

Voting Member Alternates

Sean Brandon
George Fidler
Jean Iaderosa
Bob Scanlon
Teresa Scott

Representing

City of Savannah X
Savannah/HHI Internat'l Airport X
CAT X
City of Savannah X
GDOT – Jesup X

Others Present

Michael Adams
Jane Love
Brad Saxon
Barbara Settzo
Wykoda Wang

Representing

MPO X
MPO X
GDOT X
for MPO X
MPO X

Call to Order

Chairman Tom Thomson called the April 23, 2009 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda as presented.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the February 19, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of the amendments to FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) related to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Mr. Thomson referred all members to the large spreadsheet as the basis of the discussion. Page 1 shows projects under consideration and page 2 shows projects that are proposed for removal from the TIP. At this time, the discussion is only dealing with ARRA (stimulus) funds. Mr. Thomson outlined the different columns of the sheet as follows:

- Column 6 – list of candidate projects for stimulus funding through Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)
- Column 7 – list of candidate projects for MPO sub-allocation stimulus funds

- Column 8 – list of candidate transit projects
- Column 9 – list of candidate place holder projects; projects left over that could compete for discretionary funding grants in the future.

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the staff report. Funding is divided between formula funding and discretionary funding. She reviewed the funding amounts and the deadlines for obligating the funds. Mr. Thomson noted that the Governor has not yet obligated the full amount, but he expects the deadline will be met. He also noted that the schedule for the MPO sub-allocation is different from the GDOT project schedule.

Ms. Wang explained that the discretionary funding is competitive with all fifty states and the maximum that any one state can receive is \$300 million. Projects in all modes of transportation are eligible for a discretionary fund grant, but projects granted funds in this category must be completed within three years.

Ms. Wang presented the list of projects that need to be cut from the TIP. These deletions are necessary since the TIP was expanded in February in order to capture all possible projects before the amount of funding was known. Now the only funding that we are certain of is the \$7.1 million in the MPO sub allocation and the \$4.5 million in the transit section.

Mr. Leon Davenport asked what would occur if a project was not completed within the three-year window. The answer was unknown at this time. In order to make the Truman Pkwy. project more competitive in the State's Phase 2 ARRA awards, Chatham County has sent a request to GDOT to breakdown the Truman Parkway Phase V into smaller functional sections. No response from GDOT as of yet. The county has to resubmit an application with the Coast Guard for the Truman Bridge approval, so the Truman project is not 100% ready.

Mr. Bob Scanlon reported on the President Street widening project. The city has met with the environmental folks and they are in agreement that they will get a categorical exclusion and have all the documents in place on time. The concept report and draft document will be in the Atlanta office on Tuesday. The design is progressing and GDOT officials are aware of the status. The environmental will be in Atlanta next week.

SR 307 overpass – it's on track for a December letting pending GDOT Board approval.

Ms. Wang requested that all updated information on any of these projects be sent to her.

Truman Linear Park – Ms. Scott says it is not ready. She has not seen any document on it; not a concept report, not a set of plans, no environmental document. Mr. Thomson will delete it from the MPO sub-allocation list since it is not ready.

MLK Jr. Blvd Streetscape – Ms. Scott noted that corrections need to be made on the bid document. Depending on how quickly documentation can move between GDOT and the City, it could be ready in time.

Broughton St. Streetscape – not ready. Ms. Scott reported that she has not seen any activity on this project.

Hutchinson Island projects – Mr. Kyle Mote said he had been in talks with Mr. Pat Monahan, but progress has stopped. As of now, these projects are not ready.

City of Savannah signal projects – Ms. Scott reported they are not in the GDOT work program. She is not sure if these projects need to be since they are in the MPO sub-allocation section, but these projects do need to meet federal guidelines.

Mr. Mote reported that the Governor needs to approve the list of candidate projects from the MPO sub-allocation list just as he does the GDOT list. The MPO should be prepared to state why a project is on the list or why it is not, just as GDOT does with their candidate project list.

Mr. Thomson asked if the E. Anderson St. and W. Gwinnett St. curve reconstruction projects were eligible. Ms. Scott will check, but she believes they are not in the GDOT work program, therefore not eligible. It was confirmed that they were not in the GDOT work program, so these projects will be moved to the MPO sub-allocation list.

