



## CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

MPC Jerry Surrency Conference Room  
110 East State Street

February 17, 2005

3:00 P.M.

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Russ Abolt	Chatham County	
Allan R. Black, P.E.	Chatham County Engineering	x
Robert H. Bonner Jr.	LDH Corporation	
Michael Brown	City of Savannah	
Al Bungard	Chatham County Engineering	
Robbie Byrd	City of Pooler	
Tom Cannon	City of Garden City	x
Phillip Claxton	City of Port Wentworth	
Scott Conner	CSX Transportation	
Hank Dangerfield	Fort Steward/Hunter Army Airfield	
Patrick S. Graham	Savannah Airport Commission	
Bill Hendricks	Norfolk Southern Railroad Industry	
Theresa Laidlaw	Coastal Bicycle Touring Club	
Scott Lansing	Chatham Area Transit Authority	
MarRonde Lumpkin-Lotson	Town of Thunderbolt	
Doug J. Marchand	Georgia Ports Authority	
Helen McCracken	CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee	
Keith Melton	GDOT – Atlanta	x
William Oakley	CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	
Gary D. Priester	GDOT – Jesup	
Peter Shonka, P. E.	City of Savannah Engineering	x
Paul Smith	Coastal Georgia RDC	x
Thomas L. Thomson, P.E., AICP	Executive Director MPC, Chair	
Hugh "Trip" Tollison	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce	
Mike Weiner, P.E.	City of Savannah Engineering	x
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP	Metropolitan Planning Commission	x

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<u>Voting Member Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
John Broderick	Chatham Area Transit Authority	x
George Fiedler	Savannah Airport Commission	
Teresa Scott	GDOT – Jesup	x
Randy Weitman, P.E.	Georgia Ports Authority	x
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Zoe Hardenbrook	GDOT – Jesup	x
Wykoda Wang	Metropolitan Planning Commission	x

**I. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Wilkes called the February 17, 2005 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 – November 10, 2004 CUTS TCC Meeting Minutes**

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

**TCC Action:** The motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2004 meeting carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Melton, Ms. Scott, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Smith, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Weitman, and Mr. Wilkes.

**B. Endorsement of FY 2005-2007 TIP Amendments**

Ms. Wang stated that staff has received requests for six amendments to the TIP. The highway amendments are requesting PE oversight of \$5,000 of Q23 funds respectively for the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Interchange at US 80 and the Dean Forest Road Extension from US 17 to Garrard Street. The comment period for these two projects closed on February 14, 2005. There is also a request for PE oversight of \$5,000 from Q23 funds in FY 2005 for the Islands Expressway bridge replacement. The comment period for this project will close on February 21, 2005. The other three requests are from CAT. One request is in Section 5307 to change the scope of “communications” to “passenger amenities”, the funding would not change. The other two requests are in section 5309, the first is to reduce the funding more than 10% for “passenger amenities” and the second to add a line item for “communications”. The first five were major amendments, which require advertisement to receive comments; and the final item was a minor amendment. No comments have been received so far for any of the proposed amendments.

Mr. Weiner asked the process for obtaining funding for PE oversight. The City is working on a project on West Gwinnett Street where this would be beneficial.

Mr. Melton stated that the Gwinnett Street project is shown in the TIP as a local project but there is no PE oversight. It is possible that the 3 projects that are being requested for PE oversight are in the state system projects. Gwinnett may not meet that criterion. It is not part of the state system or the national system.

Mr. Weiner stated that this is a critical project for the City because the impact is going to be in the interchange at I-16.

Mr. Melton stated that when the project is put forward again make GDOT aware of that in writing.

Mr. Black suggested getting PE out of the Q23 funds, which would start getting in the process.

Mr. Wilkes added that this would require coordination on the part of the County, state and MPO. Staff could help get that going. He offered to review any old correspondence related to this matter.

Mr. Black moved to endorse the TIP amendments as proposed. Mr. Melton seconded the motion.

**TCC Action:** The motion to endorse the TIP amendments as proposed carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Melton, Ms. Scott, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Smith, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Weitman, and Mr. Wilkes.

### III. Status Reports

Mr. Wilkes stated that the purpose of status reports is to cover ongoing projects that are actively being pursued, until the study or project is concluded. Informational reports are the ones that have traditionally been given. This is an opportunity to keep the information flowing.

#### A. Connecting Savannah Study

Mr. Wilkes stated that the consultant is currently evaluating the initial ideas that were recommended by the citizens group that has been meeting on this matter. The meetings are being held at the Coastal Georgia Center. The next meeting will be held on February 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Melton suggested that for truck traffic in the Historic District, it would be helpful to know where the trucks are originating, where they are going, what they are carrying, and what routes they would be willing to consider as alternate routes if the decision is made to move trucks from certain streets in the area. It may be possible to get this information by calling

six or eight companies on the east side of the Historic District. GDOT has a survey that could be e-mailed.

