

**Brunswick Area Transportation Study
Special Called Policy Committee (PC) Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday May 28, 2020 - 1:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Teleconference

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Michael Browning)
2. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
 - a. 2045 MTP Prioritization and Performance Measures – Action Item
 - b. 2015 MTP Cost Constrained Project List– Action Item
3. BATS Administrative Updates
 - a) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - b) 2020 Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council (REBC) Grant program
4. Public Comment
5. Adjourn

Next Policy Committee Meeting: Monday, June 8, 2020

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 pm by Chairman Browning. Mr. Browning gave the welcome, and Mrs. Hatcher announced the Zoom Teleconference participants.

2. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

a. 2045 MTP Prioritization and Performance Measures – Action Item

b. 2015 MTP Cost Constrained Project List– Action Item

Mr. Plagens presented on this agenda item. He stated that the development of this comprehensive project list started with over 160 highway and multimodal projects. He then provided the committee with a brief refresher on the constrained project list and highlighted the process of creating the project list. Those steps include:

- Collecting existing projects from various sources
- Presenting combined list to Technical Sub-committee, TCC, CAC, and PC
- Presenting combined list to the public at Public Meeting #3 on April 29, 2020
- Submitting draft constrained project list to staff on May 8, 2020
- Presenting draft of Constrained Project List to Technical Subcommittee on May 11, 2020
- Making adjustments based on guidance and comments from staff and committees including Technical Subcommittee

He added that previously programmed projects were placed at the top of the constrained project list. Mrs. Hatcher elaborated that these are projects already programmed in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) but have not had all phases completed. She added that as the funding phases are authorized, new projects will move into the TIP. Mr. Plagens added that GDOT requested for the consultant team to update the costs of these projects with newly released data.

Mr. Plagens stated that the preliminary project costs were separated by phase including PE, ROW and Construction, and that the projects were further organized into bands for funding. He explained the funding bands and the timeline for each band to the committee:

- Band 1 (2020 – 2025) – costs from mid-year of band, year 2023
- Band 2 (2026 – 2035) – costs from mid-year of band, year 2031
- Band 3 (2036 – 2045) – costs from mid-year of band, year 2041
- Illustrative – pulled costs from year 2046

Mrs. Hatcher added that GDOT provided revenue projections for each band, which showed annual growth factor and inflation for the costs of each project. She explained why the mid-year was used to represent phase costs, due to the uncertainty of when projects would become funded.

Mr. Plagens continued with updates on this agenda item. He stated that the next steps for the constrained project list would be review and approval of the project list by BATS committees as well as presenting the project list to the public at the Public Meeting #4 in June 2020.

Ms. Martin stated that it would be helpful if the list showed which projects were in Glynn County, The City of Brunswick, and those that cross between the two jurisdiction lines. Mr. Hatcher replied stating that

BATS staff and the consultant team would coordinate to make sure that information is included in the final version.

Ms. Martin added that it would be helpful for long range purposes, for certain jurisdictions to see when a project is upcoming and will affect traffic and road closures.

Mrs. Hatcher stated that the Technical Subcommittee, Technical Committee, and the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended approval of the 2045 MTP Cost Constrained Project List pending the incorporation of feedback and comments provided by oversight agencies and BATS staff. She continued stating that as a result of the Mackay River project being already funded, additional revenue became available for another project to move up in the prioritization list for funding in Band 1. Additionally, a project on the cost constrained project list was identified as a regional project, this project extends towards Brantley County, and is on a Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP) Corridor and is also an evacuation route. She stated that the project should be reevaluated due to its regional importance, and if it performs better in the evaluation, it should have one or more of its phases moved into an earlier band.

Mrs. Hatcher stated that a series of modifications were made; several projects were redundant and have been grouped for a more condensed project list. She also shared with the committee that some of the projects are not currently feasible and highlighted the timeline moving forward for those projects.

Ms. Martin asked for clarification on the final outcome of projects not currently feasible. Mrs. Hatcher responded stating that there is no current provision in the land development review process to see if there is a conflict with a proposed project. She added that there are other local jurisdictions that have incorporated that into their rezoning and redevelopment process. She elaborated on how other MPO's carry out this process and how it affects their project development.

Ms. Martin stated that she would like to see that happen with the BATS MPO; she stated, "what is the purpose of a long-range plan with a list of projects that no one knows about and is not planning accordingly?" She added that she thinks this would be a necessary step moving forward.

Mr. Browning concurred with Ms. Martin, adding that this community is growing and with business moving in, they would not want to be prohibited from making changes to the lanes on a road.

