



## CORE MPO Board

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

### August 23, 2017 Meeting of the CORE MPO Board

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
James Aberson	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	X
Phillip Claxton	City of Port Wentworth	
Wesley Corbitt	Effingham County Commission	
Eddie DeLoach	City of Savannah	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Harold Fowler	City of Richmond Hill	
Howard French	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	X
Caroline Hankins	Town of Thunderbolt	
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonberg	
Curtis Koleber	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Mike Lamb	City of Pooler	
Tom McQueen	Georgia Department of Transportation	X
Tanya Milton	Metropolitan Planning Commission	
Ben Rozier	City of Bloomingdale	
Al Scott	Chatham County Commission	X
Pete Shonka	City of Savannah	
Lee Smith	Chatham County	X
Bob Tully	Citizens Advisory Committee	X
Vacant	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	
<u>Voting Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah	X
<u>Regional Coordination Guests</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Ginnie Kozak	LATS MPO	X
Jeff Ricketson	HAMPO	X
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Pam Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	X
Byron Cowart	GDOT - District Five	X
Jane Love	CORE MPO	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT - District Five	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO	X
Alan Seitert	LCPC	X
Grant Sparks	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Mike Vaquer	The Vaquer Firm	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO	X

#### I. Approval of Agenda

##### 1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

## II. Committee Reports (verbal)

### 2. Reports

ACAT -- Mr. James Aberson reported that ACAT had not had a quorum.

CAC -- Mr. Bob Tully reported that the CAC had elected officers: He was re-elected as Chairman and Chris Middleton was re-elected as Vice Chairman. The CAC had endorsed the action items.

TCC -- Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that the TCC had endorsed the action items. Regarding the MPO staff request for planning funds to assist with the long range plan update, the endorsement included the recommendation for clarification with FHWA about their stance, which will be explained during the agenda item for Discretionary Highway Planning funds.

## III. Action Items

### 3. Approval of the June 28, 2017 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 28, 2017 CORE MPO Board meeting were approved with none opposed.

### 4. Amendments to 2040 Total Mobility Plan

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that this item and the two Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments following it are all related to the same two projects, and therefore she will give one presentation covering the three items. There are three separate public hearings.

Ms. Wang said that GDOT had sent staff the request to amend the COREO MPO 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to add two projects: PE and CST for SR 404 Spur/ US 17 @ Back River and PE, ROW, and CST for SR 404 Spur/ US 17 from NE of Savannah Harbor Pkwy. to Back River. The need is to create a four-lane crossing of back river in conjunction with the US 17 widening on the SC side of the river. GDOT is funding 10% of the bridge cost and 100% of the approach widening on the GA side. New funding is added to the MTP with these projects, thus maintaining the financial balance without negatively affecting the funding of other projects.

Ms. Wang showed how the projects' phases would be programmed in the FY 2015-2018 TIP and in the FY 2018-2021 TIP. The latter TIP was adopted by this board in June, but the Governor has not yet signed it. Amending these projects into both TIPs will allow the PE funds to be authorized when ready this year, regardless of the timing of the Governor's signature on the new TIP.

Staff recommended approval of the amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan, the FY 2015-2018 TIP and the FY 2018-2021 TIP. Mr. Shawn Gillen asked about the US 80/ Tybee Road project; he didn't see it in either of the TIPs. Ms. Wang explained that PE was in the FY 2015-2018 TIP and the funds were authorized. So GDOT is using the funds on that phase right now. The project is not ready for the ROW, Utilities, and Construction phases to be programmed in the current TIP's four-year window, FY 20-8-2021.

PUBLIC HEARING for Amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan: The Chairman opened the public hearing. There were no comments, He closed the hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING for Amendment to the FY 2015-2018 TIP: The Chairman opened the public hearing. There were no comments, He closed the hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING for Amendment to the FY 2018-2021 TIP: The Chairman opened the public hearing. There were no comments, He closed the hearing.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the 2040 Total Mobility Plan, the FY 2015-2018 TIP and the FY 2018-2021 TIP. to add the two Back River projects. The motion passed with one opposed. Mr. Gillen stated that he had voted against the amendments because Tybee Island is not satisfied with progress on the US 80/ Tybee Road project.

### 5. Amendments to FY 2015 - 2018 TIP

This item was addressed together with the prior item on the amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan, as it involves the same two projects at Back River. This amendment passed with one opposed.

### 6. Amendments to FY 2018 - 2021 TIP

This item was addressed together with the prior item on the amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan, as it involves the same two projects at Back River. This amendment passed with one opposed.

### 7. Approval of Requests for Discretionary Highway Planning Funds

Ms. Jane Love explained the nature of the Discretionary Highway Planning (PL) Funds awards process, conducted by the Georgia Association of MPOs (GAMPO) in coordination with GDOT. There is about \$6 million of these funds unallocated to the MPOs. The three planning projects under this item are being reviewed by the TCC and CORE MPO Board at this time, to consider submitting them to the GAMPO review committee in September. GAMPO's priorities for this type of funding are as follows: First priority will be given to required products of the MPO, such as Metropolitan Transportation Plans, Transportation Improvement Programs, and Congestion Management Processes; Second priority will be given to studies that enable the MPO to meet those core deliverables; and Third priority will be given to special studies.