No changes from CAT on the list of transit projects.

Mr. Thomson noted that the Tybee project is not for bridges or to build anything. This project has nothing to do with four-laning the bridges which is still part of the US 80 study. This project refers to a feasibility study for a separate bikeway/pedestrian facility across the Bull River and Lazaretto Creek.

Islands Expressway/Bascule Bridge PE is listed. The GDOT, in their allocations, decided not to award any preliminary engineering projects (PE) if the project couldn't go all the way to construction, but Mr. Thomson noted that this is in the MPO sub-allocation, so PE is eligible.

SR 21 Corridor Study - MPO would coordinate with State Road and Toll Authority. The Georgia Port Authority may fund the traffic & revenue study.

Truman Linear Park will be deleted from the list because it is not ready.

Mr. Thomson asked the committee members to rank the candidate projects from the GDOT list (Column 6 only) in order to give the CORE Board a sense of how this advisory committee feels about the GDOT candidate projects. There were three different ranking exercises:

- Blue ballot – If you could choose only one project which would you choose?
- Pink ballot – Pick your top 5 projects in order of preference.
- Green ballot – List in priority order projects you would select that total \$11 million (this area's "fair share" of the State's allocation, based on population).

Results of the vote:

- Blue - 5 votes for Truman Parkway, 5 votes for President St.

- Pink – 37 points for Truman Pkwy., 35 points for President S.t, 21 points for MLK Jr. Blvd. Streetscape, 19 points for SR 307 overpass, 8 points each for SR 25 @ Bourne Ave. ROW and SR 25 @ Bourne Ave. construction, 7 points for I-95 resurfacing.
- Green – MLK Streetscape and SR 307 overpass each were chosen 5 times, SR 25 ROW, SR 25 Construction and Edge Line Rumble Strips were each mentioned twice, other projects got one mention each.

At this point, Mr. Monahan, who had been called into the meeting to help clarify the status of the Truman Linear Park, confirmed that the project was not ready. He has been helping out the department of Public Works and Park Services, which is managing the project. Engineering services should be released next week. He believes all the properties are in public ownership but there are four different ownership entities. There was agreement all around that the project is not ready. It has gone through environmental review and has a categorical exclusion. Ms. Scott commented that she hasn't seen any of that. Mr. Monahan noted that GDOT signed off on it in 2004. It has not gone through the project development process. Ms. Scott confirmed that it will not make it for stimulus funding but the earmark funds are still there. Mr. Monahan noted that the earmark is not enough and they were hoping to get the difference from the stimulus money.

Ms. Wang asked about the status of the Riverwalk projects on Hutchinson Island. Mr. Monahan noted that Riverwalk Slip 1 had been authorized and then de-authorized.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the candidate projects for ARRA funding as amended on page one of the table noting that the discretionary grant column is just a place holder for projects that don't currently fit in elsewhere. Anderson St. and Gwinnett St. curve reconstruction projects will move from GDOT project column to the MPO sub-allocation project column, and the City of Savannah will look for a replacement project for the GDOT candidate list.

TCC action: the motion to endorse the candidate projects for ARRA funds as amended on page one of the table, noting that the discretionary grant column is a place holder for projects that don't currently fit in elsewhere. Anderson St. and Gwinnett St. curve reconstruction projects will move from GDOT project column to the MPO sub-allocation project column, and the City of Savannah will look for a replacement project for the GDOT candidate list.

A discussion of city signal projects followed. If federal funds are requested, it must be in the GDOT program.

The projects that are being deleted from the TIP are not being deleted from GDOT's work program. Mr. Thomson clarified that these are projects that are not funded and need to be deleted from the TIP in order to balance the TIP.

It was moved and seconded to delete the projects listed on page two of the spreadsheet and return them to their original programming status prior to the ARRA.

TCC action: the motion to delete the projects listed on page two of the spreadsheet and return them to their original programming status prior to the ARRA carried with none opposed.

C. Endorsement of the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to update of the transit financial information

The update includes the ARRA funding, corrections of past funding amounts, and incorporating JARC and New Freedom rollover funds from previous years.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to update of the transit financial information.

TCC action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to update of the transit financial information carried with none opposed.

