



## CORE MPO Board

Virtual Meeting  
October 21, 2020 at 10am

### OCTOBER 21, 2020 CORE MPO Board Meeting

<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
Ellis Cook	Metropolitan Planning Commission	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	
JAMES "JAY" JONES	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	
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	
Christopher Middleton	Citizens Advisory Committee	X
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>	
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Ned Green	Georgia Department of Transportation (alt for Tom)	X
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Troy Pittman	GDOT-District 5	X
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Stephen Henry	Traffic Engineering/City of Savannah	X
Leon Davenport	Thunderbolt Consulting	X
Rebecca Benton	Mayor of City of Pooler	X
Vivian Canizares	GDOT Planning	X
Charles Walker	GDOT Intermodal	X
Barry Stanton	Traffic Engineering/ City of Savannah	X
Courtney Reich	Goodwyn Mills & Cawood	X
Heath Lloyd	City of Savannah	X
Temperance West	MPC	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X

Melanie Wilson	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Asia Hernton	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
Jackie Jackson	MPC	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

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

## II. Committee Reports (verbal)

### ACAT

Mr. James Abernson spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, October 19, 2020. The committee voted to endorse the staff recommendations for adoption of the 2021 CORE MPO ACAT meeting calendar and the 2021 Safety Targets.

### TCC

Mr. Mark Wilkes spoke on behalf of TCC. The committee met last Thursday, October 15, 2020. The committee endorsed the 2021 TCC meeting calendar as well as the staff recommendation on the 2021 Safety Targets.

### Director's Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave the Director's report. He welcomed a new staff member to the CORE MPO staff, Alicia Hunter. She will be working closely as a lead transit planner as well as the coordinator for the CAC committee.

## III. Action Items

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

📎 [august-26-2020-core-mpo-board-final.pdf](#)

Mr. James Abernson motioned to approve the August 26, 2020 meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Estella Shabazz. There motion passed with none opposed.

### 2. [Adoption of 2021 CORE MPO Meeting Calendar](#)

📎 [A 2021 Tentative Meeting Schedule V6.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the 2021 CORE MPO Meeting Calendar.

Mr. James Abernson motioned to accept the 2021 CORE MPO Meeting Calendar; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with none opposed.

### 3. [2021 Safety Targets](#)

📎 [Safety Targets 2021.pdf](#)

📎 [2021 Safety Targets Oct 2020 MPO.pdf](#)

📎 [SafetyOCT2020 Targets.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the 2021 Safety Targets. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Map 21) and the subsequent Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, also known as the Fast ACT, required that all state departments of transportation and MPOs use a performance base planning and programming approach. Each state DOT and MPO must adopt targets to strive for within the planning and programming process. State DOTs and MPOs are required to set targets for a variety of performance measures related to safety, state of good repair and system performance. The State sets their targets and then the MPO has up to 180 days to establish their performance targets. There are two options, the MPO can elect to adopt the state's targets or they can elect

to establish its own targets. The staff recommendation has consistently been to support the state targets since most of the funding is going through the state and the state also has the resources to collect data.

The Safety performance management final rule did establish 5 performance measures to be recorded as 5 year rolling averages. The safety targets must be updated every year. The GDOT's Adopted State Safety Targets for 2021 are listed below.

- Number of Fatalities 1715.0 To maintain the 5-year moving average traffic fatalities under the projected 1,715 (2017-2021) 5-year average by December 2021.
- Number of Serious Injuries 6407.0 To maintain the 5-year moving average serious traffic injuries under the projected 6,407 (2017-2021) 5-year average by December 2021.
- Fatality Rate 1.230 To maintain the 5-year moving average traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled under the projected 1.23 (2017-2021) 5-year average by December 2021.
- Serious Injury Rate 4.422 To reduce the 5-year moving average serious traffic injuries for every 100 million vehicle miles traveled under the projected 4.42 (2017-2021) 5- year average by December 2021.
- Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries 686.5 To maintain the 5-year moving average non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries under the projected 687 (2017-2021) 5-year average by December 2021.

