



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Virtual Meeting
February 18, 2021 at 2:00 PM

FEBRUARY 18, 2021 CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

| Voting Members | Representing | Present |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Charles Ackridge | City of Bloomingdale | |
| Scott Allison | City of Richmond Hill | |
| 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 | 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 |
| 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 | |
| Alex Floyd | City of Richmond Hill | X |
| Leon Davenport | City of Pooler | X |
| Others | Representing | |
| Sally Helm | MPC/CORE MPO | X |
| Ann-Marie Day | FHWA | X |
| Barry Stanton | City of Savannah | X |
| Asia Hernton | CORE MPO/MPC | X |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Sean Brandon | City of Savannah | X |
| Tom Caiafa | GDOT/Planning | X |
| Ansley Grantham | GDOT/Intermodal | X |
| Katie Proctor | GDOT/ District Planning and Programming Liaison | X |
| Jessica Smith | Savannah Airport Commission | X |
| Andre Smith | GDOT/ Program Delivery | X |
| Alicia Hunter | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| Trang Mai | GDOT/ Rural Lead Planner | X |
| Wykoda Wang | CORE MPO/MPC | X |
| Michelle Strickland | City of Savannah | X |
| Pamela Everett | MPC | X |
| Temperance West | MPC | X |
| Julie Yawn | MPC | X |
| Chris Marsengill | Kimley-Horn | X |
| Leigh Cochran | General Public | X |
| Kerry Beiber | General Public | X |

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Leon Davenport motioned to approve the February 18, 2021 TCC meeting agenda with the following changes: Move item #3 - the approval of Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - to the April meeting. Seconded by Mr. Trent Long, the motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

1. Approval of the December 3, 2020 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes.

☉ [TCCdecember-3-2020-core-mpo-technical-coordinating-committee-tcc-Final.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to approve the December 3, 2020 TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Melanie Wilson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

2. Title VI and Participation Plan Update Endorsement

☉ [PP Adoption PDF.pdf](#)

☉ [Title VI Plan V10.pdf](#)

☉ [Participation Plan Vinfinit_1.pdf](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Title VI and Participation Plan update. There have been new outreach methods added focusing on distance outreach due to COVID - 19. There were survey methods created and sent out making it more accessible for the public to give input regarding the MPO. A demographic survey was released as well to ensure better representation throughout the CORE MPO. We are asking the TCC to endorse the updates to the plans which will eventually be adopted by the CORE MPO Board.

Ms. Melanie Wilson motioned to endorse the Title VI and Participation Plan Updates; seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion passed with non-opposed.

3. Approval of Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

☉ [FY 2022 UPWP Draft Final Reduced anh.pdf](#)

This agenda item has been moved to the April 2021 TCC meeting.

4. Revisions to FY 2018 - 2021 TIP

- [FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendments Staff Report February 2021.pdf](#)
- [2021-TAP TMA Letter-Savannah.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the Revisions to the FY 2018-2021 TIP. Ms. Wang stated that the FY 2021-2024 TIP was adopted in December but the new TIP does not become official until the Governor signs off on the STIP. As of now the FY 2018 – 2021 TIP is still the guiding programming document for fiscal year 2021. There is a one-year (2021) overlap in the current TIP and the new TIP. The updated project information was outlined in the new TIP at the December 2020 TCC meeting. We are asking for the TCC endorsement for the update to the FY 2018 – 2021 TIP for fiscal year 2021, trying to match the adopted FY 2021 – 2024 TIP.

There are two issues to discuss.

- The Transit portion - the FHWA Ferry Boat program funds are lapsing. GDOT needs to know if CAT would like to program all the funds into FY 2021 or leave them as they are now. Currently they are in different years. The federal portion is showing \$177,000 for FY 2021. The total amount of funds is approximately \$600,000.
- The Highway portion - there are lapsing TAP funds of about \$881,000 that need to be obligated by September 30, 2021. This information was not available when the FY 2021- 2024 TIP was developed. These funds were not written into the revenue projections. For FY 2021 the original Transportation Alternatives total revenue was \$552,000 with a federal portion of \$442,000. Some of these funds are programed for Chatham County's Gerard Avenue improvement project.

