



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

August 21, 2008

3:00 P.M.

Voting Members

Representing

Present

Russ Abolt	Chatham County	
Brannyn Allen	City of Tybee Island	
Robert H. Bonner Jr.	LDH Corporation	
Daniel Bostek	Norfolk Southern Railroad Industry	
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	
Leon Davenport	Chatham County Engineering	x
Anne de la Sierra	Fort Steward/Hunter Army Airfield	
Glenn Durrence	GDOT – District 5	
Patrick S. Graham	Savannah Airport Commission	
Doug Marchand	Georgia Ports Authority	
Kyle Mote	GDOT – Atlanta	x
Representative	CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation	
Representative	CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee	
Tricia Reynolds	Coastal Georgia RDC	x
Joe Murray Rivers	Chatham Area Transit Authority	
Peter Shonka, P. E.	City of Savannah Engineering	
Bob Thomson	Town of 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 Traffic Engineering	
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP	MPO	x

Voting Member Alternates

Representing

Sean Brandon	City of Savannah	x
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	x
Teresa Scott	GDOT – Jesup	x
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	x

Others Present

Michael Adams
Chris Chalmers
Dave Cox
Jane Love
Barbara Settzo
Radney Simpson
Pamela Trowbridge
Wykoda Wang
Stephen Warner

Representing

MPO X
Coastal Georgia RDC X
GDOT X
MPO X
for MPO X
GDOT X
Chatham County Engineering X
MPO X
Norfolk Southern Corp. X

Call to Order

Chairman Tom Thomson called the August 21, 2008 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order. Mr. Thomson introduced Michael Adams as a new MPO staff member who will focus on traffic impact analysis and work with Chatham Area Transit (CAT) to meet MPO requirements.

I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved, as presented.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the June 19, 2008 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2008 Technical Coordinating Committee.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2008 Technical Coordinating Committee carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of Amendment to the CUTS/MPO Participation Plan

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) have implemented a new amendment process for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This amendment today to the CUTS/MPO Participation Plan is necessary to reflect the new process for amendments to the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She had e-mailed the full Participation Plan, with proposed changes, to all committee members in advance. The major changes included in the amendment are:

- There will be no distinctions between major amendments and minor amendments. All amendments will be treated in the same way – 15 day public comment period and response to all comments.

- GDOT instead of the MPO will be responsible for notifications of all the administrative modifications.

There is a 45 day public comment underway for this amendment to the Participation Plan. No significant comments have been received as of today. There was one angry woman who claims that the television notice includes a misspelling. Ms. Wang is unable to confirm, but checked that the copy she submitted is correct.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the CUTS/MPO Participation Plan.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the CUTS/MPO Participation Plan carried with none opposed.

- C. Actions related to the proposed Norfolk Southern/Georgia Ports Authority Rail project**
- Staff presentation
 - TCC discussion and action on the amendment to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to include the rail project
 - TCC discussion and action on the amendment to the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the rail project

Mr. Thomson referred committee members to the written report. Ms. Love asked if there were any questions. Mr. Randy Weitman confirmed that the project does not affect funding of other projects, and Mr. Kyle Mote confirmed that the project has a Project Identification number.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan to include the rail project, and to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the same rail project.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan to include the rail project, and to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the same rail project carried with none opposed.

- D. Endorsement of CUTS/MPO Project Prioritization for input into GDOT's Project Prioritization Report to the Commissioner**

Mr. Thomson reported that the charts in the packet are updated from the last meeting and are current. Production status of projects was confirmed through a teleconference in the morning. The focus is on insuring that production information is correct. Any project that is ready for letting by FY2012 will be considered, regardless of where the money is now. Mr. Thomson asked the committee to review the accuracy of the information in the "Production Status" column.

Table #1 (Construction complete, authorized, or let): Mr. Thomson asked about the I-95 Welcome Center readiness. It is ready to let but will not be let by GDOT because it is basically building construction. Another agency will let it.

Table #2 (Projects ready for construction by 2012): The last column should include the date expected for construction. Bridge replacement project at Montgomery Cross Rd. changed from 2009 to 2010 for construction-ready. Widening of Whitefield Ave. changed from 2009 to 2010 for construction-ready.

Mr. Leon Davenport reported that the county is reviewing the SR 307 widening project and considering doing the project as a local project since Garden City is doing a portion of the road through public/private development and a large portion of the road is being done through a drainage improvement project, so the county may accelerate the remaining portion. If it is done as a local project they may use local funds, not federal funds. Mr. Davenport requested that the project not be recorded as unready for construction by 2012. Ms. Wang asked for clarification on how this will be handled in the prioritization tables. It was confirmed that Mr. Davenport was asking that PI# 0002140 be moved from Table 4 to Table 2 because it can be ready by 2012, but to make a note that it will be locally funded. There was further discussion about the wording of this footnote. Mr. Thomson confirmed that PI# 0002140 will move from Table 2 to Table 4 and that a footnote will be composed to cover the Ogeechee Rd. project funding.

The construction-ready date for the Truman Pkwy. Phase V will change from FY2010 to FY2009.

Mr. Thomson explained that once a contract is signed with the design/build team for the Skidaway Narrows Bridge Replacement project, it is considered to be construction-ready which is why it is listed here.

Mr. Weitman noted that in regard to the SR 307/Bourne Ave. project, they are waiting on utilities. Plans are ready and it could be ready to let in the next thirty (30) days.

