



## CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

June 17, 2021 at 2:00pm

### JUNE 17, 2021 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	
Bren Daiss	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	
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Robert Milie	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	
Voting Alternate	Representing	
Leon Davenport	City of Pooler	X
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
Pamela Everett	MPC	X
Others	Representing	
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Aviance Webb	FHWA	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
David Thompson	GDOT/Intermodal	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT/ District Planning and Programming Liaison	X
Alicia Hunter	CORE MPO/MPC	X

Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Julie Yawn	MPC	X
Kait Morano	MPC/Advanced Planning	X
Barry Stanton	City of Savannah/Traffic Engineering	X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County	X
Kerry Beiber	General Public	X
Rhodes Hunt	Kimley-Horn	X

## I. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Pamela Bernard; seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion passed with non-opposed.

## II. Action Items

### [1. Approval of the April 14, 2021 CORE MPO SPECIAL CALLED TCC meeting minutes.](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to approve the April 14, 2021 CORE MPO Special Called TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### [2. Approval of the April 22, 2021 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes.](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes motioned to approve the April 22, 2021 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Leon Davenport. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### [3. June Amendments to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP](#)

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated the CORE MPO Board adopted the FY 2021-2024 TIP in December of 2020. That is now referenced in the STIP which was signed by the Governor in May of 2021. The TIP is modified periodically to update the projects' schedules and cost estimates. The MPO received transit project updates from CAT in May that need to be incorporated. GDOT sent a confirmation letter to move the ROW funds for PI# 0008358 along with the City of Savannah requesting some schedule changes for Project DeRenne.

There were 4 proposed project updates, three being related to Project DeRenne where the Pandemic has caused delays in development. The fourth proposed update relates to various funding updates to transit projects.

Updates to Project DeRenne include the following.

- PI# 0008358, I-516 at DeRenne Avenue - move ROW funds from FY 2021 to FY 2022.
- PI# 0008359, East DeRenne from SR 204 to Harry S. Truman Pkwy - remove the ROW phase from the FY 2021- 2024 TIP.
- PI# 0010236, SR 21 From CS 346/Mildred Street to SR 204 - remove the ROW phase from the FY 2021-2024 TIP.

CAT proposed to move four projects from FY 2021 to FY 2022 due to some unexpected delays in the CAT facility modification projects.

- Facilities Modification under FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Funds which are for operating assistance and capital projects.
- Facility Enhancements under FTA Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facility Program Funds.
- Facility Rehab under FHWA flex funds.
- Facility Enhancements under FTA 5307 (h) Ferry Boat Discretionary Funds which are for ferry maintenance facility and rehabilitation.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked for an update on Project DeRenne. Mr. Leon Davenport stated the environmental impact statement is being reviewed at this time. There have been comments from GDOT that are now going to the Federal Highway Administration for review. The City of Savannah should still see a Record of Decision (ROD) for the project sometime in May of 2022, which will allow authorization of ROW funds in June of 2022. As mentioned above, the funding is moving over to the next fiscal year. The East and West DeRenne projects, which are PI#

0008359 and PI# 00100236, are moving out. The emphasis currently is to build the boulevard section. Then we move to the next two phases if funding is available.

Mr. Leon Davenport motioned to endorse the June Amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP; seconded by Ms. Bren Daiss. The motion passed with non-opposed.

### III. Other Business

#### [4. Discussion of Planning Studies for Application to the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee convenes twice each year, in late March and late September, to consider requests for plans and studies to be funded from the statewide pool of unspent PL funds from prior fiscal years. The planning studies are drawn from the unfunded illustrative section of the CORE MPO's UPWP. A Call for Plans and Studies is issued once a year, in the Fall. The MPO staff solicit local qualified project sponsors to submit proposals for planning studies. Previously the CORE MPO Board has prioritized 6 illustrative studies.

- Islands Expressway Corridor Study (from Truman Pkwy to US 80)
- Freight Transportation Study
- SR 204 Corridor Study (from US 17 to King George Blvd)
- Sea Level Rise Study
- Old River Road Operational and Capacity Improvements
- Transportation Data and Analytical Tools Purchase

Basic information on these proposed studies can be found on the CORE MPO website. Of these proposed studies, member agencies have requested PL funding to be pursued in September 2021 for the following studies.

