



CORE MPO Board

FEBRUARY 22, 2023 CORE MPO BOARD MEETING

Voting Members	Representing	Present	On-Line
Pamela Oglesby	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation		
Les Fussell	City of Richmond Hill	X	
Tim Callanan	Effingham County Commission	X	
Nick Palumbo	City of Savannah	X	
Dwayne Stephens	Metropolitan Planning Commission		
Scott Robider	City of Garden City		
Jim Aiello	Savannah Airport Commission	X	
Deidrick Cody	Chatham Area Transit Board of Directors		
Shawn Gillen	City of Tybee Island	X	
Beth E. Goette	Town of Thunderbolt		
James Hungerpiller	Town of Vernonberg		
Faye DiMassimo	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X	
Tom Hutcherson	City of Pooler		X
Mayor Van Johnson	City of Savannah		X
Vivian Canizares	Georgia Department of Transportation		
Jamie McCurry	Georgia Ports Authority		X
Armand Turner	Citizens Advisory Committee		
Gary Norton	City of Port Wentworth		
Charles Ackridge	City of Bloomingdale		
Chester Ellis	Chatham County Commission (Chairman)	X	
Dr. Estella Shabazz	City of Savannah	X	
Michael Kaigler	Chatham County	X	
Pamela Bernard	Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee	X	
Tanya Milton	Chatham County	X	
Voting Alternates	Representing		
Robby Caudill	Georgia Department of Transportation	X	
Robert Milie	Town of Thunderbolt	X	
Others	Representing		
Heath Lloyd	City of Savannah	X	
Katie Proctor	GDOT		X
Artis Woods	Public	X	
Ms. Clark	Public	X	
Christy Lovett	GDOT		X
Joseph Longo	FHWA		X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County		X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X	
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X	
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X	

Jasmine Champion	CORE MPO	X	
Pamela Everett	MPC		X
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County		X
Jeff Ricketson	Liberty County Consolidated Planning Commission/HAMPO		X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Nick Palumbo motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Les Fussell. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports (verbal)

ACAT – Ms. Asia Hernton said the ACAT committee met this month and endorsed all action items.

CAC - Ms. Jasmine Champion said the CAC committee met and endorsed all action items.

TCC – Mr. Les Fussell said the TCC committee met and endorsed all action items.

EDFAC – Ms. Pamela Bernard said the committee met; there was not a quorum. There was a presentation on the Regional Freight Plan update.

Executive Directors Report – Ms. Pamela Everett said there is nothing to report at this time.

III. Action Items

[1. Approval of the December 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

Mr. Les Fussell motioned to approve the December 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes; seconded by Mr. Nick Palumbo. The motion passed with none opposed.

[2. Approval of the FY 2024 UPWP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the UPWP is the staff work program with the staff budget. It documents how much money we get and how those resources are allocated. The calendar year runs from July 1, 2023 until June 30, 2024. To support the MPO staff planning activities, there are three grants.

- Highway Planning (PL) Grant from the Federal Highway Administration
- Set aside from the PL is the Y410. That is for Non-Motorized Transportation Planning.
- Section 5303 from the Federal Transit Administration.

Each of those requires a local match. MPO membership dues will be used to help pay for the match funds. The PL local match is 20%. The Y410's match requirement is 20%, but since the grant is so small, FHWA is waiving the local match requirement. The Section 5303 local match is 20%, GDOT pays 10% and the MPO dues will take care of the other 10%. These funds are used only for planning. Any funds not spent are forfeited. GDOT pulls those funds into a large source and asks all the MPOs for applications for Discretionary funds.

Next year's budget total funding is a little over \$776,000. For the PL funds, the federal portion is around \$435,000 with approximately \$109,000 local match with a total of about \$545,000. The Y410 is approximately \$11,000. Section 5303 has a federal portion of around \$176,000, and state and local match of about \$22,000 respectively with a total of approximately \$220,000. The \$776,000 will be used to operate the MPO, produce plans, have meetings, etc.

The Highway Planning (PL) funds will be used for Administration; Public Involvement; Data Collection, Analysis and Forecasting; and System Planning and Operations.

- Administration includes having all the meetings and coordination between the MPO and local, state, and federal agencies, contracting services, reimbursement, staff training, and the UPWP.
- The Public Involvement will support the Citizens Advisory Committee and the public involvement not specific to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update. The public involvement for the MTP update is more intensive. The public involvement for this task includes processing information

requests such as the jurisdictions or public members calling for traffic counts at certain locations, asking what the level of service for certain roads is, etc. Those kinds of calls come in every day. The task would also include the general maintenance of the MPO website.

- The Data Collection Analysis and Forecasting revolves around census data collection. Staff does use the SE data for the Travel Demand Model Forecasting and coordinate with Land Use data collection. Land Use can involve traffic analysis - if there is a major subdivision, staff would evaluate the major impact on major roadways.
- The System Planning and Operations will include the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update and any amendments made. Staff are planning to have the FY 2024-2027 TIP adopted by June of this year. Next year will be amendments, administrative modifications, etc. Staff are currently working on the Regional Freight Transportation Plan update. The System Planning and Operations includes all these major plan updates and the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) update which will continue into FY 2024. Staff are working with Bike Walk Savannah for the NMTP update.

