



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Minutes
June 24th, 2024 at 1:00pm

June 24, 2024 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Ben Lewis	Chatham County	X
Vacant	Savannah Council of the Blind	
Wayne Dawson	Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council	
Brenda Pollen	Housing Authority of Savannah	
Paula Valdez	Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision	
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.	
Representative	Savannah – Chatham Council on Disability Issues (SCCDI)	
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind, Local Chapter	
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	
Voting Alternates	Representing	Present
Others	Representing	Present
Anna McQuarrie	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Kieron Coffield	CORE MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Barbara Shiggs	CAT	X

There was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, so we went over the status reports and agency reports. Some action items were presented however no action items were voted on at this meeting.

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the April 22th, 2024, CORE MPO ACAT Meeting Minutes](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton, CORE MPO Staff, stated that there are two sets of meeting minutes to go over, our regularly scheduled ACAT meeting on April 22nd, as well as the special-called combined ACAT and CAC meeting for the bylaws on June 8th.

At the combined ACAT and CAC meeting, we went over how the new Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee (TEPAIC) would function. We went over meeting schedules, duties of officers, and elections. Everyone should have received a link to a survey, to decide on what schedule of meetings they would prefer, the options being quarterly or bimonthly meetings. Also to decide on the meeting date and time, the options being Monday at 1:00pm, or Thursday at 5:30pm. We are still receiving responses on the survey.

Ms. Kieron Coffield, CORE MPO Staff, stated we have not had a lot of responses on the survey, but she has been taking down people's opinions during the meetings and has called a few people as well. If anyone hasn't responded to the poll, please do so.

Mr. Shannon Ginn, LIFE, asked when the decision on meeting frequency and meeting dates and times will be made?

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the survey is still open, but we should close the survey by the end of the month. So far, the majority favors quarterly meetings and the fourth Mondays at 1:00pm, however we do have strong opposition from one of the CAC members. We haven't decided on our next meeting yet, for the first meeting we will decide on a date that is good for everybody. We have not decided on a specific date or time for the next meeting. We will keep everyone posted.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated if everyone has had a chance to review the meeting minutes, if there are questions, please let her know. Also with the Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee (TEPAIC) being a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting, kind of like our ACAT meetings, we are going to do roll calls. This is because it is hard to determine attendance and quorums when people are online, so for future online meetings we will have roll call to take attendance more accurately.

2. FY 2024 - FY 2027 TIP Amendments June 2024

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the TIP amendments. In April and May of 2024, Chatham Area Transit (CAT) requested multiple TIP amendments be made. In May 2024, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) requested amendments be made to two highway projects.

In terms of the Public Participation Process, the comment period started on June 12, 2024, and closes on June 26, 2024. A public hearing has been advertised to be held in conjunction with the CORE MPO Board meeting on June 26, 2024. So far, we have not received any public comments.

There are a total of six TIP amendments, due to the fiscal year 2024 ending soon.

- FHWA FBP for Dock Rehab
 - Amendment - To amend flex funds into construction phase in FY 2025
 - Federal Flex Funds = \$363,292, Local Match = \$90,823, Total cost of project is more than \$450,000.
- FHWA FBP for Ferry Replacement
 - Amendment - To amend multiple different federal flex funds into FY2025
 - Flex Funds/THUD / GDOT Transit Trust Match (Flex Funds)/ GDOT Transit Trust Match (THUD)/ GDOT Transit Trust Fund Additional Match/ Additional Local Match
 - Total cost of project is \$6 million, with multiple local matches
 - Federal Flex Funds almost \$300,000, THUD funds are around \$450,000
- CAT Section 5307 Funding Change for Preventative Maintenance
 - Amendment - To change funding amounts in section 5307 funds in FY2025 for preventative maintenance.
 - To amend the federal cost from \$1,200,000 to \$1,830,915, and the local costs amended from \$240,000 to \$457,729.
- CAT Section 5307 Funding Change for Operating Assistance
 - Amendment - To amend the funding amounts for section 5307 in FY 2025 under Operating Assistance.
 - The local cost would be amended from \$0 to \$2,770,030.
- SR 404 SPUR/US 17 FM NE OF SAVANNAH HARBOR PKWY TO BACK RIVER
 - Amendment - GDOT requested to add the ROW phase in FY 2025 with Y800 funds of \$500,000
 - Amendment - GDOT also requested to move the CST phase from FY 2025 to FY 2026
- SR 26/US 80 @ LAZARETTO CREEK
 - Amendment - Move the CST phase with Y800 funds from FY 2025 to FY 2028
 - deleting the phase from the current TIP FY 2024-2027

- Also to move the ROW phase from FY 2024 to FY 2026

The appendix has the tables updated with the new funding numbers and updated TIP project pages (can be found attached to the agenda). We also make sure that the projects are consistent with the 2045 MTP. The correspondence on the TIP amendments is also attached to the agenda. We also did a project status check for each amendment with projects with funds for FY 2024, this is to ensure that no funds lapsed. After completing the status check, we found no projects were in risk of their funds lapsing.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated she wanted to mention that Mr. Joe Longo, with FHWA, had said that the FHWA funds even if flexed to FTA still cannot be used for maintenance. Please check with Ms. Mary Moskowitz, with CAT, to make sure the FHWA flex funds are used for ferry replacement, purchase, or construction and not for maintenance. So we do not risk losing those funds.

