



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Virtual Meeting
April 22, 2021 at 2:00pm

APRIL 22, 2021 CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Charles Ackridge	City of Bloomingdale	
Scott Allison	City of Richmond Hill	X
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	X
Caila Brown	Bike Walk Savannah	
Matt Saxon	City of Pooler	
Ned Green	GDOT – Planning	X
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT – District Five	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
Trent Long	City of Port Wentworth	X
Don Masisack	Coastal Regional Commission	
Peter Gulbranson	City of Tybee Island	
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Melanie Wilson	MPC Executive Director	X
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Stephen Henry	City of Savannah	X
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Molly Sims	Town of Thunderbolt	
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	
Voting Alternate	Representing	
Leon Davenport	City of Pooler	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT/ District Planning and Programming Liaison	X
Others	Representing	
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Ansley Grantham	GDOT/Intermodal	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X

Rhodes Hunt	Kimley-Horn	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X
Melissa Phillips	Pond	X
Chris Marsengill	Kimley-Horn	X
Kerry Beiber	General Public	X

I. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the February 18, 2021 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes.](#)

A motion to approve the February 18, 2021 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. Amendment to FY 2021 UPWP](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated in June of 2020 the SR 307 Corridor Study was added as an illustrative unfunded project/planning study to the FY 2021 UPWP. Earlier this year the funding contract was executed with GDOT. This amendment is to move the project to the funded portion of the current year UPWP. The amount is \$250,000 (matched funds).

The MPO staff is asking TCC for endorsement to the CORE MPO Board to reflect the study is now funded.

Mr. Leon Davenport motioned to approve the amendment to FY 2021 UPWP; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[3. Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the FY 2022 UPWP details the staff budget and work program for the coming fiscal year to carry out the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. This covers funding, staff work tasks and budget. There are two primary federal planning grants that the MPO operates under. The first is Federal Highway Administration PL grant. The second is FTA Section 5303 grant. Both grants require a 20% local match. They are allocated to the MPO for planning by formula. The formula is based primarily on population. The MPO is responsible for paying most of the local match except for the 5303 grant. GDOT provides half of the local match for this grant. These are funds that can only be used for planning. At the end of the fiscal year if the funds have not been spent, they are forfeited. They do not roll from one year to the next. The total funding for this coming fiscal year would be \$628,420 - this includes \$450,178 in matched PL funds and \$178,241 in matched Section 5303 funds.

The Discretionary PL funds are pooled at the state level by GDOT. There are currently \$4 million with \$3 million reserved for MPO long range plan updates. Each spring and fall the MPO is eligible to apply for this funding. The SR 307 Corridor Study and the SR 21 Access Management Study are currently using this funding. To be eligible, these studies need to be in the MPO's UPWP. The applications take place twice a year and are screened by GDOT and FHWA staff as well as the PL Funds Review Committee. These funds also require a 20% local match which is usually provided by the project sponsor.

The Discretionary Section 5303 funds can be applied for each year. These applications must be submitted by the MPOs in December. They are applied for at the time the annual transit planning grant is applied for. These funds require a 20% local match as well. The MPO will apply for this funding to help the Chatham Area Transit purchase scheduling software in FY 2023.

The MPO has received Discretionary Section 5303 and PL awards in previous work programs.

- FY 2018 – MPO Interchange traffic studies at I-16/Little Neck Road and I-95/Airways Avenue with Chatham County and Savannah Airport Commission as project sponsors respectively.

- FY 2020 – Chatham Area Transit for purchase of software and data. (\$27,000)
- FY 2021 – SR 21 Access Management Study at Garden City and the SR 307 Corridor Study.

The UPWP development began when the MPO conducted a Call for Plans and Studies in October 2020. In the Fall of 2020, the Transit Planning tasks for FY 2022 were presented to the committees. FTA Section 5303 grant application took place in December 2020. From December 2020 to January 2021 the MPO staff developed the first draft of the FY 2022 UPWP. It was submitted to GDOT and FHWA for review and comment on January 8th, 2021. The draft received substantial comments and has been under redevelopment. Revised drafts have been published on the MPO website.

The revised draft FY 2022 UPWP will go in front of the CORE MPO Board next week for approval. The next step will be to seek approval from the Federal Highway Administration prior to June 30, 2021 to be able to execute the FY 2022 funding contracts for both PL and Section 5303 funds.

