



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Chatham County Commission: Green Room -- 2:00 p.m.
124 Bull Street, Savannah
Minutes

August 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes of the CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Charles Ackridge	City of Bloomingdale	
Scott Allison	City of Richmond Hill	x
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	x
Caila Brown	Bike Walk Savannah	x
Matt Saxon	City of Pooler	
Ned Green	GDOT - Planning	x
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	
Byron Cowart	GDOT - District Five	x
Jackie Jackson	City of Garden City	x
Trent Long	City of Port Wentworth	x
Don Masisack	Coastal Regional Commission	
George Shaw	City of Tybee Island	
Terri Harrison	Chatham Area Transit	x
Melanie Wilson	MPC Executive Director	
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	x
Steve Henry	City of Savannah	
Vacant	Effingham County	
Vacant	Town of Thunderbolt	
<u>Voting Alternate</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	x
Sean Brandon	City of Savannah – Mobility and Parking	x
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO	x
James Small	CORE MPO	x
Vivian Canizaers	GDOT - Planning	x
Jeremy Mitchler	Chatham County Engineering	x

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to approve the August 1, 2019 CORE MPO TCC meeting agenda; seconded by Ms. Jackie Jackson. The motion was passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. [Approval of June 20, 2019 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes](#)

☉ [TCC June 20.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to approve the June 20, 2019 TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Scott Allison. The motion was passed with none opposed.

2. [Adoption of Mobility 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan](#)

- ☉ [Public Notice Mobility 2045 Public Comment](#)
- ☉ [Period.pdf 2045 Project Pages July.pdf](#)
- ☉ [August 2019 MTP Update Staff Report.pdf](#)
- ☉ [Resolution Mobility 2045.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The Goals and Vision statements were formed in the fall of 2018. Six model runs have been performed. Staff has developed the strategies and improvement recommendations. The draft financially constrained project lists were brought to the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees in April for information and in June for endorsement and approval. Between June and August, staff has received some minor cost changes regarding several projects. These changes have been incorporated into the final financially constrained plan and will be outlined in the TIP amendment report in more detail. Staff is requesting the TCC to endorse the final adoption of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to the CORE MPO Board in August 2019.

Staff has conducted intensive public involvement for the 2045 MTP development, including 81 speaking opportunities. Staff has received 645 responses from the online survey and 484 written comments. Staff has documented these comments and the MPO's responses in Appendix D of the 2045 MTP.

Staff has received many comments concerning US Highway 80 to Tybee Island, I-16 @ SR 307 Interchange Improvements, and DeRenne Ave Improvements. These comments have been forwarded to the GDOT project managers, Chatham County and the City of Savannah. Many of the comments on I-16 @ SR 307 pertained to noise and safety with increased traffic in that area.

Staff has also received comments indicating that the 2045 MTP was lacking specific non-motorized projects. In the 2045 MTP, there is a set-aside category for non-motorized improvements. Specific bike, pedestrian and trail type projects will be selected from the Non-Motorized Plan which will be updated after the 2045 MTP adoption.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked when the I-95 at Quacco Rd. Interchange Study was added to the financially constrained Project List and if it is funded with Planning funds. Mr. Mark Wilkes stated that it was added after a discussion with the CORE MPO Board Chairman. He was informed that Chatham County was talking with Pooler about the possibility of an interchange in that location. Pooler appears to be interested in the County funding the project. With this knowledge, the study was added to the 2045 MTP financially constrained project list knowing that if the project is to advance, it will require an IJR study. The list includes funding for a study only. It does not specify what type of funds will be used at this time. For the project to move forward, it will require a project sponsor.

Ms. Terri Harrison, CFO of Chatham Area Transit, stated if CAT were to purchase 1 bus a year, they would be behind 4 buses per year in a structured fleet replacement. The fleet replacement needs for all modes are 6-7 million dollars a year in order to stay current. Mr. Wilkes asked how much of this is covered within the normal budget. Ms. Harrison stated that the annual portion of Section 5307 funding is filling an operations gap. Because Section 5307 is funding service levels, this leaves CAT searching for alternative funding to maintain fleet replacement such as Section 5339, and MPO's M230 and Z230 type of funding. Until the Section 5307 funds can be replaced, or the community can function with a system that is 70% of its current capacity, CAT must use alternative funding.

Ms. Wykoda Wang motioned to endorse the Mobility 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion was passed with none opposed.

3. Amendments to FY 2018 - 2021 Transportation Improvement Program

☉ [FY 2018 -2021 TIP Amendments Staff Report August 2019.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the FY 2018 – 2021 TIP Amendments for August 2019.

