



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mendonsa Hearing Room
110 EAST STATE STREET

February 18, 2004

3:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Allan Black, P.E.
John Broderick
Tom Cannon
Andy Edwards
Keith Melton
Teresa Scott
Thomas L. Thomson, P.E., AICP
Mike Weiner, P.E.
Randy Weitman, P.E.
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

Representing

Chatham County Engineering
CAT
City of Garden City
FHWA
GDOT - Atlanta
GDOT – Jesup
Executive Director MPC, Chair
City of Savannah
Georgia Ports Authority
MPC

Others Present:

Betty Carter
Max Azizi
Bill Saxman
Radney Simpson
Courtland, Hyser
Dennis Hutton
Jo Hickson
Wykoda Wang

Representing

GDOT – Jesup
Federal Highway Administration
Savannah Tree Foundation
GDOT - Atlanta
MPC
MPC
Hinesley-Hickson Associates
MPC

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Thomson called the February 18, 2004 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order. Members were asked to introduce themselves and state the agency they represent.

Hearing no comments, he stated that the agenda would stand approved as presented.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2003 and December 16, 2003 CUTS TCC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Weiner **moved** to approve the minutes. Mr. Black seconded the motion.

TCC Action: **The motion carried with none opposed.** The motion was to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2003 and December 16, 2003 meetings. Voting were Mr. Melton, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Scott, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Weiner, and Mr. Black. Mr. Cannon was not in the room when the vote was taken.

III. Status Reports

A. Congestion Management System

Mr. Wilkes updated the group on the recent activities of the Congestion Management System. A teleconference for the CMS Steering Committee was held prior to the TCC meeting. Among the topics covered was a discussion of acceptable thresholds of congestion. It is anticipated that a draft document would be available in March. The final document would be ready in mid-April.

B. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

1. Draft Goals and Objectives

Mr. Hyser presented information on the draft goals, objectives and strategies for the LRTP. The document that was included in the pre-meeting mail out represents a compilation of existing transportation planning materials. The goals that were produced by the Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee were a primary source for developing the draft.

Mr. Melton stated that the 1994 LRTP contained no discussion of congestion management. That topic should be included in the updated plan. It could be included in very general format.

Mr. Thomson asked the committee to provide comments to the staff on this draft document. Staff would be scheduling separate meetings with members of the TCC in order to gather information for the LRTP. The plan must be submitted to GDOT by June 30, 2004.

2. Authorization for MPC Executive Director to Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Consultant Assistance with Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan. Inc. (PBS&J)

Mr. Thomson stated that GDOT has a consultant who would assist staff to accelerate staff activities such as writing the LRTP and public involvement work for the LRTP. This item will be taken to the Policy Committee and the MPC for budget authority.

C. FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development

Mr. Wilkes stated that staff anticipates starting the development process for the 2005-2007 TIP within the next month. Staff is awaiting financial information and project proposals from GDOT. Staff wanted to initiate a dialogue about priorities, focusing on the third year.

Mr. Thomson stated that he would like to meet with key representatives from organizations to walk through the current document in order to learn priorities to prepare the next update.

Mr. Simpson stated that GDOT would be meeting with MPOs around the state in order to review the FY 2005 budget figures.

Mr. Melton requested that the draft TIP include an index to projects with page numbers. Such an index would be helpful for GDOT staff to quickly locate projects in the report.

Mr. Thomson asked those present to look at the current TIP when schedules are changing or planning to do in a different year in order to digest the information. Start making a list of that information. Staff may want to consider including Capital Improvement Projects in the upcoming TIP. Such information would be helpful to the public.

Mr. Melton further requested two additional items to be included in the upcoming TIP. The first item that GDOT would like to see is an index of Tier 2 (4th through 6th year) projects could be listed with project pages in the same format as the Tier 1 projects are listed. Secondly, GDOT would like a map of the study area in an 11 x 17 format that would have the major thoroughfares with names that would be large enough to read. This could be in addition to the regular document.

