



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Virtual Meeting
August 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM

AUGUST 20, 2020 CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Charles Ackridge	City of Bloomingdale	
Scott Allison	City of Richmond Hill	X
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	
Caila Brown	Bike Walk Savannah	X
Matt Saxon	City of Pooler	
Ned Green	GDOT - Planning	X
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	
Troy Pittman	GDOT - District Five	X
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	X
Trent Long	City of Port Wentworth	X
Don Masisack	Coastal Regional Commission	
Peter Gulbranson	City of Tybee Island	X
Ashley Goodrich	Chatham Area Transit	X
Melanie Wilson	MPC Executive Director	
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Stephen Henry	City of Savannah	X
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Vacant	Town of Thunderbolt	
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	
Voting Alternate	Representing	
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County Engineering	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Others	Representing	
Wykoda Wang	CORE/MPO/MPC	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Leon Davenport	Thunderbolt Consultants LLC	X
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X???

Mary Mitchell	MPC	X
Bren Daiss	CAT	X
Vivian D Canizares	GDOT-Planning	X
Tom McQueen	GDOT-Planning	X
Jackie Jackson	MPC	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X
Asia Hernton	MPC	X

Mr. Mark Wilkes did the roll call at the beginning of the meeting to confirm quorum and attendance.

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the June 18, 2020 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes](#)

- ☛ [Final CORE TCC June 18, 2020 MINUTES.pdf](#)

Mr. George Fidler motioned to approve the June 18, 2020 TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Pamela Everett. The motion passed with none opposed.

[2. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Project Prioritization](#)

- ☛ [FY 2021-2024 TIP Priority Establishment Staff Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that the current TIP would expire on June 30, 2021 and the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP needed to be adopted to guide the project programming for the next several years. As a part of the early TIP development process, project priorities need to be established.

Ms. Wang suggested that for projects funded by revenues from funding sources other than Z230, HIP and Z301, those already included in Cost Band One of Mobility 2045 should be considered priority projects. They have gone through the two-screening prioritization process of Mobility 2045.

The MPO has authority to prioritize projects funded by urban attributable (Z230) funds, highway infrastructure program (HIP) funds, and transportation alternatives (Z301) funds. We did Calls for Projects for these funds back in February, all applications came in March, and then COVID 19 hit. The TCC members did score and rank the HIP projects as well as the Z230 and the Z301 projects. We are going to review these scores and ranking results at this meeting.

- For the HIP funds there were 3 applications. Tybee's US 80 Bridges Replacement and Chatham County's I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Pkwy tied as top 1 when we used rounded scores. When we used the two-digit scores, we can see that the I-16 project ranked a little bit higher.
 - I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Parkway ranked #1 at 54.43.
 - US 80 Bridges Replacement ranked # 2 at 54.00.
 - Garden City's signal project at State Route 21 ranked #3 at 44.43.
 Because of overlap in eligibilities, these projects applied for Z230 funds as well.
- For the Z230 funds there were 7 applications.
 - US 80 Bridges Replacement ranked #1.
 - I-16 at Jimmy Deloach ranked #2.
 - Garden City's Priscilla Thomas/State Route 21 signal project ranked #3.
 - City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center Ranked #4.
 - Chatham Area Transit's Electric Bus Conversion Initiative project ranked #5.
 - Chatham County's Old River Road improvement project which is not included in the Cost Band One of 2045 MTP ranked 6th.
 - The City of Pooler's Quacco Rd project was not eligible because it was not included in the financially constrained 2045 MTP. It ranked 7th.
- For the Z301 funds there were only 2 applications received, both from Chatham County.
 - Chevis Road improvement project ranked #1.
 - Gerard Avenue improvement project ranked #2.

