



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Minutes
April 14, 2022 at 2:00pm

April 14, 2022 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	
Robert Caudill	GDOT – Planning	X
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	
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	X
Ashley Goodrich	Chatham Area Transit	X
Melanie Wilson	MPC Executive Director	X
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Stephen Henry	City of Savannah	
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Robert Milie	Town of Thunderbolt	
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	
Voting Alternate	Representing	
Leon Davenport	City of Pooler	X
Jamie McCurry	Georgia Port Authority	X
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
James Aiello	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Others	Representing	
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X

Julie Yawn	MPC/IT	X
Michael Connolly	Chatham Area Transit	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Allen Blake	Chatham County	X
Aimee Turner	Croy Engineering	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT/District Planning and Programming Liaison	X
Barry Stanton	City of Savannah	X
Tom Caiafa	GDOT	X
Rhodes Hunt	Kimley Horn	X
Aviance Webb	FTA	X
Chris Marsengill	Kimley Horn	X
Kerry Beiber	General Public	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Pamela Bernard, Chairperson, said she would like to add under Other Business, discussion of proposed studies. Chatham County has a couple of studies they would like included in the Call for Projects. If there are other municipalities that would like to do the same thing, this will allow for the two-meeting requirement to be met if allowed to speak today.

Ms. Wykoda Wang said other agencies have sent information for the upcoming Call for Projects. We did not know about Chatham County's proposed studies until this month. If there are other municipalities/agencies that would like to apply for planning funds or project funds, let the MPO staff know. We will hold the first round of discussions today and then in June we will have the second round of discussions. Once those take place, we will need to amend the studies into the UPWP in the illustrative section. After the Call for Projects or the discretionary PL funds application, and the project gets awarded, then it will be moved into the funded portion of the UPWP.

Mr. Leon Davenport motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Jim Aiello. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the February 17, 2022 CORE MPO TCC Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

Ms. Michelle Strickland motioned to approve the February 17, 2022 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. Amendments to FY 2023 UPWP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the UPWP is the staff's work program. The FY 2023 UPWP covers July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The planning activities in the work program are supported by the formula FHWA and FTA funds with matching funds from MPO member agencies. The UPWP was adopted in February of this year. When the UPWP was developed, we didn't have the actual PL revenue estimate from the state. GDOT instructed staff to use the same level of PL revenue amount as in FY 2022. Therefore, the FY 2023 UPWP was developed with the assumption that the total estimated PL funding for FY 2023 will be the same as for FY 2022. The amounts for the highway planning are:

- Federal share (80%): \$360,143.03
- Local Match (20%): \$90,035.76
- Total: \$450,178.79

In March 2022, CORE MPO received from GDOT the updated PL funding amount (consisting of Y450 and Z45E funding):

- Federal share (80%): \$428,685.48
- Local Match (20%): \$107,171.37
- Total: \$535,856.85

In addition, at the beginning of the year, there will be a set-aside available for activities falling under Increasing Safe & Accessible Transportation Options (Y410) which is a separate line item in the UPWP and would require a separate supplemental contract. The CORE MPO's share is:

- Federal share (80%): \$10,548.78
- Local Match (20%): \$2,637.19
- Total: \$13,185.97

CORE MPO proposed to amend the FY 2023 UPWP to include the newly available funds for the planning activities.

- Allocate the additional PL funds (\$68,542.45 federal share, \$17,135.61 local share, \$85,678.06 total) to two planning tasks: Task 1 Administration, and Task 4 Systems Planning and Operations. The funds will be evenly split between these two tasks.
- Add a new Task 7 for the Increasing Safe & Accessible Transportation Options (Y410) funds. These funds will be used for Thoroughfare Plan Update and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update.

Besides the proposed amendments, GDOT assigned an official PI number for the US 80 Corridor Study and changed the study name to SR 26 Chatham County line to SR 21. This will be processed as an administrative modification.

Ms. Ann-Marie Day said she recommends using language that pulls from the new legislation funding for Task 7. Adding "Increasing Safe & Accessible Transportation Options" to the title and under activities put Non-Motorized Transportation Plan update verbiage. Also look to see if there is anything related in the MTP that covers complete street or anything related so that funding can be used to do other products.

Ms. Wang said the Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trail planning is covered under Task 4, System Planning and Operations. The budget for Task 4 can supplement the funds needed to update the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan.

Ms. Melanie Wilson motioned to endorse the FY 2023 UPWP amendments with the addition to add language to include Increasing Safe & Accessible Transportation Options to Task 7; seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[3. 2022 Z230 Call for Projects](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter said the CORE MPO manages the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Attributable funds (Z230 funds) that are allocated to the Savannah area. The CORE MPO conducts a Call for Projects every four years or as needed. The CORE MPO staff has started the 2022 Call for Projects preparations to allocate available funds for FY 2023 and 2024.

