



**CORE MPO Board**

Virtual Meeting -- 10:00 a.m.

**June 24, 2020 Meeting of the CORE MPO Board**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
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
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	X
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	
Beth E. Goette	Town of Thunderbolt	X (technical difficulty with sound)
Vacant	Town of Vernonberg	
Michael Brown	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Tom Hutcherson	City of Pooler	X
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	
<b>Voting Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Mayor Van Johnson	City of Savannah	X
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Ashley Goodrich	Chatham Area Transit	X
Bacarra Mauldin	Chatham Area Transit	X
Jeff Ricketson	Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission	X
Melanie Wilson	MPC	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X
Rebecca Benton	City of Pooler	X (technical difficulty with sound)

Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sally Helm	MPC	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X
Leon Davenport	Thunderbolt Consultants LLC	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

**Chairman Al Scott** motioned to approve the June 24, 2020 CORE MPO Board meeting agenda; seconded by **Mr. Michael Brown**. The motion passed with none opposed.

## II. Committee Reports (verbal)

### ACAT

**Mr. James Aberson** spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, June 22, 2020. They voted to endorse the amendments to the FY 2018 - 2021 TIP amendments and amendments to the FY 2021 UPWP. Mr. Aberson had comments/concerns on accessibility and the platform that is being used for the virtual meeting. The concern is when the webinars are done with no video, there is no way for a deaf ACAT member or the public to participate. It limits their public participation. Even though there was a sign language interpreter for our member, there was no way for the public to see the sign language interpreter. He would like to come up with a way to address this in the future.

### CAC

**Ms. Wykoda Wang** spoke on behalf of CAC. CAC did not have a quorum, so the meeting was cancelled by Chairman Christopher Middleton.

### TCC

**Mr. Mark Wilkes** spoke on behalf of TCC. The committee met last Thursday, June 18, 2020. The committee endorsed the TIP amendments with the caveat that there was one project in the City of Savannah to be worked out - the Delesseps Avenue project. The City and their consultants are working to have funds authorized for this project. They are moving the utility and construction phases to FY 2021 and move the federal funds with the construction phase. If the City cannot meet the deadlines required for funding authorization, we will most likely come back in August 2020 for a TIP amendment regarding those funds. The TCC also endorsed the amendments to the FY 2021 UPWP.

### Director's Report

**Mr. Mark Wilkes** gave the Director's report. They expect the next relief bill sometime in July. This is a re-authorization year but we are expecting a continuing resolution to get past September.

## III. Action Items

### [1.Approval of February 26, 2020 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes](#)

☉ [MPO Feb 26 Minutes.pdf](#)

**Mr. Al Scott** motioned to approve the February 26, 2020 meeting minutes; seconded by **Mr. James Aberson**. The motion passed with none opposed.

### [2.Amendments to FY 2018 - 2021](#)

☉ [FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendments Staff Report June 2020.pdf](#)

**Ms. Wykoda Wang** presented the proposed amendments to the FY 2018 - 2021 Transportation Improvement Program. Since we are approaching the end of FY 2020, all the highway and transit projects' implementation status were checked. Staff found out that that there need to be changes made to 10 highway projects. For the transit program, there was some funding not obligated and needs to be moved; CAT was awarded some new grant funds that need to be added; and as of February 2020 the actual apportionment amounts are known and need to replace the estimates currently included in the TIP.

Ms. Wang stated that the updates to the highway projects included the following.

