



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

October 20, 2022 at 2:00 pm
Minutes

October 20, 2022 CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

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	
Robby Byrd	City of Pooler	
Robert Caudill	GDOT – Planning	X
Jim Aiello	Savannah Airport Commission	
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	
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	
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
Mark Denmark	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Others	Representing	
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X
Joseph Longo	FHWA	X
Casey Langford	GDOT	X

Julie Yawn	MPC/IT	X
Jasmine Champion	CORE MPO	X
William Sedgwick	Chatham Area Transit	X
Pam Everett	MPC	X
Jackie Jackson	Chatham County	X
Felix Santiago-Collazo	UGA	X
Aviance Webb	FTA Region 4 - DOT	X
Christy Lovett	GDOT - Planning	X
Rhodes Hunt	Kimley Horn	X
Michael Blakely	Chatham County	X
Deanna Brooks	Chatham County	X
Matt Bilskie	UGA	X
Scotti Pippin	UGA	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Les Fussell motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Michelle Strickland. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the August 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

Ms. Michelle Strickland motioned to approve the August 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Melanie Wilson. The motion passed with none opposed.

[2. Approval of the 2023 CORE MPO Meeting Calendar](#)

Ms. Melanie Wilson motioned to approve the 2023 CORE MPO Meeting Calendar; seconded by Mr. Les Fussell. The motion passed with none opposed.

[3. Y230 Funds Call for Projects](#)

Ms. Jasmine Champion said the MPO staff received thirteen applications for the Y230 funds, with 12 being eligible. Staff has made a list of the eligible vs in-eligible projects. The City of Tybee Island submitted an application which was in-eligible due to the funding request not meeting the minimum requirement (\$200,000). The project has HIP funds allocated. The action for the committee today will be to review the compiled scores and provide recommendations. Some of these projects are applying for Y310 funds as well.

The compiled rankings are:

1. City of Savannah I-516 @ CS 1503 DeRenne Ave
2. Chatham County – I-95 Airways Ave Interchange Improvements
3. Chatham County – SR 204 Access Study
4. Chatham County – I-16 at SR 17
5. Chatham Area Transit – State of Good Repair Fleet Replacement
6. Chatham County – SR 25 Corridor Study
7. Chatham County – President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination Project
8. City of Tybee Island - SR 26/US 80 Over the Bull River
9. City of Savannah- Tide to Town / Middleground Rd Phase
10. Chatham County - Chevis Rd Improvement Project
11. Chatham County- Gerrard Avenue Improvement Project
12. Chatham County- Green Island Multipurpose Trail

Enough funding is there for the FY 2023 and FY 2024. It is the later years FY 2025 - 2027 that is short of funding.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked which projects were applying for the \$14 million and \$58 million? Was it the Bull River projects? They are only asking for ROW funds, not construction funds. That will move those from this section. Ms. Wykoda Wang said yes, that is correct.

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to endorse the funding awards as requested for the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Y230 Funds; seconded by Mr. Les Fussell. The motion passed with none opposed.

4. CORE MPO's Y301 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Call for Projects

Ms. Asia Hernton said the Y301 Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding was most recently authorized by Congress in 2021 as a set aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program, which provides funds to States and localities for transportation improvement projects. CORE MPO manages the Y301 TA funds allocated to the Savannah area. The MPO conducts a Call for Projects at least every four years to align the competitive project selection process with Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development. The Call for Projects can also be conducted as needed if the priority projects with awarded funds have been completed and additional funds become available. The expected available Y301 funds are \$2,933,095 and will be allocated from FY 2023 - FY 2027.

Staff received five applications, three from Chatham County, one from the City of Savannah, and one from Richmond Hill. They all were eligible. Staff is asking the TCC committee to review and discuss the scores and take actions as to how the grant funding should be allocated.

The compiled rankings are:

1. City of Savannah – Tide to Town/ Middleground Road Phase
2. Chatham County – Chevis Road Improvement Project
3. Chatham County – Gerrard Avenue Improvement Project
4. Chatham County – Green Island Road Multipurpose Trail
5. City of Richmond Hill – Ivey and Linwood Sidewalks

There are two years where there is a positive balance, FY 2023 and FY 2027 (no one applied for FY 2027 funds). The FY 2024 to FY 2026 funding balance is negative.

