



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

MPC Jerry Surrency Conference Room
110 East State Street

October 20, 2005

3:00 P.M.

Table with 3 columns: Voting Members, Representing, Present. Includes names of attendees and their respective organizations, with 'Present' marked by an 'x'.

Others Present

Zoe Hardenbrook
Latoya Jones
Wykoda Wang

Representing

GDOT-Jesup x
Federal Highway Administration x
Metropolitan Planning Commission x

Call to Order

Mr. Thomson called the October 20, 2005 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order and shared information that the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) has recognized the Connecting Savannah Project with a National Award. This is the only award given for Outstanding Professional Achievement in the category of MPOs of 200,000 or greater.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mark Wilkes moved to approve the agenda for the October 20, 2005 Technical Coordinating Committee meeting. The motion was seconded

TCC Action: The motion to approve the October 20, 2005 TCC agenda carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of June 16, 2005 CUTS TCC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Randy Weitman moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2005 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting. Mr. Mark Wilkes seconded the motion.

TCC Action: The motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2005 CUTS TCC meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of Amendment to FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program: Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting

Mr. Wilkes stated the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program is a minor amendment to move the Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting project from the third year of the TIP to the first year. Mr. Wilkes recommended that the committee endorse the TIP amendment of advancing the Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting project to Policy Committee.

Mr. Melton moved to endorse the amendment to the TIP to advance the Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting project from 2008 to 2006. Mr. Black seconded the motion.

TCC Action: The motion to endorse the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program to advance Truman Parkway Interchange Lighting carried with none opposed.

C. Prioritization of Chatham County TE Application Projects

Mr. Thomson stated he has received a request from one of the MPO Board Members to have staff more involved in the Transportation Enhancement Application Projects. Initially he felt MPO Staff should rank applications but after further consideration he concluded that staff should encourage more attention to be given to applications submitted by the MPO verses those that are submitted by another entity in our Congressional Districts.

Ms. Hardenbrook responded it was too late for prioritizing the TE applications. She then explained that the statewide reviewing board would start to review all the applications at the beginning of next week.

Mr. Wilkes gave brief update on the TE Projects. There are six TE applications that have been submitted for Chatham County. These projects are 1) AASU Bicycle/Pedestrian Path; 2) Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd Streetscape Phase 2; 3) Pooler Sidewalk Extension; 4) Rehabilitation of Paint Shop Building's Sawtooth Roof; 5) Savannah State University Marsh Front Multi-Purpose Path; and 6) Tybrisa Street Streetscape Improvements. He further reported the TE funding trends show that Chatham County has not been receiving its fair share of TE funding based on population. TE funding has steadily declined since 2000 resulting in a funding gap of \$2.3 million. Mr. Wilkes noted that the staff recommendation is to initiate a dialog with Board Members to encourage increased TE funding.

Mr. Weitman moved to approve the staff recommendation to initiate a dialogue with Board Members to encourage increased TE funding. Mr. Black seconded the motion.

TCC ACTION **The motion to approve the staff recommendation to initiate a dialog with Board Members to encourage increased TE funding carried with none opposed.**

D. Review and Comment on Revised CUTS Public Involvement Plan

Ms. Wang gave a brief update of the revised CUTS Public Involvement Plan. Major revisions included: 1) Incorporated Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs); 2) Updated PIP process in the long range transportation plan amendment process; 3) Updated media, neighborhood and public review agency contact information; and 4) Completed administrative changes-updated MPO and committee meeting times and locations, updated committee member titles, etc. The revised draft has been advertised for public review and comment.

Ms. Wang further announced that the MPC is now posting all agendas and package materials for the MPO and committee meetings on the MPC website. This will allow the committee members to receive their agenda and packages early.

Mr. Wilkes moved to have the TCC Committee make the recommendation to the Policy Committee to endorse the Revised CUTS Public Involvement Plan. The motion was seconded.

TCC ACTION: The motion to endorse the Revised CUTS Public Involvement Plan carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. TEA – 21 Reauthorization

Mr. Wilkes gave a brief highlight of a few changes that SAFETEA-LU would have on the MPO, including: 1) The MPO will received increased funding due to increases in the minimum guaranteed return; 2) The TMA certification has been extended from 3 to 4 years; and 3) the TIP is required to be updated every four years.

B. Chatham County Intermodal Freight Study

Mr. Weitman stated the numerous changes within CSX Railroad are the primary causes of delay in the completion of this project. He stated as soon as an agreement is made with CSX, he anticipates the completion of the project.

C. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Mr. Melton stated the Georgia Department of Transportation and the consultants are currently reviewing their contract, therefore he anticipates an agreement by both parties soon. Mr. Thomson asked if the HOT and TOT lanes are in the Interstate Study for Chatham County. The response was the truck lane issue will be dealt with under the statewide truck study.

D. Transportation Amenities Plan

Mr. Wilkes stated the staff has begun working with an intern from Armstrong/Georgia Tec, Mr. Barnett. He is currently working on the RFP scope for the amenities plan. The objective is to hire a consultant to develop design standards for new construction in the MPO planning area. Mr. Wilkes stated that 1% of funding from the long range plan has been designated for these amenities. Questions were asked if the MPO staff would consider an overlay district zoning as a way to implement some of these amenities. The answers were that MPO would coordinate with the other MPC departments on this.

E. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study

Mr. Thomson stated Mr. Palmer has reported that CAT is in the process of trying to acquire the site on the Westside of Martin Luther King on Oglethorpe Avenue/Fahm Street and Boundary Street for the new transit center.

IV. Informational Reports

A. Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Jones commended the MPO staff on implementing some of the recommendations in the certification review report as well as updating the website. Ms. Jones also stated the ITS specialist Ms. Mshadoni Smith would like to be on the agenda for the next TCC meeting in order to present the Georgia Regional ITS Architecture Report. Ms. Jones further stated she would be giving a presentation on the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process as it relates to the federal regulations and to orient new CAC members.

B. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Scott reviewed the status of the projects that are planned for Chatham County. I-16 bridge shoulder widening over I-516 & Stiles Ave has been let. Projects 4) Abercorn St @ Tibet Ave, 5) SR 204 /Abercorn St @ egress lane, 6) SR 204 Abercorn Street @ DeRenne Avenue, and 7) SR 204 /Abercorn St @ Apache Avenue are four intersection improvement projects along Abercorn Street where the right of way is being acquired and the projects are scheduled for letting next year. Gwinnett Street from Stiles Ave to I-16 is a new project that GDOT has agreed to contribute funding to construction, so a draft project management agreement will go to the City as soon as possible. Route 21 Ocean Highway Bridge over Norfolk Southern Railroad is being processed. The widening of US 80 to Tybee Island has shown both opposition and favor from the residents of the island in a recent public meeting.

C. Chatham County

Mr. Black reviewed a status report on the projects that are underway in Chatham County with SPLOST money.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Henry presented a summary on the traffic projects in the City of Savannah. He stated the regular bulbs are becoming obsolete. The trend now is the light emitting diode. They use about a tenth of the energy and last ten times longer.

E. Georgia Ports Authority

Mr. Weitman stated on item # 3 SR 307 construct overpass, there are negotiations with the consultant to restart the project.

F. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. Fidler updated the committee on the projects that are going on at the Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. Construction of five new gates is scheduled to begin in January 2006.

V. Other Business

There was no other business.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Technical Coordinating Committee, the October 20, 2005 meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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