- Islands Expressway Corridor Study, Chatham County
- Freight Transportation Study, MPC
- Sea Level Rise Study, MPC
- US 80 Corridor Study (from Western City Limits to Pooler Parkway), City of Pooler (new request)

The TCC committee will discuss the need for and potential scope of each study for which funding is being requested. There will be a minimum of two TCC committee discussions.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked about the number of studies that can be managed at one time. Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the TCC committee will be asked to prioritize the requested studies. There is uncertainty of the amount of funding available. This will be the first of two meetings to discuss prioritizing the studies.

For the Safety and Operational review of the Corridor of Islands Expressway between Truman Parkway and US 80, the scope would include traffic counts and traffic study, review of crash and safety data, potential for bike lanes, and a report with recommendations for operational and safety improvements. The total funds are \$100,000 with the county's 20% match of \$20,000. Ms. Pamela Bernard stated there have been several requests for bike lanes, there is a lot of traffic on the bridge going to the Islands, this being one of only two ways to get to the island. Mr. Leon Davenport expressed concern about the bikeways and the safety concerns. Ms. Caila Brown stated they have received several requests for a multi-use path along the bridge. With the potential for a bike lane there is also the opportunity to study a rail to trail. There is enough space for a fully separated multi-use path along most of the corridor. There is an existing bike lane on the section between Johnny Mercer and Bryan Woods. There are a few different segments. It would be providing people with an access off the Island into downtown.

The Freight Transportation Study will update the recommendations, policies, and infrastructure improvement of the freight transportation plan since its last update. This was a recommendation from the recently completed Federal Certification Review. The MPO staff will coordinate closely with GDOT, TCC and EDFAC. Ms. Wang and Mr. Wilkes stated the funds are available in the CRRSAA for studies, being 100% funded federally. The Freight Transportation Study is a proposal from MPO through MPC (the contracting agency). If PL discretionary funds are pursued, this study will affect the MPO dues if the match is built into the program.

The Sea Level Rise Study is another proposal coming from MPC. The Sea Level Rise Study would attempt to address the compounded effects of climate drivers such as Sea Level Rise, increasingly frequent extreme weather events, and other climate related phenomenon that are increasingly posing a threat to our critical infrastructure (roads, trails, transportation network). The objective of the study would be to allow the MPC to employ optimized planning strategies for transportation, regional infrastructure, and new developments. It would implement an urban flooding system model for the MPO that would cover the planning area, serve as a decision planning optimization tool, and create a framework for planning. A likely partner would be an academic institution

such as a major University. Ms. Pamela Bernard asked if everyone was aware of the Sea Level Rise Study that the County is doing with Georgia Tech, and will this be duplicating efforts at all. What kind of deliverable are being looked at from this study? Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the staff is aware of the County's study, but not aware of any duplications. The deliverable would be an urban flooding model to improve infrastructure planning and resiliency. The MPO boundaries go beyond Chatham County. Ms. Bernard mentioned they are not on the shoreline, and Effingham and Bryan are further inland as well. Ms. Wang asked if the project were approved and the PL discretionary or CRRSAA funds applied for, when the RFP is done for the Sea Level Rise Study, would this be advertised to only Georgia Universities or National Universities? Is there a central location to advertise this? Mr. Wilkes stated there would be project advisory groups for each approved study and they will refine the scope for each study.

The US 80 Corridor Study from the City of Pooler will require collection of traffic data and projections based on current land use. The data collection will be used to determine if the corridor will require safety and congestion improvements in the short term. The study will consider all forms of transportation including freight, pedestrian, bicycle movements, etc. The study will help Pooler to establish goals for the corridor and assist with planning short-term local projects and long-term projects through the CORE MPO. The total cost is \$175,000 with Pooler proposing to use partial in-kind match. Mr. Leon Davenport stated the study is looking at the two terminus points of Pooler Pkwy to Dean Forest Rd. If the in-kind match is not allowed by GDOT, Pooler will make the cash local match.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked for comments from the committee regarding the named projects.

