



## CORE MPO Board

Virtual Meeting  
April 28, 2021 at 10:00AM

### April 28, 2021 CORE MPO BOARD Meeting

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Teresa Brenner	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	
Mark Ott	City of Richmond Hill	
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission	
Nick Palumbo	City of Savannah	X
Joseph Welch	Metropolitan Planning Commission	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Deidrick Cody	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	X
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	X
Beth E. Goette	Town of Thunderbolt	X
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonberg	
Valarie Ragland	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Tom Hutcherson	City of Pooler	X
Mayor Van Johnson	City of Savannah	X
Radney Simpson	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Daniel Brantley	Citizens Advisory Committee	
Gary Norton	City of Port Wentworth	
Ben Rozier	City of Bloomingdale	
Chester Ellis	Chatham County Commission	X
Dr. Estella Shabazz	City of Savannah	X
Lee Smith	Chatham County	X
Pamela Bernard	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	X
Vacant	Chatham County	
<b>Voting Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Pamela Oglesby	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	X
Eric Larson	Effingham County/ Assistant County Manager	X
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Tom Caiafa	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Ned Green	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT	X
Ansley Grantham	GDOT	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X

Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Melanie Wilson	MPC	X
Beverly Dumas	Chatham Area Transit	X
Barry Stanton	City of Savannah	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

**Staff has proposed the following changes to the Agenda:  
Continue item 5, 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments, to the June 23, 2021 meeting.**

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to approve the April 28, 2021 CORE MPO Board meeting agenda; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## II. Committee Reports (verbal)

### ACAT

Ms. Pamela Oglesby spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, April 26, 2021. The committee voted to endorse all staff recommendations for action items.

### CAC

Mr. Alicia Hunter spoke on behalf of CAC. The committee met on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The committee endorsed all staff recommendations for action items.

### TCC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of TCC. The committee met on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The committee endorsed all staff recommendations for action items.

### EDFAC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of EDFAC. The committee met on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The committee endorsed all staff recommendations for action items.

### Executive Director's Report

Ms. Melanie Wilson stated the MPO has been going through the process of finalizing the UPWP. The MPO received \$2.1 million in additional funds through CARES. There will be appropriate distribution of those funds.

## III. Action Items

### 1. [Approval of the February 24, 2021 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes.](#)

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the February 24, 2021 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### 2. [Amendment to FY 2021 UPWP](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated in June of 2020 the SR 307 Corridor Study was added as an illustrative unfunded project/planning study to the FY 2021 UPWP. Earlier this year the funding contract was executed with GDOT. This amendment is to move the project to the funded portion of the current year UPWP. The amount is \$250,000 (matched funds). The MPO staff is asking for approval of the amendment to the FY 2021 UPWP.

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to approve the amendment to the FY 2021 UPWP; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### 3. Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the UPWP for FY 2022 is the proposed CORE MPO staff work program for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022. It details the staff budget and work projects to be carried out in support of the federally mandated continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. The MPO is working primarily under two federal formula funding grants - the FHWA PL grant and the FTA Section 5303 Transit Planning Grant. Both grants require a 20% local match. The local match come primarily from membership dues. GDOT provides 10%, or half of the local match for the Section 5303 grant. These are formula planning funds that are distributed to the MPOs based primarily on population. The funds can only be used for planning. Funds that are not spent are forfeited at the end of the fiscal year. The total proposed formula funding for FY 2022 is \$628,420 (\$450,000 from the PL grant and \$178,000 from the Section 5303 grant).

There are discretionary funds that can be applied for. There are currently \$4 million of discretionary PL funds with \$3 million reserved for MPO long range plan updates. Each spring and fall the MPO is eligible to apply for this funding. To be eligible, the studies need to be in the MPO's UPWP. The applications take place twice a year and are screened by GDOT and FHWA staff as well as the PL Funds Review Committee. These funds also require a 20% local match which is usually provided by the project sponsor.

The Discretionary Section 5303 funds can be applied for each year. These applications must be submitted by the MPOs in December. They are applied for at the time the annual transit planning grant is applied for. These funds require a 20% local match as well. The MPO will apply for this funding to help the Chatham Area Transit in FY 2023.

The MPO has received Discretionary Section 5303 and PL awards in previous work programs.

