



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

October 21, 2021 at 2:00pm
Minutes

OCTOBER 21, 2021 CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting (TCC)

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
Scott Robider	City of Garden City	
Trent Long	City of Port Wentworth	X
Don Masisack	Coastal Regional Commission	
Peter Gulbranson	City of Tybee Island	
Shalonda Roundtree	Chatham Area Transit	X
Melanie Wilson	MPC Executive Director	
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
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	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

Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Michael Connolly	Chatham Area Transit	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X
Deanna Brooks	Chatham County	X
Nick Fazio	MPC/Advanced Planning	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT/District Planning and Programming Liaison	X
Jessica Smith	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Barry Stanton	City of Savannah	X
Samuel Williams	GDOT	X
Jackie Jackson	MPC/Advanced Planning	X
Harrison Dean	Kimley Horn	X
Aviance Webb	FTA	X
Chris Marsengill	Kimley Horn	X
Kerry Beiber	General Public	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Michelle Strickland motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the August 19, 2021 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes.](#)

Ms. Michelle Strickland motioned to approve the August 19, 2021 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Robert Milie. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. 2022 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the 2022 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to approve the 2022 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

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

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated two of the requested special studies were approved for funding by the GA PL Funds Review Committee - the MPO Freight Plan Update and the Urban Flooding Model. As of the last meeting, all of the proposed studies were added as illustrative projects to the UPWP. Today staff is proposing to move the two approved funded projects into the funded portion of the UPWP.

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to approve the Amendments to the FY 2022 UPWP; seconded by Ms. Michelle Strickland. The motion passed with non-opposed.

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated MPO staff received six applications by the deadline for the Z230 funds. Four of those projects were deemed eligible and two of the eligible projects were CAT projects.

- Fixed Route Diesel Buses
- Bus Stop Improvement Program

- Chatham County – Chevis Road Improvement Project
- Chatham County – Garrard Avenue Improvement Project

Pooler's two projects - Pine Barren Road and S. Roger Street Improvements - are not consistent with the financially constrained 2045 MTP. Neither project is in the illustrative section of the plan. The requirement in the manual states the projects must be included in the financial constraint plan.

The Garden City projects - Telfair Road and Old Louisville Road Improvements - were received past the deadline. Neither of these projects is included in the financial constraint 2045 MTP. There are no detailed budget tables, so staff does not know what funding is being requested for what phase. Also, there are no local match commitment letters.

Six of the four applications received for the CRRSAA funds were found to be eligible.

- City of Savannah – Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B
- Chatham County – Chevis Road Improvement Project
- Chatham County – Garrard Avenue Improvement Project
- City of Pooler – US 80 Corridor Study

Two projects were not eligible.

- CAT- Flex Pilot Project (a combination of planning study (not vetted by the UPWP process and TCC discussion), vehicle purchase (eligible) and transit operation (not eligible for CRRSAA funds))
- CAT - First Mile, Last Mile (FLM) Strategic and Implementation Plan (planning study not vetted by the UPWP process and TCC discussion)

MPO staff sent out the applications to all the TCC committee members. Approximately eight members evaluated and ranked the projects.

Rankings for Z230 Funds

1. Chatham Area Transit – (2) 35-ft Fixed Route Diesel Buses
2. Chatham County - Chevis Road Improvement Project
3. Chatham County - Garrard Avenue Improvement Project
4. Chatham Area Transit - Bus Stop Improvement Program

Rankings for CRRSAA Funds

1. City of Pooler – US 80 Corridor Study
2. City of Savannah – Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B
3. Chatham County – Chevis Road Improvement Project
4. Chatham County – Garrard Avenue Improvement Project

MPO staff is asking the TCC committee to recommend to the CORE MPO Board which projects to fund. Staff will then process the TIP amendments in December based on the Board decisions.

The TCC committee members who ranked these projects are Mark Wilkes (Director of Transportation/MPO), Wykoda Wang (on behalf of Melanie Wilson/ Executive Director of MPC), Mark Denmark (Savannah International Airport), Pamela Bernard (Chatham County), Shalonda Rountree (CAT), Michelle Strickland (City of Savannah), Leon Davenport (Pooler), and Caila Brown (Bike Walk Savannah).

For Z230 funds, there are more funds than requested amounts. There are approximately \$900,000 from FY 2021 that need to be allocated to FY 2023 and FY 2024 along with a portion of funds to be released from the DeLesseps Avenue project. There are over \$3 million in FY 2023 and over \$6 million in FY 2024. The requested amount in FY 2023 is around \$2.5 million. The requested amount in FY 2024 is around \$3 million. All of the projects with requested amounts in FY 2023 and FY 2024 can be accommodated. The transit projects and the Chevis Road Improvement project will be amended into FY 2023. The Garrard Avenue Improvement project will be amended into FY 2023 for ROW and into FY 2024 for CST.

