
BATS MEETING MINUTES

Brunswick Area Transportation Study Special-Called Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Friday, April 17, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Teleconference

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Ben Yokley-Zarka)
2. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
 - a. 2045 MTP Unconstrained Project List – Action Item
3. BATS Administrative Updates
 - a. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - b. Public Participation Plan (PPP)
 - c. Structure of BATS Committee Meetings
4. Agency Updates
 - a. Glynn County Airport Commission
 - b. Glynn County
 - c. City of Brunswick
 - d. GDOT District 5
 - e. Jekyll Island Authority
 - f. Transit Agencies
 - g. Other Items
5. Public Comment
6. Adjourn

Brunswick Area Transportation Study
Special Called Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 17, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Teleconference

ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Ed Ellis
Zachary Harris
Steve Holt
James Gilligan
Ed Farley
Ben Slade

Others

Ely Yokley-Zarka, Glynn County
Rachel Hatcher, Senior Planner, RS&H
Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Michael Plagens, Senior Planner, CDM Smith
Adam Ivory, Transportation Manager, CDM Smith

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:00 pm by Ely Yokley-Zarka. Mr. Yokley-Zarka gave the welcome and stated that this was a special called meeting and topics that are normally on a CAC meeting agenda are not going to be discussed at this meeting. Mr. Yokley-Zarka then continued to the next agenda item and handed the floor over to Mr. Plagens.

2. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

a) 2045 Unconstrained Project List

Mr. Plagens presented this agenda item. He introduced himself and the technical lead on the MTP Update, Adam Ivory. He explained the draft project list and stated that the list began with over 160 highway and multimodal projects. He elaborated on the process used to create the draft project list:

- Collected existing projects from various sources
- Reviewed previously programmed projects
- Developed new recommended capacity projects
- Conducted analysis for safety areas
- Kept drainage projects from SPLOST
- Analyzed the 2016 Bicycle and Trail Study for completed projects and kept remaining projects

Mr. Plagens highlighted important notes about the draft project list, including that all unfunded projects from the 2040 MTP were carried forward, the project list includes all types of projects, and that all projects do not get funded through the same funding streams. He stated next steps for the draft project list included presenting the draft project list at a public meeting on April 29, 2020. He asked if there were any questions regarding the draft project list.

Mr. Gilligan asked about the omission of various project types from this draft project list. Mr. Plagens asked for clarification regarding what types of projects. Mr. Gilligan responded by mentioning airport aviation runway projects. Ms. Forbes answered and stated that the airport has their own master plan where aviation projects are covered.

Mr. Gilligan then asked about railroad infrastructure, specifically poor railroad crossings in the county. Mrs. Hatcher explained that the rail crossings in Glynn County is a big topic of discussion at all levels of the MPO. She stated that there is active progress on this matter, including a letter being written to GDOT and coordination between Glynn County staff, City of Brunswick staff and the railroads staff. She added that it is at the discretion of the railroads to make improvements in coordination with the local governments and GDOT. She stated that there is an extensive log of insufficient or damaged crossings conditions.

Mrs. Hatcher further explained about the funding sources for aviation projects and how that comes from Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Mr. Gilligan asked for clarification regarding public transportation infrastructure funding sources. Mrs. Hatcher responded stating that it is a blend of Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) funding, including 5307 funding sources, depending on what the improvements are. She further explained funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects and other types of projects.

Mr. Gilligan asked about funding for technology improvement projects. Mrs. Hatcher replied stating that those projects should and can be included on the draft project list, but they are also competitive for operational funding that is not a part of the traditional revenue stream.

There were no additional comments or questions.

Mr. Slade called for a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the 2045 MTP Unconstrained Project List. Mr. Gilligan made a motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farley. The motion passed unanimously.

a. Performance Measures

Mr. Plagens spoke on this agenda item. He provided the committee with a brief refresher of the performance measures and how the measures align with the updated MTP goals and objectives. He added that these goals and objectives were adopted by the TCC and the CAC at their respective meetings on March 9, 2020. He then explained the technical memo prepared on the BATS 2045 MTP Performance Measures and the purpose to the MPO. He stated that FHWA requested that the memo include the GDOT Performance Measures as well.

Mr. Plagens outlined how the GDOT performance measures are being supported by BATS, and those areas include: safety, pavement condition, bridge condition, system performance, freight movement. He highlighted that the BATS region is an attainment area, and that Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) performance measures are not required. In addition, BATS set will need to additional performance measures for equity and resiliency goals. He then outlined the next steps for BATS regarding performance measures, which include:

- Reviewing those performance measures
- Developing target setting strategy for the additional proposed goals and associated performance measures
- Effectively monitor and report performance relevant to the three GDOT performance measures.

He stated that the draft project list will be presented at the public meeting on April 29, 2020. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Mrs. Hatcher reminded the committee that BATS was up to date on their federal and state requirements regarding the performance measures.