- FY 2018 – MPO Interchange traffic studies at I-16/Little Neck Road and I-95/Airways Avenue with Chatham County and Savannah Airport Commission as project sponsors respectively.
- FY 2020 – Chatham Area Transit for purchase of software and data. (\$27,000.00)
- FY 2021 – SR 21 Access Management Study at Garden City and the SR 307 Corridor Study.

The UPWP development process began when the MPO conducted a Call for Plans and Studies in October 2020. In the fall of 2020, the Transit Planning tasks were presented to the committees for FY 2022. FTA Section 5303 grant application took place in December 2020. From December 2020 to January 2021 the MPO staff developed the first draft of the FY 2022 UPWP. It was submitted to GDOT and FHWA for review and comment on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The draft received substantial comments and has been under redevelopment. Revised drafts have been published on the MPO website.

The MPO staff is asking for the Board to approve the proposed draft of the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program. This document will then be submitted formally to the Federal Highway Administration for approval prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. That will allow the MPO's annual funding contracts to be executed timely.

Staff work priorities for FY 2022 include the 2050 MTP plan update. Approximately 1 ½ years ago Mobility 2045 was adopted. The MTP must be updated every 5 years. Other work priorities include the Congestion Management Process update, SR 21 Access Management Study, SR 307 Corridor Study, addressing Federal Certification Review recommendations (the report is available on the website), Freight Plan update, and the 2020 Census Urban Area Delineation.

The work program is divided into 6 major tasks which are Administration, Public Involvement, Data Collection Analysis/Forecasting, Systems Planning and Operations, Transit Planning and Special Studies (both funded and un-funded). The unfunded studies are those which the MPO staff has requests from the Call for Plans and Studies, including Freight Transportation Plan update, the Sea Level Rise Study and others. There are subtasks for each of these categories.

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to approve the Draft FY 2022 UPWP; seconded by Mr. Tom Hutcherson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### 4. Updates to CORE MPO Bylaws

Ms. Pamela Everett stated the MPO/MPC staff evaluated the CORE MPO By-Laws to ensure they are in compliance with the law. There were a couple of amendments made.

- *The ability of consultants to vote for more than one municipality.* There have been several municipalities that have hired the same consultant to act on their behalf and vote as their designee at the CORE MPO

TCC meetings. One amendment is to avoid any conflict or appearance of a conflict of interest by having one consultant have multiple votes.

- *The ability to poll to board to change its Bylaws.* It appears that since the Bylaws were put into place before there were changes to open meetings act which requires that any action of the board be taken in public. The amendment will be in compliance with the open meetings act so there is no polling of the board. Action will have to take place at the meeting with regards to making any changes to the Bylaws. The change will no longer read “there will be a 60-day approval period to poll the membership”. New language will read “at the meeting there will be a vote to modify any of the Bylaws. This will be a 2/3 vote of the CORE MPO Board to affirmatively modify change or appeal the Bylaws.”

Mayor Van Johnson motioned to approve the Updates to the CORE MPO Bylaws; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motioned passed with non-opposed.

#### 5. 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments

This item was continued to the June 23, 2021 meeting.

#### 6. Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets (2021)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the FTA established the transit safety performance measures and ruled certain transit agencies and MPOs must set safety performance targets for the performance measures that the FTA set. The agencies/ MPOs that must follow these requirements are recipients or subrecipients of FTA grant funds. Transit agencies are required to set their safety performance targets in their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). Once they set those targets, they share them with the MPOs. Once the MPOs receive those targets, they have 180 days to set regional transit safety performance targets.

Safety performance measures are set by the FTA, they are used to measure performance or condition. They are quantifiable performance conditions to be achieved. They help transit agencies and MPOs assess progress towards meeting safety performance targets.

Safety Performance Targets set by FTA:

- Fatalities
- Serious Injuries
- Safety Events
- System Reliability

Addressing the FTA’s four safety performance measures requires seven transit safety performance targets by mode. These performance targets are:

- Total Fatalities
- Rate of fatalities per vehicle revenue miles
- Total serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries per vehicle revenue miles
- Total safety events
- Rate of safety events per vehicle revenue miles
- Miles between major mechanical failures

This is the first-time transit agencies and MPOs are going through this process to set transit safety performance targets. The Chatham Area Transit (CAT) is the only transit agency in the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Area that falls under the FTA requirements for setting these targets. CAT developed their PTASP and set their safety targets. They provided those to the CORE MPO in January 2021. The CORE MPO has until July 2021 to set performance targets for the region.

