



## CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Minutes  
June 26, 2023 at 1:00 pm

### June 26, 2023 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION (ACAT) Meeting

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Ben Lewis	Chatham County	
Vacant	Savannah Council of the Blind	
Wayne Dawson	Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council	
Brenda Pollen	Housing Authority of Savannah	
Pala Valdez	Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision	X
Carol Hunt	NAACP - Savannah Branch	
Jackie Immel	Georgia Infirmary Day Care Center for Rehabilitation	
Shannon Ginn	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
Patti Lyons	Senior Citizens Savannah - Chatham County, Inc.	
Pamela Oglesby	Savannah - Chatham Council on Disability Issues (SCCDI)	X
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind, Local Chapter	X
President & CEO	Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire	
Representative	Effingham County	
Representative	GDOT District Five	
Representative	Richmond Hill	
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X
Clealice Timmons	Coastal Center for Development Services	
Terry Tolbert	Economic Opportunity Authority	
Tia Baker	Chatham Area Transit	X
Vacant	GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Association of the Deaf	
<b>Voting Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Pamela Everett	MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X

Anna McQuarrie	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Rithvika Dara	CORE MPO Intern	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

No Action taken, no quorum.

## II. Action Items

### [1. Approval of the April 24, 2023 CORE MPO ACAT Meeting Minutes](#)

No Action taken, no quorum.

### [2. 2045 MTP Amendment](#)

Item was not presented/no quorum.

### [3. FY 2021 - FY 2024 TIP Amendments June 2023](#)

Item was not presented/no quorum.

### [4. Reapportionment MPA Boundary Update](#)

Item was not presented/no quorum.

### [5. A Vote Regarding the Proposed Time Change for Future ACAT Meetings](#)

No action taken, no quorum.

## III. Status Reports

### [6. 2050 MTP Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated staff is working on several things.

- Developing the 2050 socio-economic data. Mr. Edward Morrow leading the socio-economic data development.
- Ms. Ritvika Dara has been working on checking the Travel Demand Model links for functional classification and number of lanes.
- The new TIP is being developed which will contribute to the third, fourth and fifth network development for the Travel Demand Model.
- The new MPO planning area boundary includes all of Chatham County, Bryan County with the exception of Ft. Stewart, and Effingham County south of SR 119. Once the boundary is finalized, staff will start working on the financial plan development for revenue projections within the boundary.

There are several contributing plans still going on.

- The Freight Plan update is wrapping up. The consultant gave a presentation at the EDFAC meeting this morning. The draft recommendations were introduced.
- There is a new planner, Anna McQuarrie, that will take over the Urban Flooding Model Study.
- Pooler's US 80 Corridor Study is wrapping up.
- Asia is working on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.
- There will be a new planner coming in July that will be responsible for the Congestion Management Program update.
- CAT's Master Transit Plan and the Transit Development Plan are wrapping up.

All of these plans will feed into the 2050 MTP.

In addition, two new federal focuses will be resiliency planning and affordable housing considerations. For resiliency planning, Anna will research to see how we can incorporate the resiliency planning into the 2050 Plan. Asia will take the lead on affordable housing development and how to incorporate that information. Sally will set up meetings between August, September, and October for the second round of public meetings.

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the EDFAC committee meeting was this morning, and the consultant gave a detailed presentation. The project development is ahead of schedule. The deliverables can be found on the CORE MPO's Regional Freight Plan webpage. The technical memos should be available at the end of August as well as the study wrapping up.

Ms. Oglesby said she read in the paper that there has been funding approved for railroad tracks to be moved, what is that about? Ms. Wang said Chatham County applied for a grant from the federal government and received funds. That funding is for the PE phase. That phase will be determining what needs to be done in those areas. The Regional Freight Plan Update did show there were a lot of at-grade crossings in our region. That is where a lot of congestion and accidents happen. We are making recommendations on how to improve those dangerous at-grade crossings. We will do a cross check with Chatham County. The project list has already been sent to the consultant.

## [8. Urban Flooding Model Study Update](#)

Ms. Anna McQuarrie presented the Urban Flooding Model Study. She stated she was able to meet with Dr. Matt Bilsky and attended the UGA monthly meeting to meet different professionals working on this project and to discuss the timely delivery of expected products. The SWMM Model and Hydrographs are on time and expected to be completed by July and August 2023. Data availability and

accuracy have been a challenge. The team will send a draft of SWMM in late June, with follow-ups in July. The CORE MPO Dynamic Flood Modeling Tools Study is expected to be completed in October 2023.

## 9. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update June 2023

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) status update. The CORE MPO has been drafting new chapters on important topics related to pedestrian and bike infrastructure. Some of those chapters include:

- Infill Development as a Tool for Creating a more walkable and bikeable town
- The Impact of Urban Heat on Non-Car Travel
- What is a Stroad and how does it impact street safety?

The CORE MPO is in the process of tracking Non-Motorized updates. There are over 400 projects listed in the current NMTP. We want to ensure we know which projects were completed, need to be removed, or are ongoing. We are also documenting new trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks that may not have been included. We are exploring low-cost traffic calming technology solutions. Improving safety can be as simple as traffic lights and signs.

Additionally, staff identified common themes from open-ended questions on the MTP 2050 survey, such as:

- Safety
- Separated physical barriers between bikes and motorized traffic.
- Connectivity of sidewalks and bike lanes
- Policy and Education to improve community knowledge of bike and pedestrian laws

There was a steering committee meeting this month and they agreed the bikeways in the proposed bike network should be added to the project list of the plan. They also heavily encouraged separated and barrier protected bike lanes to improve safety. Some next steps will be using satellite images to observe gaps in sidewalk coverage, examining the infrastructure characteristics of the most dangerous roadways for cyclists and pedestrians, and exploring the scoring criteria and methodology used by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy. Ms. Dara will also be examining push factors to encourage biking and walking as well as using crash data to analyze crash hot spots. The expected adoption date is June 2024.

