
BATS MEETING MINUTES

Brunswick Area Transportation Study Policy Committee (PC) Meeting

Monday April 12, 2021 - 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference

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AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Cornell Harvey)
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes- Action Item
 - a. Minutes from PC meeting held on February 8, 2021.
3. Final Draft BATS FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Action Item
4. Final Draft BATS FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Action Item
5. Public Participation Plan Update – Action Item
6. Bylaws Update – Action Item
7. Special PL Funding Project (Bay Street Corridor Improvements) - Action Item
8. BATS Administrative Updates
 - a. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership Drive - 2021
 - b. GAMPO Spring Meeting Update
9. 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
 - i. Public Comment
10. Adjourn

Brunswick Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday April 12, 2021 - 1:30 p.m.
Via Teleconference

ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Mayor Cornell Harvey, BATS PC Chairman
Pamela Thompson Glynn County Community Development
Jones Hooks, Jekyll Island Authority
Regina McDuffie, City Manager, City of Brunswick
Tanet Myers, City of Brunswick
Julie Martin, City of Brunswick
Terra Winslett, Glynn County Airport Commission
Robert Burr, Glynn County Airport Commission
Jim Gilligan, BATS CAC Chairman
Garrow Alberson, City of Brunswick
Cassius Edwards, GDOT
Ansley Grantham, GDOT Intermodal
Melissa Phillips, Glynn County
Katie Proctor, GDOT
Radney Simpson, GDOT
Walter Rafolski, Glynn County Board of Commissioners
Ned Green, GDOT Planning

Others

Rachel Hatcher, Senior Planner, RS&H
Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Justin Dammons, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Ann-Marie Day, FHWA
John Hunter, Planning & Zoning, City of Brunswick
Tom Caiafa, GDOT Planning
Jonathan Guy, Kimley Horn
Chris Marsengill, Kimley Horn

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:45 pm by Mayor Cornell Harvey, Chairman of the BATS Policy Committee. Mr. Harvey gave a brief welcome and Mrs. Hatcher did the roll call of meeting participants.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item

- a. Minutes from PC meeting held on February 8, 2021.

Mr. Harvey addressed this agenda item. He stated that the minutes from the Policy Committee meeting held on February 8, 2021 were sent to committee members prior to the meeting for review and opened the floor for comments/questions. There were no comments/questions on the meeting minutes. He then called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from PC meeting held on February 8, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Rafolski to approve the meeting minutes from February 8, 2021 as presented. Mr. Hooks seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Final Draft BATS FY 2021 -2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Action Item

Mrs. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She gave a brief refresher, stating that the current BATS TIP will expire on June 30, 2021. She added that the draft FY 2021-2024 TIP was released for a 30-day public comment period which closed on January 13, 2021. During the comment period no comments were received from the public, however comments were received from oversight agencies. All comments received were incorporated into the final draft document provided for review. She stated that following the public comment period the CAC provided feedback regarding the transit chapter, which has now been updated accordingly. She went on to share with the committee that staff also received updated project cost detail tables, project cost summary tables, and expected highway STIP funds tables from GDOT that have been incorporated into the final draft of the TIP. She added that if the PC takes action to adopted TIP during their meeting, it will not become the active TIP document until it is incorporated into the Statewide TIP (STIP).

Mrs. Hatcher continued her update stating that the CAC and TCC unanimously recommended approval of the FY 2021 -2024 TIP. She then opened the floor for questions/comments on this agenda item.

There were no questions or comments on this agenda item.

Mr. Harvey then called for a motion to adopt by resolution the BATS FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Martin made a motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hooks. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Final Draft BATS Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Action Item

Mrs. Hatcher gave a brief refresher on this agenda item. She reminded the committee of the purpose of the UPWP and shared the schedule of activities leading up to the finalization of the document with the committee. She stated that the FY 2022 UPWP public comment period ended on January 13,

2021, and all comments received have been incorporated into the final document and shown in a comment log which was made available for reference on the MPO website. She added that the CAC and TCC unanimously recommended approval of the FY 2022 UPWP by the PC. She then opened the floor for questions/comments.

There were no questions or comments on this agenda item.

Mayor Harvey, then called for a motion to adopt the FY 2022 UPWP. Mr. Rafolski made a motion to adopt by resolution the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Ms. Martin seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Participation Plan Update – Action Item

Mrs. Hatcher addressed this agenda item. She stated that a new chapter was added on page 25 to the BATS PPP to address public participation during emergencies, with guidance for returning to in-person meetings following the emergencies. She then shared chapter highlights with the committee, outlining that the PC will need to take action to release for public comment period. She added that both the CAC and TCC unanimously recommended approval to release the Public Participation Plan Amendment for a 45-day public comment period. She then opened the floor for questions/comments.