The Section 5303 funds will be used for administration such as supporting meetings, the 2050 Plan Update, and Short-Range Planning. CAT is working on the Master Transit Plan update and the Transit Development Plan. MPO staff will coordinate with CAT on those projects. The transit has a TIP component as well, and the transit TIP will cover that area.

The Y410 funds for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation will be supplemental to Task 4, specifically, the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan update included in Task 4.

The staff will also provide oversight to the major planning studies and conduct coordination work. The discretionary funds will be used for consultant work but the staff activities such as reviewing deliverables will be covered under System Planning and Operations and Short-range Planning for the transit. For the consultant work, we use PL discretionary funds along with Y230 funds and CRRSSA funds. The PL discretionary funds are managed by GDOT. Those funds are vetted through GDOT's Call for Studies process, then the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee awards that funding. The MPO conducts the Call for Projects for the Y230 funds and the CRRSSA funds. All projects and studies selected with these funding sources will need to provide a 20% local match. Currently these funds are used for the following studies.

FY 2022 Discretionary PL Awards

- MPO Freight Plan Update (CORE MPO) - \$300,000
- Urban Flooding Model/Planning Tools (CORE MPO) - \$150,000

FY 2023 Y230 Awards

- SR 204 Access Study (Chatham County) - \$300,000
- US 17/SR 25 Corridor Study (Chatham County) - \$500,000
- President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination Study (Chatham County) - \$300,000

FY 2022 CRRSSA Awards

- US 80 Corridor Study (Pooler) - \$285,000

Discretionary 5303 Grants

- Staff applied for funding on behalf of CAT, approximately \$35,000 (federal portion \$28,000). That will be for REMIX, the software that will be used for CAT to do the routing re-design and enhance transit improvements.

Other Transit Grants

- FY 2022 Section 5307 Transit funding awards – for the Transit Development Plan and the Master Transit Plan.
- FY 2022 American Rescue Plan Act Transit Funding – Route Restoration and Transit Enhancement Study.
- FY 2022 Areas of Persistent Poverty Transit Funding - Address Poverty Reduction through transit improvements.

Priorities for FY 2024 UPWP tasks

- Adopt the 2050 MTP plan in August of 2024

- Congestion Management Process Update – start in FY 2023 with intensive development in FY 2024
- Completion of Regional Freight Transportation Plan and Urban Flooding Model Studies.
- TIP Maintenance and Update
- Finalization of Re-apportionment
- Other plan updates (PP, Title VI, etc. per re-apportionment)
- Performance Based Planning and Programming.
- BIL/IIJA Monitoring and Implementation

The FY 2024 UPWP Development Process

- Call for Plans and Studies – Aug 2022
- Transit Tasks – September – Oct. 2022
- Section 5303 Grant Application – Oct. 2022
- Preliminary Draft – Oct. – Nov. 2022
- CORE MPO Board and Advisory Committees approve/endorse preliminary draft for review - Dec. 2022
- Preliminary draft transmitted to FHWA, FTA and GDOT for review – Dec. 2022
- Comments received from FHWA – Jan. 2023
- Address/incorporate comments and develop revised draft - Jan.- Feb. 2023. Updates - throughout document, added MPO Board and Advisory committee rosters, added list of terms and acronyms, added Y410 program, updated budget. No significant changes to major planning tasks.
- Final FY 2024 UPWP reviewed, approved by CORE MPO - anticipated February 22, 2023
- Final FY 2024 UPWP transmitted to FHWA, FTA and GDOT – Late February – early March 2023
- FHWA Approval: Anticipated prior to June 30, 2023
- Execute FY 2024 funding contracts (PL, Y410 and Section 5303) - Dates to be determined.

The changes are highlighted in the document for viewing so you can easily see the changes. Each of the committees, TCC, CAC, and ACAT all endorsed the UPWP. Today we are asking the CORE MPO Board to approve the revised draft. Once this is approved, we will send the finalized document to the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and GDOT for approval.

Mr. Michael Kaigler, County Manager, asked on the Presidents Street Railroad Elimination Study. What is the timeline on that? Ms. Wang said this study was included into the UPWP and amended into the TIP in December. This study is included in the TIP, but those funds have not been authorized yet. Chatham County can do the RFP process. When you complete the RFP process, you will have to wait for the execution of contract with the consultant until the funds are authorized. Chatham County will have to execute a contract between GDOT and themselves first. Chatham County may have received Earmark funds. Those are two different funding sources. Chairman Ellis said the Earmark funds were for construction; this Y230 funding will be for the study. We will need to use these funds first to complete the study. Ms. Wang asked Pam Bernard if the RFP process has been started? Ms. Bernard said the scope is done and the RFP is ready to go out. Ms. Wang said there are still several months before GDOT can authorize the funds. The consultant will need time to respond, committees will need to review the proposal, do the rankings etc. This will take a couple of months, and by that time the contract should be ready to execute.

Chairman Ellis said everyone needs to make sure the MPO is aware of what each of the municipalities are doing, so there are no issues down the line.

