



CORE MPO Board

June 23, 2021 at 10:00am

JUNE 23, 2021 CORE MPO BOARD MEETING

Voting Members	Representing	Present
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	
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	
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
Voting Alternates	Representing	
Les Fussell	City of Richmond Hill	X
Heath Lloyd	City of Savannah	X
Teresa Concanon	Effingham County	X
Others	Representing	
Tom Caiafa	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Ned Green	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT – District 5	X
Robert Milie	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT – District 5	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Leon Davenport	Pooler	X
Rebecca Benton	Pooler	X

Jeff Ricketson	Hinesville MPO	X
Christy Lovett	GDOT	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 Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

ACAT

Ms. Asia Hernton spoke on behalf of ACAT. The committee met on Monday, June 21, 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, June 17, 2021. The committee endorsed all staff recommendations for action items.

TCC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of TCC. The committee met on Thursday, June 17, 2021. The committee endorsed all staff recommendations for action items.

EDFAC

Ms. Pamela Bernard spoke on behalf of EDFAC. The committee met on Thursday, June 17, 2021. The committee endorsed all staff recommendations for action items.

III. Action Items

[1. Approval of the April 28, 2021 CORE MPO BOARD meeting minutes.](#)

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the April 28, 2021 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Tanya Milton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. June Amendments to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter presented the June Amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP. The TIP 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 gets modified from time to time to ensure that updates to projects, revenues, cost estimates and schedules are incorporated. In May the MPO received transit project updates from CAT. GDOT provided funding and scheduling updates for highway projects. There are five proposed updates - four are highway projects and one is related to various funding updates to transit projects. Three of the four highway projects relate specifically to Project DeRenne which experienced unanticipated delays in development due to the pandemic. GDOT provided a confirmation letter to move the ROW funds for one of the Project DeRenne projects (PI# 0008358). The City of Savannah requested some schedule changes for the other two Project DeRenne projects.

Updates to highway projects include the following.

- PI# 0008358, I-516 at DeRenne Avenue - move ROW funds from FY 2021 to FY 2022.
- PI# 0008359, East DeRenne from SR 204 to Harry S. Truman Pkwy - remove the ROW phase from the FY 2021- 2024 TIP.
- PI# 0010236, SR 21 From CS 346/Mildred Street to SR 204 - remove the ROW phase from the FY 2021- 2024 TIP.
- City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center project– delay in project funding and development; PE, UTL, and CST phases are moved from FY 2021 to FY 2022.

Proposed Transit Updates - CAT proposed to move four projects from FY 2021 to FY 2022 due to some unexpected delays in the CAT facility modification projects.

- Facilities Modification under FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Funds which are for operating assistance and capital projects.
- Facility Enhancements under FTA Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facility Program Funds.
- Facility Rehab under FHWA flex funds.
- Facility Enhancements under FTA 5307 (h) Ferry Boat Discretionary Funds which are for ferry maintenance facility and rehabilitation.

The appendix includes project update pages, public involvement materials, project development status check and GDOT's response letter. The advisory committees have reviewed and endorsed the proposed changes. The MPO staff is asking the Board today to adopt the proposed updates to the FY 2021-2024 TIP.

Public Hearing open and closed – no comments from the public were received.

Chairman Ellis stated he asked the Chatham County Manager to call GDOT and the City of Savannah to provide up-to-date progress and information regarding the DeRenne Avenue project. This information was requested as the Chairman of the MPO Board (not from a county request). He stated as Chairman, he needs to meet with the MPO Board and CAT. Any information that was requested was requested from the MPO Chairman seat, not from the County Commission seat. In the future the Chairman will go through the MPO to obtain the information so there is no confusion as to where the information is coming from.

Mr. Lee Smith asked for an update of the CAT facility rehab. Ms. Bren Daiss stated the facilities modifications include a bus wash rehab they are doing in the CAT Central facility as well as office changing. They are moving some interior walls around to accommodate all the staff. The majority will be at CAT Central. There is a little scheduled for ITC. Ms. Valarie Ragland stated for clarification, CAT Central is the main office located at 900 East Gwinnett Street and the ITC is referring to the transfer center at 610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue.

Dr. Estella Shabazz asked about Project DeRenne and moving the funds from FY 2021 to FY 2022 - does that affect the current timeline scheduling of critical points being completed with the ROW acquisitions.

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Project Manager is Barry Stanton from the City of Savannah and GDOT's Project Manager is Brent Blocker. They are the two main points of contact as this is an active project.

Ms. Christy Lovett, the Program Manager for GDOT, stated for the ROW phase, they are waiting for the environmental document to be approved. At that time the ROW can be acquired. The shift of funds will not affect the schedule. The environmental document must be in place prior to the ROW phase.

