



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

August 18, 2022 at 2:00pm
Minutes

August 18, 2022 Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Charles Ackridge	City of Bloomingdale	
Les Fussell	City of Richmond Hill	X
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	X
Caila Brown	Bike Walk Savannah	X
Robby Byrd	City of Pooler	
Robert Caudill	GDOT – Planning	X
Jim Aiello	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT – District Five	
Scott Robider	City of Garden City	
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	X
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Stephen Henry	City of Savannah	X
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	X
Robert Milie	Town of Thunderbolt	X
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	
Voting Alternate	Representing	
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT District 5	X
Others	Representing	
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X
Joseph Longo	FHWA	X
Brian Kilgore	GDOT District 5	X

Julie Yawn	MPC/IT	X
Joe Shearouse	City of Savannah	X
Barry Stanton	City of Savannah	X
William Sedgwick	Chatham Area Transit	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA	X
Jackie Jackson	Chatham County	X
Tom Caiafa	GDOT	X
Rhodes Hunt	Kimley Horn	X
Aviance Webb	FTA Region 4 - DOT	X
Christy Lovett	GDOT - Planning	X
Chris Marsengill	Kimley Horn	X
Allen Blake	Chatham County	X
Rebecca Rolfee	Member of the Public	X
David Longwood	Member of the Public	X
Richard C.	Member of the Public	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Les Fussell motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Robert Milie. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the June 16, 2022 TCC Meeting Minutes](#)

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to approve the June 16, 2022 TCC Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion passed with none opposed.

[2. FY 2023 UPWP Amendments](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said there are three amendments in the report.

1. I-16 Exit Ramp Removal IMR Update – This is a City of Savannah project.

Federal portion \$240,000
Local match \$60,000
Total Project \$300,000

The benefits of the I-16 exit ramp removal would include reclaiming several acres of developable land, improving safety for all, improving traffic flow, etc.

The first round of discussions was held in June and we are conducting the 2nd round of discussions in August. After that, the study can be amended into the unfunded section of the FY 2023 UPWP, making it eligible to apply for several funding sources. The application deadline for discretionary PL funds is August 29th. The Y230 funds Call for Projects will start on August 25th with a deadline of September 30th. The City of Savannah is also wanting to apply for the Reconnecting Communities Program funds.

2. Chatham Area Transit received some award funding for a study to be included into the Transit Planning Tasks. This is an AAOP funded study. This is for FTA’s program funds for areas of persistent poverties. This study will help with connectivity to provide transit services to the low-income areas.

Federal portion \$400,000
Local match \$44,444
Total Project \$444,444

CAT is trying to get more information regarding this program before it is included in the Transportation Improvement Program.

3. We previously amended two studies into the UPWP - the US 17 Corridor Study and the Presidents Street Railroad Crossing Study. Chatham County would like to apply for either Y230 funds or discretionary PL funds for those two studies. Chatham County provided more information regarding the US 17 Corridor Study - the revised cost estimate for the study is approximately \$500,000. Previously the cost estimate was \$350,000. The amendment is to revise the cost estimate.

Ms. Caila Brown motioned to approve the FY 2023 UPWP Amendments; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with none opposed.

3. Authorize Study for 2045 MTP Amendment

Ms. Wykoda Wang said this is a request from GDOT. They would like to include the SR 404 Talmadge Bridge project in the TIP. The PE phase is approximately \$15 million in FY 2023. Construction Phase is \$175 million in FY 2024. This project cannot be included in the TIP yet because it is not included in the financially constrained 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). In order to include this project into the MTP, the financial plan of the MTP must be evaluated. We cannot include more projects than revenue allows. Further analysis needs to be done to see where this project could fit in. The first step of the MTP amendment is for the MPO to endorse/authorize further analysis. This will help us understand what this project is, what is involved, and how this will impact the financial balance in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. If the project can secure additional revenue, that will help. The findings will be presented at the next round of meetings.

Staff is asking the TCC committee to endorse further analysis.