Dr. Estella Shabazz said, under the discretionary PL FY 2023 Y230, there is a category listed for US 17/SR 25 Corridor study, can you give a brief description or overview of that study? Ms. Bernard said that is a safety and operational study that will review traffic counts, crash data, and Land Use, traffic volumes, pedestrians, and bikes, to see what improvements need to be made. Dr. Shabazz said because of the length of US 17, what areas does this study cover? Ms. Bernard said it will be from the Chatham County line at Ogeechee River to I-516. This will take approximately 12-18 months to complete.

Dr. Shabazz asked, under the Discretionary 5303 funds, \$444,444 are for the Poverty Reduction Study, these types of words are triggers for me and the constituents. Can someone explain the Poverty Reduction Study? Ms. Faye DiMassimo said for the areas of persistent poverty and the route restoration studies, we are coordinating the scopes of those with FTA now. Both are being utilized under the Comprehensive Operational Analysis. Work that we do now is to improve overall fixed route and Paratransit services in serving areas especially that do not have as much access and have great needs. We will be looking at the conditions of stops and shelters and looking at first mile, last mile pilot in underserved or less served areas

that meet the very specific criteria for both of those grants including the one that you noted. Dr. Shabazz asked how you define the underserved areas. What areas specifically are we talking about? We have been talking about certain areas particularly in my district and throughout the City of Savannah, the SR 204 area, US 17 area, and near the I-95 area. Ms. DiMassimo said she will be glad to pull the detailed information and provide that following this meeting. Chairman Ellis suggested giving Dr. Shabazz the Master Plan and how that adds to the entire county as well. Ms. DiMassimo said we will give you a little bit of an update of that Master Transit Plan effort. We will give a detailed report to this group in April and there are other opportunities in May to get some hands-on information regarding this project.

Chairman Ellis said for you to get any funding, your plan will need to include the entire county. These are studies that must be done that are turned into the feds outlining exactly where we are going. Public Transportation is a vital part of what is coming. This board is getting ready to expand. When talking about Poverty Reduction, we are not just talking about Savannah or Garden City, we are including all of Chatham County. We must make sure that our plan fits what the feds want.

Mr. Kaigler said we looked at doing something from I-516 to I-16. Has there been any discussion of doing anything along that Ogeechee Rd Corridor? Ms. Wang said the Ogeechee Rd widening project is being done by GDOT. It was supposed to be LET in January but since there was only one bid, they are going to re-LET. Ms. Katie Proctor said they are still waiting for the new LET date. Mr. Kaigler asked what this will entail. Ms. Proctor said major widening. Ms. Wang said currently, Ogeechee Road between Victory Drive to I-516, there is only 1 lane on each side. This will widen the roadway making two lanes on each side.

Ms. Artis Woods, a member of the public, said two of the concerns we have nationally are gateways and underground wiring. Traditionally road improvement has been involved with widening roads which long term has been proven to be not helpful. We hope you consider the gateways when making these improvements. We do not mean just a sign saying "Welcome to Savannah" but an alley of trees that says we are in a special place; we are in a different place. If we look like any other place in the world, why would people come here? More and more we have realized that burying power lines, especially when roads are being changed, widened, etc., we are getting more funds from the feds for this. It is shown again and again, when it storms (of which we are getting more and more of), the maintenance or repair afterwards is much easier. It does cost money to put it underground but there are better ways, better funding, that is available. We would like to help you with that with national studies that we have done. I would love to be on this committee that is being formed.

Ms. Wang said staff is asking for approval of the FY 2024 UPWP.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the FY 2024 UPWP; seconded by Ms. Faye DiMassimo. The motion passed with none opposed.

[3. Performance Based Planning Target Adoption](#)

Ms. Jasmine Champion said the staff has received performance targets from both GDOT and Chatham Area Transit for adoption. GDOT's PM1, PM2, and PM3 targets were adopted on December 12, 2022. CAT's transit safety targets were adopted on January 1, 2023. The Transit Asset Management targets were adopted on July 1, 2022. CORE MPO has 180 days from each respective agency's adoption date to adopt the targets for the Savannah area. Staff are expecting to adopt the targets this month. Once they are adopted, they will be incorporated into the System Performance Report which will be an appendix of the current Long-Range Transportation Plan and the current TIP.

GDOT's Calendar Year 2023 Statewide PM1 Targets for Safety (2019-2023 rolling average)

Performance measures	Targets (to maintain numbers under)
• Number of Fatalities	1,680
• Rate of fatalities per 100 million VMT	1.36
• Number of Serious Injuries	8,966
• Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT	7,679
• Number of non-motorized fatalities/serious injuries	802

Georgia Targets for Bridge and Pavement Condition (PM2)

Bridge Level of Service Measures

ASSET	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	2-YEAR TARGET	4-YEAR TARGET
Bridge Structures	Percent of NHF Bridge in Poor condition as a percentage of total NHS bridge deck area	Bridge Conditions are based on results of inspection on all Bridge structures. Bridges rated as "Poor" are safe to drive on; however, they are nearing a point where it is necessary to either replace the bridge or extend its service life through substantial rehabilitations investments	≤ 10% (NHS) in Poor Condition	≤ 10% (NHS) in Poor Condition
Bridge Structures	Percent of NHS Bridges in Good condition as a percentage of total NHS bridge deck area	Bridges rated as "Good" will be evaluated as to cost of to maintain Good condition. Bridges rated as "Fair" will be evaluated as to cost of replacement vs. rehabilitation to bring the structure back to the condition rating of Good.	≥ 50% (NHS) in Good Condition	≥ 60% (NHS) in Good Condition