She reported that the first proposal under this item is for assistance in developing the CORE MPO 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which is in the first priority tier. She reviewed the subset of tasks that would be enhanced with the additional funding of \$180,000 (matched), the schedule, and the commitment of local match. Ms. Love explained the TCC endorsement included the recommendation to clarify with FHWA Georgia division staff the nature of the MPO staff request and the FHWA staff perceptions. FHWA staff had stated that they would not allow use of the funds for such a proposal due to the CORE MPO's staff size. She reminded the committee that, in addition to any of the three requests the MPO Board approves at this meeting, the two requests this board had approved submitting back in the spring were also going to be considered now by GAMPO's review committee in September. Any of the requests submitted by this MPO that get funded will be managed by MPO staff. It's possible that multiple requests could be funded. Ms. Tamara Christian, of FHWA Georgia division, was on the phone and repeated FHWA's stance about CORE MPO staff size. She requested clarification about the "assistance" or "help" MPO staff proposed seeking, and this was explained. Mr. Wilkes noted that the surplus of funds that GAMPO awards through this process is intended for MPOs outside of Atlanta. Chairman Al Scott concluded the discussion, noting that the MPO understands that its submissions for funding consideration could be vetoed by GDOT as part of the defined process and the federal funds are ultimately subject to FHWA oversight.

Mr. Bob Tully stated that he is opposed to the streetcar study, which is also being considered for submission for this funding. He doesn't want to see a lot of funds being spent to study this, leading to a vote further out to spend even more money to build it. Mr. Mike Vaquer described why CAT and the City of Savannah would like the MPO to request planning funds for the study. The City just completed streetscape plans for Broughton, Bay, and River streets, and the streetcar affects the River Street plan. This study would look at a route connecting the Savannah River Landing area to the proposed arena site, including Martin Luther King, Blvd. The streetcar, which currently only runs up and down River Street would be much more useful if it carried people between parking and the arena or got people to their jobs. This study is necessary to move toward a more functional streetcar. The Savannah City Manager supports the study and commits the local match. A motion was made and seconded to approve the three applications for planning funds. The motion passed with one opposed. Mr. Bob Tully voted against the motion.

#### **IV. Other Business**

#### **V. Status Reports**

##### 8. Safety Targets

Ms. Rossi explained that the performance management focus in MAP-21 and the FAST Act involves measures being selected by the US DOT, and targets for those measures being selected by the State DOTs and the MPOs. GDOT is identifying their targets for the Safety Performance Measures this month. The MPOs have six months after that to specify targets as well. The MPO may or may not choose to employ the same targets as the State DOT. The safety measures to which the targets will apply are: number and rate of fatalities; number and rate of serious injuries; and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. Staff will bring the topic back to the MPO committees after the state safety targets are known.

#### **VI. Information Reports (verbal)**

##### 9. Reports

GDOT -- Mr. Byron Cowart reported the status of projects on the handout. Mr. Tully asked about the eastbound ramp on the King George at SR 204 interchange project. The repaving of the ramp recently finished. Mr. Gillen asked about the concept for the US 80 bridges at Bull River and Lazaretto Creek. Mr. Cowart said it is for bridge replacements. A different state-aid project is going to be implemented shortly for safety, including a left turn lane at the Fort Pulaski entrance. Mr. Gillen repeated Tybee's impatience with the bridge replacement projects. Mr. Tom McQueen noted that the GDOT budget covers four years, and this simply indicates that construction is more than four years away. Specifics about construction being as far as nine years away are questionable; he doesn't know the source of such information. He understands the project is a priority.

Chatham County -- Ms. Pam Bernard reviewed the status of projects on the handout. In response to questions about Quacco Rd., the project does not include a sound barrier; it involves widening to three lanes.

Effingham County -- no report at this time.

City of Savannah -- Mr. Mike Weiner reported on projects on the handout.

City of Richmond Hill -- no report at this time.

City of Pooler -- no report at this time.

City of Garden City -- no report at this time.

City of Port Wentworth -- no report at this time.

City of Tybee Island -- Mr. Gillen said the US 80 repaving project is going smoothly, in spite of being in summer season.

City of Bloomingdale -- no report at this time.

Town of Thunderbolt -- no report at this time.

Town of Vernonburg -- no report at this time.

CAT -- Mr. Mike Vaquer gave an update on the House's Transit Governance and Funding Commission. CAT Executive Director Curtis Koleber is a voting member of the Commission. The Commission will conduct an 18-month study about the methods and roles of funding and governance.

Georgia Ports Authority -- no report at this time.

Savannah Airport Commission -- Mr. George Fidler reported that the signal coordination is completed. Airport traffic is growing. Airways Ave. repaving will start later this month. More gates, security lanes, and international processing are planned.

Hinesville Area MPO -- Mr. Jeff Ricketson introduced their new staff member. HAMPO adopted their TIP this month. This and a draft of their freight plan are on their web site.

Lowcountry Area MPO -- Ms. Ginnie Kozak said construction on the US 17 widening is expected to start a year from now. Studies related to the Jasper Port are beginning; the Corps of Engineers has a consultant doing a traffic impact study, looking at SC and GA.

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

## **VIII. Announcements**

### [10. CORE MPO To Participate in FTA Research Project](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes announced that CORE MPO is one of six MPOs nationwide that has been selected to participate in an All-Hazards Recovery research project, led by Portland State University and funded by the Federal Transit Administration. As part of this, CORE MPO will host a workshop in early 2018 for agencies involved in creating, reviewing, implementing, or executing emergency operations and transportation recovery plans. He will be in Portland a few days next month for host training. He added, for information, that MPO staff and the Comprehensive Planning staff have conducted population forecasting exercises to inform the MPO's 2045 long range transportation plan. They've done the exercises with several organizations and committees, and so far expectations are tracking closely with projections from the state Office of Programs and Budgeting (OPB).

### [11. Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 10:00 a.m. in MPC Hearing Room](#)

## **IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference**

### [12. Transit Asset Management \(TAM\) Targets](#)

## **X. Adjournment**

### [13. Adjournment](#)

There being no further business the August 23, 2017 meeting of the CORE MPO Board 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.