



## CORE MPO Board

Minutes  
April 27, 2022 at 10:00am

### April 27, 2022 CORE MPO BOARD Meeting

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Pamela Oglesby	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	
Russ Carpenter	City of Richmond Hill	
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission	
Nick Palumbo	City of Savannah	X
Joseph Welch	Metropolitan Planning Commission	
Scott Robider	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	
Beth E. Goette	Town of Thunderbolt	
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonberg	
Faye DiMassimo	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	X
Jamie McCurry	Georgia Port Authority	X
Pamela Bernard	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	X
Tanya Milton	Chatham County	X
<b>Voting Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Eric Larson	Effingham County	X
Robert Milie	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Les Fussell	City of Richmond Hill	X
Robert Caudill	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
James Aiello	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT District 5	X
Michael Connolly	Chatham Area Transit	X
Aviance Webb	FTA	X
Tom Caiafa	GDOT	X
Stephanie Cutter	Chatham Area Transit	X
Aimee Turner	CROY Engineering	X

Ashley Goodrich	Chatham Area Transit	X
Barry Stanton	City of Savannah	X
Frank Neal	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Beverly Dumas	Chatham Area Transit	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Christy Lovett	GDOT	X
Kerrie Bieber	Public	X
Leon Davenport	Pooler	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X
Julie Yawn	IT/MPC	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Lee Smith motioned to approve the April 27, 2022 CORE MPO Board meeting Agenda, seconded by Ms. Tanya Milton. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## II. Committee Reports (verbal)

**ACAT** – Ms. Asia Hernton said there was not a quorum for the meeting. The committee was unable to vote on action items presented.

**CAC**- Ms. Sally Helm said the committee met on April 25, 2022 and endorsed all action items.

**TCC**- Mr. Pamela Bernard said the committee met on April 14, 2022 and endorsed all action items.

## III. Action Items

### 1. [Approval of the February 23, 2022 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes](#)

Mr. Nick Palumbo motioned to approve the February 23, 2022 CORE MPO Board meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Lee Smith. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### 2. [Amendments to FY 2023 UPWP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the UPWP is the staff work program. The FY 2023 UPWP covers July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The planning activities in the work program are supported by the formula FHWA and FTA funds with matching funds from MPO member agencies. The UPWP was adopted in February of this year. When the UPWP was developed, we didn't have the actual PL revenue estimate from the state. GDOT instructed staff to use the same level of PL revenue amount as in FY 2022. Therefore, the FY 2023 UPWP was developed with the assumption that the total estimated PL funding for FY 2023 will be the same as for FY 2022. The amounts for the highway planning are:

- Federal share (80%): \$360,143.03
- Local Match (20%): \$90,035.76
- Total: \$450,178.79

In March 2022, CORE MPO received from GDOT the updated PL funding amount (consisting of Y450 and Z45E funding):

- Federal share (80%): \$428,685.48
- Local Match (20%): \$107,171.37
- Total: \$535,856.85

In addition, at the beginning of the year, there will be a set-aside available for activities falling under Increasing Safe & Accessible Transportation Options (Y410) which is a separate line item in the UPWP and would require a separate supplemental contract. The CORE MPO's share is:

- Federal share (80%): \$10,548.78
- Local Match (20%): \$2,637.19
- Total: \$13,185.97

CORE MPO proposed to amend the FY 2023 UPWP to include the newly available funds for the planning activities.

- Allocate the additional PL funds (\$68,542.45 federal share, \$17, 135.61 local share, \$85,678.06 total) to two planning tasks: Task 1 Administration, and Task 4 Systems Planning and Operations. The funds will be evenly split between these two tasks.
- Add a new Task 7 for the Increasing Safe & Accessible Transportation Options (Y410) funds. These funds will be used for Thoroughfare Plan Update and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update.

Systems Planning and Operations, we will delve more into details regarding the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Update. That will include Congestion Management Process update, the Freight Plan update, as well as several studies by Chatham County and Pooler. For Safe and Accessible Transportation, we will use the funds to update the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan. This amendment is to add approximately \$98,000 into the UPWP to specific tasks.

