



CORE MPO Board

Virtual Meeting
February 24, 2021 at 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 24, 2021 CORE MPO BOARD Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Teresa Brenner	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	X
Scott Allison	City of Richmond Hill	X
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission	
Nick Palumbo	City of Savannah	X
Joseph Welch	Metropolitan Planning Commission	X
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
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	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	
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	
Voting Alternates	Representing	
Tom Caiafa	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Eric Larson	Effingham County/ Assistant County Manager	X
Others	Representing	
Jessica Smith	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Rebecca Benton	Pooler	X
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Ned Green	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Aviance Webb	FTA	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT	X
Ansley Grantham	GDOT	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	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
Jackie Jackson	MPC	X
Temperance West	MPC	X
Jeff Ricketson	LCPC	X
Kerri Beibers	Public	X
Carmen Bergman	Public	X
Kenneth Adams	Chatham County	X

I. Approval of Agenda

There have been two changes to the agenda since it was initially published.

1. Staff has asked that the Fiscal Year 2022 Unified Planning Work Program be continued until April to allow time to respond to review comments from FHWA and GDOT.
2. A discussion of proposed revisions to the CORE MPO Bylaws has been added to Other Business.

Ms. Pamela Bernard motioned to approve the revised February 24, 2021 CORE MPO meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. Tom Caiafa. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Melanie Wilson stated the CORE MPO BYLAWS are being updated to make sure we provide additional information regarding voting when Jurisdictions have hired the same person to represent them at the TCC as well as other CORE MPO committee meetings. We would like to make sure we are current with regards to the Open Meetings Act. The proposed updates to the Bylaws will be emailed to the board members for review and comment.

ACAT

Ms. Teresa Brenner spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, February 22, 2021. The committee voted to endorse the staff recommendations for the Title VI and Participation Plan update, the FY 2021 TIP revisions, and the 2045 MTP update.

CAC

Mr. Mark Wilkes spoke on behalf of CAC. The committee met on Thursday, February 18, 2021. The committee elected new officers. The committee endorsed the staff recommendations.

TCC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of TCC. The committee met on Thursday, February 18, 2021. The committee endorsed the staff recommendations.

III. Action Items

[1. Approval of the December 9, 2020 CORE MPO BOARD meeting minutes.](#)

- ☉ [COREdecember-9-2020-core-mpo-board-Final.pdf](#)

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to approve the December 9, 2020 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Tom Hutcherson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. Title VI and Participation Plan Update Adoption](#)

[PP Adoption PDF.pdf](#)

[Title VI Plan V10.pdf](#)

[Participation Plan Vinfinity 1.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Title VI Plan and Participation Plan Update. The updated plans have been endorsed by TCC, CAC, and ACAT. We are asking the CORE MPO Board to adopt the plan updates.

The updates are:

- Added new outreach methods that can be conducted at a distance.
- Added new methods to inform the public, such as using infographics and videos to help people understand the CORE MPO.
- Created more accessible outreach methods for people with disabilities.
- Created a survey to understand the demographic makeup of the CORE MPO.
- Completed a 45-day public review and comment period which included a survey to increase the number of ways the residents can give their input.

This has been advertised as a public hearing. Mr. Nick Palumbo motioned to open the public hearing; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion passed with non-opposed.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Nick Palumbo motioned to close the public hearing; seconded by Mr. Tom Hutcherson. The motioned passed with non-opposed.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the Title VI Plan and Participation Plan Update; seconded by Mr. Tom Hutcherson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[3. 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments](#)

[2045 MTP Amendments Staff Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the MTP Vision Plan Amendments. The City of Pooler requested that two projects be included into the 2045 MTP Vision Plan. The Vision Plan is not fiscally constrained. Until the projects are moved into the fiscally constraint 2045 Plan, they are not allowed any federal funding. The plan for the City of Pooler is to include these two projects into the Vision Plan first. When the MPO identifies additional funds, those two projects can be moved into the fiscally constraint 2045 Plan.

