



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

June 16, 2022 at 2:00pm
Minutes

June 16, 2022 Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Charles Ackridge	City of Bloomingdale	
Mark Ott	City of Richmond Hill	
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	X
Caila Brown	Bike Walk Savannah	X
Matt Saxon	City of Pooler	
Robert Caudill	GDOT – Planning	X
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	
Troy Pittman	GDOT – District Five	X
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	
Melanie Wilson	MPC	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	
Leon Davenport	City of Pooler	X
James Aiello	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Others	Representing	
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X
Omar Senati-Martinez	City of Port Wentworth	X
Melissa Phillips	Pond Co.	X

Julie Yawn	MPC/IT	X
Karen Franklin	City of Savannah	X
Barry Stanton	City of Savannah	X
Joe Shearouse	City of Savannah	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT/District Planning and Programming Liaison	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	X
Chris Marsengill	Kimley Horn	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Jim Aiello motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion passed with non-opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the April 14, 2022 CORE MPO TCC Committee meeting minutes](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang motioned to approve the April 14, 2022 MPO TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with non-opposed.

[2. Amendments to FY 2023 UPWP](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said prior to any planning study applying for or receiving any funding, the Federal Highway Administration and Georgia Department of Transportation procedure requires the study be discussed by the TCC at least at two rounds of meetings. Discussion was started for three of the studies in April. At that time, the TCC Chairwoman asked if there were additional studies to add and no one came forward. Later, the City of Savannah wanted to add the I-16 Flyover Interchange Modification Report Update. Discussion for that project will start today. Discussion for US 17/Ogeechee Road Corridor Study, President Street Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study, and SR 21 @ CSX Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study was started in April, so today will be the second round of discussion for them. These studies will then need to be endorsed to be included into the unfunded section of the FY 2023 UPWP. They will then be eligible to apply for discretionary PL funds. Funding applications can be submitted through Y230 Call for Projects as well. Both applications will be due in August.

The Chatham Area Transit requested that we add some language to FY 2023 UPWP detailing some of their transit planning studies under FTA Section 5307 funds and FTA ARP funds. These include Master Transit Plan, Zero Emission Implementation Plan, Comprehensive Operations Analysis / Transit Development Plan and ARP Route Restoration Study. The UPWP is the MPO's staff budget and does not detail the CAT budget, so the information is included for reference. This is a suggestion from the Federal Transit Administration.

Ms. Pamela Bernard said the US 17/SR 25/Ogeechee Road Corridor Study is needed to look at the US 17 Corridor. There is a tremendous amount of growth and development in this area which has reduced the levels of service at the intersections. We would like to go from the county line all the way to I-516. We would like to partner with Garden City and City of Savannah if there is interest. Ms. Wang said the cost of the study is approximately \$350,000.00. The federal portion will be \$280,000.00 with a local match of \$70,000.00. Ms. Caila Brown said that section is also a part of East Coast Greenway. We need to make

sure and accommodate the eventual request for a multi-use path along that segment. There is an uptake in bicyclist and pedestrian collisions in that area in addition to the intersection controls. The area south near Canebrake Road is heavily used between the trail and getting to Chief of Love and back around. There are several through bicyclists that are coming through on the East Coast Greenway route. That is an area of concern. GDOT is installing some bike and pedestrian counters in the area. One other counter will be installed on Tybee at the Lazaretto Creek Bridge and another at a different location.

Presidents Street Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study at the Truman Parkway is to evaluate alternatives and associated costs with potential reconstruction of the interchange. The train is sometimes blocking traffic for 30 minutes to an hour. The current estimated cost of this study is \$300,000.00 with a federal portion of \$240,000.00 and the local match of \$60,000.00.

SR 21 @ CSX Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study is to evaluate alternatives and associate costs to eliminate this at-grade railroad crossing on SR 21/Augusta Road. SR 21 is a six lane heavily traveled commuter corridor. Chatham County would like to partner with Garden City on this project. The estimated cost of this study is \$300,000.00 with a federal portion of \$240,000.00 and local match of \$60,000.00.