Mr. Weitman added that he has provided the consultant with a specific list of names on the east side from which this information could be obtained. Mr. Plumeau has contacted the East Coast Terminal, he has been directed to ST Services, Georgia Pacific and Kemira.

Mr. Melton strongly suggested that this information be included in the Connecting Savannah Study. This could be included in a Technical Appendix.

**B. Chatham County Intermodal Freight Study**

Mr. Weitman stated that most of the components for the scope of work on the update, as it relates to the Port area, are rail related. The only roadway component is the connector between Jimmy DeLoach and State Route 307. The consultant has been waiting on information from CSX and Norfolk Southern, and he has been trying to get this for the past two months. The delay in completion of this study is due to lack of information.

To a question from Mr. Melton, Mr. Weitman replied that the Brampton Road Overpass is an ongoing project. It was placed on hold in order to try to determine alignment. It was fully funded by DOT. He does not understand the earmark question.

**C. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study**

Mr. Melton stated that six proposals have been received. The top ranked proposal should be available within a week. Most of the proposals have suggested using the TCC and CAC as the public involvement and technical groups for the studies. It is an Interstate priority study that addresses two particular interchanges. A big issue is truck traffic - is there a need for a special way of moving truck traffic? The selection process should be concluded within the next few weeks. It is an 18-24 month study. The public involvement issues would be getting more input from perspective groups focusing on the interstate system.

**D. 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Final Report**

Mr. Wilkes reviewed the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan final report. This report serves as the final write-up of the long range plan which was adopted on September 22, 2004. Mr. Wilkes reviewed the content of each chapter, with emphasis on goals and objectives, public outreach and feedback, transportation amenities, project selection and ranking, the financially constrained project list, and unmet needs.

The final report was included in the pre-meeting materials, and can be downloaded from the website.

Mr. Weiner asked if the growing west side of the community has been addressed in the plan.

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Mr. Wilkes replied that is correct. The projections are for 2030, including land use projections that were known as of last fall.

**E. 2004 Congestion Management System (CMS) Final Report**

Mr. Wilkes presented the 2004 CMS final report and summarized the key findings. Multiple a.m. peak, midday and p.m. peak period travel time runs were conducted on all arterials and major collectors in Chatham County, a total of 531 miles of roadway. Typically, eight runs were made in each direction on each route. One second GPS points were collected, which allowed for computation of travel speed, acceleration, deceleration, LOS, queueing, and congestion index. Digital video was also shot on each route, to better illustrate observed conditions.

About 10 percent of the route segments evaluated experienced congestion. Of the congested segments, about 24 percent will be addressed by planned capacity improvements. About 30 percent of congested segments were on constrained corridors identified in the Transportation Amenities Plan. These constrained corridors will receive only management strategies such as signal retiming and coordination, and small scale TSM improvements as appropriate. An additional eighteen percent of the congested segments (on non-constrained corridors) were recommended for signal timing and coordination improvements based on observed capacity and progression characteristics.

This is Savannah's first CMS. The CMS became a requirement when the 2000 census designated Savannah as a TMA. Future updates will likely be on a smaller scale and focus on a smaller number of priority corridors.

**F. Federal Planning Certification Review**

Mr. Wilkes stated that the MPO is preparing for its first triennial certification review which will take place March 1-3, 2005 in Savannah. A public meeting will be held on March 2, 2005 in conjunction with the certification. This is a routine procedure for MPOs of our size or larger. It is required for TMAs which are MPOs of over 200,000 population.

**G. Quality Growth Grant Approval for Context Sensitive Design Standards**

Mr. Wilkes stated that CUTS has been selected by the Department of Community Affairs to receive a quality growth grant for Phase II of the Transportation Amenities Planning process. Phase I of the Transportation Amenities Planning process is complete. This is documented in the Long Range Transportation Plan document. Phase II will be to develop design guidelines and standards for new road construction.

**H. GDOT Regional ITS Architecture Study**

Ms. Wang stated that GDOT has taken the lead in developing Intelligent Transportation System architecture by selecting a consultant to inventory the statewide planned and existing ITS systems. From this information, the consultant would develop standards so that

systems from different agencies can talk to each other. After the standards have been determined, Chatham County can develop a regional structure in this area based on those standards. The guidelines have yet to be developed.

I. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study

Mr. Broderick stated that the selection process for a downtown Transit Station location is ongoing.

**IV. Informational Reports (verbal)**

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Scott reviewed the status of projects that are currently under way in the Chatham County area. A copy of the status report was distributed at the meeting.

B. Chatham County

Mr. Black reviewed the status of projects that are planned for Chatham County. A status report was distributed at the meeting.

C. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Mr. Broderick stated that there was no new information at this time.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Weiner reviewed the status of projects that are currently underway in the City of Savannah. A report was distributed at the meeting.

E. Georgia Ports Authority

Mr. Weitman stated that there was nothing new to report at this time.

**V. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**VI. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Technical Coordinating Committee, the February 17, 2004 meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Wilkes, PE, AICP  
Director of Transportation Planning