



**CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**August 17, 2006**

**3:00 P.M.**

**Voting Members**

**Representing**

**Present**

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	
Phillip Claxton	City of Port Wentworth	
Scott Conner	CSX Transportation	
Anne de la Sierra	Fort Steward/Hunter Army Airfield	
Patrick S. Graham	Savannah Airport Commission	
Bill Hendricks	Norfolk Southern Railroad Industry	
Brian Leighton	CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	x
Doug J. Marchand	Georgia Ports Authority	
Helen McCracken	CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee	
Keith Melton	GDOT – Atlanta	
Carl Palmer	Chatham Area Transit Authority	x
Tricia Reynolds	Coastal Georgia RDC	
Diane Schleicher	City of Tybee Island	
Teresa Scott	GDOT – Jesup	x
Peter Shonka, P. E.	City of Savannah Engineering	
Bob Thomson	Thunderbolt	
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

**Voting Member Alternates**

**Representing**

**Present**

George Fidler, P. E.	Savannah Airport Commission	x
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**Others Present**

**Representing**

Tommy Crochet	McGee Partners	x
Beverly Davis	RSH	x
Zoe Hardenbrook	GDOT – Jesup	x

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David Kasbo	Carter & Burgess	X
Jane Love	MPO	X
Fonda Moss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Barbara Settzo	MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO	X

**I. Call to Order**

The August 17, 2006 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee was called to order by Mr. Mark Wilkes. The first item was to approve the agenda including the additional action item that was not on the preliminary agenda in the previously mailed information packet. The new action item was a budget amendment to the FY 2007 UPWP. Mr. Wilkes also introduced Beverly Davis, David Kasbo and Tommy Crochet. Hearing no comments about the new agenda, it was accepted, and the meeting proceeded.

**II. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the April 20, 2006 CUTS TCC Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Wilkes called for the approval of the June 22, 2006 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes. Mr. George Fidler requested that the minutes be amended to include a further statement in the III-D section (Status Reports – Update on SR 204 corridor project). Mr. Tommy Crochet confirmed Mr. Fidler’s recollection that their initial assessment is that, even with a level surface expansion to 8 lanes, Abercorn Extension may still experience a level-of-service (LOS) rating of F in the future.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2006 Technical Coordinating Committee as amended.

**TCC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2006 Technical Coordinating Committee as amended carried with none opposed.**

**B. Endorsement of an Amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to include Study of Savannah Northwest Truck Tollway**

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the GDOT request to amend the FY2007-2009 TIP to include a study of a 4-lane truck tollway. She directed the committee to a map attached to the staff report indicating the proposed location running from SR 21 near I-95 to I-16 at I-516. The Federal Highway Administration approved funds for this study in January. GDOT is now proposing to move the project into the TIP in order to access these funds. The amendment will not affect other TIP projects because the project is in a separate funding category.

Mr. Fidler commented that he “doesn’t like tollways, but we need a study that addresses the need to extend I-516 from I-16 through Garden City to I-95, and it looks like this study will address that need and it is funded, so OK.”

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Ms. Wang reported that because this is a major amendment, it was advertised in the newspaper and on the MPC web site in order to meet the MPO's public involvement requirements. The public comment period is from August 6 – August 20, 2007.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to include Study of Savannah Northwest Truck Tollway.

**TCC Action: motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to include Study of Savannah Northwest Truck Tollway was carried with none opposed.**

**C. Review of request to amend the 2030 LRTP to include language in support of enhancement projects.**

Mr. Wilkes presented the MPO staff's request for wording to be included in the 2030 LRTP that would capture all future approved enhancement projects without having to amend the plan for each project that is approved by the State Transportation Board. The purpose of the new wording is to streamline the process and to confirm that the MPO recognizes that GDOT's selection process is sufficient to meet federal requirements. The proposed wording for inclusion in the 2030 LRTP is as follows:

"The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) administers the TE program in Georgia and funds projects every 2 years on a competitive basis by congressional district. Applications for TE funding are made directly to GDOT, and final project selections are made by the State Transportation Board. TE projects which meet current state and federal requirements for TE projects, and have been duly selected for funding by the State Transportation Board are considered to be consistent with the MPO's 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan."