Ms. Ashely Goodrich said each of the plans that CAT will be using 5307 funds for are required to follow the transportation planning process through FTA circular 8100. To utilize these funds, the FTA requires CAT to follow both the UPWP and the TIP. They are included here as well as the more recent funding award that was just announced a couple of weeks ago from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP).

Staff is asking for endorsement of these proposed amendments.

Mr. Stephen Henry motioned to endorse the Amendments to FY 2023 UPWP; seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion passed with non-opposed.

3. FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Amendments

Ms. Wykoda Wang said this is the end of FY 2022. Most of the projects programmed in FY 2022 are moving forward, including the projects that were amended previously. However, some of the projects/project phases currently programmed for FY2022 will not have funds authorized in time. Those projects will need to be moved into FY 2023 or later years depending on their development schedules.

- Project DeRenne - since the PE phase is added in FY 2022 for additional EJ analysis which according to the schedule presented by GDOT will take approximately 18 months, the ROW phase programmed in FY 2022 will be pushed into FY 2024. The City of Savannah has sent a request letter to GDOT requesting to move the phase with the funds to FY 2024. We are awaiting the concurrence letter. The funding amount does not change.

Ms. Christy Lovett asked if the funding was correct showing in FY 2024. GDOT has it in FY 2025. Ms. Wang said it was added in FY 2024 due to adding \$1 million in FY 2022 for the additional EJ analysis which takes approximately 18 months to complete. If there are any schedule changes or cost estimate changes in FY 2024, those can be amended at a later date.

- City of Savannah's Traffic Control Center- currently the PE, Utility, and Construction phases are programmed in FY 2022. We are going to move the funds with the project to FY 2023. This project's funding authorization was delayed due to administrative procedures with GDOT. This project needs the City of Savannah to send the request letter to GDOT to move the project with the funds as well as concurrence from GDOT in order for the amendments to be final.
- SR 26/ US 80 Bridges at Bull River to Tybee Island - there were more than \$90,000.00 in HIP funds programed in FY 2022 for the ROW phase. GDOT's Project Manager said this project will not meet the schedule. The ROW phase will be moved to FY 2024. The HIP funds that were allocated for this project were moved to fund Project DeRenne's EJ phase so they would not lapse. This project now will need to apply for the Y230 funds in the next Call for Projects. The cost for the ROW phase has increased from approximately \$90,000.00 to \$1.4 million. The ROW phase is being moved from FY 2022 to FY 2024. The construction phase is being moved to FY 2025, which is out of the TIP, therefore we will delete the Utility Phase and Construction phase out of the TIP. The US 80 at Lazaretto Creek Bridge Replacements project will have separate environmental documents and the schedule is fine for now. Ms. Christy Lovett with GDOT said the Lazaretto Creek ROW, Utility and Construction phases will not all be in FY 2023. They will be more in line with the Bull River Bridge Replacement.
- I-95 at Airways Avenue at Pooler Interchange - the scoping phase was amended into the TIP at the request of the Savannah Airport Commission. At this time there has not been any progress made. The Airport in partnership with Chatham County would like to pursue Y230 funds. The locally

funded project does not have to appear in the TIP, and it was added in as an amendment with the expectation that it would receive federal funding in the future. In August, when Chatham County submits an application and the project is awarded Y230 funds, we will amend the TIP to correct the fiscal year and the funding source.

- SR 404/US 17 NE of Savannah Harbor PKWY to Back River - ROW Phase will be moved to FY 2023.
- Transit Updates – FTA Sections 5337, 5339c, 5307h, and 5307 funds not expected to be obligated by June 30, 2022 will be moved from FY 2022 to FY 2023. CAT is also requesting to add 5337 funds for Ferry Boat Rehabilitation (\$446,184) and 5339 funds for vehicle purchase (\$1,039,355) to FY 2024.

Ms. Ashley Goodrich said the FTA currently has several of the grant applications under review. For the FY 2024 funds, those are a part of the allocated funding along with the 5307 that Chatham Area Transit receives on a regular annual basis. We will be programming those for FY 2024.

