
BATS MEETING MINUTES

Brunswick Area Transportation Study Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Special Called Meeting

Monday, October 21, 2019 - 11:30 p.m.
Harold Pate Building
1725 Reynolds Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Brunswick, GA 31520

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Pamela Thompson)
2. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
 - a. 2045 SE Data – Action Item
3. BATS Administrative Updates
4. Agency Updates
 - a. Glynn County Airport Commission
 - b. Glynn County School Board
 - c. Glynn County
 - d. City of Brunswick
 - e. GDOT District 5
 - f. Transit Agencies
 - g. Other Items
5. Public Comment
6. Adjourn

Brunswick Area Transportation Study
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 11:30 a.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room
W. Harold Pate Building
1725 Reynolds Street, Brunswick, GA 31520

ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Bob Nyers, Glynn County Geographic Information Systems Department
Benjamin Pierce, Roads and Drainage Manager, Glynn County Public Works Department (Vice-Chair)
Dave Austin, Director of Glynn County Public Works Department
Paul Andrews, Glynn County Engineer
Pamela Thompson, Director, Glynn County Community Development
Vernon Bessing, Manager, Glynn County Airport Commission

Others

Rachel Hatcher, Senior Planner, RS&H
Michael Plagens, CMD Smith
Maurice Postal, Glynn County Community Development

Teleconference Participants

Ann-Marie Day, FHWA Representative
Tom McQueen, GDOT Planning Representative
Beau Lewis, GDOT Planning Representative
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith
Garrow Alberson, Brunswick City Engineer
Noel Jenson, Jekyll Island Authority
Marty Simmons, Glynn County School Board of Education Bus System Representative
Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:45 am by Ms. Pamela Thompson, she thanked the committee for being patient while staff worked through the technical difficulties and the late start to the meeting. Ms. Thompson then gave the welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She then thanked the attendees for being present given the late meeting notice, she turned the meeting over Mrs. Hatcher to continue with the next agenda item.

2. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

a. 2045 SE Data – Action Item

Mrs. Hatcher spoke briefly on this agenda item. She stated that staff has been working feverishly over the last couple of weeks to get the consultant team up and running and onboard with all the existing conditions/data available. She went on stating that the first pressing task was the development of socio-economic (SE) data. She reiterated the procurement process took a little longer than anticipated, explaining the reason for the delay in development and screening of the BATS future SE data.

Mrs. Hatcher further explained that traditionally the Technical Coordinating Committee reviews the data and endorses it to the Policy Committee, after which GDOT will screen for technical accuracy. She stated that staff has reviewed CDM's draft work and ran it through what would be the traditional checks and balances that GDOT will then perform was the data has been delivered. She went on to say that staff has good confidence in the data and are happy about the dialogue that has taken place to ensure that the data reflects, not only what the model would anticipate being a normal condition, but also reflecting the local Comprehensive Plans guidance about future growth and what is known to be vested properties.

Mrs. Hatcher also added that in addition to the SE data development effort there is also the first big push for public engagement. A primary focus of this round of public engagement will be the goals and objectives. She wrapped up stating that staff will be bringing the 2045 future SE data to the Policy Committee later today in an effort to get back on schedule.

Mrs. Hatcher then turned over the meeting to CDM Smith Project Manager, Mr. Plagens to provide more detailed information on the 2045 Future SE data development.

Mr. Plagens continued with updates on the 2045 MTP Updates, he introduced himself to the committee as well as provided them with a refresher about his consulting team and sub-consultants that will also be working on the project. He started with the introduction of the 2045 MTP goals and objects. He told the committee that the aim is to build upon the foundation that was established in the 2040 goals. He then presented the 2040 goals and objects to the committee and asked for everyone to take some time to review and provide any comments or feedback. He added that there will be a lot of changes.

Mr. Dave Austin asked when were the 2040 goals developed?

With permission from Mr. Plagens, Mrs. Hatcher responded to Mr. Austin stating that the goals were developed 5yrs ago under the Map 21 federal legislation. She added that MPO's are currently operating under the FAST Act. She stated that it is understood the 2040 goals are outdated as they were established before performance-based planning became a requirement and a focus for long-range plan updates. Mrs. Hatcher stated that the last update was executed under David Hanley's leadership.

Mr. Austin further asked how much public involvement occurred during the development of the 2040 goals. Mrs. Hatcher replied stating that the BATS 2040 MTP was developed under significant time constraints, approximately 5-6 months which limited opportunities for public engagement. She went on to say that there was a lot compressed into the first meeting, the goals and objectives being one of those subjects. The goals and objectives were screened by the Technical and Policy Committee, which built on the 2035 goals and objectives.

Mr. Austin then asked if the 2040 goals are published somewhere. Mrs. Hatcher replied stating that the goals are included the 2040 Long Range Plan which is available on the BATS website. She added that after the goals were endorsed and became a part of that process the plan itself was sent out for a 30-day public comment period and comments received were incorporated as well.