1. **PI# 0015306, TRUMAN LINEAR PARK TRAIL – PHASE II-B** - TIP administrative modification to adjust CST cost estimate in FY 2021. Currently the construction phase is in FY 2021. The local portion of the cost will be increased by about \$28,000. It currently has about \$1,000,000 in federal funds with a local match. The total cost for the construction phase is more than \$4 million. The City of Savannah will have to come up with additional funds to pay for this \$3,168,000. This project was awarded Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program funding, but it was pulled. The city has re-applied for this funding and is also exploring other options.
2. **PI# 0008358, I-516 @ CS 1503/DERENNE AVE** – TIP amendment to adjust significant ROW cost increase in FY 2021. Currently there is a little over \$8,000,000 in FY 2021 for the ROW phase. The newer cost estimate increased by an additional \$8,000,000 to be paid by the local sponsor. The City stated that they have this money programmed, making the full ROW estimate of \$17,000,000. This project is still under environmental evaluation, but the ROW phase is still on track for FY 2021.
3. **PI# 0010028, CS 1097/DELESSEPS/LA ROCHE AVE FM WATERS AVE TO SKIDAWAY RD** – TIP amendments to move UTL and CST phases to FY 2021 with funding and cost adjustments. The MPO has processed an administrative modification for the utility phase – this phase has a cost increase and it will be totally paid for by the City of Savannah. It went from \$1,600,000 to between \$2,800,000 and \$2,900,000. The amendment for the utility phase is to move it from FY 2020 to FY 2021. The construction phase needs to be moved from FY 2020 to FY 2021 as well, but there are some unresolved issues regarding its funding source (currently Z230 and Z301 funds are programmed for the phase in FY 2020). There was a meeting held among GDOT, MPO and the City of Savannah after last week's TCC meeting. The decision regarding the construction phase was to move the phase to FY 2021 with federal funding. The City of Savannah will have to meet all the deadlines to ensure that the funds can be authorized by September 30, 2020. If not, the City of Savannah will have to relinquish the funds and they will be re-allocated. A revised letter is being sent to GDOT today to meet the first deadline. The City of Savannah will try to meet all the deadlines to move forward with this project.
4. **PI# 0006328, BRAMPTON ROAD CONNECTOR FM FOUNDATION DR TO SR 21/SR25/US80** – TIP amendments to adjust significant cost increases for the UTL and CST phases in FY 2021. There is more than \$5,000,000 increase for the construction phase. The utility phase has more than \$8,000,000 increase.
5. **PI# 0006700, EFFINGHAM PKWY FROM SR 119/EFFINGHAM TO SR 30/CHATHAM** – TIP amendments to remove UTL and CST phases from the TIP. There have been cost increases for both the utility and construction phases. The utility phase went from \$600,000 to \$650,000. For the construction phase, the local portion jumped from \$3,600,000 to almost \$12,000,000. Both phases will have to be moved to longer range like FY 2022 - 2023.
6. **PI# 521855, SR 26 FROM I-516 TO CS 188/VICTORY DRIVE** – TIP amendments to remove UTL and CST phases from the TIP. The Ogeechee RD widening project's construction phase has the cost estimate increased from \$16,000,000 to \$25,000,000. The utility phase has a cost estimate increase of more than \$2,000,000. These two phases will be moved to longer range like FY 2022 - 2023, out of the current FY 2018 - 2021 TIP.
7. **PI# 0010560, SR 26 FM JOHNNY MERCER TO OLD US 80; INC BULL RVR&LAZARETTO** – TIP amendments to program additional PE funds in FY 2021 and remove ROW phase from the TIP. The project is still going through environmental process. GDOT is proposing to add additional preliminary engineering funds of about \$1,000,000 in FY 2021. The ROW phase is currently programmed in FY 2020, but it will not make it, so it will need to be moved out to longer

range. GDOT is working on dividing the project into three different sections with each one addressing a small portion of the roadway.

8. **PI# TBA, 1-16 at Jimmy Deloach Interchange Improvements** – TIP amendment to add PE phase in FY 2021 with HIP funds. Chatham County applied for HIP funds and the project got ranked as #1. TCC recommended to award the HIP funds in FY 2021 to start the project development. The total funds needed are \$2.4 million. The federal portion is \$1.92 million.
9. **PI# TBA, Priscilla D Thomas Way (formerly Wheathill Road) / State Route 21 (SR 21) Signalization Project** – TIP amendment to add PE phase in FY 2021 with HIP funds (\$200,000 federal with Garden City providing local match of \$50,000).
10. **I-95 ITS from the FL state line to the SC state line** - This project was approved by the State Transportation Board on June 18, 2020. The segment to be included in the TIP is within the limits of Bryan County and Chatham County. The PE phase will be included in FY 2021 with Z001 funds of \$165,000. The construction portion is \$7.8 million which will be in the longer range.