Ms. Melanie Wilson motioned to endorse the FY 2021-2024 TIP amendments; seconded by Mr. Peter Gulbranson. The motion passed with non-opposed.

III. Other Business

[4. Study Discussion - I-16 Flyover Interchange Modification Report Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said this study will be amended into the UPWP after the August round of discussions. If the City of Savannah would like to apply for discretionary PL funds, Reconnecting Community Grant, or Y230 funds, they will be eligible.

Mr. Joe Shearouse said GDOT and the City of Savannah developed a concept and feasibility study in 2008. That study turned into a 2016 IMR; however, the project ran into a lack of funding opportunities. The step we are looking to make today is to add this to the UPWP to make the project eligible for potential opportunities that may be coming up soon. The Reconnecting Community Grants and other federal opportunities seem to match well with some development we have here locally - the Canal District, the Arena District, and discussion regarding the Civic Center site redevelopment.

[5. 2050 MTP Update](#)

CORE MPO staff are working on several tasks related to the 2050 MTP update.

2050 MTP Survey

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the preliminary Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures were presented last year. The next step is to conduct a survey. We want to use the survey to refine our Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures, and help us with the Prioritization Methodology and funding allocation recommendations. The draft survey has been developed. We are asking the TCC to look at the survey and provide input. The survey includes questions on the overall transportation priorities and priorities for different modes. You can choose roadways, electric vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, greenways, transit, and on-demand service on mobility.

Roadways - we want to know what the priorities are - operational improvements, interchange, bridge reconstruction, road maintenance, complete streets, electric vehicles, etc. The EDFAC committee added comments for new construction and road expansion.

Freight Priorities - we want you to rank the selections of roadway improvements, rail grade crossing improvements, bridge replacement, better truck routing and signage, truck parking, operational improvements, and grant application.

Bicycle Priorities - we included bicycle lanes, cycle tracks, greenways, road diet, complete streets, and bike share.

Pedestrian facilities – we included adding new sidewalks or repairing existing ones, making connections to existing sidewalks, adding curb ramps for ADA accessibility, improving crosswalks, making signal improvements, building greenways, constructing pedestrian overpasses, etc.

Transit Priorities - we want to know what the priorities are - add routes, extend service time or hours, improve service frequency, introduce micro-transit, or expand the service area (add job access reverse commute), connect counties, improve shelters, and improve technology.

Equity and Resiliency are federal emphasis areas. We want to make sure to make drainage improvements to contain the stormwater and prevent natural disasters to minimize the damage to the roadway system.

The general goals and objectives will be focused on safety, congestion, efficiency, and reliability. Staff is asking for input from the Board and committee members. Once the draft survey is finalized, it will need to be translated into three different languages. After that, we will distribute the survey to collect input.

Socio-Economic Data Development

GDOT provided the three-county shape file. Staff will use census data for population, households, and employment by all three counties to develop the base year and horizon year socio-economic data. Staff is waiting to receive information for private schools.

Travel Demand Model Development

GDOT is taking the lead in developing the Travel Demand Model. The MPO staff provide input to assist the model development. CORE MPO staff is reviewing and confirming the functional classes and number of lanes for the base year model network. As of date, approximately 1,300 of the 5,000 links have been checked.

CORE MPO staff is also developing the project lists for the various networks and will submit them to GDOT once they are reviewed and approved by TCC.

- 1st Network – projects that were constructed/started construction during 2015 – 2020.
- 2nd Network – projects that were constructed /started construction during 2015 - 2022.
- 3rd Network - Existing plus Committed project list.
- 4th Network – ROW funds that are committed.
- 5th Network – preliminary phase included in the TIP.

Ms. Wang presented the preliminary draft of the 1st and 2nd networks. Ms. Pamela Bernard said the SR 21 Culvert Replacement at Pipemakers Canal was never built. The cost benefit ratio was not there. It can be taken off the list. Ms. Bernard also asked PI# 0013727 – it shows as I-16 at SR 301 in the project description, but should it be I-16 at SR 307? Ms. Wang will double check on that. Ms. Wang further said that one project missing is the SR 144 Widening project in Richmond Hill. That project is completed and should be included in the 1st network. Staff will check and confirm the project information and send the updated network lists to the TCC members for further correction, edits and inclusion of major local projects.

