



CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Minutes
June 22, 2023 at 2:00pm

June 22, 2023 TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING (TCC)

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Charles Ackridge	City of Bloomingdale	
Les Fussell	City of Richmond Hill	
Deanna Brooks	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	
Don Masisack	Coastal Regional Commission	
Peter Gulbranson	City of Tybee Island	X
Ambria Berksteiner	Chatham Area Transit	X
Melanie Wilson	MPC Executive Director	
Randy Weitman	Georgia Ports Authority	
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Stephen Henry	City of Savannah	
Teresa Concannon	Effingham County	
Robert Milie	Town of Thunderbolt	
Vacant	Town of Vernonburg	
Voting Alternate	Representing	
Michelle Strickland	City of Savannah	X
Jamie McCurry	Georgia Port Authority	X
Katie Proctor	GDOT District 5	X
Omar Senate-Martinez	City of Port Wentworth (Asst. City Manager)	X
Others	Representing	
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X
Anna McQuarrie	CORE MPO/MPC	X

Pamela Bernard	Chatham County	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Christy Lovett	GDOT	X
Matt Genova	AECOM	X
Carlos Espindola	AECOM	X
Denise Grabowski	Symbiosity	X
Christopher Lindsey	Cambridge Systematics	X
Edward Hicks	GDOT	X
Ariel Johnson	Chatham Area Transit	X
Kiarra Fields	City of Savannah	X
Joseph Longo	FHWA	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Michele Strickland motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Robbie Caudill. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Approval of the April 20, 2023 CORE MPO TCC Meeting Minutes](#)

Ms. Michele Strickland motioned to approve the April 20, 2023 CORE MPO TCC meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Jim Aiello. The motion passed with none opposed.

[2. 2045 MTP Amendment](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that the City of Savannah was awarded some earmark funds to update the Interchange Modification Report (IMR) for the terminus of I-16 at Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. Boulevard and Montgomery Street. In 2015 the MPO completed the original IMR, but since the MPO is not an implementing agency, FHWA refused to review the IMR, therefore the City put a hold on the project. The City now wants to kick off the IMR so they can move on to the next step. This round the City received \$720,000 of federal funds, and the City of Savannah will contribute \$180,000 as local match. There has already been a coordination meeting among GDOT, the City of Savannah, and the CORE MPO, where it was decided that GDOT will preside over the study. They will refresh the IMR report and forward it to FHWA for review. If approved, GDOT will move on to the scoping, preliminary engineering, ROW and construction phases.

The I-16 Exit Ramp Removal project is currently not in the fiscally constrained 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. We want to move the scoping phase into Cost Band One of the plan so that the funds can be programmed into the TIP. For the TIP amendment, we will amend the scoping phase into FY 2024. The estimated cost is \$900,000, but the actual cost is unknown. If there is a balance left, that will be used for the next steps. Staff advertised for a 15-day public comment period. There have been no comments at this time. Staff is requesting endorsement from the TCC.

Mr. Robbie Caudill motioned to endorse the 2045 MTP Amendment; seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion passed with none opposed.

[3. FY 2021 - FY 2024 TIP Amendments June 2023](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated the current fiscal year ends on June 30th. All TIP projects' implementation status needs to be reviewed, particularly the project phases programmed in FY 2023. This is to make sure that they get funds authorized or they need to be moved to later years. All projects with the exception of two have been able to get funding authorized and meet the deadlines.

The following will be amendments to the TIP:

- SR 404 SPUR/US 17 FM NE OF SAVANNAH HARBOR PKWY TO BACK RIVER - ROW is programmed for FY 2023 and funds are not expected to be authorized by June 30, 2023. ROW is moving to FY 2025.
- I-95 FM FLORIDA STATE LINE TO S CAROLINA STATE LINE-ITS EXP - CST is programmed for FY 2023 and funds are not expected to be authorized by June 30, 2023. CST is moving to FY 2026. For FY 2023 there will be \$0 programmed.
- Interchange Modification Report (IMR) for the terminus of I-16 at Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. Boulevard and Montgomery Street - CORE MPO is processing MTP and TIP amendments to add the scoping phase to FY 2024 with earmark funds and local match. The total is \$900,000.
- Passenger Ferry Purchase - Federal funds are programmed for FY 2022 and have been obligated. The final bid award is \$7 million more than the original cost estimate. CAT is providing additional local funds to cover the balance. Ferry vessels (2) are under construction.