Note: GDOT will have an opportunity to revisit and adjust (if necessary) the 4-year target in 2024

Pavement Level of Services

ASSET	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET
Interstate NHS	Percent of Interstate NHS pavements in Poor condition	Pavement conditions are measured through field inspections. Pavements in "poor" condition are in need of work due to either the ride quality or due to a structural deficiency.	≤ 5% (NHS) in Poor Condition
Interstate NHS	Percent of Interstate NHS pavements in Good condition	Interstate pavement rated as "good" will be considered for potential pavement preservation treatments to maintain the "good" rating.	≥ 50% (NHS) in Good Condition
Non-Interstate NHS	Percent of NHS pavements in Poor condition	Non-interstate NHS pavements in "poor" condition are in need of major maintenance. These will be evaluated for potential projects.	≤ 12% (NHS) in Poor Condition
Non-Interstate NHS	Percent of NHS pavements in Good condition	Non-interstate NHS pavements in "good" condition will be evaluated for potential preservation treatments.	≥ 40% (NHS) in Good Condition

Georgia Targets for System Performance (PM3)

Performance Measure	2-year Target	4-year Target
Percent of person-miles traveled on the Interstate that are reliable	73.9%	68.4%
Percent of person-miles traveled on the non-Interstate NHS that are reliable	87.3%	85.3%
Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) Index	1.62	1.65
Annual Hours of Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) Per Capita*	23.7 hours	27.2 hours
Percent of Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) Travel*	22.7%	22.7%
Total Emissions Reduction	VOC: 157.200 kg/day; NOx: 510.900 kg/day	VOC: 257.100 kg/day; NOx: 904.200 kg/day

Chatham Area Transit Asset Management Targets

ASSET CATEGORY	VEHICLE CLASS	REGIONAL TARGET (% IN STATE OF GOOD REPAIR) FY23	REGIONAL TARGET (% IN STATE OF GOOD REPAIR) FY24	REGIONAL TARGET (% IN STATE OF GOOD REPAIR (FY25)	REGIONAL TARGET (% IN STATE OF GOOD REPAIR (FY26)
ROLLING STOCK	Bus (BU)	74%	65%	65%	65%
	Cutaway bus (CU)	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Minivan(MV)	100%	100%	100%	0%
	Van (VN)	100%			
	School Bus (SB)	50%			
	Ferryboat (FB)	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Automobile (AO)	40%	53%	40%	53%
EQUIPMENT	Trucks and Other Rubber Tire Vehicles	86%	71%	57%	100%
	Maintenance	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Admin Maintenance Facility	50%	50%	100%	100%
FACILITIES	Passenger & Parking	100%	100%	100%	100%

Chatham Area Transit Safety Targets

Mode	Fatalities		Serious Injuries		Safety Events		Reliability
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	MDBF
Fixed Route Bus	0	0	13	0.63	13	0.54	11,842
Demand Response ADA Paratransit	0	0		0.30	3	0.30	87,686

MDBF = Mean Distance Between Failures.
Rate = Per 100,000 Vehicle Revenue Miles.

The staff is asking for adoption of the Performance Based Planning Targets.

Mr. Jim Aiello asked, have these been reviewed versus the 2022 targets. I see the targets for next year, how are we doing from our previous targets? Ms. Champion said we are in alignment with the previous year's targets. The System Report will go into more detail. The report is attached to the agenda.

Dr. Estella Shabazz motioned to approve the adoption of the Performance Based Planning Targets; seconded by Ms. Tanya Milton. The motion passed with none opposed.

Chairman Ellis said before we move to the next item, I would like to say, we have gone to our federal partners to ask for funds to do specific projects in our jurisdiction. Some of those funds have been awarded, but we need to make sure that by getting funds from the feds you do not wipe out funds that are being given to the MPO. You need to let the MPO know any Earmarked funds or any outside extra funding. For example, Chatham County received \$1.2 million for the EOC. If funding had come through the MPO as well, the MPO needs to be made aware of these awarded funds so that they can adjust their budgets and move the funding around to other projects that need it. There is no need to spend funds twice or lose funding because it was given somewhere else. You don't want both parties spending funds on the same studies etc.

Please make sure each agency/jurisdiction reports any funding they receive. These funds need to be used wisely.

Ms. Wang said when you get Earmarked funds and do not notify the MPO staff, we do not know how to help. Most of the time, the funds do not come directly to you. You cannot just access those funds. The federal government has a procedure to follow. Most often the funds for projects are required to be included in the Long-Range Transportation Plan and/or the TIP before you can access them. Pooler received funding for the Quacco Road, South Roger Street, and Pine Barren Road projects. Those are road projects. After that the City of Savannah received Earmark funds for the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B project. We know the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B project can be programmed in the TIP because there is already a project but for Pooler's three projects, if the requirement is to have them programmed into the TIP before you can access the funds, you need to let us know. Please revisit the Earmark funded projects. If they are transportation related, please send the MPO staff a list and let us know what the scope for the project/study is so we are able to determine if it needs to be programmed into UPWP, TIP, or MTP.