The staff recommendation to accept the state adopted Safety Targets and support them through the CORE MPO planning and programming activities has been endorsed by the advisory committees of TCC, CAC and ACAT.

Mr. James Aberson motioned to approve accepting the 2021 Safety Targets; seconded by Mayor Van Johnson. The motion passed with none opposed.

#### **IV. Other Business**

#### **V. Status Reports**

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

📎 [2020-October MPO Cert Presentation background2.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the FY 2021 Federal Certification Review. MPOs with a population greater than 200,000 undergo certification reviews with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The 2021 Federal Certification Review process has been started. The staff has had an initial coordination meeting with the federal planning partners and with GDOT. The review is a process checking to make sure that the MPO is fulfilling the federal requirements of the Metropolitan Planning. There will be opportunities for input through the CORE MPO Board and the advisory committee meetings as well as a public meeting. The process takes place every 4 years. The last certification was completed in March of 2017. This one will be completed by March of 2021. All the MPO committees, organizations, special interest groups as well as the public are involved.

The MPO planning process is important because:

- The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process is the framework by which transportation decisions are made and projects are planned, selected, and prioritized for the 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.
- It helps the MPO to prioritize regional needs and determine the best and most economical solution.
- It provides the framework for the future transportation system.

CORE MPO is in the early stages of the certification review process. This started in late September, and the formal kick-off call is November 2. The MPO is currently working on an extensive questionnaire. The site visit will be around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January. This will include a public meeting with an informal close out with a final report no later than March 21, 2021. In April 2021 the MPO Board will be presented with the Certification Review findings and report. The MPO will present follow up on progress at the December meeting and look forward to feedback throughout the process. Mr. Wilkes further mentioned that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> time that he and Wykoda Wang have gone through this process. The MPC/MPO Executive Director, Melanie Wilson, has gone through this process in Augusta as well.

Mr. Aberson asked if the site visit would be done in person or virtually due to COVID-19. Mr. Wilkes stated the expectation at this point is that this will be largely virtual. The site visit is scheduled for January 19 thru 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. If they needed to come in-person, there are measures that have been taken to accommodate this.

## 5. FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program

[Call For Studies 2022.pdf](#)

[Draft 2022 UPWP TR Portion.pdf](#)

Mr. Wilkes stated that CORE MPO staff is currently developing the draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program, which is the MPO staff work program and budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. This is in the early stages now. The MPO will have a draft work program in February 2021 to adopt.

The MPO has issued a Call for Plans and Studies for discretionary highway planning funds. There has been success with these funds previously. We have done a couple of major interchange studies - the airport interchange study at I-95 and the study at Little Neck Road and I-16 interchange. Currently there are RFPs to go out to do a Corridor Study on SR 307 from US 17 to the SR 25 near the Ports main gate as well as an Access Management Study on SR 21 in Garden City. These studies can be small or large. The MPO encourages members to reach out to us by November 12<sup>th</sup> with any requests. The smaller studies could possibly be incorporated into the existing formula funds. If the study is more extensive, the MPO can apply for additional discretionary planning funding twice a year. The larger studies that require discretionary funding would also require a 20% local match.

The Transit Planning grant must be applied for in December each year. Parts of the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program that pertain to the transit planning tasks (project pages that address transit planning) must be included in this grant application. Preliminary FY 2022 transit planning tasks and budgets have been developed in support of the Section 5303 Grant Application.

There is no action required today.

## 6. Participation Plan and Title VI Plan Update

[PartPlan\\_PresentationPDF.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan update. The Participation Plan creates ways for the public to engage with the CORE MPO and transportation topics. It also creates opportunities for under-served communities to have access to CORE MPO and transportation information. Some of the things we are working on in this plan update include the following.