Ms. Wykoda Wang said for FY 2023 the TIP is balanced. FY 2024 will need Y230 funding.

Ms. Pamela Bernard asked if the committee could go ahead and approve these for the Board recommendation and come back and look more closely at the funding at a later time? Ms. Wang said the TCC recommendation is to endorse the recommended rankings and allocation of funds with the assumption that Y230 funds can be used to cover the FY 2024 Y301 balance. Ms. Bernard said we will approve the rankings, saying the Y301 funds will be used first but if they have also requested funding from Y230, if they don't get the Y301 funds then they will get Y230 funds. Ms. Wang said we do not need to worry about FY 2025-2027 funding at this time. Those revenues are projected with historical figures. That funding will change with update revenue. When the TIP development is started, we will revisit this list and see what portion of the funding will be allocated to these projects.

Chatham County is LAP certified and the City of Savannah is contingently certified. Richmond Hill is not LAP certified at this time. The manual says as long as you can become LAP certified prior to the funding becoming available, the project will be ok. Richmond Hill needs to start working with GDOT to become LAP certified. The first year Richmond Hill is requesting funds is in FY 2024. Mr. Les Fussell said they have started the process. They have the training schedule set.

Mr. Robert Milie motioned to endorse the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Y301 (TA) ranked projects as presented and staff can move the available funding as needed and available; seconded by Ms. Pamela Bernard. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Other Business

6. CAT's MICROTRANSIT PROJECT

Ms. Ashley Goodrich presented CAT's Microtransit Project. Chatham Area Transit is starting the Master Plan and Implementation Strategies. The First mile/last mile connectivity is a component of the Master Plan. Micro Transit is a smaller transit service provided where the normal CAT Bus may not be useful or available. Micro Transit can be designed as same day service (Demand Response) with similarities to CAT Mobility. The CAT Mobility service is a next day scheduled service vs same day micro transit service. Micro transit is considered

a mobility on demand. The challenges this will solve have both advantages and disadvantages of the service. Disadvantages include reliance on included technology. Advantages are dynamic, flexible transit scheduling. Flexibility is key to scale up or down to match demand to the coverage areas that a mobility on demand service can be designed for. Micro Transit is set up by request on phone or mobile app. A dynamic routing program is instantly put into place with a rider pick up with shared ride transportation service at a drop off location through design of the micro transit mode. The Blue on the Map is One Quarter (1/4) Mile away from each CAT Bus Route. First Mile/Last Mile Connection allows customers to book an end-to-end transit trip if fixed route is not within walking distance. First mile last mile connections allow customers to book an end-to-end transit trip if the fixed route is not within walking distance. Typically, Micro Transit is helpful for neighborhood densities that need service but are low ridership for fixed route bus.

Does Chatham Area Transit have to drive this service? Or could the service be contracted out to somebody else? A TNC is a Transportation Network Company like Uber or Lyft. These types of companies provide both the dynamic routing and scheduling that come as a component to micro transit as well as can provide drivers and contract services. Off Peak: flexible service alternative during periods of low demand. On-demand service hours cover off-peak periods (e.g. weekends, evenings, or late-nights), enhancing coverage at lower cost per trip compared to fixed-route bus mode. The services will be available at Designated Stops along CAT Bus Routes. All trips must take place within a specific service zone, start or end. Part of what we are looking at is when you talk about a specific service zone, both the start and the end, where would that be and what landmarks would be within the zones.

Ms. Melanie Wilson asked how do you handle areas that do not have transit? Are you extending services to places that have been annexed? Ms. Goodrich said we are looking at this issue - where in Chatham County we do and do not have service. We are also looking at the roadway and connectivity as well as the new housing and subdivisions and annexations that have come across the county. The annexations build into the CAT transit service. The larger bus service may not be as compatible in some areas. The ADA service is county wide with a contribution from Chatham County. As of right now, we would be looking at this service to compliment what we do withing our milage from the special tax district. From a milage prospective in the zone coverage that we are looking at, we are not looking at limiting the number of miles that someone may travel within a zone but we will look at whether someone is trying to cross from one zone to another. We see that already in our paratransit service. With micro transit it can be designed a little tighter for budget considerations. Where someone wants to get out of their neighborhood and go to the grocery store, we want to be able to design the micro transit service to go to the nearest grocery store or what would be the nearest designated CAT bus stop in their area. For Godley Station there are a couple of bus stops in Highlands. There is a stop in front of the Godley station school that connects through west Chatham.