IV. Other Business

4. MPO Boundary, MOU and Bylaws Updates

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the reapportionment process will affect all the jurisdictions. The census defined Savannah urban area boundary has been released. The current CORE MPO planning boundary is all of Chatham County with a small portion of Effingham County, and Richmond Hill in Bryan County. The requirement is that after each census delineation, we are supposed to update our planning area boundary. Associated with the boundary update are the bylaws and MOU updates. The Census Bureau released the Savannah Urban Area on December 29, 2022. Staff will begin working on the reapportionment process. The revised COR MPO planning area boundary will be the Savannah Urban Area plus areas expected to be urbanized in the next 20 years.

The MOU will include the finalized MPO boundary, adding new members, and reconfiguration of the funding agreement to MPO dues.

The Bylaw updates will include updates to the MPO Board structure and the Advisory Committee structure.

The MPO planning area boundary change will lead to other changes as well.

- MTP will include more projects with this change.
- The population percentage will change, making Section 5303 and PL allocation changes to fit the area.
- The Congestion Management Process currently includes three counties, so it will not be significantly impacted by the boundary change.
- With the growth of the boundary, Effingham County and Bryan County will have more involvement in the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan.
- The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan currently only consists of Chatham County projects. There will be more projects included from Bryan County and Effingham County.
- The roadway functional classification will be updated.

Proposed schedule

- MPA boundary finalized – April 2023
- MOU document and bylaws adoption by CORE MPO Board – June 2023
- MOU document adoption by local governments – July-August 2023
- MPA boundary and MOU adoption by Governor - September 2023

Major Plan Adoption per Revised MPA

- UPWP update – adoption in October 2023
- TIP development/update - October 2023
- PP/Title VI update – adoption in August 2024
- MTP update – adoption in August 2024

CORE MPO Operates under new MOU and Bylaws - January 2024

How the process is done

- MPO staff proposes MPA, draft MOU and bylaws updates.
- MPO staff revise MPA per input from working group, advisory committees and MPO board.
- Working group revise/format MOU and bylaws.
- Advisory committee update bylaws.
- CORE MPO Board adopt MOU and bylaws.
- Local Governments adopt MOU.
- GDOT/Governor/FHWA/FTA approve MPA, MOU and bylaws updates.
- CORE MPO update plans and programs.

Staff are soliciting volunteers from all advisory committees for a working group. They will be a working group to review this information and develop a methodology to see if this will work. The working group will make recommendations to the advisory committees. The advisory committees can give input and that will be forwarded to the MPO Board. As of now, for the working group, we have one volunteer from ACAT, four from TCC, and three from CAC. We will schedule meetings with this group in March, April, and May to begin working on this.

MOU contents

- Defining contracting parties (local governments, modal agencies, GDOT, CAT, GPA, Savannah Airport Commission, etc.)
- Define CORE MPO (MPA boundary, CORE MPO roles and responsibilities, CORE MPO organization, CORE MPO staff support)
- Defining contracting parties' roles and responsibilities in supporting CORE MPO
- Contracting Parties' Signatures
- Exhibit A (CORE MPO MPA boundary map) revised
- Exhibit B (Funding Agreement) revised

Example language on planning partner's roles and responsibilities

It is further intended, that the signatory counties and municipalities, within its official jurisdiction, be responsible for the following:

1. Collaborate with the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process of the CORE MPO.
2. Maintain records of crashes occurring on the roads and highways by location and description and maintain these files on a current basis and provide the data to the CORE MPO for analysis and reports upon request.
3. Assist the CORE MPO to collect planning information within the counties and or municipalities such as socioeconomic data, utility locations, land use and zoning, street inventories, inventories of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and other data as required for the metropolitan planning process.
4. Provide funding for planning, scoping preliminary engineering, right of way acquisition, utility and construction ideally matching federal funds to further the implementation of the CORE MPO per appropriate project framework agreement.
5. Aid the MPO in developing planning-oriented planning, scoping, preliminary engineering, right of way, utility, and construction cost estimates where applicable for the CORE MPO's 20-year multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
6. Contribute funds toward the annual budget for the CORE MPO's operations as established by the adopted UPWP and funding agreements outlined in Exhibit B, Intergovernmental Agreement for the Operations of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization.
7. Notify CORE MPO in advance of public meetings and project-related neighborhood meetings and/or stakeholder meetings so that the information can be incorporated into the CORE MPO's plans and programs.

The proposed planning area boundary would be areas marked on the map attached to the agenda as well as areas that are to be urbanized in the next 20 years. Currently Richmond Hill and Bryan County are already included in the MPO boundary. Buckhead is not, but it will have to be included in the boundary. Richmond Hill has done some annexing to the south which will expand that boundary more to the south. The census delineation for the urban area is not using population; instead, they are using housing. Based on the current population and projections, northern Bryan County will be included as well. In Effingham County, Rincon is currently not included in the Savannah Urban Area. The census changed their criteria, and they did not use the

urban cluster and reduced the jump distance to 1.5 miles. During the 2050 MTP update presentation in Rincon, they expressed interest in being a part of the CORE MPO.

Funding Agreements – agreements focus on providing local match to the federal grants for CORE MPO operations.