The current FY 2021 – 2024 TIP is still the guiding programming document until the new FY 2024 – 2027 TIP is adopted. These changes will be reflected in this document.

Mr. Robbie Caudill motioned to approve the FY 2021 - 2024 TIP Amendments for June 2023; second by Ms. Michelle Strickland. The motion passed with none opposed.

4. Reapportionment MPA Boundary Update

Ms. Asia Hernton gave the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary update. She explained that the proposed MPA boundary is based off the 2020 census data, which revised the Savannah Urban Area, including more areas surrounding Savannah. Part of the MPA boundary revision is based on areas that are expected to be urbanized in the next 20 years.

CORE MPO staff met with the Working Group and decided where the boundary should lie. Then the MPO staff met with Effingham and Bryan County staff and officials for their opinions.

She explained that half of Effingham County will be included in this update, but it will cut off portions of Guyton and Springfield; Effingham County was okay with this decision. Additionally, more of Bryan County will be included in the boundary, including the Pembroke area and portions of southern Bryan County around Richmond Hill. There is major growth northward and westward of the current boundary.

Staff is requesting an endorsement of the proposed MPA boundary.

Mr. Jim Aiello motioned to approve the MPA Boundary; Seconded by Ms. Caila Brown. The motion passed with none opposed.

III. Other Business

IV. Status Reports

5. 2050 MTP Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated CORE MPO is still working on the 2050 Socio-Economic Data and stated that Mr. Edward Morrow has been working on the Data development. He is working with IT and SAGIS to re-evaluate the data which should be prepared by the end of the month.

Ms. Rithvika Dara, transportation intern, has been working on checking the functional classification and number of lanes for the Travel Demand Model network. This should be wrapped up at the end of June as well.

Staff and the Working Group have been working on updating the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary since February. The boundary is expected to be approved in June. Once the CORE MPO MPA boundary is finalized, staff will work with GDOT to obtain revenue projections within the boundary, thus kicking off the financial plan development for the 2050 MTP.

For the contributing Plans and Studies, there is going to be a new Planner starting in July who will be taking the lead on updating the Congestion Management Process. Ms. Anna McQuarrie will be working on the Urban Flooding Model. She will also be working on resiliency planning and how to incorporate it into the MTP. The Freight Plan is wrapping up. Staff will start to compile a matrix to serve as the basis to build the project lists for the 2050 MTP consideration. The projects for consideration will also come from the recommendations from the

studies and plans such as US 80 Corridor Study, Chatham County 204 Corridor Study, Presidents St Railroad Elimination Study, and the US 17 Corridor study. We will expand all of that into the Matrix.

There was a meeting with GDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) where they said affordable housing was going to be an area for consideration. Asia will take the lead on this since she has been working on the housing element for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. We are awaiting some guidance from FHWA.

The first round of public meetings was September – November 2022. There will be a second round of public involvement in September or October of 2023. There are several studies to report to the public about what has been accomplished as well as the survey comments.

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

Mr. Chris Lindsey presented the Freight Plan Update. He stated that the items that will be discussed are the overview of Technical Tasks and Key Findings, Stakeholder Outreach, Needs Assessment and Draft Recommendations, and Next Steps.

He reviewed the Technical Tasks.

- Project Management & Coordination/Stakeholder Outreach
- Freight Needs Assessment and Analysis
- Land Use Assessment
- Economic Development and Market Assessment
- Environmental and Community Impact Scan and Analysis
- Recommendations for Future land Uses Related to Freight and Goods Movement
- Recommendations for Freight Infrastructure Improvements
- Final Report

He stated that the next steps are to present the draft to EDFAC and the MPO Board and finalize the reports after getting the recommendations from the Board and advisory committees.

Mr. Jim Aiello asked how much did Mr. Lindsey look into air cargo out at the airport?

Mr. Lindsey stated he did look into air cargo specifically and included that in the report. There wasn't a specific air cargo recommendation, but some of the land-side recommendations would be beneficial to the airport. But if there are specific things that Mr. Aiello would like them to look into, they will do it. Mr. Aiello stated he was going to try and be at the EDFAC meeting, but if he wasn't able to, he would give Mr. Lindsey a call.