- Updating Information - Replacing outdated facts and information. Include a discussion about COVID-19 and how it impacted public outreach.
- Focusing on Social Media and Online Resources – Social media gives the CORE MPO the opportunity to reach out to a larger audience while also being a safe option during the pandemic. It also provides an opportunity to communicate through Q&As and comment sections. Livestreaming on a website (YouTube or Facebook) gives the public more opportunities to tune in. Posting newsletters, progress reports and pertinent information online will easily keep people updated.
- Visual to increase Interest and Understanding. Infographics of meetings are a great way to visually display information in a way that the majority of people can understand. The visuals are eye-catching, and the text is informative.
- General Language for General Public. Defining terms in a way that laymen can understand. Outlining processes of planning, funding, and more to give the public a basic idea of how projects work as well as identifying the parties involved in transportation projects.
- Make Content Accessible to People with Disabilities. Provide sign language translations of meetings and plans. Produce sound bite audios for blind and low vision people. Provide closed captions on meeting videos. Collaborate with organizations (e.g. Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision) to learn the specific needs of disabled people.
- Reach Under-served Communities. Create printed versions of infographics and charts to administer them to elderly communities and nursing homes. Provide translated meetings and summaries for people who speak Spanish.

The first draft of the updated plans will be completed by the end of October 2020. It will be sent to FHWA/FTA/GDOT for review with comments expected from these agencies by the end of November 2020. The staff will develop the revised draft with FHWA/FTA/GDOT comments incorporated. There will be a 45-day public

review and comment period for the revised draft from January 5, 2021 to February 18, 2021. The target adoption date by the CORE MPO Board is February 24, 2021.

## 7. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Development

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

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP development status. In August, the TIP priority rankings were adopted for Z230, Z301, and HIP funds along with the TIP prioritization methodology. There was a special called TCC meeting in September to allocate the funds from these three sources to the priority projects. Staff then developed the Preliminary Draft TIP. The draft document has been sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and GDOT for review and comment. The comments are due by the end of this week. We have received comments from the FHWA. The FTA sent a message saying they do not have any comments. GDOT indicated they would send their comments by the end of tomorrow. Once all those comments are in, we will incorporate them into the document and have a revised draft.

After the preliminary draft TIP was developed, there were some issues that arose.

- Garden City is not LAP certified, therefore the funds that were programmed on Garden City's signal project will have to be pulled until they are LAP Certified.
- Project DeRenne has a schedule delay. The City of Savannah and GDOT are trying to work this out. We will keep the Z230 funds in FY 2021 for Project DeRenne while the City of Savannah and the GDOT Planning Director coordinate how to move the funds with the project to FY 2022.

At the TCC meeting last week the Technical Coordinating Committee had to re-allocate some of the Z230, HIP and Z301 funds due to these new issues. These changes will be reflected in the revised draft TIP.

December is still the target adoption date for the TIP. Once we incorporate the changes mentioned and all the comments, the revised draft TIP will be available for the 30-day Public review early next month. In December we will ask for the board adoption and the advisory committees' endorsement of the new TIP.

## **VI. Information Reports (verbal)**

### 8. GDOT Project Status Report

[Project Status Updates MPO Bryan Chatham Effingham September 2020 Final.pdf](#)

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

Mr. Troy Pittman gave the GDOT status report.