Ms. Asia Hernton asked if this is in regard to the dock rehab, as she knows that is a maintenance project. CAT is trying to use the flex funds for the dock rehab.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated please check with Ms. Mary Moskowitz and if FHWA has a problem we can remove or replace the funding.

[3. Approval of the DRAFT Financially Constrained 2050 MTP Project List](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated we developed the preliminary draft project list and presented to the Technical Coordinating Committee, and they gave us input to revise the project list.

Ms. Kieron Coffield stated she is sorry to interrupt but the zoom meeting has a 40 minute time limit, this is because she set up the zoom meeting under her account and not the CORE MPO account. Her zoom account has a 40 minute time limit. Once this zoom ends, if everyone could please rejoin the zoom again so we may continue the meeting, that would be greatly appreciated and she offers her apologies for the confusion.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated looking at the project page, all the top projects highlighted in blue are already included in the TIP, all with construction funds. The green projects have other phases programmed in the TIP, but not the construction phase. There are three projects from Effingham County. The red projects that we know are pipeline projects, but do not have any phases in the TIP yet.

The purple projects are newly added projects with their own funding:

- Project DeRenne is divided into three projects
- US 80 bridge replacement at Bull River and Lazaretto Creek
- Back river bridge and US 17 widening in downtown area
- I-95 ITS project
- I-16 exit ramp removal
- Georgia Ports Authority projects

At the bottom are the priority projects that went through the project prioritization selection process:

- SR 21 widening
- US 80 widening
- I-516 widening
- I-516 at I-16 interchange reconstruction
- SR 307 grade separation at two locations
- I-95 interchange at SR 21
- I-16 widening
- President Street
- Old River Road widening
- Belfast Road widening

On the next pages we have set asides for maintenance, operational improvements, transit improvements, and bike/pedestrian projects. Let's move on to the last page of the financially constrained transit projects.

Transit Projects:

- Transit ITS
- Preventative Maintenance
- Facility Enhancements and Rehabilitation
- Vehicle Replacement/Purchase
- Ferry Boat Rehab, Purchase and Construction
- Paratransit Maintenance Facility
- Bus Stop Improvement Program
- ETC.

These would be our highway and transit set for the 2050 MTP fiscally constrained plan. At your leisure, please review this project list and if you see anything that does not make sense, please let us know. We will start our public review process on July 1st.

[4. Bylaws Update - Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee \(TEPIAC\)](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated we will go over the bylaws update for the Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee (TEPIAC). These were the bylaws that we went over during the ACAT and CAC combined meeting. Did everyone here attend the meeting on June 8th?

Ms. Tia Baker stated she did.

Ms. Asia Hernton asked if everyone is okay with the bylaws and the way the CORE MPO staff has edited them? Are there any questions? She will scroll through them slowly so everyone has a chance to review them. In terms of

membership for SCCDI, we are still trying to locate someone to represent SCCDI. The intention with this committee is to ensure a quorum more often, so it is composed of people that show up consistently to CAC and ACAT meetings. If we can't find a representative, we can move SCCDI to a non-voting advisory member role. Are there any questions or concerns with the bylaws for this new committee?

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated she doesn't think we have a meeting date and time listed in the bylaws; we are just saying we will meet at least quarterly. Then the schedule of the meeting calendar will be adopted at the last meeting of the calendar year. So our next meeting is to be determined, it will be in August, but we don't know the exact date and time yet.

III. Status Reports

5. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update Status Report

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan status report update. The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is a document that addresses the development of bike and pedestrian infrastructure in the CORE MPO planning area. The goal of this plan update is to identify new projects, assess the needs of the community, and set new goals for bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

Because the MPO is focused on completing the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan will not be adopted in June 2024, and instead will be adopted at a later date. We will begin to refocus on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan after the adoption of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update in August.

This is because the 2050 MTP is a required MPO document, meaning it takes precedence over the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, which is not a required plan for the MPO.

Mr. Shannon Ginn, LIFE, asked if we aren't doing the sidewalk part until after the bike part is put into action?

Ms. Asia Hernton stated we have bike and sidewalk projects on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan update. There are more bike projects, as those were easier to identify than the sidewalk projects. If anyone has any additions for sidewalk projects, we can add them into the NMTP too.

Mr. Shannon Ginn asked if Ms. Asia Hernton could tell him what we have so far on the sidewalk projects?

Ms. Asia Hernton stated she will put together a spreadsheet for Mr. Shannon Ginn. Unfortunately there are only a handful of sidewalk projects, as the bike

projects were easier to identify. She will send the list of projects that include sidewalks and pedestrian upgrades.