Islands Expressway Corridor Study (from Truman Pkwy to US 80) - Mr. Leon Davenport wanted to make sure there was more information provided regarding possibly expanding the boundary and sharing local match with the jurisdictions included in the expansion.

Freight Transportation Study – there were no concerns or comments.

Sea Level Rise Study – Ms. Bernard stated she has concerns and would prioritize this project lower. Ms. Pamela Everett stated this project was a high priority for the MPC, and there is another project that is already being worked on as well. The MPC Executive Director has already spoken to Georgia Tech about working with them on the project.

US 80 Corridor Study – No concerns.

Volunteers for Project Advisory Committees:

- ❖ Islands Expressway – Pamela Bernard, Leon Davenport, Caila Brown
- ❖ Freight Transportation Study – Pamela Bernard, Ned Green, Ron Feldner
- ❖ Sea Level Rise – Caila Brown
- ❖ US 80 – Caila Brown, Pamela Bernard, Leon Davenport

## [5. Call for Projects for Z230 and CRRSAA Funds](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the proposed schedule and preliminary drafts for the Calls for Projects are attached to the agenda. The staff is asking the TCC committee for review and comments. The CORE MPO staff will revise the preliminary drafts to the final application packages based on final revenue estimates, federal and state regulations and TCC input.

The TCC will review and endorse the Calls for Projects application packages in August, which will then be presented to the CORE MPO Board for approval on August 25, 2021. We will announce the Calls for Projects after that and the application cycle opens. The applications will be due by September 30, 2021. In October the CORE MPO staff will pre-screen the applications for completeness and eligibility, and the TCC Committee members will screen and score the applications and send them back to staff. December 15, 2021 is the projected date that the MPO's FY 2021-2024 TIP will be amended for projects with awarded funds.

The Z301 funds are allocated. The HIP funds have a balance of about \$686,000. During the TIP development process, GDOT advised the staff to keep the HIP balance reserved for the US 80 Bridge Replacement at Bull River and US 80 Bridge Replacement at Lazaretto Creek. Regarding the Z230 funds, with Garden City not being LAP certified for the City's Signal Project, the Z230 funds awarded to the project will be re-allocated. GDOT has confirmed moving the \$2 million funding for Project DeRenne to FY 2022 with the project. There is a balance of \$900,000 in FY 2022, around \$3 million in FY 2023, and approximately \$6 million in FY 2024. Originally GDOT instructed to carry over the funds, so the \$900,000 can be carried over into FY 2022. Later this policy was

changed, so the \$900,000 in FY 2021 could now be carried over into FY 2023 and FY 2024; therefore, the revenue numbers for those years could change.

Some language has been added to the application manual requesting the project sponsors giving a status report bi-monthly. If they fail to report, being unresponsive, they would then be at risk for the next round of Call for Projects. The LAP certification language was added for the eligible sponsors - the local project sponsor must be LAP certified by GDOT to administer the federal funds.

The CRRSAA funds are like Z230 funds. The eligibilities of projects are alike. These funds need to be obligated by September 30, 2024. CORE MPO will receive around \$2.1 million in these funds and there is no local match required. GDOT confirmed that these funds can be used for transportation studies or planning studies. The planning studies will be scored separately from the projects. However, the total points of both systems are the same (total of 85) for easy comparison and final selection of projects/studies.

Mr. Leon Davenport stated that he disagreed with a penalization of entities that are not reporting the way they should. The only way he would support that was if the Federal Highway Administration were mandating it. The LAP certification language should only apply to a jurisdiction when they are applying for funds in that fiscal year. If the project is three years out, those jurisdictions have time to get the certifications in place. Garden City is waiting on their paperwork to be approved by GDOT now. Pooler is going through their certification now. Mr. Wilkes stated the acceptance of a jurisdiction submitting documentation that they were in the process of becoming LAP qualified is fine. The committee is in agreeance to this. Mr. Davenport stated if PE funds are authorized toward a project, they do not have to be LAP certified.

