



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

October 16, 2008

3:00 P.M.

Voting Members

Russ Abolt
Brannyn Allen
Robert H. Bonner Jr.
Daniel Bostek
Teresa Brenner

Michael Brown
Al Bungard, P.E.
Robbie Byrd
Phillip Claxton
Scott Conner
Leon Davenport
Anne de la Sierra
Glenn Durrence
Patrick S. Graham
Doug Marchand
Kyle Mote
Representative
Tricia Reynolds
Joe Murray Rivers
Peter Shonka, P. E.
Bob Thomson
Thomas L. Thomson, P.E., AICP
Hugh "Trip" Tollison
Mike Weiner, P.E.
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP

Representing

Chatham County
City of Tybee Island
LDH Corporation
Norfolk Southern Railroad Industry
CUTS Advisory Committee on
Accessible Transportation
City of Savannah
Chatham County Engineering
City of Pooler
City of Port Wentworth
CSX Transportation
Chatham County Engineering
Fort Steward/Hunter Army Airfield
GDOT – District 5
Savannah Airport Commission
Georgia Ports Authority
GDOT – Atlanta
CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee
Coastal Georgia RDC
Chatham Area Transit Authority
City of Savannah Engineering
Town of Thunderbolt
Executive Director MPC, Chair
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
City of Savannah Traffic Engineering
MPO

Present

x

x

x

x

x

Voting Member Alternates

Teresa Scott
Pamela Trowbridge

Representing

GDOT – Jesup
Chatham County

x

x

Others Present

Michael Adams
LaToya Jones
Jane Love
Barbara Settzo
Wykoda Wang

Representing

MPO X
FHWA X
MPO X
for MPO X
MPO X

Call to Order

Chairman Tom Thomson called the October 16, 2008 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order. Teresa Brenner introduced herself as the new representative for the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation. Pamela Trowbridge introduced herself as the representative from Chatham County Engineering today.

I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved, as presented.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the August 21, 2008 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2008 Technical Coordinating Committee.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2008 Technical Coordinating Committee carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of Amendment to the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program for additional section 5303 transit planning funds

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that this amendment is to capture the balance of monies from two previous years into this fiscal year. The procedure has changed so the amendment is necessary to reflect this procedural change. The monies will be used for transit/paratransit planning and the Long Range Plan.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program for additional section 5303 transit planning funds.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program for additional section 5303 transit planning funds carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. Update on Regional Meetings

Ms. Jane Love referred the committee members to a report in their packet. They are trying to set the next regional meeting for January 2009.

Ms. Tricia Reynolds commented that the issue of regional planning is emerging as a priority in the Coastal Comprehensive Plan. She believes the timing is good to get the momentum going.

Mr. Thomson agreed that more regional coordination is necessary. A proposal for the next federal transportation authorization would set the threshold for MPOs at 500,000 minimum population. He is not sure how existing, smaller MPO's will be affected. He sees the possibility of three Georgia counties and two South Carolina counties joining together to meet the population criteria. Mr. Thomson introduced the idea of regional mobility authorities as currently done in Texas. Basically, these organizations are toll authorities; they have a local revenue stream.

IV. Discussion Item - Letter from FHWA to GDOT regarding the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Mr. Thomson had spoken with Matthew Fowler, Gerald Ross, and Angela Alexander about this issue. To comply with the issues of the letter, he suspects that the MPO will receive some requests for TIP amendments from the Commissioner.

Ms. LaToya Jones, from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), reported that they had a meeting and reviewed the available revenues and expenditures, looking at all the funding components in the STIP for FY2009, FY2010 and FY2011. FY 2009 was the most important. They compared total project costs against revenues. They are authorizing whatever is programmed in FY2009, but FHWA wants to know the state of the program before they approve any year shifts.

V. Agency Reports

A. CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Ms. Brenner reported that ACAT endorsed the amendment to the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program. The committee heard a report from city staff about the proposed revised ordinance for taxi companies that would require taxi companies to have one accessible taxi for every five taxis in the fleet. The committee also approved the revised Teleride Handbook.

Ms. Love, answering an earlier question from Mr. Thomson, reported that the Teleride Handbook does not need to go to the MPO, although ACAT has a history of endorsing it. The handbook is maintained and published by Chatham Area Transit (CAT).

