

Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	x
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Michael Adams	MPO	x
Paul Brown	City of Savannah, Intern	x
Steve Coté	Reynolds, Smith & Hills	x
Habte Kassa	GDOT	x
Jane Love	MPO	x
Opio Mashariki	Savannah State Univ., student	x
Jessica Mayfield	MPO	x
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	x
Wykoda Wang	MPO	x

Call to Order

Chairman Tom Thomson called the June 18, 2009 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

There was discussion on a variety of miscellaneous issues not included in the agenda.

Mr. Thomson requested some clarification of the agreement for lighting at I-95 and I-16. Is there one agreement between Pooler and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) or three agreements (with Pooler, Savannah, and Chatham County). Mr. Brandon believes there is one agreement between Pooler and GDOT and that Pooler will make separate agreements with Savannah and Chatham County.

Mr. Thomson distributed a memo & letter regarding funding for Truman Pkwy V.

Mr. Thomson announced that Vance Smith will be the new GDOT Commissioner, effective June 25, 2009.

Mr. Wilkes reported receiving an e-mail letter from Angela Alexander stating that PL contracts would not be signed by July 1, 2009, nor did she know when contracts would be ready. When Mr. Wilkes spoke with Mr. Kyle Mote, Mr. Mote indicated that even without a contract the MPO would be authorized to charge against the new contract. This would alleviate the "gap" problem and prevent a shutdown.

Mr. Thomson reported that Senate bill 200 creates a new division and director of planning within the Georgia Department of Transportation.

II. Presentation: Regional Travel Demand Model as part of CORE Connections 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan development

Mr. Habte Kassa, from Georgia Department of Transportation, gave this presentation, showing the modeled performance of the transportation roadway network for 2006 base year, 2035 "do-nothing" alternative, and 2035 "existing + committed" alternative. The next

step is to add in remaining projects from the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program and from the state's Construction Work Program.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the April 23, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2009 Technical Coordinating Committee carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Tom Thomson referred the committee to page x of the Unified Planning Work Program draft where the text of the corrective action issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be added for the approval of the CORE board next week. MPO staff have been in discussion with FHWA staff about the reasons for the corrective action and how they are stated.

The corrective action is related to the MPO schedules for adoption of the Long Range Transportation Plan. He said that MPO staff is mainly concerned that the basis for the corrective action is stated accurately. The federal agencies will remove the corrective action based on satisfactory completion of the 2035 LRTP update and development of MPO processes to ensure planning documents are developed on schedule.

At the end, the corrective action states that if we are not on time with the 2035 LRTP then FHWA will withhold 20% of funds.

Mr. Thomson asked: "Will FHWA have submitted, during the comment period, all of its comments so that it will be adopted on September 17th and transmitted before September 22nd?" Latoya Jones, as representative of FHWA, responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Wilkes reported that staff has sent to FHWA the GDOT-recommended thresholds for the financial plan for this plan update for their comment. It was sent a week ago to Latoya Jones but he hasn't heard anything. He will re-send it. He would like to know if there are any concerns about the ranges.

Ms. Love concluded the staff comments by noting that the committee had reviewed the UPWP last time. Since then the only changes were the FHWA comments and some minor funding changes, based on new information.

Mr. Thomson noted that the UPWP is the document that lays out the planning program for our urbanized area. The tasks in it are generally broadly written tasks with best estimates of allocation of staff time and funds for implementing this planning program. Page 25 contains the chart showing the budget by funding source and task.

Mr. Wilkes noted that the contract process for the transit portion is different from the highway portion.

Ms. Jones noted that the MPO did not need to include the certification findings in the UPWP if they do not wish to. It is not a requirement. Ms. Jones confirmed that the PL contract cannot be extended; it ends on June 30th and then you cannot charge against the 2009 contract.

Mr. Thomson asked if the state could issue a letter of no prejudice so that the MPO can start charging on July 1 if the MPO doesn't have a contract with them.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY2010 UPWP, leaving it to the discretion of MPO staff to either include or exclude the summary of the corrective action as stated by FHWA.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the FY2010 UPWP, leaving it to the discretion of MPO staff to either include or exclude the summary of the corrective action as stated by FHWA, carried with none opposed.