Mr. Les Fussell motioned to endorse further study for the 2045 MTP Amendment presented; seconded by Ms. Michele Strickland. The motion passed with none opposed.

4. Non-Motorized Plan - Green Island Road Trail Amendment

Ms. Asia Hernton said for the Transportation Alternatives funding, bike and pedestrian projects need to be consistent with the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan to receive those funds. Chatham County is coordinating with the MPO staff to add the Green Island Road Trail project to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

The Green Island Road Trail Project is a proposed multi-purpose trail from Diamond Causeway to the end of Green Island Road. The project, which is located near the Landings neighborhood, will add two miles of trail to the existing trail on Diamond Causeway, and will link to neighborhoods and a commercial center. The design is to utilize "Complete Streets" criteria to enable safe, attractive, and comfortable access and travel for users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, golf carts and those with a disability. This enhanced connectivity will encourage non-motorized transportation alternatives and provide a better quality of life for residents.

Chatham County will incorporate this trail into the Public Works inventory and will manage and maintain the trail as it currently does on nearby Diamond Causeway. Swales and ditches will be managed and inspected as a part of the County's MS4 inventory. There are several benefits to this project.

- Health and Safety
- Accessibility/connectivity
- Environment

The total cost estimate is approximately \$3 million.

Ms. Pamela Bernard said the County is currently in the QBS process to hire a consultant for the preliminary engineering on this project.

Ms. Michelle Strickland motioned to endorse amending the Green Island Road Trail project into the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan; seconded by Mr. Robert Milie. The motion passed with none opposed.

5. Call for Projects for Y301 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funds

Ms. Asia Hernton said the CORE MPO will conduct a Call for Projects for FY 2023 – 2027 Y301 Transportation Alternative (TA) funds. The TA funding was most recently authorized by Congress in 2021 as a set aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The focus of Transportation Alternatives is to promote the feasibility of alternatives to motor vehicle travel, such as through bicycle and/or pedestrian projects. CORE MPO will start the Call for Projects in August 2022 to allocate the Y301 funds.

CORE MPO staff is asking for TCC endorsement for the Y301 Call for Projects manual, form, and schedule.

Ms. Pamela Bernard said the TA funds and the Y230 funds have the same schedule. The scoring for both of those will need to be done in the same week. That is a lot. Would it be possible to offset those slightly so we are not scoring both at the same time? They are all due on September 30th. I think we can adequately schedule enough time to get that done without having to adjust the manuals. Ms. Wykoda Wang said we can adjust a couple of days. For the MPO staff to compile scores, we will adjust our review time down which will allow the TCC members two extra days to score the applications.

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to endorse the Call for Projects package for Y301 (TA) funds as requested and allow for staff to make the schedule modifications as necessary to complete their tasks; seconded by Mr. Les Fussell. The motion passed with none opposed.

6. Call for Projects for Y230 Funds

Ms. Jasmine Champion said the CORE MPO will conduct a Call for Projects for the FY 2023 - 2027 Y230 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds. The STBG funding was most recently authorized by Congress in 2021, with a program continuation under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" (BIL)). The STBG program funds are flexible funds that can be used to address regional transportation. CORE MPO will start the Call for Projects in August 2022 to allocate the Y230 funds.

CORE MPO staff is asking for TCC endorsement for the Y230 Call for Projects manual, form, and schedule.

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to endorse the Y230 Call for Projects manual, form, schedule, and staff to make the schedule modifications necessary to complete their tasks; seconded by Mr. Peter Gulbranson. The motion passed with none opposed.

7. AUGUST AMENDMENTS TO FY 2021-2024 TIP

Ms. Jasmine Champion said GDOT has requested amendments to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP. The amendments requested are for:

- I-516 @ CS 1503 / DeRenne Avenue - remove ROW phase programmed in FY 2024 and move it to FY 2025.
- SR 404 Spur/ US 17 Savannah Harbor Pkwy to Back River – move Construction phase programmed in FY 2024 to FY 2025.
- SR 26/ US 80 at Bull River – move ROW phase programmed in FY 2023 to FY 2024.
- SR 26 from I-516 to CS 188/Ogeechee Rd – cost revision for UTL adjusted from \$3,436,007 to \$3,951,665.64.

