



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Virtual Meeting
December 3, 2020 2:00

DECEMBER 3, 2020 CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Charles Ackridge	City of Bloomingdale	
Scott Allison	City of Richmond Hill	X
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	X
Caila Brown	Bike Walk Savannah	
Matt Saxon	City of Pooler	
Ned Green	GDOT – Planning	X
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	
Troy Pittman	GDOT – District Five	
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
Bren Daiss	Chatham Area Transit	X
Melanie Wilson	MPC Executive Director	X
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	
Mark Wilkes	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Stephen Henry	City of Savannah	
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Molly Sims	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	
Voting Alternate	Representing	
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Others	Representing	
Sally Helm	MPC/CORE MPO	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Leon Davenport	Thunderbolt Consultants LLC	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Sean Brandon	City of Savannah	X
Christy Lovett	GDOT	X

Vivian Canizares	GDOT-Planning	X
Patrick Smeeton	Pond & Co.	X
Cody Jones	Savannah Board of Realtors	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Jackie Jackson	MPC	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Michelle Strickland motioned to approve the December 3, 2020 TCC meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. George Fidler. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. [Election of Officers](#)

Ms. Vivian Canizares nominated Ms. Pamela Bernard for the Chairperson. All in favor with none opposed, Ms. Pamela Bernard is the new Chairperson for TCC.

Ms. Wykoda Wang nominated Scott Allison for Vice-Chair for TCC. All in favor with none opposed, Mr. Scott Allison is the new Vice-Chair for TCC.

2. [Approval of the October 15, 2020 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes.](#)

📎 [october-15-2020-core-mpo-technical-coordinating-committee-meeting-tcc-FINAL.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang motioned to approve the October 15, 2020 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Michelle Strickland. The motion passed with none opposed.

3. [FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Adoption](#)

📎 [Revised Draft FY 2021 - 2024 TIP.pdf](#)

📎 [FY 2021-2024 TIP Adoption.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the Draft FY 2021 - 2024 TIP. The TIP is the MPO's short-range programming document. It covers 4 years of projects and includes highway, transit, non-motorized transportation improvements and lump sum projects. It's consistent with the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The TCC has been involved throughout the TIP development process, from the Calls for Projects, the Ranking of the projects, Evaluation, Scoring, to Allocation of HIP, Z230 and Z301 funds. A preliminary draft TIP was sent to FHWA/FTA/GDOT for review. The comments received are included in the revised draft TIP in Appendix D together with the MPO's responses. For the revised draft TIP there is a 30-day public review and comment period. Today is the last day. There have not been many comments received from the public. If any comments come in the rest of this week, we can still accommodate them. We are going through the committee process, and on target to have the TIP adopted on December 9th, next Wednesday.

TIP projects are contributing to achieving the performance targets. For the Highway we have Safety Targets which were adopted in October 2020. The performance targets for Congestion, Freight, Pavement and Bridges were adopted in August 2018. For Transit we have Transit Asset Management (TAM) targets which were adopted in August 2018 as well.

Safety Targets

- The safety targets include targets for Number of Fatalities, Number of Serious Injuries, Fatality Rate, Serious Injury Rate, and Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries.
- These are the State Targets we adopted. Since the state has the resources to collect data, they will do the reporting and then evaluate how effective the projects are in achieving these targets.

Pavement and Bridge Condition/PM2 Performance Targets - we want to have a higher percentage of interstate pavements, non-Interstate pavements, and NHS bridges (by deck area) in good condition.

System Performance/Freight Movement/CMAQ (PM3) Performance Targets – we have percent of person-miles on the Interstate system that are reliable, Percent of person-miles on the non-Interstate NHS that are reliable, and Truck Travel Time Reliability Index.

Transit Asset Management (TAM) Targets – Chatham Area Transit developed their TAM plan. Coastal Regional Commission joined the Statewide TAM plan for the rural areas. GDOT Intermodal Office developed the Statewide TAM plan. They set the TAM targets on the Rolling Stock, Equipment, and Facilities. When the MPO adopted the TAM targets in August 2018, we consolidated targets from both plans.

All the TIP projects are contributing to more than one performance measure.

