



CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

Minutes
June 20th, 2024, at 5:30pm

June 20, 2024 CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Anthony (Tony) Abbott	Chatham County	
Dr. Daniel Brantley	Chatham County	X
Vacant	Chatham County	
A'riel Johnson	Chatham Area Transit	
Kevin Glover	Savannah	
Armand Turner	Savannah	X
Robert Pirie	Savannah	
Vacant	Pooler	
Vacant	Garden City	
Brett Bennett	Effingham County	
Vacant	Port Wentworth	
Vacant	Richmond Hill	
Bill Grainger	Bloomington	
Robert Milie	Thunderbolt	
Vacant	Tybee Island	
Vacant	Vernonburg	
Others	Representing	Present
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X
Anna McQuarrie	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Kieron Coffield	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Roger Beall	MPC IT	X

There was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, so we went over the status reports and agency reports. Also no action items were presented and acted on at this meeting.

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the April 18th, 2024, CORE MPO CAC Meeting Minutes](#)

Dr. Daniel Brantley, Interested Citizen for Chatham County, asked if we are going over the minutes for the special-called meeting?

Ms. Asia Hernton, CORE MPO staff, stated the first meeting minutes are for the April 18th meeting, and then we have the special-called meeting minutes.

Dr. Brantley stated he had questions about the special-called meeting. He gathered there was only 3 or 4 people present at that meeting and that is a lot of decisions for two people to make.

Ms. Wykoda Wang, CORE MPO staff, stated the special-called meeting was a combined meeting between the CAC and ACAT committees. They were not making decisions; they were making suggestions for the TEPIAC Bylaws update. The special-called meeting can only deal with the agenda item that has been specified. When we set up that meeting, we told everyone it was for the Bylaws update. We reviewed the Bylaws line by line, they were making comments, edits, and suggestions, they were not making decisions.

Dr. Daniel Brantley asked so we won't be meeting at Monday in August at 1pm?

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that was suggested but after that it was recommended that we do a poll. We did a poll and the majority of people want to do quarterly meetings and a majority of people also want to meet in the daytime at 1pm.

Dr. Daniel Brantley stated he did not hear about the special-called meeting or receive an invitation.

Ms. Kieron Coffield, CORE MPO staff, stated she called Dr. Daniel Brantley and left him a voicemail.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated the survey is still open in terms of giving your input on the time and meeting schedule, so we can send Dr. Daniel Brantley the survey to fill out, or he can state his opinion right now.

Dr. Daniel Brantley stated for the record he is opposed to meeting 1pm on the 3rd Monday. He read everything carefully and is against it.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated we are taking everyone's input into consideration.

Dr. Daniel Brantley stated that some people who are regularly coming the 5:30pm worked for them, like Mr. Anthony Abbott who is not here now, but he normally came. It was good for us to deal with. He doesn't know why the 3rd Monday at 1pm is so especially important for some people. He read in the special-called meeting minutes that someone would have to let their boss know they would be late for work, so why can't we the meeting after hours so no one has be late for work?

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated we do have 3 options, the 4th Monday at 1pm, the 3rd Thursday at 5:30pm, and a write in option. The majority of people who responded to the poll want Monday at 1pm and 7 members participated in the poll.

Chairperson Armand Turner stated that Dr. Daniel Brantley's preference would be to have the meeting on Thursdays at 5:30pm?

Dr. Daniel Brantley stated correct.

Chairperson Armand Turner stated we will make sure to have that logged into the poll results, as the poll is still open.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that nothing has been finalized yet. We want to use the poll results to help us decide which date and time is good.

Dr. Daniel Brantley stated he would like the minutes of this meeting to reflect that the issue was raised.

[2. FY 2024 - FY 2027 TIP Amendments June 2024](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the TIP amendments. In April and May of 2024, Chatham Area Transit (CAT) requested multiple TIP amendments be made. In May 2024, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) requested amendments be made to two highway projects.

In terms of the Public Participation Process, the comment period started on June 12, 2024, and closes on June 26, 2024. A public hearing has been advertised to be held in conjunction with the CORE MPO Board meeting on June 26, 2024. So far, we have not received any public comments.

There are a total of six TIP amendments, due to the fiscal year 2024 ending soon.