Ms. Oglesby asked what a stroad is. Ms. Hernton said a stroad is a mixture between a street and a road. Streets and roads have different uses. A street is something like Broughton Street where there are several businesses and high pedestrian activity. A road is something like Abercorn Street where the traffic is heavier, has a high volume of cars rather than pedestrians' activity. A stroad is

when the two uses are merged. Sometimes those uses are incompatible which causes issues. If there is a fast-paced roadway and you want to make it a place where people live and work, there may be some incompatible uses where the cars are too fast to make it a safe and viable place to live. Additionally, because so many people live and work there, traffic is unable to flow correctly.

## 10. FY 2024 – 2027 TIP Development

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that the CORE MPO received from GDOT the draft revenue projections, a draft project list, and the lump sum program in March. There was a public prioritization meeting in April. The public comment period on the draft TIP begins on July 19<sup>th</sup> according to the current schedule. Chapter One and Chapter Two have been submitted for FHWA/FTA/GDOT review and we are working on Chapter Three.

The TIP development schedule might need to be updated with adoption expected in October. A portion of the COVID relief funds must be spent in a very short amount of time, so there was a series of TIP administrative modifications in late May and early June to authorize funds for projects and project phases currently programmed in FY 2023 which resulted in updated Y230 and Y301 revenue projections for the next four years. The impacted projects include several Chatham County and City of Savannah projects such as SR 204 Corridor Study, Green Island Trail Project and Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II. Staff is working with GDOT to get updated Y230 and Y301 revenue projections resulted from the funding swap. The staff is also working with CAT for FTA obligations and other transit programming information. There also needs to be a meeting with TCC about the financial balance once the updated revenue information becomes available.

## 11. MOU and Bylaws Updates

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that if the CORE MPO's planning area boundary gets updated, the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) and Bylaws will need to be updated, which outline the responsibilities of the MPO and each member agency. She referenced changes to Appendix B of the MOU where it states that Chatham County has to pay 25% of municipality share of the membership dues and stated that if the County doesn't want to pay this amount, the MPO may explore how much the difference will be. She stated that ACAT and CAC need to be restructured since they struggle to make a quorum, have a hard time filling seats, and struggle to have their own mission. Staff is also suggesting adding a bicycle and pedestrian committee, which will have their own bylaws. Staff wants CAC and ACAT to really consider what their mission is and who should be on the board.

Ms. Wang asked Ms. Oglesby, what does SCCDI do? Ms. Oglesby said SCCDI is an advisory/suggestive body to the City and County when it comes to issues about disabilities and accessibility. For example, someone comes to Savannah and has a complaint about a sidewalk on River Street, we are asked (by the city

and county) what the best route to address this; we would let the city and county know that they need to address the situation in a certain way. Ms. Wang said there are similar responsibilities between ACAT and SCCDI. Ms. Oglesby said that ACAT was more in depth about looking at all forms of transportation regardless of if it affects only disabled people or not. Mr. Ginn said maybe the two committees could be combined but have separate meetings on certain items. Ms. Oglesby said she represents SCCDI for the ACAT committee. She relays the information from ACAT to the SCCDI committee. Ms. Helm said these ideas are what we are looking for at the separate meeting regarding the MOUs, bylaws, and restructuring of the CAC and ACAT committees.

#### **IV. Agency Reports (verbal)**

Agency Reports are attached to the agenda under Notices.

#### **V. Other Business**

No Other Business

#### **VI. Public Participation Opportunities**

No comments

#### **VII. Notices**

##### [12. GDOT Project Status Update Report](#)

Report Attached to agenda.

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

Report Attached to agenda.

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

Report Attached to agenda.

##### [15. Chatham Area Transit Project Status Update Report](#)

Ms. Tia Baker said CAT has 10 electric vehicles (EV) that will be on the streets soon. They are still struggling with staffing issues. There are currently 26 operators with a couple out on workman's comp and other issues.

Ms. Oglesby said the EVs are very nice. Ms. Wang said there have been comments regarding the electric vehicles being too quiet. When they approach the vision impaired, they might not know the buses are there. How was this concern resolved? Ms. Oglesby said the federal government stepped in because so many blind and visually impaired people were being hit by electric vehicles all over the US. Being a visually impaired person, I can tell you when I am trying to cross the street I have a cane with me, but at the same time, because I don't see well, when I cross the street most of my crossing is done

by what I hear. The federal government made a ruling that electric vehicles must make some kind of sound that the visually impaired and blind people can hear. That is why I went to CAT's roll out to hear them. I did hear some noise. Ms. Baker said the EVs have sound, she is not aware of how much sound they have from a visually impaired person perspective but that they typically have a heightened sense of sound compensating slightly for the loss/ lack of sight. Ms. Oglesby said it is an issue for people that do not know what to listen out for. If they are unaware of the type of noise an EV makes, they will not know what to listen for. It would be my suggestion for CAT, prior to roll out, get with the visually impaired community to allow them to hear what it sounds like so they are educated to help prevent any incidents.

[16. Savannah Hilton Head International Airport Project Status Update Report](#)

Report Attached to agenda.

[17. LATS-SCDOT Project Status Update Report](#)

Report Attached to agenda.

[18. US 80 Corridor Study Status Update](#)

Report Attached to agenda.

[19. TIP Funding Tracking Report](#)

Report Attached to agenda.

[20. Next CORE MPO ACAT Committee Meeting August 21, 2023 at 1:00pm](#)

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the June 26, 2023 ACAT 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.