

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Minutes  
July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2:00pm

### July 30, 2024, CORE MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Kierra Fields	City of Savannah	X
Damon Rice	Chatham County	X
Ambria Berksteiner	Chatham Area Transit	X
Justin Bristol	Georgia Bikes	X
Asia Hernton	Bike/Ped Coordinator MPC	X
Shannon Ginn	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	
Caila Brown	Bike Walk Savannah	X
Skye Lewis	Coastal Regional Commission	X
Representative	Chatham Savannah School System	
Alden Strandburg	Effingham County	X
Representative	City of Rincon	
Tina Bockhold	Tide to Town	X
Non-Voting Members	Representing	
Connor Booth	GDOT	X
Jim Hemphill	East Coast Greenway	X
Alden Strandburg	Georgia Hi-Lo	X
Representative	Savannah State University	
Representative	Georgia Southern University	
Representative	Savannah College of Art and Design	
Baird Sills	Savannah Wheelman	X
Representative	City of Bloomingdale	
Representative	City of Garden City	
Representative	City of Pooler	
Representative	City of Port Wentworth	
Representative	Town of Thunderbolt	
Representative	City of Tybee Island	
Representative	City of Richmond Hill	
Representative	Bryan County	
Others	Representing	
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X
Hind Patel	CORE MPO	X

Kieron Coffield	CORE MPO	X
Rita Greenbush	Public	X
Deana Brooks	Chatham County	X

## Roll Call

### I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Alden Strandburg, Effingham County, motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Tina Bockhold, Tide to Town. The motion passed with none opposed.

### II. Action Items

#### 1. Election of Temporary Committee Officers

Ms. Asia Hernton, CORE MPO staff, stated, we will elect a temporary Chairperson and temporary Vice Chairperson who will run the meetings for the rest of 2024. The election of officers will be decided by a simple majority vote of those in attendance. These committee officers will serve now until the election in December of 2024. In December of 2024, we will have an official election for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Ms. Calia Brown, Bike Walk Savannah, asked if nominations have to be by other people?

Ms. Asia Hernton stated we have always done it by other people but the MPO can also nominate. Ms. Hernton nominated Calia Brown to be the Chairperson for the BPAC.

Mr. Damon Rice stated he nominates Calia Brown for Chairperson of the BPAC.

Ms. Calia Brown was nominated for temporary Chairperson. The motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Calia Brown nominated Alden Strandburg as Vice Chairperson.

Ms. Skye Lewis, Coastal Regional Commission, also nominated Alden Strandburg as Vice Chairperson.

Ms. Alden Strandburg, Effingham County, was nominated for temporary Vice Chairperson. The motion passed with none opposed.

#### 2. Determination of Meeting Schedule

Ms. Asia Hernton stated this item is to determine when we should meet. Within the bylaws, our meeting schedule has the BPAC meeting on a quarterly basis unless needed or scheduled otherwise. However, we do not have a set date and time for those meetings, and we will use this meeting to determine that. This meeting was scheduled for 2 pm today, but the future BPAC meetings do not have to be at 2 pm. If this day and time works, we can continue this way or suggest another way. CORE MPO staff can send out a Doodle Poll survey.

Ms. Alden Strandburg stated that she likes the idea of the survey going out. Mornings to midday are best, no evenings.

Mr. Damon Rice stated mornings work best, any time after 9 am, but the afternoons will suffice.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated mornings are best for everyone and afternoons are okay.

Chairperson Calia Brown stated that Tuesdays make sense with the TCC meetings being on Thursday. Since we are starting halfway through the year, the next meeting could happen before the TCC meeting in October and then another meeting in December. We will have a few meetings before we conduct elections in December for calendar year 2025.

Ms. Tina Bockhold stated that she is good with mornings or early afternoons, preferably not evenings.

Mr. Justin Bristol, Georgia Bikes, stated Tuesdays are great and his preference is morning or afternoon.

Chairperson Calia Brown stated that we are looking at October 15<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> if we are following the TCC schedule.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated CORE MPO staff will check for conflicts with other MPC meetings. In terms of moving forward with this action item, should we send out a poll or should we vote on it and determine today?

Chairperson Calia Brown stated let's confirm the dates and send out a poll via email with a 10 am and 1 pm option, to confirm it works for everybody's schedules.