Mr. Robbi Caudill asked regarding the community improvement districts - is that tax revenue going to be a new source, or will it be diverted from existing? Mr. Lindsey stated he would consider it a new source because it's a fraction of the property taxes and that money would typically go into a general fund, not transportation.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated she forwarded the award information for rail grade improvement projects, has Mr. Lindsey checked the recommendations to see if they are consistent? Mr. Lindsey stated that he will double-check to make sure.

Ms. Anna McQuarrie asked if the Green Structure Resilience recommendations will include design guides for different roads. Mr. Lindsey stated it would just be general recommendations, but he can possibly include more information.

[7. Urban Flooding Model Study Update](#)

Ms. Anna McQuarrie presented the Urban Flooding Model Study. She stated she was able to meet with Dr. Matt Bilsky and attended the UGA monthly meeting to meet different professionals working on this project and to discuss the timely delivery of expected products. The SWMM Model and Hydrographs are on time and expected to be completed by July and August 2023. Data availability and accuracy have been a challenge. The team will send a draft of SWMM in late June, with follow-ups in July. The CORE MPO Dynamic Flood Modeling Tools Study is expected to be completed in October 2023.

[8. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update June 2023](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton presented the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) status update. The CORE MPO has been drafting new chapters on important topics related to Pedestrian and Bike Infrastructure.

The CORE MPO is in the process of tracking Non-Motorized Updates. There are over 400 projects listed in the current NMTP. We are also documenting new trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks that may not have been included. We are exploring low-cost technology solutions. It can be as simple as traffic lights and signs. Additionally, staff identified common themes from open-ended surveys such as Safety, Separation, Connectivity, and Policy and Education. There was a steering committee meeting this month and they agreed that this was something that should be added. Some next steps will be using satellite images to observe gaps in sidewalk coverage, examining the infrastructure characteristics of the most dangerous roadways for cyclists and pedestrians, and exploring the scoring criteria and methodology used by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy. Ms. Dara will also be examining push factors to encourage biking and walking as well as using crash data to analyze Crash hot spots.

9. US 80 Corridor Study Status Update

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the report is attached to the agenda. Something to note, there was a change in the Draft Alternatives Analysis, this is something that can be incorporated into the freight plan.

10. FY 2024 - 2027 TIP Development

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that the CORE MPO received from GDOT the draft revenue projections, a draft project list, and the lump sum program in March. There was a public prioritization meeting in April. The public comment period begins on July 19th according to the current schedule. Chapter One and Chapter Two have been submitted for FHWA/FTA/GDOT review and we are working on Chapter 3.

The TIP development schedule might need to be updated with adoption expected in October. A portion of the COVID relief funds must be spent in a very short amount of time, so there was a series of TIP administrative modifications in late May and early June to authorize funds for projects and project phases currently programmed in FY 2023 which resulted in updated revenue projections for the next four years. The impacted projects include several Chatham County and City of Savannah projects such as SR 204 Corridor Study, Green Island Trail Project and Truman Linear Park Trail Phase II. Staff is working with GDOT to get updated Y230 and Y301 revenue projections resulted from the funding swap. The staff is also working with CAT for FTA obligations and other transit programming information. There also needs to be a meeting with TCC about the financial balance once the updated revenue information becomes available.

11. MOU and Bylaws Updates

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the MOU and Bylaws updates stating that with the new CORE MPO MPA boundary, the MOU and bylaws will be updated adding in new jurisdictions and revising the structure which will be handled at different meetings. She stated that there was a Working Group meeting on June 15th where the board and advisory committee structures were discussed. Meeting notes from the Working Group discussions are attached to the agenda. There will be individual meetings scheduled for further discussion in July and August.

V. Information Reports (verbal)

12. GDOT Project Status Update Report

Ms. Katie Proctor gave the GDOT Status Report.