Ms. Love reported that the Chairman of ACAT is concerned about the Teleride complaint line that was instituted. He feels that users will not bother leaving their complaint with a third party call center, but it is also an ongoing concern that the complaint calls that are

forwarded to First Transit, are being handled by someone other than Mr. McCampbel, the Director. The point of the third party was to prevent Teleride staff from knowing who had complained. Ms. Love had explained to ACAT that ACAT makes recommendations to the Policy Committee but that the Policy Committee does not control the details of operations of Teleride. Mr. Thomson noted that this issue could be looked at by the Policy Committee but it would be better handled by CAT directly, since they are the body responsible for the service.

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 referred to the written report and highlighted the following:

#1, #2 - Gulfstream Rd.– both projects are being scaled back to intersection improvements due to funding shortage.

8 - Ogeechee Rd. – completion of environmental document is close; public hearing possibly in January 2009

#13 - Bridge over Skidaway Narrows – anticipating an April let. GDOT believes it will be quicker if they clear environmental themselves before the consultant starts designing.

Ms. Scott reported that nothing was being let in District 5 in October or November except for road resurfacing. She recommended going to “Bid Express” to see what was slated for letting in any month.

Ms. Scott reported that GDOT has reviewed a concept report on the Effingham Parkway project. They have made comments and are awaiting resolution. There will be another concept meeting schedule once they’ve addressed all of GDOT’s comments.

#20 – Grange Rd. – initial concept meeting was held on June 11, 2008, and so far that is it.

#32 – I-16 & I-95 lighting – lighting agreement is still needed. Pooler wants to enter into inter-governmental agreements with Savannah and Chatham County and then Pooler alone will contract with GDOT. She understands it’s ready to go, but there is no signed agreement.

Mr. Mike Weiner asked about active construction project #2 (intersection improvements along SR 204). Ms. Scott reported that it is scheduled to be complete this fall.

F. Chatham County

Ms. Pamela Trowbridge reviewed the printed report and highlighted the following:

Whitfield Ave. – was on hold but now has been re-authorized. Ms. Teresa Scott confirmed that they've been told to go forward.

Skidaway Rd. widening – project is being broken down into intersection jobs instead of widening the entire stretch. They have stopped the consultant contract for the entire widening.

Dean Forest Rd. widening – county wants to proceed but it may need to be divided into sections.

Middleground Rd. widening – project is complete

Mr. Thomson asked if the county or GDOT did the concept report for Islands Expressway Bridge. The county has submitted the concept report to GDOT. Ms. Scott believes the consultant is working on a revised concept. Mr. Thomson wants to be sure that the MPO is on the distribution list for projects that are in environmental or concept stages.

Mr. Thomson asked about the Eisenhower Dr. project. Mr. Mike Weiner reported that the City and the County are working together to develop a plan to remedy safety issues that the City would like addressed. The City wants to use SPLOST funds and the County wants to transfer that money to the City to allow the City to implement safety improvements instead of the County doing a widening project.

G. City of Savannah

Mr. Weiner reported that a change order was approved to amend the concept report for the West Gwinnet St. widening. The consultant was directed to revise the concept report to incorporate the design elements of the "Downtown Expansion Area" that incorporates on-street parking, pedestrian amenities and landscaping features.

The City is waiting for GDOT notice to proceed on the East Anderson St. curve reconstruction and the West Gwinnet St. curve reconstruction.

The City is doing a right-turn lane on Montgomery St. north of DeRenne Ave. to improve the intersection because people are using residential streets to avoid congestion.

H. Chatham Area Transit Authority

No report at this time. Ms. Love announced CAT's public meeting coming up on November 6, regarding the proposed change in the Teleride service area.

I. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time. Mr. Thomson commented that he had spoken with Randy Weitman. The Jimmy DeLoach Parkway extension project is still not in the Long Range Plan but it is getting close to a concept plan.

J. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

No report at this time.

K. Coastal Georgia RDC

Ms. Tricia Reynolds encouraged attendance at the October 22nd meeting. Transportation is emerging as a regional need in the Coastal Comprehensive Plan.

V. Other Business

Mr. Weiner asked how Coastal Commuters was progressing. Ms. Love reported that the ride-matching system was very popular with Gulfstream employees, with over 100 people registered from there. Each hospital has about 10 people registered. JCB is considering having their own network within the system also. Many members of general public, not affiliated with any of the existing networks, also have registered.

VI. Other Public Comments

No other public comments at this time.

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business, the October 16, 2008 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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