



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

February 22, 2007

3:00 P.M.

Voting Members

Representing

Present

Russ Abolt	Chatham County	
Allan R. Black, P.E.	Chatham County Engineering	
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	
Doug J. Marchand	Georgia Ports Authority	
Kyle Mote	GDOT – Atlanta	X
Carl Palmer	Chatham Area Transit Authority	
Russ Peterson	CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee	
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	MPO	X

Voting Member Alternates

Representing

George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	X
Sharon Marshall	City of Tybee Island	X

Others Present

Beverly Davis
Richard Fangmann
Matthew Fowler
Jean Iaderosa
Latoya Jones
Marcus Lotson
Jane Love
Radney Simpson
Grady Smith
Wykoda Wang
Chená Wilson

Representing

Reynolds, Smith and Hills X
Carter & Burgess X
GDOT X
CAT X
FHWA X
Intern X
MPO X
GDOT X
JJG X
MPO X
Savannah State University X

I. Approval of Agenda

The February 22, 2007 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee was called to order by Mr. Tom Thomson. He asked that everyone pick up a copy of the revised agenda and copies of the handouts on the table. He also invited everyone to attend the SAFETEU-LU kick-off public participation meeting at 6:00pm tonight in the Arthur Mendonsa Room. He introduced Mr. Kyle Mote, of GDOT Planning, and Mr. Marcus Lotson, one of the two interns presently at the MPC. This was followed by a brief self introduction of those attending.

The agenda was approved subject to adding item II-B (Endorsement of Request to Amend the 2030 LRTP to include Widening of Gulf Stream Road and Widening of Robert Miller Road).

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the December 7, 2007 CUTS TCC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Thomson called for the approval of the December 7, 2007 minutes. There being no corrections, it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2007 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2007 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of Request to Amend the 2030 LRTP to include Widening of Gulf Stream Road and Widening of Robert Miller Road

Mr. Matthew Fowler explained GDOT's request for the amendment of the 2030 LRTP to include the widening of Gulf Stream Road and Robert Miller Road. He stated the preliminary engineering estimated cost of each project was \$100,000.. The total estimated right-of-way costs for both projects in FY-08 is \$800,000 and the total estimated construction cost for both projects in FY-09 is \$8.2 million dollars.

This will be new funding above and beyond what was originally anticipated to come to the CUTS/MPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and what is presently shown in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The GDOT Office of Transportation Data is working on a resolution for MPO consideration, which would allow each of the roads to be re-classified to "urban collector".

Mr. Fowler requested that the LRTP and TIP go through the amendment process. Mark Wilkes explained the process for the Long Range Plan Amendment for the benefit of those that were not familiar with this process. It is a two-step process. The Policy Committee will vote on whether to proceed with this amendment process next week, and in April they will vote on whether to approve the amendment. The TIP amendment will be up for approval in April also, contingent upon the approval of the LRTP amendment before it on that agenda.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the Request to Amend the 2030 LRTP to include Widening of Gulf Stream Road and Widening of Robert Miller Road.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the Request to Amend the 2030 LRTP to include the Widening of Gulf Stream Road and Widening of Robert Miller Road carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. SAFETEA-LU Interim Plan Updates

Beverly Davis gave a brief overview on the SAFETEA-LU Interim Plan Updates and the presentation to be given at the kick-off meeting at 6:00pm tonight in the Arthur Mendonsa Hearing Room. She stated that this evening's meeting will be a public information meeting explaining what the MPO is and the requirements for SAFETEA-LU compliance.

B. Chatham Area Transit (CAT) Transportation Development Plan (TDP)

Ms. Jean Iaderosa reviewed the CAT Transportation Development Plan which looks ahead at the next five years. The TDP addressed the following items: public involvement, service analysis, market research, paratransit evaluation, fare policy, technology review, service expansion, the downtown transit station and financial plan. CAT staff expects to present a draft TDP to the CAT Board for adoption later this spring.

C. East President Street Plan

Mr. Thomson thanked Mike Weiner and other stakeholders for their contribution to this project. Ms. Beverly Davis gave an overview on the East President Street Plan. She explained the Concept 2.0 features as follows: 1) 6-lane E. President for the short term; 2) curb lanes on President Street to have different type of paving for eventual conversion to parking lanes and bike lanes in the long-term; 3) extension of Liberty Street with new interchange at Truman Pkwy, which would trigger the conversion of the curb lanes on President St.; 4) extension of General McIntosh to Wheaton/Liberty extension; 5) relocation

of intersection of Wheaton and Liberty to align with extension of General McIntosh; and 6) extension of three streets in the existing grid into new development south of E. President Street.

GDOT representatives mentioned that if any funding will be coming through them, the 11' lanes will be an issue, because their standards specify 12' lanes.

D. GDOT's Chatham County Interstate Needs Study

GDOT's representative gave a status update on the Chatham County Interstate Needs Study and those projects or areas along the interstate system that were considered priority.

