
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Howard Stryker	Skidaway Island	x
Russ Peterson	Skidaway Island	x
Bill Merz	Skidaway Island	x
Wykoda Wang	Metropolitan Planning Commission	x
Constance Morgan	Metropolitan Planning Commission	x
Pete Liakakis	Chatham County Commission	x

Call to Order

Mr. Thomson called the December 8, 2005 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting to order and instructed everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the visitors at the meeting.

I. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned and seconded for approval of the agenda items.

II. Action Items

A. **Approval of October 20, 2005 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Fidler **moved** to approve the October 20, 2005 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion.

TCC ACTION: The motion for approval of the October 20, 2005 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.

B. **Discussion and approval of Draft FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Wilkes gave a brief summary of the Unified Planning Work Program. The draft is very preliminary and will be finalized in April 2006. He gave a brief highlight on the following work programs: Program Coordination, Program Administration, Training and Professional Development, Equipment Supplies, Contracts and Grants, UPWP Development, Community Outreach and Education, and Environmental Justice. Mr. Thomson commented that he is relying on transportation staff to support the City's efforts to step up the Poverty Program for Transportation. Mr. Wilkes continued with Socio-economic Data, Land Use Monitoring, System Monitoring, Congestion Management, Transit & Para-transit Planning, Model Development and Applications and GIS Development. On the Long Range Plan the update is due in 2009. The

Transportation Improvement Program budget has been increased to support the increased number of drafts.

The Special Transportation Studies' major focus has been Connecting Savannah and the Transportation Amenities Plan. The RFP for Transportation Amenities plan is out for Phase II - the Design Standards. The RFQ deadline was closed last week for on call Services for Task Order Transportation Studies. Mr. Thomson stated the Technical Coordinating Committee will be pressured to produce a high quality technical evaluation prioritizing the projects being considered for the TIP. A sub-group needs to be put together to do this. Mr. Wilkes requested that every agency take a look at the UPWP draft and what's coming up in the next eighteen months and send comments to him so that he can make additions and revisions if needed. Mr. Broderick said that CAT will work with the MPO on the transit section of the UPWP.

Mr. Weiner **moved** to submit the Draft FY 2007 UPWP to GDOT for their review. In the mean time, each agency should review the draft work program and send comments to the MPO staff. Mr. Broderick seconded the motion.

TCC ACTION: The motion to submit the UPWP draft to GDOT and other departmental agencies for review and comments carried with none opposed.

C. Approval of 2006 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Broderick **moved** for approval of the 2006 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Calendar. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion.

TCC ACTION: The motion to approve the 2006 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Calendar carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. Connecting Savannah Follow Up Studies

Mr. Thomson stated the Hampstead Connector will run between Abercorn and White Bluff. The County's right-of-way consultant has been working to acquire the Comcast property and staff plans to expand the scope for that consultant to include the Department of Labor and other miscellaneous properties. He also stated Mr. Wilkes is developing two requests for proposals: one request is for the Hampstead Connector project and the other for the Six Lane Widening Study for East DeRenne. A draft will be forwarded to the City Purchasing Department for advertisement. Wilbur Smith has also been asked to develop a scope of work for a signal pre-emption system for ambulances. He then asked Mr. Weiner to give an introduction on the City's signal retiming project on DeRenne.

Mr. Weiner stated that the consultant for the Georgia Department of Transportation has done an analysis for retiming signals on DeRenne Avenue and GDOT is reviewing it. All of the signaling equipment along DeRenne Avenue will be replaced with state-of-the-art equipment. Testing for the new signal timing will begin within the month.

Mr. Thomson further stated that the MPO staff is developing a tracking form for Connecting Savannah steps and the Connecting Savannah recommendations are currently funded by SPLOST money, but he hopes to get federal money in next year's TIP development process.

Ms. Scott stated that in order to do so, MPO must send a request letter to the GDOT Commissioner and copy the District.

IV. Informational Reports (verbal)

A. Transportation Amenities Plan

Mr. Wilkes stated an RFP is out and the proposal deadline is next Wednesday. Consultants will propose local Context Sensitive Design Standards within the context of federal/GDOT/local guidelines.

B. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Ms. Scott gave a brief status report on the GDOT Interstate Improvement Study. The contract has been signed by the consultants. GDOT will sign the contract soon.

C. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study

Mr. Broderick stated negotiations to purchase the land are continuing. Interviews from a short list of consultants are complete and the negotiations will begin next week.

D. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Scott briefly highlighted the GDOT / Chatham County Projects. She stated the Project Management Agreement should be sent to the City Manager and not to the Mayor as previously advised. The Public hearing date for Whitefield Avenue also had a correction. The corrected date is for February 2006. The intersection improvement on State Route 21 and 307 will be re-let in January 2006 and GDOT has scheduled an initial concept meeting for January 2006 on the Effingham Parkway Project. Ms. Scott also stated PE funding has not yet been authorized for the Victory Drive/Truman Parkway Project but request for these funds have been made and designs should begin soon.

Chairman Liakakis commented that a video conference had been held between the County, Mr. Linnenkohl and his assistants, and Senator Eric Johnson and State Representative Ron Stevens. It was requested to have the bonding company hire

another construction company and have that company start immediately with the congested and the most hazardous areas on the Wal-Mart and US 17 Project and then move on to the other phases of the project.

E. City of Savannah

Mr. Weiner briefly gave a status report on the traffic signal installation on Henry and Anderson Streets. There are some delays. This project is not expected to be completed until the spring of next year. Consultants are presently working on the environmental study for the DeRenne and LaRoche Avenue Widening projects with a public information meeting to be scheduled for LaRoche Avenue. Audio push button signals have been installed at Liberty Street and MLK Blvd and MLK Blvd and Jones Street. These lighting signals will aid the visually impaired and the blind to navigate through these intersections.

F. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Mr. Broderick stated that the Transit Center Project is moving on and work on the Transit Development Plan (TDP) will start next Monday.

G. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. Fidler stated the Airport has four major projects scheduled for construction in March: 1) Expansion of the concourse from ten gates to fifteen gates; 2) The addition of a 750 parking space deck between the existing parking space deck and the terminal; 3) Combining all the maintenance buildings onto one campus to defer cost and improve efficiency; and 4) Installation of five traffic signals on Airways Avenue.

H. CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Ms. Wang reported that the ACAT Committee requested that Teleride and CAT make available their status reports on their complaint logs, ridership statistics etc. to the MPO Staff before the committee meetings to have staff place them in the packets for mailing.

I. Other

Diamond Causeway Widening Project

Mr. Howard Stryker, Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee at the Landings Association, stated the purpose of his presentation was to forward it to the CUTS Policy Committee for approval. Mr. Stryker then proceeded with a brief PowerPoint presentation on the need to construct a fixed-span high-rise bridge which will replace the current drawbridge at Skidaway Narrows. He concluded with the request of the Skidaway Island residents that the safety concerns alone should move the project ahead of either Phase V of the Truman Parkway or improvements to the Islands Expressway.

Chairman Liakakis voiced his concerns regarding the potential impact on the residents of the island in the event of a drawbridge outage. He stated he is pushing this project on a statewide level so that construction can begin before Year 2009 if funding is made available.

V. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the December 8, 2005 Technical Coordinating Committee meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

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