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## **BATS MEETING MINUTES**

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

Monday, May 9, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference

#### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Garrow Alberson)
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item
  - a. Minutes from TCC meeting held on March 14, 2022
3. BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #3 – Action Item
4. BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #4 – Action Item
5. Special PL Funding Project (MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor Study) – Information
6. BATS Administrative Updates
  - a. GAMPO Spring Meeting
  - b. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program
  - c. FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
  - d. Return to In-Person MPO Meetings
  - e. Transportation Alternative (TA) Project Applications for FY 2023 Funding
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**  
**Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**

Monday, May 9, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.  
Via Teleconference

**ATTENDEES**

Committee Members

Garrow Alberson, City of Brunswick  
Vernon Bessing, Glynn County Airport Commission  
Thomas Caiafa, GDOT Office of Planning  
David Dantzler, Coastal Regional Commission  
John Hunter, City of Brunswick  
Noel Jensen, Jekyll Island Authority  
Maurice Postal, Glynn County Community Development  
Katie Proctor, GDOT District 5  
Marty Simmons, Glynn County School District  
Jason Hartman, Glynn County Field Engineering  
Robert Caudill, GDOT  
Bob Nyers, Glynn County GIS

Others

Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H  
Monica Hardin, Glynn County Grants Coordination  
Cassius Edwards, GDOT  
Christy Lovett, GDOT

## **1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. by Mr. Garrow Alberson, Vice-Chair of the BATS Technical Coordinating Committee.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item**

### **a. Minutes from TCC meeting held on March 14, 2022**

Mr. Alberson called for a motion to approve the minutes from the TCC meeting held on March 14, 2022. Mr. Nyers made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Mr. Bessing seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **3. BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #3 – Action Item**

Ms. Forbes presented this agenda item. She reminded the committee that at the March TCC meeting, BATS staff presented BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #3 and asked the TCC to take action to recommend that the Policy Committee release the amendment for a 30-day public comment period. She mentioned that the 30-day public comment period will end on May 11, 2022, and she recommended that the TCC move the amendment forward for the PC to take final action, pending the closing of public comment. She stated that any comments received will be incorporated into the final draft for review at the PC meeting on June 13, 2022. She added that BATS staff has not yet received any public comments on this amendment.

Mr. Nyers asked if this TIP amendment is for paving a portion of SR 99. Ms. Forbes explained that this amendment is for a widening project. BATS staff received a request from GDOT Office of Planning on February 18, 2022 to update the TIP to add funding for widening SR 99 from SR 520/US 82 to SR 32. Funding was initially \$380,000 and the amendment would increase funding to \$500,000.

Mr. Alberson called for a motion to move FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #3 forward to the PC to take final action, pending the closing of the 30-day public comment period and the incorporation of all comments. Mr. Nyers made a motion to move the amendment forward and Mr. Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Forbes presented this agenda item. She stated that BATS staff received a request from GDOT Office of Planning on March 31, 2022 to carry out BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #4 based on additional funding for the TIP under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This amendment would update TIP funding types and include an additional \$152,637 under the Carbon Reduction/Y600 program. Ms. Forbes explained that BATS staff presented this amendment during the April PC meeting and asked the PC to move forward with this amendment. She added that the amendment must be completed no later than mid-June 2022, per GDOT's request. She

mentioned that the PC therefore took action to release both Amendment #4 and Amendment #3 requests for a 30-day public comment period at their April meeting. She stated that Amendment #4 reflects the updated funding amount of \$368,00 for SR 25 Spur East at Mackay River and \$13,000,000 for SR 25/US 17 from CR 372/Yacht Drive to SR 99. She reiterated that this change has been incorporated into the TIP and released for a 30-day public comment period.

There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Alberson called for a motion for the TCC to recommend that the PC approve FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #4, pending the closing of a 30-day public comment period and the incorporation of all comments. Mr. Simmons made a motion and Mr. Austin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Alberson provided updates on the MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor Study. He stated that the consultant has completed data collection along the corridor, including traffic counts, turning movements, and pedestrian counts. He explained that the preliminary environmental study has been completed and no adverse conditions have been found. He added that the Stakeholder meeting was held on April 13, 2022 at the Pate Building. Approximately 15 people attended in person and approximately 12 people attended virtually. During this meeting, the consultant received valuable input that will help them as they begin to prepare their recommendations. He stated that the consultant is planning to share a draft of the study during the Stakeholder meeting on May 23, 2022, but he added that this meeting date has not yet been confirmed. He explained that the final draft and deliverables will be presented to the PC at their next meeting on June 13, 2022.

Mr. Alberson asked Ms. Forbes to confirm that a Special Called meeting with both the TCC and CAC must be held prior to the next PC meeting in order for the committees to recommend an action to the PC before their June 13, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Forbes confirmed that a Special Called meeting must be held, and Mr. Alberson told the committee that BATS staff will be in touch soon with the date of that meeting. He added that during the Stakeholder meeting, several of the county and city commissioners requested that the final deliverables include cost estimates that can be included in the SPLOST vote. He mentioned that there was a discussion of prioritizing the southern end of the route from Prince Street to the College of Coastal Georgia to increase bicycle and pedestrian traffic flow in that area.

There were no questions or comments.

