

MPC Mendonsa Hearing Room – 10:00 a.m.
112 East State Street, Savannah
Minutes

November 2, 2016, Regular Meeting of CORE MPO Board

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
James Aberson	ACAT	X
Phillip Claxton	City of Port Wentworth	
Eddie DeLoach	City of Savannah	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	
Harold Fowler	City of Richmond Hill	X
Caroline Hankins	Town of Thunderbolt	
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonburg	
Wendall Kessler	Effingham County Commission	
Curtis Koleber	Chatham Area Transit Authority	
Mike Lamb	City of Pooler	
Pete Liakakis	CAT Board	X
Tom McQueen	GDOT	X
Jannine Miller	EDFAC	
Tanya Milton	MPC	X
Ben Rozier	City of Bloomingdale	
Diane Schleicher	City of Tybee Island	X
Al Scott	Chatham County Commission	X
Pete Shonka	City of Savannah	X
Lee Smith	Chatham County	X
Bob Tully	CAC	X
Vacant	City of Savannah Alderman	
Vacant	Chatham County Commissioner	

<u>Regional Coordination Guests</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Ginnie Kozak	LATS MPO	X

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Scott Allison	Richmond Hill	X
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County	X
Byron Cowart	GDOT District Five	X

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Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT District Five	X
Stephanie Rossi	MPO Staff	X
Grant Sparks	Chatham Area Transit	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO Interim Exec. Director	X

I. Approval of Agenda

1. [Approval of the November 2, 2016, CORE MPO Board Meeting Agenda](#)

The November 2, 2016, CORE MPO Board agenda was approved as written.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

2. [Report](#)

Mr. James Aberson reported that ACAT had endorsed the TIP amendments.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

3. [Report](#)

Mr. Bob Tully stated that he had no report because the CAC meeting scheduled for October 6 had been cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew.

C. Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee

4. [Report](#)

No report at this time.

D. Technical Coordinating Committee

5. [Report](#)

Mr. Nathaniel Panther stated that the TCC had endorsed the TIP amendments and the recommendations of the Regional Traffic Management Study.

E. Executive Director's Report

6. [Report](#)

Mr. Wilkes recognized Peter Shonka. Peter has been designated by the new City Manager Rob Hernandez as his designee to the CORE MPO Board. The Victory Drive Phase 3 Study will be holding its next stakeholder and public meetings the third week of November to review preliminary findings and recommendations. The business and property owner meetings will take place at MPC on November 15th and 16th. The public meeting will be on Thursday, November 18th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church at 520 Washington Avenue. The MPO is continuing to make progress on the Electronic or web based TIP. We are currently working on a web based version of the existing TIP as the pilot project. So that by the time we do the full TIP update next spring, the process will be automated. Late last summer, GDOT sent a letter to Stephanie Cutter indicating that GDOT would not be submitting the I-16 IMR to FHWA until the full right-of-way and construction phases are included in the MTP. Mr. Wilkes stated that he will be reaching out to the new City Manager and his staff as time allows to brief them on the project and affirm the City's direction on the project. On the ATMS Study, Stephanie Rossi, the MPO's project manager, has been working with the consultant to finalize the report on this project and will have a report later in the meeting MPO staff is still working with Tybee Island to identify funding for variable message signs to be placed on US 80. As soon as full funding is identified, we will be moving forward to get that project in the TIP. The Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, or AMPO, annual meeting was held last week in Fort Worth. The most popular presentation topics were performance based planning and performance target setting. CORE MPO will be hosting the AMPO annual meeting in Savannah in October 2017. CORE MPO hosted the conference in Savannah in 2009 and got very good feedback, which

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is why AMPO wanted to come back. It turned out to be one of their best attended conferences, so kudos to us. On September 21st, MPO staff held a briefing and orientation session for new and recently added members to the MPO Board. In the fall of 2015, FHWA conducted a procurement audit of Savannah, Columbus and Warner Robbins MPOs in conjunction with GDOT. The final report was just released late last week. MPO staff are still reviewing.

III. Action Items

7. [Approval of the August 24, 2016, CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [CORE MPO Board minutes 8-24-16.pdf](#)

The minutes of the August 24, 2016, CORE MPO Board meeting were approved with the revision to show Tom McQueen as present.

8. [Amendments to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)

Attachment: [FY 2015-2018 TIP Amendment Staff Report October 2016.pdf](#)

Ms. Jane Love presented the proposed amendments to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Remove Marsh Hen Trail Phase II from the program because non-federal funds will be used in place of federal funds; add local funds for right-of-way and utilities on Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-A and shift construction to FY 2018; remove SR 21 @ Pipemaker Canal Culvert Replacement from the program because non-federal funds will be used in place of federal funds; add funding to preliminary engineering on SR 25 @ Pipemaker Canal Culvert Replacement project to replace the local funds beyond the required minimum local match percentage.