Mr. Nick Palumbo motioned to approve the Amendments to the FY 2023 UPWP; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### [3. April 2022 AMENDMENTS TO FY 2021 -2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Transportation Improvement Program is the MPO's short range programming document. If a Long-Range Transportation Plan includes 50-60 projects, the TIP might only include 10-20. The TIP only covers a four-year program. There are several TIP amendments to process in April.

#### **Highway Projects**

Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B- when the project development started, the ROW phase was not required. There are now four parcels required which has delayed the project implementation. With the ROW phase added, the construction phase currently programmed in FY 2022 cannot make it. The CST funds cannot be authorized until all the ROW acquisition is done. Z301 funds (over \$1 million) and CRRSAA funds (\$1.75 million) have been programmed for the CST phase. The City of Savannah sent a letter to GDOT requesting to move the funds from FY 2022 to FY 2023.

Old River Road Improvement Project- this project is being deleted from the TIP. The project is located within two counties , 1.6 miles within Chatham County and 1.6 miles within Effingham County. Effingham County was unable to come up with their portion of the funds. There was approximately \$560,000 currently programmed for PE for this project which will be relinquished. The next two projects will use the released funds.

Chevis Road Improvement Project- \$330,000 of the released funding from the Old River Road Improvement Project will be used for the PE phase in FY 2022.

Gerrard Avenue Improvement Project- \$230,000 of the released funding from the Old River Road Improvement Project will be used for the PE phase in FY 2022.

Project DeRenne- during the project development, since the project is going through the environmental justice (EJ) area, the federal government decided that the City of Savannah will need additional EJ public involvement and analysis. Approximately \$1 million will be needed in FY 2022. The funding sources will come from HIP funds and Z230 funds.

#### **Transit Projects**

Section 5307 – CAT received a partial apportionment from FTA (\$4.7 million) during TIP development. Full apportionment has been released now which is approximately \$6.2 million. The amendment is to revise the 5307 funding with program updates.

Section 5307 (h) – Ferry System - CAT is requesting to move the funds that are currently in FY 2024 (\$3.2 million) to FY 2022. FTA requests more details on projects when applying for funds, so new detailed tables will be provided. The Water Ferry Facility Enhancements table is being added for the \$3.2 million.

Section 5339 – Bus and Bus Replacement project – FTA is requesting more details regarding projects. New detailed tables will be provided.

Chairman Ellis asked when the deadline was for CAT to apply to get the funds and not have them lapse. Ms. Wang said the funds need to be obligated by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked for clarification on the FY ending dates. Ms. Wang said the State fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> and the Federal fiscal year ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Estella Shabazz asked if the Boulevard portion, coming off I-516 between Montgomery and White Bluff, of the project is what is being discussed. With the environmental justice portion, for public clarity, this has been going on for many years, how long is being reported in reference to the environmental justice? We thought this portion was over and we were looking for the ROW acquisitions to start this year. Ms. Wang said the GDOT Project Manager sent an 18-month schedule for the additional EJ analysis. Ms. Christy Lovett said the City of Savannah must go through the procurement process for the additional work because this is in addition to what was under contract. That will take time as well as the new federal highway guidelines are.

Public Hearing opened – No Comments

Mr. Nick Palumbo motioned to approve the Amendments to the FY 2021- 2024 TIP; seconded by Dr. Estella Shabazz. The motion passed with non-opposed.

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

No other business

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

##### [4. CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the MPO was awarded discretionary planning funds last year for the freight plan update. The procurement process was done in November 2021 to February 2022. The top ranked consultant was Cambridge Systematics Inc. MPC signed the funding contract with GDOT. The scope of services and fees were finalized, and the contract between MPC and Cambridge was signed. The Notice to Proceed was issued. The kickoff meeting is this Friday. In June there will be an EDFAC committee meeting to present the freight plan update.

##### [5. FMT for Optimize Planning of CORE MPO Transportation Infrastructure Systems](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the Urban Flooding Model Tool is what the MPC Executive Director wants to do. The study received discretionary planning funds. MPC signed the funding contract with GDOT. MPC/MPO is in the process of finalizing the scope and fee with the top ranked University consultant, University of Georgia. The plan is to have this finalized by the end of the month. The next MPC meeting we will execute the contract and issue the Notice to Proceed.

