



CORE MPO Board

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

June 28, 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	X
Eddie DeLoach	City of Savannah	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	
Harold Fowler	City of Richmond Hill	X
Howard French	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	X
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	
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
Janine Miller	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	
Tanya Milton	Metropolitan Planning Commission	X
Ben Rozier	City of Bloomingdale	
Al Scott	Chatham County Commission	X
Pete Shonka	City of Savannah	X
Lee Smith	Chatham County	
Bob Tully	Citizens Advisory Committee	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>
Scott Allison	City of Richmond Hill	X
Pam Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	X
Russ Carpenter	Richmond Hill	X
Byron Cowart	GDOT - District Five	X
Jared Downs	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce	X
Beverly Dumas	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Andy Edwards	FHWA GA Division	X
Kelly Farabee	Wolverton	X
Karen Jenkins	Savannah Tree Foundation	X
Jane Love	CORE MPO	X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County Engineering	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT - District Five	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO	X
Grant Sparks	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah Traffic Engineering	X
Melony West	Metropolitan Planning Commission	X
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO	X
Indecipherable	Savannah Tree Foundation	X

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

1. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Mr. Bob Tully stated that the CAC had endorsed the action items.

2. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT)

Mr. James Aberson said that the ACAT had not had a quorum.

3. Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Mr. Nathaniel Panther reported that the TCC had endorsed the action items. The FY 2018-2021 TIP was endorsed with changes to be shared with CORE MPO Board.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes thanked the TCC for the extra time focused on the new TIP. He noted that there are two new MPO Board members, Shawn Gillen, who is the new City Manager of Tybee Island, and Wesley Corbitt, the Effingham County Commission Chairman. Mr. Wilkes advised the Board that the PL Discretionary Funds review committee would be meeting in September and currently staff plans to resubmit the Airport's request for a scoping study at Pooler Pkwy./Airways Ave. and I-95 interchange and the County's request for a scoping study of Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy Extension and I-16 interchange. Staff also would request funds for the next update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which is due in 2019. Details on these and any other PL funding requests will be reviewed by the Board in August. He reminded the Board that Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) is coming to Savannah for their annual conference in the fall. He also noted that CORE MPO has been selected by FTA for training on all-hazards response and recovery, likely occurring this winter. More detail will be provided in the future. Mr. Wilkes said that Mr. Andy Edwards was present today and would speak about the conclusion of the CORE MPO's federal recertification.

III. Action Items

5. Approval of the Mar. 22, 2017 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Mar. 22, 2017 CORE MPO Board meeting. The motion passed with none opposed.

6. Amendment to FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Stephanie Rossi provided the details on the amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program. FTA 5307 funds would be added to the Transit/Paratransit Planning task, to allow CAT to access the funds for the Origin & Destination study. There were no questions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion passed with none opposed.

7. Amendments to FY 2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the proposed amendment to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This would include increasing cost of the Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement construction and shift it from FY 2017 to FY 2018. Also several studies would be removed from the TIP, to compensate for the increased bridge replacement cost. At the same time, an administrative modification is being made to shift the utility and construction funds for Jimmy DeLoach at SR 17/US 80 and increase costs. On construction, federal funds are being replaced with state funds (HB 170).

Chairman Al Scott opened the public hearing. There were no comments. The hearing was closed. The MPO Board had no questions or comments. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment to the FY 2015-2018 TIP. The motion passed with none opposed.

8. Amendments to 2040 Total Mobility Plan

Ms. Wang explain that the proposed amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan would reflect the Board's recent awarding of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STGB) funds and Transportation Alternatives funds to certain projects and also update costs from various amendments since 2014 to show current financial balance. Chairman Scott opened the public hearing. There were no comments. He closed the hearing. The only comment during the Board's discussion was the question about the SR 21 at Pipemaker Canal culvert replacement's funding status. It is now funded with non-federal funds. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Plan. The motion passed with none opposed.

9. Adoption of FY 2018 - 2021 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Wang presented on the new proposed FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Priorities had been established in April with opportunities for public input. She reviewed the public comments received on the draft TIP. The lists of highway and transit projects were presented. Ms. Wang explained what changes were made to the draft since the public notice went out.