Ms. Pamela Everett stated on October 15<sup>th</sup> we have an MPC meeting at 1:30 pm. However, the 16<sup>th</sup> is open.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated that Ms. Wykoda Wang suggested that October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting be at a different location or have an all virtual meeting, due to the conflict with the MPC meeting that day.

Chairperson Calia Brown stated virtual could work if we are allowed to do that.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated she believes so, because in the Bylaws it states BPAC meetings are hybrid. As written in the Bylaws "Since BPAC meetings are hybrid in-person and virtual), if a voting member attends virtually, he or she will still be counted towards the quorum."

Chairperson Calia Brown stated we can plan the next meeting being virtual and once we confirm what the dates are, we can send it out to everybody hopefully by the end of the week.

Ms. Pamela Everett stated the December 10<sup>th</sup> date is open on the MPC calendar with no conflicting meetings.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated if there is any more discussion, please let us know; if not, we can move on to creating a motion to accept these terms.

Ms. Alden Strandburg motioned to approve the meeting schedule, seconded by Ms. Skye Lewis. The motion passed with none opposed.

### **III. Status Reports**

#### **3. [Moving Forward Together 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan](#)**

Ms. Ambria Berksteiner, CAT, joined the BPAC meeting and introduced herself as the Systems Analyst/Scheduler for Chatham Area Transit.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated this will be the first and final presentation on the 2050 MTP update, which we've called the Moving Forward Together 2050 Plan. This plan is created and managed by CORE MPO.

What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization?

- Federally mandated organizations for urban areas with a population over 50,000.
- Facilitation of collaboration between municipalities and counties.
- Allocate funding resources through the "3-C Process".
- Transportation Planning to Address Regional Needs and Priorities.

We are projecting the CORE MPO Board to adopt the 2050 MTP in August.

What are the MPOs' planning documents?

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is used to guide development/update of the plans.
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- Public Participation Plan (PP)/Title VI Plans
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

What is the CORE MPO?

- MPO for the Savannah region. The CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary includes all of Chatham County and parts of Bryan and Effingham Counties.
- The MPA boundary was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in February 2024 and approved by the Governor of Georgia.

Who is CORE MPO?

#### The CORE MPO Board

- Sets regional and long-term transportation policies.
- Prioritizes projects.
- Approves the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, short-range Transportation Improvement Program, and other required planning documents.
- CORE MPO Board Voting Seats
  - Chatham County Commission (3)
  - Effingham County Commission (1)
  - Bryan County Commission (1)
  - City of Savannah (3)
  - City of Bloomingdale (1)
  - City of Garden City (1)
  - City of Port Wentworth (1)
  - City of Pooler (1)
  - City of Richmond Hill (1)
  - City of Tybee Island (1)
  - Town of Thunderbolt (1)
  - Town of Vernonburg (1)
  - Effingham County Municipality Rotating Seat (1)
  - Georgia Department of Transportation (1)
  - Chatham Area Transit Authority (1)
  - Savannah Airport Commission (1)
  - Georgia Ports Authority (1)
  - Metropolitan Planning Commission (1)
  - CORE MPO Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (1)

#### What is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)?

- The region's transportation system investment policies and priorities
- Links with regional land use, development, housing & employment goals & plans
- Focused on systems level & intermodal/multi modal in nature
- Fiscally constrained prioritized listing of projects
- Projections for the region's needs in the next 20+ years (updated every 5 years)
- Aligns with the Statewide Transportation Plan Fiscally constrained prioritized listing of projects
- Emphasizes efficient use of existing system & its preservation

#### The 2050 MTP

- Blueprint for Savannah region's transportation improvements to meet mobility needs
- Covers 2025 through 2050
- Expected adoption: August 7, 2024
- Multimodal
  - Highway Improvements
    - Travel Demand Model
    - Congestion Management Process
    - Sub-area Studies (US 80, SR 307, SR 21, Effingham Plan, etc.)
  - Freight
    - CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan update
    - GDOT Coastal Empire Study
  - Transit
    - Master Transit Plan
    - Transit Development Plan
  - Bike/Ped/Trail Improvements
    - Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update
    - Thoroughfare Plan Update
  - Environmental Consideration
    - Urban Flooding Model Study
    - Resiliency/Sustainability Analysis