D. Draft FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

Mr. Wilkes stated that the draft UPWP is the staff work program for the MPO for the next fiscal year. The draft was completed and submitted to GDOT in December. The final document is due in April. Staff is awaiting the final PL budget information.

Mr. Thomson stated that any comments from TCC members would be welcomed.

In response to a question from Mr. Melton, Mr. Wilkes replied that the Roadway Amenities Steering Committee would be included in Special Transportation Studies. Certain amenities recommendations would be included in the LRTP.

Mr. Melton stated that he has attended several meetings of the Roadway Amenities Steering Committee. This looks like an ambitious project that staff might want to mention somewhere in the UPWP.

E. Coastal Georgia Through-Corridor Route/Program Status

Ms. Jo Hickson stated that since 1997 the Gateway to Georgia Coastal Georgia Master Plan was adopted by six coastal counties. The documented a 450 mile trail system that would link South Carolina to Florida. Such a system would help to develop heritage tourism along the coast. Work is now starting on the route in Fernandina Beach, Florida with a ferry providing the necessary link between Fernandina Beach, Florida and St. Mary's, Georgia. A map was displayed to show an inventory and analysis of this route. This is a combination of on-road trails and separate greenway trails. A bridge assessment was distributed to identify where the existing bridges can accommodate bicycle and pedestrian use and where it would be necessary to build new bridges for that use. The purpose of the presentation is informational.

Ms. Hickson added that similar presentations would be made to city of Savannah, Chatham County, and Pooler. These jurisdictions are directly along the route. A budget for this program has been developed. She asked the TCC for a recommendation to the Policy Committee and then a recommendation from the Policy Committee to the local jurisdictions.

Mr. Thomson asked whether a Greenway Plan has been adopted.

Mr. Wilkes replied that parts of the corridor are included in the Bikeway Plan. The Greenway element was never completed.

Mr. Melton stated that section 48-5-350 of the Georgia Code, which deals with funding of Regional Development Authorities, might be of interest in this matter.

Mr. Thomson asked Ms. Hickson to work with staff to develop a trails and off-road component to the CUTS LRTP.

IV. Informational Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Scott reviewed the Chatham County Project Status Report that was presented at the meeting.

Mr. Thomson requested to be added to the notification list for public meetings. He added that there have been several questions about the project for SR 25/Bay Street from I-516 to the Bay Street Viaduct. He has received a notice for the Concept Meeting on this project.

Mr. Weiner stated that a neighborhood meeting with residents and the consultant has been scheduled.

Mr. Cannon asked requested clarification on the Garden City sidewalk project, as well as the SR 307/Dean Forest Road from R. B. Miller Road to SR 21, SR 307/Dean Forest Road from US 17 to I-16.

Ms. Scott agreed to provide Mr. Cannon with information on sidewalks and bike paths for certain projects in Garden City. .

B. Chatham County

Mr. Black reviewed a project status report that was distributed at the meeting.

C. City of Savannah

Mr. Weiner reviewed a status report that was distributed at the meeting.

D. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Mr. Broderick stated that this year CAT has a goal of installing 100 new shelters at bus stops. He thanked the City staff and County staff for quick turnaround on processing the necessary permits in order to complete the construction process.

E. Georgia Ports Authority

Mr. Weitman stated that the environmental is still not finished on the SR 307 overpass project for the new GPA rail line. The project is still on hold while the GPA reconciles internal problems. This will not make a spring let.

F. CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Ms. Wang stated that at the recent ACAT meeting, the committee focused on a discussion of Teleride, which is the local paratransit program. The group will also submit comments on the LRTP.

G. STIP Minor Amendment #3 I-16 Bridges Widening PI #511180

Mr. Thomson stated that this item was included for information only.

H. Invitation to final Stakeholder Committee Meeting for the GDOT Interstate System Plan

Mr. Thomson stated that this item was included for information only.

V. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the February 18, 2004, meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Wilkes, P.E., AICP
Director of Transportation Planning
Metropolitan Planning Commission