- Project DeRenne will contribute to Safety, Congestion and Freight.
- US 17 Bridges Replacement in Port Wentworth will improve Safety, Pavement, Bridge and Freight.
- US 17 Widening project will be pushed back to 2025. When the TIP was developed, this was unknown. The information presented is based on previous timeline given by GDOT. Between GDOT and South Carolina this project will contribute to Safety, Bridge and Freight movement.
- Effingham Parkway contributes to Congestion Relief.
- Brampton Road Connector will facilitate freight movement and relieve congestion in the Port area.
- I-95 Widening and I-95 and I-16 Interchange Reconstruction will contribute to performance targets for Safety, Bridge, Congestion and Freight.
- Ogeechee Rd Widening is a freight corridor. The widening will help relieve congestion and improve safety.
- The US 80 Bridge Replacement has been split into three projects - Bridge Replacement at Bull River, Bridge Replacement at Lazaretto Creek, and roadway improvements between the two bridges. These projects will contribute to Pavement and Bridge performance targets as well as congestion relief.
- I-16 Interchange at Little Neck Rd connects to the Jimmy DeLoach Extension which will be a freight corridor. This project will have safety improvements as well as relieve congestion in the area.
- City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center involves signal coordination. This project has multiple performance measures including transit safety.
- Chatham Area Transit electric bus conversion will improve air quality, transit safety, and transit asset management.
- Old River Road Widening - with the roadway connecting to a warehouse industrial area, the project will contribute to freight. The widening will improve safety.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B contributes to safety. It provides an alternative mode for the bicyclists and pedestrians. It improves air quality by driving less.
- Chatham County's Chevis Road and Garrard Avenue Improvement projects will improve safety for the bicyclists and pedestrians as well as improving air quality.
- I-95 ITS project helps improve Safety, Congestion, Freight, Air quality, and pavement and bridge.
- SR 21, I-16, and Chatham Parkway projects are freight corridors. Each of these will contribute to Congestion and Safety as well as Freight.
- Lump Sum Projects vary and include Maintenance, Pavement, Safety, Grade Separation, and Warning Signs. These will improve safety.
- Transit Projects includes the Transit Operations, Transit Buses, Transit Asset Management, Water Ferry Service, and Paratransit Service. These will help improve the air quality, transit safety and transit asset management.

The total TIP investment is approximately \$572 million. The highway portion is approximately 90% and the transit portion is approximately 9.93%. The standalone non-motorized projects were not separated out. They receive funds from Z230 and Z301 and those are allocated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA funds are included in the Highway Percentage.

All TIP projects contribute to more than one performance target. Approximately 85% contribute to achieving Safety Targets, 82% relieve congestion, 74% facilitate freight movement, 68% contribute to pavement and bridges, 24% contribute to air quality improvements, and 10% contribute to transit safety and transit asset management. Overall, a high percentage of projects address all these targets. Each project addresses more than one performance measure. The TIP contributes to economic development of the Savannah Region.

GDOT sent in some additional comments today. Most of these comments are minor changes. The information included in the current TIP is whatever GDOT sent us earlier or whatever GDOT had on their website and does not include the information just received. Project-specific information was entered from the concept report.

Regarding the newly arrived comments:

- For the Bridge replacement in Port Wentworth, the new comment indicates that GDOT wants to delete the Utility phase since it is already incorporated into the Construction cost. Combining that won't change the numbers.
- For the Back River Bridge, Construction is not ready in FY 2021-2024, so GDOT is proposing to move this project to Long Range in the new comment. This project is \$1.6 million which will not impact the previous projections.
- The Effingham Parkway utility phase is \$229,370 instead of \$149,500. With part of this project being in Chatham County and part being in Effingham County, we need to make sure there is no confusion in funding. Not all of Effingham county is within the MPO boundary, so we can only include a portion of programmed funds in our TIP.

We ask the TCC to endorse the draft TIP to the MPO Board for adoption subject to the incorporation of the new program changes listed.

Mr. Mark Wilkes asked about the funding and the source of the comments for Effingham Parkway. Mr. Ned Greene stated this is just the updated cost increase for the Chatham County portion. Ms. Christy Lovett stated this is local fund, and it is the Utility phase.

Mr. Peter Gulbranson motioned to endorse the Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP, seconded by Mr. Trent Long. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Other Business

None.

IV. Status Reports

[4. FY 2021 Federal Certification Review](#)

📎 [2020-December MPO Cert Presentation.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the FY 2021 Federal Certification Review. This is the second presentation on the Certification Review. We will present to the committees every meeting cycle until the Certification process is completed in the Spring. This is a required review of the Metropolitan Planning Process every four years for MPOs with over 200,000 population. We are seeking public input on how the process works. The people involved include CORE MPO Board, TCC, CAC, ACAT, EDFAC, MPO Staff, Georgia Department of Transportation, CAT, Airport, Other governmental agencies, Interest Groups, FTA & FHWA as well as General Public.

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process is the framework by which transportation decisions are made and projects are planned, selected, and prioritized for implementation within the region. It establishes a framework for collaboration. The MPOs decide how a large part of the federal transportation funding is spent Nationwide. The process helps the MPO to prioritize regional needs and determine the best and most economical solution. It also provides the framework for the future transportation system.