CORE MPO staff is proposing changes to the schedule included in the staff report. Staff proposes to delay the schedule for the Call for Projects - instead of May, move it to August/September. The proposal will allow more projects to meet the eligibility requirement. The second proposal, staff suggests a 2-year reinstatement provision for local TIP projects that are withdrawn from the TIP by local jurisdictions. Local jurisdictions must receive MPO approval to avoid a 2-year reinstatement restriction. This will help with the program coordination. This year CORE MPO staff is proposing to host a Pre-Application Workshop. The intent of the workshop is to provide information about the requirements, eligibility, and overall process for the Call for Projects. In addition, the CORE MPO is dedicated to supporting obligating 100% of the funds for the year. To facilitate this, staff is encouraging eligible participants to participate in the workshop and submit applications for all eligible projects and phases. The idea is to have a robust waiting list - if funding becomes available, there are projects that are ready for obligation.

Ms. Ann-Marie Day said there have been some coding changes to STBG funds. There are two new requirements. GDOT will have a formalized process that will go out to some MPOs in terms of what the process should look like.

Mr. Leon Davenport asked if there are any expectations of getting into a better TIP cycle. We are about to start the 3rd year of a 4-year TIP. We have not moved into FY 2025 or 2026. Mr. Tom Caifa said the STIP development is every two to three years. For the FY 2024-2027 STIP, we are proceeding with that schedule, thus the MPO TIPs in Georgia will follow that as well. Ms. Ann-Marie said GDOT has internally done the forecast for the FY 2024-2027 STIP and there will be direction from GDOT to be provided to the MPOs.

Ms. Pamela Bernard said the schedule change from May/June to August/September is a good idea. What is the new date for the applications with this change? Ms. Hunter said the applications will open on August 25th and close on September 23rd. Ms. Bernard asked if the pre-application workshop will be moved as well. Ms. Wang said the pre-application workshop can start earlier than the application process to help some of the local jurisdictions that are not familiar with the application process. This will help ensure eligibility for the potential projects.

Ms. Wang said Alicia is working with Tom and other GDOT staff to see how much funding we will have in FY 2023 and FY 2024. There is some added funding inside of the new legislation. There will be a separate Call for Project for the non-motorized projects.

Ms. Michelle Strickland motioned to endorse the revised schedule to the 2022 Z230 Call for Projects; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

4. April 2022 AMENDMENTS TO FY 2021 -2024 TIP

Ms. Alicia Hunter said the TIP is the MPO's short-range programming document. It lists all the surface transportation projects in the metropolitan planning area that use federal, state, and local funding. As projects change, the TIP is modified to reflect those changes.

In March staff received several TIP update requests from GDOT, Chatham County, City of Savannah, and CAT.

City of Savannah

- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B - request to move construction phase to FY 2023
- Old River Road Improvement Project – delete the project from the FY 2021-2024 TIP
- Chevis Road Improvement Project – Add released Z230 funds to PE phase in FY 2022
- Garrard Avenue Improvement Project – Add released Z230 funds to PE phase in FY 2022

GDOT/City of Savannah

- I-516 @ CS 1503 -DeRenne Ave – Add PE phase to FY 2022

CAT

- Transit Improvement – Various- funding and program updates to Section 5307 and 5307(h) programs.

CORE MPO staff has been working with CAT to update the Section 5307 funding table. We are proposing a new formatting for the table to have a better understanding of the breakdown of costs.

Ms. Ashley Goodrich said for the highlighted portions of our 5307 table, we are missing the local share - 20% in preventive maintenance as well as the 50% local share in the operating assistance.

Ms. Wykoda Wang said for Project DeRenne, GDOT requested to add \$300,000 of left-over HIP funds as well as Z230 funds for the PE phase. Some of the HIP funds are nearing the deadline for obligation. Those funds need to be used first. The HIP funds are allocated to the US 80 Bridges Replacements at Bull River and Lazaretto Creek and Chatham County's I-16 @ Jimmy DeLoach Parkway. Funds have been authorized for the Jimmy DeLoach project. There is a balance of \$686,000. Some of those funds will expire at the end of September 2022. Staff is asking to use this balance on the PE phase of Project DeRenne. Mr. Robby Caudill said he will speak with Tom Caifa and get back with MPO staff on the funding situation.

Ms. Melanie Wilson motioned to approve the April 2022 Amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP; seconded by Ms. Michelle Strickland. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Other Business

[5. US 17/SR 25/ Ogeechee Road Corridor Study](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard said Chatham County would like to pursue federal funding for a corridor study on U.S. 17/S.R. 25/ Ogeechee Road between the Chatham Line and Dean Forest Road at a minimum, the unincorporated portion. There has been a tremendous amount of growth and development in this area that has impacted levels of service at the intersections and will continue to do so without further improvement. The purpose of the study is to obtain recommendations for corridor and intersection improvements, access control and development permitting.

