



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

MPC Jerry Surrency Conference Room
110 East State Street

April 21, 2005

3:00 P.M.

| <u>Voting Members</u> | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Present</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Russ Abolt | Chatham County | |
| Allan R. Black, P.E. | Chatham County Engineering | x |
| Robert H. Bonner Jr. | LDH Corporation | |
| Michael Brown | City of Savannah | |
| Al Bungard, P.E. | Chatham County Engineering | |
| Robbie Byrd | City of Pooler | |
| Tom Cannon | City of Garden City | x |
| Phillip Claxton | City of Port Wentworth | |
| Scott Conner | CSX Transportation | |
| Hank Dangerfield | Fort Steward/Hunter Army Airfield | |
| Patrick S. Graham | Savannah Airport Commission | |
| Bill Hendricks | Norfolk Southern Railroad Industry | |
| Theresa Laidlaw | Coastal Bicycle Touring Club | |
| Scott Lansing | Chatham Area Transit Authority | |
| MarRonde Lumpkin-Lotson | Town of Thunderbolt | |
| Doug J. Marchand | Georgia Ports Authority | |
| Helen McCracken | CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee | |
| Keith Melton | GDOT – Atlanta | x |
| William Oakley | CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation | |
| Gary D. Priester | GDOT – Jesup | |
| Peter Shonka, P. E. | City of Savannah Engineering | x |
| Paul Smith | Coastal Georgia RDC | |
| Thomas L. Thomson, P.E., AICP | Executive Director MPC, Chair | x |
| Hugh "Trip" Tollison | Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce | |
| Mike Weiner, P.E. | City of Savannah Engineering | x |
| Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP | Metropolitan Planning Commission | x |

| <u>Voting Member Alternates</u> | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Present</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| John Broderick | Chatham Area Transit Authority | x |
| George Fiedler, P.E. | Savannah Airport Commission | |
| Teresa Scott | GDOT – Jesup | |
| Randy Weitman, P.E. | Georgia Ports Authority | |
| | | |
| <u>Others Present</u> | <u>Representing</u> | |
| Bill Saxman | Savannah Tree Foundation | x |
| Wykoda Wang | Metropolitan Planning Commission | x |
| Jim Gilliamsen | Parking Services | x |
| Lisa Sundrla | SDRA | x |
| James McCray | Garden City | x |
| Mignon Allen | Connecting Savannah Team | x |
| Linda Carpenter | Connecting Savannah Team | x |
| Betty Carter | GDOT-Jesup | x |

Call to Order

Mr. Thomson called the April 21, 2005 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order. He introduced Ms. Constance Morgan, who will now be attending the TCC meetings. He asked everyone to introduce themselves in order for Ms. Morgan to begin to familiarize herself with the names and faces of TCC members and guests.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Thomson stated that the agenda has been modified to include Status Reports on the I-16 and MLK area, and the Federal Highway letter about the TIP.

Mr. Black moved to approve the modification to the agenda. Mr. Wilkes seconded the motion.

TCC Action: The motion to approve the modification to the April 21, 2005 agenda as modified carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Wilkes, and Mr. Melton.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of February 17, 2005 CUTS TCC Meeting Minutes

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

TCC Action: The motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2005 meeting carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Melton, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Weiner, and Mr. Wilkes.

B. Endorsement of Amendment to FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Wilkes stated that this is considered a major amendment because of the \$150, 000 that is proposed to be added to the 2005 Work Program. This will allow CAT to conduct a Transportation Development Plan. The Transportation Plan was described when the UPWP was adopted; however the dollar amount was not available at that time. If approved, this amendment would allow CAT to hire consultants and get this project underway.

Mr. Cannon **moved** to endorse the amendment to the FY 2005 UPWP. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion.

TCC Action: The motion to endorse an Amendment to the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Melton, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Weiner, and Mr. Wilkes.

C. Endorsement of FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Wilkes reviewed an updated draft of the FY 2006 UPWP. Several of the Work Elements were adjusted in order to be responsive to recommendations from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. Handouts showing the key changes were distributed.

Mr. Weiner asked if it is proposed to update the Origin and Destination Study.

Mr. Thomson replied that this is a very expensive study to prepare. Perhaps an element could be added that would investigate the type of study that would be beneficial and then obtain costs for preparing such a study.

Mr. Melton moved to amend the FY 2006 UPWP to include a proposed update to the Origin and Destination Study pending a review of available funds. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion.

TCC Action: The motion carried with none opposed. The motion was to amend the FY 2006 UPWP to include a proposed update to the Origin and Destination Study pending a review of available funds. Such a study would be considered if a funding source could be located. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Melton, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Weiner, and Mr. Broderick.

Mr. Cannon **moved** to endorse the 2006 Unified Planning Work Program Draft as potentially amended. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion.

TCC Action: The motion to approve the endorsement of the FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program Draft as potentially amended carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Melton, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Weiner, and Mr. Broderick.

D. Endorsement of Draft FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Wilkes gave a brief update on the latest correspondence on the draft TIP. Handouts were distributed. He outlined the meetings that were held with local and state transportation staff in order to prepare the TIP.