Ms. Pamela Bernard motioned to approve the June amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Other Business

None

V. Status Reports

[3. TCC Discussion of Planning Studies for Application to the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the application is to fund planning studies that are beyond the usual formula grants that are received. The Georgia PL Funds Review Committee meets twice a year, in late March and late September to consider funding requests for plans and studies to be funded from the statewide pool of unspent PL funds. Those

unspent funds come from MPO planning funds from around the state of Georgia, other than the Atlanta Regional Commission.

The CORE MPO's FY 2022 UPWP includes 6 such studies. They include the Islands Expressway Corridor Study, Freight Transportation Study, Sea Level Rise Study, SR 204 Corridor Study, Old River Road Operational Capacity Improvement Study, and Transportation Data/Analytical Tools Purchase.

The TCC committee is responsible for reviewing these studies, affirming the need for the studies, and recommending the studies to the CORE MPO Board. At the last TCC meeting, the committee recommended four specific requests for funding to be pursued for the September round of applications. The four studies are listed below.

- Islands Expressway Corridor Study between Truman parkway and US 80 requested by Chatham County.
- Freight Transportation Study being requested by the MPC. This study is a recommendation from the recent Federal Certification Review by the Federal Highway Administration.
- Sea Level Rise Study being requested by the MPC.
- US 80 Corridor Study, a new request by the City of Pooler. There is an error in the staff report regarding the limits. The correct limits are from Pooler Parkway (western city limits) to SR 307.

The process is that the TCC committee discusses the requests at two or more meetings, to ensure there is a thorough review, before making recommendations to the Board. The meeting last week was the first TCC review of the proposals. They have been advanced to the second round of discussion which will take place in August. The MPO staff will continue to work with the TCC committee to refine the proposed scopes. The staff will come back to the MPO Board in August with a formal request that the Board endorse the studies that are put forward by the TCC for a formal funding request to the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee.

[4. FY 2021 UPWP Budget Adjustments](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the FY 2021 UPWP Budget Adjustments. The Unified Planning Work Program is the staff work budget. In February of 2020 the UPWP was adopted. The development of that started 3 months prior. The MPO uses Federal funding from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for planning. Funding is allocated and divided between the different tasks (Operations and Administration, Training, TIP and Long Range Plan, etc.). Staff work could change throughout this time frame. For example, there were \$115,000 budgeted for Operations and Administration to administer the meetings. However, there were special called meetings in September 2020 and April 2021 which increased the operation and administration cost. For the Certification Review there were a lot of coordination and communication work between GDOT, FHWA, FTA and MPO which increased the staff budget as well. For Freight Planning, there were 2 EDFAC meetings budgeted for each year. Since the freight plan is being developed/updated, there were extra meetings for EDFAC committee this year. By the end of the year adjustments need to be made to these work tasks and allocate the funds from the programs that have surplus to the programs that need funds. The total budget does not change. These are adjustments being made.

Mr. Lee Smith mentioned he noticed an error in numbers. FHWA PL local, first line under funding source, that number should be 23,600.00 (the decimal was in wrong place). Ms. Wang will make the correction after the meeting.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

[5. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Katie Proctor presented the GDOT Project Status Report.

Preconstruction Status June 2021

- Brampton Road Connector from SR 21/SR 25 to SR 21 Spur – anticipated to LET in August
- I-16 from I-95 to I-516 – Full NEPA Re-evaluation
- I-16 @ SR 307 – waiting on a 3A conditional Notice to Proceed
- SR 25 @ Savannah River in Pt Wentworth – LET scheduled in September
- SR 25 @ Middle River in Pt Wentworth – LET scheduled in September
- Chatham SR 204 from SR 21 to 1201 Rio Rd @ 23 – anticipated PFPR September
- I-16 @ 647/Chatham Pkwy – Request FFPR in February
- SR 26/US80 @ Lazaretto Creek – PFPR anticipated in August
- SR 26 from I-516 to 188/Victory Drive – FFPR
- Effingham Pkwy – LET in May, awarded in July, awarding to low bidder in construction
- SR 21 @ SR 30 – anticipated LET July

Mr. Troy Pittman stated the projects for SR 25 are both scheduled to LET in September. These are design build projects, so when they are scheduled to LET, this starts most of the design work. It's not actually groundbreaking or construction work.

Mr. Lee Smith asked about project I-16 from I-95 to I-516. NEPA was already completed, but the status states re-evaluations. Is this due to the changes in the scope? Mr. Troy Pittman stated when they gave Notice to Proceed with segments of this project, it was conditional Notices to Proceed, to start some of the construction. Acceptance of certain portions of the project. The need for re-evaluation is to wrap up the entire project and give environmental approval for the entire corridor.

