



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

MPC Conference Room
110 East State Street

June 17, 2004

3:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Allan Black, P.E.
John Broderick
Tom Cannon
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
GDOT - Atlanta
GDOT – Jesup
Executive Director MPC, Chair
City of Savannah
Georgia Ports Authority
MPC

Others Present:

Betty Carter
LeRoy Crosby
Andy Edwards
Wykoda Wang

Representing

GDOT – Jesup
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
FHWA
MPC

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Wilkes called the June 17, 2004 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order.

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

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2004 CUTS TCC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Edwards requested that any reference to his voting be removed. Mr. Crosby requested that his voting also be removed.

Mr. Black **moved** to approve the minutes subject to the changes that were noted. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion.

TCC Action: The motion carried with none opposed. The motion was to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2004 meeting subject to the corrections that were identified. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Melton, Ms. Scott, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Weitman, and Mr. Wilkes

III. Status Reports

A. CUTS FY 2005 – 2007 TIP Development

Ms. Wang reviewed the status of the FY 2005-2007 TIP. It is anticipated that the draft TIP would be ready to send to review agencies in August, with adoption scheduled for September.

Mr. Wilkes added that the TIP and the LRTP are running on a concurrent schedule. Staff has a financially constrained list and is working on project priorities. Staff will hold an open house which is scheduled tentatively for August 17, 2004. The public review period will end in September and the draft of the TIP will be sent to all committees in August for comments.

B. Intermodal connector addition to the National Highway System (NHS)

Mr. Wilkes stated since the last meeting Staff has worked with GPA and GDOT to refine the wording of the resolution per the discussion of that meeting. A signed resolution has been submitted to GDOT, who will handle coordination with the Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Edwards added that he spoke with the staff person at FHWA who prepares the NHS submittals for their office. Any boundary changes must go through headquarters.

It was the consensus of the committee to listen to the Information Reports before going into a Workshop session to review the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Development.

Information Reports

A. Federal Transit Administration

Mr. Wilkes stated that no one was present from FTA.

B. Federal Highway Administration

Mr. Edwards stated FHWA continues to work on the transportation bill which expires at the end of the month.

C. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Scott distributed a status report of project currently underway in this area. The traffic signal upgrade at various locations on Henry and Anderson Streets has been moved to the June letting. It is anticipated that the intersection improvement projects along SR 204/Abercorn Street would be ready for an April 2005 let. The right-of-way money has been authorized. The county is doing some appraisals and moving forward.

A. Chatham County

Mr. Black distributed a status report of projects in Chatham County. The County may make some revisions to the White Bluff Road project because the need and purpose does not justify what was originally proposed. A public meeting on the project would be scheduled in the coming months.

Mr. Thomson asked for a picture of the concept for Staff use.

Mr. Black stated that at present there is no preliminary design or concept design.

B. City of Savannah

Mr. Weiner reviewed traffic projects that are currently underway in the city of Savannah. There are still some problems with the curb reconstruction at DeLesseps Avenue. The City has received equipment from the Georgia Department of Transportation to upgrade all of the signals on Abercorn Street. There is enough to finish everything on DeRenne Avenue and continue south on Abercorn.

C. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Mr. Broderick stated that CAT has received the third water ferry, named the Florence Martus. The boat got a workout during the G-8 Summit. CAT is on track toward the goal of installing 100 bus shelters.

D. Georgia Ports Authority

Mr. Weitman stated that the project agreement for the Brampton Road Connector is currently undergoing legal review. The project is currently in long range.

E. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. Wilkes stated that there was no report from the Savannah Hilton Head International Airport.

F. CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Ms. Wang stated that the committee reviewed the information items that are on the TCC agenda. Members also provided ideas for possible locations for future public meetings related to transportation issues.

G. CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Wilkes stated that there was no additional report from the CUTS CAC.

H. Other

It was determined that there was no additional business to report.

C. Connecting Savannah

Mr. Thomson stated that consultant interviews were held earlier in the week. It is anticipated that the consultant contract would be committed soon. This is meant to be a public decision making process to a large extent.

IV. Workshop

A. CUTS 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Development

The TCC then went into a workshop session to discuss the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Thomson stated that staff tried to have the plan completed by the end of the month, although it was just not physically possible to do so. Staff has done verbal checks with DOT, Chatham County, and the City of Savannah about the delay. The responses that have been received to date indicate that no one foresees any problem with the delay. In a conversation with CAT this morning, Mr. Lansing noted that the delay would not be a problem to that organization. Those present were asked that if there is something that needs to be authorized, work with the Federal Highway Administration and get it done before June 30th, if possible.

Mr. Wilkes reviewed the material that was distributed at the meeting. He further reviewed slides to show the financial analysis. All three examples show financially constrained plans. Staff would like to have feedback on the projects and the scoring sheets.

Mr. Melton asked if staff was at a point on the amenities issue where they have a section or concept for how to handle the planting strip and/or sidewalks, guardrails and trees.

Mr. Wilkes replied that the attention needs to be focused on completing the long range plan.

Mr. Melton stated he raised the issue because he noticed in the TIP that the Whitefield widening has been advanced to 2006 which is great. This is one of the projects that the amenities group is very interested in. Often in these situations the concept doesn't quite catch up with the schedule and things get built and people are not fully informed.

Mr. Melton stated that he was trying to bring some reality to the amenities corridor discussion. He stated that this is a good project to be the demonstration project.

VI. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 17, 2004, meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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