated there would be a 2021 calendar mailed out. Ms. Wilson thanked the officers for their time and commitment to these committees.

III. Action Items

1. [Approval of the October 21, 2020 CORE MPO BOARD meeting minutes.](#)

📎 [october-21-2020-core-mpo-board-Final.pdf](#)

Chairman Al Scott motioned to approve the October 21, 2020 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes. There were no objections, the motioned passed by consensus.

2. [FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Adoption](#)

📎 [Revised Draft FY 2021 - 2024 TIP.pdf](#)

📎 [FY 2021-2024 TIP Adoption.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the FY 2021- 2024 TIP. Ms. Wang stated the MPO advertised for a public hearing for the TIP adoption. The format for this public hearing is opening statements, staff presentation, opening of the public hearing, closing of the public hearing, and board discussion and action.

She then read the opening statements for the public hearing. The Metropolitan Planning Organization, CORE MPO, is responsible for Transportation Planning in the Savannah Region. The purpose of the MPO is to ensure

federal spending on transportation for urbanized areas of over 50,000 people occurs through a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing process involving the public, a wide range of agencies and policy makers. The Transportation Improvement Program is the Metropolitan Planning Organization's short range programming document. It is a multiyear listing of surface transportation projects proposed for federal, state, and local funding within the Metropolitan Area. All transportation projects must appear in an approved Metropolitan Transportation Plan and TIP before they receive federal funds for implementation.

Ms. Wang followed the opening statements with a presentation on the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP. All projects in the Transportation Improvement Program are the highest priorities from the 2045 MTP. The TIP was cooperatively developed by all jurisdictions, agencies, and committees. Calls for Projects have been conducted for Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds, for STBG Urban Attributable (Z230) funds, and for Transportation Alternatives (TA or Z301) funds. The TCC did the evaluations and project rankings. TCC met in September and October to allocate the HIP, Z230, and Z301 funds based on actual revenue projections and project rankings. This information is included in the preliminary draft TIP. A 30-day public review was completed by Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and GDOT. There were a lot of comments received during that time. The comments and responses are included in Appendix D of the revised draft. The revised draft TIP was available for a 30-day public comment period. The official comment period ended last Thursday. There were still comments coming in. There were additional comments from GDOT that have been incorporated in this presentation. One of the public hearings was at the last CAC meeting, this being the last one today. The TIP will satisfy the federal requirements for performance-based planning and programming. The TIP projects should contribute to achieving the performance targets. Those targets include highway targets and the transit targets.

- The safety targets were adopted in October 2020, including targets for
 - Number of Fatalities,
 - Number of Serious Injuries,
 - Fatality Rate,
 - Serious Injury Rate, and
 - Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries.

We want to make sure the numbers are below the targets for the state.

- The Pavement and Bridge (PM2) targets were adopted in August 2018. These included the percentage of interstate pavements, non-Interstate pavements, and bridges in good condition. We want to make sure the percentages are higher than the state targets. For the other targets - the percent of interstate in poor conditions, the percent of non-interstate national highway system pavement and bridges in poor condition - we want to make sure the percentage is lower than the state targets.
- The PM3 targets, System Performance for Freight Movement and CMAQ congestion management were adopted in August 2018. For the percent of person miles on the interstate and non-interstate national highway system that are reliable and truck travel time reliability index, the higher the number the better for those targets.
- For the Transit Asset Management (TAM) targets, Chatham Area Transit developed the urban portion. There are two transit systems in the Savannah region, the urban portion is conducted by Chatham Area transit and the connecting trips for the rural portion is conducted by the Coastal Regional Commission. The CRC participated with the GDOT group TAM plan development. GDOT developed the TAM targets for the rolling stock, equipment, and facilities. CAT has their own rolling stock, equipment, and facilities targets. The CORE MPO's TAM targets were adopted taking into consideration both CAT and GDOT targets (Buses, Ferry Boats, Passengers, Parking, etc.). The goal is for the TIP projects to contribute to helping meet these targets.

The projects programmed in the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP contribute to multiple performance targets.

- Project Derenne will improve safety, relieve congestion, and promote freight movement.
- Savannah River and Middle River Bridges replacements will improve Bridge and Pavement targets, promote freight movement, and improve safety.
- US 17 widening is ongoing, it will improve safety, bridge, and freight movement.
- Effingham Parkway will provide relief with congestion on SR 21.
- Brampton Road Connector was designed as a freight corridor. This will improve freight movement and reduce freight congestion in the port area.