##### [6. SR 26 From Chatham County Line to SR 21](#)

Mr. Leon Davenport said this is a study for the US 80 corridor. These funds came from the CRRSAA funds. This project will study the corridor from the county line from the west all the way to SR 21 in Savannah. The City of Pooler will be the lead on the project. The RFP is out, and the PFA is being negotiated between Pooler and GDOT and is expected to be received on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

##### [7. SR 21 Access Management Study](#)

Ms. Aimee Turner said the project has been completed. The final deliverables have been submitted for review. May 2<sup>nd</sup> we will present to the Garden City City Council.

The length of the study was from I-516/SR 25 up to Grange Road. The study included looking at the existing conditions and needs assessment, public engagement, preparing concepts, and final recommendations implementation plan. Project advisory meetings, public meetings, press releases, and news coverage of the study were all done. There was a good amount of positive feedback on what people wanted to see happen along the corridor. For the Phase 1 survey, we asked several questions about challenges and concerns, and several people noted the traffic congestion and the need for safer opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclist crossing SR 21. A second survey at the end of the year was initiated with the draft of final recommendations. Overall, there was very positive feedback on the improvements.

Corridor wide recommendations are:

- Signal retiming, coordination, and equipment upgrades
- Install raised median segments
- Continuous sidewalk/multi-use path
- Improve intersection turn lanes & ped/bike accommodations
- Pedestrian-scale lighting & streetscaping
- Transit expansion
- Gateway & wayfinding signage program
- Creative placemaking

Corridor recommendations benefits:

- Reduce potential turning movement conflicts
- Reduce likelihood of crashes involving pedestrians
- Reduce likelihood and severity of crashes
- Reduce delay/queuing due to left turn movements
- Improve safety and comfort for people walking & bicycling
- Enhance multimodal options along corridor
- Improve connectivity and access to area destinations

## [8. 2050 MTP Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the 2050 plan needs to be adopted in August of 2024. With all the staff changes and staff shortage we will start early to ensure being able to complete on time. The MPO boundary will change. The boundary is Savannah Urbanized area plus the areas to be Urbanized within the next 20 years. We are following the census track. GDOT has started the Travel Demand Model development. The SE data will be feeding into that model. That will include household trips, population, and household income. Staff has started updating the Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures. The draft has been presented to the committees once, and we will conduct a public meeting to collect input and revise the Goals and Objectives. Public engagement, we will host and partner with community meetings to collect input. The Freight Plan, Congestion Management Process, Chatham County's US 17 Corridor Study, Pooler's US 80 Corridor Study, and Chatham Area Transit's Master Transit and Development Plan will all feed into the 2050 Plan.

Chairman Ellis said that both Senators have identified funds that Chatham County is eligible for in both Transportation and Railroad. We must go through the MPO process to get those funds.

## [9. 2022 Z230 Call for Projects](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said there is a funding balance in FY 2023 and FY 2024 that needs to be awarded to specific projects. Previously when the local jurisdictions sent the applications, some did not understand the MPO process which made their project ineligible. In order to prevent this from happening again, the MPO staff will host a Pre-Application workshop on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to help the local jurisdictions and municipalities understand what is required. Savannah Airport Commission, CAT, and City of Savannah all have projects that would be eligible for this funding. There will be two sets of meetings in June and August, then we will start the Call for Projects after the August meeting. We will focus on creating a waiting list to ensure any extra funding that become available or projects that are pulled and funding becomes available, the projects on the waiting list will have already been through the competitive process and be available to receive the funding.

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

### [10. GDOT Project Status Update](#)

Ms. Katie Proctor presented the GDOT Project Status Update.

Preconstruction

- Bridge replacement for Savannah River and Middle River in Pt Wentworth - both in Preliminary design
- Safety Improvements on SR 204 from SR 21- continues to PFPR
- I-16 at Chatham Parkway - working on correcting PFPR plans
- Widening and Bridge replacement on SR 404 Back River - both have concept approval
- Bridge replacement at Bull River - continues in PFPR

- Lazaretto Creek bridge - continues toward ROW approval
- SR 26 from I-516 to Victory Dr - working on final design and ROW FFPR
- SR 30 Roundabout - in concept anticipating May Notice to Proceed

#### Active projects

- Widening and Reconstruction to Brampton Rd connector is still under the 120-day deferral.
- Roundabout in Bryan County is finishing the corrective work.
- Effingham Parkway has begun driving the pile bents.
- All other projects are progressing.