Ms. Estella Shabazz asked for clarification about the Ogeechee Rd/Victory Dr project about the funds not being authorized and might have to be moved into long range. Ms. Wang stated that the ROW and final design are ongoing and therefore the project is not ready for construction in FY 2021. It will probably be ready in FY 2022 – 2023. The current TIP only covers FY 2018 – 2021, so the CST phase would need to be moved out of the current TIP. Ms. Shabazz was satisfied with the explanation.

Ms. Shabazz asked for clarification on the Delesseps project of the deadlines mentioned. Ms. Wang explained the deadlines and that the MPO will request the federal dollars to be moved with the project to FY 2021. If the deadlines are met, GDOT will give concurrence to the funding move. The City will then not lose the federal dollars. Ms. Shabazz addressed the Chairman and stated the Assistant City Manager was in attendance and asked to address him. She wanted to know if the deadlines for the City would be met. Mr. Heath Lloyd stated that he believed the deadlines would be met. He was still waiting on a couple of confirmations but felt confident and agreed with the concern for the deadline. Mr. Leon Davenport said the consultants must put out the plans by the close of business today. He was working closely with all concerned and making sure they can authorize the construction funds on the project by September 2020. The project was originally due to be let in June 2020, but the plans did not get to the State and the Project Manager as scheduled. The ROW has been acquired for the project and documentation has been submitted to the State for certification. City staff is working towards getting reimbursement that was programmed for this project. Ms. Shabazz was satisfied with the explanation.

Ms. Wang stated that the transit TIP amendments included the following.

1. All grants from FY 2020 need to roll over to FY 2021 except for the FY 2020 Section 5307 funds which were obligated and utilized in FY 2020.
  2. Additional available funds need to be amended into FY 2021 - T007426, FY 2021-CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT-FERRY BOAT + TERMINAL FACILITY and newly awarded Low Emission funds.
  3. Current year FTA Program Fund amounts are known as of February 2020 and the funding estimates need to be replaced with these actual allocation amounts.
- Regarding the **5307 (h) (the Ferry Boat discretionary program)** – CAT is rolling FY 2020 award funds for a ferry boat to FY 2021 and are adding another ferry boat award. The \$1,600,000 is newly awarded funds and the \$3,218,663 has been moved from FY 2020 to FY 2021.
  - The **Section 5337 program** – CAT will roll over FY 2020 funds to FY 2021 and make some corrections based on actual allocation.
  - The **Section 5339 program** - \$1.5 million has not been obligated, so the funds must be moved to FY 2021. CAT also received low emission funding award and those funds need to be included in the TIP as well before CAT can apply for them. The \$7.7 million includes the newly awarded funds plus the funds moved from FY 2020.
  - The **Federal Highway Administration Ferry Boat Program** – The funds that are in FY 2020 include the previous years' money from FY 2013 through 2019. Some of those funds were

lapsed because CAT did not apply for them in a timely manner. The current TIP has \$1.7 million. The available un-obligated funds now must be put in FY 2021 which is around \$660,000.

- The **M301, M230 and Z230 flex funds** - these are funds flexed from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to Federal Transit Administration (FTA), but CAT has not applied for them yet. These funds must be moved to FY 2021.