Chairman Scott opened a public hearing. Ms. Karen Jenkins, of Savannah Tree Foundation, spoke on the importance of preserving trees in projects and funding replacements. She advocated for the inclusion of trees in the I-16 at I-95 interchange project. She noted exemplary tree protection projects locally. She also stated that the STF urges completion of the the Truman Linear Park Trail. Hearing no other comments, Chairman Scott closed the hearing.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the FY 2018-2021 TIP. The motion passed with none opposed.

10. Approval of the Web Based Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented on the completed creation of the web-based TIP platform. He reviewed the features, uses, and various ways to search for information. Any interested party can sign up to receive notifications whenever the TIP is modified. He noted that the TCC had reviewed, experimented and endorsed the platform.

Mr. Aberson asked if the web site was ADA accessible. Mr. Wilkes invited Mr. Aberson to take a look and said it likely is because the Florida MPOs use this product also. Mr. Tom McQueen asked about a site maintenance agreement. The current contract includes the first year of maintenance. Each year afterward is estimated to be \$9,000. Mr. Corbitt asked if the tool was proprietary. Yes. CORE MPO had issued an RFP.

It was moved and seconded to approve the web-based TIP platform. The motion passed with none opposed.

Mr. Wilkes said he would send out a link when the site was back up.

IV. Other Business

V. Status Reports

11. Administrative Modifications to FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Wang informed the Board that some budget adjustments were made to certain tasks in the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program. As the fiscal year draws to and end, some funds are shifted among tasks to reflect unanticipated demands for staff time from certain tasks compared to others. The total budget is not changed. This was presented for information. No action was necessary.

12. Finalization of the Savannah TMA Certification Review

Mr. Andy Edwards reviewed the findings of the federal certification report for CORE MPO. Corrective actions have been addressed and CORE MPO is certified until March 31, 2021. He reviewed the commendations and recommendations. The Board had no questions.

In response to a question from Chairman Scott, Mr. Edwards stated that the various actions of the new White House administration have no immediate effect, for the most part, on the MPO planning process. The congressional transportation authorization that legislates the funding and process -- i.e. the FAST Act -- is still in place. It's possible that the TIGER funding program and/or the New Starts transit program could go away one day. One effect, however, was that recent rule on MPO Coordination had been rescinded.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

13. Georgia Department of Transportation

Mr. Byron Cowart reviewed the status of projects on the handout.

14. Member Governments

Chatham County -- Mr. Nathaniel Panther reviewed the status of some County Engineering projects.
Savannah -- Mr. Mike Weiner reported on the status of Delesseps/LaRoche Ave. project, Gwinnett St. project, and the Savannah Regional Traffic Operations Program (SRTOP).
Richmond Hill -- Mr. Scott Allison reported on the Phase 2 sidewalk project on Ford Ave. between US 17 and I-95 and on the signal upgrade at Hwy 144 and Exchange St.
Garden City -- Mr. Ron Feldner said the resurfacing on Chatham Parkway will finish in 2018.

15. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Mr. Grant Sparks reported that CAT will share the targets of their asset management plan with CORE MPO. Paratransit vehicles are being procured. Cat is submitting an application under the FTA's Low-No Program, for electric bus chargers.

16. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

17. Savannah Airport Commission

No report at this time.

18. Hinesville Area MPO (neighboring MPO)

Mr. Jeff Ricketson noted that the first meeting of the State Transit Committee is June 29. He would be in attendance, as HAMPO director.

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

Ms. Ginnie Kozak said that LATS MPO will work with the area transit agency to plan services. Resurfacing and tree clearing will be occurring on I-95 just across on the SC side of the state line. Repaving on US 17 is due to start this summer. Widening of US 17 is expected to start in 2018.

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

VIII. Announcements

20. Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday, Aug. 23, 10:00 a.m. in the MPC Hearing Room

Chairman Scott announced the date, time, and location of the next CORE MPO Board meeting.

IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

21. Chatham Area Transit's Electric Bus Deployment Initiative: FTA's FY 2017 Low-No Program

22. Congestion Management Process Update

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.