Staff work priorities for FY 2022 include the 2050 MTP plan update. Approximately 1 ½ years ago Mobility 2045 was adopted. The MTP must be updated every 5 years. Other work priorities include the Congestion Management Process update, SR 21 Access Management Study, SR 307 Corridor Study, addressing Federal Certification Review recommendations, Freight Plan update, and the 2020 Census Urban Area Delineation.

The work program is divided into 6 major tasks which are Administration, Public Involvement, Data Collection Analysis/Forecasting, Systems Planning and Operations, Transit Planning, and Special Studies (both funded and un-funded). There are subtasks for each of these categories.

The MPO staff is asking for the committee to endorse the proposed draft of the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program for approval by the MPO Board.

A motion to endorse the draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program was made and seconded. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[4. 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the MPO staff was proceeding with the 2045 MTP Vision Plan amendments at the direction of the CORE MPO Board in February. The City of Pooler proposed to add two projects into the 2045 MTP Vision Plan - the Pine Barren Road Improvements and the South Roger Street Improvements. Pooler wanted to have these projects included in the TSPLOST. If the projects are included in the Vision Plan, they have the possibility of moving into the fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan, then eventually into the TIP to receive federal funding. MPO staff felt if TSPLOST was going to be voted on this fall, there were possibly other projects from other municipalities that would need funding as well. The MPO Board authorized the staff to proceed in contacting all jurisdictions to compile one list including all municipalities.

Staff has received the project list. Several of the projects submitted are resurfacing, sidewalks, trails, safety signal upgrades, operational improvements, and bikeways.

- MPO staff requests if the project is a sidewalk or bicycle project, that the municipalities coordinate with the MPO staff to incorporate the specific segments or specific projects into the MPO's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. There is a policy statement in the 2045 MTP - if the project is consistent with the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan of the MPO and has a local sponsor (and the sponsor wants to pursue implementation), it would be considered consistent with the 2045 MTP and eligible for federal funding. When the MPO conducts the Call for Projects for the Transportation Alternatives funds, the local sponsor can apply for those funds.
- For the operational improvements, the MPO staff is not going to include those in this Vision Plan amendment either. There is a policy statement in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan – if a project is an operational improvements project and the local sponsor is pursuing the project and willing to provide the 20% local match, this project will be considered consistent with the 2045 MTP and eligible for the Z230 funds during the Call for Projects.

To be eligible for federal funding, the project needs to be located within the MPO's planning boundary. The highway projects need to be located on functionally classified roadways. If the project is on a local street, it is not eligible. The local government should take care of the local street improvements.

The list of projects for 2045 MTP Vision Plan amendment consideration is shown below.

- Bloomingdale – projects did not meet criteria.
- Garden City

- Telfair Road Improvement
 - Old Louisville Road
- Pooler
 - Pooler Pkwy Widening - MPO needs a more detailed project description.
 - Pooler Pkwy Widening from I-95 to South Godley Station.
 - Quacco Road
 - South Roger Street
 - Pine Barren Road
 - Old Louisville Road from Garden City extending to the City of Pooler.
- Pt. Wentworth – The Gulfstream Widening project is in the fiscally constraint 2045 MTP as well as Vision Plan. The Pt. Wentworth segment is north of SR 21.
- City of Savannah
 - Gulfstream Rod Widening
 - Montgomery Cross Road Bridge / Casey Canal
 - Skidaway Road Widening
- Thunderbolt- No major Roads to be included.
- Tybee Island – No eligible projects.
- Vernonburg – No eligible projects.
- Chatham County (the MPO needs more detailed information on these projects).
 - Quacco Rd and Little Neck Rd Bridge Replacement over I-95
 - John Carter Rd Improvements
 - Quacco Road Widening
 - Truman Parkway Improvements
 - Islands Expressway Improvements

Effingham and Bryan Counties passed TSPLOST. Effingham County's TSPLOST projects are not located within the CORE MPO planning area boundary. They are not pursuing federal funding. For Bryan County's TSPLOST projects, some are located within the CORE MPO planning area boundary, but they are not pursuing federal funding in the future.

A final list with detailed project information will be available when presented to the MPO Board next week. The staff recommendation is for the TCC committee to endorse the proposed project list subject to the corrections mentioned.

