
BATS MEETING MINUTES

Brunswick Area Transportation Study Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

Monday March 9, 2020 - 1:30 p.m.
Harold Pate Building
1725 Reynolds Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Brunswick, GA 31520

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Pamela Thompson)
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes- Action Item
 - a. Minutes from TCC meeting held on January 13, 2020
3. Draft FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Action Item
4. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
 - a. 2045 Goals and Objectives – Action Item
 - b. Existing Conditions Summary – Information
5. Lanier-Gloucester Improvements Study Update – Information
6. BATS Administrative Updates
 - a) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - b) Public Participation Plan (PPP)
7. Agency Updates
 - a. Glynn County Airport Commission
 - b. Glynn County School Board
 - c. Glynn County
 - d. City of Brunswick
 - e. GDOT District 5
 - f. Jekyll Island Authority
 - g. Transit Agencies
 - h. Other Items
8. Public Comment
9. Adjourn

Brunswick Area Transportation Study
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday March 9, 2020 - 1:30 p.m.
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ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Marty Simmons, Glynn County School Board of Education Bus System Representative
Bob Nyers, Glynn County Geographic Information Systems Department
Garrow Alberson, Brunswick City Engineer
Maurice Postal, Glynn County Community Development (Proxy for Pamela Thompson)
Paul Andrews, Glynn County Engineer
Vernon Bessing, Manager, Glynn County Airport Commission
Byron Cowart, GDOT Planning Representative
David Dantzler, Coastal Regional Commission
Tom McQueen, GDOT Planning Representative
Stefanie Lief, Glynn County Community Development

Others

Julie Martin, Brunswick City Commission
Russell Oliver, Coastal Regional Commission
Michael Plagens, CDM Smith Consultant
Cassius Edwards GDOT District 5 Representative
Bill Marker, St. Simons Island

Teleconference Participants

Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Rachel Hatcher, Senior Planner, RS&H
Justin Dammons, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Ann-Marie Day, FHWA
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith Consultant
Sean Thomas, GDOT Planning Representative

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 pm by Mr. Maurice Postal, proxy for Pamela Thompson, Chairman of the BATS Technical Coordinating Committee. Mr. Postal gave the welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes – Action Item

Mr. Postal addressed this agenda item. He asked committee members to take a few minutes to review the meeting minutes and provide any comments or questions they had. He also stated that the minutes were emailed out prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Postal then called for a motion to approve the minutes from the TCC meeting held on January 13, 2020. Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Cowart seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Draft FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Action Item

Mrs. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She reminded the committee that the Technical Coordinating Committee took action on December 9, 2019 to recommend to the Policy Committee to release the draft FY 2021 UPWP for agency review and a 30-day public comment period. She stated that the comment period ended January 8, 2020, and comments received from oversight agencies have been incorporated into a comment log and into the final draft of the FY 2021 UPWP. Mrs. Hatcher further explained the comments received from FHWA and GDOT and highlighted their location in the updated draft FY 2021 UPWP.

Mrs. Hatcher reminded the committee of the Schedule of Activities for the FY 2021 UPWP and the current status. She then stated that the next steps for the TCC, was to make recommendations to the Policy Committee to adopt the draft FY 2021 UPWP.

Mr. Postal called for a motion for the TCC to recommend to the Policy Committee approve the BATS FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Alberson made a motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bessing. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

a. 2045 Goals and Objectives – Action Item

Mrs. Hatcher spoke briefly on this agenda item. She stated that there was an action item for the 2045 Goals & Objectives, as well as information on the Existing Conditions and Public Survey Results Summary. She then handed the presentation over to Mr. Plagens, project manager from consultant team working on the BATS 2045 MTP update.

Mr. Plagens stated that all the information from this presentation will be available on the BATS website. He reminded the committee that there were two rounds of public meetings held, in St. Simons Island and in the City of Brunswick and that were well attended. He stated that the initiative to update the goals and objectives of the 2045 MTP began in October 2019. He added that the process included four steps:

- Review of the 2040 Goals
- Incorporate Federal Guidance
- Conduct outreach to the public for additional input
- Present modified Goals and Objectives back to the Policy Committee for approval

Mr. Plagens explained each step of the updating process in detail. Mr. Nyers asked if the comments received on the resiliency of the projects were from residents on St. Simons Island. Mr. Plagens replied that stating they were and explained their concerns regarding the environment.

Ms. Martin added that the residents wanted BATS staff and CDM Smith to be more proactive when it came to the environmental concerns, and Mr. Plagens agreed. Mr. Plagens opened the floor up for additional questions and comments. There were no further questions.

Mr. Postal then called for a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee adoption of the 2045 MTP Goals and Objectives. Mr. Andrews made a motion. Mr. Nyers seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

b. Existing Conditions Summary – Information

Mr. Plagens spoke on this agenda item. He stated the purpose of incorporating Environmental Justice into the 2045 BATS MTP Update. He explained the demographics of the BATS region, including information about density, minority population, income and poverty, vehicle ownership, and travel to work time. He explained there was a special effort made to reach low-income and minority groups within the BATS region, with roughly 17% of residents living in poverty. Mr. Nyers asked how the statistics were gathered for this summary. Mr. Plagens replied that they were compiled through the 2018 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Mr. Nyers then asked if that was done by the US Census, and Mr. Plagens replied that they were.