- Current funding - Formula PL, Y410 and 5303 (federal funds) a little over \$600,000 each year.
- Current funding - local match of around \$125,000 for formula funds provided by MPO member agencies.
- Local match formula - the current method
- Local governments - amount based on latest census population (mostly) and other considerations (different pct)
- Modal agencies (port, airport, CAT) - fixed amount to be determined.
- GDOT- fees exempt, pay 10% for Section 5303

Bylaws

Proposed Updates

- Keep bylaws of CORE MPO Board and advisory committees in one document
- Standardize format for bylaws of CORE MPO Board and advisory committees – membership, duties and responsibilities, officers and organization, duties of the officers, election time and terms of officers, meetings, amendments.

Revise CORE MPO Board membership

- Remove CAC and ACAT chairpersons from CORE MPO Board
- Add new jurisdictional representative to CORE MPO Board
- Election of MPO Chairperson and Vice Chairperson every year
- Quorum – TBD

Proposed Updates

- Agenda item request - no change (minimum 21 days of advanced notice to MPO).
- Combine CAC and ACAT into one committee.
- CAC and ACAT membership – TBD (by position or appointment)
- Meeting frequency- meetings to coincide with milestones of plans and studies (Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, MTP, Non-Motorized Plan, etc.)
- Clarified public involvement strategy to be determined by re-organized CAC/ACAT

Chairman Ellis said send me a copy of the federal recommendations. I will make sure all the other jurisdictions get copies as well.

V. Status Reports

[5. 2050 MTP Update](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the 2050 MTP Comment Map results.

We have received approximately 70 comments. The comments cover an array of topics, from intersection improvement needs to safety concerns. The results from the map survey help us identify specific geographic locations that must be more deeply explored in the MTP. Most of the comments come from Savannah, with over 30 comments. Within Savannah, downtown, midtown and the area surrounding Victory Drive received the most comments. In Pooler, there were around 10 comments, many of which were concentrated around Pooler Parkway. The Islands received 8 comments, especially around Islands Expressway and Johnny Mercer Boulevard.

Many respondents were concerned about traffic and congestion. For example, "Benton Blvd is very congested every day, and there is only one lane in one direction. Obviously, it cannot meet the increasing traffic flow. Is it possible to add more lanes?" Infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists was a common concern, especially regarding safety. For example, "There are a number of bicyclists (of all ages, including children) that ride along Coffee Bluff/White Bluff where there is no shoulder or sidewalk; this creates a dangerous situation for both driver and cyclist" Intersections, especially regarding left turns, came up often.

Example response, “Left turn signal needed at Habersham & 63rd St intersection. Traffic backs up on Habersham during busy times. The left turn lane was constructed, but no signal was provided.”

We read every comment we receive to better understand the transportation needs of the area. The comment map is extremely helpful in assisting CORE MPO staff with identifying some of the most problematic areas in the region.

Ms. Tanya Milton asked if the comment map is still ongoing. Ms. Hernton said yes. Ms. Milton said her constituents’ comments are probably going to be more directed at the engineers or to Chatham County. Ms. Wang said if the comments are directed toward the 2050 MTP development, we will document those. If we see an immediate response is needed, we will forward that question to someone who can answer it. Ms. Milton asked if her constituents could speak now, since some of them are here. Chairman Ellis said the best thing for everyone to do at this point is to go to the comment map, pin the comments and concerns in there first. We are not engineers in this meeting, but the MPO staff can forward those comments to the city and county engineers to be answered properly. Ms. Wang said depending on what type of questions they have, if they are regarding potholes within the City of Savannah, you call 311. The County has that number as well. If it is congestion or capacity comments, we would decide who to forward those to.

Ms. Clark, a member of the public, said our general concerns are regarding more congestion. We are at Red Gate Farms. The heavy congestion causes safety concerns. All the high-density housing and millions of square footages in warehouses Master Plans are being approved and there are no traffic studies. Our issues and concerns are even on the existing traffic, let alone all the development happening. If an ambulance or firetruck needs to get to the property, how will they get there? There is a lot of aggressive driving in that area due to driver frustration from the existing conditions. We are trying to figure out the next step before it gets even worse. Chairman Ellis said if you will put your comments on the interactive comment map, the MPO staff can forward the proper question or concern to the appropriate department. If you send the comments to Commissioner Milton or Alderwoman Shabazz, they will forward your comments to the appropriate people as well. Ms. Wang said staff will document all comments. If a person wants acknowledgement of the comments, send me an email and we will respond letting you know we have forwarded them to the appropriate people. Alderwoman Shabazz asked “do you pay taxes in both the City and County?” Ms. Clark said where Red Gate is located, it is considered Chatham County. It has not been annexed into the City. This includes the parcel we are presently talking about. Ms. Milton said the new development has been annexed by the City. Ms. Clark said yes, almost every single property around us has been annexed by the City. That is a confusing part we are dealing with as well - who to direct the concerns to. We are battling the City’s traffic as well as the County’s. Alderwoman Shabazz said in that area, it is represented by myself and Commissioner Milton. This is my first time hearing any kind of comments. You can come to me after the meeting and talk. Chairman Ellis said the new annexing laws have been changed in January. It talks about properties being an island. Your property has become an island; all properties surrounding you have been annexed leaving you all alone. These laws have been changed.

