



## CORE MPO Board

August 25, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

### August 25, 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	
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
Tanya Milton	Chatham County	X
<b>Voting Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Les Fussell	City of Richmond Hill	X
Eric Larson	Effingham County	X
Asia Hernton	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	X
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Stephanie Rossi	LATS	X
Michael Connolly	Chatham Area Transit	X
Ned Green	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
David Thompson	GDOT – Intermodal Planner	X
Robert Milie	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT – District 5	X
Melissa Phillips	POND	X
Leon Davenport	Pooler	X
Melissa Paul-Leto	MPC	X

Joyce McCoy	Chatham Area Transit	X
Maurice Boggs	Chatham Area Transit	X
Jeff Ricketson	Hinesville MPO	X
Christy Lovett	GDOT	X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County	X
Brandy Blige	Georgia Ports Authority	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
Barry Stanton	City of Savannah	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Kerrie Bieber	Public	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Ron Feldner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## II. Committee Reports (verbal)

### ACAT

Ms. Asia Hernton spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, August 23, 2021. The committee voted to endorse all staff recommendations for action items.

### CAC

Ms. Alicia Hunter spoke on behalf of CAC. The committee met on Thursday, August 19, 2021. The committee endorsed all staff recommendations for action items.

### TCC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of TCC. The committee met on Thursday, August 19, 2021. The committee endorsed all staff recommendations for action items.

### EDFAC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of EDFAC. The committee met on Thursday, August 19, 2021. The committee did not have a quorum, and the committee members present supported all staff recommendations for action items.

Mr. Ron Feldner motioned to approve all committee reports; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## III. Action Items

### [1. Approval of the June 23, 2021 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes.](#)

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to approve the June 23, 2021 CORE MPO Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Tanya Milton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### [2. Calls for Projects for Z230 and CRRSAA Funds](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated there will be two Calls for Projects conducted. One call is for the Z230 funds, and the other for the CRRSAA funds. Discussion with the TCC committee started back in June 2021. In August the MPO staff asked the TCC committee to endorse the application package (manuals, forms and schedule) to the MPO Board so the Calls for Projects may be started. The target is to start the Calls for Projects on August 26, 2021. With a deadline

of September 30, 2021, the applicants will have approximately one month to prepare the applications and submit them to the CORE MPO. Once the applications are received, MPO staff will pre-screen them for qualifications. Then the TCC committee will evaluate and rank each proposal and make recommendations. When the funds are allocated, the projects/project phases will be amended into the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP. Recommendations will be done in October, in November staff will start the public involvement process, and December is the deadline for all amendments to be made.

Z230 funds - for FY 2023 there are about \$3.1 million, and for FY 2024 there are around \$6 million. The FY 2021 funds of \$900,000 as well as other funds that are being reallocated to the Z230 coffer from the DeLesseps Avenue project will be allocated to FY 2023 – 2024. The MPO staff is asking for applications for FY 2023 – 2024 funds with the exact funding amounts to be determined. The local governments that are Local Administered Project (LAP) certified before FY 2023 are eligible. Once the funding is awarded, the project sponsor must provide project status update to the TCC committee every two months.

Additional language was added regarding LAP certification. The local sponsor must be LAP certified by GDOT to administer the federal funds. If the local sponsor is in the process of becoming LAP certified while submitting the application, the MPO will consider the sponsor an eligible entity if the LAP certification becomes official before the requested funding phase starts. These requirements only apply to transportation improvement projects, not planning studies. The sponsor needs to provide bi-monthly updates and will risk not being considered for the next round of Call for Projects if they fail to do so.

