
BATS MEETING MINUTES

Brunswick Area Transportation Study Policy Committee (PC) Meeting

Monday April 11, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference

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AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (David O’Quinn)
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item
 - a. Minutes from PC meeting held on February 14, 2022.
3. BATS FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Action Item
4. BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment – Action Item
5. Special PL Funding Project (MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor Study) - Information
6. BATS Administrative Updates
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
 - i. Public Comment
8. Adjourn

Brunswick Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday April 11, 2021 - 1:30 p.m.
Via Teleconference

ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Walter Rafolski, Glynn County Board of Commissioners (BATS PC Vice Chairman)
C. Jones Hooks, Jekyll Island Authority
Julie Martin, City of Brunswick
Robert Burr, Glynn County Airport Commission
Jim Gilligan, BATS CAC Chairman
Cassius Edwards, GDOT District 5
Regina McDuffie, City of Brunswick
Pamela Thompson, Glynn County Community Development
Tom Caiafa, GDOT Planning
Mike Stewart, Glynn County

Others

Justin Dammons, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Rachel Hatcher, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Katie Proctor, GDOT District 5
Garrow Alberson, City of Brunswick
Melissa Phillips, Pond & Co.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 P.M. by Ms. Julie Martin. Ms. Martin gave a brief welcome.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item

a. Minutes from PC meeting held on October 18, 2021

Ms. Martin called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Policy Committee meeting held on February 14, 2022.

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Rafolski, with a second by Mr. Hooks. The motion unanimously passed.

3. BATS FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Action Item

Ms. Forbes explained that BATS staff has incorporated comments received during the public comment period. She gave a refresher on the timeline of adopting this work program starting in July 2021. She stated that the month of April marks the PC approval of the FY 2023 UPWP and transmittal to GDOT/FHWA for final certification. She reminded committee members that the Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) provided by GDOT and FHWA and all comments from oversight agencies are found in the comment log, which was shared in the last update, and is available on the website for review. She mentioned that the budget table was slightly adjusted to incorporate line items per FHWA's request, and that BATS staff incorporated the new funding from Y410 for Complete Streets in the budget table. The final budget table now includes a little over \$220,000 for the next cycle of MPO planning.

Ms. Forbes stated that the TCC and CAC unanimously recommended that the BATS PC adopt the FY 2023 UPWP as presented.

Ms. Martin stated that two or three years ago, the City of Brunswick adopted a Complete Streets ordinance and she asked if Glynn County has followed suit.

Ms. Forbes answered that the county has not, but that in the UPWP there is a chapter that incorporates the work program to build on the previous complete streets e efforts with the MPO region. Ms. Forbes continued the updates, stating that complete streets program has received

funding to be included into the upcoming fiscal year which will be used to build on the complete streets priorities and plans from the previous efforts carries out by the City.

Ms. Martin stated that she asked this because the city has adopted the ordinance for Complete Streets and is wondering if this opens avenues for additional funding sources.

Ms. Forbes responded that it would not, except for the funding from the Y410 programmed funding from the new bill. This is the only funding source provided for safe transportation improvement. She added that she will pass along any pertinent information should it come available.

Mr. Rafolski asked if there is a reason that Glynn County ought to do this.

Ms. Forbes answered that this is a requirement that all MPOs assign 2.5% of their PL funding to developing a Complete Streets plan.

He asked if this is something that is being looked at.

Ms. Thompson responded yes, and added that this was initially, when the city adopted their Complete Streets Plan, but she believes more study would be necessary for the County.

Ms. Martin stated that the plan adopted by the City of Brunswick was provided to Glynn County who then able to modify particular details before adoption.

Mr. Rafolski made a motion to recommend that the BATS Policy Committee adopt the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The motion was seconded by Ms. McDuffie. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Forbes stated that the next steps include sending the resolution to Ms. Martin for her signature so that BATS staff can package the final document to FHWA and GDOT for the issuance of a certification letter.

Ms. Thompson asked if that would be a joint resolution of the city and county. Ms. Forbes responded that the resolution is only through the BATS MPO.

4. BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment – Action Item

Ms. Forbes presented this agenda item. She stated that this agenda item is a result of BATS staff receiving a request from the GDOT Office of Planning on February 18, 2022, to carry out an amendment to the BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP. The amendment is to add a new project phase for SR 99 from SR 520/US82 to SR 32 – a widening project. The scope of the funding would be \$500,000.00 for FY 2022. She added BATS staff already updated the document to include a new project sheet and a new project map showing the new alignment and this information can be found on page 37 on the MPO document. She mentioned that the committee will need to take action to release the document for a 30-day public comment period. she added that both the CAC and TCC unanimously recommended that the BATS Policy Committee approve the FY 2021-2024 TIP amendment per GDOT's request and release for a 30-day public comment period.

Mr. Rafolski made a motion to recommend that the BATS Policy Committee approve the FY 2021-2024 TIP amendment per GDOT's request and release for a 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hooks. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Forbes stated that BATS staff received an additional request from GDOT Office of Planning on March 31, 2022, to carry out Amendment #4 to the BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP. GDOT's Office of Financial Management provided funding information reflecting a revision to the initial FY 2022 funding estimates for the BATS MPO. This request reflects a TIP update for projects with FY 2022 and FY 2023 phases. The preliminary estimates for the BATS MPO were \$152,637. She added that this needed to be amended to incorporate this funding and change the funding code for the projects that had the programmed phases. This funded amount was brought into the TIP and changes were made to the SR 25 Spur East @ Mackay River 3 Miles East of Brunswick and SR 25/US 17 from CR 372/Yacht Drive to SR 99 – Phase II with the funding code updated. She mentioned that this must be released for a 30-day public comment period but cannot be adopted by the MPO no later than mid-June 2022. This has not been presented to the CAC or TCC given the timeline, as these committees had their meetings in March.

Ms. Forbes stated that BATS staff is requesting that this be released for a 30-day public comment period along with Amendment #3 and following the public comment period, the information will be incorporated from the comment period timeline and presented to the CAC and TCC and then back to the PC in June for final adoption.

Ms. Martin asked if these changes are highlighted in the draft document. Ms. Forbes answered that there will be a yellow highlight and that on the front page of the document there will be dates of the amendment. The amendment sheet will provide the reason for the amendment and the request.

Ms. Forbes reminded the committee that the new funding being presented is coming from the new federal infrastructure bill. Ms. Martin asked if this would come up for final approval at the Policy Committee's June meeting.

Ms. Forbes responded that it will. She added that if the PC acts now, it will be presented to the TCC and CAC in May and then will be brought before the PC in June.

Mr. Rafolski made a motion that the BATS Policy Committee approve the FY 2021-2024 TIP amendment #4 per GDOT's request and release for a 30-day public comment period along with the approved amendment #3. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hooks. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Special PL Funding Project (MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor Study) - Information

Mr. Alberson stated that the POND consultant team were not able to be at the meeting today, but he would present the update for the MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor. This corridor study is starting at Prince Street on the south end through Chapel Crossing Rd on the north end. POND has completed building the base map of the corridor in the existing conditions analysis in addition to environmental and historic cultural resources report as required. He added that no adverse effects on environmental and historic and cultural resources were found. Pond also identified seven key intersections along the corridor. These intersections are:

- Gloucester & MLK Blvd.
- L Street & MLK Blvd.
- 1st Street / Parkwood & Altama
- 4th Street & Altama
- Community Road / Cypress Mill Road & Altama
- Golden Isles Parkway & Altama
- Chapel Crossing & Altama

Mr. Alberson stated that the vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian counts have been completed and the consultant team is finalizing this data and should be done soon. He reviewed the project schedule, and that the next milestone is the Steering Committee meeting that is scheduled for April 13. Numerous representatives including GDOT, Glynn County, the City of Brunswick, FHWA, the Chamber of Commerce, among others, have been invited. He mentioned that hopefully these groups can provide substantial local knowledge to the consultant as they prepare future milestones. He added that following this meeting the consultant team will take the information received and further develop the conceptual routes and finalize their recommendations with the target of providing the final deliverable report by the June meeting.

Ms. Martin asked if the email sent out by Mr. Alberson on March 25 stated that this meeting will occur in the Pate building. Mr. Alberson apologized for the confusion and mentioned that it will actually be in the Pate building.

Ms. McDuffie asked if the report in June will include estimates on possible construction amounts.

Mr. Alberson responded that it will include preliminary estimates and highlighted this in the schedule.