[6. CORE MPO Regional Freight Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the freight plan development is on schedule and several technical memos are available for review on the MPO website at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/Fp>. Comments from FWHA, GDOT, stakeholders and the public on the technical memos are being addressed as they come in. The consultant presented the Freight Plan Update progress and findings at the February 16, 2023 Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC) meeting. Two public meetings have been scheduled, one in March 2023 and one in June 2023. The CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update is expected to be completed in July 2023. There will be a virtual forum on March 6th at the MPC/CORE MPO in the Arthur Mendonsa Hearing room. You are welcome to come in person or register online to participate.

[7. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update Status Report](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said the staff is in the process of updating the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. New data is being added to better understand the needs in the area. This new data includes percentages of Households without a car, population in poverty, population over 65 years of age, population under 16 years of age, and percentage of population with a disability. Those populations may have less transportation access than the average citizen. Additionally, staff identified priority areas in order to focus on the areas that need non-motorized infrastructure the most. While we are developing a wider network of sidewalks and bike lanes, staff met with Caila from Bike Walk Savannah this past week to build out a regional bike network that

extends through Effingham County, Bryan County and Chatham County. We wanted a larger regional network with some smaller individual focal areas as well.

We have added a SWOT Analysis. This identifies the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to non-motorized transportation. CAT Ridership Data will be added. Seeing the ridership data of each bus line gives staff insight into the relationship between public transportation and biking and walking. We are updating the formatting as well. The timeline of the plan has been extended; we are trying to create a more robust plan that will lead to better infrastructure in the future. The target adoption date is prior to August 2024 which will be the adoption of the 2050 MTP.

[8. Urban Flooding Model](#)

Ms. Jasmine Champion said the staff has received all the critical infrastructure data from all the counties within the planning area. That data will go into the Social Vulnerability Analysis. UGA will provide a presentation during the April round of meetings.

[9. US 80 Corridor Study Status Update](#)

Mr. Tom Hutcherson said we are currently at 50% completion. The study is on time. We have forecasted the final report to be done in September of 2023. The report is attached to the agenda.

VI. Information Reports (verbal)

[10. GDOT Project Status Update Report.](#)

Ms. Katie Proctor gave the GDOT Project Status Update report.

Pre-Construction

- SR 26 from I-516 to Victory Dr – widening project – LET in January, has been rejected and is awaiting a Re-LET in April.
- Pt Wentworth Bridges (Savannah River and Middle River) – design is ongoing.
- SR 204 from SR 21 to RIO Rd – Safety Improvements – continues toward PFPR
- I-16 at Chatham Parkway - still holding for the June 23rd LET
- Widening and Bridge Replacement on SR 404 SPUR/US 17 N from NE of Savannah Harbor Parkway to Back River – Continues in concept approval with a March anticipation.
- Bridge Replacement on SR 26/US 80 @ Bull River – continues to work on environmental document. Lazaretto Creek Bridge Replacement – working to get environmental document approved.

Construction

- All projects are running on schedule.
- I-16 @ 307 – detour information in the chat. Road closure on Dean Forest scheduled to begin tonight @ 7pm and end on Sunday @ 7pm.

Ms. Tanya Milton asked for an update on I-16 @ Chatham Parkway as well as an explanation of where CS 647 is. It says I-16 at 647 and then you also mention 2289 Chatham Parkway. I am trying to get an understanding of where exactly those areas are. Ms. Proctor said the project, PI# 0015675, is at I-16 @ CS 647/CS 2289/CHATHAM PKWY. CS 647/CS 2289 is Chatham Parkway. It is certified and ready just holding until project 757 on the construction is finished. Once that is complete then we can start the PI# 0015675 project. Ms. Wang said the CS 647 is the county's street number. This one is Chatham Parkway. The name is Chatham Parkway, and the county number is 647. Ms. Proctor said I will send this information to CORE MPO staff.

[11. Chatham County Project Status Update Report](#)

Ms. Deanna Brooks presented the Chatham County Project Status Update report.

- SR 25 Corridor Study, SR 204 Study, and the President Street at Truman RR Study - all currently in Solicitation for consultant qualifications.
- Quacco Road Widening Project - clearing contract will go out soon.
- Little Neck Road Reconstruction - ROW acquisition is ongoing.
- Skidaway Rd Improvements - ROW acquisition will begin soon.

- Walthour Rd Slope Stabilization – out for BID soon.
- Traffic Signal on Johnny Mercer Blvd at Lyman Hall – out to BID soon.

12. City of Savannah Project Status Update Report

City of Savannah Project Status Update report attached to the agenda.

13. Chatham Area Transit Project Status Update Report

Ms. Faye DiMassimo presented the Chatham Area Transit Project Status Update Report.

