



Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee

Minutes
July 29th, 2024 at 1:00pm

July 29, 2024, CORE MPO Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee

Voting Members	Representing	Present
Tia Baker	Chatham Area Transit	
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	
Terry Tolbert	Economic Opportunity Authority	
Brenda Pollen	Housing Authority of Savannah	X
Shannon Ginn	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind, Local Chapter	
Representative	Savannah – Chatham Council on Disability Issues (SCCDI)	
Paula Valdez	Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision	X
Patti Lyons	Senior Citizens Inc.	X
Ben Lewis	Chatham County	X
Tony Abbott	Interested Citizen	X
Robert Pirie	Interested Citizen	X
A’riel Johnson	Interested Citizen	X
Armand Turner	Interested Citizen	X
Daniel Brantley	Interested Citizen	
Kevin Glover	Interested Citizen	X
Non-Voting Advisory	Representing	
Representative	Savannah Council of the Blind	
Representative	Coastal Center for Development Services	
Representative	GDOT District Five	
Representative	Georgia Infirmary Day Center	
Bill Kelso	Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire	X
Representative	NAACP - Savannah Branch	
Representative	Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council	
Representative	Deaf Community	
Alden Strandburg	Effingham County	X
Representative	Bryan County	
Representative	Harambee House	

Others	Representing	Present
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Hind Patel	CORE MPO	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Kaniz Sathi	GDOT	X
Chase Rosen	Member of the public	X

Roll Call

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bill Kelso, Goodwill Industries, motioned to approve the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Tony Abbott, Interested Citizen. The motion passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

[1. Election of Temporary Committee Officers](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton, CORE MPO staff, said we will elect a temporary Chairperson and Vice Chairperson who will preside over meetings until the official election in December 2024. The election of officers will be decided by a simple majority vote of those in attendance.

Ms. Asia Hernton nominates Mr. Armand Turner for temporary Chairperson for the TEPIAC.

Mr. Armand Turner, Interested Citizen, stated thank you for the nomination. Will Mondays at 1pm be the typical meeting date and time?

Ms. Asia Hernton stated that has not been determined yet. That will be our second item, determining of 2024 and 2025 Meeting Schedule. This is just a date we picked according to the survey; it was when most people could attend. We still have not decided on a schedule.

Mr. Armand Turner stated that he is going back to school and unavailable in the evenings. Besides that, he will accept the nomination.

Ms. Asia Hernton asked if the 1pm time for works for Mr. Armand Turner?

Mr. Armand Turner stated yes.

Mr. Armand Turner was nominated for temporary Chairperson of the TEPIAC. The motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated there was a nomination for Mr. Shannon Ginn. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, Mr. Shannon Ginn, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Shannon Ginn, LIFE, stated he is not sure, as he is concerned about his LIFE part-time schedule. He would like to talk more with Ms. Asia Hernton about it one on one.

Ms. Asia Hernton asked if Mr. Shannon Ginn thinks he could be a temporary Vice Chairperson until December? As Vice Chairperson, if Chairperson Armand Turner cannot run the meeting, it would be Mr. Shannon Ginn that runs the meeting.

Mr. Shannon Ginn stated yes, he will be Vice Chairperson. If Ms. Asia Hernton could please send him what he needs to do and he will go from there.

Mr. Shannon Ginn was nominated for temporary Vice Chairperson of the TEPIAC. The motion passed with none opposed.

[2. Determination of 2024 and 2025 Meeting Schedule](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated that we do not have a set schedule for the TEPIAC at the moment. In the Bylaws it states that TEPIAC has to meet at least quarterly, unless stated otherwise. We do not have a set schedule for how we are going to meet for the remainder of this year and also for 2025. We are trying to determine if we should continue to meet like the ACAT which is the fourth Monday at 1pm, or the way that CAC met which is the third Thursday at 5:30pm.

Chairperson Armand Turner asked if we were to choose the fourth Monday at 1pm, would we meet again in August?

Ms. Asia Hernton stated that this meeting would cover August. We could meet again at the end of the quarter in December, unless we have more meetings for other projects such as the Title VI Plan or Participation Plan. For those in attendance, does Monday at 1pm work or does Thursday at 5:30pm work?

Ms. Paula Valdez, Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision, stated she prefers Monday at 1pm.

Mr. Tony Abbott stated he prefers Thursday at 5:30pm.

Ms. A'riel Johnson, Interested Citizen, stated she prefers Monday at 1pm. No evenings.

Ms. Brendan Pollen, Housing Authority of Savannah, states she prefers Monday at 1pm. She is flexible.

Chairperson Armand Turner stated he sees about 6 or 7 people in the Zoom Chat that state they prefer Monday at 1pm. Ms. Patti Lyons asked if 1:30pm would be an option, and that works for him.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated that it seems the majority prefers Monday at 1pm or 1:30pm. We can decide on the time and also the next date to meet. We do have a plan update coming up for the Title VI Plan and Participation Plan. These plans are something that the TEPIAC has involvement with. The adoption date would be October 23 for both plans. Is there a Monday at 1pm that works best for everyone prior to the adoption date of October 23rd.

