



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

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

December 5, 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	X
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	
Melanie Wilson	MPC Executive Director	
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Steve Henry	City of Savannah	
Tim Callanan	Effingham County	X
Vacant	Town of Thunderbolt	
<u>Voting Alternate</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Richard Fangmann	POND	X
Melissa Phillips	POND	X
Jeff Griffith	GDOT Aviation	X
Alan Wertz	KCI Technologies	X
Gordon Simmons	RS&H	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO	X
James Small	CORE MPO	X
Tom McQueen	GDOT	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to approve the December 5, 2019 CORE MPO TCC meeting agenda; seconded by Ms. Jackie Jackson. The motion was passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

[1.Approval of October 17, 2019 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes](#)

☉ [October 17 TCC.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to approve the October 17, 2019 TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Michelle Strickland. The motion was passed with none opposed.

[2.Amendments to FY 2018 - 2021 TIP](#)

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that staff received the TIP amendment request for six projects.

1. PI# 0010560, SR 26 FM JOHNNY MERCER TO OLD US 80; INC BULL RVR&LAZARETTO – increase ROW funding by \$922,500 in FY 2020.
2. PI# 0006328, BRAMPTON ROAD CONN FROM SR 21/SR 25 to SR 21 SPUR –1) move the CST phase from FY 2020 to FY 2021; and 2) move the UTL phase from FY 2020 to FY 2021.
3. PI# 0015704, SR 404 SPUR/US 17 @ BACK RIVER – move the CST phase from FY 2021 to long range.
4. PI# 0015705, SR 404 SPUR/US 17 FM NE OF SAVANNAH HARBOR PKWY TO BACK RIVER – 1) move the ROW phase from FY 2020 to long range; and 2) move the CST phase from FY 2021 to long range.
5. PI# 0013741, SR 25/US 17 @ Savannah River in Port Wentworth – 1) move the ROW phase from FY 2020 to FY 2021 with reduced cost; 2) move the CST phase from FY 2020 to long range; and 3) move the UTL phase from FY 2020 to long range.
6. PI# 0013742, SR 25/US 17 @ Middle River in Port Wentworth - 1) move the ROW phase from FY 2020 to FY 2021 with reduced cost; and 2) move the CST phase from FY 2020 to long range.

The Right-of-Way (ROW) phase cost estimate for PI#0010560, SR 26 FM JOHNNY MERCER TO OLD US 80; INC BULL RVR&LAZARETTO has increased from \$280,500 to \$1,203,000. Staff has received many comments about the significant increase in the ROW amount. Ms. Wang suggested that Tybee Island apply for Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds during the upcoming Call for Projects. Mr. Cowart stated that GDOT is currently evaluating which side will have the Bull River bridge replacement. GDOT states that the environmental constraints will lead to increased cost. Currently, it is indicated that Tybee Island is the local sponsor and is responsible for funding the project's ROW phase. Ms. Wang stated that the money contributed by Tybee could potentially be used as a local match in the HIP funds Call for Projects.

Due to the project falling behind schedule, the Construction (CST) and Utility (UTL) phases for PI# 0006328, BRAMPTON ROAD CONN FROM SR 21/SR 25 to SR 21 SPUR have been moved from FY 2020 to FY 2021. There is no cost increase or decrease for the project. One comment was received for this project stating that the project's description was incorrect because it states that Foundation Rd. is a part of the project. Mr. Cowart stated that he will request the description be revised because Foundation Rd. is not a part of the project.

The CST and ROW phases for projects PI# 0015704, SR 404 SPUR/US 17 @ BACK RIVER and PI# 0015705, SR 404 SPUR/US 17 FM NE OF SAVANNAH HARBOR PKWY TO BACK RIVER have been moved out of the TIP to Long Range. The delay is due to two reasons - 1) SCDOT is behind schedule in widening US 17; and 2) GDOT is still coordinating with SCDOT to finalize agreements and funding.

The ROW and CST phases for PI# 0013741, SR 25/US 17 @ Savannah River in Port Wentworth have been moved. The ROW phase has been moved to FY 2021 with a reduced cost and the CST phase has been moved to Long Range. The CST phase for PI# 0013742, SR 25/US 17 @ Middle River in Port Wentworth has been moved to Long Range and the ROW phase is moving to FY 2021 with a cost reduction. Both bridge replacement projects are considered design build. Mr. Trent Long of Port Wentworth stated that there were conversations to consider the cost associated with relocating the Houlihan bridge.

Ms. Jackie Jackson motioned to endorse the FY 2018 - 2021 TIP Amendments; seconded by Ms. Wykoda Wang. The motion was passed with none opposed.

3.Election of TCC Chairman for Calendar Year 2020

Ms. Pamela Bernard nominated Mr. Mark Wilkes for Chairperson. Nominations were closed, the vote was taken, and Mr. Mark Wilkes was elected Chairperson by a majority of those present.

4.Election of TCC Vice-Chairman for Calendar Year 2020

Ms. Wykoda Wang nominated Ms. Pamela Bernard for Vice Chairperson. Nominations were closed, the vote was taken, and Ms. Pamela Bernard was elected Vice chairperson by a majority of those present.

III. Other Business

5.Discussion on Special Studies for UPWP development and amendment

📎 [FHWA Procurement Process.pdf](#)

📎 [Garden City State Route 21 Access Management Plan Study 111819.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated that at the previous meeting we announced a Call for Plans and Studies in conjunction with the development of the FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Staff received three study proposals as a result. The Strategic Planning Studies being discussed will either be incorporated into the FY 2021 UPWP or added into the FY 2020 UPWP in February 2020. Project sponsors were invited to discuss their projects in further detail.