Mr. Les Fussell asked what is the reason for this change, the request to move these phases out to FY 2025? Ms. Champion said there are schedule shifts that are due to cost increases, schedule reviews and financial constraints. Mr. Fussell said these seem to be constantly pushed back, especially the DeRenne Avenue project. Ms. Pamela Bernard said there has been an additional analysis for EJ added by Federal Highway to the DeRenne Avenue project which extended the time.

Mr. Les Fussell motioned to approve the August Amendments to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with none opposed.

8. Review and Discussion of Proposed Plans and Studies for Discretionary PL Funding

Ms. Wykoda Wang said each year the GA PL Funds Review Committee will issue the Call for Plans or Studies. MPOs have the opportunity to submit applications during these times. The MPO staff is requesting to submit applications for three studies.

- I-16 Exit Ramp Removal IMR Update – recently amended into the UPWP’s unfunded section. Amount being requested for the study is \$240,000 with the City of Savannah providing the \$60,000 local match.
- US 17 Corridor Study – Cost is \$500,000, requesting federal portion \$400,000 with Chatham County providing local match of \$100,000.
- President Street at Truman Parkway Railroad Crossing Study - Cost for the study is \$300,000, requesting federal portion \$240,000 with Chatham County providing the \$60,000 local match.

Once the CORE MPO Board adopts and signs the resolutions, CORE MPO staff will submit the applications on behalf of Chatham County and the City of Savannah.

Ms. Pamela Bernard motioned to endorse the proposed plans and studies for Discretionary PL Funding; seconded by Ms. Caila Brown pending the correction of the resolution for the cost estimate on the US 17/SR 25 Corridor Study. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Other Business

9. Call for Plans and Studies for FY 2024 UPWP Development

Ms. Wykoda Wang said we just entered FY 2023, but the FY 2024 UPWP development will start in September. A draft should be available in December. MPO staff suggests the jurisdictions to consider what studies you might want in this UPWP. If they are included in the FY 2024 UPWP, you can apply for PL discretionary funds in FY 2024 and FY 2025. This is the time to plan ahead if you would like to do any planning studies in the next couple of years.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked if there would be any PL funds available in the spring. Ms. Wang said the PL discretionary funds become available twice a year, in September and March.

IV. Status Reports

10. 2050 MTP Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang said CORE MPO staff has started the 2050 MTP update process. Kait has been working on the Socio-Economic Data for the Travel Demand Model. She is working on the base year data. We have a meeting with GDOT tomorrow. There are some issues with the census data - there are more occupied households showing than population. Those issues need to be resolved.

Staff is also working on updating Goals, Objectives, & Performance measures. We are developing a survey. After the last meeting, several of the committee members sent comments for us to incorporate into the survey. We will translate the survey into Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

For the Travel Demand Model, Asia has been checking the model links for the functional classifications and the number of lanes. Effingham County and Bryan County are complete. Chatham County links are more complicated.

For the travel demand model network development, staff sent out a list of projects regarding the first, second, and third networks, looking for comments from committee members. The first network includes the projects that have started construction or completed construction between 2015 and 2020. The second network are the projects that have started construction or finished construction between 2015 and 2022. The third network will include the projects that have construction funds committed. The fourth network will include those projects that not only have construction funds but also have ROW funds committed. The fifth network would be the ones that have Preliminary Engineering funds committed. Those would be the later ones. We are focusing on the ones that have started construction or are under construction between 2015 and 2022.

Staff has also drafted the Public Involvement Plan. This will guide the public engagement process for the 2050 MTP update. Staff will follow the participation plan as well as have prioritization meetings, kickoff meetings, etc. There will be three rounds of public meetings.