IV. Status Reports

[6. 2050 MTP Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said we officially kicked off the 2050 MTP update on September 1st. Much of the work started beforehand. The draft Goals and Objectives were presented last October. We are using the survey to collect data to refine the Goals and Objectives.

The Socio-Economic data base year data (2020) is complete and accepted by GDOT. We will start working on the 2050 Socio-Economic data.

For the Travel Demand model, we have submitted the first and second network projects to GDOT. These include projects that started or completed construction in FY 2015 – 2022. The third network includes committed projects. Once we have a project list from the TIP development, we will begin working on this phase.

For the travel demand model links, Asia has been checking for functional classifications and number of lanes. Bryan County and Effingham County are finished and sent to GDOT. We are working on Chatham County.

We are coordinating with ongoing studies. Each of these studies will feed into the 2050 MTP update.

- Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update
- SR 26 Chatham County/Pooler US 80 Corridor study
- Urban Flooding Model Transportation study
- Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update
- CAT - Master Transit Plan
- CAT – Transit Development Plan

- Chatham County will start the SR 25 and 204 Corridor studies and the President Street Railroad Crossing study with the Y230 funding.

Ms. Sally Helm presented the public involvement efforts for the 2050 MTP update.

Staff has kicked off the first round of public meetings. CORE MPO hosted a meeting at the First African Baptist Church and the First Presbyterian Church. There have been two virtual meetings, in am and pm to accommodate work schedules. Staff has presented at several City Council and County Commission meetings (Richmond Hill, Effingham, Garden City, and Rincon). Staff has gone to several communities and participated in their neighborhood meetings - Edgemere, Sackville, Liberty City, Coastal Indicators of Georgia, and Woodville Community. We had the opportunity to present at the Chatham Area Transits Governance meeting. Wykoda went to the Savannah Arts Academy to reach out to the younger community. There was a great response from the younger generation.

Staff has been monitoring the surveys to see where the gaps in coverage are. In looking at this, we noticed there has been a lack of participation with the younger generation, the elderly, the lower income, and the disabled. We are focusing on going back to these communities to get more participation. There is a scheduled presentation coming up with L.I.F.E which will help close the gap with the disabled. There are two pop up events scheduled. The first will be this Saturday at the HULL Park at their Fall Festival. This is open to the public. There are approximately 2000 people expected to be in attendance. The next Saturday we are scheduled to participate with the City of Savannah in their 100% Savannah event.

Staff has launched Instagram and Facebook which has been successful for our social media outreach. There are approximately 100 followers on IG. For Facebook, we have reached over 3300 people. There is a QR code which seems to be more popular with the younger generation. There are more hits during or immediately after the public meetings. Media outreach - WTOC featured the 2050 MTP update. CAT shared the update on their social media. City of Savannah and Chatham County posted the update on their websites. Pooler Community Website featured the 2050 MTP update as well as the Savannah Agenda. Pt. Wentworth featured us on their social media. Staff has created fun transportation coloring pages (related to the 2050 MTP update) to help interaction with the younger children.

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the survey updates. The survey went live on September 1st. To date we have received 371 responses. The survey is available in four different languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. We have received responses on these translated surveys. The topics include Roadways, Bicycles, Pedestrians, Public Transport, Equity, and Resilience. The survey is asking people to choose their top three objectives for transportation in the Savannah area. Representation is a hard task to get for any area or public outreach or any type of public research. We still want to try to get as closely to a representative example of the area as possible.