Ms. Wang stated that the MPO advertised for a public hearing for the proposed TIP amendments in concurrence with this meeting. She shared the written comments from the public. Ms. Jo Hickson supported all the bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on DeLesseps Ave. project, US 80 Bridge Replacement project, and Ogeechee Rd widening project. Mr. George Fidler wrote he wanted 4-lane widening instead of just a bridge replacement for US 80. After Ms. Pam Barnard explained to him what the cross section would look like and it should be able to accommodate if there is an accident, Mr. Fidler was satisfied with that.

Chairman Scott opened the public hearing. There were no public comments made. The public hearing was closed.

**Ms. Estella Shabazz** motioned to approve the TIP amendments; seconded by **Mr. James Aberson**. There motion passed with none opposed.

### [3. Amendments to FY 2021 UPWP](#)

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

**Ms. Wykoda Wang** gave a presentation on the proposed amendments/updates to the FY 2021 UPWP. PL discretionary funds were applied for the State Route 21 Access Management Study to be sponsored by Garden City, who will be the project manager that will provide the local match of \$30,000 and get the Federal grant of \$120,000. This study was included in the unfunded section of the FY 2021 UPWP when the document was adopted in February. MPO applied for the PL discretionary funds for this study in March and got the awards. The study now must be moved from the unfunded section to the funded section of the UPWP.

In May a new study request was received from Chatham County for the State Route 307 corridor study, which will determine improvements needed for State Route 307 from State Route 25, Georgia Port Authority gate to Ogeechee Road. MPO is going to apply for federal discretionary planning funds for this study in September. This study needs to be discussed at two meetings before funding application. It was discussed at the meeting in June and will be discussed again at the August meeting. If the Board approves the proposal, then the funds will be applied for. If awarded the PL discretionary funds, then we will do another amendment to move this study from the unfunded section to the funded section. Right now, we request to add this study to the unfunded section.

**Mr. James Aberson** motioned to approve the FY 2021 UPWP amendments; seconded by **Ms. Pamela Bernard**. The motion passed with none opposed.

## **IV. Other Business**

## **V. Status Reports**

### [4. Congestion Management Process Update](#)

📎 [June2020 CMP Staff Report.pdf](#)

📎 [CMP 2020.pdf](#)

**Ms. Stephanie Rossi** spoke about kicking off the study for the Congestion Management Process.

### [5. FY 2020 UPWP Budget Adjustments](#)

📎 [FY 2020 UPWP administrative modifications staff report.pdf](#)

**Ms. Wykoda Wang** stated that to facilitate the FY 2020 PL and TR contracts close out we must make sure all the financial information for various tasks is correct. We processed budget adjustment requests for both PL and TR funds and got concurrences from GDOT. The UPWP administrative modifications reflected these adjustments.

[6. Award of Discretionary Planning Funds for SR 21 Access Management Study - Garden City](#)

☉ [March 2020 PL Funds Correspondence Letter 5-27-20.pdf](#)

**Mr. Mark Wilkes** stated that this award was officially made by GDOT by notice of letter on May 27, 2020 to the MPO. This goes along with the funding request made earlier in the spring and the approval of the GA PL funds review committee on March 30, 2020. The planning study requested by Garden City was submitted as part of the fall 2019 Call for Plans and Studies. At the TCC meeting a working subcommittee was formed to work on this study. They are currently working on an RFP package. To expedite the SR 307 Corridor Study, they are working simultaneously to put together a similar package. The funding approval for the SR 307 study will be pending this fall.

**VI. Information Reports (verbal)**

[7. GDOT District 5 and Chatham County Project Status Reports](#)