- FHWA FBP for Dock Rehab
 - Amendment - To amend flex funds into construction phase in FY 2025
 - Federal Flex Funds = \$363,292, Local Match = \$90,823, Total cost of project is more than \$450,000.
- FHWA FBP for Ferry Replacement
 - Amendment - To amend multiple different federal flex funds into FY2025

- Flex Funds/THUD / GDOT Transit Trust Match (Flex Funds)/ GDOT Transit Trust Match (THUD)/ GDOT Transit Trust Fund Additional Match/ Additional Local Match
 - Total cost of project is \$6 million, with multiple local matches
 - Federal Flex Funds almost \$300,000, THUD funds are around \$450,000
- CAT Section 5307 Funding Change for Preventative Maintenance
 - Amendment - To change funding amounts in section 5307 funds in FY2025 for preventative maintenance.
 - To amend the federal cost from \$1,200,000 to \$1,830,915, and the local costs amended from \$240,000 to \$457,729.
- CAT Section 5307 Funding Change for Operating Assistance
 - Amendment - To amend the funding amounts for section 5307 in FY 2025 under Operating Assistance.
 - The local cost would be amended from \$0 to \$2,770,030.
- SR 404 SPUR/US 17 FM NE OF SAVANNAH HARBOR PKWY TO BACK RIVER
 - Amendment - GDOT requested to add the ROW phase in FY 2025 with Y800 funds of \$500,000
 - Amendment - GDOT also requested to move the CST phase from FY 2025 to FY 2026
- SR 26/US 80 @ LAZARETTO CREEK
 - Amendment - Move the CST phase with Y800 funds from FY 2025 to FY 2028
 - deleting the phase from the current TIP FY 2024-2027
 - Also to move the ROW phase from FY 2024 to FY 2026

The appendix has the tables updated with the new funding numbers and updated TIP project pages (can be found attached to the agenda). We also make sure that the projects are consistent with the 2045 MTP. The correspondence on the TIP amendments is also attached to the agenda. We also did a project status check for each amendment with projects with funds for FY 2024, this is to ensure that no funds lapsed. After completing the status check, we found no projects were in risk of their funds lapsing.

[3. Approval of the DRAFT Financially Constrained 2050 MTP Project List](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that we have been developing the 2050 MTP for more than two years. Now we are at the final stage, which is the financial plan development. We have talked about the revenue projections at the last meeting. After that we did have a little adjustment for several grant projects:

- PI# 0011744, I-16 Exit Ramp Removal - Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program grant award, for PE phase only.
 - The federal award is \$1,800,000; the local match is \$450,000; and the total is \$2,250,000. The City of Savannah will use the grant funds to do the following - Equitable Redevelopment Plan, Concept Design, Environmental Studies, and Community Outreach Program.
- Voltera Electrification of American Ports (VEAP) - Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program project award.
 - Voltera Power, a zero-emissions refueling infrastructure provider, will receive \$7.8 million to build a large-scale charging project near the Port of Savannah. The required 20% local match is \$1,950,000. The total is \$9,750,000. The project will reduce emissions from port-related traffic by providing parking and charging services for medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicle (EV) fleets.
- Port of Savannah Renewable Fuel Project - Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program project award.
 - The Georgia Ports Authority will receive \$7.5 million to conduct a four-year pilot program at the Port of Savannah that will expand the use of low-emission and zero-emission equipment to carry out daily port activities and reduce port-related emissions from idling trucks. The project will replace petroleum diesel fuel used by 621 trucks with renewable, low-emission diesel fuel. The required 20% local match is \$1,875,000. The total is \$9,375,000.

The revenue now includes these three projects; however the revenue comes with the projects and cannot be spent anywhere else. The updated revenue projection is attached to the agenda.

For each cost band the revenues will be divided into projects and maintenance.

- Cost Band One
 - Projects \$545,981,125
 - Maintenance \$55,518,434
 - Total \$601,499,559
- Cost Band Two
 - Projects \$551,319,529
 - Maintenance \$36,047,908

- Total \$587,367,437
- Cost Band Three
 - Projects \$658,877,872
 - Maintenance \$43,080,587
 - Total \$701,958,459
- Total for all Cost Bands \$1,890,825,456
 - Total for all projects \$1,756,178,527
 - Total for all maintenance \$134,646,929

We also divided the project revenues into different categories:

- Specific Highway Projects
- Operational Improvements Projects Set Aside
- Non-Motorized Projects Set Aside
- Transit Projects Set Aside

Some of the Cost Band One revenue will be allocated to pipeline projects that are already in the TIP or already have grant money, so revenues for additional projects are very limited (table is attached to the agenda). We have received some comments during the TCC meeting, take out the I-95 widening for now and add in the President Street project. We also want to add in the Old River Road project and get rid of the Gulf Stream project. The table tells us what specific projects are included in the preliminary draft of the fiscally constrained plan. Some are:

