



CORE MPO Board

December 15, 2021 at 10:00am
Minutes

DECEMBER 15, 2021 CORE MPO Board Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Pamela Oglesby	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	X
Mark Ott	City of Richmond Hill	
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission	
Nick Palumbo	City of Savannah	X
Joseph Welch	Metropolitan Planning Commission	X
Scott Robider	City of Garden City	
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Deidrick Cody	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	X
Beth E. Goette	Town of Thunderbolt	
James Hungerpillar	Town of Vernonberg	
Valarie Ragland	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Tom Hutcherson	City of Pooler	X
Mayor Van Johnson	City of Savannah	
Radney Simpson	Georgia Department of Transportation	
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	
Pamela Bernard	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	X
Tanya Milton	Chatham County	X
Voting Alternates	Representing	
Eric Larson	Effingham County	X
Robert Milie	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Ned Green	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Others	Representing	
Jamie McCurry	Georgia Port Authority	X
James Aiello	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT	X
Michael Connolly	Chatham Area Transit	X
Aviance Webb	FTA	X
Tom Caifa	GDOT	X
Stephanie Cutter	Chatham Area Transit	X
Chris Marsengill	Kimley-Horn	X
Shalonda Roundtree	Chatham Area Transit	X
Barry Stanton	City of Savannah	X

Nick Deffley	City of Savannah	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Nick Fazio	MPC/Advanced Planning	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Melanie Wilson	MPC	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Julie Yawn	IT/MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Valarie Ragland. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

ACAT

Ms. Pamela Oglesby spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, December 13, 2021. The committee voted to endorse all the staff recommendations for action items. During the 2021 – 2024 TIP amendments, there was a concern regarding one of the items - improvements to CAT bus stops. The CAT bus stop at Oglethorpe Avenue and Bull Street is considered historic. CAT says it cannot upgrade the bus stop because it is historic, and it sits on the City's right of way. Someone from the City, please work with CAT on cleaning up this bus stop. There are concerns with the sidewalk not being level with the ground. A wheelchair bound person or visually impaired person could get hurt at that bus stop. A member of the public expressed concerns about the issues with Paratransit driver shortages, buses breaking down, and the fact that Paratransit riders are getting to appointments late, or not getting to appointments at all.

CAC

Ms. Alicia Hunter spoke on behalf of the CAC. The committee met on Thursday, December 9, 2021. The committee endorsed all staff recommendations for action items.

TCC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of the TCC. The committee met on Thursday, December 9, 2021. The committee endorsed all action items. Ms. Bernard was re-elected as Chairperson and Mark Wilkes was elected as Vice-Chair.

III. Action Items

1. [Approval of the October 27, 2021 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes](#)

Dr Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the October 27, 2021 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Tanya Milton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

2. [FY 2022 UPWP Amendment](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the proposed amendment to the FY 2022 UPWP is to place the US 80 Corridor Study to the funded section. The study was previously endorsed by the committees and approved by the CORE MPO Board for CRRSAA funds. The US 80 Corridor Study was expanded to a more regional study rather than just the City of Pooler. The study limits expand from the Effingham County line to I-516 and SR 21. The budget increased to \$285,000. This amendment is to move this study from the un-funded illustrative section of Special Studies to the funded section.

Staff is recommending endorsement of the FY 2022 UPWP Amendment.

Ms. Valarie Ragland motioned to approve the FY 2022 UPWP Amendment; seconded by Mr. Tom Hutcherson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

3. Draft FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the document is a continuation of the ongoing planning work program. The draft FY 2023 UPWP is the proposed MPO staff work program and budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1st, 2022.

The proposed overall budget is based on the Section 5303 funding that will be applied for and the PL funding estimates provided by GDOT. Previous project management tasks have been charged to Administration. The studies that will be done in the coming year will be moved out of Administration and into Systems Planning and Operations. The CRRSAA funds are shown in the funding table. Those funds will be obligated this year.

The total formula planning funds for FY 2023 are estimated to be \$628,418.00. The formula Section 5303 grant funds total \$178,240.00 with match.

There was a request from CAT during one of the recent Calls for Plans and Studies. Four requested studies have been added. They are in the illustrative section of the work program.

In addition, each year, there is a limited additional amount of FTA Section 5303 funds that are available on a request basis. They must be requested early in the process during the grant application and requires a 20% local match. FY 2020 Section 5303 discretionary funds were awarded toward transit planning software tool and data.

There are PL discretionary funds available through an application process.

- FY 2018 PL discretionary funds were awarded to Savannah MPO Interchange Traffic Study at I-16/Little Neck Rd and the Interchange at I-95 Airways Avenue Study.
- FY 2020 PL discretionary funds were awarded to the SR 21 Access Management Study – Garden City and the SR 307 Corridor Study – Chatham County.
- FY 2022 PL discretionary funds were awarded to the MPO Regional Freight Plan Update and the Urban Flooding Model/Planning Tools.