We have been involved in this process for a couple of months now. We are currently working on the desk audit. This process has been ongoing since September. The planning documents have been forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration. We are currently answering a significant series of questions that will be submitted to them next Monday. This will be the last submittal for the desk audit prior to the site visit. The Site visit will begin on January 19th and run until complete, which could be the 21st. The Public meeting will be on the 19th. The final report will be filed no later than March 31, 2021. There will be a report back to the MPO once the report is developed by April 2021. There will be a newspaper ad going out in the next couple of weeks to begin the public comment period on the MPO process.

The last Certification Review was 2016. The last site visit was May 23-27, 2016. The Public meeting was May 23, 2016. Close out was May 27, 2016. The follow-up letter was received in November 2016. There were seven noteworthy practices 20 action items and 2 potential corrective actions. The Draft Certification Report was Provided by FHWA for review and comment on February 28, 2017. The Final Certification Report was issued on

March 31, 2017. With the two potential corrective actions having been addressed prior to issuance of Certification, the MPO has focused on the recommendations since 2017.

Ms. Ann-Marie Day stated the importance and value of the committee's role in the Certification Review process. There will be invitations sent out to some members of this committee as well as the CORE MPO Board inviting them to a listening session with Federal Highway, Federal Transit and GDOT to get their opinion on how the process is working, not working, what can be improved upon the process, and any recommendations on improving the process. She encouraged public comment and public participation.

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Call for Projects was a helpful recommendation from the last Certification Review. This has supported MPO staff and the TCC in structuring the TIP development.

5. Status of Recent CORE MPO RFPs

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the status of recent CORE MPO RFPs. Responses to the two RFPs for the SR 21 Access Management Study and the SR 307 Corridor Study are currently under review. There are 2 to 3 times the normal number of responses. If you are on one of the review teams, the remainder of the scores need to be sent in no later than Monday to avoid delay in the interview process. The tentative schedule for the consultant team interviews is next week, Thursday and Friday, and there may be a large number of interviews, depending upon the initial scoring breakdowns. The funding contract from GDOT is in place for the SR 21 Access Management Study.

6. Participation and Title VI Plan update progress

[PartPlan PresentationPDF.pdf](#)

[PartPlanTitleVI_Update.pdf](#)

[CORE MPO Participation Plan October2020 - V2PDF.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan update progress. The Participation Plan refers to our participation plan on public outreach. The update was necessitated by COVID-19 (not being able to do in-person outreach methods). Title VI refers to promoting equality and ensuring there is no discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, disability, language, or age group and ensure all groups are represented within the CORE MPO.

The first draft has been sent out for Federal and State review. We have received some comments back from GDOT. We are incorporating those comments and revising the draft. It is being presented to TCC, CAC, ACAT and the CORE MPO Boards for information and comment. There is a 45-day public review and comment period scheduled in January with a February adoption date.

For most of the Committees - TCC, CAC, ACAT, CORE MPO Board - the attendance increased during the pandemic. Speculation is that online meetings are more flexible and accessible for everyone. The commute is no longer a barrier for attending meetings. For the CORE MPO Board, even with one cancelled meeting, there has been higher attendance compared to last year. The CAC was the only committee to experience a decrease in attendance this year.

There is a voluntary Demographic Survey available online. This helps to ensure we are following Title VI and making sure there are no under representations by any group. We encourage everyone to take the survey.

Ms. Ann-Marie Day stated the Federal Highway did not provide any comments on the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan because they are currently reviewing the existing Participation Plan and Title VI documents as part of the certification review. Their comments will be a part of the Certification Review. If they have any recommendations, they will be submitted then along with a timeline to incorporate those recommendations.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

7. GDOT Project Status Report

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

Ms. Christy Lovett gave the GDOT project status report.

- The SR 26/ Ogeechee Rd is in the final plans. The ROW is ongoing.

- Effingham Parkway is on track for LET with ROW in June.
- SR 26 / US 80 at Bull River and SR 26 / US 80 at Lazaretto Creek Bridge replacements are getting scheduled.
- Brampton Rd Connector is in the final plans. LET is scheduled for 2021.
- CS 1097/Delesseps/LaRoche Ave - The money has been authorized.
- I-16 at I-95 Interchange Reconstruction – Design build is at 85%.
- I-16 at SR 307 operational improvement is still in Preliminary design.
- SR 25 at Savannah River in Port Wentworth is still in Preliminary Design.
- SR 25 @ Middle River in Port Wentworth is in Preliminary Design.
- SR 204 from SR 21 to Rio Road at 25 locations – Concept was approved.
- SR 404 Spur/ US 17 Back River Bridge and SR 404 US 17 NE of Savannah Harbor Pkwy Back River – the projects are still in the concept phase.
- I-16 at Chatham Pkwy – operational improvement with preliminary design ongoing
- SR 21 at SR 30 – Operational improvement with Final design ongoing. LET FY2021.
- SR 21 / SR 30 from I-95 to SR 30 – Operational improvement with Final design ongoing. LET FY 2021.