6. Congestion Management Process Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang, CORE MPO Staff, stated that we completed three versions of the Congestion Management Process based on input we received. This final version has addressed the FHWA comments. All these recommendations from the CMP will feed into the 2050 MTP. We need to include a sentence in the resolution for the 2050 MTP that it will be adopted and indicating the CMP is a contributing plan or document. We will also post this document to our website and add a cover page. This will be our final document. It does not have to be officially adopted by the CORE MPO board, when we adopt the 2050 MTP, we will indicate that it is a contributing plan. We have addressed all the comments received so far, which are mostly from FHWA and some from GDOT. If anyone finds anything in the 30 day public review process for the 2050 MTP, we can update this document as well.

7. Federal Certification Review

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated since we are a bigger MPO with a population of more than 200,000 that means we are a Transportation Management Area (TMA). We are required to go through federal certification every four years, last time we completed the federal certification in March 2021, so March 2025 is our deadline. FHWA and GDOT will probably start their desk review in July, from what they told CORE MPO Staff in the quarterly meeting.

FHWA and GDOT will end with a site visit to the CORE MPO office, tentatively October 29th and October 30th. On the first day, October 29th, we will have a public meeting. We will invite the public and all of our committee members to the meeting. Please let FHWA and FTA know how the CORE MPO is doing, what is our planning process like, what is the CORE MPO doing well, and what recommendations or improvements do we need to make.

Once we get certified and we adopt the 2050 MTP, then the federal dollars from FHWA and FTA will come to the Savannah region. If we don't get certified or have the 2050 MTP in place, then no federal dollars will come to our region. This is why we go through this process. FHWA has asked that we include the federal certification review on our meeting agendas until the certification is complete. So everyone will see this again in August and later as well as we give our progress reports.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

Ms. Tia Baker, CAT, stated for paratransit they do have about three positions that CAT is hiring for, but they are in good condition. CAT does have call outs and

operators on vacation, along with workmen's comp cases. At times it causes a problem for scheduling customers to a vehicle. Other than that, CAT has three positions open that they are looking to hire for operators.

Mr. Shannon Ginn, LIFE, stated that LIFE doesn't have too much going on. They do have a weather and hurricane preparedness fair coming up on July 11th. If the CORE MPO Staff would like to come out to that, it will be an in-person event on July 11th from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the LIFE office. They will have a couple of presenters talking about hurricane and weather preparedness. Other than that not a whole lot going on.

Ms. Asia Hernton asked if LIFE is partnering with CEMA possibly on that event?

Mr. Shannon Ginn answered yes, LIFE has a presenter from CEMA coming out. He thinks LIFE has another presenter; they were originally trying to get someone from the RedCross to come out as well. That did not pan out, so LIFE has been coordinating with some else to do some RedCross stuff, to try to put into what their position is and what their duties are and once somebody gets settled in a shelter position. Once they are in a shelter position, if they have to evacuate, what that role is once they are sheltered. He will find out more on Wednesday about the planning procedures.

Mr. Ben Lewis, Accessibility Coordinator with Chatham County, stated he does not have a lot of updates for ACAT. They have a little bit going on, as far as like curb cuts and that kind of stuff. That is more on their property than in the public areas.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated there are notices for review if anyone is interested in any of the projects listed on the agenda. There is no next ACAT meeting, because this is the final ACAT meeting. She would like to thank everyone that has participated and attended. Although this is not a goodbye, this is an end of something that we have dedicated ourselves to over the past few years, thank you everyone who was involved in that process.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated she wanted to ask Mr. Shannon Ginn, Ms. Tia Baker, and Mr. Ben Lewis something. We are going to have our third round of public involvement for the 2050 MTP, so we will just go around to different areas and give presentations on our project list and planning process. So if anyone is going to have a meeting that the CORE MPO staff can take about 10-15 minutes for a presentation in July, please let us know. We will be happy to give a presentation at your meeting.

Mr. Ben Lewis stated they have a staff meeting every Monday, so they might be able to schedule the CORE MPO Staff for about 10-15 minutes during that.

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked Ms. Asia Hernton to please coordinate with Mr. Ben Lewis on that.

Ms. Tia Baker stated as far as CAT is concerned, if CORE MPO Staff can send her an email, she can get with the COO to see what a good day would be to come out. Right now, CAT does not have anything that is going on within the company as far as their Board meeting which is the fourth week of July. Please send her an email to coordinate a date.

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked Ms. Asia Hernton to also coordinate with Ms. Mary Moskowitz, with CAT, the CAT Board meeting might be a good time to do a presentation, because 2050 MTP includes both highway and the transit and we are also allocating money to FHWA money to transit as well.

Mr. Shannon Ginn stated he will talk with Mr. Neil Ligon, with LIFE, to see if there are any meeting available.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated if anyone has opportunities, please coordinate with Ms. Asia Hernton and she will also reach out to everyone to schedule the meetings.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated she will put her contact information in the chat, but she believes everyone should have it. Are there any more questions or comments? Hearing none this meeting is adjourned.

V. Other Business

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

VII. Notices

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

14. TIP Funding Tracking Report

Report attached to agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 24th, 2024, 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.