#### The Development Process of the 2050 MTP:

- Data on Existing Conditions
- Forecasts of Future Conditions
- Vision & Goals
- Analysis & Evaluation

- Strategies
- Recommended Financially Constrained Plan
- Public Stakeholder Involvement

#### Three Rounds of Public Involvement

- 1st Round in Fall 2022 Kick-Off
  - Surveys
  - Refine Goals and Objectives
- 2nd Round in 2023
  - Updates
  - Study and Analysis Findings
- 3rd Round in Summer 2024
  - Financially Constrained Project Lists

We went through three rounds of public involvement. Now we are in the final round of public involvement. We advertised for a 30-day public review and comment period which ends today, 7/30/24. This is the last day to give your input for this plan. We can address the comments before the plan adoption on August 7<sup>th</sup>. We kicked off in 2022 and now we are at the end in 2024. The long timeline can be found on the slide show attached to the agenda.

#### Development Schedule

- Fall 2022 - Kick Off, Public Outreach & Finalize Goals
- 2022-2023 - Analyze Existing & Future Conditions
- 2023-2024 - Finalize MPO Planning Area Boundary & MOU & Bylaws
- Early 2024 - Revenue Projections & Financial Analysis
- Spring 2024 - Project Prioritization & Analysis, Financial Plan Development
- June/July 2024 - Public Review & Comment on Draft Plan
- August 2024 - Adopt Financially Constrained Plan

Draft Highways Revenues – table can be found attached to the agenda.

- Specific Highway Projects - about \$1.4 billion
- Operational Improvements Project Set Aside - about \$218 million
- Non-Motorized Projects Set Aside - about \$74 million
- Transit Projects Set Aside - about \$34 million
- Maintenance Revenues - about \$134 million

Draft 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Cost Feasible Projects (map and list attached to agenda.)

- Pipeline Projects
  - Chatham County & Municipalities
    - For example: PI# 0008358, I-516 @ CS /1503/ DeRenne Avenue (DeRenne Blvd Option)
  - Effingham County
    - For example: PI# 0018234, Stillwell Road at Ebenezer Creek
- Projects with Newly available funds
  - Received grant awards recently
  - New formula programming funds available
    - For example: Volterra Electrification of American Ports (VEAP) – Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program project award
- Longer-Term Projects
  - Carried over from the 2045 MTP
  - Newly-identified projects
    - For example: SR 21 Widening from SR 30 in Chatham County to McCall Road in Effingham County
- Set Aside Policies
  - Maintenance
  - Operational Improvements
  - Transit
  - Non-Motorized Improvements (Bike/Ped/Trail)
    - For example: for Non-Motorized Improvements, there is a 3% set aside.

Transit Capital Improvements (listed attached to the agenda.)

- Red Text: Projects from the adopted FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Black Text: Longer-term transit capital improvements
- Newly available grant of \$7.8 million for 6 BEB replacement buses and related EV infrastructure will be added to this table in coordination with CAT.

We are keeping several surveys open until we adopt the plan on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The links to both surveys can be found on the slide show presentation attached to the agenda. Please share the links if you can and give us your input. We have two public meetings left, the TCC and CORE MPO Board meetings on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, so there is still a chance to go in-person and hear more about the plan and speak directly with the stakeholders. Our contact information is provided as well, please reach out by the end of today to have your comments addressed in the 2050 MTP.

#### [4. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Status Report](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated this is the plan that the BPAC will be most involved in.

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.

This will be the first collaborative task of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Specifically, BPAC will oversee the update of this plan until its adoption. The aim is to adopt this plan before the end of 2024. Staff has compiled data, identified projects, and is drafting a project ranking methodology. BPAC will review the plan recommendations, project list, and scoring methodology to ensure the plan holistically addresses bike/pedestrian development in the region. Progress on the plan will continue after the adoption of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan is adopted in August.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated we do have a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Steering Committee, but now we also have the BPAC. Should we still have both committees going at the same time, or just review everything at the BPAC meetings?

Chairperson Calia Brown stated she believes it would make sense to review at the BPAC meetings. We have a lot of overlap of members between the NMTP Steering Committee and the BPAC. If we could extend an invitation to the members of the NTMP Steering Committee who aren't already on the BPAC, we will move forward with doing status updates and work at the BPAC meetings.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the NMTP Steering Committee is kind of a work group, getting into the weeds of the plan. So, if we invite them, then the BPAC meetings will function by going through the content and scoring methodology, and reviewing how the scores came out. Does that sound good to everyone?