For CRRSAA funds, the requested amounts (about \$4 million) exceed available revenues (a little over \$2 million).

When Pooler submitted the application for US 80 Corridor study for PL Discretionary Funds, the total amount was \$175,000. Pooler requested \$285,000 for CRRSAA funds. Mr. Leon Davenport stated the increase was to take the project from the County line into Savannah. This has been discussed with the City Manager of Pooler and emails have been sent to city managers of all jurisdictions. There have been no negative responses. Mr. Troy Pittman of GDOT asked how far into Savannah this study proposed. Mr. Davenport stated it was proposed to go to Hwy 21

where Brampton Road Connector will tie in. Mr. Mark Wilkes asked who would administer the study. Mr. Davenport stated Pooler can administer the study.

For City of Savannah's Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B project, GDOT stated this project is encountering the ROW acquisition delays. Mr. Leon Davenport stated GDOT put in 12 months for the ROW acquisition, but the May LET date on construction has not changed. Ms. Pamela Bernard stated she understood there were four parcels and asked whether any of these belong to the city or the county. Mr. Davenport stated there are four parcels that require easements across them - one school board, one county, one memorial and one private entity. Mr. Pittman stated 12 months was a base line. From the last meeting, there was only one private property owner to work with and they are trying to finish this in 6 months. Ms. Wang stated the deadline for funding obligation for the CRRSAA funds is September 2024. If this project is pushed into FY 2023, it can still be eligible. Mr. Davenport said they had a difficult time determining the amount of money that was already programmed for this project. The estimate on the construction phase is \$3.5 million. CRRSAA funds are 100 percent federal money requiring no local match. However, the City couldn't request for the total CRRSAA amount since they need to have a match of non-federal funds into the project.

Chatham County requested CRRSAA funds for Chevis Road project and Garrard Avenue project for preliminary engineering. Currently there are Z301 funds in FY 2021 for these two projects. Additional funds are being requested as the funds previously received will not cover all the costs.

Ms. Pamela Bernard stated she agreed with Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B being awarded CRRSAA funds. Concerning the US 80 Corridor Study, how much were they requesting previously of the PL funds. Ms. Wang said \$175,000 with the 20% match. Mr. Davenport stated that was only in Pooler's jurisdiction. Ms. Bernard asked if the study was needed to go all the way from the county line to the city. Mr. Davenport stated looking at the CORE MPO as a whole, it was a more prudent way of looking at it. No one was willing to contribute money previously, so discussions didn't get very far with regards to a local match if they were going to include the entire jurisdiction and apply for discretionary PL funds. If there is no match required, everyone is more willing to move forward with including all jurisdictions.

Ms. Bernard asked about the scoring of this study and considering where it ranked. Mr. Mark Wilkes stated numerically, studies which were ranked on criteria can get the same number of points as projects. However, what the scoring really does is let you compare one study to another study, and one project to another project. It is difficult to compare a study to an implementation project.

Ms. Wang stated for the projects, the cost estimate is already there; for the study, how are you coming up with \$285,000? Mr. Davenport stated there is no way to know the true cost until everything is put out on paper. This was the best estimate in reaching out and talking with the other jurisdictions and trying to figure out what the cost would be.

Ms. Bernard stated for the planning studies, there is the option to wait until the next opportunity for the discretionary PL funds. This option is not available for additional CRRSAA funds or funding in this case for PE for Chevis Road and Garrard Avenue projects. Is there any specific reason or any emphasis on this study that would make it time sensitive? Mr. Davenport stated it is not the issue of being time sensitive; it is the fact that we control the study funding in this regard and what happens with it. PL funding applications are submitted to the State, and they make the decision for us. When the study was first discussed, it was mentioned that it would be better to do something multi-jurisdictional. The benefits are more than just one community. Mr. Wilkes stated if we were to do the US 80 Corridor Study, we also have the SR 307 Corridor Study, SR 21 Access Management Study, Long Range Plan update, and Freight Plan update. There would be a lot of planning done over the next couple of years. Each of those studies tie into the plan update. Planning wise, it would be very convenient. Mr. Davenport stated he agreed with Mr. Wilkes. US 80 is heavily travelled and has a lot of freight traffic on it. This is a good study for all jurisdictions.