D. Endorsement of Board authorization to begin process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Thomson reviewed the 4 projects to be amended:

- Diamond Causeway Widening Project: Mr. Mote reported that in order to get the Skidaway Narrows Bridge replacement done the environmental document must be approved. The environmental review advises that wetlands impacts are best mitigated in the alignment of the current bridge, thus this alignment would not be used for a future parallel bridge that the widening would require. The National Marine Fisheries holding up the bridge replacement until they see that it is on the agenda for MPO to consider deletion of the project.
- SR 204 Widening Project: This is to pull out an operations project for an interchange project at SR 204 and King George Blvd. The result will be two projects – an interchange project and the SR 204 corridor project.
- Study of Interstate 3 Project: Mr. Mote noted that this project is a SAFETEA-LU earmark. The study will be managed by FHWA, but the study has not begun, nor has a consultant been selected. The funds for the study must be shown in the LRTP and the TIP in order for the funds to be authorized when FHWA is ready to begin the study.
- New rail tie-in project to the Georgia Ports Authority Mason Intermodal Container Transfer Facility: this is being funded by a Port earmark and other Port funds

It was moved and seconded to endorse Board authorization to begin process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse Board authorization to begin process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan carried with none opposed.

E. Endorsement of the MPO priorities for development of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Thomson wants staff to re-evaluate this further and recommends that this committee revisit this in June. There was no action taken at this meeting. It was confirmed that there is time to postpone this action.

F. Endorsement of the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that staff has submitted this program to GDOT and FHWA fully aware that they will be amending this plan as early as June, due to expected funding changes at the state level. This plan meets the basic requirements so as to ensure funding on availability July 1, 2009. There are no dramatic changes in this UPWP from the previous year's UPWP. Mr. Wilkes noted that FHWA does not want the MPO to take any action without receiving and addressing comments from FHWA. If this can happen before the CORE Board meeting next week, then this will come before them for approval. Mr. Mote asked if this approval was delayed until June would it still meet federal requirements. Mr. Wilkes chose not to interpret federal requirements. Mr. Thomson asked if GDOT would process a contract if this UPWP was submitted without an MPO endorsement. Mr. Mote confirmed that the 2009 contract in effect now expires in August, so even if this was not submitted until June, there would still be time.

G. Endorsement of the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan

Ms. Wang explained that it is a requirement to update these plans in order to receive the funds for JARC and New Freedom. At this point she needs the committee to endorse the revisions to these two plans, noting that the revisions are of a "housekeeping" nature.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan as presented in the written report.

TCC action: the motion to endorse the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan as presented in the written report carried with none opposed.

H. Endorsement of the CORE Board resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and GDOT the study of a high-speed rail link between Savannah and Macon as part of the study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast

After a brief explanation of this resolution by Mr. Thomson it was moved and seconded to endorse the CORE Board resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and GDOT the study of a high-speed rail link between Savannah and Macon as part of the study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast.

TCC action: the motion to endorse the CORE Board resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and GDOT the study of a high-speed rail link between Savannah and Macon as part of the study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. Call for Projects for Job Access Reverse Commute Funding and New Freedom Funding

Ms. Jean Iaderosa reported on the requests that came before the selection committee:

- #2 West Chatham Route – CAT request for JARC funds
- # 6 Cross-town Route – CAT request for JARC funds
- Savannah Belles Ferry Service – CAT request for JARC funds
- Accessible Taxi Program – City of Savannah request for New Freedom funds
- Paratransit services beyond the ¾ mile fixed route – Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center request for New Freedom funds

Ms. Iaderosa reported that there were no problems anticipated with any of these proposals except possibly with the paratransit service request, because of uncertain local match. RDC is working with the City of Savannah, who agreed to provide matching funds for one year only.

IV. Agency Reports

All agency reports were postponed until the June meeting.

- A. CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation**
- B. CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee**
- C. Federal Highway Administration**
- D. Federal Transit Administration**
- E. Georgia Department of Transportation**
- F. Chatham County**
- G. City of Savannah**
- H. Chatham Area Transit Authority**
- I. Georgia Ports Authority**
- J. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport**
- K. Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center**
- L. City of Garden City**
- M. City of Tybee Island**

V. Other Business

No other business at this time.

VI. Other Public Comments

No other public comments were voiced at this time.

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business, the April 23, 2009 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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