



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

August 19, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.

AUGUST 19, 2021 CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

| Voting Members | Representing | Present |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| Charles Ackridge | City of Bloomingdale | |
| Scott Allison | City of Richmond Hill | |
| Pamela Bernard | Chatham County Engineering | X |
| Caila Brown | Bike Walk Savannah | X |
| Matt Saxon | City of Pooler | |
| Ned Green | GDOT – Planning | X |
| Mark Denmark | Savannah Airport Commission | X |
| Troy Pittman | GDOT – District Five | X |
| 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 | X |
| Shalonda Roundtree | 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 | |
| Teresa Concannon | Effingham County | X |
| Robert Milie | Town of Thunderbolt | X |
| Vacant | Town of Vernonburg | |
| Voting Alternate | Representing | |
| Leon Davenport | City of Pooler | X |
| Jamie McCurry | Georgia Ports Authority | X |
| Barry Stanton | City of Savannah | X |
| Les Fussell | City of Richmond Hill | X |
| Others | Representing | |
| Sally Helm | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| Ann-Marie Day | FHWA | X |
| Asia Hernton | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| David Thompson | GDOT/Intermodal | X |
| Katie Proctor | GDOT/ District Planning and Programming Liaison | X |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Wykoda Wang | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| Alicia Hunter | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| Julie Yawn | MPC | X |
| Pamela Everett | MPC | X |
| Deanna Brooks | Chatham County | X |
| Lee Beckman | Georgia Ports Authority | X |
| Alan Blake | Chatham County | X |
| Sean Brandon | City of Savannah | X |
| Samual Williams | GDOT | X |
| Jackie Jackson | MPC/Advanced Planning | X |
| Temperance West | MPC | X |
| Melissa Phillips | POND | X |
| Andre Smith | General Public | X |
| Aviance Webb | FHWA | X |
| Melissa Paul-Leto | MPC | X |
| Kerry Beiber | General Public | X |

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to approve the August 19, 2021 CORE MPO TCC agenda; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the June 17, 2021 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes.](#)

Ms. Melanie Wilson motioned to approve the June 17, 2021 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Mark Wilkes. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. Review and Discussion of Proposed Plans and Studies for Discretionary PL Funding](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee awards funding twice each year, in late September and late March. The funds in question are unused MPO planning funds from prior years and can only be used for planning. The projects for which we submit funding applications must support the CORE MPO MTP. The studies must be reflected in the CORE MPO UPWP, reviewed at 2 rounds of CORE MPO meetings prior to application and include a resolution of support from the CORE MPO Board. The studies must undergo a competitive procurement process if the funding is awarded and administered by the MPO staff.

The 4 studies proposed for funding are listed below.

1. Islands Expressway Corridor Study (Truman Pkwy to US 80), Chatham County
2. Freight Transportation Plan Update, MPC
3. Urban Flooding Model (impacts on Transportation and other Infrastructure), MPC
4. US 80 Corridor Study (Western City Limits to Pooler Parkway), City of Pooler

Islands Expressway Corridor Study - requested funding amount is \$100,000 (\$80,000 federal and \$20,000 local funding to be provide by Chatham County as the project sponsor). Ms. Pamela Bernard stated due to the growth in the area, this project will look at access control as far as looking at the intersections and evaluating where turn lanes would be beneficial as well as operational improvements. There have been several requests for a bike lane or walking trail along the road to allow residents from the Islands to come to downtown without a vehicle if wanted (pedestrian/ bike access).

Ms. Caila Brown motioned to endorse the funding application for the Islands Expressway Corridor Study (Truman Pkwy to US 80); seconded by Mr. Mark Wilkes. The motion passed with non-opposed.

CORE MPO Freight Transportation Plan Update - Ms. Wykoda Wang stated CORE MPO's last freight plan was completed at the end of 2015. The recommendations from this updated plan will feed into the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. Since the development of the last freight plan, there have been several infrastructure improvements such as I-16 widening, I-16/ I-95 interchange reconstruction, warehouses and distribution centers that have been built or under construction. This Regional Freight Plan Update includes Chatham County, Bryan County and Effingham County as well as coordinating with Hinesville MPO and LATS in South Carolina.