- PI# 0015704, SR 404 SPUR/US 17 @ BACK RIVER
- PI# 0015705, SR 404 SPUR/US 17 FM NE OF SAVANNAH HARBOR PKWY TO BACK RIVER
- PI# 0017411, I-95 FM FLORIDA STATE LINE TO S CAROLINA STATE LINE-ITS EXP
- PI# 0017414, SR 26/US 80 @ BULL RIVER
- PI# 0017415, SR 26/US 80 @ LAZARETTO CREEK
- PI# 0017515, I-16 @ SR 17 (I-16 Interchange at Little Neck Road)

The projects from Bryan County and Effingham County (Bryan County does not have any projects located inside the CORE MPO MPA boundary, all 3 are located in Effingham County)

- PI# 0018234, STILLWELL ROAD @ EBENEZER CREEK
- PI# 0019186, CR 307/LONG BRIDGE RD @ EBENEZER CREEK 4 MI E OF SPRINGFIELD
- PI# 511250, I-95 @ SAVANNAH RIVER @ SOUTH CAROLINA LINE

Projects in that were already in the pipeline:

- PI# 0008358, I-516 @ CS / 1503 / DeRenne Avenue (DeRenne Blvd Option)
- PI# 0008359, EAST DERENNE FROM SR 204 TO HARRY S TRUMAN PKWY (East DeRenne Avenue Improvements)
- PI# 0010236, SR 21 FROM CS 346/MILDRED STREET TO SR 204 (West DeRenne Avenue Improvements)
- PI# 0017183, SR 404 SPUR/US 17 @ SAVANNAH RIVER CROSSING (ROW phase only)
- PI# 0018402, I-95 at Airways Avenue

Grant projects:

- PI# 0011744, I-16 Exit Ramp Removal - Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods
- Voltera Electrification of American Ports (VEAP) - Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port
- Port of Savannah Renewable Fuel Project - Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities
- PI# 0020351 I-16 from Gwinnett Street to Chatham Pkwy – NEVI charging station

For additional projects that the CORE MPO staff has identified, we had a special-called TCC meeting on May 15th to review the scores. We talked to the CAC about needs, resiliency, and equity based scoring. We followed the order; the projects are listed in descending order, the top project with a score of 141 and second 135. We plugged in this project and do the cost estimating and insert the cost. By the time we reached I-95 Interchange Reconstruction at SR 21 we have run out of revenue. The additional projects identified in the preliminary list are:

- SR 21 Widening between SR 30 and McCall Road
- SR 21 Widening between McCall Road to 9th St in Rincon
- Fort Argyle Rd Widening from I-95 to Old River Road
- US 80 Widening from SR 21 to Airways Avenue in Effingham County
- ~~Gulf Stream Road widening~~
 - Savannah Airport Commission decided they do not want to support this project, so we will remove this project from the list and that will release some the revenues

Projects consistent with the 2045 MTP

- I-516/ Lynes Parkway Widening – I-16 to Veteran Pkwy
- I-516/ Lynes Parkway at I-16 Interchange Reconstruction at I-16
- I-516/ Lynes Parkway Widening – Veterans Pkwy to Mildred St
- ~~I-95 Widening (Auxiliary Lanes)~~
 - TCC decided not to pursue this, as the South Carolina portion of I-95 is still two lanes, it would not make sense to widen right now. We will remove this project from the list and release the revenues
- SR 307 Grade Rail Separation and Operational Improvements at SR 21
- I-95 Interchange Reconstruction at SR 21/ Augusta Rd

Gulfstream will go out, President Street, Old River Road, and I-95 projects will go in. We will see what the balance looks like after these adjustments, and we might be able to accommodate a few more projects.

Operational Improvements Set Aside assumes 12% of total available revenues for projects.

- Cost Band One about \$69 million
- Cost Band Two about \$66 million
- Cost Band Three almost \$80 million

Transit Set Aside we have already gone over.

The Non-Motorized Set Aside assumes 3% each year for bike/ped projects. Specific projects are:

- Chevis Road
- Garrad Avenue
- Green Island Trail

Then there is Maintenance projects with state/local sponsors. Currently we try to keep a little a balance for each cost band just in case. When we go through the 30 day public comment period on July 1st, we might have feedback from the public who want projects inserted, we want to keep some money for contingency projects. Please review the information, as it is attached to the agenda. Please let us know what you think, does the project list make any sense, if you want to suggest other projects, please let us know.