Setting the performance targets for the planning area was coordinated with CAT and GDOT. The CORE MPO staff recommends using CAT’s transit performance targets as the regional targets. This will help ensure a common goal and consistency between the two agencies.

Transit providers are required to update their transit safety performance targets annually. MPOs are not required to do this annually. Currently the CORE MPO updates the system performance report when new performance targets are adopted.

The Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets have been endorsed by the CORE MPO advisory committees and today the staff is asking the Board to adopt the proposed performance targets for the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Area.

Mr. Lee Smith asked if the transit targets set by CAT are done by staff or in cooperation with a third-party consultant. Ms. Valerie Ragland replied that this was done by CAT staff with recommendations from FTA.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to adopt the Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets (2021); seconded by Mr. Tom Hutcherson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## 7. Amendments to FY 2021 - 2024 TIP

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the MPO's short-range programming document (TIP) provides a multi-year listing of surface transportation projects proposed for federal, state, and local funding within the Metropolitan Planning Area. The FY 2021-2024 TIP was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in December 2020. The TIP is modified from time to time to ensure that updates to projects, revenues, cost estimates and schedules are incorporated. In January and February, the MPO had received project updates from GDOT along with new funding and programming information. There are updates to the existing highway and transit fund revenue projections along with additional funds being added. There are three proposed highway project updates and three proposed transit project updates.

The Highway updates are:

- The Chevis Road Improvement Project - Chatham County was awarded some lapsing TAP funds and Z301 revenues. The Cost estimate for the PE phase has been updated to reflect the changes in funding.
- Savannah River Crossing – GDOT added a scoping phase for the new study which will help identify strategies for bridge improvements. This project is supported 100% by local funds.
- Lump Sum - Two Lump Sum categories were added - Freight Operations and Rural Developments. Construction Management has been removed from the Lump Sum.

Proposed Transit updates include:

- Section 5339 of the Capital and Operations Fund. This is a new fund in programing that is currently not in the TIP. This will be programmed for FY 2021.
- Z950 FHWA Ferry Boat funds. There are updates in FY 2021 and FY 2022. GDOT requested funding from previous years be flexed from FHWA to FTA at the same time, which resulted in all the funds being programmed for FY 2021.
- Section 5311 Capital and Operations funds. GDOT provided updated cost estimates for FY 2022 and FY 2024.

Included in Appendix A of the staff report are the updated TIP project pages and tables. The MPO staff is asking the CORE MPO Board to adopt the proposed Amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to open the public hearing regarding amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The public hearing was opened.

No Public Comments.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to close the public hearing; seconded by Ms. Valerie Ragland. The public hearing was closed.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the amendments to FY 2021-2024 TIP; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## **IV. Other Business**

None.

## **V. Status Reports**

None.

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

### 8. GDOT Project Status Report

Ms. Katie Proctor presented the report on GDOT updates to active construction projects.

- Jimmy DeLoach Parkway is 75% complete with anticipated completion date of Fall 2021.

- CR 787/Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement is at 50% with a Fall 2021 completion date.
- SR 144 widening is at 80% with Fall 2021 completion date.
- SR 144 at I-95 Off Ramps is 50% with Spring 2021 completion date.
- US 17 Resurfacing from Bryan/Chatham County line to I-516 is at 75% with Spring 2021 completion date.
- SR 26 @ 1 Loc & SR 404 Spur @ 2 Locs - Bridge preservation - Polymer overlay and joint replacement is at 90% with a Summer 2021 completion date.
- I-516 at Mildred Street project is waiting on a Notice to Proceed.

Dr. Estella Shabazz asked if the I-516 at Mildred Street was part of the Project DeRenne. Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Project DeRenne was still in the environmental process. The I-516 at Mildred Street is a resurfacing project.

Mr. Shawn Gillen asked about the Bull River Bridge and Lazaretto Creek Bridge projects. The dates are 2022 and 2023 - are these anticipated beginning of construction dates? Ms. Wang stated those are the ROW phases not construction. Ms. Melanie Wilson suggested that Ms. Wang check the project development status and get the answer for Mr. Gillen after the meeting.

