



## CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

MPC Conference Room  
110 East State Street

September 16, 2004

3:00 P.M.

#### Members Present:

Allan Black, P.E.  
John Broderick  
Tom Cannon  
Phillip Claxton  
George Fidler  
Helen McCracken  
Keith Melton,  
Teresa Scott  
Peter Shonka, P. E.  
Thomas L. Thomson, P.E., AICP  
Mike Weiner, P.E.  
Randy Weitman, P.E.  
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

#### Representing

Chatham County Engineering  
CAT  
City of Garden City  
City of Port Wentworth  
Savannah Airport  
Vice Chair, CAC  
GDOT – Atlanta  
GDOT – Jesup  
City of Savannah, City Engineer  
Executive Director MPC, Chair  
City of Savannah  
Georgia Ports Authority  
MPC

#### Others Present:

Leo Beckmann  
LeRoy Crosby  
Andy Edwards  
Paul Smith  
Wykoda Wang

#### Representing

GPA, Manager of Legislative Affairs  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
FHWA  
Coastal Georgia RDC  
MPC

### I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Thomson called the September 16, 2004 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order. Those present were asked to introduce themselves and state the agency they represented.

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

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**II. Action Items**

**A. Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2004 CUTS TCC Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Wilkes **moved** to approve the minutes. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion.

**TCC Action:** The motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2004 meeting carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Claxton, Mr. Fidler, Ms. McCracken, Mr. Melton, Ms. Scott, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Weitman, and Mr. Wilkes.

**B. Endorsement of Revised Draft 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to Policy Committee**

Mr. Wilkes stated that the document that is before the TCC differs from the document that was included in the pre-meeting mailing. Copies of the revised LRTP were available outside the meeting room. The changes were reviewed. He also listed the six special public involvement meetings that were held in conjunction with this plan. The statement about the Bi-State Mobility process is not an endorsement of that effort. The statement is included to document ongoing planning activities.

Mr. Wilkes added that between recently completed projects, which do not appear in this plan, and the proposed projects in this plan, the document that is before the TCC addresses congested segments fairly well. However there are some constrained areas in older parts of town where it is not feasible to reconstruct.

Mr. Weitman asked the numbers on projects were the priorities, and whether or not the scores developed were distributed.

Mr. Wilkes replied that this could be distributed. There is a priority ranking column. Within each priority category, the projects are ranked as they are prioritized by the scoring tool.

To a question from Mr. Weitman, Mr. Thomson replied that there will be projects coming out of the Connecting Savannah study.

Mr. Thomson asked that anyone with issues or concerns about the LRTP should submit those items to staff by Monday in order to allow enough time to study the matter.

Mr. Melton stated that he has no problem sending this plan forward.

Mr. Thomson added that staff would recommend to the Policy Committee to allow staff 30 days to correct scrivener's errors and make administrative changes before producing a final copy of the LRTP.

Mr. Claxton **moved** to endorse the LRTP to the Policy Committee subject to the condition that staff would be allowed a 30 day window to correct scrivener's errors and make several administrative changes before finalizing the document. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion.

**TCC Action:**        **The motion carried with none opposed.** The motion was to recommend the LRTP to the Policy Committee subject to the condition that staff would be allowed a 30 day window to correct scrivener's errors and make several administrative changes before finalizing the document. Voting were: Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Claxton, Mr. Fidler, Ms. McCracken, Mr. Melton, Ms. Scott, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Weitman, and Mr. Wilkes.

Mr. Thomson introduced Mr. Paul Smith, Planning Director of the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center.

Mr. Melton acknowledged the work of Mr. Yue, GDOT staff transportation modeler who worked with Mr. Simons on the traffic modeling.

**C.        Endorsement of Revised Draft FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Policy Committee**

Mr. Melton stated that the PL funds for 2004 have all been drawn down. There may be a slight balance. The typical PL contract amount for the Savannah MPO is approximately 230 thousand dollars a year, state and federal plus local match. 2005 is about 230 with the state match. That is coming here annually but it varies a little bit from year to year.

Mr. Edwards added that if there is any carryover that should be utilized first. He has asked Mr. Fowler for the table that would summarize this for all of the MPOs.