Mr. Plagens stated that the winter survey was open for 65 days and consisted of 18 multiple choice questions. He explained the questions on the survey asked respondents about mobility issues, place of residence, their work, preference on mode of transportation, and evacuation routes. Mr. Plagens opened the floor up for additional questions and comments. There were no further questions.

5. Lanier-Gloucester Improvement Study Update - Information

Mrs. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She stated that information from the study was presented by Pond & Company to the Policy Committee on February 10, 2020. She added that Pond & Company made some recommendations, including restriping parts of the study area, and shrinking the median to allow new lane configuration. She then differed to Mr. Alberson for additional updates.

Mr. Alberson stated that the City was still waiting on the final report from Pond & Company. He explained the recommendations made, including work on SR 25/Glynn Ave, Lanier Blvd, Frontage Rd, and a pedestrian crossing.

Ms. Martin asked for clarification regarding stop lanes and striping on Gloucester St. Mr. Alberson responded that with the left leg of Lanier is being closed, there will be an alignment in the center of Gloucester.

Mr. Simmons asked about the median on Gloucester at Lanier in the first concept sketch, and what was going to be done to accommodate the large vehicles on that intersection making left or right turns. Mr. Alberson replied that vehicles will still be able to make a turn onto or off Lanier. Mr. Simmons then asked if there will still be two-way traffic at Lanier, and Mr. Alberson responded that traffic will still be able to flow in perpendicular to Gloucester.

Mr. Simmons asked if it was a painted median or a concrete median coming from Highway 17 turning onto Gloucester near the existing gas station. Mr. Alberson stated that everything east of Lanier Blvd. is painted.

Ms. Martin asked about the timeline for restriping and painting on Gloucester specifically with the center turn lane reducing the roadway to one lane of traffic going each way, going west. Mr. Alberson stated that it will be done as a part of GDOT's restriping projects. Ms. Martin then asked for clarification for the width of the bike lanes on Gloucester. Mr. Alberson responded with the widths for each section of the bike lane as well as the ending portion of the bike lanes. Discussion continued about the bike lanes on Gloucester St.

Mr. Nyers asked if the restriping being done on GDOT's resurfacing project was a part of the Lanier Gloucester improvement project. Mr. Alberson stated that the restriping was planned before this intersection improvement project. He then asked if there were any more questions. There no further questions or comments.

6. BATS Administrative Updates

a. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mrs. Hatcher provided the committee with the administrative updates. She stated that BATS staff received a request to make two administrative modifications to the BATS FY 2018-2021 TIP from GDOT's Office of Planning on March 3, 2020. She explained that the first administrative modification was to the amount of total funding towards the right-of-way acquisition for PI 0013745 (SR 25 Spur East at Mackay River). She stated that the second modification requested was for the year of funding for the right-of-way acquisition of PI 0013993 (SR 32 at Little Buffalo Creek). She added that these administrative modifications have been added to the TIP and are available on the BATS website.

b. Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Mrs. Hatcher presented on this agenda item. She mentioned that the Policy Committee took action on February 10, 2020 to release the BATS PPP for a 45-day comment period. She stated that a public advertisement was posted in the Brunswick News on February 19, 2020, and hard copies were made available at multiple locations throughout Glynn County. She added that BATS staff created a flyer

that was posted to the MPO website and circulated via email to committee members to share with their constituencies. She stated that the public comment period will end on March 26, 2020.

7. Agency Updates

a. Glynn County Airport Commission

There were no Airport Commission updates.

b. Update on School Board Projects

Mr. Marty Simmons provided updates on School Board projects. He stated that there were no updates available since the last meeting.

c. Glynn County

Mr. Andrews provide updates on County projects. He told the committee that a project update sheet was provided t as a part of their meeting packet. He then proceeded to briefly highlight ongoing projects.

There were no questions/ discussions on the County projects.

d. Update on City Projects

Mr. Alberson provided an update on City of Brunswick projects. He stated that:

- L Street project was moving along, with anticipated completion of Phase 1 in April.
- The Magnolia Park project – Rebuilding Roadways is in the process of getting under contract.
- The MLK St. Trail Project from French St. going south is getting its GDOT permit finalized.
- The Boardwalk Trail has had design funding approved.

Ms. Martin asked for clarification regarding the timeline towards completion of the Boardwalk Trail project. Mr. Alberson estimated that it would be completed in five or six years, at the minimum.

Discussion ensued about the Boardwalk Trail project.

e. Update on GDOT Projects

Mr. Cowart provided brief updates on GDOT District 5 projects that were listed on the GDOT Project Sheet.

There were no questions/comments on GDOT project updates.

f. Jekyll Island Authority

There were no Jekyll Island Authority representatives present at the meeting.

g. Transit Agencies

There were no transit updates presented at this meeting.

h. Other Items

Mrs. Hatcher thanked the committee for having this committee meeting via teleconference due to the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic. She stated that the language in the bylaws have been updated to account for future situations like COVID-19 or other situations that prohibit the TCC from meeting in person.

8. Public Comment

No comment from the public.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Postal reminded everyone of the next regularly scheduled Technical Coordinating Committee on May 11, 2020. He thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:05 pm.

Pamela Thompson

BATS TCC Chairman

Date