Mr. Austin stated that he just wanted to point out that the some of the public will look at the 2040 goals like they have never seen them before.

Mrs. Hatcher added that the benefit of the long-range planning process is that while the MPO has the responsibility to develop their own goals, there are 10 federal planning factors the MPO is required to respond to with the goals, these factors provide the framework, in addition to statewide transportation goals and federal planning goals.

Committee members engaged in additional discussion around the framework of developing the MTP goals.

Mr. Plagens proceed with the update on this agenda item by presenting the FAST Act national planning factors which translates into the national planning goals with the committee. He stated that all the goals that will be developed has to have some general compliance to the federal goals presented. He irritated the process of developing the 2045 planning goals stating that the 2040 goals were reviewed highlighting what still works for the MPO and what needs to be updated, as well as incorporating the federal guidance, and working with the public for additional input. The final product will be a matrix showing all the state and federal goals and how the MPO goals relate to them.

Mr. Nyers asked Mr. Plagens when will the development of the 2045 goals be completed. Mr. Plagens replied stating that the process should be completed once they've conducted the public outreach which is scheduled to occur over the next 1-2 months. He added that they will have the ability to refine the goals once the performance measures are applied.

2045 Future SE Data Update

Mr. Plagens continue with updates on the future SE data. He told the committee that the data was sent to staff for review prior to the meeting. He then proceeded with some highlights from the 2045 future SE data memorandum provided to the committee members before the meeting. He stated that the information gathered indicates that the population and number of households within Glynn County are projected to increase by more than 20 percent by 2045. Mr. Plagens also presented graphics showing the percentage change from base year to future year data. He continued stating that in the employment sector growth is anticipated for each sector, except for the retail sector, which is projected to lose 1,786 or 19.6 % jobs in the region. He added that this information presented reflected the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) projections that goes out to 2026. The data is then forecasted out to 2045.

Ms. Thompson asked Mr. Plagens about the data presented on number of households. She stated that “a lot of times we have feedback that no standard rate of growth should be used, we should use our actual construction numbers for how ever many years back and project that number forward. So how were the households projected?”

Mr. Plagens differed the question to Mr. Adam Ivory. Mr. Ivory referenced the methodology in the memo prepared for the 2045 future SE data. Mrs. Hatcher future explained that is the data and approach utilized by the consultant team follows industry standard requirements outlined in the GDOT SE data manual and provides the aggregate numbers for future population and employment for the entire MPO Region. The information was then analyzed by Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) and that’s is where the local data comes in. She continued that the data sets utilized for this process do consider historic growth as a primary factor in their projections for future growth. These totals are then applied to each TAZ where local information guides the concentrations. Mrs. Hatcher offered examples of local information that was applied during analysis of TAZs, e.g.

- Glynn County and City of Brunswick Comprehensive Plans
- Vested properties and those on the books for development that were not captured in the year 2015, the cut off year for existing conditions, they were incorporated as future growth.
- The necessity for schools to support additional population and the associated employment.

She wrapped up stating that anything that was certain to be developed or is under construction but not constructed today, those specific number of households were applied. Growth was concentrated in areas that fit what the community would like to see and what it is very likely to going to see with what is on the books today.

Ms. Thompson stated that there has been recent discussion surrounding impacts, pointing out that the community is running about 130 on the island and approximately 150 on the mainland of single-family residential homes per year. She went on stating that the numbers might be a bit bigger that what is presented, however, these numbers are registered with the public and might require additional explanation as to using the benchmark figures/ industry standards for future projections etc.

Mrs. Hatcher reiterated that the team has done a very deep dive to ensure that they’ve got the best possible distribution of the population for what they can see today, what is on the books, as well as historical growth and available land left for development.

Mr. Plagens continued with his update stating that one of the comments that was discussed, is how popular is it to show a negative percentage change in the retail sector. That being said the Policy Committee as well as the Technical Coordinating Committee, has the ability to adjust the presented forecast. The overall numbers should not change, however, the percentage for retail can be adjusted. He added that when the overall numbers are considered, retail is a very small part of the employment to begin with. As far as the other aspects looking at how the percentages compare to the GDOL, the projected total employment for the BAS region in 2045 is 57,352, a growth of 11,013 jobs, or 23.8 percent from the total employment in 2015.

Mr. Plagens then shared graphics with the committee outlining the 2045 SE data employment control percentages, the use of the GDOL data and how the draft TAZs relate to those percentages.

Mr. Marty Simmons asked, "in our currently planning, are we planning based on the existing and the projected through 2045 only?"

Mrs. Hatcher replied stating yes that is correct.

Mr. Simmons, then asked if "The plan now/possible plan of the City to look at public transportation would be impacted at this point by knowing that at some point those retail locations would no longer exist or function?"

