



CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

AUGUST 17, 2023 CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Anthony (Tony) Abbott	Chatham County	X
Dr. Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	
Vacant	Chatham County	
Kevin Glover	Savannah	X
Armand Turner	Savannah	X
A'riel Johnson	Savannah	X
Vacant	Pooler	
Vacant	Garden City	
Brett Bennett	Effingham County	
Vacant	Port Wentworth	
Vacant	Richmond Hill	
Bill Grainger	Bloomingdale	
Robert Milie	Thunderbolt	
Vacant	Tybee Island	
Vacant	Vernonburg	
Others	Representing	Present
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X
Anna McQuarrie	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO / MPC	X
Genesis Harrod	CORE MPO	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Ariel Johnson motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Kevin Glover. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. [Approval of the April 19, 2023 CAC Meeting minutes](#)

Ms. Ariel Johnson motioned to approve the April 19, 2023 CAC meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Kevin Glover. The motion passed with none opposed.

2. [Approval of the June 22, 2023 CAC Meeting minutes](#)

Ms. Ariel Johnson motioned to approve the June 22, 2023 CAC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Kevin Glover. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

[3. 2050 MTP Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said staff is still working on the socio-economic data development using 2050 projection year data. Rithvika and Edward are taking the lead on this.

Asia and Rithvika have finished checking the functional classification and number of lanes for the Travel Demand Model.

The new CORE MPO planning area boundary was approved by the CORE MPO Board in June. We are coordinating with GDOT to get revenue projections within the boundary for the next 25 years.

The Freight Plan update is almost done. Deliverables are available for review on the website.

The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is currently being updated and will be presented during this meeting.

The Urban Flooding Model Study is wrapping up in October.

Pooler gave a presentation on the US 80 Corridor Study today at the TCC committee meeting. The deliverables are online on the CORE MPO website.

Chatham Area Transit gave a presentation on their Master Transit Plan at the TCC meeting as well.

All the presentation files are attached to the agenda under Notices.

We have a new transportation planner, Genesis, who will take the lead on the Congestion Management Process. Anna is working on the resiliency planning. Staff is working on the second round of public meetings. The second round will not be as extensive as the first. The draft plan development will be focused on in October and we should be able to finish it in March/April. The third round of public involvement will start after the 2050 MTP draft is presented.

Ms. Ariel Johnson asked if the engagement portion of the second round will only include meetings in the public comment form? Was there something discovered in the first round that you want to bring back for the meetings? Ms. Wang said the first round launched the survey, that is why it was more intense. The second round will be telling the public we collected the survey data and let the public know what their input was as well as some draft recommendations from the Regional Freight Plan update, Non-Motorized Transportation update, US 80 Corridor Study, Master Transit Plan and the Urban Flooding Model. This will be more like a status report. The third round will be more result oriented. The prioritization process and the projects to be included in the fiscally constrained plan. The third round will be more intensive with the goal of receiving input on projects that will be included in the fiscally constrained plan.

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang said all the deliverables are on the Freight Plan website. We are inviting comments on these deliverables. Once the deliverables are finalized, there will be a summary attached to the Task 8 document. The last EDFAC meeting will serve as the public information meeting. The purpose is to invite public comments or outline what comments have been received and how we addressed them. The study will wrap up in October.

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

Ms. Anna McQuarrie said since taking over as Project Manager in June, we received the Task 2.1 deliverable, the SWMM (Storm Water Management Model) in July. The hydrographs will be ready this month, which will essentially be the outcome of the model. Other tasks such as the social vulnerability matrix, financial stewardship and project prioritization tool are expected closer to October. The final deliverables will be submitted by October 31st. We expect to have a final presentation from the consultants in October.

The SWMM is used throughout the world for planning analysis and design, related to stormwater runoff. This was developed by the EPA to help support local, state, and national stormwater management objectives to reduce runoff for infiltration and retention and help reduce discharges that cause impairment of water bodies. This is a one-dimensional model. It is not necessarily a flood map but can give an approximation of where areas flood. What the drainage basin tells us is the capacity of a manhole, where it is likely to flood, where there might

be overflow, and that means we can focus more infrastructure resources here. From a planning perspective, it will tell us more about stormwater needs and where to invest more.

This model is based on 10–25-year rainfall events. Essentially stormwater engineers in the MPO can use the information now. This is only in Chatham County. The inputs can be changed on the model such as sea level rise or no sea level rise etc. The next deliverable will be the output of the model.

If you are interested in finding out more, go to the flood study on the CORE MPO website. You will find the links to look at the model.