The County is interested in partnering with other jurisdictions within the MPO to extend the study limits to I-516, if Garden City, City of Savannah, even Richmond Hill if they would be interested. The cost for the unincorporated section alone is anticipated to cost approximately \$250,000. Each municipality would have to provide local match for their portion.

For any planning study to get federal funding, the FHWA/GDOT procedure requires the study must be discussed at least at two rounds of MPO TCC meetings. This will be the first round for this study.

Mr. Leon Davenport asked if anyone from Garden City or City of Savannah have had discussions about the potential for this study? Ms. Bernard said not officially. Mr. Davenport asked if the \$250,000 is total cost or just federal share? Ms. Bernard said total cost. Mr. Davenport said he will talk with Scott at Garden City. Will the proportionate share be based on linear mileage of each jurisdiction's portion of the roadway? Ms. Bernard said that would be the easiest way. Michelle Strickland will discuss with the City of Savannah to see if they are interested in participating.

Ms. Bernard said Chatham County is interested in two other studies as well.

- Presidents Street Railroad Crossing – feasibility study to evaluate alternatives and associated costs with the potential reconstruction of the interchange in that area to alleviate the issue of waiting 30 minutes for the train to go by. The cost of the study is approximately \$300,000. Mr. Davenport said the City of Savannah was interested in this project as well. Michelle Strickland asked about funding in Cost Band II. Ms. Wang said there was a project in Cost Band II of the 2045 MTP, the Presidents Street Overpass at Truman Parkway. It is an identified project but does not have a specific scope. If this study can give us a detailed scope, we can pursue this one.
- SR 21 @ CSX Railroad Crossing – feasibility study to evaluate alternatives and associated costs to eliminate this at grade railroad crossing. The cost of this study would be approximately \$300,000. This is not in the MPO's Long Range Plan and will need to be added. The Georgia Ports Authority and Garden City have indicated a willingness to participate with the project.

There are two projects that were put on the list previously - Abercorn @ SR 204 and Islands Expressway. Both of those have been previously discussed.

Are there any other potential studies that any jurisdiction would like to discuss? Ms. Wang said in June staff will need to amend the studies into the UPWP, therefore we will need more detailed project descriptions.

IV. Status Reports

[6. CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said CORE MPO conducted the procurement process back in November 2021 to February 2022. The top consultant, Cambridge Systematics Inc. was selected. The funding contract was executed between the MPC and GDOT on April 5th. At yesterday's MPC meeting, staff executed the contract between MPC and Cambridge. We are waiting for Cambridge to send the final contract with signature. Once that is received, we will start the Notice to Proceed. The plan update process will start in April. The target completion date is October 31, 2023.

[7. SR 26 From Chatham County Line to SR 21](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the funds have been authorized by GDOT. Mr. Leon Davenport said the proposed project is on the procurement website and Pooler's website. There are TCC members that are participating with the review process.

[8. FMT for Optimize Planning of CORE MPO Transportation Infrastructure Systems](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter said the CORE MPO was awarded discretionary planning funds for this project. There were three eligible proposals submitted. The review committee reviewed and ranked each proposal. The consultant interviews were conducted on February 11th. The highest ranked consultant was the University of Georgia. The CORE MPO is under negotiations with UGA. The contract execution is expected to be at the May MPC board meeting.

[9. SR 21 Access Management Study](#)

Ms. Aimee Turner said the project has been completed. The final deliverables have been submitted for review. May 2nd we will present to the Garden City City Council. The length of the study was from I-516/SR 25 up to Grange Road. The study included looking at the existing conditions and needs assessment, public engagement, preparing concepts, and final recommendations implementation plan. Project advisory meetings, public meetings, press releases, and news coverage of the study were all done. There was a good amount of positive feedback on what people wanted to see happen along the corridor. For the Phase 1 survey, we asked several questions about challenges and concerns, and several people noted the traffic congestion and the need for more safer opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclist crossing SR 21. A second survey at the end of the year was initiated with the draft of final recommendations. Overall, there was very positive feedback on the improvements.

