

Voting Member Alternates

Sean Brandon
Enoch Dumas
George Fidler
Teresa Scott
Randy Weitman

Representing

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

Others Present

Michael Adams
Steve Cote
Bethany Jewell
Jane Love
David Moyer
Brad Saxon
Barbara Settzo
Wykoda Wang
Michelle Wright

Representing

MPO X
Reynolds, Smith & Hills X
MPO X
MPO X
GDOT X
GDOT - Jesup X
for MPO X
MPO X
GDOT X

Call to Order

Chairman Tom Thomson called the August 20, 2009 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Jane Love pointed out a correction made to the agenda since the Preliminary Agenda was distributed, regarding the date and time of a special meeting. The next meeting of the TCC will be on September 15, 2009 at 3:00 PM, not on September 11, 2009 as shown on the preliminary agenda.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the June 18, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee carried with none opposed.

- B. Amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program**
- a. Modification to project information for PI #522920 Back River Bridge replacement**
 - b. Addition of CAT Ferry Boat (ARRA Ferry Boat Discretionary Award)**

Ms. Wang reported that the first proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment is made at GDOT's request. The concept for the Back River Bridge replacement project has been changed from a 4-lane to a 2-lane bridge. The project description in the TIP needs to match the concept report before the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) can give GDOT approval. This revised concept plan also reduces the right-of-way purchase.

There remains the possibility of building an additional parallel 2-lane bridge, sometime in the future, thus providing a 4-lane crossing as described in the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

It was moved and seconded to endorse amending the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the modification to project information for PI #522920 Back River Bridge replacement.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse amending the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the modification to project information for PI #522920 Back River Bridge replacement carried with none opposed.

Ms. Wang then presented the amendment to include the addition of a CAT ferry boat. This new ferry will replace a 10-year old ferry. The funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is \$1,000,000. The total cost is \$2.3 million. CAT already has the \$1.3 million allotted. This is programmed for FY 2010.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to add the CAT Ferry Boat to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to add the CAT Ferry Boat to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. CORE Connections 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft

Mr. Steve Coté, of Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc. presented the status report on 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan update. The update is being done in two phases. Phase I is the Framework Mobility Plan. This will meet all SAFETEA-LU requirements and be ready for adoption in September 2009. Phase II is the Total Mobility Plan. This phase will go into greater depth on road projects, non-motorized projects as well as the transit vision. This phase is scheduled as an 18-month work program.

Mr. Coté listed the six major elements of the Framework Plan. The process is currently at the final stage – the draft plan which is now out for comment.

Technical data for the updated model was provided by GDOT. Staff has also reviewed safety issues and conducted public outreach. Mr. Coté reviewed the public meeting schedule. Project activities included the following: developed a vision, identified goals,

identified funding, determined priorities, developed recommendations, developed project list that is financially constrained, and identified projects that have alternative funding. The vision plan includes projects that couldn't be included in the financially constrained portion of the plan due to lack of funding.

Mr. Coté reviewed revenue and cost figures, noting that both are inflated to the year of expenditure.

The next steps in the process are public meetings or hearings at the Citizens Advisory Committee today, the Core MPO Board meeting on August 26, and the final Core MPO Board meeting on September 17.

Mr. Thomson noted that this plan has significantly less revenue in it than the current plan. He has also set aside an allowance for smaller safety projects and another allowance for non-motorized projects, thus making the highway portion even smaller. On the transit side, the money is coming in from federal, state and local funding to operate the current bus system. The vision plan includes projects that have fallen out since the last plan update and some projects from studies recently completed.

Mr. Thomson asked the committee to review the projects in the funded list and confirm that what is there should be there, and that nothing else should be on this list. He also asked the committee to review the projects listed in the vision plan and note if any of those projects should be on the funded list rather than the vision plan. If so, what should be removed from the funded list to make room for any new entries?

Mr. Randy Weitman questioned the funding figure for the SR 307 overpass project. The list shows \$14.5 million for construction, but he believes the correct figure is \$19 million.

Ms. Wang asked about the status of the Georgia Ports Authority and railroad "wye" project. Mr. Weitman said that the Port is working on agreement with GDOT on how the funding runs between the agencies. These two projects need to be added to the list of alternative funded projects since federal funding (earmark) has not yet been dispersed.