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

Ms. Asia Hernton said the CORE MPO has been going through an update of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. In terms of recent activities, we have been collecting data to analyze current bike and pedestrian conditions in the area. Some of that data includes bike and pedestrian volumes, origin and destination data, crash hotspot analysis, and a level comfort analysis of our existing bikeways. We had a steering committee meeting last week for further discussion and input. Some of the data collected is bike volume data which tells us where people are biking the most, pedestrian volumes etc. The source of the data is from Strava Metro, a great resource that supplies free bike and pedestrian related data. We also used data from the Census and the American Community Survey on vehicle availability and commutes. We are trying to get public input so people can tell us what they need and where. In person observation is another method being used to see where resources are needed. There will be a deeper look to see if there is anything that could be skewing the bike or pedestrian volumes. From this data we can see that a lot of bike and pedestrian trips are ending in the downtown area within Savannah.

A crash hotspot analysis was done to show where some of the crashes are happening the most. We can see the concentration of pedestrians crash density within the Savannah area. The Savannah area sees higher density of bike crashes than other areas. There was a level of comfort analysis done, this refers to how comfortable the biking conditions are to the average person. The rating is on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being most comfortable and 5 being the least. The parameters for this analysis originated from the Athens in Motion Plan. It uses speed limits, functional classification, and bike lane design as factors to determine the comfort of that bikeway. The easiest to use bike lanes are concentrated in the Savannah area. The hardest to use areas are spread out though Chatham County. With some modifications, protected bike lanes with a barrier, some of the medium difficulty bike lanes would be easier to use. The majority of the observed bike lanes had a level of comfort of 1. Very few had a level of comfort of 5. We want to bring the 3's down, if possible, which can be done by adding a physical barrier and buffer to the bike lane. Other observations made with this analysis are that a lot of bike lanes were inconsistent in size and design. A bike lane on a street may suddenly change in a way that it looks which might be confusing to the user. Additionally, intersections were hard to navigate and understand. There were some bike lanes that were easy to use until it reached an intersection. We want to review some design guidelines to make those intersections easier to navigate.

The next steps are to use the data to create a project list for the bike and pedestrian resources and then present the project list to the community for input. Review some of the unconfirmed bike lanes to assess the level of comfort. Look at the sidewalk/crosswalk side of the plan. The completed project list is expected to be done in February 2024 with an adoption date in June 2024.

[7. FY 2024-2027 TIP Development](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the original adoption date was targeted for August, but all the data was not in at that time. The statewide TIP has changed their schedule to October as well. There will be a preliminary draft developed for federal highway and transit GDOT review by the end of the month. The public comment period will start in September. We will target an October adoption.

[8. MOU, Membership Dues, Restructuring, Bylaws](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the MPO boundary, bylaws, and MOU are being updated due to the census change. The Savannah Urban area has expanded so as a result, the MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary needs to be changed. The methodology was presented in the last 3 rounds of meetings. In June, the MPO Board adopted the MPA boundary. The next step now is developing the MOU and finalizing the committees, the membership, add the information into the bylaws, and have the fee structure/ membership dues finalized. There was a workshop Monday for the member agencies to propose the methodology for how to calculate dues. There was a meeting Wednesday with ACAT and CAC representatives on how to consolidate

the two committees into the Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Committee. Staff are developing the bylaws for that. There will be a more focused area for this committee. All information will still be provided to the new committee but there will be a more focused agenda in hopes for it to be more productive. The hope is to have this adopted in October by the MPO Board. Once this is adopted staff will send all the information to the local municipalities and the modal representatives for signature. Once those signatures come back, we will forward the documents to GDOT for signature, and they will then forward to the Governor's office for final signature and approval.

The current MOU includes the expanded areas of Guyton, Pembroke, Springfield, Rincon, Richmond Hill, portions of Effingham and Bryan counties. All of Effingham south of SR 119 and all of Bryan County except for Ft. Stewart. The CAC and ACAT will be consolidated into the Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee. There will be a focus on equity and public participation. This committee will advise the MPO Board and possibly the Chatham Area Transit Board as well with the ADA access to buses and access to the Paratransit services, bus stops, etc. This committee will oversee the development and maintenance of several documents, including the Participation Plan and the Title IV Plan for environmental justice and language assistance.

Please review this documentation language and provide feedback regarding this. There will be a new committee established that will be focused on planning and implementation of bike and pedestrian and trail projects. That will be the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory committee. The language for this is outlined in the document as well. Language was added to better outline what the CORE MPO does. The TIP used to be updated annually, now it is every 3-4 years. The language has been updated for this as well. Appendix A shows the approved boundary by the MPO Board. Regarding the dues' structure, we are still working with the municipalities on this. Bryan County and Richmond Hill will meet internally to discuss how to split their dues. Effingham County will meet with their own municipalities as well. Chatham County currently pays 25% of the municipalities' share of the membership dues. There needs to be a coordination meeting to discuss making changes or keeping it the same.

Staff is asking for feedback from this committee regarding the new committee structure.

IV. Agency Reports

V. Other Business

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No Public Comments

VII. Notices

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

[16. CAT Master Transit Plan](#)

Report attached to agenda.

[17. TIP Funding Tracking Report](#)

Report attached to agenda.

[18. Next CORE MPO CAC Committee Meeting October 19, 2023 at 5:30pm.](#)

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 17, 2023 CAC 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.