CRRSAA funds have the same eligibility and timeline as the Z230 funds. The funds can be used for highway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects, and planning studies. The difference between the two is that the CRRSSA is 100% federal funding while the Z230 requires a local match of 20%. The CRRSAA funds are available immediately (obligation ready), therefore the project sponsor must be LAP certified now to apply. If the sponsor has a project ready, the funds are available immediately for FY 2022. The project selection process and ranking criteria are the same as the Z230 funds. Since timing is of the essence for the obligation and usage of the CRRSAA funds, funding recipients will be required to make bi-monthly progress reports to the CORE MPO TCC to ensure timely and efficient use of funds. The CORE MPO TCC will monitor progress and make timely recommendations to the CORE MPO Board to ensure full and timely use of the CRRSAA funds. If the applicant fails to make adequate progress towards funding authorization in the appropriate fiscal year, the funds will be rescinded and allocated to other priority projects in the waiting list.

The minimum requesting amount is \$200,000 for projects and \$100,000 for planning studies.

For projects, the TCC committee will rank the applications based on the following screening criteria.

- » System Performance
- » Safety & Security
- » Accessibility, Mobility, & Connectivity
- » Environmental & Quality of Life
- » State of Good Repair
- » Intergovernmental Coordination

The planning studies will be scored separately from the projects. For planning studies, the following ranking system will be used.

- » MPO Plan Consistency
- » Benefit Cost Ratio
- » System Enhancement and Resiliency
- » Multi-Modal Improvements
- » Environmental, cultural, and social benefits
- » Local Priority and Consistency.

The total points of both systems are the same (a total of 85) for easy comparison and final selection of projects/studies.

Chairman Ellis asked about the truck traffic and freight connection to strategic infrastructure - does this include GA Ports Authority and is everyone being notified of these funds?

Ms. Wang stated they can apply for the funds as a lot of the (truck route) roadways would benefit from those improvements. If the CORE MPO Board adopts these packages, there will be an announcement tomorrow and everyone will be notified.

Mr. Lee Smith stated this discussion is a good example of why it is so important for all the entities that are a member of the MPO to be here, to get this information and hear these discussions.

Mr. Leon Davenport asked if there was any update to the question of LAP certification being required for PE funds.

Mr. Troy Pittman stated, if the only phase is PE, if you plan to use federal funding (Z230 funds), you must be LAP certified. There are projects where the locals are participating in the project via PE funds who are using their own funds, then you do not need to be certified. If you use federal funding, you are required to be certified.

The MPO staff is asking the Board to approve the Calls for Projects packages including the schedule, manuals, and forms.

Ms. Valarie Ragland motioned to approve the Call for Projects package for Z230 funds as presented; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

Ms. Tanya Milton motioned to approve the Call for Projects package for CRRSAA funds as presented; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### 3. Approval of Proposed Plans and Studies for Discretionary PL Funding

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee awards funding twice each year, in late September and late March. The funds in question are unused MPO planning funds from prior years and can only be used for planning. The projects for which we submit funding applications must support the CORE MPO MTP. The studies must be reflected in the CORE MPO UPWP and reviewed at 2 rounds of CORE MPO meetings prior to application, and include a resolution of support from the CORE MPO Board. The studies must undergo a competitive procurement process if the funding is awarded and administered by the MPO staff.

The 4 studies proposed for funding are listed below.

1. Islands Expressway Corridor Study (Truman Pkwy to US 80), Chatham County - requested funding amount is \$100,000 (\$80,000 federal and \$20,000 local funding to be provide by Chatham County as the project sponsor).
2. Freight Transportation Plan Update, MPC - requested funding amount is \$300,000 (\$240,000 federal and \$60,000 local funding to be provided by the MPC as the project sponsor).
3. Urban Flooding Model (impacts on Transportation and other Infrastructure), MPC – requested funding amount is \$150,000 (\$120,000 federal and \$30,000 local to be provided by the MPC as the project sponsor).
4. US 80 Corridor Study (Western City Limits to Pooler Parkway), City of Pooler – requested funding amount is \$175,000 (\$140,000 federal, and \$25,000 cash and \$10,000 local match to be provided by the City of Pooler as the project sponsor).