Mrs. Hatcher replied stating that this plan update is through the year 2045, therefore they would have to take the -19% growth and starch it over the next 20 years. She added that there wouldn't likely be immediate changes in the landscape and where current businesses are located. There would be significant time to adjust to those changes over a 20-25-year timespan. Therefore, once a transit system is operating there would be that local ability to see/anticipate when businesses are going to close and adjust routes accordingly, as well as see where business are going to open and do the same.

Mr. Plagens added that there are few maps included in the memo to help show where the population distribution would be as well as the 2045 employment distribution.

Mr. Plagens then opened the floor for questions.

Mr. McQueen, GDOT representative added that this reduction is consistent with other MPO regions and that the GDOL data is accounting for the impacts of ecommerce and associated closures of brick and mortar retail stores.

Mr. Pierce added that looking at figure of showing the distribution of populations, he would assume that the projection for 2045 is based on the growth of 5 years.

Mrs. Hatcher replied stating that she would have to reference the GDOL methodology for projecting out but Yes, it is based on historical data and trends. She added that as Mr. McQueen mentioned, we know that there has been this shift in ecommerce so that would be included in whatever time frame they incorporated.

Mr. Peirce also asked if there have been any significant changes since the 2040 plan. Mrs. Hatcher replied stating there has been a lot more growth. The 2040 plan was developed as Glynn County was still recovering from the global recession. There was still recovery to be done as far as the

development community, population shifts, and people coming back into employment. She added that she was pleased to see that the MPO was back into double digits growth projections.

The Committee engaged in additional discussion about growth projections in the last plan versus the 2045 plan update.

Ms. Thompson then asked the committee if anyone had additional comments/ questions based on what Mr. Plagens presented. She then asked for clarification that the consultant team is seeking a motion from the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) to recommend to the Policy Committee (PC) acceptance of the 2045 future SE data for forwarding to GDOT for review.

Mrs. Hatcher added that it was for GDOTs review for incorporation into the travel demand model. She added that as a part of the process GDOT will check for accuracy and provide comments.

Mr. Dave Austin made a motion to recommend that the BATS Policy Committee endorse the 2045 Future SE Data for GDOTs incorporation into the Travel Demand Model. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ben Pierce. The motion was unanimously passed.

3. BATS Administrative Updates

FY 2021 5303 Grant Application

Mrs. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She stated that staff was in the process of developing the FY 2021 5303 grant application. She added there is a lag in the meeting schedule timing with the application cycle. She provided the committee with a brief refresher on the 5303 transit planning funds adding that this will be the 3rd annual application for BATS. She added that the application closes at the end of November which means the TCC will be seeing the application after staff asks the Policy Committee to endorse the resolution to apply for those funds. She added that the approved UPWP includes these funds which indicates that it has been authorized by the BATS Committees to apply for these funds.

Bay Street Corridor Improvement Project

Mrs. Hatcher stated that Bay Street Corridor analysis that was forwarded to the GAMPO Special Funding Committee was approved. She added that staff will be working through contracts and approvals in the next couple of months and would hope to begin selections first of the year.

4. Agency Updates

There were no agency updates provided during this meeting.

a. Other Items

Mr. Plagens added that just to answer the question about the schedule for the next public meeting. He stated that there was a monthly check in call held last week and they have been working with the subconsultants to get ahead of the Holiday Season. He then asked Ms. Thompson and the TCC to weigh in on a good day to host the public meeting.

Ms. Thompson stated that this could be completely off track, but she wanted to know when the team was planning to conduct traffic counts for the St. Simons Island Sector Study if any.

Mr. Plagens stated that there are no plans to conduct traffic counts.

She added that she wanted to know because of the upcoming road events in the County. RSM Classic, Georgia vs. Florida game, etc.

She added that November would be ok for a public meeting, however, it would have to be tucked in between these events and may get pushed into December.

Committee members engaged in additional discussion about upcoming events, holidays and public meeting dates.

Mrs. Hatcher added that there was discussion centered around the project website update. She added that there are materials out there under the project tab but there is additional information coming, as well as rebranding for the study itself.

She added that in addition to the public, staff will be asking the technical subcommittee to start meeting for discussions about projects list, prioritization criteria etc.

Mr. Andrews asked if the public workshop would be a couple of hours in the evening? Mr. Plagens replied stating that his team is in the process of figuring out the details. He added that they will follow up with Ms. Thompson after the meeting to get these details ironed out. He told the committee that as of now the idea is to have two meetings in one day, one that would be more focused on the St. Simons Island crowd that would have more availability during the earlier afternoon and another scheduled later at night to focus on the environmental justice areas.

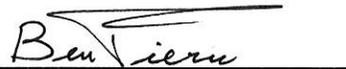
Committee members engaged in additional information about meeting times and schedules.

5. Public Comment

No comment from the public.

6. Adjourn

Ms. Thompson reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting scheduled on November 18, 2019 for the Technical Coordinating Committee. She thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:13 pm.



BATS TCC Chairman

November 19 2019

Date