



CORE MPO Board

June 1, 2026, at 10:00am
Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2026, Special Called CORE MPO BOARD

Voting Members	Representing	Present	On-Line
Chester Ellis	Chatham County Commission (Chairman)		
Michael Kaigler	Chatham County		
Tanya Milton	Chatham County	X	
Van Johnson	City of Savannah	X	
Jay Melder	City of Savannah		
Nick Palumbo	City of Savannah	X	
Dennis Baxter	City of Bloomingdale		
Bruce Campbell	City of Garden City	X	
Tracy Saunders	City of Port Wentworth		
Karen Williams	City of Pooler	X	
Brian West	City of Tybee Island	X	
Dana Williams	Town of Thunderbolt		
Josh McKenzie	Town of Vernonburg		
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission		
Mona Underwood	Municipalities of Effingham County Rotating Seat		
Ben Taylor	Bryan County Commission		
Kristi Cox	City of Richmond Hill		
Vivian Canizares	Georgia Department of Transportation		
Detric Leggett	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors		
Jim Aiello	Savannah Airport Commission		
Lee Beckman	Georgia Ports Authority		
Travis Coles	Metropolitan Planning Commission	X	
Chairperson	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee		
Voting Alternates	Representing		
Teri Lewis	Municipalities of Effingham County Rotating Seat	X	
Steve Scholar	City of Richmond Hill	X	
Michael S. King	Effingham County	X	
Katie Proctor	GDOT Planning Office	X	
Paul Teague	Bryan County Commission	X	
Omar Senati-Martinez	City of Port Wentworth	X	
Michael Owens	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors	X	
Heath Maines	Savannah Airport Commission	X	
Matt Walker	Town of Thunderbolt	X	
Others	Representing		
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X	

Kieron Coffield	CORE MPO/MPC	X	
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X	
Melanie Wilson	MPC	X	
Hind Patel	MPC/IT	X	
Stephanie Cutter	Chatham Area Transit	X	
Tina Bockhold	Chatham County Engineering		X
Deana Brooks	Chatham County Engineering		X
Carlos Nevarez	City of Garden City	X	
Kefi Maxwell	City of Garden City	X	
David Middleton	GDOT		X
Ashley Goodrich	Consultant		X
Shawn Emerson	MPSD	X	

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Nick Palumbo, City of Savannah, motioned to approve the Agenda, seconded by Ms. Tanya Milton, Chatham County. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

III. Action Items

1. Transit TIP Amendments

Ms. Wykoda Wang gave the presentation on the Transit TIP Amendments.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the MPO's short-range programming document and is a staged, multi-year listing of surface transportation projects proposed for federal, state, and local funding within the metropolitan planning area. The TIP may be modified in accordance with the procedures outlined in the adopted Participation Plan by resolution of the CORE MPO Board if priorities, area goals, project schedules or funding levels change.

In May 2026, the Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) requested amendments to the TIP for FHWA Ferry Boat Program funds, particularly the FY 2023 funds.

Previously we were notified that the FY 2023 funds had lapsed, but now we have an extension and the deadline for funding obligation is today. After the CORE MPO Board approves today's amendment, we will transmit all documentation to GDOT. Hopefully, GDOT will process the funding authorization and will flex the funds to FTA.

We just received the PI number last Thursday from GDOT as well as the official name 'Savannah Belle's Ferry Restoration, Susie King Taylor I'. We will add the FY 2023 FHWA Ferry Boat Program (FBP) allocation funds to Savannah Bell's Ferry Restoration in FY 2026. We are focused on getting these funds authorized.

Previously we have estimated funds in FY 2026 and those will be moved to the next year. Then the FY 2026 and FY 2027 estimated funds will be used in FY 2027 for ferryboat restoration of the Mary Musgrove, the Juliette Gordon Lowe I, and the Florence Martus.

The details changes are summarized below.

- FY 2026 - PI # 0021756, Savannah Belles Ferry Restoration – Susie King Taylor I

In FY 2026 we are going to program the FY 2023 actual allocation of \$363,292, the FY 2024 actual allocation of \$358,398, and the FY 2025 actual allocation of \$383,469, with a total federal amount of \$1.105 million with a local match of \$276,290. CAT will use the Capital Reserve for the local match funds. Staff will add the Susie

King Taylor I project with the programmed funds to the highway section of the TIP. Then GDOT will authorize the funds and process the funding flex.

Staff created a specific page for this project. GDOT needs this page for the funding authorization. Staff created this page with the correct project name and PI number. GDOT needs very specific funding codes when they do the funding authorization, and they have a certain form that cites these codes. Staff have listed the FY 2023 - 2025 allocation funds with different funding codes on this project page. The federal total is about \$1.1 million with the local match at \$276,290.

- FY 2027 – PI# TBA, Ferryboat Restoration of Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, and Florence Martus.

For FY 2027, we will program the estimated FY 2027 funds and the estimated FY 2026 funds for the other three ferryboats. The total is almost \$713,000 in federal funds, with \$178,000 in local match funds.

Staff are requesting the CORE MPO Board to authorize all of these changes, so that staff can send these TIP amendments to GDOT to process the funding authorization and flexing immediately after this meeting.

Vice Chairperson Van Johnson thanked the members of the CORE MPO who came to this special called meeting. We recognize that public transport is still important and that CAT has had some funding challenges. He could not believe that we would leave money on the table. He also thanked the MPO staff for re-energizing this conversation.

The public meeting was opened and closed. No public comment was received.

Mr. Nick Palumbo motioned to approve the Transit TIP Amendments, seconded by Mr. Michael Owens, Chatham Area Transit. The motion passed with none opposed.

IV. Other Business

V. Status Reports

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

VIII. Notices

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 1, 2026, Special Called CORE MPO Board 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.