- Pine Barren Road Improvements
- South Roger Street Improvements

The City of Pooler has these projects included in the Capital Improvement Program. They want to include them as part of the TSPLOST that is expected to be voted on this fall. All other jurisdictions are compiling a list of projects for the TSPLOST submittal as well.

The staff's recommendation is NO Action at this meeting regarding these two projects. We are asking the MPO Board to authorize the MPO staff to reach out to all municipalities and jurisdictions to get a complete project list and present that list at the April Meeting.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to authorize the staff to move forward in contacting all municipalities / jurisdictions to compile a list for projects to be presented at the next meeting; seconded by Mr. Ron Feldner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[Revisions to FY 2018 - 2021 TIP](#)

[FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendments Staff Report February 2021 Updated.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the Revisions to the FY 2018-2021 TIP. The MPO is the Metropolitan Planning Organization. It is required for any area with a population of more than 50,000 people. The MPO is required to develop the MTP and the TIP. The TIP is the MPO's short range programming document which includes the highest priority projects that are moving from the long-range transportation plan to the short-range programming document. The FY 2021-2024 TIP was adopted in December 2020. The Governor has not signed off on the STIP

at this time. Thus, the current FY 2018-2021 TIP is still the guiding programming document for FY 2021. The updated project information was outlined in the new TIP at the December 2020 meeting. We are asking for the MPO Board adoption for the updates to the FY 2018 – 2021 TIP for fiscal year 2021, trying to match the adopted FY 2021 – 2024 TIP.

In addition, in January, the MPO received new information that we need to accommodate. We are asking the MPO Board to adopt the new changes regarding lapsing TAP funds and FHWA ferry boat program funds.

- In January we received information on new lapsing TAP funds. There is approximately \$882,000 from the TAP program that are lapsing on September 30, 2021. This past TCC meeting we discussed on how to allocate these funds.
 - Some of the funds can be used on the Delesseps Avenue project. The Construction funds for this project have already been authorized. The City was out for bidding on this project and they only received one bid, which came in \$2 million higher over cost estimate. \$723,716 of these lapsing TAP funds will be allocated to this project.
 - Another candidate is the Chevis Road Improvement Project. Chatham County is starting the Preliminary Engineering phase. When the Call for Projects were done, Chatham County applied for funds for the construction phase but did not apply for Z301 funds for the PE phase. \$157,951 of the lapsing TAP funds and the balance of the FY 2021 TA revenue (\$162,049) will be allocated to this project.
- The second change is from GDOT Intermodal and CAT. There are some Federal Highway Administration ferry boat program funds from previous years that are lapsing. GDOT Intermodal wants to transfer the funds to FTA all at once. CAT wants to roll all those lapsing funds into FY 2021, which is approximately \$562,000.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to open the hearing for a public meeting; seconded by Mr. Nick Palumbo. The motion passed with non-opposed.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to close the public hearing; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the TIP revisions; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion passed with non-opposed.

IV. Other Business

[5. BYLAWS](#)

- [CORE MPO By-laws proposed amendments .docx](#)

Ms. Melanie Wilson stated there will be an email sent out to each of the members for review of the proposed amendments. Staff will incorporate the comments the MPO Board members have. The MPO Board will then vote at the next meeting in April.

V. Status Reports

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

- [2020-February MPO Cert Presentation.pdf](#)

Ms. Ann-Marie Day presented the FY 2021 Federal Certification Review. She stated it is federally required every 4 years that MPOs with a population of 200,000 or more are certified by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The CORE MPO certification consisted of a desk review and a site visit which included staff interview, a listening session with board members and a public meeting. The CORE MPO site visit occurred on January 19th and 20th which resulted in findings with commendations and recommendations.

There were 14 commendations, 22 recommendations and no corrective actions. By not having any corrective actions, the Federal Highway Administration is able to certify this MPO until March 2025.

Some highlights of the commendations were on the MPO's UPWP and how it co-relates with the planning factors, the required planning factors.

There were commendations on the MTP where the MPO staff is recognized for completing this product in house. This is the first performance-based plan, and it was completed in house, on time by utilizing a MTP working group that provided tremendous input along the way that resulted in shorter review time. The MPO staff utilized great visualization technique.