Mr. Wilkes reminded the committee that these are initial priorities and will have to be discussed again in the future regarding how they will fit in the program of projects that fits the available funds. They will not necessarily end up this way in the TIP. Ms. Wang agreed and said that for example, City of Savannah is requesting Z230 funds for the Traffic Control Center project in Fiscal Year 2021 and Garden City is also requesting Z230 funds in FY 2021. However, there are already projects programmed with Z230 funds in FY 2021 based on previous Call for Projects like Project DeRenne and Delesseps Avenue. There needs to be a separate meeting dedicated on how to allocate the funds to the project/phases to a specific year. The City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center project may not get the Z230 funds in FY 2021. Garden City's signal project has already received the HIP funds for the preliminary engineering phase in FY 2021; therefore, it does not need Z230 funds. The I-16 at Jimmy DeLoach Parkway project also received HIP funds. These projects, even though ranked high, do not need Z230 funds in FY 2021 or FY 2022. Ms. Wang stated that a special called meeting would be held to discuss the funding allocation and project programming.

Mr. Nathaniel Panther asked for clarification on the HIP funds that have been approved by the CORE MPO Board and where they stand. Ms. Wang said the funds were awarded and allocated. Some of the funds went to Garden City's signal project and I-16 at Jimmy DeLoach project, but there are some extra funds to allocate. Tybee Island's US 80 Bridge Replacement project will receive some HIP funds as well. This project has been split into three projects.

Ms. Vivian Canizares stated the TCC and CORE MPO Board voted to program all the Z230 funds to Project DeRenne in FY 2021 and those funds are there. The next meeting will discuss where to allocate the remainder of the money. Ms. Wang stated that the Z230 revenue estimate in FY 2021 for the FY 2018 - 2021 TIP is around \$7,000,000 (matched). The total Z230 revenue projection for FY 2021 in the new FY 2021 – 2024 TIP is a little over \$5.5 million (matched). Thus there is less money in FY 2021. We would still like to allocate those funds to Project DeRenne. City of Savannah still wants to have the Right-of-Way funds authorized by June of next year. However, the less available Z230 funds in FY 2021 means the City of Savannah will have to come up with additional local funds.

Mr. Peter Gulbranson motioned to approve the TIP priority rankings; seconded by Ms. Pam Everett. The motion passed with none opposed.

[3. Amendment to the FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program](#)

[📎 cmp UPWP.pdf](#)

Mr. Wilkes stated that the proposed UPWP amendment is to revise the scope of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) which is included in the illustrative section of the FY 2021 UPWP. When the FY 2021 UPWP was initially adopted six months ago, it was anticipated that MPO staff would carry out the bulk of the CMP update effort in house, but anticipated that it would likely be desirable to acquire additional data. For that reason, a task was included in the Illustrative section of the FY 2021 UPWP for CMP data purchase.

Since the FY2021 UPWP, and the CMP update task were initially discussed by this committee last fall, CORE MPO has experienced several staff departures, including the CMP project manager. In order to maintain schedule, Mr. Wilkes was asked to pursue additional funding for consultant support for the CMP development. Toward that end, MPO staff is recommending adjusting the scope of Illustrative task I.4 – Congestion Management Process Update, shifting the scope from data acquisition to full consultant support on the project. Pending CORE MPO Board approval and authorizing resolution, staff would then submit an application to the GA PL Funds Review Committee in September for additional PL funds to perform the task with MPC providing the local cash match. The total cost estimate is up to \$200,000 federal / \$50,000 local, \$250,000 total. This change will need to be amended into the UPWP as an illustrative project, and a resolution of support from the MPO board is needed as well before the funds are requested. The action proposed to the committee today is endorsement to the CORE MPO Board of the amendment to the FY 2021 UPWP to modify the scope and budget of this Illustrative task I.4 – Congestion Management Process Update.

Ms. Canizares asked for clarification on this being the endorsement of revisions to this unfunded item to the UPWP. She also stated that in the rules there needed to be two rounds of meetings - today being an informational meeting and the next meeting being approval for a resolution. Mr. Wilkes acknowledged the two meeting rule which applies to the PL funding request, but noted that in the interest of staying on schedule, it was hoped that the initial UPWP discussions on this task in the Fall of 2019 could count as the first meeting.