The scope of the Freight Transportation Plan Update will include but is not limited to the following:

1. Project Management and Coordination
2. Freight Needs Assessment and Analysis
 - o Update the Existing Freight Network and Asset Inventory
 - o Update the Existing and Future Freight and Goods Movement Assessment
 - o Update the Freight Performance Measures
 - o Update the Forecasting of Future Freight Growth
 - o Update the Regional Freight Profiles and Assessment
 - o Update the Freight Network Bottleneck, and Safety and Security Issues
 - o Conduct a Truck Parking Inventory
 - o Investigate Truck Restrictions
 - o Evaluate Freight Impacts from Emergencies and Conduct Freight Resiliency Analysis
 - o Conduct Freight Needs Assessment
3. Land Use Assessment and Analysis
 - o Conduct Assessment and Analysis of Land Use Policies and Local Decision-making within Regional Freight and Goods Movement Context
 - o Conduct Assessment of Freight and Goods Movement Impact on Land Use in the region
4. Update the Economic Development Market Assessment for Freight
5. Update the Environmental and Community Impact Scan and Analysis for Freight
6. Develop Recommendations for Future Land Uses Related to Freight and Goods Movement Needs and Forecasts
7. Develop Final Recommendations for Freight Infrastructure Improvements - Identification of Improvements, Strategies, and Solutions
8. Develop the Final Report and Documentation – Freight, Goods, and Services Plan

COST DESCRIPTION (contract, staff, purchase data costs, etc.):

The project will include the solicitation for a consulting firm to provide most aspects of the study. Most of this work will be borne by the selected consultant firm. Staff will assist in the truck restriction mapping activities. All free data sources will be explored, and data purchase (if needed) will be coordinated with the GDOT Freight Plan update efforts. If awarded the PL discretionary funds, the local match will be paid with CORE MPO membership dues.

PL FUNDS - \$240,000

Local Match (cash) – \$60,000

Total Cost - \$300,000

Discussion for the Freight Transportation Plan Update began in April (this being the 3rd round of discussions). The scope of the plan update is included in the attachment. If there are any recommendations or comments, please forward them to the MPO staff. Mr. Wilkes stated that development of the freight plan and the Congestion Management Process may be coordinated since some of the data may serve both plans.

Mr. Leon Davenport motioned to endorse the funding application for the CORE MPO Freight Transportation Plan Update; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

Urban Flooding Model – The Urban Flooding Model represents features of urban ecosystems and the mechanisms of flooding that impact them. Models will play a role in the flood risk assessment, operational response, and resilience planning. There are growing concerns for coastal communities due to the extreme weather events and increase in frequency of those events. For the CORE MPO planning area, these weather events are major threats for transportation and infrastructure. To address these threats, the study will develop a decision planning tool. The purpose of the tool is to allow users to plan and project costs for urban resilience, transportation, and infrastructure. Within the CORE MPO planning area, agencies can use this tool during their development review process. This will help identify strategies and cost that are required for mitigating surface runoffs from new infrastructure and proposed developments.

PL FUNDS - \$120,000

Local Match (cash) - \$30,000 (to be provided by MPC as the project sponsor)

Total Cost - \$150,000

Ms. Melanie Wilson stated this is different from the Sea Level Rise model. This deals more with the land use components.

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to endorse the funding application for the Urban Flooding Model; seconded by Mr. Ron Feldner. The motioned passed with non-opposed.

US 80 Corridor Study – Mr. Leon Davenport stated Pooler has seen tremendous growth over the last decade. The new Census data shows large increase in population. US 80 goes through most of the municipality requiring a need to look at safety improvements, access points, and how to deal with future growth and development.

PL FUNDS - \$140,000

Local Match (cash) - \$25,000

Local Match (in-kind) - \$10,000

Total Cost - \$175,000

The local match will be provided by the City of Pooler as the project sponsor.