The TIP document - any amendment had a summary, providing an overview on the document as well as the resolution for the chairperson to sign off.

Public involvement - soliciting public input on the Unified Planning Work Program. It's not a federal requirement but the MPO staff does allow for the public to comment. This goes above and beyond what is required.

Recommendations - things the MPO can do going forward to improve the transportation planning process. Since the last certification review in 2017, the MPO staff has come a long way. Federal Highway, Federal Transit and GDOT are happy working with this staff. They are very responsive to whatever the requests or recommendations are. There is always room for improvement.

Recommendations

- Staff Working better with the dynamics of the team. If there is a turnover in staff, make sure there is a process in place to make sure that products are delivered on time with no delay in the process.
- The MPO website is updated as products are adopted and amended. The products are posted on the website to reflect the most current/relevant information.
- UPWP has a method for projection. Consider using a 5-year forecast to map UPWP activities and establish a planned monetary timeline for reasonable available financial resources to address the cycle of required planning products. Avoid only identifying work year to year. Project out, make sure the resources are available both monetary and staff to do the upcoming workload. E.G.: Update to the MTP, the congestion management process, and update to Freight Plan.
- MTP – have some measure of effectiveness. Come up with a system, at the plan level, have logical justification as to why they are moving forward or why they are being eliminated.
- TIP –Current E-TIP on the website has questions regarding the functionality conformed with the full-length document version. When there is an update, amendment or modification, make sure the E-TIP is conforming to the full-length document version. (more informational purpose only)
- Public Involvement – MPO website as a measure of public involvement. Incorporate the website on how users are utilizing the MPO website and track those usages. Opportunities for the public to comment on the website/ public involvement.
- Establish Social Media Website for MPO.
- Civil Rights/TITLE VI – Fall under MPO / MPC to make sure the activities are not falling under ACAT. There is a designated Title VI staff member.
- Transit Recommendations
- Update Congestion Management Process.
- Update the Freight Plan.
- Non-Motorized Transportation – make sure Bike and Pedestrian are included.

The MPO will be certified no later than March 31, 2021 and will remain in place until March 2025.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

[7. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

[📎 D5 Chatham MPO Project Status run on 12-4-20.pdf](#)

[📎 GDOT - CORE MPO Report Feb 2021.pdf](#)

Mr. Troy Pittman gave the GDOT Status Report.

- SR 26/ Ogeechee Rd is at 60% Environmental Activities, 70% Final Plans and still working on ROW acquisition. There is a slight delay in design. They had to make some changes to get off FEMA parcels.
- Effingham Parkway project plans are 95% complete. The ROW has been certified and the project is on schedule for LET in June.
- US 80 @ Bull River and US 80 @ Lazaretto Creek Bridge Replacements - both are at 50% environmental activities and 45% preliminary plans.
- Brampton Rd Connector is at 80% environmental and 80% final plans. They plan to hold FFPR in March with a May 2021 LET date.

- I-16 @ I-95 Interchange Reconstruction and I-16 Widening to I-516 - design build projects and both are at 90% environmental activities and 90% final plans with construction activity going on as well.
- I-16 @ SR 307 Operational Improvements is at 15% environmental activities and 25% final plans.
- SR 25 @ Savannah River and Middle River bridge replacements are at 80% environmental activities and 100% preliminary plans. Starting final plans.
- I-16 @ Chatham Pkwy Operational Improvement is at 18% environmental activities with 20% preliminary plans.
- SR 21 @ SR 30 and SR 21/SR 30 from I-95 to SR 30 - both are Operational Improvement projects. Final plans are complete with an April 2021 LET date.

ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- Jimmy Deloach Pkwy @ US 80 Interchange and Jimmy Deloach Pkwy extension are 70% complete with Fall 2021 completion.
- Islands Expressway @ Wilmington River is 50% complete with Fall 2021 completion.
- SR 144 Widening in Richmond Hill is at 75% complete. Slightly behind but hope to be complete in Summer 2021.
- SR 144 @ I-95 Roundabouts is 35% complete with Spring 2021 completion.
- SR 25 milling and resurfacing from Bryan/Chatham Co line to I-516 is 70% complete with Spring 2021 completion.
- 5.9 Miles of milling and resurfacing on I-516/ beginning at Mildred Street and extending west of RR tracks, construction has not started but plan completion date of Fall 2021.