CORE MPO staff has coordinated with local project sponsors on how to use the newly available TAP funds. For Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B, TA funds were programmed for the construction phase in FY 2022. The City of Savannah is still going through the environmental process and will add a ROW phase. It is not feasible to authorize these funds by September 30th for the construction phase, so the City of Savannah declined to accept the additional TAP funds.

The Delesseps Avenue project for the City of Savannah had Z301 funds allocated that have been authorized. However, the bid came in with a higher number than the original cost estimate. Does GDOT want to allocate the additional TAP funds to this authorized amount? We are still in the 15-day public comment period for the TIP revisions, so changes can be made. If a decision is made by next Wednesday, we can revise the TIP update report and then report back to the CORE MPO Board. Since Z301 funds have already been authorized, would GDOT authorize adding to that amount some of the new TAP funds? Mr. Tom Caiafa stated there will need to be conversations with the project manager in regard to the funding for this project before any decisions or changes can be made. Mr. Ned Green stated he will check on the project.

Ms. Bren Daiss from CAT stated they are in correspondence with GDOT now trying to make the decision on where to move the \$178,000 that are lapsing.

Mr. Leon Davenport asked about using PE funds with the local jurisdictions, making sure the funds don't lapse. The Delesseps Avenue project is over budget. This project is in the process of being rebid.

Ms. Wang stated it's best to add these funds to the already existing projects. Chatham County's Chevis Road project - when the County requested TA funds during the Call for Projects, they only requested construction funds. They did not request TA funds for PE. Currently in 2021 they are using local SPLOST funds for the PE. Some of the \$800,000 can be allocated to the Chevis Road project to fund the PE phase. Ms. Pamela Bernard stated the County would like to do this.

Ms. Melanie Wilson asked about the City's project that connects to the Truman Parkway and the Truman Linear Trail, possibly allocating some of these funds to that project.

Ms. Bernard agreed that if Delesseps could use the funds, this would be the best place to put the money; if not, Chevis Road could use some additional funding.

Ms. Wang asked the TCC to endorse the proposed TIP revisions subject to the changes mentioned.

Mr. Leon Davenport motioned to endorse the Revisions to the FY 2018-2021 TIP subject to proposed changes; seconded by Ms. Melanie Wilson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[5. 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments](#)

📎 [2045 MTP Amendments Staff Report.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the 2045 MTP Vision Plan Amendments. The City of Pooler submitted 2 project requests to add to the 2045 MTP Vision Plan. These projects are in their Capital Improvement Program and they want to amend these into the 2045 MTP Vision Plan in the expectation they will get TSPLOST funds in the future. Eventually these two projects will be moved into the financially constrained 2045 long range transportation plan, making them eligible for federal funding.

- Pine Barren Road Improvements
- South Roger Street Improvements

This would be an amendment process. According to the Participation Plan, there are administrative modifications or one- or two-step amendments. The Plan states any added project should come from an adopted study accepted by the CORE MPO Board. This is the first time the MPO has been notified of these two projects, so we are proposing this as a one step amendment. We would like to reach out to other municipalities such as City of Savannah, Garden City, Tybee, etc. to see what other projects they want to include in the TSPLOST. Then the MPO will compile the full TSPLOST projects from all jurisdictions and have the amendments done in April.

Mr. Leon Davenport stated he was asked to compile a list from all the other municipalities in case the TSPLOST were pursued in the fall. He would make a list and send a copy to the MPO and copy all the municipalities.

Ms. Melanie Wilson motioned to endorse the recommendation to compile a full list of projects as well as the two mentioned earlier, Pine Barren Rd and South Roger Street Improvements, that will go into the Vision Plan in the April meeting; seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Other Business

[6. Priority Roadways & Routes for Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Study](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter presented the Priority Roadways and Routes for Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Study. This is an effort between Chatham County and the City of Savannah which analyzes the impact of Sea Level Rise on infrastructure. The intent of the study is to allow the City and the County to make informed decisions regarding infrastructure investments with the goal of increasing regional resilience to future conditions. We are seeking input from the TCC members on selecting priority roadways. In considering which roadway should be a priority, there are two categories to keep in mind. The first is "threats to life and health" - if access to the roadway effects the ability for people to receive emergency medical care. The second is "causing economic and social strain" - if access to the roadway effects the ability of people to get to work or drop off children, get to the grocery store, or cause delays in deliveries for companies and cancel meetings. Roadways that fall into these categories should be considered a priority.