Most of the people taking the survey do own a personal vehicle. We would like to get more input from people that walk or bike. The Savannah area has a lot of pedestrian and biking activities. We would like to see more racial diversity in our responses. The Savannah area is racially diverse. In terms of age group, middle aged people are more likely to take the survey. Wykoda went to a local high school. This provided more input from people that are 16-29. This is a long-term plan; we want young people to have a say in their future. Most people that have taken the survey have a household income of \$100,000 or more. Very few people that make \$25,000 or less have taken the survey. The soft deadline to take the survey was October 31st, but we have decided to extend the survey into November to try and give more people a say in their transportation future.

In general, respondents want to maintain and repair our roadways, infrastructure, and facilities. Even though most of the people who took the survey own their own vehicles, there was still a significant amount of interest in a local rail service and public transportation. Most respondents want a bike lane that is protected by a barrier or greenways that support multiple modes of non-motorized transportation. 67% of respondents prioritize resilience objective - increase green and nature-based infrastructure in transportation projects to reduce flooding and heat stress and improve the health of the environment. 74% of respondents prioritize the Equity objective - identify and target high-need population areas where transit investment should be prioritized.

Ms. Michele Strickland said you all have done a terrific job on public outreach, the surveys, and service. This is evident. Thank you for all you have done. Ms. Pamela Bernard said yes, I agree everyone has done a great job. What is being done in regard to the number of people that do not have internet access? That would play a factor in people being able to take the survey. Ms. Wang said we have gone into the EJ neighborhoods, and we do bring paper copies when we go to the meetings. The barrier is the limited amount of time we are given for presentation, to give time to fill out the paper copies, and then postage to mail them back in. We can leave

the survey with the people there but then they would have to pay to send them back. We have tablets that people are welcome to use while we are there to take the survey.

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

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the updates are posted on the Freight Plan Update website for anyone to access. The consultant has done an excellent job with the presentation at this morning's EDFAC meeting. The consultant has delivered technical memos on existing and future freight goods movement assessment, freight performance measures, regional freight profile and assessment, and truck parking inventory and restrictions. They have already collected data and showed results in the presentation on the freight resiliency. The next step will be the freight needs assessment, forecast of future growth, and freight congestion and bottlenecks. There will be more deliverables coming soon.

[8. Urban Flooding Model Study](#)

Ms. Jasmine Champion said UGA is the project development team on this and will be presenting the update for the study. Matt Bilskie, PM, said the project goal is to develop a Project Prioritization Tool that assists with optimizing the planning of new and existing infrastructure to improve reliability and resiliency. The process will involve some flood modeling, both coastal surge and stormwater modeling and overlay that with the roadmap that has been updated with the latest topography data. The Project Prioritization Tool will be synergized with an updated Road Vulnerability assessment. With these assessments we will focusing on three major things.

1. Equity & Livability objectives
 - Include social vulnerability data
 - Critical infrastructure
 - Major transportation routes (emergency services)
2. Evaluation
 - Develop metrics to inform the project prioritization tool
 - Compound Flooding (coastal and rainfall)
 - Sea Level Rise
 - Road Classifications & critical facility access
3. Financial Stewardship & Project Prioritization
 - Prioritize projects to increase resiliency of transportation infrastructure
 - Include cost, land use, access, and environmental justice

In crafting a tool that would be helpful to the community, we will be working primarily with this group, TCC, as a steering committee to help us make the decisions and the design choices to make sure this is a tool that serves your purposes and meets your needs. We will be working with a diverse group of stakeholders, with different people that have different perspectives on what this tool should do and the services that it should provide. We will also be engaging with the general public on their thoughts as well.

- February 16, 2023 – project status report to steering committee, in person meeting of stakeholder group to identify needs for additional meetings with stakeholders.
- TBD - additional stakeholder meetings
- TBD - Community meeting
- August 2023 - Present project deliverables to the TCC and MPO Board

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

Ms. Asia Hernton said the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan steering committee met on September 15th via ZOOM. During this meeting committee members identified several roads and areas that should be added to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

The roads and areas include:

- Middleground Road - Adding audible crosswalks will make pedestrian crossings safer, especially for pedestrians who are vision impaired.
- School Facilities Research is needed to identify problems and opportunities surrounding Schools.
- Abercorn Street Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements
- Montgomery Crossroads Sidewalk and crosswalks improvements
- Cottonvale Road Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements
- Dutchtown Road Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements

Staff will continue to compile a list of problem/opportunity areas to add to the plan and also use data (such as pedestrian and bike accident data on Numetric, population data from the American Community Survey, and infrastructure data from GIS) to create a comprehensive assessment of the non-motorized infrastructure environment in the area. Additionally, once a larger list of projects and problem areas is curated, staff will seek public input to better prioritize the projects.