The MPO is proposing to keep the list of projects already shown in the 2030 LRTP and use it as an illustration of the type of projects that future TE grant applicants could consider. The proposed wording is as follows:

"The MPO has further adopted the following list of priority transportation enhancement projects and cost estimates for illustrative purposes in order to provide guidance to local project applicants. The projects in this list were identified in the MPO's adopted Bikeway Plan and through discussions with local government sponsors."

Ms. Teresa Scott from the Jesup office of GDOT questioned why any wording or mention of TE projects was even necessary in the LRTP since the TE funding does not compete with TIP funding. Mr. Wilkes responded that GDOT Atlanta has requested that each TE project be an individual amendment to the LRTP. The MPO is hoping that this comprehensive statement will satisfy that request. Mr. Wilkes also stated that the Federal Highway Administration has approved this wording. Others questioned the inconsistency of having the TE projects appear in the TIP as individual items when these TE items don't appear in the LRTP as individual items. It was confirmed that TE projects do not take funds away from other planned projects.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the proposed language to the Policy Committee for a LRTP amendment.

**TCC action: the motion to endorse the proposed language to the Policy Committee for a LRTP amendment carried with none opposed. Mr. Carl Palmer abstained because he had arrived after the staff presentation had begun.**

**D. FY 2007 UPWP Budget Amendment to fund Southwest Chatham Sector Study, Traffic Impact Review process, and the LRTP/SAFETEA-LU Interim Update.**

Mr. Wilkes reported that the MPO requested a contract reduction of \$123,000 from the FY 2006 UPWP and that the money be made available in the current 2007 UPWP to be used in conjunction with other money to help fund the sector study, traffic impact review and LRTP/SAFETEA-LU Interim Update. Ms. Beverly Davis, as RS&H project manager, will have a hand in these projects.

It was moved and seconded to approve the FY 2007 UPWP Budget Amendment to fund Southwest Chatham sector study, traffic impact review process and the LRTP/SAFAETEA-LU Interim Update.

**TCC Action: the motion to approve the FY 2007 UPWP Budget Amendment to fund the Southwest Chatham sector study, traffic impact review process and the LRTP/SAFAETEA-LU Interim Update carried with none opposed.**

**III. Status Reports**

**A. SR 204/Abercorn Ext. traffic projections and bike issues**

Tommy Crochet and David Kasbo presented an update to the committee. Mr. Crochet reminded everyone that an initial concept meeting is going to be held on August 23, 2006 at 1:30 in the MPC hearing room.

Mr. Kasbo referred committee members to the hand-out which shows the methodology McGee Partners plans to use in the traffic study. They collected traffic data this past April before school let out – 24-hour, 7-day, and classification counts throughout the corridor. They also collected historic traffic data from GDOT. They are currently updating the Chatham County model for GDOT in order to more accurately portray growth in Chatham County.

They will be studying two alternatives: 1.) 8-lane roadway; and 2.) 6-lane limited access highway. Mr. Kasbo sought the committee members' opinions on the appropriate K-factor to use in calculating the design peak hour traffic volume from the projected daily volume.

The currently observed peak hour volume relates to the currently observed daily volume by a K-factor of between 8% and 10%, but the consultants are concerned that this K-factor might be skewed toward the low side due to the existing traffic congestion during the peak hour. Because the K-factor is the percent of daily traffic volume, at a given point, which passes that point during the peak hour, the use of a higher K-factor for the design peak hour would result in a higher capacity roadway design. However, the question is, "What is the desirable K-factor?" Mr. Thomson told them to use their professional judgment in making this determination and if necessary, to err a little on the high side. Mr. Thomson anticipates that the peak hour volumes on SR 204 will only increase in the future. Mr. Crochet and Mr. Kasbo said they would develop a K-factor for each alternative roadway.

### **B. Context Sensitive Design Workshop**

Mr. Mark Wilkes gave a slide presentation highlighting a 3-day seminar on Context Sensitive Design which was conducted in late July by MPO staff and the firm of Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, Inc. The workshop was a step towards the creation of a Context Sensitive Design Manual. On Day 1, the consultants discussed issues and toured significant corridors with MPO staff. On Day 2, the consultants, local staff, and stakeholders had a full-day work session and generated material for the next day and for the manual. Day 3 was an all-day seminar consisting of presentations, facilitated discussions, and mini-charrettes. The three areas studied in the mini-charrettes were: 1.) Victory Dr., between Truman Pkwy and Skidaway Rd.; 2.) East President St/Oglethorpe Landing; and 3.) DeRenne Ave. Mr. Wilkes reviewed the team recommendations for each of these areas. The next step in this process is to receive a draft of the guidelines from the consultants.