Staff received 4 requests from GDOT for project amendments.

- PI# 0013727, I-16 @ SR 307. GDOT requested to add a Utility phase to FY 2020 and revise cost estimates for the Construction phase in FY 2020. This project will be funded with Z001 funds and Z230 funds. For the construction portion, the \$2.9 million in Z230 funds will not change but the Z001 funds will be increased to nearly \$24 million.
- PI# 0010560, SR 26 FM JOHNNY MERCER TO OLD US 80; INC BULL RIVER & LAZARETTO CREEK. GDOT requested to add a Preliminary Engineering phase in FY 2020 with \$1 million of HB 170 funds. Ms. Wang asked GDOT staff why the \$1 million dollars was added. Mr. Byron Cowart stated that he believes the money is for environmental studies.
- PI# 0006328, BRAMPTON ROAD CONN FROM SR 21/SR 25 to SR 21 SPUR. GDOT requested to add around \$1.6 million in FY 2020 for Preliminary Engineering. Approximately \$1.2 million will come from HB 170 funds and roughly \$500 thousand will come from the Georgia Ports Authority as the local sponsor.
- PI# 0010028, CS 1097/DELESSEPS/LA ROCHE AVE FM WATERS AVE TO SKIDAWAY RD. GDOT requested to add a Preliminary Engineering phase in FY 2020 with \$25,000 of HB 170 funds; and add additional local funds to the Construction phase in FY 2020. Z301 funds with local match and Z230 funds with local match have been allocated to the FY 2020 Construction phase. These funds will not change. The cost increase for construction is roughly \$300 thousand and will be provided by the City of Savannah which is the local project sponsor.

The Transportation Improvement Program must be consistent with the most up-to-date Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). All of the four projects are included in the financially-constrained 2045 MTP. These project cost changes have been incorporated into the 2045 MTP financial plan.

The 15-day comment period for the TIP amendments was advertised and started on July 24. It would end on August 7. Staff has received written comments from Ms. Jo Hickson concerning bike and pedestrian trails connecting to the McQueen's Island Trail related to the US 80 Bridges Replacement project. These comments were forwarded to GDOT. Ms. Hickson also sent some other comments on bike/pedestrian /trail connections that are not related to the TIP amendments but more relevant to the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. These comments will be addressed during the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan amendment process.

Mr. Wilkes stated that the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan receives a portion of the set aside funds in the 2045 MTP. If someone is willing to sponsor the project, the set aside policy allows staff to forgo some of the TIP amendment formalities if there is a qualified local government sponsor and it is included in the Non-motorized Transportation Plan.

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to endorse the Amendments to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program; seconded by Mr. Sean Brandon. The motion was passed with none opposed.

4. Updates to Participation Plan and Title VI Planning Documents

☉ [Title VI and PP Updates Status Report August 2019.pdf](#)

☉ [CORE MPO Participation Plan May2019-public-review-copy pfe comments.pdf](#)

☉ [CORE MPO TitleVI Plan Consistent with GDOT Template May2019pfe comment](#)

☉ [s.pdf CORE MPO Language Assistance Plan May2019pfe comments.pdf](#)

☉ [CORE MPO Environmental Justice Plan May2019pfe comments.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan updates.

The CORE MPO is a recipient of federal funds and is required to develop a Participation Plan and Title VI

Plan. The Participation Plan outlines the public participation process for development and amendments to MPO plans, programs, and studies. This is one of the main planning products for the MPO under FHWA regulations. The Title VI Plan is developed in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, relating to nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders and regulations. The Title VI plan is related to the Environmental Justice Plan and the Language Assistance Plan.

The Participation Plan undergoes a major update every 5 years in coordination with the MTP update cycle. The Title VI Plan must be updated every 3 years and includes updates to the public participation components within the Participation Plan. The August 2019 updates are outlined below.

Participation Plan

- No major updates were made to the development and amendments processes for the MPO's plans and programs. Those plans include the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, UPWP, etc. Only minor administrative corrections were made.
- The quantitative Measure of Effectiveness (MOEs) of the MPO's public involvement process since 2016 have been incorporated.
- The public participation summary for the 2045 MTP development was added to the appendix.
- Additional Title VI related goals and objectives were added to Section 3 – Participation Goals and Objectives.
- The Participation Plan can satisfy the requirements outlined in Appendix F of the Title VI Plan.