The FY 2023 UPWP Development Process

- Call for Plans and Studies – September 2021
- FY 2023 Transit Planning Tasks – October – November 2021
- FTA Section 5303 Grant Application – December 2021
- MPO Staff develops draft UPWP – October – December 2021
- Draft UPWP submitted to FHWA and GDOT for review and comments - December 15, 2021
- Revisions per FHWA and GDOT comments – January – February 2022
- Final FY 2023 UPWP reviewed and approved by CORE MPO – February 2022
- Final FY 2023 UPWP transmitted to FHWA and GDOT – late February 2022
- FHWA Approval – anticipated prior to June 30, 2022
- Execute FY 2023 funding contracts (both PL and Section 5303)

The focus areas for the coming year are the 2050 MTP Update, Congestion Management Process Update, MPO Regional Freight Plan Update, Urban/Regional Flooding Model, and the 2020 Census Urban Area Delineation/MPO re-apportionment (beginning in Summer 2022).

The main tasks have been divided into the following categories:

- Administration
- Public Involvement
- Data Collection, Analysis, Forecasting
- Transit Planning
- Special Studies (Funded and Unfunded)

Staff is asking for endorsement of the Draft FY 2023 UPWP.

Mr. Shawn Gillen motioned to endorse the draft FY 2023 UPWP; seconded by Ms. Tanya Milton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

Mr. Tom Caifa said they will look at it in a timely manner. The numbers that are currently in the FY 2023 UPWP are not the final numbers. GDOT has not received those from FHWA at this time.

4. December Amendments to FY 2021 - 2024 TIP

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the TIP is the short-range programming document that lists all the surface transportation projects that use federal, state, and local funding. As projects change, the TIP is modified to reflect those changes.

From August through September, the MPO conducted a Call for Projects for Z230 and CRRSAA funds. Several projects were awarded funding. The proposed TIP amendments include programming those projects with funding award. These include four highway projects and two transit projects - Chevis Road Improvement, Garrard Avenue Improvement, Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B, US 80 Corridor Study, CAT fixed route diesel buses, and CAT Bus Stop Improvement Program. In addition, in October and November, the MPO received several requests from GDOT and Chatham County proposing updates. The summary for the December TIP amendments is listed below.

- I-95 @ SR 21 Augusta Road Interchange – GDOT started the project development process and requested to add a scoping phase for FY 2022.
- SR 26 from I-516 to CS 180 Victory Drive – GDOT requested to move the construction and utilities phases from FY 2022 to FY 2023 with both phases receiving slight increases in cost estimates.
- I-16 from I-95 to I-516 – GDOT provided updates to the funding source and cost estimates to the construction phase in FY 2022.
- I-516 @ CS 1503/DeRenne Avenue – GDOT provided an update on funding source and cost estimate for the right-of-way phase in FY 2022.
- Chevis Road Improvement Project – Chatham County requested the construction phase be moved from FY 2023 to long-range (FY 2025) and the right-of-way phase be moved from FY 2022 to FY 2023. This project was awarded Z230 funds for the right-of-way phase and CRRSAA funds for the preliminary engineering (PE) phase.
- Garrard Avenue Improvement Project – the project was awarded Z230 funds for the right-of-way phase in FY 2023 and for the construction phase in FY 2024.
- I-16 @ SR 17 – Chatham County requested the ROW phase be moved from FY 2023 to FY 2024 (this request is subject to GDOT concurrence).
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B – the project was awarded CRRSAA funds for the construction phase in FY 2022.
- US 80 Corridor Study – the study was awarded CRRSAA funds for PE phase in FY 2022.
- Transit Updates - CAT was awarded Z230 funds for the construction phase of two projects in FY 2023 - Purchase of 2 fixed route diesel buses and bus stop improvement project.

Staff is recommending the CORE MPO Board approval of the December Amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP.

Ms. Bernard asked for help with letters of concurrence from GDOT for the TIP amendments for Chevis Road and Garrard Avenue improvements. Mr. Caifa said the letter has been drafted and headed that way.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Pamela Bernard motioned to open the public hearing; seconded by Ms. Tanya Milton.

There were no comments.

Ms. Valarie Ragland motioned to close the public hearing; seconded by Mr. Shawn Gillen.

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

5. 2022 Safety Performance Management Targets

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the Safety Performance Management is defined by FHWA as a strategic approach that uses system information to make investment and policy decisions to achieve performance goals. FHWA requires DOTs to set safety performance targets annually to measure and approve the transportation system performance. In coordination with DOTs and transit operators, MPOs will track performance measures and set targets for those measures. Projects are then prioritized based on those performances set by the targets. MPOs will update their TIPs and MTPs to reflect the performance-based planning process and develop a system performance report to document progress. PBPP enables DOTs, MPOs and transit operators to efficiently allocate resources and maximize return on investment. This helps achieve a desired performance outcome for the transportation system and increase accountability and transparency for the public.