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

📎 [February 2021 TCC Report - Chatham County.pdf](#)

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

- I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Pkwy Interchange
- Chevis Road Improvements
- Garrard Avenue Improvements
- Quacco Road Widening project
- Little Neck Road Reconstructions
- Skidaway Road Improvements
- Islands Expressway at Oatland Island Rd Operational Improvements
- Walthour Road Slope Stabilization
- Traffic Signal on Johnny Mercer Blvd at Lyman Hall is under design.

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Truman Linear Park Trail, Phase 2-A and the Benton Blvd Extension projects both are complete and open to public.
- Quacco at US 17 Intersection project - construction is underway.

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

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

See attached report.

[10. CAT Project Status Report](#)

📎 [FY21 Status Report 2021_CAT.pdf](#)

Ms. Bren Daiss gave the CAT Project Status Report.

- 6 Electric Buses purchased with the first bus scheduled to arrive on March 15, 2021. The buses will arrive one every other month through November. Charging stations are ready.
- 34 Paratransit vehicles - ETA (estimated arrival) May 2021.
- Support vehicles - ETA April 2021.
- Intelligent Transit System is in the engineering phase; estimated to be operational by November 2021.
- Facilities Rehab/ Interior remodeling– CAT Central and IT - Spring FY 2021.
- Ferry Boat Rehabilitation - IFB re-issued February 2021.

- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility and Ferry Dock - A&E in progress.
- Bus Stations / stops / terminals are in progress. Projected completion date FY 2021.

[11. LATS Project Status Report ☺ US 17 Status Update 2-5-21.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes spoke on behalf of Stephanie Rossi with LATS.

US 17 Widening Project - 4 miles from 2 to 4 lanes divided with grass median. From SC route 315 to GA State line. Traffic Signal in addition to second bridge over the back river. Construction should begin soon. RB Baker was awarded the contract back in September with a bid amount of approximately \$42 million. There will be periods of time where they will be working on fill-in in the marsh and will need to allow for settlement so it will look like nothing is going on. Projection date of completion is around FY 2025 due to the construction technique that is needed.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY – Mr. Eric Larson gave the report.

- Effingham Parkway is moving forward for bidding.
- They are developing a master plan for transportation with the hopes of having it wrapped up by July. They have included several stakeholders that would impact the area. If anyone is interested in being a stakeholder, please contact Mr. Larson.
- The TSPLOST passed last year. We are in the process of advertising for Design Consultants for several of the projects that are on that list.

POOLER – Mr. Tom Hutcherson gave the report. There is a COSCO coming to Pooler. The nearest one is in Jacksonville FL. This will have a significant effect on Pooler Pkwy and Quacco Road.

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION – Mr. Mark Denmark stated no updates at this time. There will be more information at the next meeting.

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

None.

VIII. Announcements

[12. Next CORE MPO Meeting: Wednesday, APRIL 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[13. New Virtual Meeting Dates Announced for Input Comprehensive Plan Updates for Chatham, Garden City, Pooler and Savannah](#)

☺ [VirtualMeetingPoster_February2021.pdf](#)

Ms. Jackie Jackson stated they are in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan for un-incorporated Chatham County, City of Savannah, Garden City and Pooler. Transportation is an important facet of this plan. It is Plan 2040 so they are looking out to the next 20 years. There have been several community meetings and there were 2 sets of virtual meetings this past week. This process has been going on since the Fall of 2020. Comments and feedback are welcomed by the public and the committees / boards. This will go in front of the City Council as well as to the state level.

[14. Demographic Survey](#)

☺ [Survey Monkey Demographics Link PDF.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the survey is still open. The deadline is tomorrow. The MPO staff is asking everyone to take just a minute to complete the survey to help with the Title VI plan process.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the February 24, 2021 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.