Ms. Pamela Bernard mentioned Highway 80 going to Tybee. She also recommended talking to CEMA to see if they have recommendations. Mr. Mark Wilkes suggested sending out an email to the committee.

IV. Status Reports

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

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

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the FY 2021 Federal Certification Review. The virtual site visit was completed on January 19th and 20th. As of the closeout discussion there were no corrective actions. There was a list of approximately 18 recommendations, including Updating the Freight Plan which we will be discussing in the future meetings and Shortening the length of the meetings which we are working on improving.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked if there was a list of recommendations that could be viewed at this time. Ms. Ann-Marie Day stated she was in the process of writing the report. A full list of recommendations will be available for the committees to review, and she did not want to move the official certification date up, so the March 31st date is when the report will be available to view.

8. Status of Recent CORE MPO RFPs

Mr. Mark Wilkes presented the status of Recent CORE MPO RFPs. The MPC approval of the consultant contract for the SR 21 Access Management Study is expected next Tuesday. The GDOT funding contract is in place. The SR 307 Corridor Study started later; it is tentatively on the agenda next week for contract approval. That contract will not be able to be signed until GDOT executes the funding contract with the MPO.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

9. GDOT Project Status Report

[D5 Chatham MPO Project Status run on 12-4-20.pdf](#)

[GDOT - CORE MPO Report Feb 2021.pdf](#)

Mr. Troy Pittman gave the GDOT project status report.

- SR 26/ Ogeechee Rd is at 60% Environmental Activities, 70% Final Plans and still working on ROW acquisition. There is a slight delay in design. They had to make some changes to get off FEMA parcels.
- Effingham Parkway project plans are 95% complete. The ROW has been certified and the project is on schedule for LET in June.
- US 80 @ Bull River and US 80 @ Lazaretto Creek Bridge Replacements - both are at 50% environmental activities and 45% preliminary plans.
- Brampton Rd Connector is at 80% for environmental and 80% for final plans. They plan to hold FFPR in March. Still on target to have the project LET by the end of this fiscal year.
- I-16 @ I-95 Interchange Reconstruction and I-16 Widening to I-516 - both are at 90% environmental activities and 90% final plans with construction activity going on as well.
- I-16 @ SR 307 Operational Improvements is at 15% environmental activities and 25% final plans.
- SR 25 @ Savannah River and Middle River Bridge Replacements are roughly 75% and 80% for environmental activities, and preliminary plans are almost complete on the Middle River Bridge.
- I-16 @ Chatham Pkwy Operational Improvement is at 18% environmental activities with 20% preliminary plans. The environmental studies are on-going.
- SR 21 @ SR 30 Operational Improvements is complete and plans on schedule to be submitted this month with an April 2021 LET date.

ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- Jimmy Deloach Pkwy @ US 80 interchange and Jimmy Deloach Pkwy extension are 70% complete with Fall 2021 completion.
- Islands Expressway @ Wilmington River is 50% complete with Fall 2021 completion.
- SR 144 Widening in Richmond Hill is at 75% complete. Construction is to be complete late Spring/ Early Summer.
- SR 144 @ I-95 Roundabouts is 35% complete with Spring 2021 completion.
- SR 25 milling and resurfacing from Bryan/Chatham County line to I-516 is 70% complete with Spring 2021 completion.
- SR 26 @ 1 location & SR 404 Spur @ 2 locations Bridge preservation is 90% complete with Summer 2021 completion.
- 5.9 Miles of milling and resurfacing on I-516/ beginning at Mildred Street and extending west of RR tracks, construction has not started but plan completion date of Fall 2021.

