



Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
July 20, 2010 1:15 p.m.
MINUTES

July 20, 2010 Regular MPC Board Meeting

Members Present: Shedrick Coleman, Chairman
J. Adam Ragsdale, Vice-Chairman
Jon Pannell, Secretary
Lacy Manigault, Treasurer
Russ Abolt
Ellis Cook
Tanya Milton
Susan Myers
Rochelle Small-Toney
Jon Todd
Joseph Welch

Members Not Present: Ben Farmer
Stephen Lufburrow
Timothy Mackey

Staff Present: Thomas Thomson, P.E. AICP, Executive Director
Melony West, CPA, Director, Finance & Systems
James Hansen, AICP, Director, Development Services
Bri Finau, Administrative Assistant
Charlotte Moore, AICP, Director of Special Projects
Dennis Hutton, AICP, Director of Comprehensive Planning

Advisory Staff Present: Robert Sebek, County Zoning Administrator
Randolph Scott, City Zoning Administrator

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

II. INVOCATION

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. NOTICES, PROCLAMATIONS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Executive Session

1. Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session at 1:20 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. The regularly scheduled was meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Abolt noted that no motions were made and no actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Board Action:

Motion to move into Executive Session. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Adam Ragsdale

Second: Russ Abolt

Russ Abolt - Aye

Shedrick Coleman - Aye

Ellis Cook - Aye

Timothy Mackey - Not Present

Lacy Manigault - Aye

Tanya Milton - Aye

Susan Myers - Aye

Jon Pannell - Aye

Adam Ragsdale - Aye

Rochelle Small-Toney - Aye

Jon Todd - Aye

Joseph Welch - Aye

Board Action:

Motion to reconvene the regularly scheduled MPC meeting. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Adam Ragsdale

Second: Susan Myers

Russ Abolt - Aye

Shedrick Coleman - Aye

Ellis Cook - Aye

Timothy Mackey - Aye

Lacy Manigault - Aye

Tanya Milton	- Aye
Susan Myers	- Aye
Jon Pannell	- Aye
Adam Ragsdale	- Aye
Rochelle Small-Toney	- Aye
Jon Todd	- Aye
Joseph Welch	- Aye

Notice(s)

2. [July 20, 2010 MPC Personnel Committee Meeting at 11:30 AM in the West Conference Room, 110 East State Street.](#)
3. [July 20, 2010 Regular MPC Meeting at 1:15 P.M. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, 112 E. State Street.](#)
4. [August 10, 2010 Regular MPC Meeting at 1:30 P.M. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, 112 E. State Street.](#)

V. PRESENTATIONS

5. [Grant Application Update - Dennis Hutton](#)

Attachment: [Thomson Planning Commission, Re; Sustainable Communities Grant Program \(HUD\) 072010.pdf](#)

Dennis Hutton, Director of Comprehensive Planning reported on the following Department of Housing and Urban Development grant application activities.

Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant

The City of Savannah will be the lead applicant on this grant. The focus will be revitalization of the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor. The Savannah Gardens project will create challenges and opportunities along the corridor which the grant will explore from transportation and economic development perspectives.

HUD -TIGER II Grant

Depending upon the outcome of the Savannah Streetcar discussion at the City Council workshop on July 15, 2010, the MPC will prepare and submit a grant application to support further development of the system.

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

CORE MPO will be the lead applicant on this regional grant. Currently, the staff is in conversation with the Low Country Council of Governments (LCCOG) and the Low Country Rural Transportation Authority (LCRTA) in South Carolina to submit a joint application. A proposed high speed ferry service from Savannah to Daufuskie and Hilton Head Islands and, possibly, Tybee Island is the framework of the grant. Other important

components that are currently being explored are a non-motorized transportation network in Chatham County, a waste-to-energy feasibility study in conjunction with Scientific Partners from Boras, Sweden; support for the Savannah Ocean Exchange Project initiated by Howard Morrison; and an investigation of incentives to promote workforce housing in the region.

6. [Transportation Planning Update - Mark Wilkes](#)

Attachment: [Thomson Wilkes Planning Commission, Re: Transportation Planning Status Report 072010.pdf](#)

Thomas Thomson presented the following brief summary of current transportation studies being conducted by the CORE MPO for Mark Wilkes, Director of Transportation:

Total Mobility Plan

The CORE MPO Total Mobility Plan is expanding upon the goals and policy framework established by the Framework Mobility Plan, adopted in September 2009, to address the full spectrum of transportation options and address the growing concerns of livability and sustainability in the Savannah community. A key feature of the Total Mobility Plan will be the incorporation of detailed plans for corridors and subareas. These detailed plans will complete the Transportation Amenities planning process begun in 2003 by providing specific concepts for planned road projects which address context sensitive design and complete streets principles in concert with adjacent land uses. In addition to corridor and area plans, the Total Mobility Plan will incorporate the recommendations of a number of key planning studies currently underway including the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Transit Mobility Vision Plan, Streetcar Plan, Climate Change Assessment, 1-16 Flyover Removal Study, SR 204 Corridor Study, SR 21 Corridor Study and US 80 Bridge Replacement Study.

Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

The Non-motorized Transportation Plan will serve as an update to the MPO's existing Bikeway Plan and provide additional guidance to address the needs of pedestrians, and other human powered travelers. The plan will be developed by:

- identifying needed improvements for the non-motorized modes,
- identifying areas for amenities to help create a human-scaled environment that encourages use of physically active modes, and
- prioritizing improvements and identifying funding opportunities.

The resulting prioritized project list will guide the MPO in programming the \$98 million that is designated for non-motorized transportation over the next 25 years in the Framework Mobility Plan, and will be incorporated into the Total Mobility Plan. The project list will also serve as guidance to local governments in the development of Capital Improvement Programs, and Transportation Enhancement and Safe Routes to School grants.

Transit Mobility Vision Plan

The Transit Mobility Vision Plan is a regional plan that encompasses five counties in Georgia (Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, Effingham, and Bulloch) and two counties in South Carolina (Beaufort and Jasper). The plan is a high-level study that is looking at all modes of transit to determine what modes are feasible, where those modes should be located and when those modes should be implemented in relation to the CORE MPO's Total Mobility Plan.

Streetcar Plan

Savannah once had a streetcar system connecting downtown with several early suburbs. A rebirth for this transportation mode could reduce residents', as well as tourists', dependence on the automobile and the resulting pressure for parking. Additionally, the streetcar could spur economic development and community revitalization in certain corridors. Consultants for the MPO are conducting a peer review and case study of successful streetcar systems in similar communities and a guidance technical memorandum for federal streetcar program investment. The result will be documentation of current best practices in streetcar operations and a roadmap showing tasks, decision points and actors to be coordinated over the course of a federally funded streetcar implementation process. Additional phases of the Streetcar Study will be scoped to pursue a federally funded streetcar implementation process based on current and emerging federal policy guidance pending the outcomes of an independent feasibility study currently being completed for the City of Savannah based upon the technology used by the existing River Street streetcar demonstration project.

Climate Change Assessment

The Climate Change Assessment is examining ways in which the Total Mobility Plan can best reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt infrastructure needs to the changing climate. This assessment will include background information on the link between our transportation system and climate change, a thorough review of scientific and academic climate policy guidance for transportation planning, and an evaluation system consistent with the performance measures of the Total Mobility Plan to guide the development of future projects.

1-16 Flyover Removal Study

The 1-16 Flyover Removal Study addresses negative impacts to commercial and residential areas of downtown Savannah caused by the construction of Interstate 16. This study, which includes a transportation analysis, civic master plan, economic analysis and real estate analysis is building on previous studies conducted by the Savannah Development and Renewal Authority (SDRA) to demonstrate the financial feasibility of removing the existing overpass and exit ramps and returning the reclaimed right-of-way to civic and private uses under the guidance of a civic master plan developed in conjunction with an extensive public participation process.

SR 204 Corridor Study

SR 204 is one of the most congested and highly commercial corridors in the Savannah region, serving the rapidly growing Georgetown area of Savannah as well as the rapidly growing Southwest Chatham County area and Richmond Hill communities.

This study will continue and expand a previous study conducted by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) by adding an elevated express lane option that minimizes right-of-way impacts to businesses in the commercial area along SR 204. Special focus will be directed to the at-grade portion of the commercial section between Rio Road and Truman Parkway Phase V, as part of the elevated regional facility option utilizing context sensitive design and complete streets principles, including traffic calming designs, to better integrate the at-grade section into the urban environment. The capacity of enhanced land use and development opportunities will be part of the at-grade roadway analyses.

SR 21 Corridor Study

SR 21 is a heavily congested roadway in northwestern Chatham County. It has become, in recent years, a commuter corridor connecting rapidly growing Effingham County with Savannah. SR 21 is also a main route that connects to the Georgia Ports Authority's Garden City Terminal, Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, and other employment and freight destinations. This study will evaluate alternative major capacity improvements such as elevated express lanes or other alternatives along the SR 21 corridor. The study will identify and address the impacts and connectivity issues each alternative would have to the proposed Effingham Parkway and the proposed Jimmy DeLoach Parkway connector to the Georgia Ports Authority Garden City Terminal (commonly referred to as the Port's Last Mile Project).

US 80/Tybee Road Bridge Study

US 80 provides the only vehicular access to Tybee Island. In recent years, higher tides have begun to cause increased incidences of flooding on the roadway. Moreover, a recent series of serious crashes on the bridges have shut down access to the island underscoring the vulnerability of the current obsolete bridges. The current bridges do not have sidewalks, bike lanes or emergency shoulders.