The project has been divided into three planning phases; Phase 1) baseline conditions and needs assessment; this phase has been completed; Phase 2) evaluation of scenarios/concept layouts; representatives will return later in the year to review this phase; and Phase 3) final project recommendations which will include a prioritized list of projects. He added there were four basic areas for the Needs Assessment work; 1) environmental considerations which were associated with any improvements on the state system 2) safety analysis; 3) truck movement; and 4) congestion and mobility. He introduced Mr. Richard Fangmann to present the major findings of the needs assessment.

Mr. Fangmann gave a slide presentation on the Needs Assessment. Assessments included; 1) environmental; the floodplains, wetlands, and water courses which was 59% of the study area; 2) safety; which viewed areas of high crash rates, bridge sufficiency and geometric limitations; and 3) truck movements, where the Travel Demand Model was reviewed for upgrades. This included the current GDOT model capacities, the modifications to 2030 population and employment data and updated truck generation information to reflect growth of Port and other significant truck traffic generators. Major growth in truck traffic projected by the Port was about 11,000 "gate moves" per day by the year 2015 and other growth about 3,600-6,000 trucks per day. The 2030 total Population growth projection was 338,000 an increase of 105,600 from 2001 and the employment projection was 218,000, an increase 90,500 from the year 2001. Mr. Fangmann also addressed: System-wide Needs – Long Distance Interstate Traffic; Commuter Traffic; Truck Traffic; and truck access to Downtown Savannah without impacting the historic character. He briefly highlighted the Candidate Projects list which included selected segments with level of service (LOS) deficiencies; parallel connection and freeway crossing in select locations (I-95 and I-16); and consideration of truck only lanes along I-95. In conclusion he added that additional concepts along with the benefits these projects provide will be presented at their next meeting before the Committee.

E. GDOT's Statewide Truck Only Lanes Study

A statewide truck only lane study is being conducted to review truck lanes in conjunction with JJ&G Interstate Study and the Northwest Tollway Study. In the Savannah area there is a sub area study. This area involves the ports where all potential needs are being reviewed. Minor needs such as intersection improvements and turning radii are also being addressed.

Mr. Thomson asked that, if presentations are going to be made to the State Transportation Commission regarding studies that affect the Savannah Urban Area and especially, if options are going to be presented, he be given at least one day prior notice so that he may have the opportunity to attend.

F. Congestion Management Process

Mr. Wilkes gave a quick status update on the Congestion Management Process. He reported that the intent is to analyze two congested hot spots; the interchange of SR-21 and I-95 and Victory Drive between Truman Parkway and Skidaway Road. Corridors with signal coordination and timing issues identified in the 2004 CMS will also be re-evaluated.

Mr. Weiner asked why was Victory Drive a part of this analysis as GDOT has a project coming up to improve the Truman Pkwy northbound exit onto Victory Drive.

Mr. Thomson stated this was a good point and that another location should be considered.

Mr. Wilkes noted that the GDOT project is limited in scope and primarily addresses traffic from the north-bound off-ramp. Mr. Wilkes offered to coordinate further with Mr. Weiner on the CMP scope to address longer range congestion.

IV. Agency Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Teresa Scott referred committee members to the written report and asked if there were any questions. She stated that those projects that were eliminated from the Construction Work Program will be indicated on the report next week when presented to the Policy Committee. There will also be changes reflected in construction and right-of-way. She explained that Highway 17 at Wal-mart has made a lot of progress and continual improvements are expected.

B. Chatham County

No report at this time.

C. City of Savannah

Mr. Mike Weiner reported on the status of two of the City's Traffic Engineering Improvement Projects. He stated that for DeRenne Ave Pre-emption System Project; two systems have been demonstrated. The system recommended by the department was the 3M Opticom GPS Priority Control System. The City is attempting to obtain SPLOST funding through the County for this project. Bay Street's traffic signal and pedestrian crosswalks will be installed at Jefferson Street. This project completion is scheduled for June of this year. A pedestrian safety program will be implemented with the assistance of Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and SafeKids of Savannah.

D. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Ms. Jean Iaderosa reported that presently CAT is participating with ACAT Committee on the issue of wheelchair accessible taxicabs. Currently there is only one wheelchair accessible taxicab in Savannah and this taxi belongs to a private business owner, "Yellow Cab". She said that the only way to increase the numbers of accessible taxis is to make changes to the taxi ordinance.

E. Georgia Ports Authority

Mr. Randy Weitman reported that, at the last State Transportation Board Meeting, a discussion took place regarding Georgia Ports Authority growth and impact. He said that GPA also took the opportunity to point out a wish list of items needed within the next four years. He said that it was also asked at that meeting how items would be funded. Mr. Weitman replied that GPA felt that it should be funded by the State Transportation Board. There was also discussion regarding local funding.

F. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. George Fidler reported that the new terminal under construction is scheduled to open on August 1, 2007 and the Parking Garage's grand opening will be October 1, 2007.

V. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

VI. Other Public Comments

There were no comments from members of the public.

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business, the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned the February 22, 2007 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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