Ms. Martin asked if most of the trail route work will be restriping on the existing pave-way, or if some of this will be off the road dedicated trail?

Mr. Alberson responded that it will likely be a mixture of both, and that he is not entirely sure which might be where with one end of the corridor more striped as opposed to off pavement on the other end, and that much of this may be addressed during the meeting next Wednesday.

6. BATS Administrative Updates

a. GAMPO Spring Meeting

Ms. Forbes stated that BATS staff attended the Georgia Association of MPOs (GAMPO) spring meeting held on March 28, 2022. She mentioned the agenda items that were reviewed, including:

- Safety performance targets
- US Census Data / UZA Updates
- MPO Plan / Travel Demand Modeling Schedule
- Joint Agency Data Acquisition & Management Program
- Climate and Transportation Resilience
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act / Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Carbon Reduction Program

For the PL review committee, there were two projects on the agenda including:

- MLK/Altama Ave Bike Corridor Study, slated for adoption in June 2022
- Sea Island Road at Dunbar Creek Bridge / Corridor Study – passed unanimously

Ms. Forbes highlighted that the Sea Island Road at Dunbar Creek Bridge corridor study passed unanimously. She added that based on information provided to BATS staff, GDOT has been working to improve multiple data sources to ensure that BATS staff is not overestimating targets. This is to help clarify why the safety targets and actuals were drastically different in years prior.

Ms. Forbes reviewed the performance measures (PM) PM2 and PM3. She stated that at the meeting, a schedule for the urbanized area (UZA) updates based on the 2020 census data. BATS staff is looking at Summer/Fall for publication of the final data from the US Census to see if there will need to be updated shapefiles and TIGER lines for the urbanized area in the MPO. BATS staff was also provided with a master schedule for next round of MTP updates. Ms. Forbes reminded those on the call that BATS staff took action in August 2020 to update the RTP and the next RTP update due date is August 10, 2025.

Ms. Forbes stated that GAMPO provided significant information on climate, transportation, and resilience, especially on climate disasters impacts on transportation assets, and what will be done moving forward to improve on this issue. GAMPO also provided information on the new bill targeting resilience planning on the PEAs. She mentioned that these presentations will be provided once they become available. Also shared with GAMPO attendees were the new funding from the new federal infrastructure bill. This new bill includes funding in the following categories:

- Carbon reduction program
- PROTECT Grants (formula and discretionary)
- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure
- National Electric Vehicle Formula Program
- Congestion Relief Program
- Other Climate and Resilience Provisions

She stated that GAMPO provided a list of eligible projects where MPOs could use the carbon reduction program funds for, and she added that she believed that the projects eligible for this funding type include but are not limited to public transportation, bicycle/pedestrian, traffic monitoring, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and environmental and community impact.

Ms. Martin asked if there is a difference in the charging stations. Ms. Forbes responded that she is not sure what the stipulations would be in terms of selecting which type charging station would be installed but stated that once more information becomes available this will most likely be detailed in any application that will need to be put together.

Ms. Hatcher stated that the MPO is only a planning entity, and therefore formula funds are only for the infrastructure that is most appropriate and so while the information and details are still becoming available, it may take market research to understand the demand in the region and that would reflect the type of charging station at the regional scale. She mentioned that because there is a port and an interstate running through the region, she mentioned that there would probably be a large emphasis on looking at the regional mobility piece to understand the type of vehicle and type of charging infrastructure demand will be. .

Ms. Martin shared a story that a visitor was able to find only one fast charging station in the area off the interstate for their Tesla vehicle. She added it would be great to have a fast-charging station in the downtown walkable area.

7. Agency Updates

a. Glynn County Airport Commission

Mr. Burr provided the updates for the Glynn County Airport Commission. He stated that the calibration pad at Brunswick airport has been completed and that federal funds for the next couple years will be dedicated to paying the airport back and the airport's capital program. He added that the current project is crack/seal coat and remarking of the entire airfield to keep this airport in good operating position. Back to three flights per day on Delta. At St. Simons' still working on the e-mass project and that they are in the environmental phase of this.

b. Glynn County School Board

There were no school board updates provided for this meeting.

c. Glynn County

Ms. Thompson mentioned that they sent an update on the projects and the most notable being the Altama connector project is getting started. The county also has four more projects SPLOST 2016 projects out for bid that will finish up and be awarded in June.

d. City of Brunswick

Mr. Alberson provided the updates for the city. He stated that the MLK-Altama Bike Trail, the Fourth Ave. segment has been approved, and construction will be starting later this month. The boardwalk trail is under preliminary design. The survey fieldwork has been finished and early permitting conversations have been completed. Bids are open for 5 miles of resurfacing around the city of Brunswick.. He added that the City is going through commission and finance approval for this project, and the Magnolia Park project is moving along very well and is on schedule for a completion date of late July.