- C. Endorsement of the requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan**
 - 1. New rail tie-in to the Georgia Ports Authority Mason Intermodal Container Transfer Facility**
 - 2. Amendments to PI 522870, PI 0002922, PI 0008840, PI 0009314 (projects related to SR 204)**
 - 3. Addition of Interstate 3 to the illustrative projects listing**

Ms. Love reported that the new rail tie-in project would be funded by a SAFETEA-LU earmark and Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) funding, meaning that this amendment would not take money away from any other projects already in the Plan. Staff report shows the location map, project diagram, and summarizes possible impacts. Mr. Randy Weitman noted that this project was a sister project to the Norfolk/Southern wye project. GPA is working through FHWA to get all the projects approved, but it still needs to be in the LRTP and TIP for GPA to use federal money. This is all Port-owned property except for a GDOT right of way and a Georgia Power easement.

The committee decided to endorse this amendment to both the 2030 LRTP and the FY 2008-2011 TIP with the same motion.

It was moved and second to endorse the amendment to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Plan so that both documents include the new rail tie-in to the Georgia Ports Authority Mason Intermodal Container Transfer Facility.

TCC action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Plan so that both documents include the new rail tie-in

to the Georgia Ports Authority Mason Intermodal Container Transfer Facility carried with none opposed.

In answer to a request for clarification from Ms. Wykoda Wang, it was noted that the project will be listed for construction in FY 2010.

For the proposed amendment for projects on SR 204, Mr. Michael Adams presented the requested changes. He referred the committee to the current map and the proposed map. The current map references four PI numbers. PI #0009314 is the corridor study; PI #522870 is widening from King George Blvd to Rio Rd.; PI #0008840 is advanced right of way (ROW) acquisition that goes with the widening from King George Blvd to Rio Rd; PI #0002922 is widening from Rio Rd to Truman Pkwy V.

The proposed changes are for PI #0009314 to be the corridor study with termini being Truman Pkwy V and I-95; PI #522870 and PI #0008840 will now be construction and ROW for an interchange project at SR 204 & King George Blvd; and PI #0002922 will now be for grade improvements on SR 204 from Forest River Bridge to Wilshire Blvd.

Mr. Thomson said that the corridor study (PI #0009314) should go the entire way from I-95 to Wilshire Blvd. Mr. Thomson would have it include an environmental document for the entire corridor.

Ms. Teresa Scott expressed concern about PI #0008840 for advanced right of way. She thinks it may be an earmark. She will investigate before the CORE board meeting next week.

It was moved and second to endorse the amendment to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan regarding project description changes for four projects along SR 204, specifically PI #0009314, PI #522870, PI #0008840 and PI #0002922.

TCC action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan regarding project description changes for four projects along SR 204, specifically PI #0009314, PI #522870, PI #0008840 and PI #0002922 carried with none opposed.

Regarding the proposed amendment for Interstate 3, Ms. Love referred the committee to a map illustrating a general route to be studied running from Savannah to Knoxville through Augusta. SAFETEA-LU placed an earmark for a feasibility study only; there is no funding for construction or any certainty that an interstate will be built. Because there is no funding for construction, this amendment will simply add the idea of the interstate to the illustrative listing, which is the unfunded projects.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the addition of the Interstate 3 into the illustrative project listing of the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

TCC action: the motion to endorse the addition of the Interstate 3 into the illustrative project listing of the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan carried with none opposed.

- D. Endorsement of the amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program**
- 1. Addition of CAT Transit Center project**
 - 2. Addition of new rail tie-in to the GPA Mason Intermodal Container Transfer Facility**
 - 3. Additional action on ARRA funding to provide for contingency projects**
 - 4. Requested amendments for SR 307 widening and US 80 interchange at Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy**

Ms. Wykoda Wang reported on the inclusion of the Transit Center into the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). CAT is requesting that this project be in the TIP just in case that is a necessary step for obtaining ARRA discretionary funds. If funds do not come, this project will need to be removed from the TIP. After discussion, it was decided that if it isn't awarded ARRA funds in September, the project will need to be pulled out of the TIP.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the CAT Transit Center project.

TCC action: the motion to endorse the amendment to FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the CAT Transit Center project carried with none opposed.

The addition of the new rail tie-in was endorsed earlier when it was endorsed for inclusion in the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Thomson explained that at the last meeting the board approved projects that would be programmed with stimulus funding. Since then Ms. Wang has continued monitoring whether the projects listed can really be committed. There could be dollar changes, or some of these projects may not be ready which could free up funds for some other project. He is proposing adding a number of projects as back-up projects eligible for stimulus funds in case one or more of the approved projects cannot move forward. The proposed back-up projects are SR 307/Bourne Ave right of way, the Statewide Railway Plan, and US 80 Toll Feasibility Study.