#### 9. Chatham County Project Status Update

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

- I-16 at Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy Interchange - the Project Framework Agreement (PFA) was approved by the board. The consultant proposals were due in yesterday for this project.
- Chevis Road Improvements and Garrard Avenue Improvements both have recently been programmed by GDOT. They have PI numbers and can move forward with obtaining a consultant.
- Quacco at US 17 Intersection is the only project currently under construction.

#### 10. City of Savannah Project Status Report

Mr. Barry Stanton presented the City of Savannah Project Status Report.

- Delesseps Avenue Project - the bid had to be readvertised. The bid results are actively coming in.
- Traffic Control Center - preliminary layout is complete. Preparation for procurement of design build firm is underway.
- Project Derenne - the Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision were sent to FHWA on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The final plan preparation is underway.
- Truman Linear Park Trail -Phase II B - the environmental phase is nearing completion. GDOT has added ROW phase to the project.

Mr. Lee Smith asked if the Traffic Control Center was the same as Traffic Management Center. The TMC was planned to go into the new EOC building at the Airport. The space has already been programmed. Mr. Stanton stated this is an existing system that is being upgraded in the new building.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked how many bids were received with the new bid opening on DeLesseps. Mr. Stanton stated one.

#### 11. CAT Project Status Report

Ms. Bren Daiss presented the CAT Project Status Report.

- CAT received their first three electric buses this month. The buses are on site and the charging stations are finished. The proper software and training are being done now. The rest of the buses will arrive throughout the rest of the year.
- There are Paratransit vehicles and support vehicles that will be arriving this month and next.
- The Intelligent Transit System is in the engineering phase.
- There are facilities rehab taking place in FY 2021 and FY 2022 (CAT central, moving around of office space, reorganizing, upgrade of a bus wash).
- There is Ferry Boat rehabilitation with the Susie King Taylor Boat.
- The Maintenance Facility and Ferry dock new structures are in the architecture and engineering phases currently.
- There are bus stations, stops and terminals in process.

Mr. Tom Hutcherson asked “will new purchases be electric buses only?” Ms. Daiss stated, “not only” but the CAT Board voted to move toward an electric fleet. Some of the paratransit buses that are coming in, and three diesel buses that are coming in are not electric.

12. [Permit Data Collection Discussion](#)

Ms. Melanie Wilson stated one of the things the MPO does is to collect data. The staff is requesting access to building permit data to the agencies involved in the MPO area. The staff is asking for monthly report on building activity. This is used as part of the reporting to the federal highway and the state when applying for funds in different areas.

Mr. Lee Smith stated he will mention this to all agencies at the upcoming agency managers meeting.

**Effingham County**

Mr. Eric Larson stated the Effingham Parkway will be advertised for LET in May and awarded in July.

For the TSPLOST projects, they elected to borrow against their funds. They have received those to LET multiple contracts for design and construction on projects that were ready.

The Transportation Master Plan is ongoing. There will be a draft to the stakeholders in May. Those interested to join as a stakeholder are still welcome.

**Low County Area MPO**

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the early stages of the US 17 Widening is underway.

**Savannah Airport Commission**

Mr. Mark Denmark stated for the Parking Lot expansion, the airport is expanding the surface lots. The \$5 lot will be expanded adding 290 spaces. The overflow and oversized vehicle lot will be paved and expanded. There will be 900 spaces.

There are open bids on a couple of projects.

1. The Air Cargo Ramp. This is a 325,000 square foot ramp that is going to serve the new air cargo facility. Currently they are waiting on allocation of discretionary funding from the FAA and anticipate the construction to being sometime in August.
2. Design on the new Air Cargo Facility with the consultant POND. This will start next month.

There is a major Southeast quadrant stormwater drainage improvement project. This will allow the redevelopment of the Southeast quadrant to more Aviation oriented facilities and services such as aircraft maintenance, general aviation expansion and aviation support facilities.

**Tybee Island**

Mr. Shawn Gillen stated the seasonal traffic is higher than expected and earlier than anticipated. There was a fatality on Lazaretto Creek Bridge Monday evening. The bridge was closed for approximately 5 hours.

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

None.

**VIII. Notices**

13. [FHWA and FTA Issue Certification Review Final Report](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Certification Review Report was received and available online.

14. [New Cutoff Dates for 2021 Calendar of Meetings](#)

Ms. Melanie Wilson stated the cutoff dates have been moved up one week to have time to properly review.

15.      [Next CORE Meeting: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

## **IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the April 28, 2021 CORE MPO Board meeting 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.**