



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

COASTAL REGION MPO

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

MPC Jerry Surrency Conference Room
110 East State Street

October 15, 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 Helmholtz
Aries Little
Don Masisack
Nathaniel Panther
Representative, staff
Representative, staff
Representative, staff
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 Tybee
City of Garden City
Town of Vernonberg
Executive Director MPC, Chair
City of Savannah Traffic Engineering
Georgia Ports Authority
CORE MPO
GDOT – District 5

Present

x

x

x

x

x

x

Voting Member Alternates

Pamela Bernard
Randy Dykes

Representing

Chatham County
City of Richmond Hill

x
x

Others Present

Karen Jarrett
Jane Love
Tom McQueen
Troy Pitman
Emily Ritzler
Stephanie Rossi

Representing

LATS MPO
CORE MPO
GDOT – Planning
GDOT – District 5
Jacobs Engineering
CORE MPO

x
x
x
x
x
x

Wes Sherrod	Effingham County	x
William Stewart	Chatham Area Transit	x
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	x
Bryan Wingate	GDOT – District 5	x

Call to Order

Mr. Tom Thomson called the October 15, 2015 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Thomson proposed that the status report on the I-16 Flyover Removal be moved to the top of the agenda so that the team could leave to prepare for the public meeting that evening. The motion to approve the agenda with that change was moved and seconded.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the agenda with the change to move the status report on the I-16 Flyover Removal to the top of the agenda was carried.

II. Action Items

2. **Approval of the June 18, 2015 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**

Since the TCC did not have a quorum in August, the June minutes remain to be approved. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written.

TCC Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2015 Technical Coordinating Committee carried.

3. **2040 MTP Amendments for two Bridge Replacement Projects in Port Wentworth**

Ms. Wykoda Wang, of CORE MPO, presented the staff report, describing the proposed shifting of some phases of the Houlihan Bridge project from Cost Band Three to Cost Band One and the addition of the Middle River Bridge phases into Cost Band One and Three. Her report concluded that there would be no negative impact on the financial balance of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) because the projects are bringing their own funding into the plan. Staff recommended TCC endorsement of the amendments. There was some discussion about whether both bridge projects were actually full replacements. GDOT staff said they would confirm when known. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the amendments.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the 2040 MTP Amendments for two Bridge Replacement Projects in Port Wentworth carried.

4. Amendments to the FY 2015-2018 TIP

Ms. Wang explained that, given the endorsement just passed for the MTP amendment, the TCC would now consider adding PE and ROW for the two bridges into the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP would remain financially balanced because funding is being added to the TIP to compensate for the costs of these phases of the projects. Staff recommended endorsement. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the TIP amendments.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the amendments to the FY 2015-2018 TIP carried.

5. Amendment to the FY 2016 UPWP

Mr. Mark Wilkes, of CORE MPO, reported that the proposed amendment involves carrying forward \$53,623 from the close-out of FY 2015 to include in the FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), so that the funds can be accessed. Staff recommended endorsement of the amendment. There was discussion about budget tables. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the amendment with the condition that staff would review budget tables and make any adjustments needed.

TCC Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2016 UPWP on the condition that MPO staff would review budget tables and make any adjustments needed carried.

III. Other Business

There was no other business.

IV. Status Reports

6. I-16 Flyover Removal Update

At the meeting, this item was discussed immediately after approval of the agenda. Ms. Emily Ritzler, of Jacobs Engineering, reviewed two options being analyzed in the Interchange Modification Report 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 mid-block on 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 with extensive outreach. Mr. Mike Weiner, of City of Savannah, asked about the new road that would connect from Gwinnett Street northward to the new street network – does it affect an existing building? Ms. Ritzler said yes, there is a building on the Housing Authority parcel. Mr. Weiner commented that the intersection of Gwinnett St. and May St. has a heavily used school crossing. Ms. Ritzler showed a chart of the differences in travel time of each option compared to the no-build. Differences were less than three minutes. A public information open house was being held later that day at the Civic Center.

7. 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 in Richmond Hill is scheduled with staff. Mr. Toss Allen confirmed that there are no projects needed right now in the very small amount of planning area within Effingham County. The MTP modification is expected to be wrapped up in February.

8. Participation Plan Update

Ms. Love reviewed what has taken place so far to update the Participation Plan. This included changes to reflect the new planning area and also changes to address comments from the most recent federal certification review. Staff also had incorporated suggestions heard at the CAC's and TCC's August meetings. At the time of this meeting, the draft was being reviewed only by the state and federal planning liaisons, prior to being shared further. Ms. Aries Little verbally shared some comments. The courtesy federal/state review period meant that no other TCC members had seen the draft yet. Ms. Love asked when Ms. Little would have the comments to her in writing. Ms. Little replied: "Since the 30-day review period runs until October 21st, she would send them on October 21st." Ms. Little suggested having a workshop to discuss the section about the process for administrative modifications and amendments to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Mr. Thomson and Ms. Love noted that the TCC had discussed members' desired changes to that process back in August and that the current draft already proposes a process that addresses the requests. Mr. Thomson said they could look at scheduling something.

V. Information Reports

A. Federal Highway Administration

No report at this time.

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.

D. Member Governments

Chatham County: Ms. Pam Bernard reviewed the Chatham County projects, including Pipemakers Canal, Truman Linear Park Trail, Benton Blvd., and Skidaway Rd.

Effingham County: No report at this time.

City of Savannah: Mr. Mike Weiner said that the City is working to improve the intersection at Crossroads Pkwy. and Jimmy Deloach Pkwy.

Richmond Hill: No report at this time.

E. Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia

No report at this time.

F. Chatham Area Transit Authority

Mr. Nick Helmholdt stated that CAT staff is working with others on the proposals for use of the state bond money.

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

Ms. Karen Jarrett, who is part of the technical committee for Lowcountry Area Transportation Study, the neighboring MPO in Bluffton and Hilton Head, SC, was present and reported that they are finishing their long range transportation plan and transportation improvement program so that they can access the transportation funds.

VII. Announcements

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

VIII. Other non-agenda information for reference

There was no additional discussion of the informational items that had been attached to the agenda.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business, the October 15, 2015 meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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