- I-16 Widening and I-16 at I-95 Interchange reconstruction will improve the safety in the area. I-16 widening will increase the capacity which will relieve congestion and promote freight movement. The interchange reconstruction will improve the Bridge condition as well.
- Ogeechee Road widening from I-516 to Victory Drive including bicycle and pedestrian accommodations will promote safety for both motorized and non-motorized people. It will relieve congestion and promote freight movement.
- The US 80 Bridges Replacement at Bull River and Lazaretto Creek as well as the segment in between will improve the bridge conditions. With the wider shoulders, this will reduce congestion and provide safety for both motorized and non-motorized people.
- I-16 Interchange at Little Neck Road will be connecting the Jimmy Deloach extension which will allow freight movement to travel smoothly, improve congestion and improve safety.
- City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center will include signal coordination and signal preemption which will improve safety and improve air quality as well. The transit buses will benefit from the signal coordination.
- There are highway funds that will be flexed to FTA to help CAT with their electric bus purchase. The electric bus will improve air quality, transit asset management and transit safety.
- Old River Widening is a joint project between Chatham County and Effingham County. Most of the warehouse and industrial development are in one tract in Effingham County. This is industrial area with warehouses. This highway project will improve freight development, improve safety, and increase capacity.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B project, Chatham County's Chevis Road Improvement project and Gerrard Avenue Improvement Project include trails, bikeways, bike paths and pedestrian sidewalks. These will improve non-motorized safety and improve air quality.
- I-95 ITS project overall will improve safety, bridge congestion, freight, and air quality.
- The state lump sum projects will have improvements, resurfacing, interchange, and intersection movements. The federal lump sum projects will improve maintenance, safety, grade separation, and rail crossing devices will all improve safety performance measures, improve air quality, relieve congestion, and facilitate freight movement.
- CAT has buses operations, ITS, passengers, water ferry programed with the Section 5307, 5337, 5339 funds. GDOT has Section 5310 program and the rural transit operation for the CRC. Those projects will contribute to transit safety and transit asset management.

There are approximately \$582 million of investment for the next 4 years. Around 90% will be for highway improvements and 10% for transit improvements. The highway percentage includes the funds mentioned that will be flexed to CAT for the electric bus conversion and the Truman Linear Park Trail and Gerrard Trail and Bike pedestrian projects. The funding comes from the federal highway portions; therefore they are rolled into the highway percentage. The transit percent is mostly funding from the FTA systems, so it does not include some of the FHWA funds. If included, the transit investment would be around 10%. As mentioned, one project will contribute to more than one target. Around 88% of the total TIP projects' investments will contribute to the safety targets, 81% will contribute to congestion targets, 77% will help achieve freight movement targets, 71% will contribute to pavement and bridge targets, 23% will contribute to achieving air quality targets and 10% will contribute to transit safety/transit asset management targets.

In short, the FY 2021-2024 TIP includes high percentages of projects that address all the performance measures, and each project addresses several performance measures. Overall, the TIP will contribute to achieving all the performance targets and contribute to the economic development of the Savannah region.

The chairman opened the public hearing. There were no public comments, so the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The chairman called for any discussion from the board. Dr. Estella Shabazz asked about the Transit Asset Management target that was set back in 2018. Is it just the Bus Services that we are receiving from the Coastal Regional Commission? Ms. Wang stated that CRC operates a coach service that runs from the Civic Center to Tybee Island. Part of Chatham County is located within the Savannah urbanized area. Outside of the urbanized area, for example, Bloomingdale, it would be considered rural in terms of the census definition. For the CRC, their services must have either the origin or destination in the rural area. CAT provides more services than are required. They are required to provide the transit service within the Savannah urbanized area and their Paratransit Service is County wide.

Dr. Estell Shabazz asked about the Transportation Improvement Program versus the Performance Measures. In reference to Project DeRenne, and these projects meeting multiple targets, what are the three targets this project

meets? Ms. Wykoda Wang stated safety, congestion, and freight. There are a lot of trucks on DeRenne, so this project will facilitate freight movement.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the FY 2021-2024 TIP adoption; seconded by Mr. James Aberson. The motion passed with none opposed.

IV. Other Business

None.