Mr. Leon Davenport stated he was concerned about the TSPLOST and ESPLOST referendum, and if these funds would be available in the future. He expressed concerns about showing all the projects on the list. The list was provided more to be discussed within the MPO and the elected officials to see what projects there were and which ones will move forward. Ms. Melanie Wilson stated that she agrees with this as well. There needs to be more discussion on the projects listed with the TSPLOST / ESPLOST. Ms. Bernard mentioned titling those projects "TSPLOST wish list" since there is uncertainty of any TSPLOST funds at this time or just include mentioning of the TSPLOST in the narrative and leave any title off the listing of projects. Mr. Ron Feldner mentioned calling them "Future Proposed Sales Tax Funded Projects". Mr. Davenport stated the concern for the elected officials and the commitment of TSPLOST or it appearing as if the TCC staff was pushing this. The staff was asked to get a list of projects into the Vision Plan. The list is to be there for when the MPO conducts Call for Plans and Studies or when GDOT updates the STIP. Mr. Scott Allison stated Bryan County language needs to mirror the Effingham County language. None of their current projects are located within the CORE MPO planning area boundary. Ms. Wilson stated she agreed with Mr. Feldner with the possibilities/ proposals of projects that could be funded under either funding and just show a list of projects everyone needs that can be funded either by SPLOST or TSPLOST. Ms. Bernard agreed.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked for a motion to endorse the Amendments to the 2045 MTP Vision Plan as discussed, taking out the table with the money and taking out the specific reference to TSPLOST and be a little vaguer reference to sales tax projects for the Vision Plan.

A motion to endorse the 2045 MTP Vision Plan amendments was made and seconded. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[5. Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets \(2021\)](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the FTA established the transit safety performance measures. Certain transit agencies and MPOs must set transit safety performance targets for the performance measures that the FTA set. The agencies/ MPOs that must follow these requirements are recipients or subrecipients of FTA grant funds. Transit agencies are required to set their safety performance targets in their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

(PTASP). Once they set those targets, they should share them with the MPOs. Once the MPOs receive those targets, they have 180 days to set regional transit safety performance targets.

The transit safety performance measures are set by the FTA. They are used to measure performance or condition. They are quantifiable performance conditions to be achieved. They help transit agencies and MPOs assess progress towards meeting safety performance targets.

Safety Performance Targets set by FTA:

- Fatalities
- Serious Injuries
- Safety Events
- System Reliability

Addressing the FTA's four safety performance measures requires seven transit safety performance targets by mode. These performance targets are:

- Total Fatalities
- Rate of fatalities per vehicle revenue miles
- Total serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries per vehicle revenue miles
- Total safety events
- Rate of safety events per vehicle revenue miles
- Miles between major mechanical failures

This is the first-time transit agencies and MPOs are going through this process to set transit safety performance targets. The Chatham Area Transit (CAT) is the only transit agency in the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Area that falls under the FTA requirements for setting these targets. CAT developed their PTASP and set their safety targets. They provided those to the CORE MPO in January 2021. The CORE MPO has until July 2021 to set performance targets for the region.

Setting the performance targets for the planning area was coordinated with CAT and GDOT. The CORE MPO staff recommends using CAT's transit performance targets as regional targets. This will help ensure a common goal and consistency between the two agencies.

Transit providers are required to update their transit safety performance targets annually. MPOs are not required to do this annually. Currently the MPO updates the system performance report when new performance targets are adopted. The MPO is requesting the advisory committee to endorse the proposed regional transit safety targets for the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Area.

A motion to endorse the Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets (2021) was made and seconded. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[6. Amendments to FY 2021 - 2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the MPO's short-range programming document (TIP) is modified to ensure that updates to projects and schedules are incorporated. The MPO has received project updates from GDOT along with new funding and programming information this past January and February. There are updates to the existing highway and transit fund revenue projections along with additional funds being added. There are three proposed highway project updates and three proposed transit project updates.

The Highway updates are:

- The Chevis Road Improvement Project - Chatham County was awarded some lapsing TAP funds and Z301 revenues. The Cost estimate for the PE phase has been updated to reflect the changes in funding.
- Savannah River Crossing – GDOT added a scoping phase for the new study which will help identify strategies for bridge improvements.
- Lump Sum - Two Lump Sum categories were added - Freight Operations and Rural Developments. Construction Management has been removed from the Lump Sum.

The proposed Transit updates include:

- Section 5339 of the Capital and Operations Fund. This is a new fund in programming that is currently not in the TIP. This will be programmed for FY 2021.

- Z950 FHWA Ferry Boat funds. There are updates in FY 2021 and FY 2022. GDOT requested funding from previous years be flexed from FHWA to FTA at the same time, which resulted in all the funds being programmed for FY 2021.
- Section 5311 Capital and Operations funds. GDOT provided updated cost estimates for FY 2022 and FY 2024.