All studies have been reviewed by the TCC committee and recommended to the CORE MPO Board for advancement for application to the GA. PL Funds Review Committee in September.

Mr. Ron Feldner asked Mr. Wilkes to go over the process for the record.

- Proposed studies must go through two rounds of MPO meetings for discussion - these took place in June and August.
- Projects must be recommended by the TCC committee to the CORE MPO Board.
- CORE MPO Board approves studies for application to the GA. PL Funds Review Committee.
- Applications are submitted to the PL Funds Review Committee (usually takes place within the first two weeks in September).
- PL Funds Review Committee will meet (last Monday of September), the proposed studies will have been reviewed by GDOT staff and Federal Highway staff. The committee will vote on the prosed studies.
- The committee consists of one voting member from each of the MPOs in Georgia, outside of Atlanta.
- The procurement process begins on the approved projects which takes 4-6 months.

Mr. Lee Smith asked about the Urban Flooding Model Tools for Optimized City Planning of Transportation & Infrastructure - how does this apply to unincorporated Chatham County or is this just municipal?

Ms. Melanie Wilson stated this is for all jurisdictions within the MPO boundary. This includes City and County. The whole Transportation Management Area is included as it is considered an Urbanized area due to population. This tool will help from a planning standpoint to look at the impact of flooding and development within that area.

Mr. Smith said yesterday the County hosted a meeting, partnering with Monroe County, Key West, Key Largo Florida and with several other agencies. Chatham County has a lot of the pieces needed for resiliency planning, climate change, and gap analysis. The discussion was how to merge these things to develop a plan.

Mr. Ron Feldner stated during the One Chatham talk with Chairman Ellis back in July, drainage was discussed in how to address drainage on a county-wide basis. In this case, this study is a start in the right direction towards addressing this.

Chairman Ellis stated he wants to make sure the MPO, by virtue of the County, MPC and all municipalities, Ga Ports, Transportation, and CAT are all included.

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to approve the applications listed at the August 25, 2021 CORE MPO Board meeting for Discretionary PL Funding; seconded by Mr. Ron Feldner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

#### [4. Amendments to FY 2022 UPWP](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated these amendments are to bring the current work year program into consistency with the planning studies that were just approved. Three minor amendments to the FY 2022 UPWP are proposed to ensure consistency with planned funding requests to the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee.

1. US 80 Corridor Study (Pooler) as an unfunded illustrative study. (\$175,000)
2. Update and rename the former Sea Level Rise Study to clarify the purpose and intent of the study. The new name is Urban Flooding Model (Impact on Transportation and other Infrastructure). (\$150,000)
3. Revise task budget for the Freight Plan Update – increase funds from \$250,000 to \$300,000 recognizing more data to be purchased and expanded scope of service.

Mayor Van Johnson motioned to approve the amendments to the FY 2022 UPWP; seconded by Mr. Ron Feldner. The motioned passed with non-opposed.

#### [5. August Amendments to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the Transportation Improvement Program is the MPO's short-range programming document and is a staged, multi-year listing of surface transportation projects proposed for federal, state, and local funding within the metropolitan area. The TIP may be modified in accordance with the procedures outlined in the adopted Participation Plan by resolution of the CORE MPO Board if priorities, area goals, project schedules or funding levels change. The FTA released the actual apportionment amounts for Section 5307 formula program funds. Due to the update, CAT had to make some adjustments to their projects. The adjustments include the addition and removal of some projects and updating the funding to reflect what FTA released.

Ms. Pamela Bernard motioned to approve the August Amendments to the FY 2021- 2024 TIP; seconded by Ms. Tanya Milton. The motioned passed with non-opposed.

Chairman Ellis opened the meeting to a public hearing.

No public comments.

Chairman Ellis closed the public hearing.

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

Mr. Lee Smith stated over the last several years the committees have struggled to get quorum for the meetings. The MPO needs to look at representation of these committees. If they cannot attend, those individuals need to be replaced. It is important to have participation.