Chairperson Armand Turner asked if there was any specific reason the Airport Commission decided to no longer support the widening?

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Airport Commission didn't tell us. They may have left a message and we will call and ask what is the reasoning.

[4. Bylaws Update - Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee \(TEPIAC\)](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated if the CAC members could review the meeting minutes from the June 5th special called meeting, that has the recommendations and suggested changes from the CAC and ACAT combined committee. The Bylaws that we have other here are based off of that. Both CAC and ACAT struggle to have a quorum, so we want to have a consolidated committee. The voting members will be restricted to those who regularly participate and will be carried forward to the new committee. For each agency we have identified the person who will be representing them, for example with CAT the representative is Tia Baker.

- Staff Representative, Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT)
 - Tia Baker
- Transportation Planner, Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)
 - Asia Hernton
- Staff Representative, Economic Opportunity Authority for Savannah – Chatham County (EOA)
 - Terry Tolbert
- Resident Service Coordinator, Housing Authority of Savannah
 - Brenda Pollen
- Para Support and Housing Coordinator, Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.
 - Shannon Ginn
- Staff Representative, National Federation of the Blind of Georgia - Local Chapter
 - Tyrone Palmer
- Staff Representative, Savannah – Chatham Council on Disability Issues (SCCDI)
 - ???

- Representative, Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision
 - Paula Valdez
- Staff Representative, Senior Citizens Inc.,
 - Patti Lyons
- Interested Citizens (6)
 - Dr. Daniel Brnatelly
 - Armand Turner
 - A'riel Johson
 - Tony Abbott
 - Open
 - Open

We were trying to decide on the SCCDI group, previously the ACAT chairperson Pam Oglesby attends, but now whoever regularly attends will be a voting member. All those members who have not regularly attended are moved to non-voting advisory roles. For example, in case we need to reach out to the Deaf Community, we can still reach out to them because they are on an advisory role. That was the suggestion, to divide the TEPIAC members into voting and non-voting roles, that way we know the people who regularly attend and we can make a quorum.

We went over the Duties and Responsibilities for the TEPIAC. It still will cover public involvement and function like the CAC duties, direct the CORE MPO staff for the participation plan, combine the duties for ACAT which is ADA accessible transportation. We have also expanded the duties and responsibilities of the TEPIAC to include Transportation Equity. The TEPIAC is umbrella and it is more broad.

We went over the Officers and Organization. There will still be a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson will be elected at the last calendar year meeting of the TEPIAC. We will do an election during the first meeting in August, the so new chairperson and vice-chairperson will last until the end of the next year, there will not be an election in December. The elected chairperson and vice-chairperson will preside over this year's meetings and next year's meetings until the election is held next December. The CORE MPO staff will coordinate the agenda and set up the meetings.

We conducted a doodle poll for the meeting frequency and time. We asked members if they want to do bimonthly meetings or quarterly, if they want the meeting on the fourth Thursday at 5:30pm, third Monday at 1pm, or another time. The quorum is 1/3 of all members plus 1, which equals 6, no actions can be made without a quorum. There was also a suggestion to add language for amending the Bylaws, if there is a grammatical error the CORE MPO staff can make the corrections without going through amendment process. All of this is documented in the June 8th special-called meeting minutes. We do not have a quorum, so we cannot approve these Bylaws but the CORE MPO Board will have the final say. If the CORE MPO Board adopts the Bylaws, then at the next meeting we will start the new committee and if you see any changes that need to be made, we can still make amendments to the Bylaws at any time.

Chairperson Armand Turner asked if there is any language about the meetings needing to be in person or virtual?

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated yes, we did add that language in the quorum portion of the Bylaws, #3. "Since TEPIAC meetings are hybrid (in person and virtual), if a voting member attends virtually, he or she will still be counted towards the quorum." This is for our ACAT and other members, so they have accessibility to attend virtually.

Dr. Daniel Brantley asked about the date and time?

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated we still have to decide on the date and time.

Dr. Daniel Brantley asked how we do that then?

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated she thinks because the CAC can only approve the CAC portion of the Bylaws, but the CORE MPO Board has the approval authority over all of the committees. If the CORE MPO Board approves the minutes in June, then when we meet in August, we can review the Bylaws again if you want to make any changes, we can initiate amendments.