Discussion followed about inclusion of the Tybee bridges in the plan. Mr. Thomson is hopeful he can cover the cost of the study with MPO ARRA discretionary funds and that engineering costs can be included in the funded list for the 2035 LRTP, but he doesn't believe construction costs will fit into the plan. Construction costs for two bridges are estimated at \$63 million. It was suggested that they replace only one bridge, possibly the shorter one. Mr. Thomson said that some new information about lower cost estimates for other projects may allow funding for the preliminary engineering of the Tybee bridges. Otherwise Mayor Buelterman should suggest something to take out of the funded list in order to fit those in.

Mr. Mike Weiner said he would like to see funding for implementation of the Traffic Control Center, not just for planning of it.

There is money in the second tier for improvements that result from Project DeRenne. The amount of funding will likely not be enough, but the project concepts are undetermined at this time.

Ms. Wang questioned whether the revenue for each time band matches the costs for each time band.

Ms. Teresa Scott questioned several PI numbers and clarified what number was for what project. Numbers in question were PI#522880, PI#0008241 and PI# 0006699.

Mr. Weiner commented that projects on Skidaway Rd., Coffee Bluff Rd., and Eisenhower Dr. may be totally redesigned to be smaller projects, i.e. intersections, sidewalks, etc. These then could be covered in the Operations/Safety set-aside, or maybe covered with SPLOST funds.

Ms. Scott indicated that PA#562165 (Dean Forest Rd. widening) is ready for letting. Discussion followed about removing it from the Vision Plan, since it is almost accomplished. Ms. Wang noted that the current TIP has only \$5 million for this and not the \$26 million required for construction.

Mr. Will Ingram from Hunter Army Airfield mentioned the Abercorn Ext./King George Blvd. project and DeRenne Ave. project as being of particular interest to the base.

Mr. Thomson emphasized that this is only the Framework Mobility Plan, which is the first step. The total Mobility Plan will address detailed concepts, the Vision Plan, the streetcar component, and the non-motorized/pedestrian component. All of this should be underway by December and will be the follow-up to this discussion. The next meeting will be September 15, 2009 at 3:00 at which time they will consider endorsement of the plan.

IV. Agency Reports

A. CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

No report at this time.

B. CORE MPO 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. Scott asked for questions from the floor. Ocean Hwy. project has been awarded. She confirmed that the two Gulfstream-related projects have submitted concept reports for approval.

F. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Enoch Dumas reported that CAT is reviewing bus stop locations along their busiest routes and removing some for operational improvement. This will conserve energy and speed up the service time. This has occurred on the Waters Ave. route. The Abercorn St. route will also be reviewed. Ms. Teresa Brenner asked about the proposed elimination of the Washington Ave. bus stop on the Waters route. It is used by a blind bus rider. Mr. Dumas said that the change was re-considered and will not be eliminated. Ms. Brenner asked that when CAT officials are reviewing the bus stops they consider sidewalk accessibility. Some bus stops are hindered by trees and other obstacles making it difficult for sight-impaired passengers to navigate safely. Mr. Dumas said that CAT will standardize their bus stop signage. Mr. Weiner suggested referring to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Mr. Thomson asked if CAT staff was noting sidewalk deficiencies as they reviewed the bus stops. Mr. Dumas said they might end up with some helpful information they could share.

G. Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia

No report at this time.

H. Chatham County

No report at this time.

I. City of Savannah

Mr. Weiner reported that the City has a list of approved ARRA projects and they are now coordinating with GDOT on the next steps. All of these projects will follow processes of the National Environmental Protection Act.

J. City of Garden City

No report at this time.

K. City of Tybee Island

No report at this time.

L. Georgia Ports Authority

Mr. Weitman reported that business continues.

M. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Mr. Fidler reported there is some light construction on the airfield underway using ARRA funding and regular funding. The airport is going to do minimal repairs on Gulfstream Rd./McKenna Dr. It is not their road but it affects the airport and is currently in poor condition.

V. Other Business

Mr. Thomson reminded all that if they have any certified ARRA projects, the deadline for obligating funds is March 2, 2010.

VI. Other Public Comments

No other public comments at this time.

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business, the August 20, 2009 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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