Ms. Ann-Marie Day said that she was under the impression in the last meeting, when talking about the CMP, it was more discussion of “this is where we are”. FHWA’s rule states it needs to be presented as a special study and get endorsement from the committees prior to going to GAMPO. Ms. Day stated that with the audio issues Mr. Wilkes was having, it was very difficult for her and the Federal Highway side to even follow along in terms of what is going on with the CMP and therefore would not be able to make a decision. Ms. Day asked Ms. Wang for a summary for clarification. She also agreed with Ms. Canizares that this needed to go through two rounds of TCC and MPO Board meetings.

Ms. Wang stated that there was a discussion about CMP development about 6 months ago when Stephanie Rossi was still here. At that time, the scope was for data purchase. She further clarified that Mr. Wilkes would like to count the data purchase discussion as the first discussion meeting for the CMP update, making this time’s discussion on change of scope the second meeting.

Mr. Wilkes stated that if there needs to be another meeting cycle to discuss the project again before requesting funding from the GA PL Funds Review Committee, that isn’t a problem. The reason for bringing the matter up today was to try and hold to the original project schedule. This agenda item is the proposal to amend the UPWP to adjust the scope of the CMP from data purchase to full consultant support.

Ms. Day recommended moving this item out of today’s agenda, for there needs to be more discussion. She recommended starting this process over, making this the first discussion meeting on the project.

This item died for lack of motion.

[4. Resolution of Support for SR 307 Corridor Study](#)

🔗 [resolution-for-illustrative-project-funding-application-sr 307-8-26-2020.pdf](#)

🔗 [PL Funding Application for State Route 307 Corridor Study.pdf](#)

Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Panther gave a summary of the State Route 307 Corridor Study. Ms. Day clarified that they were just looking at the transmittal to GAMPO for the September round of funding application.

Mr. Panther stated they were looking for around \$200,000.00 of federal funds for the study. This will be a partnership between GPA, GDOT, and Chatham the County. The CORE MPO will be the contracting agency.

Mr. George Fidler motioned to approve the SR 307 Corridor Study Resolution; seconded by Nathaniel Panther. The motion passed with none opposed.

[5. Resolution of Support for Congestion Management Process](#)

🔗 [PL Funding Application for CMP.pdf](#)

🔗 [resolution-for-illustrative-project-funding-application-cmp-8-26-2020.pdf](#)

Mr. George Fidler made a motion to continue the Resolution of Support for Congestion Management Process to the next meeting; seconded by Mr. Nathaniel Panther. The motion passed with none opposed.

[6. Participation Plan Updates for Virtual Public Involvement](#)

🔗 [Participation Plan Updates Authorization.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang stated that the MPO’s Participation Plan needed to be updated to accommodate the virtual public involvement process due to COVID 19. Volunteers are needed to work on the plan update. Ms. Caila Brown offered to assist in the Participation Plan update especially relating to digital technology for public involvement.

Ms. Day asked if there were activities identified in the FY 2021 work program or any language for updating the plan. She wants to make sure the activities that are being done are consistent with what is in the UPWP. Ms. Wang stated yes, in the UPWP, Community Outreach and Education and periodic assessments of the CORE MPO Participation Process are included. There was no specific language to say we are updating the Participation Plan in this fiscal year. The last comprehensive Participation Plan update was adopted last August. COVID 19 was unforeseeable. Ms. Day recommended going back

and looking at the work program to ensure that there are specific work activities to do this to be consistent with the work that is being done and billed for. Ms. Wang stated the UPWP was adopted in February and COVID 19 hit in March. There can be an amendment, or an administrative modification made to add the specific language indicating there is an update for virtual public involvement due to COVID19.

III. Other Business

None.