#### **IV. Status Reports**

##### [6. Discussion on Socioeconomic Data Development Process 2050 Plan Update](#)

Ms. Kate Morano stated the MPC/MPO staff has started having internal discussions about what socio-economic data is needed to run the travel demand model for the MTP. A lot of the data sources in the development guide that GDOT publishes have not yet been published by the census. The census is publishing their 2020 redistricting file which has population and housing occupancy and group quarters, in late September of this year. The census is publishing further information at some point and time in 2022. For the American Community Survey 5-year data, which is also listed as a potential data source in GDOT's data development guide, the next iteration is not being published until December of 2021. It is possible a commercial data source would be needed. The staff will know more once the data in September comes out.

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the MPO staff will not know until next summer what the MPO boundary for the plan update will be.

##### [7. Truck Restrictions Mapping](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated this is a recommendation from the EDFAC committee. The committee has asked the MPO staff to map out where trucks are restricted in the MPO region. There are 3 layers - truck restrictions on the functionally classified roadways, restrictions on the local streets (mostly in the City of Savannah), and the third layer to map out where there are truck load restrictions. Some municipalities have 6000 lb. and some 10,000 lb. restrictions. At this morning's EDFAC committee meeting GDOT advised the staff to use this data in the freight plan update, identifying the roads traveled that have restrictions while crossing into another jurisdiction, and comparing the truck percentages vs. the truck restrictions.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the staff has data for the streets that are restricted within Chatham County. There are a few roads from Bloomingdale and Pooler shown with restrictions as well as in Downtown and Midtown Savannah. There is only one location on Tybee Island. Effingham sent data on which streets allow freight. It is broken down by functional classification, local road, major collector, minor arterial, minor collector, and mixture. One street is a mixture between a local road and ended as a major collector.

##### [8. Freight Transportation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated this is a recommendation from the Federal Certification Review. The MPO staff is to update the Freight Transportation Plan. The preliminary draft for the scope of services includes the following.

Task 1 - Project Management and Coordination

Task 2 - Freight Needs Assessment and Analysis

- o update to existing and future freight movement assessment



- update the freight performance measures
- update the forecasting of future freight growth
- update the regional freight profiles and assessment
- update the freight network bottleneck and safety and security issues
- truck parking inventory and truck restrictions
- freight impact from emergencies
- freight needs assessment

Task 3 - Land Use Assessments and Analysis

Task 4 – Update to the economic Development Market Assessment

Task 5 – Update to the Environmental and Community impact scan and analysis

Task 6 – Recommendations for Future Land Uses Related to Freight and Goods Movement Needs and Forecasts

Task 7 – Final Recommendations – Identification of Improvements, Strategies, and Solutions

Task 8 – Final Report and Documentation – Freight, Goods, and Services Plan

The total cost for the Freight Plan Update is estimated at \$250,000. The MPO staff is asking for comments from the committees. The comments/input will be applied/incorporated prior to the next EDFAC committee meeting.

#### 9. Freight Data Needs Assessment

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated for the Freight Plan Update, freight data is needed. The MPO staff is looking at the FAF 5 data source which is free. Proprietary data might be used as well. The final analysis on data needs will impact the final cost of the study, depending on what data will be used.

Ms. Alicia Hunter stated having new and accurate data will help identify the transportation/freight needs. The sources that are included are publicly available and will assist in analyzing demand, commodity flows, network performance, and infrastructures. The MPO staff is asking for additional comments or suggestions.

#### 10. Project Tracking

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the project tracking is a recommendation from the CORE MPO's Federal Certification Review. The tracking is for the Z230-, Z301-, and HIP-funded projects. The TCC committee discussed at the April meeting about developing a standard template file for project tracking. The Chairperson for the TCC committee has sent the MPO staff a draft template. The MPO staff revised and refined the template and filled in some known project information. The project tracking file has been sent to project sponsors to get updates. Chatham County does not have any issues getting the funds authorized and spent. CAT is still in the process of applying for and using the \$6 million funding that had been authorized and flexed. The City of Savannah has problems with getting funded projects done.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked about having someone specific to be able to contact for each project.

Mr. Barry Stanton stated he would get the information for the projects from the City of Savannah to the MPO staff. Ms. Wang stated there are funds for Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II-B in FY 2022 that need to be obligated, authorized, and spent. Project DeRenne funds are being moved to FY 2022 for ROW. The DeLesseps project is in the bidding process and more details are needed.

