



**Voting Member Alternates**

Pamela Bernard  
Sean Brandon  
Enoch Dumas  
George Fidler  
Adam Kirk  
Bob Scanlon  
Teresa Scott

**Representing**

Chatham County x  
City of Savannah x  
CAT x  
Savannah Airport Commission x  
Savannah Bicycle Campaign x  
City of Savannah x  
GDOT – Jesup x

**Others Present**

Michael Adams  
Kimberly Davis  
Jane Love  
Barbara Settzo  
Wykoda Wang  
Louis Wilson

**Representing**

MPO x  
West Savannah x  
MPO x  
for MPO x  
MPO x  
West Savannah x

**Call to Order**

Mr. Mark Wilkes called the December 10, 2009 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**II. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the October 15, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee.

**TCC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee carried with none opposed.**

**B. Endorsement of the 2010 CORE MPO Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Wilkes presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2010. Mr. Jason Crane explained that Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) representatives from Atlanta would have difficulty attending a 3:00 PM meeting of the CORE MPO Board due to furloughs and travel time. It was suggested that staff make another round of calls to see if 1:30 PM would be an acceptable time for the CORE Board meeting. The proposed time for the TCC meetings was satisfactory.

It was moved and seconded to approve the CORE MPO meeting schedule subject to the resolution of the GDOT conflict with the 3:00 PM CORE Board meeting time.

**TCC Action: the motion to approve the CORE MPO meeting schedule subject to the resolution of the GDOT conflict with the 3:00 PM CORE Board meeting time carried with none opposed.**

### III. Status Reports

#### A. Project DeRenne Update

Mr. Sean Brandon reported on the progress of Phase 2 of this five-phased project. On December 3, 2009 the consultants presented two alternatives to deal with the two main challenges. Most of the traffic coming from I-516 wants to get to Hunter Army Airfield or to points south via White Bluff or Abercorn. The problem is worse in the evening hours with traffic heading towards I-516 from the south. DeRenne Avenue suffers from the expectation to serve in two different roles. As the end of the interstate, it is being used as a highway, but it is also the beginning of residential neighborhoods and institutional facilities such as hospitals and schools.

The two alternatives are:

- Intersection improvements – additional east-bound lane on DeRenne Ave., terminating as a right-turn only lane onto White Bluff Rd. Pedestrian refuge islands would also be added at intersections. This option improves congestion somewhat, but does not solve the main problem of flow from I-516 to the south and vice versa.
- Boulevard option – This is the preferred option. It would create a flyover from I-516 for direct access to the Army base and to Hampstead Ave., which would be transformed into “Poplar Place Blvd.,” with sidewalks, landscaped median, and tree canopy. The current alignment of Montgomery Street would change making it a grid street connecting straight to Hampstead Rd. (Poplar Place Blvd). At the eastern end of the boulevard, it would curve southward to join with White Bluff Rd. This realignment of Montgomery St. would allow strengthening of neighborhood character and connections for Poplar Place and University neighborhoods and would give the base a direct entrance from I-516. But this option requires approximately six acres from the base. Working that out would be a long process. He reported that the consultant believes the critical location is the Hampstead Ave./White Bluff Rd. intersection. Once the traffic demand is reduced on DeRenne Ave., options increase for improving the rest of DeRenne Ave, for neighborhoods as well as pedestrian-friendly, commercial redevelopment. A great deal of compromise went into reaching this solution. This plan will go before city council and the county for endorsement in February.

Mr. Will Ingram confirmed that this plan would have a significant impact on the base as well as for the local Savannah community. The base is committed to exploring potential solutions that may benefit all.

Mr. Brandon explained that the designers chose to widen Hampstead to the south in an effort to protect the homes on the north side. Since the charrette, many of the homeowners on the north side have come forward asking for a buyout and to be relocated in the interior

of the neighborhood. This would make it possible to widen Hampstead to north and free up land on the south side for Savannah Tech's future growth.

#### **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. Teresa Scott distributed her report and asked for questions. She confirmed that the Truman Parkway Phase V is scheduled for letting in January.

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked about the status of the SR 204 and Montgomery Cross Rd. bridges over the canals. Mr. Jason Crane commented that they are reviewing all projects, state-wide. One of those bridges is likely, but he doesn't know which one. Ms. Scott commented that she learned the City of Savannah is not ready to acquire the right-of-way on the Montgomery Cross Rd. bridge project.

It was confirmed that the funding for the Truman Pkwy. Phase V is not ARRA funding.

##### **F. Coastal Regional Commission**

Mr. Sadowski reported that the Coastal Regional Commission's new form for developments of regional impact (DRI) requires a lot more information, particularly about sidewalks and bikeways.

##### **G. Chatham Area Transit Authority**

Mr. Enoch Dumas reported that the contract with First Transit to operate Teleride will not be extended beyond December 31, 2009. CAT will assume the operation directly. The customer should see no changes in the operation, though it is hoped service will improve. He also confirmed that service provided by Coastal Regional Coaches has already begun.

## **H. Chatham County**

Ms. Pamela Bernard distributed a written report. She confirmed that letting for the Truman Pkwy. Phase V is scheduled for January 22, 2010. Right-of-way acquisitions for the Whitefield Ave. widening should be completed by April 2010. This deadline is important to ensure reimbursement from GDOT. Also, right-of-way plans are being developed for Bay St. widening for approval hopefully by January 2010, but definitely by March. This deadline is important to stay on track for ARRA funding.

## **I. City of Savannah**

Mr. Mike Weiner reported on the progress of on-going city projects:

- Gwinnett St. widening – revised concept plan was approved and they can now move forward on finalizing the environmental document which should be completed shortly.
- Traffic signal at Chatham Pkwy. and Southern Blvd. – complete
- Traffic signal at Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy. & Benton Blvd. – expected to be operational by February 2010
- ARRA projects – field plan review was just done; scheduled to be let in February 2010. This includes the signal pre-emption, audible pedestrian pushbuttons, pedestrian countdown signals and LED signal upgrades.

## **J. City of Garden City**

No report at this time.

## **K. City of Tybee Island**

No report at this time.

## **L. Georgia Ports Authority**

No report at this time.

## **M. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport**

Mr. George Fidler reported they are moving forward with infrastructure improvements to open and develop additional property.

## **V. Other Business**

Mr. Wilkes reported that staff is moving forward with the paperless communications for these CORE MPO meetings. He reminded all that in the future they will receive an e-mail notification when the meeting agenda and supporting documents are ready for them to access through the MPO website. There will be no more mailing of paper meeting documents unless one specifically requests it.

**VI. Other Public Comments**

No other public comments at this time.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the December 10, 2009 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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