V. Status Reports

[3. FY 2021 Federal Certification Review](#)

📎 [2020-December MPO Cert Presentation.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the FY 2021 Federal Certification Review. Every 4 years it is federally required to have a joint review with the metropolitan planning process. This applies to urbanized areas around the country with over 200,000 in population. We seek public input as well as input from the members of the MPO board and committees on how they feel the process is working (what works well, what doesn't work, suggestions for improvements etc.). There are several parties involved, including the MPO Board, TCC, CAC, ACAT, EDFAC, CAT, Airport, MPO Staff, GDOT, other governmental agencies, FTA & FHWA, and interest groups such as Bike Walk Savannah, Savannah Tree Foundation as well as the general public. The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process is important, because it is the framework by which transportation decisions are made and projects are planned, selected, and prioritized for implementation within the region. It establishes a framework for collaboration. The MPOs decide how a large part of the federal transportation funding is spent nationwide. The MPOs prioritize regional needs and determine the best and most economical solution for transportation problems. The planning process provides the framework for the future of the transportation system.

The certification review is approximately a 6-month process from start to finish. Discussions began in September. The kickoff was November 2nd. We are currently in the desk audit stage. We sent a large amount of planning documents to FHWA/FTA, including links to planning information that we have posted on the website. We have answered a very detailed questionnaire on different aspects of the planning process. There will be a virtual site visit period on January 19th-21st, 2021. The public meeting is scheduled for the 19th of January 2021. This will take place beginning at 5 pm virtually. The final report will be due no later than March 31, 2021. This is a federally driven deadline of 4 years from the last certification report. After the closeout, and end of the desk audit, there will be a report back to the MPO. This could be as early as February 2021 or as late as April 2021.

The last certification review took place on May 23-27, 2016. The public meeting was held on the 23rd of May and the Closeout was the 27th. A follow up letter was received on November 8th which noted 20 Action items and 2 potential corrective action items that came with a timeline to address. The draft certification report was provided by FHWA for review and comment by CORE MPO on February 28, 2017 with the final certification report issued on March 31, 2017. Both corrective actions were removed because they had been addressed prior to the issuing of the certification. There were ultimately 7 noteworthy practices and 22 recommendations, and no conditions were placed on the final certification.

[4. Participation and Title VI Plan update progress](#)

📎 [PartPlan_PresentationPDF.pdf](#)

📎 [PartPlanTitleVI_Update.pdf](#)

📎 [CORE MPO Participation Plan October2020 - V2PDF.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan status update. The first draft of the plans has been completed and sent to federal and state governments for comments and review. Some of the comments started to come in. The next step would be to incorporate those comments into the revised draft. The next big step would be the 45-day public comment and review period. This begins on January 4th.

As stated in the previous meeting in October, the MPO added new public outreach methods that focus on on-line outreach and distanced outreach. This is available to view online. 3 out of 4 committees have had an increase in attendance. With commuting no longer a barrier to attend, this has increased flexibility and accessibility for attendance.

There is a voluntary demographic survey available online. The MPO is encouraging everyone to take this quick survey.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

[5. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

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

Ms. Christy Lovett gave the GDOT project status report.

- SR26/ Ogeechee Rd is currently in the ROW negotiation and final plan.
- Effingham Parkway is to be LET this fiscal year.
- SR26/US80 at Bull River and Lazaretto Creek Bridge replacement - Lazaretto Creek Bridge is in preliminary design phase.
- Brampton Road Connector will be LET this fiscal year. Final design is being done now.
- DeLesseps/La Roche Ave – waiting for the City to do the advertisement for LET.
- I-16 at I-95 Interchange - the environmental work and final design are ongoing. 85% complete.
- I-16 at 307 is a lump sum operational improvement project and is in preliminary design.
- SR 25 Savannah River and Middle River are both in the preliminary design stage.
- SR 204 Intersection Improvements is a lump sum project. It has concept approval.
- SR 404 at Back River bridge is currently undergoing concept work.
- I-16 at Chatham Parkway, Operational improvement is lump sum project. Preliminary design is ongoing.
- SR 21 at Operational Improvement is set for FY 2021 LET.

Active Construction Projects

- Jimmy DeLoach Parkway is 60% complete with Fall of 2021 completion date.
- Islands Expressway is 50% complete with Fall of 2021 completion date.
- SR 144 at Belfast River Road is 75% complete with Fall of 2021 completion date.
- Pipe makers Canal is 95% complete with a Spring 2021 completion date.
- SR 144 the Roundabout portion is 30% with a Spring 2021 completion date.
- SR25/ US 17 from Bryan County to Chatham County is 50% with a Spring of 2021 completion date.
- SR 26 Bridge preservation is 90% with a Summer 2021 completion date.
- SR 21 resurfacing is 80% with Summer of 2021 completion date.
- SR 30 from Effingham/Chatham Co line is 95% with a summer of 2021 completion date.