### **C. Proposed Amendment to the MPO Bikeway Plan and the 2030 LRTP to include Back River Bridge Bikeway**

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented an update on staff analysis of this proposed amendment. GDOT has informed MPO staff that bike use on the ramps to the Back River Bridge can be allowed. MPO staff made a site visit to Hutchinson Island to collect some of the data necessary to determine the physical feasibility and proposed route for a bikeway connecting Back River Bridge with the ferry landing. Staff and the amendment sponsor need to coordinate the stakeholders, including Savannah International Trade Center, Savannah Economic Development Authority, Chatham County, and GDOT. Ms. Wang described a possible route with the use of a map for committee members to view. Mr. Thomson mentioned that the trade center has plans for some of their property. It was also mentioned that there are many possibilities for development of various parcels that could affect the bikeway location. Any master plans for property on the island should be consistent with the Bikeway Plan in the event that this amendment is approved.

## **IV. Agency Reports**

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

No report at this time.

## **B. Federal Transit Administration**

No report at this time.

## **C. Georgia Department of Transportation**

Ms. Teresa Scott referred committee members to the hand-out and asked for questions. She reported that significant progress has occurred on the US 17 widening project.

## **D. Chatham County**

Mr. Al Black reported that projects are progressing and referred committee members to the hand-out. Mr. Thomson asked when the public hearing for Diamond Causeway would be. Ms. Scott will look into it.

## **E. City of Savannah**

Mr. Mike Weiner reported the following:

Henry St. & Anderson St. Signal system – Contractor is finalizing fiber optic communication cable splicing and still working on wheelchair ramps. Project expected to be completed this fall.

Gwinnett Curve Reconstruction – Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the property at 1505 W. Gwinnett has been completed and Real Property Services is in the process of acquiring the necessary right of way.

Gwinnett St. Widening – Consultant is working on the environmental study.

LaRoche Ave. Widening – Park & Tree Department performed an evaluation report on the condition and tree impacts along this corridor.

E Anderson St. Curve Reconstruction – Consultant developed four alternative concepts for review.

## **F. Chatham Area Transit Authority**

Mr. Carl Palmer reported that the Transportation Development Plan (TDP) should be completed by the end of December. The TDP would then be presented to the CAT Board of Directors in January or February. Mr. Thomson asked him to also brief the MPO on the TDP when it is completed. Mr. Thomson believes it is time to have a real long range plan for transit, and suggests using the vision of the 5-year TDP as a basis for the long range plan.

## **G. Georgia Ports Authority**

No report at this time.

## **H. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport**

Mr. George Fidler reported that the installation of five traffic signals has begun and should be completed by the end of November 2006. Construction of a 1690 space parking garage has begun with an anticipated construction period of 14 months. This is a 4 level new deck structure on top of the old short-term lot. The two existing parking decks will remain until the next phase. He also reported that five new gates are being added to the terminal building.

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

Mr. Brian Leighton, newly elected Vice Chairman for ACAT, reported on committee discussions with CAT and Teleride representatives. Issues included vehicle breakdowns, use of the new buses, and overcrowding in the Teleride system. Mr. Palmer mentioned that he has talked with ACAT member Bill Oakley about the recent meeting and that he (Mr. Palmer) has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Frank of Laidlaw Transit. Mr. Thomson reminded city representatives that pavement should extend around all crosswalk push buttons, and he used the corner of Stephenson and Waters as an example of a location where this was not so. Mr. Leighton asked that at future meetings of the TCC, self-introductions be made so that he will be aware of who is present in the room.

**J. CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee**

Ms. Jane Love reported that this committee is meeting tonight and will conduct elections for a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. They have four new members beginning this evening. The committee continues to work on their effectiveness evaluation.

**V. Other Business**

Mr. Thomson presented slides of an elevated, reversible-lane road project recently completed in Tampa.

**VI. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned the August 17, 2006 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



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