Staff recommended approval of the proposed amendments. Ms. Love noted that a Public Hearing on the TIP amendments had been advertised to occur at this meeting.

Chairman Scott opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. He closed the Public Hearing.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion passed.

9. [Regional Traffic Management Study](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi gave a presentation to summarize the process and recommendations

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of the Regional Traffic Management Study. The study included: goals and objectives, traffic management options; case studies; and a five-year strategic plan.

Mr. Mike Weiner, City of Savannah Traffic Engineering Director, explained the current capabilities of the city's traffic control center.

Ms. Rossi said that staff recommends MPO Board approval of the recommendations of the Regional Traffic Management Study. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendations. The motion passed.

IV. Other Business

V. Status Reports

10. [Update on the Victory Drive Corridor Study, Phase III](#)

Ms. Love summarized the status on Phase III of the Victory Drive Corridor Study. This phase focuses on the segment from Bee Rd. to just east of Skidaway Rd. She reviewed the work to date and the next steps, highlighting the Community Meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on November 17 at First Presbyterian Church in Savannah. Several stakeholder group meetings would take place that same week. These meetings will focus on the study's draft recommendations. Final recommendations will be provided in a report in December. This update was provided for information.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

11. [Report](#)

Mr. Byron Cowart reviewed the status of several projects on the Pre-construction and Active Project lists.

B. Member Governments

12. [Report](#)

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Chatham County -- Mr. Nathaniel Panther said that County Engineering's items were covered by GDOT's report and by the TIP amendment report.

City of Savannah -- Mr. Mike Weiner reviewed projects on the City's handout, which included Coffee Bluff sidewalks, Project DeRenne, Delesseps/LaRoche Ave., Gwinnett St., Bay St., and a study of median safety measures on Truman Pkwy.

Richmond Hill -- Mr. Scott Allison said that GDOT had covered the large projects. He added that the "face lift" for the SR 144 @ US 17 area will be done soon, including signal masts and landscaping.

Garden City -- Mr. Ron Feldner reported on the Chatham County rehabilitation from I-16 to US 80.

Tybee Island -- No information to add.

C. Chatham Area Transit Authority

13. [Report](#)

Mr. Grant Sparks reported that CAT had been chosen as the only recipient in Georgia for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds for 26 paratransit vans. Total project cost is \$2.6 million, \$1.6 million of which is from FTA.

Mr. Pete Liakakis, CAT Board Chairman, commented on CAT's important role during the evacuations for Hurricane Matthew and thanked the County leadership for their work. Chairman Al Scott thanked CAT and noted that CAT Executive Director Curtis Koleber was part of the emergency operations team.

D. Georgia Ports Authority

14. [Report](#)

No report at this time.

E. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

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15. [Report](#)

No report at this time.

F. Hinesville Area MPO (neighboring MPO)

16. [Report](#)

No report at this time.

G. Low-country Area Transportation Study (neighboring MPO)

17. [Report](#)

Ms. Ginnie Kozak noted that the widening of US 17 in South Carolina is projected to start in the spring of 2018. However a resurfacing project will take place before that because it is sorely needed. She mentioned that the Corps of Engineers have the application for the Jasper Port. Bi-state discussions of infrastructure are needed.

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

18. [Comments](#)

Mr. Robert McCorkle, representing six or ten commercial property owners on Victory Drive, shared comments about Phase III of the Victory Drive Corridor Study. A Victory Drive Commercial Property Owners Associations has been formed. They are concerned that an overlay district is being recommended in the study, and they see this as an additional layer of regulation that directly affects them. He said they don't see what the urban design recommendations would have to do with the traffic or restoring the beauty of the corridor, as identified in the goals. At the last stakeholder meeting, the property owners were promised that they would receive the draft recommendations ahead of their next stakeholder meeting, and they are not sure that is still going to happen. In response to a question from a board member, he said they are not against interparcel connectivity, but

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that it is a complicated process because there is no mechanism for it.

Mr. Curtis Lewis, owner of the parcel at the corner of Victory Dr. and Skidaway Rd. where CVS is located, said that he echoes what Mr. McCorkle said.

Ms. Ansley Threlkeld, of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, said that the Chamber had been contacted by several business owners, and wants to ensure that the business owners are being kept informed.

Ms. Love, CORE MPO project manager for the Victory Dr. Corridor Study, responded to the comments. She said that the study team had held extra stakeholder meetings with the property owners, as well as other stakeholder groups, in September, in response to what the team had heard from property owners in August. She explained that urban design recommendations are a part of the study because site design influences traffic demand and choice of mode. She said the team will continue to discuss the design considerations with affected parties. The study's focus on landscaping, transportation, and urban design has been the approach throughout all phases of the study.

VIII. Announcements

19. [Next meeting of the CORE MPO Board: Dec. 14, 2016, 10:00 a.m.](#)

IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

X. Adjournment

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.