There were no questions/comments on this agenda item.

Mayor Harvey then called for a motion to release the PPP Amendment for a 45-day public comment period. Mr. Rafolski made a motion to approve the updated Public Participation Plan and release for a 45-day public comment period. Ms. Martin seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. BATS Bylaws Update – Action Item

Mrs. Hatcher spoke this agenda item. She stated that concurrently with the update to the Public Participation Plan, an update to the committee bylaws was conducted to provide interim guidance for meetings, voting, and participation during emergencies. She explained the purpose of the changes made to the bylaws, to help ensure the BATS MPO adheres to the responsibilities of the transportation planning process.

She then explained that the TCC took action to approve their amended bylaws however, CAC recommended approval of their bylaws by the PC. She then opened the floor for questions/comments.

There were no questions or comments.

Mayor Harvey the called for a motion. Mr. Rafolski made a motion to adopt the BATS Policy Committee and CAC amended bylaws and that the PC Chairperson signs the amendments. Mr. Hooks seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

7. Special PL Funding Project (Bay Street Corridor Improvements) – Action Item

Mr. Guy presented this agenda item. He stated the study overview and highlighted the priorities of the Bay Street Corridor Study, which included:

- Develop a coordinated plan for the entire corridor
- Identify mobility issues along the corridor
- Develop solutions for identified area(s) along the study corridor that enhance mobility for all modes
- Develop an action plan that shows how public and private entities can work together to realize results

He gave a refresher on past efforts carried out by the consultant team, including operational analysis, stakeholder engagement & visioning, data collection, understanding of past efforts, establishment of goals and objectives of the study, observations and needs determination. He then shared the following key corridor statistics discovered with the committee:

- 7.3 miles in length
- 3 traffic signals
- 1 interchange
- 5 road name changes
- 11 major intersections
- 4 distinct context areas
- 1 railroad crossing
- Railroad parallels corridor for 3.7 miles

Mr. Guy went on to share that past efforts included reviews of previous plans and studies that have analyzed parts of the Bay St. corridor, but no single plan that studied the entire corridor from I-95 to its southern end. He highlighted the list of stakeholders that the consulting group reached out to for feedback regarding issues with the corridor. During the initial efforts of the study categories were all identified to consider while analyzing the Bay St. corridor. These include:

- Function and safety
- aesthetics & amenities
- business & economics

He reminded the committee that the Golden Isles Parkway is a Governors Road Improvement Program (GRIP) corridor and connects I-75 to Mayor's Point Terminal in Brunswick. He explained the purpose of GRIP corridors, which is to provide connectivity, growth, efficient and effective mobility, and safety along corridors throughout the state. Freight and rail were mentioned as another category that affects analyses of the Bay St. corridor.

He also outlined that there are four unique areas along the corridor, broken into zones.

- Zone 1 – Commercial
- Zone 2 – Transitional
- Zone 3 – Waterfront
- Zone 4 – Community

Mr. Guy went on to state that AADT volumes from 2019 were analyzed, with volume being higher in the northern end of the corridor, in the commercial zone near the plants. Truck percentages were higher in 2020 than in 2019, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that normal corridors have 3-4% truck traffic, but the Bay St. corridor is between 4-11% truck traffic. Corridor speeds were also examined, with posted speeds increasing heading south towards downtown Brunswick.

Mr. Guy highlighted corridor crash data, mentioning that the bulk of crashes on the corridor happened near I-95 and the northern end of the corridor. The type of crash that occurred most on the corridor included rear end, left angle crash, and other angle crashes. He shared existing corridor capacity and pointed out that between Glyndale Drive and 9th St, the capacity was higher than 60% in 2020, and in 2035, was higher than 70%. He explained the level of service at intersections along the study corridor, and how they are measured at signalized and unsignalized intersections.

He briefly highlighted the initial observations and findings, including that there are areas that experience peak hour congestion, speeding is a concern, the corridor has additional capacity, that this is a primary freight corridor, and there are enhancements that should be considered along the corridor. He outlined the next steps for the study, including recommendations, coordination with GDOT and the development of the draft report that will be brought before the BATS committees in early May 2021, and the final presentation for adoption in June.

Mr. Guy explained the development of the project goals and objectives. The goals outlined for the study are:

- Identify mobility issues along the Bay Street Corridor
- Maintain and enhance the efficiency and safety of the corridor's segments & key intersections and between key land uses
- Support intergovernmental cooperation between all local jurisdictions in the project area as well as local, regional and state agencies
- Enhance the appeal of the corridor for all users
- Enhance the current and emerging economic drivers in the community.