#### 11. FY 2021 UPWP Budget Adjustments

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the budget adjustment request was done at the end of the FY 2021 UPWP based on needs and expected staff work to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. GDOT requested that at the end of the fiscal year, the UPWP summary funding table and the funding tables under work tasks be revised to reflect the final budget adjustments to facilitate the final PL and TR contracts close out. The budget adjustment request has been approved by GDOT.

#### 12. SR 21 Access Management Study Status Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated the project kickoff meeting was held on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The first Project Advisory Group meeting was held on May 13, 2021. There is a project webpage developed. There is an online survey that has been published. A WikiMap has been published. The first public meeting was held virtually on May 25, 2021. The recording is available online. There was a day long road safety audit conducted on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Most of the issues listed were related to maintenance. There is also a list of 3 signals that are likely to go in at various locations. Some of the flush median between those signals in certain locations where there were accident patterns did suggest that it may be feasible to look at possibly closing the median at certain locations. There will need to be more detailed accident information provided.

## V. Information Reports (verbal)

### [13. GDOT Project Status Report](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked about the Effingham Parkway Project - who was the low bidder on this project? Mr. Troy Pittman stated the project has been LET but the award has been deferred because the funding is in FY 2022. He is unsure what the low bid was, but it should be posted. The Brampton Road project was scheduled to LET in May, with FY 2021 funding. There have been some delays with the plans and utility issues, so this will be LET in August (still using FY 2021 funding).

### [14. Chatham County Project Status Update](#)

Ms. Pamela Bernard stated there are several preconstruction projects.

- I-16 at Jimmy Deloach Pkwy is still pending. It has not yet been awarded to a consultant. Proposals have been scored but not released. The PFA is completed and executed.
- Chevis Road - Request for Proposals is due in today by 5 pm.
- Garrard Avenue - Request for Proposals for design will go out next week.
- Quacco Road Widening Project is wrapping up ROW acquisition. It should move to construction soon.
- Little Neck Road reconstruction ROW acquisition is starting soon.

Projects Under Construction

- Quacco at US 17 Intersection project is substantially complete. The final inspection was done last week.

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

Mr. Barry Stanton gave the City of Savannah's Project Status Report.

- DeLesseps Avenue project contract will be brought before council for approval on the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Traffic Control Center – project manager and project number have been assigned to the project. Preparation for procurement of a design build is ongoing.
- DeRenne Avenue – The environmental schedule was pushed back three months due to required amendment. Authorized ROW funding was shifted from FY 2021 to FY 2022. Final plan preparation is ongoing.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II B – Environmental phase is nearing completion. ROW is about to begin.

Ms. Wang asked about the Traffic Control Center funds in FY 2021, pending authorization. Will they be authorized by June 30<sup>th</sup>? Mr. Leon Davenport stated there is a project manager and PI number assigned. Per discussion between the project manager and GDOT, they have indicated they are moving the funds to FY 2022. Ms. Wang asked if a TIP amendment needs to be done. Mr. Davenport stated the funds would need to be moved but we would need to hear back from Stephen Henry first. Ms. Wang stated if the money needed to be moved to FY 2022 with the project, there needs to be another project added into the TIP amendment list. A confirmation letter from GDOT is needed to move the money. Mr. Davenport said to go ahead and move the project. Mr. Ned Green from GDOT stated he has not heard anything about the project being moved. He will check into this and get back with the MPO staff.

### [16. CAT Project Status Report](#)

Report is attached to the agenda and available online.

### [17. LATS Project Status Update](#)

Report is attached to the agenda and available online.

## VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

None

## VII. Notices

- [18. The MPC is seeking comments on Plan 2040](#)

Mr. Mark Wilkes stated Plan 2040 is the comprehensive plan Jackie Jackson and her staff in the Advance Planning Department have been working on. Plan 2040 is now in draft form particularly with the transportation section. It is consistent with the MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan. The staff is looking for final comments. These comments need to be submitted within the next two weeks.

[19. Next TCC Meeting: Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 2:00pm \(Virtual Meeting\)](#)

### **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the June 17, 2021 CORE MPO TCC meeting 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.**