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## **BATS MEETING MINUTES**

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

Monday, April 20, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.  
Via Zoom Teleconference

#### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Pamela Thompson)
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**

Monday, April 20, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.  
Via Zoom Teleconference

**ATTENDEES**

Committee Members

Stefanie Lief, Glynn County Planning and Zoning  
Vernon Bessing, Glynn County Airport Commission  
Garrow Alberson, City of Brunswick  
Bob Nyers, Glynn County Geographic Information Systems Department  
Maurice Postal, Glynn County Community Development  
Pamela Thompson, Glynn County Office of Planning  
Benjamin Pierce, Glynn County Public Works Department  
Byron Cowart, GDOT Planning Representative  
Dave Austin, Glynn County  
Noel Jensen, Jekyll Island Authority

Paul Andrews, Glynn County Engineer

Others

Rachel Hatcher, Senior Planner, RS&H  
Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H  
Michael Plagens, Senior Planner, CDM Smith  
Adam Ivory, Transportation Manager, CDM Smith  
Vivian Delgadillo, GDOT Planning Representative  
Ann-Marie Day, FHWA  
Jeff

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. by Ms. Pamela Thompson. Ms. Thompson gave the welcome and handed the meeting over to Mrs. Hatcher. Mrs. Hatcher explained the purpose of the meeting and the current timeline for the MTP Updating process. She stated that CDM Smith was going to present update on the MTP process, including the 2045 Unconstrained Project List, the 2045 Performance Measures, and the Project Prioritization Framework.

## **2. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update**

### **a. 2045 Unconstrained Project List**

Mr. Plagens presented this agenda item. He introduced himself and reiterated the purpose of the meeting. He described the draft project list and how it began with over 160 highway and multimodal projects. He then explained each step taken by the consultant team 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 went on to share the next steps for the draft project list, which is to present the draft project list at the MTP Public Meeting #3 on April 29, 2020. He asked if there were any questions regarding the draft project list.

Mrs. Hatcher stated that the recommended action for this agenda item is for the Technical Coordinating Committee to make recommendation to the Policy Committee to approve the 2045 MTP Unconstrained Project List.

Mr. Austin asked if there were any considerations for the gateway coming onto St. Simons Island. Mr. Ivory explained that there was a public workshop meeting scheduled to take place on St. Simons Island to discuss projects pertinent to the residents on that island. He stated that the plan is to have that meeting and incorporate any concerns received into the St. Simons Island Sector Study.

Mr. Austin elaborated and said he wanted to see the Torras Causeway concept evaluated. Mr. Ivory stated that the Torras Causeway concept was evaluated for traffic and safety and there were one to two recommendations received for design considerations from the community for that intersection. Mr. Austin asked for clarification about the certainty of the St. Simons Island workshop, and would that workshop be held virtually. Mr. Ivory answered that any meetings held in the next four to six weeks would be held virtually.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) mentioned innovative ways of community engagement including virtual meetings and postings to the MPO website. Mr. Ivory pointed out that the consultant teams had researched best practices for conducting virtual meetings and will be incorporating those measures into the next BATS MTP public meeting.

Mrs. Ann-Marie Day added that FHWA also has resources on virtual public meetings available on the FHWA website.

#### **b. Performance Measures**

Mr. Plagens spoke on this agenda item. He gave a brief refresher of the Performance Measures (PMs) and how the PMs align with the updated MTP goals and objectives that were adopted by the TCC and the CAC on March 9, 2020. He shared a brief review of the technical memo prepared on the BATS 2045 MTP Performance Measures with the committee and the purpose to the MPO. He stated that these performance measures were in line with GDOT's performance measures and targets, and that FHWA requested that the memo highlights this fact. He explained the process to update the performance measures and pointed out how they will be beneficial to the BATS:

- Implements new federal requirements for Performance-Based Planning and Programming
- Consists of a series of federally compliant performance measures
- Review of other MPOs
- Allows BATS MPO to prioritize program-level projects in the TIP and the STIP
- Incorporates concepts from National Highway Institute (NHI)
- Supports GDOT adopted performance measures and targets

Mr. Plagens told the committee that BATS currently supports the GDOT performance measures including safety, pavement condition, bridge condition, system performance, freight movement. He emphasized that the BATS region is an attainment area and that Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) performance measures are not required. He stated that BATS will be required to set additional performance measures for equity and resiliency goals added for the MPO region. He then outlined the next steps for BATS regarding performance measures, which included:

- Review the draft performance measures
- Develop 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 being held on April 29, 2020. He then asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the information presented.

There were no comments/ discussion on this agenda item.