Ms. Pamela Bernard stated there was not a quorum for the last EDFAC committee meeting. Somehow tie it to money. That is what the municipalities are there for.

Ms. Melanie Wilson suggested a look at the Bylaws and maybe reducing the size necessary to obtain a quorum.

Chairman Ellis stated all municipalities need to have a representative that is present at these meetings. Financial decisions are being made and there can be negative impacts due to non-involvement.

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

No reports.

## VI. Information Reports (verbal)

### [6. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Katie Proctor gave the GDOT project Status Report.

#### Preconstruction projects

- Savannah River and Middle River Bridge Replacements are both scheduled to LET in September.
- SR 204 from SR 21/RIO Road - anticipated PFPR in September.
- I-16 @ CS 647 Safety Improvements - requested PFPR in February 2022.
- SR 404 @ Back River Bridge Replacement and SR 404 SPUR major road widening - concept meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Bull River and Lazaretto Creek Bridge replacements - PFPR in September.
- SR 26 from I-516 to Victory Dr.- FFPR scheduled in August.
- US 80 Brampton from SR 21 – anticipated LET in August.

#### Active Construction projects

- Jimmy Deloach Pkwy – 78% complete, expected to complete in Fall 2021.
- Islands Expressway – 53% complete, expected to complete in Fall 2021.
- SR 17 from South of SR 21 – expected to complete in Spring 2022.
- I-516 SR 421 – expected to complete in Fall 2021.
- SR 25 US 17 – 87 % complete, anticipated to complete in Summer of 2021.
- SR 144 @ I-95 is 66% complete - expected to complete in Fall 2021.
- SR 144 Widening is 90% complete - anticipated to complete in Summer of 2021.
- SR 307 SPUR and SR 21 both LET in July.
- I-16 from I-95 to I-516 and I-16 @ 307 DDI both completed preconstruction tasks and moved to full active status.

### [7. Chatham County Project Status Update](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard gave the Chatham County Project Status Update.

#### Projects under construction

- Quacco at US 17 Intersection – construction is complete.

#### Preconstruction Projects

- I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Pkwy Interchange, Chevis Road and Garrard Avenue Improvements all recently received federal funding to start PE.
- Quacco Road Widening – wrapping up ROW acquisition now, construction beginning at the end of the year.
- Little Neck Road reconstruction – ROW acquisition to begin soon.
- Skidaway Road – Public Information Open House scheduled on Thursday evening at the Chatham County Public Works Building.
- Islands Expressway - waiting on environmental permit.
- Walthour Road Slope Stabilization – waiting on ROW acquisition and permitting.

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

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

- Delesseps Ave. widening – construction contract approved and waiting signatures. Once a construction agreement with GDOT is received, the preconstruction meeting will be scheduled.
- Traffic Control Center – the City has requested the funding for FY 2021 be moved to FY 2022.
- Project DeRenne – ROW plan preparation is ongoing. Submitted preliminary responses to FHWA comments for the final environmental impact statement. ROD for review and comment.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2A – final submittals for PCE review/approval have been completed. Anticipate GDOT PCE approval within the next two weeks. Anticipated NTP for ROW phase by the end of August.

Ms. Tanya Milton asked about the ROW phase for New Hampstead.

Mr. Stanton stated they are preparing the plans. The ROW is tied to the environmental document which they expect approval in May of 2022. Once that is done, the ROW acquisition process will begin.

#### 9. CAT Project Status Report

Mr. Michael Connolly presented the CAT Project Status Report.

- 5 of the 6 Electric Buses have arrived.
- 34 Paratransit vehicles - delayed based on chip shortage.
- Support Vehicles purchase – delayed based on chip shortage.
- Intelligent Transit System – on schedule for delivery.
- Facilities Rehab/Interior – looking to award contract in Fall 2021.
- Bus wash upgrade – RFP closed, waiting to award the contract.
- Ferry Boat Rehabilitation – in progress and on schedule.
- Bust Stations/stops/terminals – in progress and on schedule.