IV. Status Reports

[7. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Development](#)

[📎 FY 2021-2024 TIP Development Schedule.pdf](#)

[📎 Savannah - Total HWY Funds 2021 -2024.pdf](#)

[📎 Savannah Detail - FY 21 - 24.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang gave an overview of the Development Schedule for the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP. The earliest the TIP can be adopted is December 2020 and the latest being February 2021. GDOT has provided the expected revenues and a draft project list, but specific programming is still being worked on. There will be a TIP Prioritization public meeting that will be held in conjunction with the CORE MPO Board meeting next week. There will be a meeting scheduled with all the local jurisdictions to discuss the projects and how to allocate the Z230, HIP and Z301 funds. After those meetings, a preliminary draft TIP will be developed so the FWHA, FTA, and GDOT may begin their 30-day review. A revised draft TIP will be compiled after incorporating comments from FWHA/FTA/GDOT and then the official 30-day public review and comment period starts which will be around November. The final adoption date would be around December 9th. The expected revenues for the next 4 years as well as the proposed project list were received from GDOT and are included as attachments to this agenda item. The transit planning funds that are included in the proposed project list will not be included in the TIP. CAT will provide their program for Section 5307, 5339 and others. For the project list that is being proposed, most of the information is consistent with the current FY 2018 – 2021 TIP. The difference might be US 80 Bridge Replacement to Tybee Island. It has been split into three projects. One is the Bridge Replacement at Bull River. A second is the Bridge Replacement at Lazaretto Creek. The third project is the Roadway in between. There will be a fourth project with the original PI number. It will be a line item to uphold these three projects.

[8. SR 21 Access Management Study Garden City](#)

Mr. Wilkes stated that the funds for the study were approved by the GA PL Funds Review Committee on March 30th. A letter of funding approval dated May 27th was received from GDOT. The funding contract is currently being developed by GDOT. The Memorandum of Understanding is being worked on with Garden City for the local matching funds. This will be presented to Garden City's City Council on September 21st. The MOU will go to the MPC as well. Once the MOU is approved and the funding contract is signed, the RFP will be released. A consultant will be interviewed late this year. The study committee will include Mark Wilkes, Ron Feldner, George Fidler, Caila Brown, Pamela Bernard, Cynthia Phillips, Joe Cappello, Troy Pittman, and Mr. Jordan with the school board.

[9. 2021 Update of the Chatham County - Savannah Comprehensive Plan](#) [📎 MPO Comp Plan](#)

[Process_Timeline_080520.pdf](#)

Ms. Jackie Jackson presented the report for the Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan. The MPC will be updating the Comprehensive Plan for un-incorporated Chatham County, City of Savannah, and City of Pooler. The Comprehensive Plan is the vision document for the community, a long-range document. This plan is called Plan 2040 because it goes out to the year 2040 for these jurisdictions. Community input and community feedback are required on each area of the plan. The focus areas are Housing, Economic Development, Land Use, Transportation, as well as Quality of Life. Quality of Life encompasses more areas with regards to Education and Public Safety, Natural Resources, Historic Resources as well as Broadband. Broadband is a new requirement we are looking at, to gauge whether everyone in the community at least has access to broadband. An important aspect of the Comprehensive Plan is that each jurisdiction must have an approved and adopted Comprehensive Plan to maintain Qualified Local Government (QLG) status that then allows the community to apply for programs, resources, and grants. Examples include CDBG funds, Environmental funds through GEFA,

Water and Sewer loans and One Georgia Authority funds which are for rural communities. The last full Comprehensive Plan update for unincorporated Chatham County and City of Savannah was back in 2006. There were later amendments done in 2012 and 2016. There are processes that the County has in place called the County Blueprint and the proposed Vision Savannah Plan. Both of those have goals and strategies that will be vetted and will then be incorporated into the 2040 Plan as well. The City of Pooler's Comprehensive Plan will now be included in this plan update. Natural Resources will be called out as a standalone chapter because of where we are in the coastal community. This is a huge asset we need to ensure we are protecting for the long term. Also included is a strategic plan and work program where the capital projects are listed out and identified. The Transportation focus areas include sustainability, resiliency, climate change, Sea Level Rise, and Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

The TOD is looking at development to be focused specifically around the urban centers or nodes where there are bus stops all within an easy walking distance or bicycling to important epicenters where people need to go. A big part of this plan update process is the public participation and ensuring public access to the plan. There will be online surveys, pop up discussions with neighborhoods and more. There is a deadline of October 31, 2021 for this plan to be adopted.

Ms. Day stated that there are a lot of resources available on the Federal Highway Administration website regarding resiliency, sustainability and other topic areas.