Corridor wide recommendations are:

- Signal retiming, coordination, and equipment upgrades
- Install raised median segments
- Continuous sidewalk/multi-use path
- Improve intersection turn lanes & ped/bike accommodations
- Pedestrian-scale lighting & streetscaping
- Transit expansion
- Gateway & wayfinding signage program
- Creative placemaking

Corridor recommendations benefits:

- Reduce potential turning movement conflicts
- Reduce likelihood of crashes involving pedestrians
- Reduce likelihood and severity of crashes
- Reduce delay/queuing due to left turn movements
- Improve safety and comfort for people walking & bicycling
- Enhance multimodal options along corridor
- Improve connectivity and access to area destinations

[10. 2050 MTP Update](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said the MTP is a document with an outlook of 20 years and serves as a blueprint for transportation systems. It aims to meet the mobility needs of the metropolitan planning area. It is mandated to be updated every 5 years. The CORE MPO's current 2045 MTP was adopted in August 2019. The next plan update, 2050 MTP, is expected to be adopted in August 2024. Currently staff is working on updating the goals, objectives, and performance measures; tracking the census information to develop the socio-economic data; developing a Public Involvement Plan; and updating various plans and programs such as the Congestion Management Process and Freight Plan Update.

The MTP update will include several opportunities for public participation throughout the entire process. Through the public involvement process, there will be translations for Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese speaking people to participate. Ms. Wykoda Wang said with the new plan, staff will put emphasis on equity planning. There is a federal emphasis for equity planning and resiliency planning. Once the new MPO boundary is identified, it will help us identify more public involvement locations. The goals and objectives have been presented at several meetings prior. Staff will need to schedule a

public meeting to collect final input on the goals and objectives. The social economic data is being collected. At the same time staff is working on the Freight Plan, Urban Flooding Model, and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update. These will fit into the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

11. GDOT Project Status Update

Ms. Katie Proctor presented the GDOT project status update.

Preconstruction

- Bridge replacement for Savannah River and Middle River in Pt Wentworth - both in Preliminary design
- Safety Improvements on SR 204 from SR 21- continues to PFPR
- I-16 at Chatham Parkway - working on correcting PFPR plans
- Widening and Bridge replacement on SR 404 Back River - both have concept approval
- Bridge replacement at Bull River - continues in PFPR
- Lazaretto Creek bridge - continues toward ROW approval
- SR 26 from I-516 to Victory Dr - working on final design and ROW FFPR
- SR 30 Roundabout - in concept

Active projects

All projects are progressing.

12. Chatham County Project Status Update

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

- PFA for Chevis is signed and PFA for Garrard was received today.
- I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Parkway- moving forward
- Quacco Rd Widening – start clearing soon
- Little Neck Rd construction – starting ROW acquisition
- Islands Expressway at Oatland Island Rd- was LET, only received 2 bids. Due to issues with the economy, this project will be on hold until things stabilize.
- Walthour road slope stabilization - ROW acquisition
- Traffic Signal on Johnny Mercer Blvd - ROW acquisition
- US 80 sidewalks – ROW acquisition

Local Construction Projects

- Robert McCorkle Trail – completion summer 2022
- Resurfacing various County roads - preconstruction conference was today.

13. City of Savannah Project Status Report

Mr. Barry Stanton presented the City of Savannah project status report.

- DeLesseps Ave widening – preconstruction meeting scheduled for May 3rd. Construction expected to begin this quarter.
- Traffic Control Center - draft RFP completed, advertising to start this quarter.
- DeRenne Ave – meeting being scheduled with FHWA and GDOT to discuss the scope and schedule associated with the additional requirement for the Environmental Justice portion of the Environmental Impact Statement. ROW plan preparation is ongoing.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B – Z301 funds were shifted to FY 2023. City is requesting CRRSAA funding in the amount of \$1.7 million. The acquisition process is ongoing.

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked about the Traffic Control Center's PE, ROW and construction funds. They are currently in FY 2022. This being April, those funds have not been authorized. If those funds cannot be authorized by June 30th, they will need to be moved to FY 2023. Check with GDOT. For the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B, we received the City's letter to request funds be moved to FY 2023 and GDOT's concurrence. The CRRSAA funds are programmed in FY 2022. There has not been a letter from GDOT or the City to move those funds. These will need to be resolved as soon as possible.

[14. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Ashley Goodrich presented the CAT project status report.

- Paratransit vehicles – manufacturing issues continue to delay this project.
- Diesel Bus Replacement – In process, bus order placed in December for (3) 35ft buses. Estimated completion date June 2023.
- Intelligent Transportation System Clever Devices – hardware expected to be installed in February, phase 5 of 9 in process, soft completion date Fall 2023
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility and Ferry Dock – continued coordination with the City of Savannah
- Facility Rehab – Spring 2022, currently in contract negotiation
- Bus Wash Facility – currently in construction
- Support vehicles – all ordered vehicles have been delivered.

[15. LATS Project Status Report](#)

Report Attached

[16. TIP Project Tracking in April 2022](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said TIP Project Tracking is to ensure that projects stay on schedule and programed funds do not lapse.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No Public Comments

VII. Notices

[17. SR 307 Corridor Study Final Report](#)

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

[19. Next CORE MPO TCC meeting, June 16, 2022 at 2:00pm](#)

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the April 14, 2022 TCC committee meeting is 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.