Included in Appendix A of the staff report are the updated TIP project pages and tables. The MPO staff is asking the TCC to endorse the Amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP.

Ms. Wang stated FTA released some new funding information for one of the programs, and there might be minor changes. MPO staff will coordinate with CAT staff to update changes, if any, to the FY 2023-2024 numbers.

A motion was made to endorse the amendments to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP and was seconded. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Other Business

[7. Update on Projects Programmed with Z230, Z301 and HIP Funds](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated during the Call for Projects, the MPO mentioned they would request the project sponsors who get the awarded funds to present their project status at the TCC meetings. This was a recommendation from the Certification Review as well (track where the awarded funds are going and what the status is).

This is particularly important for the projects with funds programmed in FY 2021 which ends on June 30 of this year. The MPO needs to have a project status report from each project sponsor, updating the status to know whether the funds can be authorized by June 30th, 2021.

Chatham County - Ms. Pamela Bernard gave the report.

- Chevis Road Improvement and Gerrard Avenue – received the PI numbers this morning from GDOT. The County will move forward with obtaining a consultant and coordinate with GDOT for the PFA.
- I-16 at Jimmy DeLoach Interchange – There is an RFP (request for proposals) out now and the proposals are due on April 27th. The PFA was approved by the board at the April 16th meeting.

City of Savannah

- DeLesseps Avenue project was allocated some lapsing TAP funds. Mr. Leon Davenport stated the funds were authorized last year and the PFA was signed. This project is moving forward.
- Traffic Control Center (TCC) – The TCC funds were programmed in the TIP for the City of Savannah, but there is no PI number that has been assigned to date. There has been no communication from GDOT on how to deal with the funding. Mr. Ned Green stated GDOT has a PI number for this project as well as CAT project and will communicate as to the next steps.
- Project DeRenne - The GDOT Office of Planning said the funds will be shifted to FY 2022 due to COVID. Mr. Davenport and Ms. Wilson stated there needs to be a conference call/email with MPO staff, GDOT Planning and the project sponsor to discuss the moving of the funds. There has been confusion as to who moves the funding first.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B - GDOT added a ROW phase. This project phase is locally funded, so there is no amendment needed for this phase.

Chatham Area Transit report is attached to agenda. Email CAT with any questions.

Tybee Island – Bull River and Lazaretto Creek Bridge Replacements have HIP funds programmed in FY 2022 and FY 2023. Ms. Katie Proctor stated GDOT will get back with MPO staff on the progress of these projects.

[8. Discussion on Call for Projects Issues](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Z301 funds are balanced. The HIP funds have a balance of \$686,000. When the TIP was developed, those funds were held for the US 80 Bull River and Lazaretto Creek bridge replacements; the ROW funds programmed in the TIP for those projects might not cover unexpected cost increases. The Z230 funds have positive balances - there is a balance of \$3 million in FY 2023 and a balance of \$6 million in FY 2024. There might be \$2.1 million in COVID-19 relief funds. The deadline for obligation was September 2024. The MPO staff needs to conduct another Call for Projects to allocate all these funds. The MPO staff is asking for input regarding

the timing of the call. The last Call for Projects the staff conducted was last year. There were TIP amendments and TIP development based on recommendations from that call.

Ms. Melanie Wilson stated the projects eligible for the COVID-19 relief funds are in Section 23B. The staff will share more information as it comes in. Mr. Leon Davenport and Ms. Pamela Bernard suggested going ahead and getting a list together. There was a question as to when the funds are available and when they lapse. Ms. Wang stated the funding was available anytime between now and FY 2024.

Ms. Bernard stated the Chevis Road project has ROW for FY 2022, the project was just programmed and the PI number obtained, she stated that project probably will not make FY 2022 for ROW. Chatham County will get back with the MPO staff once they talk with GDOT and get a better timeline.

[9. Freight Plan Update Discussion](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the last freight plan was completed in FY 2016. During the Certification Review, one of the recommendations was to update the freight plan since this is a freight heavy area. The MPO staff is asking for input as to what the committee would like to see achieved in the next freight plan update.

The last freight plan included a lot of analysis including future conditions, performance measures, bottle necks, safety and security issues, land use analysis, economic development, market assessment and environmental community scan. There were 3 sets of recommendations - Policy Recommendations, Freight Land Use Recommendations and Freight Infrastructure Recommendations.

Things not covered in the last freight plan that the MPO staff would like to include in this update.

