



COASTAL REGION MPO

**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

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

December 3, 2015

3:00 P.M.

Voting Members

Charles Akridge
Toss Allen
Scott Allison
John Bennett, Jr.
Robbie Byrd
George Fidler
Caroline Hankins
Brian Harvey
Nick Helmholdt
Aries Little
Don Masisack
Nathaniel Panther
Representative, staff
Representative, staff
George Shaw
Thomas L. Thomson, P.E., AICP
Mike Weiner, P.E.
Randy Weitman
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP
Maggie Yoder

Representing

City of Bloomingdale
Effingham County
City of Richmond Hill
Savannah Bicycle Campaign
City of Pooler
Savannah Airport Commission
Town of Thunderbolt
City of Port Wentworth
Chatham Area Transit
GDOT – Planning
Coastal Regional Commission
Chatham County Engineering
City of Garden City
Town of Vernonberg
City of Tybee
Executive Director MPC, Chair
City of Savannah Traffic Engineering
Georgia Ports Authority
CORE MPO
GDOT – District 5

Present

x
x
x

x
x
x

x

Voting Member Alternates

Pamela Bernard

Representing

Chatham County

x

Others Present

Matt Bennett
Tamara Christion (telephone)
Jane Love
Tom McQueen (telephone)
Emily Ritzler
Stephanie Rossi
Wykoda Wang

Representing

GDOT
FHWA – Atlanta
CORE MPO
GDOT – Planning
Jacobs Engineering
CORE MPO
CORE MPO

x
x
x
x
x
x
x

Call to Order

Mr. Tom Thomson called the December 3, 2015 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Thomson noted that the final agenda differed from the preliminary one in the following ways: the request for authorization to begin amendment to the long range plan to add I-16 widening was added as an action item; the Participation Plan was moved from action items to discussion under other business because more discussion is coming up on December 8; the Title VI Program was moved from action items to status reports because the Participation Plan is part of that package and is not being considered today. Mr. Thomson proposed approval the agenda with an additional change: remove the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments from action today, as those will be discussed further and brought back later. It was moved and seconded to approve the final agenda with the removal of the FY 2015-2018 TIP amendments.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the agenda with the removal of the FY 2015-2018 TIP amendments was carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

2. **Approval of the October 15, 2015 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Aries Little, of GDOT Planning, requested a clarification and additions to the minutes, including: note that the UPWP amendment endorsement was conditioned on MPO staff review of the budget tables and adjustment if necessary; in the I-16 ramp removal status report, note the question from City of Savannah staff about impact of a new street on a building and observation of busy school crossing on Gwinnett St.; in the Participation Plan status report, add request for additional workshop. It was moved and seconded to approve the October 15, 2015 minutes of the Technical Coordinating Committee with the changes.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the October 15, 2015 minutes of the Technical Coordinating Committee with those changes carried with none opposed.

3. **Endorsement of the 2016 TCC Meeting Schedule**

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the 2016 TCC Meeting Schedule.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the 2016 TCC Meeting Schedule carried with none opposed.

4. Endorsement of MPO Board Authorization to Process MTP Amendment for I-16 Widening

Mr. Thomson said he'd shared everything he knew when explaining that this item had been added to final agenda. It is a design/build project. GDOT proposes to move the MPO's urban attributable (M230) funds from Ogeechee Rd. project to this I-16 widening and replace with state funds on the Ogeechee Rd. project, thus having no net impact on the financial balance of the plan. A question was raised about project limits of the I-16 widening. The project description is the same as what is listed in the vision (illustrative) plan of the CORE MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). GDOT Planning will send more detail as soon as they have it. A motion was made and seconded to endorse MPO Board Authorization to Process MTP Amendment for I-16 Widening.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse MPO Board Authorization to Process MTP Amendment for I-16 Widening carried with none opposed.

III. Other Business

5. Review and discussion of the draft Participation Plan

Ms. Jane Love, of CORE MPO, reviewed the contents of the draft Participation Plan and the major differences between it and the currently adopted plan. This draft was sent out with the meeting package. Besides updating the references to committee structure and membership to reflect MPO reapportionment, the main changes were new measures of effectiveness and new processes for administrative modifications or amendments to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The latter were made to address what staff heard from TCC members at their August meeting. Staff was soliciting comments from the TCC on this section and any other part of the Plan, by putting this as a discussion item under Other Business on this agenda. There were no comments or questions. There was no discussion. Ms. Love said the endorsement of the plan had been postponed until February because GDOT requested an additional workshop about the MTP modification/amendment process, even though so far MPO staff had received no comments about the proposed changes to the process, which had been available for review by TCC and the public since late October. December 8 was the earliest date that MPO staff were available for the extra workshop. Ms. Love asked how many members plan to attend the additional meeting on the topic on December 8. GDOT, FHWA, Chatham County, and City of Savannah indicated plans to attend that.