Mr. Feldner with Garden City commented about this historically being Savannah and Chatham County plan, and now Pooler is included. Has there been any consideration to bring Port Wentworth, Garden City, Bloomingdale, and others into the process?

Ms. Jackson has reached out to a few of these jurisdictions and they were already set up with consultants to do those updates. Bloomingdale is using the Coastal Regional Commission for their plan updates, which is a source for many of the communities. She would like to have everyone to be able to participate and do this together. Mr. Feldner would like Garden City to participate as well.

Ms. Canizares asked how the information for Land Use would be obtained. What is the approach to differentiate between residential and warehouse for future and existing uses? Ms. Jackson stated they would be working with SEDA (the Savannah Economic Development Authority) which has a lot of that information, as well as information regarding housing. Most of this analysis will be handled in house at the MPC.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

[10. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

📎 [GDOT Report - Aug 2020 final.pdf](#)

Mr. Troy Pitman presented the GDOT Status Report. Mr. Ned Green with GDOT Planning commented there were two projects that were approved this morning by the Board - the State Route 21 at Pricilla Thomas Way project and the I-16 at Jimmy DeLoach/State Route 17 project.

[11. Chatham County's Project Status Report](#)

📎 [August 2020 Chatham County Report.pdf](#)

Mr. Panther commented that by the end of September, Benton Blvd and Truman Linear Park Trail phase 2A both will be substantially complete. Mr. Wilkes asked if there was any discussion between the city and the county on truck restrictions. Mr. Panther stated the city passed the truck restriction on the roads. Ms. Wang asked when the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2A would be open. Mr. Panther said by the end of September it would be substantially complete.

[12. City of Savannah Project Status Update](#)

📎 [City of Savannah Project Status Update.pdf](#)

Ms. Wang asked if Project DeRenne's right-of-way funds can be authorized by June 30, 2021 and if DeLesseps' construction funds can be authorized by September of 2020. Mr. Davenport said the draft EIS for Project DeRenne is almost ready for the public process. There should be a public meeting (PIOH) at the end of October. This would keep the schedule of having the ROW funds authorized in late spring/early summer 2021. On DeLesseps, the ROW has been certified. The environmental has some archaeology reviews still going on. The 1625 should be submitted around September 4th.

[13. CAT Project Status Report](#)

📎 [CAT Status Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Goodrich gave updates for CAT. Ms. Wang asked about the funds that have lapsed. She further stated that there are more than \$6 million of flexed highway funds that need to be applied for and utilized by CAT. Mr. Goodrich said in July to August GDOT contacted CAT regarding FY 2017 Ferry discretionary funds. That project page will need to be updated in the TIP in October. The information was not received in time about the funds lapsing prior to this meeting. CAT staff were working with the State and FHWA throughout the month of August to try to get the funds flexed over but the deadline had already passed. Currently there is conversation going on about those funds between CAT and the GDOT planners. CAT is to have the numbers finalized prior to bringing the TIP modification forward. Regarding the flexed funds, right now, CAT has upwards to \$25 million in federal funding being worked towards obligation. The CARES funding has been obligated, which is around \$10.7 million. There are \$14 million of capital project and discretionary funds being applied for which include all the flexed Z230, M301 and M230 funding. Those are in final review at the Departmental of Labor with the FTA. The apportionment grant – the Section 5307, 5339, and the last apportionment - those are also in FTA review. They should be going to the Department of Labor by the end of the week.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

None.

VII. Announcements

[14. Next TCC Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[15. CORE MPO's Responses to GDOT's FY 2020 Title VI Questionnaire](#)

📎 [FY 20 Annual Title VI Questionnaire August 2020.pdf](#)

[16. August 2020 TIP Administrative Modifications 📎 TIP Administrative Modification 8-7-2020.pdf](#)

[17. USDOT/FHWA/FTA Reply to AMPO Letter](#)

📎 [COVID AMPO.Reg Relief.pdf](#)

📎 [COVID AMPO.Reply.pdf](#)

Ms. Day gave a brief statement of the AMPO letter.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 20, 2020 meeting of the CORE MPO TCC was adjourned.

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.