Ms. Martin for any updates concerning the Gloucester restriping and the Lanier Gloucester intersection. Mr. Alberson responded that the Lanier Gloucester design is being designed at the moment and that POND is also working on that. This is independent of the Gloucester St. resurfacing and restriping project. The City of Brunswick is working to install this before the Highway 17 resurfacing expected to happen later this year.

Ms. Martin asked if the city is coordinating with GDOT as well. Mr. Alberson confirmed that there is coordination with GDOT, POND, and Brunswick, and that POND will go ahead with the Gloucester resurfacing prior to the intersection being completed.

Ms. Martin stated that she hopes the bulk of this work can be completed before school is in session.

Ms. Thompson asked if the restriping on Gloucester will reduce the travel lanes.

Mr. Alberson responded with yes to those west of MLK. The lanes west of MLK to Bay Street will be reduced to two thru lanes and a center turn lane and parking on each side, and that east of MLK between MLK and US 17 will remain as is.

Ms. Martin asked about public education and what to anticipate when it comes to all of these projects. Mr. Alberson replied that when it comes to the intersection work, the city is expecting to let the public know about upcoming changes. Mr. Alberson stated that the resurfacing project in the city, is more of a GDOT project but the city will discuss with GDOT the need to provide warnings and education on the resurfacing project to the motorists.

e. GDOT District 5

Ms. Proctor provided the update for GDOT District 5. The preconstruction project of SR 25 Spur East and Mackay River Bridge is continuing into PFPR. SR 25 FM CR 415/Harry Driggers to SR 99 - Phase II is letting to shelf in June with documentation being prepared. CR 583/Sea Island Rd @ Dunbar Creek on St. Simons Island continues in concept and the report is in development. SR 32 @ Little Buffalo Creek 3 miles west of SR 27 remains in concept with an anticipated concept team meeting in June. SR 25 @ SR 99 roundabout, is working on FFPR and let has been shifted to August.

For active construction projects, Ms. Proctor stated that for the resurfacing on the SR 25 Conn (from SR 27 to SR 25) project, the construction office has been contacting the contractor over the last two weeks for a start date. She added that there have been personnel issues with the sub-contractor. The resurfacing on SR 25 north of SR 303 extending south of Sidney Lanier Bridge remains at 86% complete and is pursuing corrective work. The bridge rehab project on SR 27/US341 over Yellow Bluff and Burnett Creek started last week and is 17% complete. The widening and reconstruction on SR 25 from Yacht Rd. to Harry Driggers Blvd and bridge over Thornhill creek is awaiting notice to proceed.

Ms. McDuffie asked if the resurfacing on US 17 north of Sidney Lanier Bridge was being accomplished and asked if she missed this project update.

Mr. Alberson responded that this is a project done through the maintenance office which typically does not show up on the construction project updates.

Ms. McDuffie asked if the project is being done, and Mr. Alberson replied that it is, with an anticipated let date of August 2022. Ms. Proctor added that she will look into this further for Ms. McDuffie.

f. Jekyll Island Authority

Mr. Hooks stated that there are charging stations on Jekyll Island in the public ocean front parks and in the hotel parking lot and Beach Village, including the slower and faster charging stations.

He added that they are continuing to work with Federal and GDOT staff on the bike path along the Jekyll Island Causeway. He mentioned that the consultant team Pond has been doing well and will be designing a new airport terminal at Jekyll Island Airport with an anticipated completion date within 18 months.

g. Transit Agencies

There were no transit agency representatives present.

h. Other Items

There were no other items to share.

i. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

8. Adjourn

The next meeting will be June 13, 2022. Ms. Martin asked if the next meeting will be virtual or in person. Ms. Thompson replied that she would check with the leadership of these committees to see what they wished to do and report back to the PC. There were no additional questions or comments. The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Martin.

BATS PC Chairman

Date