[6. Chatham County Project Status Report](#)

📎 [December 2020 TCC Report - Chatham County.pdf](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard presented the Chatham County project status report.

SR 21 at Pipe Makers Canal Culver Expansion project - this project has been put on hold. This project was paired with the Railroad Culvert project and they need to be done together to create any benefit. Both projects are on hold.

Projects under Construction - both Truman Linear Park Trail and Benton Blvd are substantially complete and open to traffic. The Quacco/US 17 Intersection project is ongoing.

Mr. Tom McQueen discussed the Little Neck Road widening project - the Jimmy DeLoach extension project is under construction, and the contractor is working on some minor improvements to the ramp termini. Please get the details and add them into the reports. The Jimmy DeLoach extension was going to stop short of the interchange. The DOT realized there would be more trucks coming through, so the contractors are working with them to go ahead and put in some roundabouts at the top of those interchanges/ramps.

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

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

Mr. Heath Lloyd presented the City of Savannah project status update.

- Truman Linear Park Trail, 2B is awaiting on final GDOT review and approval of the cultural resource's assessment of effects. We are awaiting GDOT review comments on the ROW plans.
- Project DeRenne held the public open house on 11-10-2020. The comments from the PHOH are being reviewed and addressed by staff.
- Delesseps Avenue Widening projects bids went out 11-24-2020.

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked about the funds that are allocated in FY 2021 for the ROW of Project DeRenne. It has been stated this project will not make FY 2021. Ms. Wang asked for the City to coordinate with GDOT Planning Director to request to move those funds to FY 2022 with the project. The MPO is still waiting for the letter to be sent to the GDOT Planning Director. Mr. Lloyd stated he would follow up with Mr. Davenport and get the information needed.

8. CAT Project Status Report

📎 [FY21 Status Report 2020_12-CAT.pdf](#)

Ms. Bren Daiss gave the CAT project status report.

- Electric Buses were purchased. They are due to arrive in the 1st quarter of 2021.
- Facilities Rehab/Interior renovations, both CAT central and the ITC - The RFP was extended until January.
- Intelligent Transit System contract has been awarded and moving forward.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility and Ferry Dock - SHPO Section 106 Review is in process. The architecture and engineering is working and moving forward. The Susie King Taylor is being rehabbed. This is in architecture and engineering. The bids came in November.
- Support vehicles purchase - awaiting contract award.
- Bust stations/stops/terminals are in progress.
- Operator barriers (CARES Act) - the installation is complete. This allowed CAT to reinstate the fairs and keep the drivers and passengers safe.

Mr. James Aberson mentioned the program for the paratransit clients to receive grocery delivery service. This will limit the number of trips the buses have to take; it will limit the exposure the clients get and will help cut costs for the client and CAT. He suggested CAT offering some sort of incentive such as 1 free ride, to encourage the clients to use the program. He supported and commended this project.

9. LATS MPO Project Status Report

📎 [SCDOT 12-4-20 CORE MPO.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the LATS MPO Project Status Report. US 17 project is waiting on the last permit to be issued so they can start moving dirt.

AIRPORT

Mr. George Fidler gave updated report. The terminal ramp expansion is complete. The federal inspection services facility is complete. The international planes can be cleared now. The new building is up and operating.

GARDEN CITY

Mr. Ron Feldner gave status update. Nothing to report. They are looking forward to the SR 21 Access Management Study.

TYBEE

Mr. Shawn Gillen gave status update. This is their slower season. Nothing to report. Mr. Gillen asked for clarification on the timeline in the TIP for the Lazaretto Creek and Bull River Bridges. Is Lazaretto Creek programed for 2023 and Bull River programed for 2022? Ms. Wang stated yes, these are projections from GDOT. The Roadway in between the bridges is longer range. Ms. Christy Lovett stated GDOT does not have approved schedules for these projects currently.

RICHMOND HILL

Mr. Scott Allison stated the new interchange, exit 82 off I-95 at Belfast Keller is on track to open at the end of 2020 leaving only punch list items in the first quarter of 2021. The Regional connector road they are constructing from Belfast Keller to Harris Trail to get people to that interchange should be completed by the end of the year.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

Ms. Teresa Concanon gave the status update. The TSPLOST passed.

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

None.

VIII. Announcements

[10. Next CORE MPO BOARD Meeting: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[11. Feedback Needed on Update to Comprehensive Plans for Chatham, Garden City, Pooler and Savannah](#)

[📎 OutreachPoster.pdf](#)

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the December 9, 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