Other Activities

The next step would be to develop a public engagement plan to outline the public involvement efforts, i.e. brochures, venues, etc. The study review is ongoing, and we will develop a matrix to show recommendations from completed and ongoing studies (Freight Plan, SR 21 Access Management Study, SR 307 Corridor Study, CMP, US 80 Corridor Study, etc.), have projects already implemented in the 2045 Plan moved out, and determine what projects to consider [for](#) the 2050 plan. The CAT Master Transit Plan and the Transit Development Plan will feed into the transit section of the 2050 Plan. The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan will be updated and feed into the 2050 MTP as well.

6. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Opportunity

Ms. Asia Hernton said the SS4A grant is a Grant Opportunity from the US Department of Transportation. It is a competitive grant that is awarded to projects that support infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives that prevent death and serious injuries on roads and streets. The goal of this grant is to improve safety for all roadway users.

There are two forms of funding available:

Implementation Grants - This is for applicants that already have a Vision Zero Plan. With a funding range of \$3 million to \$50 million for joint/regional applicants, this grant provides funding that will go toward implementation of the projects included in the Vision Zero Plan.

Action Plan Grants – This is for applicants who do not have a Vision Zero Plan but want to produce one. With a funding range of \$200,000 to \$5 million for joint applications, this grant provides funding that will go toward creating a Vision Zero Plan.

One of the application requirements is to have a unique entity identifier. That takes approximately one month to receive. Submitting a joint application is highly encouraged. There will be no preference/priority over individual or joint applications. The deadline for submitting technical questions to the Department of Transportation is August 15, 2022. September 15, 2022 is the deadline to submit applications.

Ms. Ashley Goodrich asked, for the joint application grants, with the City of Savannah being the only one in the process of developing a Vision Zero Plan, do the other communities have to have a Vision Zero Resolution in place before they can apply for that funding? If we are talking about the application process, the action plan grant is to be used for developing the plan, do they have to have a resolution prior to applying? Ms. Hernton said the only thing needed to apply for the funding is your unique entity identifier and a statement of interest.

Ms. Pamela Bernard said each jurisdiction can only apply for one grant. Either an Action Plan or an Implementation Grant but not both. You can partner on as many as you want. If more than one jurisdiction applies, we can apply for a region-wide grant and have a better chance of getting an award. Ms. Caila Brown said this would be a great asset for the County to partner with the City of Savannah as Co-Leads and then develop a Vision Zero Plan county-wide to tie into the Non-Motorized Plan update as well as the MTP update.

[7. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan Updates](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said the Non-Motorized Plan and Thoroughfare Plan address important topics for pedestrians, bicyclists, people with accessibility needs, and infrastructure improvements in the area. The goal of this plan update is to compile a list of pedestrian, bike and trail projects that can be incorporated into the MTP and eventually be prioritized and programmed for implementation and funding.

What we want to add with the update:

- Define what non-motorized transportation is and why they are important.
- Create an overall vision of non-motorized transportation in the area, one that is less car dependent and more open to walking and cycling.
- Increase public input and describe how public participation is used and how it impacts this plan update.
- Discuss topics of safety, equity, and resilience. This is especially important since pedestrian deaths and injuries have been increasing and some areas are more disproportionately impacted than others.
- Identify the safety problem areas and determine how to make improvements.
- Update the status of current projects in the area, such as Tide to Town.

The first steering committee meeting was June 13th. Assistance and input from the members of the CORE MPO Board and committees is vital in this process. Ms. Ashley Goodrich said CAT will gladly volunteer for the plan update. Ms. Wykoda Wang said we would like to have accessibility to the bus shelters to be a part of this focus and thanked CAT for participating. Ms. Goodrich said this may come up more with the TDP for the operational analysis which would be getting down to the bus stop level.