Chairperson Calia Brown stated she is hearing no comments and proceeds to move on to the next item.

#### [5. Title VI Plan and Participation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton gave the presentation for the Title VI Plan and Participation Plan Updates. These will mostly be handled by the new TEPIAC committee.

##### **Title VI Plan Update**

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, and national origin. Specifically, 42 USC 2000d states that "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." The use of the word "person" is important as the protections afforded under Title VI apply to anyone, regardless of whether the individual is lawfully present in the United States or a citizen of a State within the United States.

As a sub-recipient of FHWA and FTA funds, the CORE MPO's transportation planning program is required to comply with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the President's Executive Order on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders, and federal regulations. The primary function of the CORE MPO's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Program is to address Title VI and Environmental Justice principles and requirements as they apply to the CORE MPO's transportation planning process. CORE MPO submits this Title VI Plan in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 49 CFR Part 21, and the guidelines of FTA Circular 4702.1B, published October 1, 2012.

To comply, we manage a Title VI Plan that is periodically updated. The last update was in 2021, and we are now kicking off a new update that will be completed in the Fall of 2024.

**Important Dates:**

- Project Start Date: August 1, 2024
- Public Comment Period: September 3, 2024-October 18, 2024
- Adoption Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024
- Link to current Title VI Plan: <https://www.thempc.org/docs/lit/corempo/plans/titlevi/TitleVIPlan.pdf>

**Participation Plan Update**

The Participation Plan describes the strategies and techniques that the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) uses to inform and engage the public in transportation planning issues with the purpose of maximizing participation and effectiveness. This plan is a required MPO document and is used to direct the methods used to engage with the public. The last update of this plan was in 2021. We are not kicking off a new update that will be completed in the Fall of 2024.

The plan has been implemented since its adoption, providing participation guidance in the updates of the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Public Involvement Plan itself has been updated several times to reflect changing regulations and CORE MPO characteristics and is now known as the Participation Plan. CORE MPO aims to update the Participation Plan at least every five years.

**Important Dates:**

- Project Start Date: August 1, 2024
- Public Comment Period: September 3, 2024-October 18, 2024
- Adoption Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024
- Link to current Title VI Plan: <https://www.thempc.org/docs/lit/corempo/plans/titlevi/ppplan.pdf>

**IV. Agency Reports**

Mr. Connor Booth of GDOT stated that if anyone has questions about project updates or anything we have, please let him know.

Ms. Deana Brooks, Chatham County, highlighted the bike and pedestrian projects in the area. The Chevis Road Improvement project includes pedestrian improvements. The Garrard Avenue Improvement project includes pedestrian improvements. The Green Island Road Trail project is primarily a bike and pedestrian project near Skidaway State Park at the end of Diamond Causeway. The SR 25 Corridor Study will evaluate pedestrian improvements. Through the Safe Streets for All program, we are evaluating pedestrian improvements and pedestrian safety. The Quacco Road Project and the Little Neck Road project will both include sidewalks and shared-use paths on both sides of the road. A sidewalk project on US 80 is headed into construction soon. For more information, please reach out to us or visit the Chatham County Engineering website.

Chairperson Caila Brown added that Chatham County will be hosting a public information open house for Safe Streets for All on July 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at Memorial Stadium. There is also a survey available online through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Deana Brooks stated that the Safe Streets for All survey will include all of Chatham County. Chairperson Caila Brown stated that Effingham County also has Safe Streets for All surveys and events occurring.

Ms. Tina Blockhold, City of Savannah, stated the groundbreaking for Truman Linear Trail Phase II B occurred on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We got the contractors their signed contract books. Pre-construction will hopefully begin soon. Regarding Middle Ground Rd, Ms. Blockhold hopes to receive Notice to Proceed for their top scoring design firm in September.

Ms. Wykoda Wang wanted to know the progress for Delesseps Avenue. Ms. Asia Hernton stated the information is in the attached report.

Ms. Ambria Berksteiner stated we are in the midst of finalizing our site selection process and the completion of our community outreach for Chatham Area Transit's Paratransit Maintenance Facility. We are internally having our stakeholder meetings and will hopefully start community outreach in the coming weeks. We want to go over the conceptual design work and get influence from the public. Ms. Berksteiner added, regarding the Belles Ferry, the purchase order was sent to the CAT Board in May, and now is complete.



