



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

APRIL 14, 2021 at 9:30AM SPECIAL CALLED VIRTUAL MEETING
UPWP COMMENTS

APRIL 14, 2021 CORE MPO SPECIAL CALLED (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 | X |
| Matt Saxon | City of Pooler | |
| Ned Green | GDOT – Planning | X |
| Mark Denmark | Savannah Airport Commission | X |
| 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 | X |
| Teresa Concannon | Effingham County | X |
| Molly Sims | Town of Thunderbolt | |
| Vacant | Town of Vernonburg | |
| Voting Alternate | Representing | |
| Leon Davenport | City of Pooler | X |
| Others | Representing | |
| Sally Helm | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| Ann-Marie Day | FHWA | X |
| Asia Hernton | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| Katie Proctor | GDOT District 5 | X |
| Ansley Grantham | GDOT/Intermodal | X |

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|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Alicia Hunter | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| Tom Caiafa | GDOT - Planning | X |
| Wykoda Wang | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| Michelle Strickland | City of Savannah | X |
| Barry Stanton | City of Savannah/Traffic Engineering | X |
| Pamela Everett | MPC | X |

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Pamela Bernard motioned to approve the agenda; there were non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Review and Discussion of Draft FY 2022 UPWP](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program is the MPO's staff work program and budget for the upcoming fiscal year that begins on July 1st. This document includes details of the staff budget and work projects that the MPO will be carrying out in support of the federally mandated 3C (continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive) transportation planning process. It details the funding, the staff work, and the budget allocations among the different staff work projects.

There are two federal planning grants that come to the MPO each year by formula allocation through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) - the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) PL grant and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Grant. Both grants require a 20% local match that is covered mostly by MPO membership dues. This also includes the opportunity to use in-kind match, where committee members get credit for their jurisdictions based on the amount of time they spend in the MPO meetings and participating with things associated with the this. The GDOT match still exists in partial form for the FTA Section 5303 Grants. They pick up half of the local match (10%). The MPO pays the other half (10%). The funds in the formula grants can only be used for planning. Any funds not spent by the end of the year are forfeited. There is no roll over from one year to another.

The proposed FY 2022 formula planning funds total \$628,420. This includes formula PL grant of \$360,143 (federal funds) with a local match of a little over \$90,000, totaling \$450,178 for PL Grant. The Section 5303 grant is \$142,593 (federal portion). The shared match to this grant is \$17, 824 from the state, and the MPO will pick up \$17,824. The total transit planning grant is \$178,241.

The Discretionary PL funds are what becomes of unspent formula funds. The forfeited money is combined with unspent formula funds from other Georgia MPOs outside of Atlanta. This is pooled at the state level and the money becomes available twice a year through a competitive selection process. Currently the balance is \$4 million. Only \$1 million of that can be used for studies other than long range plan updates. The prioritization criteria that were set up for this money favors required MPO planning products.

The MPO has received several awards. Awards statewide have included a wide range of non-required plans and studies. Applications are screened by GDOT and Federal Highway Administration staff as well as the PL Funds Review Committee. Awards are approved by the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee. Each MPO has 1 voting membership on that committee. A 20% local match is required and provided by the project sponsor.

There is a smaller portion of discretionary Section 5303 grants. Those funds can be applied for on an annual basis. Plans and studies for this money must be in the MPO's UPWP. Those applications must be submitted by MPOs in December of each year.

In recent years, the MPO recently has received discretionary funding for:

- FY 2018 – I-16/Little Neck Interchange Study and I-95/Airways Avenue Interchange Study.
- FY 2020- Chatham Area Transit, (\$27,000) for purchase of software tools and data. There will be a similar request made in FY 2023.
- FY 2021 – SR 21 Access Management Study sponsored by Garden City and the SR 307 Corridor Study sponsored by Chatham County.

The UPWP development process began in the Fall of 2020. In October of 2020, the MPO issued a Call for Plans and Studies. The Call for Plans and Studies focused on the discretionary funds that are available in support of the member jurisdictions' planning priorities. The FY 2022 transit planning tasks were reviewed by the CORE MPO Board and Advisory Committees in October 2020. The FTA Section 5303 Grant Application was made in December 2020. The MPO staff developed the draft work program document between December and January of 2021. The draft UPWP was submitted to GDOT and FHWA for review and comment on January 8, 2021. The draft was originally submitted for the February 2021 CORE MPO meeting agendas. After substantial comments were received from the Federal Highway Administration, the document was continued from the February meetings and underwent redevelopment. The document will go back to the MPO later in April. The revised draft was published on the MPO website for review and comment on April 2nd. The MPO staff is projecting after the endorsement and adoption from the committees and board, the Federal Highway Administration approval process will take place prior to June 30th, 2021.

Priorities in the FY 2022 UPWP

- 2050 MTP update
- Congestion Management Process update
- MPO Freight Plan update
- SR 21 Access Management Study
- SR 307 Corridor Study
- Respond to recommendations in the Federal Certification Review
- Census 2020 Urban Area and MPO planning area boundary revisions

The work program has 5 major work categories.

Administration – day to day operations of the MPO and oversight of the planning studies, hosting meetings, training and development for staff, equipment and supplies, administering contracts and grants, development and maintenance of the UPWP and the Participation plan.

Public Involvement – community outreach and education, environmental justice, and Title VI planning.

Data Collection/ Analysis/ Forecasting – socio-economic data preparation, EJ analysis and transportation modeling.

Systems Planning and Operations -- Congestion Management Process, ITS, operations, livability and transportation alternatives, freight planning, intermodal planning, MTP plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.

Transit Planning – this section is funded by a separate grant and has its own administrative support and subtasks such as long range planning, short range planning, transportation improvement program as pertains to transit projects and MTP.

Special Studies – This is funded with discretionary planning money. Every fall the MPO staff issues a Call for Plans and Studies. The SR 21 Access Management Study and the SR 307 Corridor Study have kicked off this month. The MPO works with its members in helping get funding for qualified studies.

- Chatham County has proposed a SR 204 Study between King George Blvd and US 17, Islands Expressway Study between Truman Parkway and US 80, and the Old River Road Operational and Capacity Improvements.
- The MPC has proposed a Sea Level Rise Study.
- The MPO staff has proposed the purchase of transportation data and analytical tools.
- The MPO staff has been asked by GDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to update the Freight Transportation Plan. The MPO staff will potentially be proposing a transportation study that will be consultant-led. The staff will begin scoping studies with the EDFAC committee and the TCC committee to determine if additional support is needed to develop the Freight Transportation Plan.

The MPO staff is asking for comments from the committee.

Ms. Caila Brown stated she had some technical comments, such as name choices for things. She will email the list to the MPO staff.

III. Other Business

IV. Status Reports

V. Information Reports (verbal)

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

VII. Notices

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Pamela Bernard motioned to adjourn the meeting.

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.