6. Review and discussion of Scope for Road Diet Feasibility Study

Ms. Jane Love gave a presentation that explained why the study is proposed, defined the term road diet, gave examples, listed benefits, and noted the FHWA feasibility factors. TCC members received a copy of the draft scope of the feasibility study, a list of locations that offer potential based on current design and annual average daily traffic counts, and a copy of the FHWA feasibility factors. Discussion for TCC would focus on narrowing down choice of locations, identifying any desired data collection that might be missing from the draft scope, and whether to include public outreach at the end of the study in the case that physical feasibility looks promising. The other option would be to have the study focus only on the technical question and leave the outreach to be handled by road owner agency after

study, if needed. Mr. Thomson said he favored the latter option. Ms. Love described potential designs for the ideas that involve reducing the number of lanes. Regarding locations, Mr. Mike Weiner, of City of Savannah, said 37th Street should be ruled out because they have a lot of crashes, even fatalities, there, and certain improvements are already planned. Ms. Love said that these types of projects can improve safety and asked what kind of crashes. Many were angle crashes during left turns. She noted that a road diet would reduce the number of conflict points for left turns. Mr. Thomson said the group can move on to discuss some of the other locations. He asked Mr. Scott Allison, of Richmond Hill, and Mr. Toss Allen, of Effingham County, if they wanted to add any locations to the list. They said they don't have any to add at this time. Mr. George Shaw, of Tybee Island, suggested East 52nd Street, which provides one of the few ways to cross Truman Parkway. Ms. Aries Little, of GDOT Planning, asked if the locations on the list overlap any congested segments from the Congestion Management Process. Mr. Thomson said they would check. Ms. Love noted that this item is not on the MPO Board agenda, because this is a collaborative discussion among staffs at this stage. MPO staff will set up another collaborative meeting to focus more on this scope.

IV. Status Reports

7. I-16 Flyover Removal Update

Ms. Emily Ritzler, of Jacobs Engineering, gave an update, as the Interchange Modification Report (IMR) is being wrapped up this month. She reviewed two options being analyzed in the IMR that will eventually be sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Both options propose additional access at US 17/Oglethorpe Avenue. One option also proposes ramps coming down to intersect Cohen Street. Both options propose a street pattern in the area of the existing flyover similar to the Civic Master Plan that was previously developed. The community meeting was held in October. Option 2, which doesn't have the Cohen Street access, is recommended. Very soon they will submit the draft IMR to GDOT and after that to FHWA. FHWA review is likely to take at least six months.

8. Update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Modification for Expanded Area

Ms. Jane Love, of CORE MPO, summarized the steps that staff and consultants had covered so far. This modification is to reflect the new areas of the Metropolitan Planning Area in an addendum to the adopted MTP. Some additional discussion of priorities with Richmond Hill staff had taken place since the last TCC meeting. A draft MTP addendum is currently in a courtesy 30-day agency review period with FHWA and GDOT. A public comment period is coming up.

9. Title VI Program Documents Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang, of CORE MPO, reviewed what items are included in the Title VI (anti-discrimination) program. Since the Participation Plan is part of the program and it will not be considered for endorsement until February, the Title VI Program also will be brought back in February.

V. Information Reports

A. Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Tamara Christion, of FHWA in Atlanta, noted that members were copied on an email from Andrew Edwards about the FY 2015-2018 TIP amendments that had been removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

B. Federal Transit Administration

No report at this time.

C. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Maggie Yoder reviewed status of projects on the GDOT handout. The bridge in Port Wentworth that was recently added to the program will probably show up on the report in February.

D. Member Governments

Effingham County: Mr. Toss Allen reported that their Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has discussed possibility of, or interest in, a T-SPLOST. The question on single-county or multi-county is still up in the air.

Chatham County: Ms. Pam Bernard reviewed the Chatham County projects on the handout. She noted that there is a Public Information Open House on the Truman Linear Park Trail project that afternoon and evening at Jenkins High School on East DeRenne Ave.

City of Richmond Hill: Mr. Scott Allison reported that they were almost finished with an extensive sidewalk project, to connect neighborhoods, schools, parks, and grocers/pharmacies. The railroad crossing was the biggest snag: the railroad wanted them to install a "pedestrian arm" at the crossing.

City of Savannah: Mr. Mike Weiner reviewed the projects on the handout, including Coffee Bluff Rd. sidewalk, intersection and signal improvements on Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Project DeRenne, and the Delesseps Ave. sidewalk and road project.

City of Tybee Island: Mr. George Shaw said that GDOT's Public Information Open House for the US 80 project in November was big. He thinks it will be a good thing. The shoulders will make a difference.

E. Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia

No report at this time.

F. Chatham Area Transit Authority

No report at this time.

G. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

H. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

No report at this time.

I. Savannah Bicycle Campaign

No report at this time.

VI. Other Public Comments

No comments.

VII. Announcements

There was no additional discussion of the announcement printed on the agenda.

VIII. Other non-agenda information for reference

There were no items.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business, the December 3, 2015 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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