#### **c. Project Prioritization Framework**

Mr. Plagens addressed this agenda item. He briefly explained the framework for the project prioritization. He stated that there were twelve factors identified to prioritize the 2045 MTP projects. He went on to provide the committee with additional detail on each factor.

- 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 decrease.

Mrs. Hatcher mentioned that there was lengthy discussion at the Citizens Advisory Meeting held on April 17, 2020 and the resulting consensus was that each factor should be equally weighted.

Mr. Austin stated that Public Safety was more valuable than some of the other factors and should be given a score higher than 10. He added that asset condition should be given a lower weight because most of the roads in the BATS region were at a score of 83%. Ms. Thompson stated that the County would want the weight for alternative transportation solutions lowered, since they have not been interested in promoting alternative transportation solutions.

Mr. Austin reiterated that the number one priority in county government is public safety. He also agreed with lowering the score for alternative transportation solutions and stated that Public Safety should be moved up with a weight of 25.

Mr. Pierce asked for clarification of the total weighting score. Mr. Plagens responded that it was a total of the weightings and not a percentage rate. Mr. Pierce asked if there was a decision to be made on the weight factors, and when the finalization of the constrained project list occurs, if this prioritization will be used. Mr. Plagens stated that was correct, once the constrained list is finalized and adopted the prioritization weightings will be used to sort the projects.

Mr. Jensen asked where would projects that have already begun rank on the draft project list. Mr. Plagens stated that it would be listed as a project that has already had work done, and that they would still be on the list. Mr. Jensen stated that the public would like to see projects through to completion, and that he also agreed with Mr. Austin.

Ms. Thompson stated that Glynn County is working on a zoning and subdivision update, and some of biggest feedback received from public input is that resiliency planning is important. She added that she also agrees with Mr. Austin regarding an increased weighting for Public Safety, and that the bottom third of the list (Alternative Transportation Solutions, Consistency with Local Land Use Plans, and Hurricane Evacuation) should be lowered to 5. Mr. Plagens clarified the difference between Public Safety and Resiliency factors.

Comments posted to the Zoom teleconference chat were that equity and livability should be looked at to enhance their score as well as natural and social environmental impacts.

Mr. Austin reiterated that Public Safety should get moved to 20. Ms. Thompson stated that the projects on the list looked as if they were already ranked in priority order with three separate groups. Mr. Austin supported Ms. Thompson's comments.

Mrs. Day explained that during the prioritization exercise, the factors should be looked at to see how they will fit into the national goals, and that BATS is required to report to GDOT as they support GDOT's targets. She stated that the projects that are given higher rankings need to support those national goals as well as GDOT's targets. Mr. Ivory responded and said that the factors were formed in order to be in alignment with the state factors. Ms. Day stated that a visualization would have been helpful to see how these factors

meet those targets because the committee would have been able to decide not just based on the prioritization factors.

Mr. Pierce stated that the exercise should be tabled for the next meeting, to give the committee more time to think about the weighting of the factors.

Mrs. Hatcher reminded the committee of the MTP schedule as well as potential next steps should the committee move this exercise to a later date. She stated the importance of keeping on track for adopting the 2045 MTP in August.

There were no additional comments or questions.

#### **d. Next Steps**

Mr. Plagens addressed this agenda item. He outlined the schedule and next steps for the MTP update process. He stated that Public Workshop #3 will be held on April 29, 2020 as well as additional committee meetings in early May. The fourth public workshop will be held during the third week of May. He added that there will be a 30-day public comment period during the month of July, and final adopted MTP being sent over to FHWA in August 2020.

There were no additional comments or questions.

### **3. BATS Administrative Updates**

#### **a. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mrs. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She stated that BATS staff received the final financial tables from GDOT on April 10, 2020 for the administrative modification to the BATS FY 2018-2021 TIP. She added that there was no action needed by the committee. The administrative modifications in the, amended TIP were posted to the BATS website.

#### **b. Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

Ms. Hatcher 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 May for action by the committee. She asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

#### **c. Structure of BATS Committee Meetings**

Ms. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She highlighted that BATS staff received invaluable information from FHWA and GDOT as well as the CDC and Glynn County regarding COVID-19 and staying safe. She stated that all upcoming TCC meetings scheduled 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 to the information sent via email to committee members.

### **4. Agency Updates**

Ms. Hatcher 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 schedule TCC meeting.

**5. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**6. Adjourn**

Ms. Thompson called for the meeting to adjourn. Ms. Thompson reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting scheduled on May 11, 2020 for the Technical Coordinating Committee and thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Pamela Thompson

BATS TCC Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Date