Preconstruction

- SR 25 @ MIDDLE RIVER IN PORT WENTWORTH - Final plan submission
- SR 404 SPUR @ TALMADGE MEMORIAL BRIDGE – Development schedule underway
- SR 204 FROM SR 21 TO CS 1201/RIO ROAD @ 23 LOCS – PCRF is in progress, PFPR is set for September.
- I-16 @ CS 647/CS 2289/CHATHAM PKWY – LET scheduled for July.
- SR 404 SPUR/US 17 @ BACK RIVER – Concept is approved.
- SR 404 SPUR/US 17 FM NE OF SAVANNAH HARBOR PKWY TO BACK RVR – Waiting on Env Doc Approval
- SR 26/US 80 @ BULL RIVER – Waiting on Env Doc Approval
- SR 26/US 80 @ LAZARETTO CREEK - Concept Approved
- SR 30 @ CS 673/HODGEVILLE ROAD – Concept Approved

Construction projects:

- I-16 From I-95 to I-516 – 62%

- I-16 @307 DDI – 77%
- SR 25 @ SAVANNAH RIVER IN PORT WENTWORTH – 22%
- CR 787 / Islands Expressway @ Wilmington River Bascule Bridge - 65%
- SR 21 @ SR 30 Intersection Improvement and Turning Lanes – 65%
- Widening and Reconstruction to construct 4 lanes on US 801/516 (Brampton Rd Conn) -35%
- Cable Barrier Upgrade on I-95/SR – Anticipated Summer 2023 completion date.
- Widening and reconstruction on US 80/SR 26 (Ogeechee Road) beginning from I-516/SR 421 extending to Victory Drive (CS 188) – Awaiting NTP
- 2 Lane Roadway on Effingham Parkway beginning at SR 30 and extending to Blue Jay Rd – 12%

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

Ms. Deanna Brooks presented the Chatham County Roadway improvement.

Federally Funded:

- Chevis Road Improvements - ongoing
- Garrard Avenue Improvements -ongoing
- Green Island Road Path – Concept Submitted, Kick-off meeting in July
- SR 25 Corridor Study – Phase 2 of the consultant Selection Process
- SR 204 Access Study - Phase 2 of the consultant Selection Process
- President St at Truman RR Study - Phase 2 of the consultant Selection Process

Local Preconstruction

- Quacco Road Widening Project - Approved
- Little Neck Road Reconstruction – Final Design nearing completion. Construction to begin after ROW.
- Skidaway Road Improvements Montgomery Cross Road to Ferguson Avenue – ROW acquisition to begin soon.
- Walthour Road Slope Stabilization – Out for BID soon.
- Traffic Signal on Johnny Mercer Blvd at Lyman Hall – Awaiting Board Approval.
- U.S. 80 Sidewalks – Final design, ROW and permitting underway.
- Johnny Mercer at Walthour -In Preliminary design

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked if the PFA development has started for the planning studies yet. Ms. Brooks said yes.

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

Ms. Michelle Strickland presented the City of Savannah Updates.

- DeLesseps Ave. Widening from Water Ave. to Skidaway Road - Dry utility relocations are complete. A contractor is progressing to storm drainage improvements and water and sewer relocations at this time.
- City of Savannah - I-516 @ CS 1503/DERENNE AVE - Additional Environmental Justice Outreach is being developed as directed by FHWA.
- Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B - Construction funds are authorized and the project will be out for bids in the next 45 to 60 days.

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that the City needs to be reimbursed by GDOT on the Delesseps Ave. project.

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

Mr. Jim Aiello gave the Savannah Hilton Head International Airport Project Update report.

- SAC 30566 – SECURITY CHECKPOINT EXPANSION – The TSA checkpoint expansion will expand the existing three lanes security lanes to six lanes. Work began on October 10, 2022. Collins Construction is the general contractor. Current work includes foundation, utility, and site work. Steel erection should begin in July. Project is scheduled to be completed in Spring of 2024.
- SAC 30616 – DEMO AIR CARGO, CONSTRUCT APRON, TAXILANE– Project to redevelop the southeast quadrant of the airport. Phase 1 is complete. Phase 1a begins in April 2023 which is construction of Taxiplane GA7. Project to be completed by late fall, early winter of 2023.

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

Ms. Ambria Berksteiner gave the CAT's project status report.

- Paratransit Vehicles have been received and unveiled at a press conference.
- Diesel Bus Replacement is still estimated to be in June, early July.
- Ferry Boat Maintenance still waiting for appraisal and release of funds.
- AOPP Grant – Still holding a study hopefully will complete soon.
- ARP Route Restoration – Expected to be complete at FY 2024
- Master Transit plan – Should be adopted in July.

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

Report attached to agenda.

[18. TIP Funding Tracking Report](#)

Report attached to agenda.

VI. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)

No Public comments

VII. Notices

[19. Next CORE MPO TCC Committee Meeting August 17, 2023 at 2:00pm](#)

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 22, 2023 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.