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

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

#### Federally Funded Projects

- I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Pkwy, Chevis Road and Gerrard Avenue Improvement projects are all moving forward.

#### Local Preconstruction Projects

- Quacco Road Widening – clearing coming soon
- Little Neck Rd – in ROW acquisition
- Walthour Road – in ROW acquisition
- Johnny Mercer Blvd - in ROW acquisition
- US 80 sidewalks - in ROW acquisition

#### Local Construction Projects

- Robert McCorkle Trail – moving along
- Resurfacing various County Roads – Notice to Proceed issued last week

#### [12. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Ashley Goodrich presented the CAT Project Status report.

- Paratransit Vehicles (33) – the previous executed grant has been under supply chain issues. We have re-ordered under state contract for the same amount of that project but will be ordering a few less than the original 33 vehicle count.
- Diesel Bus Replacement – In progress, Bus order placed in December for (3) 35 ft. buses. Estimated completion date is June 2023. This is running on schedule.
- Clever ITS Devices project – Phase 5 to 6, fleet is nearly at 100% installation for hardware and are currently working through software issues.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility and Ferry Dock – continued coordination with the City of Savannah.
- Facility Rehab – under contract review
- Bus Wash Facility Upgrade – contract was executed in February to March, vendor at property, bush wash almost complete in installation.
- Support Vehicles – all ordered vehicles have been delivered.

Chairman Ellis asked what the status report of the Ferry's is. Ms. Goodrich said currently CAT has the two Ferry Vessel purchases. We are currently in the design phase with the naval architect. There is a meeting scheduled next week. We will be working over the next 45 days for the design process of the boat.

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

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

- DeLesseps Avenue Widening- preconstruction meeting is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Construction is expected the second quarter.
- Traffic Control Center – Procurement phase started, advertising will begin this week, pre-bid scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> and award expected June 9<sup>th</sup>.

- DeRenne Avenue project – The schedule that was presented earlier is conceptual. The City staff has already had meetings with USDOT, Senator Warnock and Senator Ossoff as it pertains to the timeline and the path forward. We are awaiting official response noting that once impacts are more definitive, the project schedule will be update accordingly.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B – Z301 funds will be shifted to FY 23. The City is requesting CRRSAA funds in the amount of \$1.7 million. The property acquisition process is ongoing.

Mr. Nick Palumbo said the City of Savannah will be better utilizing its time and experience and taking advantage of the programs here. The funding that is out there will not be there forever, so we need to do a better job of taking care of the funding and seeking the initiative. Ms. Wang said for the Traffic Control Center, you will execute a PFA with GDOT soon as the funds are in FY 2022. The funds need to be authorized by June 30<sup>th</sup>. You need to make sure you execute a contract so GDOT can authorize the funds by the end of June. For Project DeRenne, we will need an official commitment letter by the end of this week. Mr. Palumbo said you will have the official letter by the end of the month (which is this Friday).

#### [14. LATS Project Status Report](#)

Report attached

#### [15. TIP Project Tracking in April 2022](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the MPO manages the Z230, CRRSAA, and HIP funds. The project sponsors are required to give status updates bi-monthly. This will help keep the project funding on track.

Savannah Airport Commission - Jim Aiello said there are three projects currently in construction. Rental Car Project, CFC funded, \$7 million. Provide Safety and Security customer service upgrades. On the SE quadrant, we have a current drainage improvement project that will allow to buildout the SE quadrant. That is scheduled to be completed in the middle of July. Cargo expansion – concrete placed for 5 planes for future growth in our NW quadrant.

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

No Public Comments

### **VIII. Notices**

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

Final report available on website

#### [17. Next COREMPO Board Meeting, June 22, 2022 at 10:00am.](#)

### **IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the April 27, 2022 CORE MPO Board meeting is 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.