- The first round will be to kick off, explaining what the MPO is, what the MTP is and distribute the survey.
- The second round will have more information available. The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and the Freight Plan update will be nearing completion. The Congestion Management Plan will be ongoing. Those will feed into the MTP update as well as several of the studies currently going on.
- The third round, we will present the final recommendations.

Staff will be distributing information at the neighborhood meetings, coordinating with Chatham Area Transit development plans, presenting at Council meetings, and hosting public outreach events.

[11. CORE MPO Region Freight Transportation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the Freight Plan Update has been kicked off with several stakeholder and project manager meetings. The consultant presented at the first EDFAC committee meeting in June. The consultant is working on the first set of deliverables which is the freight needs assessment and analysis. They are working on the data analysis and the regional freight profiles. The consultant is sending out a survey today to the stakeholders. There is a Freight stakeholder survey, Freight stakeholder map, public survey, and a public map to be sent out.

[12. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan Update Status](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said CORE MPO staff is currently updating the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan. Those plans address bike and pedestrian needs within the CORE MPO area. Currently staff is identifying the jurisdictions and organizations to work with. We are putting together important population data and information resources, and possible places to hold public outreach meetings. There is a list attached of organizations we are currently working with. We are asking who else we should be working with, and do you see anything missing from the list. Some of the information resources we want to include are AARP and Livable communities, American Walks, Academic Resources on Impact of pedestrian and bike infrastructure on communities, as well as other Bike and Pedestrian Plans across the country. For the public outreach, currently we have reached out to collaborate with Bike/Walk Savannah, Healthy Savannah, CAT, and other organizations. We are trying to have another steering committee meeting soon and would welcome more participation.

[13. SR 26 to Chatham County Line to SR 21 Status Report](#)

Ms. Sally Helm said the City of Pooler held the kickoff meeting on July 29th for the SR 26 from Chatham County line to SR 21 study. Kimley Horn, City of Pooler, GDOT, Chatham County, and the CORE MPO staff were present. Kimley Horn presented the goals and objectives of the project.

- Identify and prioritize short-term and long-term improvement projects needed for the SR 26/US 80 corridor to operate at an acceptable level of service.
- Prioritize recommended improvements to facilitate planning and programming of projects through the CORE MPO's metropolitan transportation plan process.
- Justify the future programming of projects in the CORE MPO's Transportation Improvement Program and Mobility 2045 Plan.

A baseline schedule was provided and attached to the agenda.

[14. SS4A Amendment and Updates](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said the US Department of Transportation (DOT) has made technical modifications to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant. The changes include updates to the Safety impact Criterion Rating Methodology and additional language to clarify instructions and terminology. The US DOT also created a new version of the Underserved Communities Census Tracts tool, which includes population data to make it easier for applicants to calculate the percent of the population in underserved communities. DOT has also added additional information to its FAQ and application resources to further assist applicants. The deadline for the SS4A grant application remains September 15, 2022 at 5:00 pm. The links are attached to the agenda.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked who is interested in submitting applications for this grant? Ms. Caila Brown said the City of Savannah will be applying for the implementation grant. Ms. Bernard said the County is interested in the Action Plan grant. Ms. Concannon said Mr. Larson is talking with Savannah and getting a proposal from the grant writer. They do have the unique identity number. Ms. Wykoda Wang asked for clarification regarding the grants being applied for and suggested Effingham County partner with Chatham County for their grant application.

15. Urban Flooding Model Study

Ms. Jasmine Champion said she had been assigned as the Project Manager for this study. The CORE MPO staff and the UGA consultant team held a virtual Kick-Off meeting to discuss project development including project management and public involvement. Both the CORE MPO staff and UGA consultant team identified stakeholders and steering committee members to assist in the development of the Urban Flooding Model Study. UGA will provide the CORE MPO staff with a Project Management Plan and an updated project schedule by the end of the month.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

16. GDOT Project Status Update

Ms. Katie Proctor presented the GDOT project status update.