Ms. Thompson added that Glynn County is working on post-MTP a 'right of way (ROW) Needs' map to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. McDuffie, newly appointed City Manager asked where she could review a list of the projects that have been excluded from the project list. Mrs. Hatcher stated that the reviews were made earlier that morning and have not been published yet, but she does have a version of that list for the Policy Committee to view virtually.

Ms. Thompson responded that herself and Mrs. Hatcher are available to explain the BATS process to Ms. McDuffie and bring her up to speed given that this was her first meeting.

Ms. Martin asked for additional clarification on the excluded projects and asked if the list would be available as an overlay for the city and county public works. She asked if this would change the

recommended motion and action. Mrs. Hatcher stated that it would not change the recommended action and reiterated the timeline for the cost constrained project list.

There were no additional questions or comments on this agenda item.

Commissioner Browning called for a motion on the 2045 MTP Cost Constrained Project List. Ms. Martin made a motion to recommend approval of the 2045 MTP Cost Constrained Project List pending the incorporation of feedback and comments provided by oversight agencies and BATS staff. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Draft MTP

Mrs. Hatcher provided the committee with a brief refresher on the purpose on the MTP and the timeline towards final adoption of the 2045 MTP document. Mr. Plagens continued with updates on this agenda item. He stated that the draft MTP was developed and submitted as separate technical memorandums by chapter due to schedule constraints and to assist with adoption of the MTP. He explained each of the six chapters:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction and MTP Overview
- Chapter 2 – Planning Context
- Chapter 3 – Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures
- Chapter 4 – Study Area Characteristics
- Chapter 5 – Existing Conditions
- Chapter 6 – Plan Development

Mr. Plagens then highlighted the schedule and next steps for the draft MTP. He stated that there would be a Public Workshop #4 in June 2020, with a 30-day Public Comment from late June to early July 2020, with an adopted MTP sent to FHWA in August 2020. Mrs. Hatcher explained the recommended action and suggested motion for this agenda item.

Ms. Martin asked if all members of the stakeholder committees and the public can be notified of the public comment periods moving forward. Mrs. Hatcher stated BATS staff can do that and added how the comment log is incorporated into the draft MTP with comments from oversight agencies and the public. She stated that the document is going to be recirculated to the committees again for review with the updated comment logs.

Mr. Burr asked about chapter two in the MTP and wanted to know if the list of committee members included spans over the duration of the document or should only reflect current members. Mrs. Hatcher responded that the list is currently showing committee members over the life of the plan, and some modifications were made by staff to update that list.

Mr. Burr stated that some of the names on the list were outdated, and that narratively should include when these individuals worked on the plan to clear up confusion, especially when this list goes to the public. Mrs. Hatcher stated that BATS staff made edits, and where there were inconsistencies with the current slate of members, notes were made.

There were no additional questions or comments.

Commissioner Browning called for a motion on the 2045 Draft MTP. Mr. Hooks made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee release of the draft BATS MTP for a 30-day oversight agency review

followed by a 30-day public comment review pending incorporation of feedback and comments provided by oversight agencies and BATS staff. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. BATS Administrative Updates

a. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Mrs. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She stated that applications to receive TAP funding are due by July 31, 2020. She explained that the MTP allows for prioritization of projects from FHWA funding, but there is no funding for programming for multimodal projects. She added that TAP funding is available for multimodal projects and explained the requirements and eligible projects for this program. She stated bike and pedestrian projects are eligible for this funding, along with the ineligible uses for this funding.

b. 2020 Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council (REBC) Grant program

Mrs. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She explained the REBC Grant program, and who can apply for this funding. She stated that the deadline was May 15, 2020, and BATS staff will let the committees know in advance, in the future, of this funding opportunity.

c. Traffic Update – Exit 38

Mrs. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She stated that BATS has been coordinating with GDOT's district office regarding traffic congestion at Exit 38 South. She explained the traffic situation at this exit and what next steps moving forward look like. She added that GDOT district office is coordinating with Traffic Ops and State Aid on this issue and will update accordingly.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions.

5. Other Items

Mr. Staffins asked if the next meeting will be held in-person or will be held virtually. Ms. Thompson stated all of Glynn County meetings are being held virtually for the foreseeable future, through the middle of June due to the state-mandated social distancing requirements.

6. Adjourn

Commissioner Browning reminded everyone of the next Policy Committee meeting scheduled on June 8, 2020. He thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m.



Handwritten signature of Mark K. Browning in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

BATS PC Chairman

Date