Mr. Melton thanked staff for preparing an index to the TIP. Now it is possible to get a snapshot of the entire TIP on one page. It is helpful to have everything summarized in such a concise fashion.

Mr. Edwards asked for another column to be added that would reference the page in the LRTP.

Mr. Wilkes replied that this could be done at the point when there is a final publication version.

Ms. Wang reviewed the changes to the TIP. She further outlined the public involvement process for the TIP.

Mr. Claxton **moved** to endorse the revised Draft FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Committee. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion.

**TCC Action:**       **The motion carried with none opposed.** The motion was to endorse the revised Draft FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Committee. Voting were: Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Claxton, Mr. Fidler, Ms. McCracken, Mr. Melton, Ms. Scott, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Weitman, and Mr. Wilkes.

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

Mr. Thomson stated that the proposal is to add a representative from the RDC as a voting member to the TCC. This process is a cooperative process. The partners in the cooperative process are those who have some role at some level in planning, primarily transportation or implementing transportation issues and in this case we are within a planning area for a regional development center.

Mr. Smith stated that the RDC is one of 16 RDCs in the state. There are certain planning responsibilities under Georgia Law, the Georgia Planning Act. The group also works under contract with GDOT. The most directly relevant things are that we do transportation planning for our entire 10 county area, which includes three MPOs. We work with GDOT on the STIP. He sits on the Hinesville and Brunswick TCC.

Mr. Melton **moved** to endorse the TCC Bylaw change to the Policy Committee to add a voting representative from the Coastal Georgia RDC. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Wilkes stated that TCC would vote to finalize the Bylaws amendment at the next Regular Meeting.

- E.       Public Comments on Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Wang stated that public comments have been summarized into an Appendix that accompanies the LRTP. Responses have been included.

Mr. Wilkes stated that 23 public meetings were held to gather comments on the LRTP. Several meetings were neighborhood meetings. Comments not germane to the LRTP were referred to the appropriate agency within the City or County.

Mr. Thomson stated that he had received a letter from Stop Taxing Our People (STOP) in which their opposition to the Bi-State Mobility Plan was expressed. That letter will be included in a mailing to Policy Committee members.

### **III. Status Reports**

#### **A. Connecting Savannah**

Mr. Thomson stated that TCC members have been invited to a kick-off meeting at the Coastal Georgia Center on September 27, 2004. Following an opening presentation, smaller groups would be facilitated. Everyone would reconvene to report back, small working groups would be formed to carry the process forward. On September 28, 2004, there would be a special meeting of the TCC from 10:00 – 1:00 to discuss transportation problems with the Connecting Savannah team.

### **IV. Information Reports**

#### **A. Federal Highway Administration**

Mr. Edwards stated that a guidebook on safety conscious planning is being prepared. MPOs are encouraged to start liaison with emergency enforcement officials in each area to learn more about their issues.

#### **B. Georgia Department of Transportation**

Ms. Scott reviewed an updated report of projects that are currently underway in this area. Copies of the report were distributed at the meeting.

#### **C. Chatham County**

Mr. Black reviewed an updated report of One-Percent Sales Tax projects for Chatham County. Copies of the report were distributed at the meeting.

#### **D. City of Savannah**

Mr. Weiner reviewed the status of projects that are underway in the City of Savannah. A report was distributed at the meeting.

#### **E. Chatham Area Transit**

Mr. Broderick had no report at this time.

**F. Georgia Ports Authority**

Mr. Weitman stated that a kick-off steering committee and technical committee meeting was held for the Chatham County Intermodal Freight Study Update. A public information meeting has been tentatively scheduled for September 30, 2004. A location is to be selected. Notices will be sent to members of the TCC and the Policy Committee.

**G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport**

Mr. Fidler stated that the Airport is about to pave the perimeter access road that is under construction around the southwest quadrant of the airport.

**F. CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation**

Mr. Wilkes stated that the committee endorsed the documents that are before the TCC.

**G. CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee**

Ms. McCracken stated that it is helpful to have representatives from the TCC present during the CAC meeting to answer questions.

**V. Other Business**

It was determined that there was no additional business to report.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the September 16, 2004, meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Wilkes, P.E., AICP  
Director of Transportation Planning  
Metropolitan Planning Commission