Dr. Daniel Brantley stated because we don't have a quorum here for the CAC, then it goes to the CORE MPO Board in June and the Board approves it. Then we meet in August, how can we then change the Bylaws?

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the Bylaws can be amended at anytime unlike the MOU or the MPA Boundary. The Bylaws can be amended at any time. So the CORE MPO Board will approve the Bylaws and later if you find something you want to change, we can initiate amendments at any time.

Dr. Daniel Brantley stated he will say it now clearly, he won't be coming at 1pm period. He has obligations and he also read somewhere in the meeting minutes for April that another person has work obligations. He too, has responsibilities, his responsibilities doesn't allow him to be free to do things like this. The evening time is fine for him, that is why he comes. One of the standing members, one of your regular persons may not be at these meetings in the future, as the person that Dr. Daniel Brantley read about in the meeting minutes is not protesting or thumbing their nose at you, that person simply has other obligations. For some people it is not convenient at 1pm, he wants the CORE MPO staff to understand that.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated since our meeting are hybrid and have the virtual option, it might be more flexible for some people. If we decide on the 1pm time frame, the people participating virtually can do so from their homes. Right now the majority of members want to do the Monday at 1pm, but we haven't decided it yet, this is based off the polling results. The polling results will be used to help decide the date and time, but the decision has not been made yet.

III. Status Reports

[5. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update Status Report](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton, CORE MPO staff, stated the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is a document that addresses the development of bike and pedestrian infrastructure in the CORE MPO planning area. The goal of this plan update is to identify new projects, assess the needs of the community, and set new goals for bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Because the MPO is focused on completing the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan will not be adopted in June 2024, and instead will be adopted at a later date. We will begin to refocus on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan after the adoption of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update in August. This is because the 2050 MTP is a required MPO document, meaning it takes precedence over the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, which is not a required plan for the MPO.

[6. Congestion Management Process Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated we have presented to the CAC about the CMP several times so far. This is the final report(attached to the agenda) that Ms. Genesis Harrod has sent us and it has incorporated all of the comments that FHWA sent the CORE MPO staff. The CMP identified where the congestion areas are and specific strategies we can use to mitigate those congestion problem areas. FHWA wants to make sure the Congestion Management Process does fit into the 2050 MTP, when we did the projection selection the CMP was one of the criteria. This is a very technical document, if interested please read it through. When we do the 2050 MTP, we will make sure that projects also come from this planning process.

[7. Federal Certification Review](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated every four years the FHWA and FTA conduct a review of the metropolitan transportation planning process within each TMA to certify that MPOs conduct the comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing transportation planning process in adherence with federal statutes and regulations. The CORE MPO completed its latest federal certification review in FY 2021 and received its federal certification on March 31, 2021. The final certification report can be found on the MPC website at:

<https://www.thempc.org/docs/lit/CoreMpo/Latest/2021/TMACertification.pdf>.

In FY 2025, CORE MPO will go through another round of federal certification review. Staff will prepare all required documents and coordinate with FHWA/FTA/GDOT to complete the review process. Afterwards, staff will continue to hold quarterly coordination meetings with FHWA/FTA/GDOT and will address any recommendations received during the certification process. The CORE MPO Certification Kickoff Meeting took place on May 6, 2024. FHWA, FTA, GDOT and CORE MPO staff went over the requirements and discussed the schedule for site visit and public meeting. The tentative site visit dates are October 29 - 30, 2024. The MPO staff are also working on setting up a dedicated webpage on the CORE MPO website for the certification review.

We are inviting all of our advisory committee members to come to the public meeting to give their honest opinion about the CORE MPO staff. Please let FHWA know what you think about the CORE MPO's planning process, are you satisfied or not satisfied? Please be honest and tell the FHWA how we are doing, hopefully we won't have any corrective action. We may have strengths and weaknesses, so FHWA might give recommendations, we should be fine. FHWA asks the CORE MPO staff to keep this on the agenda, so we will give updates until the process is complete.

IV. Agency Reports

V. Other Business

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

VII. Notices

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

Report attached to the agenda.

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

Report attached to the agenda.

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

Report attached to the agenda.

11. [Savannah Hilton Head International Airport Project Status Update Report](#)

Report attached to the agenda.

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

Report attached to the agenda.

13. [LATS-SCDOT Project Status Update Report](#)

Report attached to the agenda.

14. [TIP Funding Tracking Report](#)

Report attached to the agenda.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 20th, 2024, CAC 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.