#### 10. LATS Project Status Update

Ms. Stephanie Rossi stated US 17 Widening is underway. Most of the work has been putting in the realignment with the Jersey barriers and clearing. The roadway embankment is widened. There may be periods where it looks like nothing is being done. The area that was widened will need to settle. This will have a settlement period of 12-18 months. This is one of two settlement periods. The project is on schedule.

Other reports

- Bloomingdale – no comment
- Effingham County, Eric Larson – no updates
- Garden City, Ron Feldner – no updates
- Georgia Ports Authority – no comment
- Hinesville Area MPO – no comment
- Pooler, Tom Hutcherson – no updates
- Port Wentworth – no comment
- Richmond Hill – no comment
- Savannah Airport Commission, Mark Denmark – no updates
- Thunderbolt, Robert Milie – no updates
- Tybee Island – no comment
- Vernonburg - no comment

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

NO public comments

### **VIII. Notices**

[11. Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.](#)

[12. Coastal Georgia Transit Needs Survey](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the Coastal Regional Commission is performing a survey in partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation. The survey is collecting feedback regarding public transit service in the Coastal Georgia region. The survey covers a range of topics associated with transit; satisfaction with service, where service gaps exist, what presents obstacles to transit ridership, and several other issues. If you are a transit rider, have an interest in public transit, or just have opinions on public transit, the staff would encourage you to take the survey at <https://arcg.is/1ymqXu>.

[13. The MPC is Accepting Feedback on Plan 2040 until September 10, 2021](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the Plan 2040 is still open for comments until September 10, 2021. The link is found on the MPC website.



#### [14. August 2021 TIP Administrative Modifications](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated administrative modifications are minor changes to the TIP. They do not require public review or comment. Recently GDOT made a request for a modification for the Bridge Replacement project on SR 25 at Savannah River in Port Wentworth. The request was to remove the ROW phase from FY 2021 to FY 2022 with a minor cost increase.

#### [15. SR 21 Access Management Study Status Report](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated since issuing the Notice to Proceed on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the following progress has been made.

- Kickoff meeting of the Project Management Team was held on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- The first Project Advisory Group meeting was held on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- A project webpage has been developed.
- An online survey for Phase One visioning has been published.
- A WikiMap has been published to encourage direct input on issues and opportunities in the corridor.
- The first public meeting was held virtually on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- A day long road safety audit was held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- The draft existing conditions and needs assessment has been reviewed and comments have been sent back to the consultant.
- A needs assessment matrix has been initiated to identify potential improvements.
- Planning for Phase Two public involvement is underway.
- The next public meeting will be in late September.
- The next project advisory group meeting will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.
- The study is approximately 50% complete.

#### [16. SR 307 Corridor Study Status Report](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated since issuing the Notice to Proceed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, the following progress has been made.

- Kickoff meeting of the Project Management Team was held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- The draft Project Management Work Plan was submitted on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.
- Bi-weekly project management meetings were initiated on July 14, 2021.
- The traffic count map is complete.
- Traffic counts are complete and have been incorporated into the existing conditions model.
- Existing conditions model is being updated based on recent COVID adjustment factors from GDOT.
- Existing conditions report, public participation plan and online surveys are currently in development.
- Project Website has been launched (with a feedback link).
- The study is approximately 20% complete.

#### [17. FY 2023 UPWP Development Schedule](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated GDOT proposed in early February a UPWP development schedule. To meet the GDOT proposed schedule, CORE MPO staff will issue a Call for Plans and Studies in September, with development of a draft work plan, task budgets and supporting documents occurring in October and early November.

The Draft FY 2023 UPWP will be reviewed by the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees at their December meetings, followed by a 30-day review and comment period by GDOT and FHWA. The final FY 2023 UPWP will be distributed to the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees for review and approval at the February 2022 meetings.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the August 25, 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.**