Mr. Leon Davenport motioned for the top ranked study to get \$285,000, the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B to get \$1.75 million, and the residual funding to go to the Chevis Road Improvement Project; seconded by Ms. Michelle Strickland. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Other Business

[5. Congestion Management Process Update](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the CMP shall be developed, established, and implemented as part of the metropolitan planning process and shall include:

- Methods to monitor and evaluate the performance of the multimodal transportation system.

- Definitions of performance measures for the extent of the congestion and the effectiveness of congestion reduction and mobility strategies.
- Establishment of a methodology for data collection and system monitoring that defines the extent and duration of congestion, determination of the causes of congestion, and evaluation of the implemented mitigation.
- Identification and evaluation of the recommended mitigation that will contribute to more efficient use of the existing transportation network.
- Identification of schedule, responsibilities, and possible funding sources.
- Implementation of a process for periodic assessment of the network.

CORE MPO developed its first Congestion Management System in 2003/2004. The most recent update was 2017. The CORE MPO is in the process of updating the 2017 CMP. The scope of the CMP update is proposed to include the following tasks.

Task 1 – Background and study purpose

Task 2 - Develop Regional Objectives (review and refine current CMP objectives based on Mobility 2045 and ongoing 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives development).

Task 3 - Define the CMP Network (review existing CMP network and refine) study limits: Current Metropolitan Planning Area boundary (Chatham County and Richmond Hill) or all of Chatham, Effingham, and Bryan Counties. New census designated Urban Area delineations, which are expected to be released in the Spring of 2022 may, however, result in an expansion of the MPA.

Task 4 - Development of Multimodal Performance Measures - Reliability Measures, Level of service, Options exist for granularity of congestion analysis, Option to analyze truck congestion and vehicular congestion separately.

Task 5 - Collect Data/Monitor System performance - Roadway mapping, model data, travel time, CAT data, non-motorized data. 2017 CMP analyzed origin/destination data provided by AirSage. Staff is proposing to not purchase new origin/destination data for 2021.

Task 6 - Analyze Congestion Problems and needs.

Task 7 - Identify and Assess Strategies.

Task 8 - Program and Implement Strategies.

Task 9 - Evaluate Strategy Effectiveness.

Task 10 - Summary report and final report - Key findings, Strategies, anticipated future issues (growth/development) that can be noted from population, employment, and modeling forecasts.

Task 11 - Next steps - Identify route/links to be addressed in the future CMP update, next CMP update and maintenance, other related/supporting future planning tasks and studies.

A follow-up meeting for the CMP Working Group has been tentatively scheduled for November 4th at 1:00pm for further discussion if more time is needed. It is highly recommended that the City of Savannah appoint an appropriate staff member to the CMP Working Group. The CMP Working Group currently includes:

- Mark Wilkes, CMP Project Manager, CORE MPO
- Ann-Marie Day, FHWA
- Ned Green, GDOT
- Pamela Bernard, Chatham County
- Shalonda Rountree, CAT

Ms. Michelle Strickland said she would represent the City of Savannah for this working group.

[6. 2050 MTP Update: Survey, Goals, Objectives, & Performance Measures](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated Federal planning regulations require that MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) be updated at least every five years and that a twenty-year planning horizon be maintained. The MTP documents the plan development process, the region's transportation needs, and fiscally constrained projects. These updates help us evaluate and refine our planning and programming to ensure the plan considers changing conditions and priorities. The goals and objectives will help guide subsequent planning analysis efforts over the course of the 2050 MTP development. This will also play into the CMP update, which will serve as a basis for prioritizing our federal and state funded transportation projects.

These updates are currently in the planning phase. This phase is preliminary refinement of the 2045 MTP goals and objectives. It also includes the development of a draft of survey questions, which are designed to gauge the public's preference on the goals and objectives and what our needs are. There will be at least one public open house meetings prior to the finalization of the goals and objectives. The update is expected to be completed in the summer of 2023. The goals and objectives have been slightly reconfigured and consolidated going from 6 goals down to 5.

MPO staff is looking for comments and suggestions regarding the 2050 MTP update.

[7. RFP for CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the scope for the freight plan update has gone through several rounds of reviews and includes project management and coordination, freight needs assessment analysis, land use assessment, economic market assessment, environmental and community impact scan and analysis for freight, as well as land use recommendations and infrastructure improvement recommendations.

The scope in the RFP incorporated some additional comments and edits.