**GDOT**

**Mr. Tom McQueen** presented the upcoming/current projects in pre-construction.

1. The Ogeechee ROW is continuing. It is at 30% right now.
2. The Effingham Parkways construction is past the TIP years, but activity continues. ROW is being acquired now, about 75% of that has been acquired.
3. For US 80 Bridges Replacement, GDOT is in the process of splitting the project into three parts - two bridges, each being a project and then the roadway section in between being the third. Splitting these will allow GDOT to expedite parts of the project as opposed to waiting for the entire project. Information will be given in the next few weeks to start working on the update of the FY 2021 - 2024 TIP. The draft will be presented in August and will have details on how these projects will be divided.
4. The Brampton Rd. Connectors ROW is at 25% and continuing.
5. DeLesseps Avenue project has been discussed earlier.
6. The I-16 widening with the accompanying I-16/I-95 interchange reconstruction is a design build project. They are doing clearing and grubbing now while finalizing the plans. This project is scheduled for substantial completion in summer of 2022.
8. I-16 interchange at Dean Forrest Road - This project will put in a diverging diamond interchange like what is at State Route 21 and I-95 (also known as exit 109). The cost for the bid came in too high, so it was rejected. Reeves Construction bid was accepted in June.

**Active Constructions**

1. West Bay project is complete and is currently open to traffic.
2. The Jimmy DeLoach at US 80 and Jimmy DeLoach Parkway extension - Stage 2 construction has begun. The Railroad, the Highway 80 and the Little Ogeechee River Bridge work is ongoing. Embankment placing is happening and on schedule.
3. The Islands Expressway bridge - the contractors are installing the deck pans and preparing to perform stage 2 post tensioning. They are working on the bridge extension and the MSC walls.
4. SR 144 Widening - stage 2 construction is ongoing, installing sidewalk and paving. Traffic has shifted onto the stage 1 construction.
5. Traffic signals at all nine locations have been activated and are performing a 30-day test.
6. Roundabout at I-95 and SR144 – the contractors are working on the utility relocations and storm drains now. Traffic has been shifted onto the stage 1 construction.

**Chatham County**

**Ms. Pamela Bernard** presented the Chatham County Projects Status Report.

- The Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-A and the Benton Boulevard Extension are ongoing and on schedule to be completed around September 2020.
- The Johnny Mercer Corridor improvement project is substantially complete.
- The Quacco Road at US 17 intersection improvement project had some utility delays, so it will not be complete until around September or October.
- The Veterans Parkway resurfacing is complete.

**Richmond Hill**

**Mr. Scott Allison**, assistant city manager presented the Bryan County projects.

**Pooler**

**Mr. Tom Hutcherson** stated there was nothing to report at this time.

**Garden City**

Nothing to report

**Chatham Area Transit**

**Ms. Bren Daiss** stated they are back to almost full service with added safety precautions at CAT. For the West End Dock project, the FTA has said there is no indirect or direct adverse impact. It is in SHIPO's hands with about a 30-day wait. The Board has hired a new CEO – Ms. Bacara Maulden. CAT received \$1.78 million in the Low-No grant cycle, so they will be able to purchase 3 new electric buses.

**Hinesville**

**Mr. Jeff Ricketson**, Executive Director of Hinesville MPO, reported that they are almost done with the MTP and should have a draft plan available for public review in the next few months and adopted by the fall. The voters of Liberty County and Long County have both approved their respective T-SPLOST.

No report from...

**Georgia Ports Authority**

**Effingham County**

**City of Savannah**

**Airport Commission**

**Tybee**

**Low County MPO**

[☞ Copy of CORE Report - June 2020\\_final \(002\).pdf](#)

[☞ June 2020 Chatham SPLOST.status.pdf](#)

**VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)**

**VIII. Announcements**

[8.Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

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

[9. Memorandum of Understanding between Chatham Area Transit and MPC for FY 2020 5303 FTA Funds](#)

[☞ June 2020 MOU Staff Report MPO.pdf](#)

[11. TIP Administrative Modifications](#)

☞ [TIP Administrative Modification 6-4-2020.pdf](#)

☞ [TIP Funding Move Request for Z301 6-4-2020.pdf](#)

☞ [TIP Funding Move Request for Z230 6-4-2020.pdf](#)

11. [GDOT Project Status Report](#)

☞ [Project Status Updates MPO 4-3-2020-Bryan-Chatham-Effingham.pdf](#)

## **X. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the June 24, 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.