#### **Preconstruction projects**

- SR 26/ Ogeechee Rd from E of Lynes Pkwy to Victory Dr - environmental activities are at 60%. ROW acquisition and final design are at 50%.
- Effingham Parkway project is at 90% with final design. ROW acquisition is expected to have been certified by next month.
- SR 26/US80; Including Bull River & Lazaretto Creek Bridges is split into three projects. Bull River and Lazaretto schedules are under review; hopefully we will have them approved by November.
- Brampton Rd Conn from SR21/SR25 to SR21 - the environmental activities is at 80%, the final plans and ROW acquisition are at 50%.
- I-16 at I-95 and the I-16 widening projects - environmental activities and final plans are at 85%. Some of the construction activities have started both at the interchange and I-16.
- I-16 at SR 307 operations improvements - environmental activities are at 10%. ROW has been certified. Let to a design build consultant in June.
- SR 25 at Savannah River and at Middle River - the environmental activities are at 75% with preliminary plans at 90%.
- I-16 at Chatham Parkway Operational improvement project is at 18% environmental activities and 20% preliminary designs.
- SR 21 at SR 30 operational improvements are at 70% as well on final plans.
- SR 21 at SR 30 from I-95 to SR 30 operational improvement is at 100% environmental activity and 70% on plans.

#### **Active Construction Projects**

- SR 144 Widening project is roughly 70% complete. Still projecting a fall 2020 completion.

- SR 25 at Pipemakers Canal Bridge Replacement project is essentially complete. Just working on punch list items. It is open to traffic.
- SR 144 at I-95 roundabouts are approximately 30% complete with a Spring 2021 completion.
- 10.611 miles of milling and resurfacing on SR 25/US 17 from Bryan/Chatham County line to I-516 is approximately 10% complete with a Spring 2021 completion.
- 3.060 miles of milling and resurfacing on SR 30 from Effingham/Chatham County line to West of SR 21 is approximately 95% complete with a Spring 2021 completion.

## 9. Chatham County Project Status Report

☞ [Chatham County Project Status Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard presented the Chatham County Project Status Report.

### **Preconstruction Projects**

- Quacco Road Widening Project - the ROW acquisition is almost complete. This project should follow behind the completion of the Intersection project which will be Spring of 2021.
- SR 21 at Pipemakers Canal should go out to bid by the end of the year. Construction should begin early 2021.
- Little Neck Roads plans are almost complete. Projecting to acquire the ROW sometime in 2021.
- Skidaway Road will be changed to a signal and intersection improvement project. This should take place later in 2021 with a minimal amount of ROW.
- Islands Expressway and Walthour slopes are both in need of permitting and at 75% with design.

### **Projects Under Construction**

- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2-A and Benton Blvd Extension both are close to completion. Truman Linear Trail should be open to public with a ribbon cutting soon. Benton Blvd will be open to traffic sometime at the end of October or beginning of November. The signal should be operational sometime next week.
- Quacco at US 17 Intersection project should be completed in the Spring of 2021.

## 10. City of Savannah Project Status Report

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

Heath Lloyd presented the City of Savannah Project Status Report.

### Truman Linear Park Trail, 2B

- Right of Way plans have been submitted to GA Department of Transportation and are awaiting comment.
- Awaiting completion of GDOT's History review so the full environmental review can be completed.

### DeRenne Avenue Widening

- PHOH is scheduled for **November 10, 2020** (there is typo error on agenda report).
- Relocation Assistance Plan coordination is ongoing.

### Delesseps Avenue Widening

- Construction funds have been authorized.
- Letting is scheduled for November 20, 2020.

## 11. CAT Project Status Report

☞ [CAT FY21 Status Report October 2020.pdf](#)

Ms. Bren Daiss presented the CAT Project Status Report.

- Electric Bus purchase is moving forward. Expected arrival date is winter 2020/2021.
- Facilities Rehab/Interior projects are in the planning process.
- Intelligent Transit System contract has been awarded.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility and Ferry Dock project - Section 106 review is in progress with SHIPO and moving forward with architecture and engineering.
- Ferry Boat Rehab is moving forward with the Suzie King Taylor. This is in progress with the architecture and engineering. There was a change order in progress.

- Support vehicles purchase project is moving forward and expected to be completed in FY 2021.
- Bus Stations/Stops/Terminals upgrades are in progress.
- Operator barriers (CARES ACT): the para-transit barriers are all installed and a large portion of the 6 route barriers are installed as well. Project is close to completion.

