



**CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**MPC Jerry Surrency Conference Room  
110 East State Street**

**November 10, 2004**

**3:00 P.M.**

**Voting Members**

- Russ Abolt
- Allan R. Black, P.E.
- Robert H. Bonner Jr.
- Michael Brown
- Al Bungard
- Robbie Byrd
- Tom Cannon
- Phillip Claxton
- Scott Conner
- Hank Dangerfield
- Patrick S. Graham
- Bill Hendricks
- Theresa Laidlaw
- Scott Lansing
- MarRonde Lumpkin-Lotson
- Doug J. Marchand
- Helen McCracken
- Keith Melton
- William Oakley
  
- Gary D. Priester
- Peter Shonka, P. E.
- Paul Smith
- Thomas L. Thomson, P.E., AICP
- Hugh "Trip" Tollison
- Mike Weiner, P.E.
- Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

**Representing**

- Chatham County
- Chatham County Engineering
- LDH Corporation
- City of Savannah
- Chatham County Engineering
- City of Pooler
- City of Garden City
- City of Port Wentworth
- CSX Transportation
- Fort Steward/Hunter Army Airfield
- Savannah Airport Commission
- Norfolk Southern Railroad Industry
- Coastal Bicycle Touring Club
- Chatham Area Transit Authority
- Town of Thunderbolt
- Georgia Ports Authority
- CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee
- GDOT – Atlanta
- CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation
- GDOT – Jesup
- City of Savannah Engineering
- Coastal Georgia RDC
- Executive Director MPC, Chair
- Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
- City of Savannah Engineering
- Metropolitan Planning Commission

**Present**

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<u>Voting Member Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
John Broderick	Chatham Area Transit Authority	x
Georgia Fiddler	Savannah Airport Commission	
Teresa Scott	GDOT – Jesup	x
Randy Weitman, P.E.	Georgia Ports Authority	x
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Betty Carter	GDOT – Jesup	
Wykoda Wang	Metropolitan Planning Commission	

## I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Thomson called the November 10, 2004 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order.

Hearing no comments, Mr. Thomson stated that the agenda would stand approved as presented.

## II. Action Items

### A. Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2004 CUTS TCC Meeting Minutes

It was **moved** to approve the minutes. Mr. Broderick seconded the motion.

**TCC Action:** The motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2004 meeting carried with none opposed. Voting were Ms. Scott, Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Melton, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Weitman, Mr. Wilkes, and Mr. Thomson.

### B. Review of Draft FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Melton stated that the UPWP is going to be adopted by June 1, 2005. It would be helpful to have a draft in the Atlanta office by December 1, 2004.

Mr. Wilkes stated that staff is essentially duplicating the 2005 UPWP with diminished funds for long range planning because the major update is complete. Additional money has been added to the Congestion Management System work element recognizing that by 2006 the current CMS would need to be revisited along several travel corridors. The budget has also been increased to cover cost of living and merit increases.

Mr. Thomson stated that it might be worth considering including an item for regional planning coordination because local governments may be doing something related to transportation that currently is not accounted for financially in the planning program.

Mr. Smith informed the committee of regional transportation projects that are currently underway and would involve coordination. It may also be necessary to revisit the boundaries of the MPO in order to be better informed.

Mr. Thomson stated that the TCC is asking that committee members review the draft document and provide comments to staff.

- C. Endorsement of TCC Bylaw Change to Policy Committee to add a voting representative from the Coastal Georgia RDC.

Mr. Wilkes stated that the Policy Committee reviews bylaws changes for all MPO committees by convention.

Mr. Black **moved** to endorse the change. Mr. Broderick seconded the motion.

**TCC Action:** The motion carried with none opposed. The motion to endorse the TCC Bylaw change to the Policy Committee to add a voting representative from the Coastal Georgia RDC carried with none opposed. Voting were Ms. Scott, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Black, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Melton, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Weitman, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Wilkes, and Mr. Weiner.

### III. Status Reports

- A. Connecting Savannah Study

Mr. Thomson stated that the study is off to a good start, although it was anticipated that the process would be further along. However, the extra month of two is valuable in order to have a completed project. This is a proactive citizen driven decision making process. The process would lead to a project definition. Activities to date were reviewed. Following review of a video of the previous Connecting Savannah workshop, the future meeting schedule was outlined.

Mr. Thomson added that staff would revisit basic traffic counts and inventory information on all major streets that run east/west and north/south in the downtown area. Is there something that would be easy and would provide a little better connectivity on some of those routes?

Mr. Melton stated that constructing a tunnel would not be an acceptable option for solving the east-west traffic concerns.

- B. Chatham County Intermodal Freight Study

Mr. Weitman stated that a Steering Committee and Technical Committee meeting were held at Savannah Tech campus. About 20 people attended a public meeting. It is anticipated that a preliminary report would be available before the end of the year.

There were certain elements primarily rail related and one highway related element in the original 1998 study. Former GDOT Commissioner Coleman indicated that in order to move these projects forward to where there may be some Federal funding available, an updated

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study may be beneficial to revalidate those particular options and determine whether significant changes may offer additional opportunities or preclude recommendations from the study. However, everything looks to be the same and nothing has changed in the areas. This updated study should stand on its own. We want to make sure that funding is available on down the road.

C. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Mr. Melton stated that the RFP is being drafted. It should be available by December for public review. It is primarily going to be an interstate priority study with some interchanges specified, including I-16 and I-95, I-16 and 307, and I-16 and I-516. There will be some conceptual designs for how to improve those three interchanges.

**IV. Informational Reports (verbal)**

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Scott reviewed the status of projects that are currently under way in the Chatham County area. A copy of the status report was distributed at the meeting.

To a question on the widening of Dean Forest Road, Ms. Scott replied that the County is doing preliminary engineering and right-of-way on that; however the money is in 2007.

B. Chatham County

Mr. Black reviewed the status of projects that are planned for Chatham County. A status report was distributed at the meeting. The widening of Skidaway Road continues to require additional EA/FONSI studies. A public meeting was held recently to discuss the proposed widening of White Bluff Road.

C. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Mr. Broderick stated that the CAT Board approved the purchase of eight new Teleride vans, which is half of the fleet. The Board also approved awarding a software contract to a company in order to automate the planning process for routes, scheduling, and daily operating process for bus runs.

D. City of Savannah

Mr. Weiner reviewed the status of projects that are currently underway in the City of Savannah. A report was distributed at the meeting. There have been no bids received for White Bluff Road and Montgomery Cross Road. Because this is such a small project it may be added to another project that is going out to bid soon.

E. Georgia Ports Authority

Mr. Weitman stated that there was nothing new to report at this time.

**V. Other Business**

Mr. Smith updated the group on transportation activities with the coastal Georgia region.

**VI. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Technical Coordinating Committee, the November 10, 2004 meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Wilkes, PE, AICP  
Director of Transportation Planning