The **Environmental Justice (EJ) Report** was revised to an **EJ Plan**. It includes the latest census data and the results of the Environmental Justice impact analysis conducted for the 2045 MTP projects. Demographic maps and statistics from the EJ Plan satisfy the requirements outlined in Appendix I of the Title VI Plan. CORE MPO must identify the EJ populations in the Savannah area and outline how we address these populations. The MPO is also required to outline the 2045 MTP project impacts on EJ populations.

The **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan** has been revised to a **Language Assistance Plan (LAP)** that incorporates the latest census data and LAP progress since 2016. Data in the LAP satisfy the requirements outlined in the Appendix H of the Title VI Plan. CORE MPO is required to determine where the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons are located in the Savannah area and develop a LAP. The LAP addresses how to get LEP persons involved in the transportation planning process.

Populations that meet the LEP requirement must be above a certain threshold – either more than 5% of the total population in a region or more than 1,000 in number. For the Savannah area, the Spanish speaking LEP persons meet the threshold with a population of more than 1,000. CORE MPO staff used the latest census American Community Survey (ACS) data when making these determinations.

Title VI Plan

A state-wide Title VI Plan template was developed by GDOT in 2018. MPO staff received comments from GDOT on the MPO's existing Title VI Plan. In response to GDOT comments, the MPO's Title VI plan was updated to be consistent with the statewide template. The Title VI Plan updates include revising the summary report to include all required components outlined in the GDOT Title VI Plan template.

- The **Non-Discrimination Policy Statements** have been added to the Title VI Plan and the language revised to match the approved GDOT template language.
- The **Non-discrimination Notice to the Public** has been added to the Plan and language has been revised to match the approved GDOT template. The notice added the assignment of a second person as an Alternate Title VI liaison.
- The **Non-discrimination Complaint Form and Procedures** have been added to the Plan and revised to match the approved GDOT template and procedures.
- **Non-discrimination Records of Complaints and Lawsuits** have been added to the Plan and revised to include records retention procedure requiring the Title VI Plan to be maintained and updated every 3 years.
- **Other** information not included in the previous Title VI plan has been added including 1st time applicant requirement, transportation planning board and advisory committee composition and racial breakdown, a Title VI equity analysis, and more.

Ms. Jackie Jackson motioned to endorse the updated Participation Plan and the Title VI Planning Documents; seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion was passed with none opposed.

III. Other Business

NONE

IV. Status Reports

NONE

V. Information Reports (verbal)

GDOT

Mr. Byron Cowart, Planning and Programming Engineer for District 5, presented the GDOT/Chatham County Projects Status Report. Concerning I-16 @ State Route 307, Ms. Pamela Bernard asked if the project is on schedule for October letting. Mr. Cowart stated that the project is on schedule to let in the Fall.

Ms. Caila Brown thanked GDOT for the adjustments to the rumble strips on Hwy 80.

Chatham County

Ms. Pamela Bernard, Senior Transportation Engineer for Chatham County, presented the Chatham County Projects Status Report.

City of Savannah

Mr. Sean Brandon, Director of Mobility and Parking Services, presented the City of Savannah Projects Status Report.

Richmond Hill

Mr. Scott Allison, Assistant City Manager, presented the City of Richmond Hill Projects Status Report.

Garden City

Ms. Jackie Jackson of Garden City Special Projects presented the City of Garden City Projects Status Report.

Chatham Area Transit

Ms. Terri Harrison, CFO of Chatham Area Transit, presented CAT's Projects Status Report. The ITS, West End Ferry Dock, and the Rehab of the 2 Ferry boats are in the preliminary planning phase. An RFP has been received for a new ITS system. A portion of the MPO allocated funding will be used to pay for this. The grants are currently in the FTA software system and CAT staff plans to move forward on these projects in November.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that the MPO completed Transit TIP amendments at the previous CORE MPO meetings and asked if grant applications for those amended projects have been processed. Ms. Harrison stated that CAT is in the process of updating the status and moving the grant applications through the FTA software system. The applications are in and being reviewed by FTA and DOL.

Bike Walk Savannah

Ms. Caila Brown gave an update for Bike Walk Savannah. Related to the Tide to Town Project, the group is working on housing policy and gentrification issues. The goal is to try and mitigate displacement issues surrounding the development of trails.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

NONE

VII. Announcements

5. [Next TCC Meeting: Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.: Location TBA](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

6. [Chatham District 5 MPO Project Status Updates \(GDOT\)](#)
④ [Chatham District 5 MPO Project Status \(period ending 6-30-19\).pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 1, 2019 meeting of the CORE MPO TCC was 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.