- Converting the freight volumes (tonnage) to number of trips for rail cars and highway traffic.
- Truck Parking inventory, and truck restrictions.
- Impact from emergencies (ex: COVID-19)

For the next plan update, this will be divided into two portions. One will be achieved in-house by staff. Staff will map out truck restrictions with direction from the EDFAC committee. Staff will also create a report card to evaluate the freight plan implementation focusing on the highway infrastructure improvements. The staff will evaluate the possibility of using a consultant and the data needs that will require. This will be done by the end of September. If a consultant is used, the MPO will apply for the PL discretionary funds. The application will start in September, have the RFP, and procure a consultant by the end of the year. When the plan update starts, it will be approximately a one-year process. For the data needs, the staff will evaluate what is available in freight data, FHWA, NPMRDS, Transearch, truck data or GPS data.

The Freight Plan is a required document for the DOT, but it's not required for the MPO. GDOT is conducting a statewide freight plan and the MPO staff wants to coordinate our regional freight plan development with them. Currently the MPO has SR 307 Corridor Study and SR 21 Access Management Study. The completed freight related studies are I-95 at Airways Avenue Study and I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Interchanges Study. The MPO will incorporate the recommendations from these studies into the next freight plan. The MPO staff is asking for comments/discussion from the committee over the next few meetings (April, June, and August) to develop a more detailed scope and to decide on funding if a consultant was needed as well as the local match for this.

IV. Status Reports

[10. Truck Restrictions Mapping](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the EDFAC committee wants the MPO staff to develop a truck restriction map. The process has been started, and many jurisdictions have been contacted and given comments. Most of the truck restrictions are on local streets. Most of the trucks are moving on functionally classified roadways, particularly Interstates and freeways. There will be three different layers in the map. The first one will highlight the roadways with truck restrictions on the functionally classified roadways. The second part will be for weight limit. Some jurisdictions have a weight limit of 6,000 pounds, some 10,000 pounds. The third layer would be for the local streets (the limitations such as radius or canopy), most being in the City of Savannah.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

[11. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Katie Proctor reported on GDOT updates to Chatham County projects status report.

- SR 26/Ogeechee Rd is expected to request the concept meeting in June.
- Effingham Parkway is at 100% Final Plans, expected LET in May.
- US 80 Preliminary Plans are at 90%.
- Brampton Rd Final plans submitted to CBA, expected LET in May.

Active Construction Projects (updates)

I-516/SR 421 is waiting for a Notice to Proceed with an anticipated completion date in the Fall 2021.

[12. Chatham County Project Status Update](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard reported updates to Chatham County Projects.

- I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Pkwy Interchange - signing the PFA this week.
- Chevis and Garrard Avenue Improvements - the PI numbers have been obtained and projects will move forward.
- Little Neck Rd Reconstruction will start ROW acquisition soon.

[13. City of Savannah Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Michelle Strickland reported updates on City of Savannah Project Status Report.

- DeLesseps Avenue project- Bids were open and under review.
- Traffic Control Center - GDOT will contact Mr. Davenport with the PI number to move forward.
- I-516 / DeRenne Avenue- The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) were sent to FHWA. The City has brought in a consultant to work with the neighborhoods as they move forward.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B – in Environmental phase, GDOT added a ROW phase.

[14. CAT Project Status Report](#)

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

None

VII. Notices

[15. Special Studies Project Advisory Committee Volunteers Needed](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the MPO has recently kicked off the SR 307 Corridor Study and the SR 21 Access Management Study. If anyone is interested in participating in either of the studies, please contact him to be added to the list.

[16. FHWA and FTA Issue Certification Review Final Report](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the MPO has the written final report as of March 31st. This is available on the MPC website for view.

[17. New Cutoff Dates for 2021 Calendar of Meetings](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the cutoff dates were moved ahead one week in order to have sufficient time to go through each level of approval.

[18. Signup for Neighborhoods and Faith Based Organization Meetings for Input on the Update to Comprehensive Plans for Chatham, Garden City, Pooler and Savannah](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated as part of the Plan 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update process, the MPC/MPO is reaching out to neighborhood organizations and churches to get more comments on the chapters and drafts that are published on the website. If you are a neighborhood association or faith-based community and would like to comment on what the MPC/MPO has worked on for the Plan 2040, you can send an email to plan2040@thempc.org or call (912) 651-1480.

[19. Next TCC Meeting: Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the April 22, 2021 TCC meeting 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.