## 12. Chatham County Sea Level Rise Study Findings and Next Steps

📎 [Chatham SLR\\_102120\\_MPO.pdf](#)

Ms. Courtney Reich presented the Chatham County Sea Level Rise (SLR) Study Findings and Next Steps. This project was funded through a coastal incentive grant that was awarded to the county by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This started in October of 2018, and Phase 1 was completed on September 30. Chatham County Engineering Dept was the actual grant manager. There were many partners involved in the project including the City of Savannah, Stetson University, and the Coastal Georgia Community Rating system users group.

### **The Project Goals**

- **Assess** impact of sea level rise on stormwater infrastructure in the County and the City of Savannah as well as critical facilities associated with that stormwater infrastructure.
- **Perform** study in accordance with ISO/CRS for CRS Class 4.
- **Identify** potential best management practices to address vulnerable drainage systems.
- **Update** drainage Capital Improvement Program based on the results from this study.

Sea Level Rise has been documented locally with the Ft. Pulaski Tide gage. There has been approximately a 1-foot rise in sea level over the last 100 years. The rates are increasing here in Chatham County as well as globally.

### **SLR Projections**

- CRS Manual & Coastal Resources Division required the use of the NOAA Intermediate High Projection curve for SLR.
- Planning scenarios for 2020 (current condition), 2050, 2075, and 2100
- NOAA Intermediate High Projection is for 4.39' of seal-level rise by 2100
- Army Corps of Engineers Seal-Level Rise Calculator

### **Recommendations**

- Identify hotspots of rainfall induced flooding and tidal backflow and install green infrastructure.
- Participate in the Georgia Tech Smart Sea Level Sensors Project.
- Include SLR projections as a design consideration for drainage CIP and other critical facilities.
- Upgrade stormwater pump stations to maintain functioning at a higher tidewater elevation.

The Georgia Coastal Resources Division has funded a Phase 2 of the project. This will include:

- Identifying the areas and opportunities for installation of green infrastructure.
- Reduce High Tide Flooding.
- Fund a Roadway vulnerability analysis. Entering the roadway elevation data for major thoroughfares throughout the county into the model that created in Phase 1 to understand where sea-level rise may impact these roadways.
- To develop a best practices document for Tide Gate maintenance.

## 13. LATS MPO Status Report

📎 [US 17 Status Update 9-25-20.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the LATS MPO status report. The US 17 project contract was awarded to a Savannah firm, RB Baker Construction. The completion date for the widening project is estimated to be September 30, 2025. The Low bid amount was \$41.9 million.

### **Savannah Airport**

Mr. George Fidler stated he was unable to get his "mic" to work at the beginning of the meeting. He has a correction of the minutes. It says terminal expansion was completed and it was supposed to say terminal ramp expansion was completed. The terminal expansion is on hold because the traffic has dropped off. The terminal inspection services are complete and in use so they can now accept foreign plane international traffic.

## **Pooler**

Mr. Tom Hutcherson stated there was nothing to report for the City of Pooler.

## **Effingham**

Ms. Teresa Concannon stated there was nothing new to report for Effingham County.

## **Richmond Hill**

Mr. Scott Allison stated there are two projects going. The new interchange at Exit 82 at Belfast Keller Rd. is on track for end of year/beginning of 2021 completion. The City is currently constructing a road connecting Belfast Keller to another major arterial to get people to and from that interchange area. This looks to be on track for an early December opening as well.

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

Ms. Shabazz acknowledged and thanked the MPC, GDOT and everyone involved in pushing the Project DeRenne project.

Ms. Wilson mentioned the MPC was awarded a grant to form the Coastal Empire Resilience network.

## **VIII. Announcements**

[14. Next CORE MPO Meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

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

[15. MPC Awarded Grant to Form Coastal Empire Resilience Network \(CERN\)](#)

[📎 PR MPCAwarded\\_CERN\\_CIG\\_100120.pdf](#)

## **X. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the October 21, 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.