Ms. Pamela Bernard of Chatham County stated that the projects they submitted - SR 204 between King George and US 17 and Islands Expressway between Truman Parkway and US 80 - may be pulled due to a potential lack of match funds. Mr. Wilkes stated that this Call for Plans and Studies is slated for the entire UPWP beginning in July 2020. Primarily staff is considering the fiscal year which spans from July 2020 to June 2021. Staff could potentially include the projects as illustrative in the FY 2021 UPWP and allow them to remain if funding becomes available.

Ms. Bernard stated that the SR 204 between King George and US 17 project will require improvements concerning traffic in the corridor. Regarding the Island Expressway project, due to the exponential growth in the area, there are operational and safety improvements that need to be made. County staff would like to explore recommendations for improving traffic and pedestrian/bike activity in that area.

Concerning the Access Management Study of SR 21 from Minus Avenue to Bourne Avenue, Ms. Jackie Jackson stated that the study intends to review the access management proposals that stem from the 2013 study of the corridor. The design standards will be reviewed in a second proposal. Due to the growth estimated for the area, including the Groves school complex and increased residential housing in the area, she believes this segment of road needs to be studied further.

In terms of timing, Mr. Wilkes asked if Garden City staff intended for this project to go into the FY 2020 UPWP as an amendment or be included in the FY 2021 UPWP. If amended into the FY 2020 UPWP, staff could pursue funding as soon as March 2020 recognizing that the procurement process after this could take nearly six months. Ms. Jackson stated that they have the intention to amend the current FY 2020 UPWP to include the study. Staff suggested that the study be included in both the FY 2020 UPWP and FY 2021 UPWP in case the study does not get funding award in March 2020. It was suggested that the estimated cost be increased from \$125,000 to \$150,000, with a 20% local match to be provided by Garden City. If all funds are not exhausted, the remainder can be returned to GDOT.

IV. Status Reports

6.I-95 / Airways Avenue Interchange Study

Mr. Richard Fangmann of Pond gave an updated presentation on the I-95 / Airways Avenue Interchange Study. Pond has completed the technical analysis and is presenting the results to the TCC. The project's need and purposes focus on improving access, addressing congestion, and improving safety in that corridor. Mr. Fangmann presented the four interchange alternatives developed as a result of the study.

- Alternative #1. Widen Existing Bridge and Ramps
This alternative adds increased capacity along Pooler Parkway providing additional lanes and

ramps. This alternative can utilize the existing bridge and does not require additional right-of-way. The base cost of construction is \$15,482,000 with a total project cost of \$19,600,000.

- **Alternative #2. Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)**
This alternative allows the traffic to cross over, creating an opposite side of traffic flow, making it easier for motorists to get on and off. The close spacing of the interchange is a challenge due to the congestion it creates, in addition to the significant through traffic that currently exists. This alternative does not require additional right-of-way and has a base construction cost of \$10,159,000 with a total project cost of \$13,000,000.
- **Alternative #3. Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)**
This alternative will require widening the road through the interchange area and reconfiguring the ramps to cross over at the center of the interchange. This creates one intersection in the middle where Northbound and Southbound motorists will turn simultaneously. This will create increased operational efficiency at the intersections with the highest volume. This alternative does not require additional right-of-way and has a base cost of construction of \$30,955,000 with a total project cost of \$38,400,000.
- **Alternative #4. Flyovers from North and South**
This alternative includes flyovers from the North and South going to and from the airport. This alternative does not require additional right-of-way. The base cost of construction is \$31,068,000 with a total project cost of \$43,300,000.

All alternatives were evaluated based on traffic operations, traffic safety, access, environmental considerations, public support, and cost. All categories received a score between 1 and 5. Alternative #4, the flyover, scored the highest with 27.7 points.

Concerning public support, Ms. Bernard asked what the rating were based on. Mr. Fangmann stated that they were based on a combination of verbal and written comments from the public meetings. There were roughly 40 people at the public meetings.

Concerning environmental impacts, Ms. Wang stated that she believes there will be more environmental impacts besides the water in the area. Mr. Fangmann stated that there is a section that could be impacted slightly by the overpass, but no historic structures were found in the vicinity. Ms. Bernard stated that they haven't done a full environmental study and this will come later.

There are closely spaced intersections and a lot of development next to the I-95 interchange is creating significant congestion.

Mr. Tom McQueen stated that the project will need a sponsor and be included in the TIP before it can be reviewed by FHWA.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

GDOT

Mr. Byron Cowart, Planning and Programming engineer for District 5, presented the GDOT/ Chatham County Projects Status Report.

Chatham County

Ms. Pamela Bernard presented the Chatham County Projects Status Report.

City of Savannah

Ms. Michelle Strickland, Traffic Engineering, gave an update on the projects in the City of Savannah.

Savannah Airport Commission

Mr. George Fiddler, Director of Engineering, gave an update on the projects underway at the Savannah Airport.

Richmond Hill

Mr. Scott Allison gave an update on the projects in the City of Richmond Hill.

Effingham County

Mr. Tim Callanan gave an update on the projects in Effingham County.

Bike Walk Savannah

Ms. Caila Brown gave an update on the projects for Bike Walk Savannah.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

NONE

VII. Announcements

[7.Next TCC Meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.: Location TBA](#)

[8.I-16/Little Neck Road Study Community Open House](#)

📎 [I16_LittleNeck_MtgFlyer.pdf](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the December 5, 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.