Chairperson Armand Turner stated that he is not available the second Monday of October, but the rest of the Mondays work.

Ms. Asia Hernton suggested sending out a poll.

Chairperson Armand Turner stated we can decide with the group that is present.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated let's put it to a motion then, if anyone would like to make a motion.

Mr. Ben Lewis, Chatham County motioned for Mondays at 1:30pm, Ms. Brenda Pollen seconded. The motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Asia Hernton stated that CORE MPO staff will send out a poll for the best Monday in October before the 23rd adoption date.

III. Status Reports

[3. Moving Forward Together 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton stated we are at the end of the process for the Moving Forward Together 2050 plan. This plan is created and managed by CORE MPO.

What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization?

- Federally mandated organizations for urban areas with a population over 50,000.
- Facilitation of collaboration between municipalities and counties.
- Allocate Funding Resources through the "3-C Process"
- Transportation Planning to Address Regional Needs and Priorities

We are projecting the CORE MPO Board to adopt the 2050 MTP in August.

What are the MPOs' planning documents?

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is used to guide development/update of the plans.
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- Public Participation Plan (PP)/Title VI Plans
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

What is the CORE MPO?

- MPO for the Savannah region. The CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary includes all of Chatham County and parts of Bryan and Effingham Counties.
- The MPA boundary was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in February 2024 and approved by the Governor of Georgia.

Who is CORE MPO? The CORE MPO Board

- Sets regional and long-term transportation policies.
- Prioritizes projects.
- Approves the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, short-range Transportation Improvement Program, and other required planning documents.
- CORE MPO Board Voting Seats
 - Chatham County Commission (3)
 - Effingham County Commission (1)
 - Bryan County Commission (1)
 - City of Savannah (3)
 - City of Bloomingdale (1)
 - City of Garden City (1)
 - City of Port Wentworth (1)
 - City of Pooler (1)
 - City of Richmond Hill (1)
 - City of Tybee Island (1)
 - Town of Thunderbolt (1)
 - Town of Vernonburg (1)
 - Effingham County Municipality Rotating Seat (1)
 - Georgia Department of Transportation (1)
 - Chatham Area Transit Authority (1)
 - Savannah Airport Commission (1)
 - Georgia Ports Authority (1)
 - Metropolitan Planning Commission (1)
 - CORE MPO Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee(1)

What is the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)?

- The region's transportation system investment policies and priorities
- Links with regional land use, development, housing & employment goals & plans
- Focused on systems level & intermodal/multi modal in nature
- Fiscally constrained prioritized listing of projects
- Projections for the region's needs in the next 20+ years (updated every 5 years)

- Aligns with the Statewide Transportation Plan Fiscally constrained prioritized listing of projects
- Emphasizes efficient use of existing system & its preservation

The 2050 MTP

- Blueprint for Savannah region's transportation improvements to meet mobility needs
- Covers 2025 through 2050
- Expected adoption: August 7, 2024
- Multimodal
 - Highway Improvements
 - Travel Demand Model
 - Congestion Management Process
 - Sub-area Studies (US 80, SR 307, SR 21, Effingham Plan, etc.)
 - Freight
 - CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan update
 - GDOT Coastal Empire Study
 - Transit
 - Master Transit Plan
 - Transit Development Plan
 - Bike/Ped/Trail Improvements
 - Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update
 - Thoroughfare Plan Update
 - Environmental Consideration
 - Urban Flooding Model Study
 - Resiliency/Sustainability Analysis

The Development Process of the 2050 MTP:

- Data on Existing Conditions
- Forecasts of Future Conditions
- Vision & Goals
- Analysis & Evaluation
- Strategies
- Recommended Financially Constrained Plan
- Public Stakeholder Involvement

Three Rounds of Public Involvement

- 1st Round in Fall 2022 Kick-Off
 - Surveys
 - Refine Goals and Objectives
- 2nd Round in 2023
 - Updates
 - Study and Analysis Findings
- 3rd Round in Summer 2024
 - Financially Constrained Project Lists

Development Schedule

- Fall 2022 Kick Off, Public Outreach & Finalize Goals
- 2022-2023 Analyze Existing & Future Conditions
- 2023-2024 Finalize MPO Planning Area Boundary & MOU & Bylaws
- Early 2024 Revenue Projections & Financial Analysis
- Spring 2024 Project Prioritization & Analysis, Financial Plan Development
- June/July 2024 Public Review & Comment on Draft Plan
- August 2024 Adopt Financially Constrained Plan

Draft Highways Revenues – table can be found attached to the agenda.