Mr. Davenport asked if Bloomingdale or Garden City decides later that they want to include their portion of US 80 in the study, are they allowed to join in the study and could the local match just be increased and expand the study. Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Ned Green stated it is better to have all the jurisdictions and information in the original application. Mr. Feldner stated if the intersection at Dean Forest Rd is incorporated into the study, East of that location, Garden City does not have issues with US 80 between Dean Forest Rd and Burnsed. There are not a lot of traffic signals in that area.

Ms. Melanie Wilson motioned to endorse the funding application for the US 80 Corridor Study; seconded by Mr. Ron Feldner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[3. Amendments to FY 2022 UPWP](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated these UPWP amendments include the following items.

- Revise the budget for the Freight Transportation Plan Update to reflect the \$300,000 total as discussed earlier.
- In June 2021, the TCC endorsed a request from the City of Pooler for discretionary PL funds to conduct a corridor study of US 80 from Pooler Parkway to Dean Forest Road. This study needs to be added to FY 2022 UPWP as a new illustrative study.
- In June the TCC also endorsed a request from the MPC for a special study to address the impact of sea level rise and more frequent extreme weather on transportation and other infrastructure. To clarify the intent of the study, the name of the study is being revised to Urban Flooding Model. For consistency, the FY 2022 UPWP is being updated to reflect the new study name.

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to approve the Amendments to the FY 2022 UPWP; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motioned passed with non-opposed.

[4. Calls for Projects for Z230 and CRRSAA Funds](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated for the Z230 applications, the Expected Available Funds are

- FY 2021 - \$900,000 (**federal portion – will be added to FY 2023 and FY 2024**);
- FY 2023 - \$3,178,721; and
- FY 2024 - \$6,030,778.

The City of Savannah's Delesseps Avenue ROW acquisition did not spend as much as expected. Since those funds could not be used in the construction phase, that funding will be added back to the Z230 pool. Thus, the final available amounts for FY 2023 and 2024 are to be determined. The applicants should request as much as they need in their applications. The awarded amounts will be determined later based on final available Z230 revenue estimates.

Additional language was added regarding LAP certification. The local sponsor must be LAP certified by GDOT to administer the federal funds. If the local sponsor is in the process of becoming LAP certified while submitting the application, the MPO will consider the sponsor an eligible entity if the LAP certification becomes official before the requested funding phase starts. These requirements only apply to transportation improvement projects, not planning studies. The sponsor needs to provide bi-monthly updates and will risk not being considered for the next round of Call for Projects if they fail to do so.

CRRSAA funds do not require a local match. The ranking criteria for the CRRSAA and the Z230 funds are the same for projects. Planning studies have a separate ranking criterion. The scoring system is the same. Since the CRRSAA funds must be obligated by FY 2024, all project sponsors must be LAP certified to apply. Bi-monthly updates are required for these funds like the Z230 funds.

After the approval from the CORE MPO Board of Calls for Projects for Z230 and CRRSAA funds, the timeline would be:

August 26th – Begin Call for Projects
 September 30th – Deadline for submittal
 October – Prescreen and Rank projects
 November – Begin public involvement process
 December – Amend TIP to incorporate projects

CORE MPO staff is asking the TCC committee to endorse the Calls for Projects manuals, forms, and schedules for Z230 and CRRSAA Funds.

Mr. Leon Davenport asked if sponsors are not LAP certified, could they still apply for the PE funds. Mr. Ned Green stated he would check into the certification pre-qualifications and get back with the committee.

Ms. Melanie Wilson motioned to endorse the Z230 and CRRSAA Calls for Projects manuals, forms, and schedules subject to the procedural question posed and not yet answered; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[5. August Amendments to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the MPO's short-range programming document, the TIP, covers FY 2021 - 2024. The document lists all the surface transportation projects for the area that use federal, state, and local funding. The TIP may be modified in accordance with the procedures outlined in the adopted Participation Plan by resolution of the CORE MPO Board if priorities, area goals, projects schedules or funding levels change.

Recently the FTA released the actual apportionment amounts for Section 5307. This release required CAT to make some project adjustments to this program. The adjustments include the addition and removal of projects along with updating the funding amounts.