Table #3 (Priorities for Economic Development): Mr. Thomson added Table 3 since the June meeting so as to include the Governor's projects that were committed, i.e. Gulfstream Rd. and Robert B Miller Rd. Mr. Thomson asked if the Jimmy DeLoach connector to Bourne Ave. project should be added to Table 3. Mr. Weitman replied that since it does not involve federal funds it may not need to be included. Like the Norfolk Southern rail project, the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) wants it to be constructed. It may show in the reports, but it should indicate that it does not affect funding of other projects. While the Georgia Ports Authority is doing the concept and environmental portion, this is still a GDOT project. Mr. Thomson noted that the MPO has an obligation to report public projects to the public.

Mr. Thomson noted that airport funding is not in the TIP, and then asked if it was in the STIP. There was no definite answer.

Table #4 (TIP Priority Projects not ready for construction by 2012): Mr. Thomson led a review of these projects and asked for input from committee members. There were no comments on Table 4.

Conclusion: Mr. Thomson will take the projects as listed in the TIP, pull out bridge projects, and then list the projects that will be ready by 2012 in 1,2,3 order. He will e-mail a list of projects for the members to rank and send back to him before the Policy Committee meeting next week. Ms. Wang reminded the group that at the last meeting it was decided to group the projects and not rank them individually.

Mr. Weitman asked how prioritization was affected by different funding sources for different types of projects. Mr. Brad Saxon replied that the programs and projects that were funded separately will continue to be funded separately. This prioritization process is focusing on major road improvements. Bridges and intersections are separate.

There was no vote on endorsing this list at this time, as Committee members were asked to send their ranking via email after receiving an updated list.

III. Status Reports

A. Call for projects for JARC and New Freedom funds

Ms. Wang presented the staff report. There are funds available from 2006, 2007 and 2008. CAT has grouped these together and applied for the total amount for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funds. There are 6 steps that must be followed before applying for these funds. The first four steps were accomplished before July 28, 2008. This included amending the TIP to include these funds. Before the July 30th deadline they put out the call for projects, evaluated the projects and made application for the funding. Ms. Wang explained how the Stakeholder Resource Group evaluated the four proposals that were submitted:

- #2 West Chatham Route (Crossroads Business Center portion) – CAT, request for JARC funds
- #6 Cross-town Route – CAT, request for JARC funds
- Savannah Belles Ferry Service – CAT, request for JARC funds
- Coastal Center for Developmental Services (CCDS) Accessible Taxi Program – CCDS, request for New Freedom funds

The evaluating committee recommended granting the requested fund levels to all four proposals. CAT, as the designated recipient for the funds, made application for the funds and Federal Transit Administration is now reviewing the application.

The projects were selected by the steering committee made up of representatives from different agencies. Ms. Love asked, on behalf of the ACAT Chairman, who had received the notice of call for projects. Ms. Wang replied that the call for projects was advertised, sent to local media, posted on the MPC website, and sent to the steering committee members included in the Coordinated Plan, and all CUTS/MPO committee members.

Mr. Sean Brandon stated that at the urging of CAT, the city has included a requirement for taxi companies to have accessible taxis as 10% of its fleet. He asked if this is necessary to

qualify for New Freedom funds. Mr. Brandon said that at one time CAT offered to purchase the taxis for taxi companies that would use them, but they only got one company who was interested.

Ms. Wang reported that JARC and New Freedom funds require a local match. When the Coastal Center for Developmental Services applied, they contacted CAT and CAT promised to provide matching funds for their project.

IV. Agency Reports

A. CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Ms. Love reported that the committee endorsed all action items and approved the revised Teleride customer handbook that CAT publishes.

B. CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee

No report at this time.

C. Federal Highway Administration

No report at this time.

D. Federal Transit Administration

No report at this time.

E. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Teresa Scott asked for any questions about the report she distributed. She noted that the environmental document for the Ogeechee Rd. project has been reviewed by FHWA and GDOT's Office of Environment/Location is addressing comments. They anticipate a public hearing in the fall.

F. Chatham County

Mr. Leon Davenport referred to his report that he distributed to the group. He noted that the right-of-way acquisition is nearly complete for the Phase V of Truman Pkwy. The consultant continues with the final design. Still remaining is the county job of providing historical booklets to Vernonburg in order to certify right-of-way. This should be done by December 2008.

On the Whitfield Ave. widening project, the County is finishing up the right-of-way plans to pass along to GDOT.

Mr. Thomson requested that the construction contracts contain stronger language on the subject of management of traffic flow during construction. Mr. Davenport explained that the

construction barrels remain until the work is completed. He believes it would be more costly and more dangerous to remove them and replace them repeatedly rather than leaving them in place until the job is complete. On Middleground Rd. grading and clean-up still remain to be completed.

G. City of Savannah

Mr. Brandon reported that, weather events permitting, the new underground parking garage should open in two weeks.

H. Chatham Area Transit Authority

No report at this time.

I. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

J. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. George Fidler reported that the resurfacing of Airways Ave. will now begin in late September 2008.

V. Other Business

Ms. Tricia Reynolds asked about future regional transportation planning meetings. Mr. Thomson commented that there were a few items that need to be prepared before calling another meeting.

VI. Other Public Comments

No other public comments at this time.

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business, the August 21, 2008 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned. The next meeting will be October 16, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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