He then opened the floor for comments and question on the materials presented.

There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Mrs. Hatcher then stated that both the TCC and CAC unanimously recommended that the BATS Policy Committee approve the draft goals and objectives presented for the Bay Street Corridor Improvements Study.

Mayor Harvey, then called for a motion. Mr. Rafolski made a motion that the BATS Policy Committee approve the goals and objectives presented for the Bay Street Corridor Improvements Study. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed unanimously.

8. BATS Administrative Updates

a. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership Drive - 2021

Mrs. Hatcher provided the committee with the administrative updates. She stated that BATS staff has circulated a reminder notice to all active members along with a new application for those who wish to reapply. She added that the CAC membership drive has been advertised to the public in the newspaper, on social media platform, and circulated through current members. She added that since the last update three new membership applications have been received, including application from currently active CAC members who were reapplying for membership. She stated that the application deadline is April 30, 2021, and there are a few open slots available.

There were no questions or comments.

b. GAMPO Spring Meeting Update

Mrs. Hatcher presented this agenda item. She reminded the committee that on March 29, 2021, the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO) held their Spring 2021 meeting. She briefly highlighted agenda items that were discussed during the meeting, including:

- GDOT Office of Planning new organization and funding sources
- Georgia Power Projection Platform Route Study – Eastern Federal Lands (EFLHD) / FHWA
- FTA Updates – funding updates and organization assignments
- Conceptual I-14 coordination
- GDOT Intermodal: 5303 Contracts/Transit Updates

She stated that BATS addressed GAMPO with updates on the ongoing Bay St. corridor study with an anticipated completion date of June 2021. She added that the BATS MLK/Altama Ave Bike Corridor Study was unanimously approved, and the process for launching this project should begin shortly. She highlighted GDOT points of contact and a new organizational chart for the GDOT Office of Planning. She stated that there was a new lump sum funding program for urban and rural freight operations with the organizational change at GDOT.

There were no additional questions or comments.

9. Agency Updates

a. Glynn County Airport Commission

Mr. Burr provided updates on Airport projects. He stated the parking lot expansion project is wrapping up, and that Delta has increased their flights at the airport. He added that the compass calibration project is ongoing, and there were design group studies at the St. Simons Island airport, and projects associated with those studies have been submitted to the state and federal government for comments. He stated that with the Georgia Airports Association, there will be a study committee approved by the Georgia Legislature that will be studying how to adequately fund and develop the infrastructure for airports in Georgia.

b. Update on School Board Projects

There were no school board project updates presented at this meeting.

c. Glynn County

Mrs. Hatcher spoke on this agenda item. She stated that the County project update sheet has an updated status column and is listed on the MPO website. She then asked if committee members had any questions.

There were no questions on the County project updates.

d. Update on City Projects

Mr. Alberson briefly spoke on this agenda item. He stated that the Magnolia Park project ongoing, and recently received funding for phase two. He added that the landscape and monuments project at Highway 17 and Fourth Avenue has been completed and is working on consultant selection on the design of the boardwalk trail between Overlook Park and St. Simons Causeway.

Mr. Harvey asked if there were any updates regarding the Lanier-Gloucester project.

Mr. Alberson stated that there is an upcoming meeting with GDOT, and another meeting with the Glynn County commissioners to discuss this project as well.

There were no additional questions/comments on City projects.

e. Update on GDOT Projects

Ms. Proctor briefly spoke on this agenda item. She provided brief updates on GDOT projects and highlighted various projects on the project update sheet provided to the committee.

Mr. Harvey asked about the completion date of two of the active construction projects.

Ms. Proctor stated that they had an anticipated completion date of Fall 2021 and are currently underway.

f. Jekyll Island Authority

Mr. Hooks stated there were no new updates with Jekyll Island Authority.

g. Transit Agencies

There were no transit agency updates presented at this meeting.

h. Other Items

Ms. McDuffie asked if there were any updates regarding the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Standards Review recommendations, which were to increase the threshold for a MSA from 50,000 to 100,000.

Mrs. Hatcher stated that there has been no additional information received. She added that it was mentioned briefly by FHWA at the Spring 2021 GAMPO meeting.

10. Public Comment

There were no public comments received at this meeting.

11. Adjourn

Mr. Harvey reminded everyone of the next regularly Policy Committee on June 14, 2021.

He thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.



BATS PC Chairman

Date