[10. SR 26 US 80 Project Status Report Update](#)

No comment, report attached to agenda.

[11. Discretionary PL Funds Applications](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said CORE MPO staff submitted applications for the federal discretionary highway planning (discretionary PL) funds on behalf of our member agencies for the following studies in August 2022.

- City of Savannah - Update the I-16/MLK Ramp Removal Project IMR
- Chatham County - U.S. 17/S.R. 25/ Ogeechee Road Corridor Study
- Chatham County - Presidents Street Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study

The Georgia PL Funds Review Committee denied these applications in September. Chatham County has applied for Y230 funds for the State Route 25 Corridor Study and the President Street at Truman Parkway Railroad Crossing Grade-Separation Study. The City of Savannah is applying for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program funds for Update the I-16/MLK Ramp Removal Project IMR. CORE MPO has provided a Letter of Support.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

[12. GDOT Project Status Update Report](#)

Ms. Katie Proctor presented the GDOT Project Status Update Report.

Pre-Construction Projects:

1. SR 25 @ Savannah River in Port Wentworth – Final Plan design is ongoing.
2. SR 204 from SR 21 to RIO Rd – Safety Improvements - PFPR
3. SR 404 SPUR US 17 @ Back River – Bridge Replacement – holding for LET in June of 2023
4. SR 404 SPUR NE of Savannah River Harbor to Back River- Concepts submission anticipated at the end of October 2022.
5. Bridge Replacement at Bull River continues toward environmental dock approval.
6. Bridge replacement over Lazaretto Creek – working toward ROW authorization
7. SR 26 from I-516 to Victory Dr - working toward final plan submission. One railroad parcel outstanding.

Active Projects – all are ongoing and progressing.

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

Ms. Pamela Bernard presented the Chatham County Project Status update report.

Gerrard Avenue public open house is scheduled for two weeks from today. This will be held at the Liberty City Community Center on November 3rd from 4-6 pm.

- Little Neck Road - ROW acquisition is underway.
- Walthour Road Slope Stabilization -The ROW acquisition is wrapping up.
- Robert McCorkle Trail Upgrades – complete.

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

Ms. Michelle Strickland presented the City of Savannah Project Status Update report.

- DeLesseps Ave. Widening from Water Ave. to Skidaway Road - Right of way clearing is complete. Utility relocation and installation will begin.
- Traffic Control Center – Procurement process underway.
- City of Savannah I-516/DeRenne Ave - ROW ongoing. GDOT has provided feedback for the City of Savannah's responses.

- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B – property acquisition process is ongoing.

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

Ms. Ashley Goodrich presented the Chatham Area Transit Status Update Report.

- Ferry Purchase Construction - Manufacturing issues have continued to delay this project (chassis shortage).
- Diesel Bus Replacement (Z230) - In process. Bus order placed in December 2021 for (3) 35 ft. buses. Estimated completion date is June 2023.
- Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) - Clever Devices - Hardware installed on ferry vessels.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance Facility & Ferry Dock - Continued Coordination with FTA
- Electric Bus Replacement – in process
- Master Transit Plan & Implementation Strategies - Kickoff event scheduled for October 15th.
- Transit Development Plan & Comprehensive Operations Analysis - Awarded in May. Phase One starting in August/September. System Survey starting in October. As part of the TCOA, we have started the survey process. As we work through the service change modifications that are immediate in the next couple of weeks, we will be getting the survey posted out.

[16. Savannah International Airport Project Status Report Update](#)

No comments, report attached to the agenda.

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

No comments, report attached to the agenda.

[18. TIP Tracking Status Update](#)

No comments, report attached to the agenda.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No Public Comments

VII. Notices

[19. Next CORE MPO TCC meeting December 8, 2022 at 2:00pm](#)

[20. Thriving Communities Program Grant Opportunity](#)

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the October 20, 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.