Ms. Adlen Strandburg, Georgia Hi-Lo Trail, stated this past Saturday in Sandersville, we had our first groundbreaking ceremony for the first portion of the model miles that will be laid in Sandersville at the Forest Grove Preserve. Right now, there's about 1.25 miles cleared, and the total model miles will be somewhere between 2 and 4 miles. That was huge monument for the Hi-Lo Trail, a good attendance with the Mayors and Chairperson Calia Brown. The Hi-Lo Trail is doing things, we know it was just a vision there for a while, but there are things happening. We are very excited for the Trail to come to Effingham and Chatham Counties.

Mr. Justin Bristol, Georgia Bikes, stated the Georgia Bike/Walk Live Summit is in Decatur on October 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. We are currently accepting submissions for discussions, presentations, and workshops. Registration is available now, there is an early bird discount. If you have any questions, please email me at [justin@georgiabikes.org](mailto:justin@georgiabikes.org).

## **V. Other Business**

### **6. Discretionary PL Funds: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Study**

Ms. Asia Hernton stated we are pursuing Discretionary PL funds for a Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Study. This study is going to take inventory of the bike and pedestrian resources that we have within the CORE MPO region, as that is something we do not have. For example, we do not have updated maps of sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks etc. and their conditions. That is the goal of this study, to take that inventory and understand the condition, then create a database to regularly update the status and inventory of these facilities.

Chairperson Calia Brown stated this survey would cover all of Chatham County and portions of Bryan and Effingham Counties. It would be a comprehensive look at not only where our facilities are, but also the condition of those facilities. We have Level of Service for the streets, but we don't for that for bike and pedestrian facilities. A broken or busted up bike lane is not necessarily better than no bike lane at all. This would help us get the inventory. Currently our municipalities rely on the public to report the bike lane painting has faded in order to do maintenance. This study would help our municipalities out to a greater extent. We would also be able to use that data in the prioritization of projects. One project prioritization is rebuilding an existing facility. Most of the time a municipality will apply for funding to have a new facility built, not necessarily to resurface or to support reconstruction of an existing facility. We would be able to use that data to encourage municipalities to begin some new construction on existing projects. Any questions about this study? We are applying for the funds this fall, and if the funds are awarded, the CORE MPO would be able to let the project out for RFP in late spring.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated correct, it would be April of 2025.

Ms. Skye Lewis asked would the data be collected through GIO imagery or by people collecting data in the field?

Chairperson Calia Brown answered a little bit of both. We know that with the tree canopy on the coast, it makes it difficult to get everything, so it would be a tiered approach. We would use that imagery to collect data that we can see, recognizing that some of that imagery could be 6 months to a year old, or even older in rural areas. So, there would be some field observations, community engagement where people could submit their issues on a map, and also have a public meeting to collect information on the issues. Then we will use the information we already have to compliment that.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated we are estimating the cost at \$300,000 based on the advice from others who have done this kind of study.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated for the BPAC, since this is the first time the BPAC is hearing about this study, please go back and review the scope. Please let us know if there is anything that needs to be added because the deadline for this grant application is August 22, 2024. We are going to ask the CORE MPO Board to adopt the resolution, so we will have a signed resolution. If there is anything you need to add to the scope, please let us know before August 7<sup>th</sup>, so that the CORE MPO staff can refine the scope and send a good application to the Georgia Funds Review Committee.

Ms. Caila Brown stated she will get the details of this study out to the committee for review and input.

## **VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)**

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS



## **VII. Notices**

Chairperson Calia Brown stated these notices are the standard reports read at the TCC meetings. Moving forward we will be soliciting status updates specific to BPAC projects and activities from the individual municipalities, project managers/sponsors, and board members.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated we do have the agency reports, this is verbal and maybe not as formal as submitting an item, if anyone has news or updates, they would like to share with the group.

### **[7. GDOT Project Status Update Report](#)**

Report attached to the agenda.

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

Report attached to the agenda.

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

Report attached to the agenda.

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

Report attached to the agenda.

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

Report attached to the agenda.

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

Report attached to the agenda.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the July 30th, 2024, BPAC 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.