Mr. David Thompson stated the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) would adopt the transit safety targets in FY 2021. Do the new changes show the transit safety targets? Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the CAT's PTASP was received by the CORE MPO in December 2020 and the TIP was amended to adopt the transit safety targets in April 2021. The documents with the amendments are available for review on the MPO's website.

Mr. Leon Davenport motioned to endorse the August Amendments to the FY 2021- 2024 TIP; seconded by Mr. Ron Feldner. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Other Business

[6. Congestion Management Process Update](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the initial process started in early summer 2020. Shortly after the process started, the project manager relocated. The last Congestion Management Process was updated in FY 2017 which informed the

development of the 2045 MTP. The CMP is scheduled to be updated on a 5-year cycle. The CMP process includes the following.

- Develop Regional Objectives
- Define CMP Network
- Develop Multimodal Performance Measures
- Collect Data/ Monitor System Performance
- Analyze Congestion Problems and Needs
- Identify and Assess Strategies
- Program and Implement Strategies
- Evaluate Strategy Effectiveness

In June of 2020, there were volunteers for a working group which included Pamela Bernard, Ann-Marie Day, Bren Daiss (no longer at CAT), and Ned Green (GDOT). The staff is confirming and soliciting any additional volunteers. The staff will try to coordinate the meetings around the TCC committee meetings if possible. Subject Matter Experts interested in participating with the working group will assist with:

- Defining CMP Network,
- Selecting Performance Measures,
- Reviewing Data,
- Determining Gaps in Data, and
- Identifying Strategies to Mitigate Congestion.

The CMP is scheduled to be updated around the spring of FY 2023, approximately a year before the MTP update is due. The proposed schedule is available on the CORE MPO website.

[7. FY 2023 UPWP Development Schedule](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated in preparation for development of the FY 2023 UPWP, the GDOT Office of Planning has prepared a proposed schedule for UPWP approval based on adoption by the CORE MPO Board in February 2022. To meet the GDOT proposed schedule, CORE MPO staff will issue a Call for Plans and Studies in September with development of draft work plans, task budgets and supporting documents occurring in October and early November.

The Draft FY 2023 UPWP will be reviewed by the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees at their December meetings, followed by a 30-day review and comment period by GDOT and FHWA. The final FY 2023 UPWP will be distributed to the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees for review and approval at the February 2022 meetings.

IV. Status Reports

[8. SR 21 Access Management Study Status Report](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated since issuing the Notice to Proceed on March 5th, 2021, the following project milestones have been met.

- A kickoff meeting of the Project Management Team was held on March 19th, 2021.
- The first Project Advisory Group meeting was held on May 13th, 2021.
- A project webpage has been developed.
- An online survey for Phase One visioning has been published.
- A WikiMap has been published to encourage direct input on issues and opportunities in the corridor.
- The first public meeting was held virtually on May 25, 2021.
- A day long road safety audit was held on June 9th, 2021.
- The draft Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment has been reviewed by project team members and under revision.
- A needs assessment matrix has been initiated to identify potential improvements.
- Planning for Phase Two public involvement is underway.
- Next public meeting will be in late September.
- Next project advisory committee meeting will be on August 26th, 2021 at 2pm.
- Garden City's council members will be interviewed in the next two weeks to get their priorities for the corridor.
- Project is over 50% complete.

[9. SR 307 Corridor Study Status Report](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated since issuing the Notice to Proceed on March 23rd, 2021, the following progress has been made.

- A kickoff meeting of the Project Management Team was held on April 15th, 2021.
- The draft Project Management Work Plan was submitted on July 23, 2021.
- Bi-weekly project management meetings were initiated on July 14, 2021.
- Traffic count map is complete.
- Traffic counts are complete and have been incorporated into the existing conditions model.
- Existing conditions model is being updated based on recent COVID adjustment factors from GDOT.
- Existing conditions report, public participation plan and online surveys are currently in development.
- Public participation plan has been received in draft form.
- Website is setup on CORE MPO under Studies, including a live link to sign up for study updates.
- Study is approximately 12% complete as of end of July.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

[10. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Katie Proctor presented the GDOT project status report.