Safety performance measures are quantifiable indicators used to gauge performance or conditions set by FHWA. Safety performance targets are set by DOTs and MPOs which are targets that are quantifiable levels of performance or conditions to be achieved. There are five safety performance measures:

- 1) Number of Fatalities
- 2) Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- 3) Number of Serious Injuries
- 4) Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 VMT
- 5) Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-Motorized Serious Injuries

MPOs may either adopt the states' targets, set their own, or a combination of both. MPOs must establish targets by February 27th of the calendar year for which they apply. FHWA reviews MPO progress towards meeting targets during certification review. In coordination with GDOT, the CORE MPO staff agrees to support the state adopted targets.

Staff is asking the CORE MPO Board to approve to support the GDOT 2022 Safety Performance Management Targets.

Ms. Tanya Milton motioned to approve to support the GDOT 2022 Safety Performance Management Targets; seconded by Mr. Shawn Gillen. The motion passed with non-opposed.

IV. Other Business

No other business

V. Status Reports

[6. SR 307 Corridor Study](#)

Mr. Chris Marsengill, Project Manager from Kimley-Horn, stated the three primary study goals are to identify and prioritize SR 307 improvements, plan projects through the CORE MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Planning process, and fund projects in the CORE MPO's Transportation Improvement Program and total Mobility 2045 Plan.

Some key MTP objectives are to improve the safety, security, accessibility, mobility, and sustainability of transportation options available to people and freight. We want to lower the frequency and severity of crashes for cars, trucks, pedestrians, and bicyclists. We want to improve emergency response time and evacuation routes and reduce congestion by improving access to businesses and maximizing freight truck travel time reliability.

The project begins at US 17/Ogeechee Road and extends 8 ½ miles through the intersection at SR 25/Ocean Highway, directly across from GA Port, Gate 4. Along the corridor, we studied 27 individual intersections. The corridor was divided into 6 distinctive segments.

From a traffic perspective, the traffic South of I-16 is in the mid-range. The traffic is much higher in the area between I-16 and US 80. The overall traffic volume starts to reduce as we get closer to the Port of Savannah. There is a lower truck percentage South of I-16, but as you move North that percentage of vehicles in the traffic flow begins to be weighted heavily on weighted trucks. In the segment between SR 21 and the GA Ports Authority, over 50% of the vehicles in the traffic flow are heavy trucks.

Like the SR 21 corridor, the SR 307 corridor exhibits a very high crash rate. It is 125% higher than the statewide average for a similar type of facility.

Crashes from 2015 to 2019

- 1,500 total
- 9 fatal
- 330 non-fatal injuries
- Rate is 125% higher than statewide average.
- Cost of \$28.8 million per year
- Clear need for safety investments

Pedestrians and Bicyclists

- Existing bike shoulder from Ogeechee Road to Landfill Road
- Existing pedestrian facilities between Landfill Road and Southbridge Boulevard

- All existing signalized intersections include pedestrian accommodations.
- The CORE MPO Non-Motorized Transportation Plan recommends a shared use path/trail.

Transit

- No existing CAT bus stops along SR 307 corridor
- CAT Route 3 uses a small segment to provide two stops within airport.
- Corridor is outside of Transit District.
- Hidden demand related to warehouse developments

Freight

- Major freight corridors – I-16, SR 307/Dean Forest Rd, SR 26/US 80/ Louisville Rd, and Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy
- Rail corridors – 5 rail crossings, and 55 train crossings daily

Summary - improvements should reduce the mixing of cars, trains, and freight trucks. Intersections should be improved for freight truck movement. Access management strategies should be explored to reduce crash frequency, specifically access management that eliminates or reduces the number of conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians and between vehicles and vehicles. Transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities should be addressed. Some short-term projects would include major intersection improvements, access control plan to improve safety for proposed developments, and affordable transportation options. Long-term projects are grade separations/interchanges, access control project(s), pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and affordable transportation options.

Short-term projects

- Jamaica Road Signalization
- Morgan Industrial Blvd signalization
- Expand freight connected vehicle network
- Plan for raised median throughout corridor
- Implement innovative intersections

We are planning an Access Control Improvement Project in the long term. In the short term we need to begin planning future access, new access points that are submitted for developments, such that they recognize in the future, there will be access along the corridor. We need to plan for a raised median along the corridor. As a result of that, we will need a plan to implement innovative intersections and intersection control treatments.