Preconstruction Status

- Port Wentworth Bridge Replacements at Savannah River and Middle River – Final Plan design is ongoing and anticipated in October.
- SR 204 from SR 21 to RIO Rd. – ongoing, design is in progress, working toward PFPR, anticipated in November.
- I-16 @ Chatham Parkway – Safety Improvements, ready to LET, holding to allow for construction of the bridge jacking project, completion date of 12/23.
- SR 404 SPUR/US 17 Back River and NE Savannah Harbor – concept submitted and expected by the end of this month.
- SR 26/ US 80 @ Bull River- continues toward preliminary design, waiting on the environmental documentation.
- SR 26/US 80 @ Lazaretto Creek Bridge replacement- working on ROW plans and environmental documentation. Next milestone is ROW authorization.
- SR 26 from I-516 to Victory Drive – corrected FFPR plans, anticipated 8/26/22, on schedule for November LET. The ROW parcel is not settled yet.
- SR 30 @ Hodgeville Roundabout – Concept in progress.

Active Construction

- Jimmy Deloach Pkwy – Expected 8/25/22 ribbon cutting, all traffic expected to be open at that time.
- All other projects are moving along.

17. Chatham County Project Status Update

Ms. Pamela Bernard gave the Chatham County Project Status Update.

- I-16 @ Jimmy Deloach Pkwy Interchange – concept meeting held on 8/3/22.
- Robert McCorkle Trail Upgrades – construction is substantially complete.
- All other projects on schedule.

18. City of Savannah Project Status Update Report

Ms. Michele Strickland presented the City of Savannah Project Status update report.

- DeLesseps Avenue widening – ROW clearing process ongoing. Utility relocations are expected to begin this quarter.
- Traffic Control Center – Procurement process is underway.
- City of Savannah/ I-516 @ DeRenne Avenue – Federal Highway Administration has added requirements as part of the EJ process. ROW funds have been pushed back one year.

- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B - The property acquisition process is ongoing. All ROW agreements went to City Council last week.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked about the Traffic Control Center and the issues with GDOT on the administrative side - have those issues been resolved? Ms. Strickland said they have been working on this. Ms. Wykoda Wang said the City of Savannah will have to fund this. There is not a formal PFA for this. Mr. Stephen Henry said the City will be able to fund the project in-house. Presentations were done last week. Evaluations are being done now. We hope to have this on the September agenda to award.

[19. Chatham Area Transit Status Update Report](#)

Ms. Ashley Goodrich gave the Chatham Area Transit status update report.

- Ferry Purchase Construction – finished with the Naval Architect design, bid for construction in October.
- Paratransit Vehicle contract – delayed with supply shortages, revising the state contract as shortage continues to delay the order.
- Diesel Bus Replacement – Buses on order.
- ITS Clever Devices – Ferry boat installation for the Apollo camera system complete. Phase 8 of 9 currently in conjunction.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility and Ferry Dock – under review and progress with City of Savannah.
- Facility Rehab – undergoing the Wellness Center Art Mural. Artist was selected last month.
- Electric Bus Replacement – in process.
- Master Transit Plan & Implementation Strategies – awarded in July with kickoff expected later this fall.
- Transit Development Plan – working with consultant for analysis.
- Zero Emission Implementation Plan - working with consultant for analysis.

[20. LATS Project Status Update Report](#)

Written update attached to the agenda. There were no comments.

[21. TIP Project Tracking in August 2022](#)

TIP Tracking table attached to agenda. There were no comments.

Savannah International Airport

Mr. Jim Aiello reported on the ongoing projects.

- Rental Car Facility – delayed due to long lead times for steel, roof paneling, paint, and cement.
- Air Cargo Aprons – complete.
- Southeast Quadrant – complete.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No public comments.

VII. Notices

[22. Road Diets Presentation from Dan Burden](#)

Attached for information only.

[23. Next CORE MPO TCC meeting October 20, 2022 at 2:00pm](#)

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 18, 2022 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.