Preconstruction status report

- Bridge Replacements at Savannah River and Middle River - both scheduled to LET in September.
- Abercorn Safety Improvement - anticipated PFPR in September.
- Bridge Replacement at Back River is still in Concept.
- Brampton Rd connector from SR 21/25 to SR 21 - anticipated to LET this month.

Active Construction projects

- SR 307 Spur - LET in July.
- SR 21 at SR 30 Intersection Improvement and Turning Lanes - LET in July.
- I-16 from I-95 to I-516 - completed all preconstruction tasks.
- I-16 at SR 307 - completed all preconstruction tasks.

Mr. Peter Gulbranson asked about an update on the bridge replacements at Bull River and Lazeretto Creek projects. Ms. Proctor stated there was funding moved, and the next milestone on Bull River is to approve the schedule and PFPR. The Lazeretto Creek is anticipated for PFPR in September. Mr. Troy Pittman stated the projects were originally started as one project; they have since been split into three separate projects to help move those bridges forward. A lot of preliminary environmental and engineering work has been done. Currently GDOT is waiting on the approved schedules and the construction funding to line up. Ms. Wang stated there was a balance of \$600,000 of HIP funds. Those funds are reserved for these two projects for the ROW phase. Further follow up will be done on these two projects, looking at schedule delivery, and where the HIP funds need to be placed according to the schedules.

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

Ms. Pamela Bernard presented the Chatham County Project status update.

Projects under construction

- Quacco at US 17 Intersection project, Intersection improvements including turn lanes, construction is complete.

Preconstruction Projects

- I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Pkwy Interchange - design contract awarded to BHB.
- Chevis Rd Improvements – currently in QBS process (looking for design firm).
- Garrard Avenue Improvements – currently in QBS process.
- Quacco Rd Widening Project – ROW acquisition is nearly complete, and construction will start soon.
- Little Neck Rd – start ROW acquisition soon.
- Skidaway Road Improvement Project – Public Information Open House was held (August 26th at 5-7pm). More information is on the county website.
- Islands Expressway at Oatland Island Rd – Waiting on environmental permitting.

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

Mr. Barry Stanton presented the City of Savannah Project Status Report.

- Delesseps Avenue widening from Waters Avenue to Skidaway Rd. – Contract signed, construction agreement is with GDOT.
- Traffic Control Center – Funding was moved to FY 2022.
- Project DeRenne – ROW plan preparation ongoing. Preliminary responses submitted to FHWA. Last round of comments from consultant are with GDOT.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B – final submittal for PCE review approval completed. Anticipate GDOT PCE approval within the next two weeks. Anticipate the NTP for ROW phase by the end of August.

[13. CAT Project Status Report](#)

No comments - status report attached and available online

[14. LATS Project Status Update](#)

No comments - status report attached and available online

[15. TIP Project Tracking in August 2021](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the TIP project tracking form is sent to project sponsors for update bi-monthly.

[16. Notable Presentations from webinars and workshops](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated from the recommendations of the Federal Certification Review, the MPO should incorporate as best practice, a process where staff reports out to committees and external staff after attending trainings, conferences, webinars, etc. to share the information. Attached are three presentation files from the webinar/ workshop on Freight Resiliency staff recently attended.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

None.

VII. Notices

[17. Next TCC Meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[18. Coastal Georgia Transit Needs Survey](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the survey wants to identify any service gaps within public transportation within the Coastal Georgia area.

[19. The MPC is Accepting Feedback on Plan 2040 until September 10, 2021](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the staff is still accepting comments on chapters of the Plan 2040. Links and emails are available on the MPC website.

[20. August 2021 TIP Administrative Modifications](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the administrative modifications are for minor changes to the TIP and do not require public review or comments. Recently GDOT made a request for the modification regarding SR 25 at Savannah River and Port Wentworth Bridge replacement projects. The request was to move ROW funds programmed in FY 2021 to FY 2022 with minor cost estimate adjustments.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 19, 2021, CORE MPO 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.