Ms. Pamela Bernard stated there was a study done of the I-16/Jimmy DeLoach interchange. It was determined that improvements were needed. The whole interchange will need to be redone. Some interim improvements were recommended by the study. GDOT elected to go with the roundabout rather than the traffic signals.

ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy – ongoing with modifications, roundabout being added at the I-16 ramps. There will be a study done in the area.
- Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement is 50% done with a Fall of 2021 completion date.
- SR 144 Widening is 75% complete.
- SR 25 at Pipemaker Canal is 95% with a completion date of Spring 2021.
- SR 144 at I-95 is 30% with a completion date of Spring 2021.
- SR 25/US17 from Bryan/Chatham County line to I-516 milling and plant mix resurfacing is 50% with a Spring 2021 completion date.
- SR 26 Bridge preservation is at 90% with Summer 2021 completion date.
- SR 21 from N of CS 590/Smith Ave milling, inlay and plant mix resurfacing is at 80% with Summer 2021 completion date.
- SR 30 from Effingham/Chatham County line to W of SR 21 milling and plant mix resurfacing is at 95% with Summer 2021 completion date.

[8. Chatham County Project Status Report](#)

📎 [December 2020 TCC Report - Chatham County.pdf](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard presented the Chatham County Project Status Report. For the Preconstruction Projects, the Pipemakers Canal Culvert Expansion project is being put on hold. There is a project with the railroad that is adjacent, and the two projects need to go hand in hand. There were some issues with the railroad and the costs of the project.

The Projects Under Construction - both the Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2-A and Benton Blvd Extension are substantially complete and open. The Quacco at US 17 Intersection Improvement is ongoing and scheduled to be complete in Spring 2021.

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

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

Ms. Michelle Strickland gave the City of Savannah Project Status update.

- Truman Linear Park Trail, 2B is in GDOT review awaiting approval of the Cultural Resources Assessment of Effects to submit final Programmatic Categorical Exclusion and complete the environmental phase.
- Project DeRenne held a Public Information Open House on November 10th. Comments from that are being compiled.
- Bid ads for the Delesseps Avenue Widening started last week.

Ms. Wang asked about the status on the letter being sent to GDOT Planning Director requesting to move the Z230 funds that are currently allocated to project DeRenne in FY 2021 to FY 2022 with the project. Mr. Leon Davenport stated they have not sent the letter at this time. There has been discussion with GDOT Planning regarding the letter. They need to schedule a meeting in regard to the project next week if possible.

[10. CAT Project Status Report](#)

📎 [FY21 Status Report 2020_12-CAT.pdf](#)

Ms. Bren Daiss gave the CAT Project Status Report.

- Electric Buses have been purchased. Some of these were being made in California. The wildfires have slowed this down. The estimated arrival is in the 1st quarter of 2021.
- Facilities Rehab/ Interior- RFP closing has been pushed to early January.
- ITS System contract has been awarded. The project is moving forward.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance and Facility & Ferry Dock- SHPO is working on the 106 review. Architecture and Engineering in progress.
- Ferry Boat Rehab - the Susie King Taylor is due to get upgrades. A&E are in progress. The bidding closed a couple days ago.
- Support vehicles purchasing - awaiting State contract award.
- Bust stations/stops/terminals - in progress.
- Operator barriers - installation complete.

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked about the FHWA Ferry Boat program. Does CAT want to program all those funds from the previous years into FY 2021 or just leave them as they are in the draft TIP? Ms. Daiss asked if we program them and flex them all over, once CAT starts spending the money, is there potential for all of the funds to lapse? Or if CAT starts spending, does the lapsing go off the table. Ms. Wang stated the lapsing amount and deadlines are different each year. The 2017 funds of \$600,000 will lapse in FY 2022. The 2018 funds will lapse in FY 2023. If CAT can spend what is allocated, they should be fine. Once CAT gets clarification, let the MPO know how to program the funds in the TIP. When the new TAM and Safety Targets are set, send those to the MPO as well for incorporation. Ms. Daiss stated the safety plan is going to the board for the December CAT Board meeting.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

None.

VII. Announcements

[11. Next TCC Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[12. Feedback Needed on Update to Comprehensive Plans for Chatham, Garden City, Pooler and Savannah](#)

📎 [OutreachPoster.pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the December 3, 2020 meeting of the 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.