Mr. Thomson reported that all the MPO's in the state have been asked to participate in the statewide railway plan by contributing a portion of their stimulus funds to a statewide railway plan. Mr. Thomson is proposing contributing \$250,000.

Ms. Jones reminded the committee that the TIP must be fiscally constrained. The funding figure for the MPO's sub-allocation funding is now known so the projects must now equal the funding.

Mr. Thomson reviewed with the committee each project in Table 1 of the staff report. On the City of Savannah signal projects, GDOT has given project identification numbers but has not yet finalized these for ARRA funding. There was a discussion regarding the role of the

State Board of Transportation in the selection process for the MPO sub-allocation. Ms. Scott noted that GDOT gives the State Board of Transportation a list of projects that are eligible for stimulus. It was agreed that the projects need to be eligible, but it was also agreed that the MPO is solely responsible for selection of projects. At first, GDOT did not agree that the signal projects were eligible for ARRA funds because they weren't in the Construction Work Program, but now that they have PI numbers, that has changed. Thus there may not be any un-allocated ARRA funds for the so-called contingency projects.

Ms. Jones confirmed that if the MPO sub-allocation funds are not authorized by March 2, 2010, the money is gone.

Mr. Thomson withdrew this amendment as an action item at this meeting.

Mr. Thomson reported the results of a meeting with the County Chair and County Manager of Effingham County regarding Effingham Parkway and how it affects Chatham County.

The last proposed TIP amendment in the agenda deals with swapping out the funding from the widening of SR 307 to the Jimmy DeLoach Interchange as US 80. This change would then use local funds for the SR 307 widening and use federal funds for the Jimmy DeLoach interchange. Ms. Scott noted that contracts between GDOT and the county already exist. GDOT would need to approve a change in funding code ahead of time.

TCC action: It was decided to delay taking action on this amendment until more information could be gathered.

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

Mr. Thomson noted the difficulty with priorities when a first priority project is unfunded due to high project costs, but a third priority project could be funded due to lower costs. Mr. Randy Weitman pointed out that the Georgia Ports Authority has a project that could be funded now but it is tied to a third priority project which is unfunded, thereby tying his hands even though the port has funding for its project.

TCC action: Mr. Thomson withdrew this item from the action items. He asked the committee members to think about what the policy model should be for determining 1st, 2nd, and 3rd priorities and send their notes to Mr. Thomson. Mr. Thomson will set up a meeting for all interested parties to try to work through this issue of setting a priority policy model.

IV. Status Reports

A. Development of the CORE Connections 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

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 Plan. This will meet all SAFETEA-LU requirements and be ready by the

September 22, 2009 deadline. Phase II is the Mobility Plan. This phase will go into greater depth. It is expected to be completed in December 2011.

Mr. Coté highlighted the steps of the plan noting that currently he is working on the needs assessment and funding constraint components of the plan.

Mr. Thomson anticipates that many projects will be dropped from the update due to costs. He hopes to include in the update a Transit Vision Plan and explore reasonable possibilities for funding.

Mr. Coté went on to highlight outreach activities that included a stakeholder meeting and a public meeting in June and will include another round of similar meetings in July. He anticipates a public comment period in August. Mr. Coté's presentation included results from the initial outreach meetings and a statement of the seven goals for the update.

V. Agency Reports

A. CUTS Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

No report at this time.

B. CUTS Citizens Advisory Committee

No report at this time.

C. Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Jones reported that a representative from Federal Highway Administration would like to present to the CORE Board the Certification Review findings. It was agreed to do this at the October 2009 meeting.

D. Federal Transit Administration

No report at this time.

E. Georgia Department of Transportation

No further report or discussion at this time.

F. Chatham County

No report at this time.

G. City of Savannah

No report at this time.

H. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Mr. Enoch Dumas reported that today is a fare-free day all day long. The new fare begins on June 28, 2009.

I. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

J. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

No report at this time.

K. Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center

Ms. Tricia Reynolds reported that Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center will have a new name, Coastal Regional Commission, as of July 1st. By the next meeting they will have a regional transportation assessment.

L. City of Garden City

No report at this time.

M. City of Tybee Island

No report at this time.

VI. Other Business

No other business at this time.

VII. Other Public Comments

No other public comments at this time.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other business, the June 18, 2009 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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