Mr. Mark Wilkes asked on the I-516 - what are they going to repave with? Concrete or Asphalt? Mr. Pittman stated it is plant mix resurfacing asphalt.

Ms. Bernard asked if GDOT has any projects in the works, specifically I-95 @ SR 21 where the DDI was put in - was this just an interim improvement? Mr. Pittman stated there is a program PI number for that project; there are long-range projections for that location. There is a weaving issue coming out of Rincon, the improvements at SR 21 and SR 30 should help improve some of those operations through the DDI.

10. Chatham County Project Status Report

[February 2021 TCC Report - Chatham County.pdf](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard presented the Chatham County Project Status Report.

- I-16 at Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy Interchange will start PE this fiscal year.
- Chevis Road Improvements - waiting to be authorized and get PI number and PM assigned.
- Garrard Avenue Improvements - waiting to be authorized and get PI number and PM assigned.
- Quacco Road Widening project will be split to get the clearing done and then utilities so they can get the project out for bid for the construction phase.
- Little Neck Road Reconstructions plans are done; just waiting on ROW acquisition to start construction.
- Skidaway Road Improvements will have modifications done to the plans.
- Islands Expressway at Oatland Island Rd Operational Improvements plans are done and in the permitting phase.
- Walthour Road Slope Stabilization is in final design and permitting.
- Traffic Signal on Johnny Mercer Blvd at Lyman Hall is under design. There will be a ROW acquisition on this.

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Truman Linear Park Trail, Phase 2-A and the Benton Blvd Extension projects both are wrapping up and in the closeout phase.

Quacco at US 17 Intersection project - construction is underway and should be complete in Spring 2021.

[11. City of Savannah's Project Status Report](#)

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

Mr. Steve Henry gave City of Savannah's Project Status Report.

Project DeRenne - ROW final plan preparation is ongoing. The design consultant continues to work on the Final Environmental Impact Study. The ROD, transferring of funds due to Covid-19 related delay is underway.

Delesseps Ave. Widening only had 1 bid for the project and was approximately \$2 million over the project's estimated cost. They plan to re-bid next week. There were questions during the pre-bid that will be incorporated into the specifications.

Truman Linear Park Trail, 2B - the environmental phase is nearing completions. GDOT is adding ROW phase to the project.

Ms. Wang asked about the status on the ROW funds being transferred from FY 2021 to 2022 with the project for Project DeRenne. Mr. Davenport stated a letter had been submitted to the GDOT Director of Planning. It has been signed by the City Manager. The city is awaiting GDOT response.

[12. CAT Project Status Report](#)

📎 [FY21 Status Report 2021_CAT.pdf](#)

Ms. Bren Daiss gave the CAT Project Status Report.

- 6 Electric Buses were purchased with the first bus scheduled to arrive on March 15, 2021. The electric facilities mod is ready. The first couple will come every 6 weeks and then the next 3 will come starting September running through November.
- 34 Paratransit vehicles – estimated arrival in May 2021.
- Support vehicles – estimated arrival in April 2021.
- Intelligent Transit System is in the engineering phase with completion estimated for November 2021.
- Facilities Rehab/ Interior – Spring FY 2021.
- Ferry Boat Rehabilitation - IFB re-issued in February 2021.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility and Ferry Dock - A&E in progress.
- Bus Stations / stops / terminals - in progress.

[13. LATS Project Status Report](#) 📎 [US 17 Status Update 2-5-21.pdf](#)

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

Ms. Bernard stated now that Benton Blvd extension is open, they might want to consider re-stripping Benton Blvd Northbound at Jimmy DeLoach parkway for 2 thru lanes. Mr. Henry said they will set up a meeting to discuss this.

VII. Announcements

[14. Next TCC Meeting: Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[15. New Virtual Meeting Dates Announced for Input on the Update to Comprehensive Plans for Chatham, Garden City, Pooler and Savannah](#)

[📎 VirtualMeetingPoster_February2021.pdf](#)

[16. Demographic Survey](#)

[📎 Survey Monkey Demographics Link PDF.pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the February 18, 2021 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.