While the Georgia Department of Transportation initiated preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition several years ago, the Department has shelved the project for the time being, and is unlikely to be able to secure adequate funding to implement their proposed four-lane widening in the near future.

This study will examine shorter term options for enhanced access for bicycles, pedestrians and emergency vehicles, as well mitigation strategies for sections of the road currently subject to tidal flooding.

7. Unified Zoning Ordinance Update - Charlotte Moore

Attachment: [Thomson Planning Commission, Re; Unified Zoning Ordinance Update 072010.pdf](#)

Charlotte Moore, Director of Special Projects, gave a brief presentation on the progress of the Unified Zoning Ordinance process.

The Technical Committee started in April 2007 and completed their work in March 2010. The Advisory Committee helped review the draft compiled by the Technical Committee. Ms. Moore was pleased to announce that the UZO update meetings averaged 33 neighborhood representatives per meeting of the 170 notified neighborhood associations. During the 12 meetings, some of the predominant concerns were definition of family, signage, public noticing and board membership, were discussed. There were also 10 community meetings during this time.

Several meetings are scheduled in the future with various County and City staff and technical consultants prior to the final draft for editing. Many terms and designations have been defined for clarity, such as zoning issues versus County or City issues.

There will be a workshop for the Board to review prior to the anticipated public release in October. The workshop will be held August 5 and 6 and the public is invited. The website is available, www.unifiedzoning.org.

VI. ITEM(S) REQUESTED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE FINAL AGENDA

Zoning Petition - Map Amendment

8. [12214 Deerfield Road](#)

Board Action:

It is recommended that this item be continued to the MPC meeting on August 31, 2010. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Jon Todd

Second: Adam Ragsdale

Russ Abolt - Aye

Shedrick Coleman - Aye

Ellis Cook - Aye

Timothy Mackey - Not Present

Lacy Manigault - Aye

Tanya Milton - Aye

Susan Myers - Aye

Jon Pannell - Aye

Adam Ragsdale - Aye

Rochelle Small-Toney - Aye

Jon Todd - Aye

Joseph Welch - Aye

The Consent Agenda consists of items for which the applicant is in agreement with the staff recommendation and for which no known objections have been identified nor anticipated by staff. Any objections raised at the meeting will result in the item being moved to the Regular Agenda. At a 12:30

briefing, the staff will brief the Commission on Consent Agenda items and, time permitting, Regular Agenda items. No testimony will be taken from applicants, supporters or opponents, and no votes will be taken at the briefing.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of MPC Meeting Minutes and Briefing Minutes

9. [Approval of June 29, 2010 MPC Meeting Minutes and Briefing Minutes](#)

Attachment: [06.29.10 MPC BRIEFING MINUTES.pdf](#)

Attachment: [06.29.10 MINUTES.pdf](#)

Board Action:

Recommend **APPROVAL** of the MPC Meeting and Briefing Minutes as submitted. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Adam Ragsdale

Second: Tanya Milton

Russ Abolt - Aye

Shedrick Coleman - Aye

Ellis Cook - Aye

Timothy Mackey - Not Present

Lacy Manigault - Aye

Tanya Milton - Aye

Susan Myers - Aye

Jon Pannell - Aye

Adam Ragsdale - Aye

Rochelle Small-Toney - Aye

Jon Todd - Aye

Joseph Welch - Aye

Authorization(s)

10. [Authorization for the Executive Director to execute Agreement for Pipemaker's Canal Monitoring with Chatham County.](#)

Attachment: [Thomson Planning Commission, Re; Pipemaker's Canal Monitoring Agreement 072010.pdf](#)

Board Action:

Authorize Executive Director to execute Agreement for Pipemaker's Canal Monitoring with Chatham County. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Adam Ragsdale	
Second: Jon Todd	
Russ Abolt	- Aye
Shedrick Coleman	- Aye
Ellis Cook	- Aye
Timothy Mackey	- Not Present
Lacy Manigault	- Aye
Tanya Milton	- Aye
Susan Myers	- Aye
Jon Pannell	- Aye
Adam Ragsdale	- Aye
Rochelle Small-Toney	- Aye
Jon Todd	- Aye
Joseph Welch	- Aye

VIII. ITEMS MOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. REGULAR BUSINESS

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

11. [Appointment of Nominating Committee](#)

Chairman Coleman appointed Mr. Ellis Cook, Mr. Jon Todd, and Mr. Timothy Mackey as the Nominating Committee. The Committee is charged with making a report to the Board during the August 10, 2010 MPC meeting with the nominees for office. The Board will vote on the nominees during the August 31, 2010 MPC meeting. If the slate of officers is not approved, a second vote will be conducted during the September 21, 2010 MPC meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

12. [Submittal](#)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the July 20, 2010 Regular MPC Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson

Executive Director

/bf

Note: Minutes not official until signed.

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.