There were no comments/ discussion on this agenda item.

b. Project Prioritization Framework

Mr. Plagens addressed this agenda item. He explained that there were twelve factors that will be used to prioritize the projects:

- Financial Viability
- Public Safety
- Economic Development
- Equity and Livability
- Traffic Volume and Congestion
- Functional Classification (Truck Traffic)
- Asset Condition
- Natural and Social Environmental Impacts
- Alternative Transportation Solutions
- Consistency with Local Land Use Plans
- Resiliency
- Hurricane Evacuation

He then facilitated the prioritization weighting exercise. He stated that each factor starts with 10 points, and the committee can change a factor by five points. Additionally, if a factor is increased another factor must decreased.

Mr. Gilligan asked if community or public acceptance was a prioritization factor. Mr. Plagens asked for clarification regarding Mr. Gilligan's question. Mr. Gilligan then used an example to describe his point that people are going to support projects that they are within proximity to and can see the benefits of having a project completed. Mr. Plagens again asked for clarification regarding Mr. Gilligan's question. Mrs. Hatcher pointed out that there was no surefire way to get 100% of the vote of a population. She explained the role of the MPO in determining which projects would benefit the general project the most and how that would be determined by using the prioritization factors. She stated that GDOT selects the projects in coordination with the MPO and examines federal funding sources to decide when phases of the projects are completed.

Discussion continued over community support as a factor for prioritization.

Mr. Farley pointed out the geographical concerns for transportation issues and how they are dependent on where one is in the BATS region. He stated that because of that, he did not see how you could rank one factor over another.

Mr. Harris asked how a freight corridor is determined for the purpose of the economic development factor. Mr. Ivory answered that the National Highway System (NHS) was being used to decide freight corridors. Mrs. Hatcher added that some freight corridors in the BATS region are not a part of the NHS but are determined by the percentage of freight trucks on those corridors. She stated that freight corridors generally are either listed as such by the NHS or by GDOT designation.

Mr. Harris asked if any of the roads on St. Simons Island are considered freight corridors. Mrs. Hatcher stated that there would not be any on the island.

Mr. Harris asked if there was any way the weight on the economic development factor could be shifted to another factor so that more funding would go towards local roads and projects, and not for NHS corridors or freight corridors. Mrs. Hatcher stated that it depended on the corridor, with projects on I-95 being funded by a separate source, and with SR 341 being funded with the same revenue stream as local projects. She explained that the most competitive projects should address all the prioritization factors and would be at the top of the list.

Mrs. Hatcher explained the importance of the prioritization factors, and how they are still being tweaked and modified to fit the local environment.

Mr. Plagens asked the committee if the prioritization factors should be equal weighted. The consensus from the committee was that the factors should be equally weighted. He then asked if there were any additional comments or questions.

There were no additional comments or questions.

c. Next Steps

Mr. Plagens addressed this agenda item. He explained the schedule and next steps for the MTP updating process. He stated that there is a public workshop meeting on April 29, 2020 as well as additional committee meetings in early May. The next public workshop after the meeting held on April 29th will be held during the third week of May. He added that there will also be a 30-day public comment period during the month of July, with a final adopted MTP being sent over to FHWA in August 2020.

Mr. Farley asked how the public workshop on April 29 was going to be held. Mr. Plagens responded that it would be a virtual meeting, held on Zoom. He added that the consultant team was still in the process of formalizing the process of gathering feedback from the participants.

Mr. Gilligan asked if how they advertise the meeting would change given that the meeting would now be held virtually. Mr. Plagens responded that there were still advertisements in the local paper and on social media adverts.

3. BATS Administrative Updates

a. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Forbes spoke on this agenda item. She stated that BATS staff received the financial tables from GDOT on April 10, 2020 for the administrative modification to the BATS FY 2018-2021 TIP. The administrative modifications were posted to the MPO website.

b. Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Ms. Forbes provided the committee with a quick refresher on this item, stating that the public comment period for the PPP ended on March 26, 2020. She added that there were no comments received from the public, but BATS staff is incorporating comments from oversight agencies into the final document PPP. She stated that the final draft will be presented in the May meeting cycle for action by the committee.

c. Structure of BATS Committee Meetings

Ms. Forbes spoke on this agenda item. She stated that to keep BATS on schedule and facilitate the recommended safety precautions provided by the CDC and Glynn County due to COVID-19 Pandemic, all upcoming CAC meetings schedule to take place within the next two to three months will be held via Zoom teleconference. She added that meeting materials will be added to the website prior to each meeting, with a link sent via email to committee members.

4. Agency Updates

Ms. Forbes stated that there are no agency updates due to the special nature of this meeting. She added that agency updates will be available at the next scheduled CAC meeting.

5. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Slade called for the meeting to adjourn. Mr. Farley made a motion. Mr. Gilligan seconded that motion. Mr. Slade reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting scheduled on May 11, 2020 for the Citizen Advisory Committee and thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.



BATS CAC Chairman

Date