- Ferry Purchase Construction – contract awarded. Expect to issue NTP before the end of month.
- Paratransit Vehicles – purchase order for 10 EV buses expected delivery in April 2023.
- Diesel Bus Replacement – In-process. Bus order placed in December 2021 for (3) 35 ft buses. The estimated completion date is June 2023.
- ITS Clever Devices – hardware installed on Ferry vessels in September. Currently only two in operation. Two in extensive maintenance, until that is complete the final activation and completion is postponed.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility & Ferry Dock - remaining appraisal and review appraisal that required FTA approval has been given. The complete grant submittal has been made to FTA. Those grant funds will be released upon approval. There will no longer be an unobligated funds issue.
- Electric Buse Replacement and LoNo funding – grants for four EV buses in addition to the six we currently have. Currently working on the budget preparation process determining our matching funds for those grants before going to the Board for approval.
- Transit Development Plan & Comprehensive Operations Analysis – funds awarded and executed in May. Ongoing effort coordinated with the Master Transit Plan focused on near-term recommendations for the three CAT services – CAT buses, Belles Ferry, and CAT Mobility (ADA paratransit services).
- Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Grant and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Route Restoration Analysis Grant - these are funds that were awarded in Mid-2022, both for the Areas of Persistent Poverty and Route Restoration Analysis. We are coordinating those funds and integrating that in with other existing efforts to make sure we leverage those funds most efficiently and effectively. Both in some fashion deal with the analysis needed to connect emerging job centers with areas of higher levels of poverty and don't have as frequent or as much access as some other areas.

Master Transit Plan and Implementation Strategy – anticipated completion in summer 2023, including Market Analysis, State of the System, outreach and focus groups. There will be a sooner delivery than the project schedule is showing.

- March – series of virtual focus meetings with CAT Board members. There will be an in-person presentation with the CAT Board. The stakeholder committee that is activated for this project will also be meeting.
- April – workshop on the marine services component, presentation for the MPO.
- May- in-person community engagement both with an open house meeting at the invitation of all elected officials and business leadership officials throughout Chatham County. We will be hosting pop ups at the Transit Center and other community events and doing other additional focus groups with our riders. We anticipate making a presentation at the last meeting in May of what will be our final draft recommendations to the CAT Board with an anticipated potential adoption if the schedule holds for the end of June. We think these positions us really well in terms of upcoming grant cycles as well as making sure that we are providing information to the MPO for inclusion in the 2050 MTP plan.

Ms. Wang asked if you're completing this in May are you going to do a presentation in June to the MPO Board? Ms. DiMassimo said we can do another presentation in May in addition to the other one already talked about.

The potential priorities that are emerging from the analysis have already been done both in terms of the state of the system and market analysis to expand geographically looking at new service areas, new markets. You may be aware we are extending service in Garden City and are working with Pt. Wentworth on the service expansion. We are looking at the opportunity for a commuter job express service that can connect folks in Chatham County to all the emerging job markets around us.

Investing in existing services especially in terms of the frequency of service, trying new service types. We are looking at micro transit, planning our first mile, last mile pilot before the end of this year. We are very interested in how micro transit can become a part of our fixed route of what will likely be some of the strongest recommendations that come out of the Master Transit Plan. Continuing to invest in electric vehicles and clean fuel technologies. We are working with Senator Osaffs on some of the other clean field technology developments that are occurring in the State of Georgia. They have involved both MARTA and CAT as the two transit systems. Expanding our ferry services, looking at the amount of growth on Hutcheson Island with the convention center and other facilities, how we make sure our ferry service continues to meet that demand both for the workers who work there as well as the economic activity in those facilities. We are looking at offering more commuter services including but not limited to express bus services. Improving our passenger facilities. Every transit trip starts at the stop. That is the first place that we need to make sure all the passengers and riders have a safe, dignified, comfortable place to begin their trip with us. We will look at the frequency of service, hours of service, the mobility on demand, and micro transit.

Mr. Les Fussell asked about the mega site and the recent announcements for Effingham County and South Bryan County. Do you have any public participation or meetings planned to discuss that or how do you propose getting that information out. Do you intend to provide services to those areas. Ms. DiMassimo said we are assessing the opportunity so that we can go to discuss what we can offer and when. We are still in the service design phase. Mr. Fussell asked if there was any projected timeline regarding this. Ms. DiMassimo said we need to get the proposal together before we can give any insight as to what we can do.

[14. Savannah Hilton Head International Airport Project Status Update Report](#)

Mr. Jim Aiello presented the Savannah HHI project status update report.

- SAC 30566 – SECURITY CHECKPOINT EXPANSION – The TSA checkpoint expansion will expand the existing three lanes security lanes to six lanes. Collins Construction is the general contractor. Projected completion date is January of 2024.
- SAC 30616 - Demo Air Cargo, TAXILANE, Construction Apron – Project to redevelop the southeast quadrant of the Airport. Project to be completed by late fall, early winter of 2023.

[15. LATS-SCDOT Project Status Report](#)

Project Status Report attached to the agenda.

[16. TIP Tracking Status Update](#)

TIP Tracking Status Report attached to the agenda.

Mr. Gillen asked if Y230 funding for Bull River Bridge was in place and there are two information signs, one coming towards Tybee and one as you are leaving Tybee. No one knows what SR 26 is, and we get a lot of complaints about that. When they put messaging on the board, please use Hwy 80 or Tybee Road so people know. Mr. Robbie Caudill said he will find out who to route that request to.

VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No public comments

VIII. Notices

[17. Federal Register: Improving Road Safety for All Users on Federal-Aid Projects](#)

Item attached to agenda.

[18. Next CORE MPO BOARD meeting April 26, 2023 at 10:00am](#)

XV. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the February 22, 2023 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.