Long-term projects

Grade separations/ interchanges

- SR 26/US 80/Louisville Rd over SR 307
- SR 307 over Norfolk Southern
- SR 307 over CSXT and SR 21/Augusta Rd

Access control projects

- Raised median and bike/ped improvement
- Implement innovative intersections
- Phase 1: I-16 to SR 26/ US 80/ Louisville Road
- Phase 2: SR 26/US 80/ Louisville Road to Robert B Miller

Pedestrian and Bicycle facilities

- Sidewalk and shared use path from SR 25/ Ogeechee Rd to Land Fill Rd
- Shared use path from Landfill Rd to I-16
- Sidewalks from SR 21/August Rd ramps to SR 25/ Ocean Highway

Next Steps

- Alternatives and Cost Estimates
- Public information Open House
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting No. 2

- MPO Presentation – Draft Report
- Updates/Revision
- Final Report

Ms. Tanya Milton asked if the recommendations were based on the survey that was launched?

Mr. Marsengill said the recommendations were based on several things. Existing Traffic Count Data along the corridor was collected by GDOT. To prepare forecasts, our survey of the area helps to identify where business development would occur along the corridor. Every potential for development along the corridor was looked at. The public outreach to date has generated some input and comments. The initial meeting with the community was to identify existing conditions along the corridor. It was very positive, and the community agreed with the findings.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

Savannah Airport Commission

Mr. Jim Aiello stated there are three current projects going on.

- Rental Car Facility – 1/3 of the way complete for security and customer service upgrade
- Drainage Improvement project – it is being completed in the SE quadrant. Additional storm water capacities for buildout.
- Cargo Apron Expansion – constructing 5 parking spots for aircraft (Cargo Airplane 757 or 8300)

7. [GDOT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Katie Proctor gave GDOT Project Status Report.

Preconstruction Status

- Bridge Replacements on SR 25 @ Savannah River and Middle River in Port Wentworth – NTP for preliminary design.
- SR 204 from SR 21 to RIO RD – anticipating NTP for environmental and survey in Mid-June, PFPR in September 2022.
- I-16 @ Chatham Parkway – FFPR anticipated to be requested in February 2022.
- SR 404 US 17 @ Back River and Savannah Harbor Bridge replacement and widening are still in concept.
- SR 26/US 80 @ Bull River Bridge replacement – approved Schedule/ PFPR as of December 6.
- SR 26/ US 80 @ Lazaretto Creek bridge replacement – approved schedule, PFPR held in October, environmental field work is ongoing, ROW plans are expected in early 2022.
- SR 26 from I-516/Victory Drive widening – ROW ongoing, waiting on NTP for design contract.
- US 80/Brampton – scheduled to LET in January 2022.

Active Construction Projects

All continue to progress and there are no new projects added.

- I-16 from I-95 to I-516 the construction is 26% complete
- I-16 @ 307 DDI is 5% complete

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

Ms. Pamela Bernard gave Chatham County Project Status Update.

Federally Funded Projects

Chevis Road and Garrard Avenue Improvements – QBF process complete, design contracts in place, Notice to Proceed pending the execution of the Project Framework Agreement with GDOT.

Local Preconstruction projects

- Little Neck Road Reconstruction – ROW acquisition has begun.
- Island Expressway at Oatland Island Rd – construction is anticipated to begin early 2022.

Local construction projects

- Robert McCorkle Trail upgrades – Notice to Proceed expected in beginning of 2022.

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

Mr. Barry Stanton presented the City of Savannah project status report.

- DeLesseps Avenue widening project – The City has construction agreement in hand.
- Traffic Control Center – procurement process will start first quarter of 2022.
- City of Savannah DeRenne Avenue Improvements – ROW preparation ongoing, Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision responses to comments were sent to FHWA and GDOT for review.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B – GDOT PCE approval was granted.

[10. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Shalonda Roundtree gave the CAT Project Status Report.

- Electric Bus purchase still in progress (asking board for approval of electric bus roll out plan); will delay purchase of the charging station and last electric bus.
- Diesel buses- In the process of ordering three
- Bus Facilities – in discussion with how to move forward with the updates to the facilities and intermodal transit center.
- CAT Central Rehab –currently under legal review
- ITS System- target date is early 2022.
- Bus Paratransit facilities – still a shortage with the manufacture
- Ferry Boat – grants have been executed.

[11. LATS Project Status Update](#)

Report Attached

[12. TIP Project Tracking in December 2021](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang gave an update on the TIP Project Tracking in December 2021. The report is attached.

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No Public Comments.

VIII. Notices

[13. November Administrative Modifications to FY 2021 - 2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated GDOT requested two administrative modifications in October, both Bridge replacement projects - SR 25 @ Savannah River and SR 25 @ Middle River in Port Wentworth. One of the projects received a cost increase for the construction phase in FY 2022. The other received a cost decrease for the construction phase in FY 2022.

[14. Next CORE MPO Board Meeting, February 23, 2022 at 10:00 am](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the December 15, 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.