- Specific Highway Projects about \$1.4 billion
- Operational Improvements Project Set Aside about \$218 million
- Non-Motorized Projects Set Aside about \$74 million
- Transit Projects Set Aside about \$34 million
- Maintenance Revenues about \$134 million

Draft 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Cost Feasible Projects (map and list attached to agenda.)

- Pipeline Projects
 - Chatham County & Municipalities
 - For example: PI# 0008358, I-516 @ CS /1503/ DeRenne Avenue (DeRenne Blvd Option)
 - Effingham County
 - For example: PI# 0018234, Stillwell Road at Ebenezer Creek
- Projects with Newly available funds
 - Received grant awards recently
 - New formula programming funds available
 - For example: Volterra Electrification of American Ports (VEAP) – Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program project award
- Longer-Term Projects
 - Carried over from the 2045 MTP
 - Newly-identified projects
 - For example: SR 21 Widening from SR 30 in Chatham County to McCall Road in Effingham County
- Set Aside Policies
 - Maintenance
 - Operational Improvements
 - Transit
 - Non-Motorized Improvements (Bike/Ped/Trail)
 - For example: for Non-Motorized Improvements there is a 3% set aside

Transit Capital Improvements (listed attached to the agenda.)

- Red Text: Projects from the adopted FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Black Text: Longer-term transit capital improvements
- Newly available grant of \$7.8 million for 6 BEB replacement buses and related EV infrastructure will be added to this table in coordination with CAT.

In terms of ending public outreach, we do have several surveys still available until we adopt the plan on August 7th 2024. The links to both surveys can be found on the slide show presentation attached to the agenda. Please share the links if you can and give us your input before we close out the public input phase on July 30th. Our contact information is provided as well, please reach out by July 30th to have your comments addressed in the 2050 MTP.

[4. Title VI Plan and Participation Plan Update](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton gave the presentation on the Title VI Plan and the Participation Plan.

Title VI Plan Update Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, and national origin. Specifically, 42 USC 2000d states that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” The use of the word “person” is important as the protections afforded under Title VI apply to anyone, regardless of whether the individual is lawfully present in the United States or a citizen of a State within the United States.

As a sub-recipient of FHWA and FTA funds, the CORE MPO’s transportation planning program is required to comply with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the President’s Executive Order on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders, and federal regulations. The primary function of the CORE MPO’s Title VI/Nondiscrimination Program is to address Title VI and Environmental Justice principles and requirements as they apply to the CORE MPO’s transportation planning process. CORE MPO submits this Title VI Plan in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 49 CFR Part 21, and the guidelines of FTA Circular 4702.1B, published October 1, 2012.

To comply, we manage a Title VI Plan that is periodically updated. The last update was in 2021, and we are now kicking off a new update that will be completed in the Fall of 2024.

Important Dates:

Project Start Date: August 1, 2024

Public Comment Period: September 3, 2024-October 18, 2024

Adoption Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Link to current Title VI Plan:

<https://www.thempc.org/docs/lit/corempo/plans/titlevi/TitleVIPlan.pdf>

The TEPIAC's role in this update is to ensure that we are on the right track with the plan content and public outreach.

Participation Plan Update The Participation Plan describes the strategies and techniques that the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) uses to inform and engage the public in transportation planning issues with the purpose of maximizing participation and effectiveness. This plan is a required MPO document and is used to direct the methods used to engage with the public. The last update of this plan was in 2021. We are not kicking off a new update that will be completed in the Fall of 2024.

The plan has been implemented since its adoption, providing participation guidance in the updates of the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Public Involvement Plan itself has been updated several times to reflect changing regulations and CORE MPO characteristics and is now known as the Participation Plan. CORE MPO aims to update the Participation Plan at least every five years.

Important Dates:

Project Start Date: August 1, 2024

Public Comment Period: September 3, 2024-October 18, 2024

Adoption Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Link to current Title VI Plan:

<https://www.thempc.org/docs/lit/corempo/plans/titlevi/pplan.pdf>

TEPIAC has a similar role in the Participation Plan. That role is to ensure that public outreach is equitable. Ms. Asia Hernton stated that CORE MPO staff will send out a poll for the best Monday in October before the 23rd adoption date.

5. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Status Report

Ms. Asia Hernton stated that 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. This will be the first collaborative task of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Specifically, BPAC will oversee the update of this plan until its adoption. The aim is to adopt this plan before the end of 2024. Staff has compiled data, identified projects, and is drafting a project ranking methodology. BPAC will review the plan recommendations, project list, and scoring methodology to ensure

the plan wholistically addresses bike/pedestrian development in the region. Progress on the plan will continue after the adoption of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan is adopted in August.

Chairman Armand Turner stated Ms. Hernton will send the scheduling Doodle Poll to the group to schedule the next meeting.

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

V. Other Business

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

VII. Notices

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

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

Report attached to agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

There being no further business, the July 29th, 2024, TEPIAC 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.