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

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

Preconstruction Projects

- I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Pkwy – PFA has been signed and executed by GDOT.
- Chevis Road Improvements – proposals are in from consultants for design and being reviewed now.
- Quacco Road Widening – ROW acquisition completed
- Little Neck Road – starting ROW acquisition
- Skidaway Road improvements – public information open house soon
- Islands Expressway at Oatland Island Rd – waiting on environmental permitting
- Walthour Road Slope Stabilization – under design

Projects under construction

Quacco at US 17 Intersection - substantially complete, final inspection couple weeks ago

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

Mr. Heath Lloyd presented the City of Savannah Project Status Report.

- DeLesseps Avenue Project – Contract will be brought before the City Council in July.
- Traffic Control Center – Project Manager and project number assigned. In the process for procurement for design build firm.
- I-516 @ DeRenne Ave – The environmental schedule was pushed back three months due to a required amendment. The amendment is a result of the duration of the project. Authorized ROW funds were shifted from FY 2021 to FY 2022.
- Truman Linear Park Trail – Environmental phase is nearing completion. ROW to begin.

[8. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Bren Daiss presented the CAT Project Status Report.

- 6 Electric Bus purchases - five have arrived on site, three 40ft and two 35ft buses. The last bus had issues on the manufacturing line. The new bus is expected to arrive in September. Staff is working on getting the equipment in the buses and doing all the proper training and checks needed for this new line of vehicles.
- 34 Paratransit vehicles/Support vehicles – the chassis are built but awaiting the chips which are on back order.
- Intelligent Transit System – in Phase 3 of 8 with a soft completion estimation of February 2022.
- Facilities Rehab, bus wash rehab, updating executive area (interior modifications)
- Ferry Boat Rehabilitation – SKT- Architecture and Engineering phase is complete and sent to the shop for repairs.
- Ferry Boat Maint. Facility and Ferry Dock – Architecture and Engineering process underway
- Bus stations – stops- terminals in process of putting new amenities at stops

[9. LATS Project Status Update](#)

No comments

Bloomingdale – No comment

Effingham County – no updates

Garden City – no updates

Ga Port Auth.- no comment

Hinesville MPO – Mr. Jeff Ricketson stated Hinesville is ready to put out a Request for Proposals for a corridor study for EG Miles Parkway which is SR 197 west of Hinesville. Hinesville MPO is developing projects for safety and congestion relief on that corridor. The staff is hoping to improve the number of pedestrian and vehicle accidents in that area. The staff is ready to initiate a bicycle and pedestrian plan that will be worked on over the next two years.

Pooler – Mr. Leon Davenport stated for the Quacco Road project, the City just approved an amendment to the contract to go ahead with construction plans for the project. Design phase is to take about 18 months before it goes out to bid. The project will take Quacco Road, starting with Pooler Parkway at I-16 and continuing improvements around to Canal Bank Road. This phase will not go all the way to I-95 Bridge.

Pt. Wentworth – no comment

Richmond Hill - Mr. Les Fussell stated they are looking forward to the completion of Highway 144 widening, scheduled for the end of the summer.

Savannah Airport Commission – Mr. Mark Denmark stated no updates

Thunderbolt – Mr. Robert Milie stated no updates

Tybee Island – Mr. Shawn Gillen stated no updates

Vernonberg – no comment

[10. TIP Project Funding and Status Tracking File](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated this is a recommendation from the Federal Highway Administration during the Certification Review. They would like the MPO staff to track where the Z230, Z301, and HIP funds are being managed and spent. The purpose is to prevent funding lapsing. This will help ensure all the projects stay on target in development.

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No public comments

VIII. Notices

[11. The MPC is seeking comments on Plan 2040](#)

Ms. Melanie Wilson stated comments and feedback are still being taken for the transportation element in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The final draft is expected to be done next week.

Mr. Lee Smith encouraged people to go to the website and provide feedback and comments on the transportation section.

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

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave an update on the SR 21 Access Management Study.

- The consultant, CROY Engineering was given a Notice to Proceed on March 5, 2021.
- Kickoff with the project management team was held on March 19, 2021.
- First Project Advisory group meeting was held on May 13, 2021.
- Webpage is up with project information; this includes a WiKi Map.
- Online survey was conducted.
- First public meeting was held virtually on May 25, 2021.
- Day long road safety audit was held on June 9, 2021. Most of the issues were maintenance related. There is a list of 3-4 signals that could go in. The consultants will look at accident patterns between the signals.

[13. Next CORE MPO Meeting: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.](#)

Chairman Ellis stated the next meeting will be in person. The Governor has lifted the executive order concerning masks and distancing. The CORE MPO will conduct future meetings in the MPC's hearing room in person. Mr. Lee Smith stated the County is sending out a statement that masks are optional for employees in buildings but required of visitors. Ms. Ann-Marie Day stated that under USDOT Federal Highway Administration, they have not received

any guidance as to returning to in-person meetings or returning to the office. They are still working through guidance concerning this. They will not be able to participate in the in-person meetings until they are federally directed. The Federal Highway Administration will continue to participate virtually at this time.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 23, 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.