IV. Status Reports

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the Freight Transportation Plan Update was kicked off in late April. The first EDFAC committee meeting was earlier this morning. The presentation file has been attached to the TCC agenda. Currently the selected consultant, Cambridge Systematics, are reviewing the existing plans as well as finished studies like the SR 307 Corridor Study, SR 21 Access Management Study, and GDOT Freight and Rail plans. The study process also involves coordination with the ongoing GDOT Coastal Empire Study. The consultants are collecting data for Land Use (land use, zoning, etc.) and freight needs (Transearch, Origin Destination, INRIX, etc.), and drafting the freight Vision, Goals and Objectives. In October there will be an update with initial findings.

[9. FMT for Optimized Planning of CORE MPO Transportation Infrastructure Systems](#)

Ms. Melanie Wilson said the contract was executed with the MPC on Tuesday. Ms. Wykoda Wang said the next step is issuing the Notice to Proceed to UGA. The study will kick off soon.

[10. Call for Projects Pre-application Workshop](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said CORE MPO will conduct Calls for Projects for the FY 2023-2027 Y230 funds and Y301 funds in support of amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP and the development of the FY 2024-2027 TIP. To help the potential local project sponsors understand the Call for Projects process, particularly the eligibility requirements and tips for funding application, the MPO staff conducted a pre-application workshop on June 2nd. The workshop was well attended. Potential project sponsors are encouraged to coordinate with CORE MPO staff members to ensure plan consistency and meeting other eligibility requirements. Project sponsors are encouraged to pursue GDOT LAP certification as this is a requirement for highway improvement projects. The LAP certification takes several months to complete.

Mr. Barry Stanton from the City of Savannah said they have submitted the last section of their LAP certification process and are waiting on a response from GDOT. We should have this within the next few weeks.

[11. Administrative Modifications to FY 2022 UPWP PL Task Budget Adjustments](#)

Ms. Sally Helm said the FY 2022 UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program) is the MPO staff's work program for the fiscal year. The UPWP details the staff budget and work projects expected to be undertaken by the MPO in support of the federally mandated transportation planning process. The MPO can submit budget adjustments to GDOT for various work tasks based on evaluation of ongoing staff efforts and the expected staff work. These adjustments are done as administrative modifications, moving funds between tasks while the funding level remains unchanged. GDOT requested the FY 2022 UPWP summary funding table and the funding tables under work tasks be revised to reflect the final budget adjustments to facilitate the final contract close out. MPO staff has received a concurrence letter from GDOT.

[12. City of Pooler SR26 from Chatham County line to SR 21 Status Report](#)

Mr. Leon Davenport said there were four proposals on this project from Lumin8, Croy Engineering, Kimley Horn, and Keck Wood respectively. The highest ranked firm was Kimley Horn. There is a PFA that has been routed through the City of Pooler. The City of Pooler will approve the PFA and award the study to Kimley Horn on Tuesday at the Pooler City Council Meeting. Notice to Proceed will follow the award.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

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

No comments or questions.

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

No comments or questions.

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

No comments or questions.

[16. TIP Project Tracking in June 2022](#)

No comments or questions.

[17. GDOT Project Status Update](#)

No comments or questions.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No public comments.

Ms. Wykoda Wang said she attended the ARC webinar on the new Federal Transportation Legislation. There are more than 400 programs. Under transportation there are approximately 110. ARC built a searchable database. We will send TCC the link to the database after the meeting so you can do a search and navigate the program to find out what funding is available.

VII. Notices

[18. Next CORE MPO TCC Committee meeting, August 18, 2022 at 2:00pm](#)

[19. Complete Street Project - B-Tactical Lakeridge Tactical Urbanism Project](#)

No comments or questions. These are good practices from fellow MPOs that might be useful to us.

[20. AMPO Symposium Interactive TIP](#)

No comments or questions

[21. AMPO Symposium Equity Planning](#)

No comments or questions

[22. Administrative Modifications to FY 2023 UPWP](#)

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 16, 2022 TCC committee 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.