- The study team will identify truck congestion hot spots and reasons for the hot spots, as well as mitigation methods. The analysis period will be coordinated with the ongoing CORE MPO CMP update to ensure consistency and to inform the CMP and MTP to the maximum extent possible.
- The Land Use Assessment and Analysis section will add resiliency analysis for the freight plan update and provide best practices for creating resilient corridors.
- When CORE MPO staff had their last meeting with FHWA, it was recommended that this update is called “Regional” Freight Plan Update since the study area covers Chatham County, Bryan County and Effingham County. It was also suggested that Equity Analysis be added to the land use section. Some of the freight could impact environmental justice areas.

The proposed schedule for the Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update is as follows.

- Release RFP – November 1st
- Proposal Due Date – December 3rd
- Consultant Interviews – January 2022
- Consultant Selection – February 2022
- Negotiations – March 2022
- Study to begin- April 2022
- Completion – October 2023

CORE MPO staff is asking for volunteers for the proposal review team and the consultant interview process. The following people have volunteered.

- Wykoda Wang -MPO
- Mark Wilkes – MPO
- Pam Bernard- EDFAC/TCC
- Tom McQueen- GDOT/EDFAC

[8. RFP for CORE MPO Urban Flooding Model Study](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated there has been one major change to the RFP. Originally the RFP stated we were looking for proposals from firms or consultants with a preference that they partner with an academic university. The change now is that we are looking for an academic university as the prime contractor. They can use sub-consultants with firms.

The proposed schedule for the UFM is as follows.

- Request for Proposals announced – November 1st
- Deadline for Submittal of Proposal- December 6th
- Proposal Review – December 9th – January 14th
- Interviews (week of) – January 24th
- Selection (week of) – February 1st
- Project start and End – April 2022- October 2023

CORE MPO staff is asking for volunteers for the proposal review team and consultant interview process.

IV. Status Reports

[9. FY 2023 UPWP Development Process](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the UPWP development is underway. The CORE MPO staff conducted a Call for Plans and Studies. Four study requests were received from the Chatham Area Transit.

- Transit Oriented Development Study – Cost \$125,000
- Bus Stop Amenities Study – Cost \$125,000

- Mobility Hub Study and Program – Cost \$75,000
- Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study – Cost \$200,000

Since these are major studies, it is anticipated that discretionary planning funds will be pursued, subject to future CORE MPO TCC and Board discussion and approval. In addition to the above requests, CAT staff has previously requested discretionary FTA Section 5303 funds in the amount of \$27,000 for the purchase of Remix software licensing. The CORE MPO previously funded Remix software for CAT in the FY 2020 UPWP.

In order to meet the GDOT and FHWA administrative schedules, CORE MPO staff will develop the draft FY 2023 UPWP during October and early November 2021. 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.

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

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Notice to Proceed was issued on March 22nd. The study was kicked off on April 6th. The project management work plan is complete. The traffic count map is complete. The consultant has completed their site visits for existing conditions, field measurements, site photos, and intersection queue length observations. The data collection has been completed with much assistance from GDOT. The development of the existing conditions model is complete and has been adjusted for COVID travel conditions. Existing traffic counts are complete. Existing signal timing plans have been collected. The participation plan is complete. Online surveys are being set up. There is a webpage set up. The existing conditions report is complete. The traffic memorandum is being reviewed. The draft alternative analysis is in progress.

Mr. Chris Marsengill, Project Manager with Kimley Horn, stated they received the traffic forecast data on Friday. This task is now complete. They are moving into modeling the alternatives.

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

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the first public meeting was held on March 25th. The recording from that meeting is available online. The daylong safety audit report was held on June 9th. The existing conditions and need assessment draft report is complete. The results of the first online survey and public meeting have been analyzed. The needs and opportunity assessment are underway. The second public meeting will be scheduled soon.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

[12. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked about the status of the Bull River and Lazaretto Creek Bridges projects.

Mr. Troy Pittman stated GDOT will get back with CORE MPO staff. They are still waiting for approval of the schedule on those projects.

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

No comments or questions

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

No comments or questions

[15. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Mr. Michael Connelly stated they have received all 6 electric buses. That purchase is now complete.

[16. LATS Project Status Update](#)

The report is attached to the agenda.

[17. Notable Presentations from webinars, workshops and conferences](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the notable presentations from webinars, workshops, and conferences is part of the request from the Certification Review process. The items attached to the agenda (available for review on the website) were presentations from the AMPO annual conference recently attended by staff.

[18. TIP Project Tracking in October 2021](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the TIP Project Tacking is to keep everyone updated on the status of projects funded with Z230, Z301, and HIP funds. CAT has made some updates recently.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No public comments.

VII. Notices

[19. Next TCC Meeting: Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.](#)

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the October 21, 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.