Mr. Melton reviewed the legislation and the procedure used to balance funding between Congressional districts. He then reviewed the Q23 funds for FY 2007 to fund the update of the Congestion Management System study and the Q23 funds for FY 2008 to fund the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan. All of the funds are programmed. Some of the money goes into lump sums. The 20% is discretionary.

To a question on flexibility among various categories, Mr. Melton replied that there is not a great deal of flexibility among these projects. The criteria that must be met for the fund codes are based on federal requirements.

Mr. Thomson suggested that this item would be presented as information at the upcoming Policy Committee meeting. Staff would arrange special meetings of the local transportation personnel to refine certain issues.

Mr. Wilkes moved to endorse the suggestion that the TIP would be presented as information at the upcoming Policy Committee meeting. Staff would arrange special meetings of the local transportation personnel to refine certain issues. Mr. Black seconded the motion.

TCC Action: The motion carried with none opposed. The motion was to endorse the suggestion that the TIP would be presented as information at the upcoming Policy Committee meeting. Staff would arrange special meetings of the local transportation personnel to refine certain issues. Voting were Mr. Black, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Melton, Mr. Shonka, Mr. Weiner, and Mr. Broderick.

III. Status Reports

A. SDRA Statement on I-16 Flyover Removal

Lisa Sundrla, Savannah Development and Renewal Authority, gave an overview of the history of the I-16 flyover which is now viewed as a barrier to community redevelopment of this part of Savannah. Removal of the flyover would aid the current revitalization efforts. This is what the community wants to see. The goal of Savannah Development and Renewal Authority is to take the plan to the City Council this summer and request a study to determine if it is feasible to reroute that traffic and change these traffic patterns.

Mr. Thomson asked if there is a process for removing a transportation facility.

Mr. Melton stated that this is a Long Range Plan issue. There are two steps before the project would come to GDOT for funding. First step is to prepare a feasibility study done by an independent party although GDOT does have a consultant who is doing a study of the Interstate system. Perhaps this could be plugged into the GDOT study.

Mr. Thomson questioned why not just sign the task as part of your study.

Mr. Melton replied that there is a scope of work for our study which I doubt includes this. If there is a level of interest from the City of Savannah to pay a consultant to do this, I would urge you to do that and then share it with GDOT.

Mr. Weiner asked if it would be beneficial to have direct involvement with urban design staff at GDOT.

Mr. Melton replied that this would be extremely helpful.

Mr. Wilkes added that it would be necessary to analyze all of the interchanges near downtown to see how the traffic will be redistributed.

B. Connecting Savannah Study

Ms. Linda Carpenter, Wilbur Smith Associates, was present to review the progress to date in the Connecting Savannah Study. There is now a package of concepts to take to the public to get a reaction to and come back to the next MPO meeting to suggest putting into an appropriate action plan. The Policy Committee will be asked to approve a Public Meeting.

C. Federal Planning Certification Review

Mr. Wilkes reviewed the results of the March 1-3, 2005 Certification Review. The federal review team indicated we are the first MPO in Georgia reviewed to have passed certification without being subject to any corrective actions. This is an excellent result. He thanked everyone who participated, including Keith Melton and Mathew Fowler of GDOT. Latoya Jones, who was on the Federal Highway Team, is now our Federal Highway Planner. The program is now certified for three more years.

D. Transportation Amenities Plan

Mr. Wilkes reported that staff is currently working on the scope of services for the Phase II of the Transportation Amenities Plan to develop designing guidelines for new facilities. The Chatham Urban Transportation Study has received a Quality Growth Grant from the Department of Community Affairs with matching local monies.

E. Chatham County Intermodal Freight Study

There was no one present from Georgia Port Authority to give a status report on this item.

F. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Mr. Melton reported that Jordan, Jones & Goulding (JJ&G) has been hired to develop an Interstate Needs Analysis and Prioritization Plan for Interstate Improvement. GDOT is in the process of negotiating the scope. The plan is to use the TCC and the MPO process during the study's development. Hopefully in about 24 months there will be a couple of interstate/interchange concepts to come out of this study.

G. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study

Mr. Broderick gave an update on the transit study. Staff has received no response from the State Historic Preservation Officer. They would like more information on the other 15 sites for consideration. A letter has been sent back with attached information on the 15 sites for consideration with an outline of how we arrived at the point we are now. This will give them another 30 days to respond. However, we will not receive federal approval until the process is completed. Once we have a response from SHPO, we will have another 30 days in which to have a public hearing and then a 15 day public comment period and then to FTA. It looks as though it will be mid summer before a preferred site may be selected. FTA must concur with the site selection or funding will not be provided.

IV. Informational Reports (verbal)

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Betty Carter gave a review of the upcoming schedule of the meetings and Public Information Open Houses. There were no questions.

B. Chatham County

Mr. Al Black gave a status report of the projects that are currently underway in the Chatham County area. A copy of the status report was distributed at the meeting.

C. City of Savannah

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

D. Other

In the interest of time, Mr. Wilkes deferred the other information items to the next meeting in June.

V. Other Business

There was no other business.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Technical Coordinating Committee, the April 21, 2005 meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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