## **6. BATS Administrative Updates**

### **a. GAMPO Spring Meeting**

Ms. Forbes provided the committee with administrative updates. She informed the TCC that BATS staff attended the Georgia Association of MPOs (GAMPO) Spring 2022 Meeting on March 28, 2022. BATS staff presented an update on the MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor Study, and the Sea Island Road at Dunbar Creek Bridge/Corridor Study passed unanimously. She also stated that GAMPO provided updates on safety performance targets and information on new funding sources from the BIL.

Ms. Forbes highlighted that the GAMPO meeting included a discussion of PM-1 targets. She explained that PM-1 targets have been overestimated by approximately 18% in the past because targets did not fully integrate various data sources. GDOT is currently making efforts to improve data collection and verification to ensure more accurate projection of targets and BATS staff will see changes reflected when the next PM-1 target are released.

Ms. Forbes stated that the GDOT bridge office is working on new software to develop projections for TAMP. She added that their modeling is currently showing that there could be a switch from construction to maintenance of bridges at some point in the next ten years.

Ms. Forbes mentioned that GAMPO presented on PM-3 targets and the schedule for updating the MTP to reflect Census 2020 data. She reminded the committee that the BATS MTP was adopted in August 2020 and stated that the next MTP update will be adopted in 2025. She added that the MTP update requires a two-year process, so coordination with GDOT and a consultant will begin in 2023.

Ms. Forbes explained that the GAMPO meeting included a lot of discussion about resilience and climate in transportation planning, with a particular focus on incorporating resilience in early planning stages to avoid future infrastructure damage.

At the GAMPO meeting, six new funding programs from the BIL were presented. One of these programs is the Carbon Reduction Program, which is related to BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #4. Other programs include the PROTECT Grants, Charging and Fueling Infrastructure, National Electric Vehicle Formula Program, Congestion Relief Program, and other Climate and Resilience Provisions. She stated that funding amounts are \$6.4 billion for the Carbon Reduction Program, \$7.3 billion for the PROTECT Program, \$2.5 billion for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program, and \$250 million for the Congestion Relief Program. Funding for these programs is allocated between FY 2022-2026. She explained that \$210,930,745 of the \$6.4 billion in funding from the Carbon Reduction Program is available to the state of Georgia. She presented the list of eligible projects for this program. She reminded the committee that this information is available on the BATS website for reference.

#### **b. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program**

Ms. Forbes provided an update on the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program. FHWA held a series of workshops to explain how MPOs can become eligible for the grant fundings and how the application process works. She explained that this is a new discretionary grant program under the BIL that will support local initiatives to prevent transportation-related deaths and serious injuries on roadways. This program includes \$1 billion in annual funding for FY 2022-2026.

Ms. Forbes emphasized that MPOs must have action plans in place before applying for SS4A grants for construction or implementation. She added that BATS will have to apply for an Action Plan Grant first since they do not already have one in place. She asked Ms. Hardin to share information about a partnership between Glynn County and BATS for a SS4A grant.

Ms. Hardin stated that the SS4A grant applications have not yet been released but should be released in mid-May 2022 and are expected to be due in August 2022. She reiterated that a Safety Action Plan must be adopted before they can apply for an implementation grant. She also explained that USDOT encourages local applicants to partner with their MPOs to submit applications.

Ms. Forbes then underscored Ms. Hardin's comment that USDOT recommends joint applications and she added that the SS4A grants are not 100% funded and there is a requirement for a local match, the grant is 80% federal and 20% local match.

There were no questions or comments.

#### **c. FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Ms. Forbes reminded the committee that the PC took action at the April 11, 2022, meeting to adopt the UPWP per the TCC recommendation, and that FHWA has since issued the approval letter. The letter has been incorporated in the final document and published on the BATS website. She stated that BATS now has a fully adopted UPWP ready for the upcoming fiscal year that starts on July 1, 2022.

#### **d. Return to In-Person MPO Meetings**

Ms. Forbes informed the TCC that BATS staff has been in communication with the PC and oversight agencies regarding the return to in-person meetings. She stated that the decision has been made for all BATS committee meetings to move to a hybrid format beginning in June 2022. Local participants can attend in person and others who may have to travel farther can attend virtually.

### **e. Transportation Alternative (TA) Project Applications for FY 2023 Funding**

Ms. Forbes provided an update on this agenda item. She stated that applications for Transportation Alternative projects are now open and will remain open until June 17, 2022. She stated that BATS staff will send an additional email with information on TA projects following the meeting, and she added that anyone interested can reach out to her with additional questions.

## **7. Agency Updates**

### **a. Glynn County Airport Commission**

Mr. Bessing stated that there are no updates at this time.

### **b. Glynn County School Board**

Mr. Simmons stated that there will be some upcoming changes as Golden Isles Elementary returns to their facility during the summer. He added that there may be other facility moves but he does not expect any of these moves to cause additional traffic or community issues.

### **c. Glynn County**

Mr. Austin explained that projects are moving along slowly because contractors are having trouble getting materials such as concrete and asphalt. He mentioned that Glynn County put out a bid for jobs on Canal Road and did not receive any bids from contractor. He stated that COVID is presenting a new challenge because they cannot find people to do the work that they have spent time designing and planning over the past few years. He also mentioned that 811 services have been another recent challenge. He then stated that anyone with an in-depth project, he would recommend that they pay someone else to do the locating and surveying.

### **d. City of Brunswick**

Mr. Alberson provided updates on City of Brunswick projects.

- The Fourth Avenue segment of the MLK Trail is almost complete. This segment will make the connection along Fourth Avenue between MLK and the Highway 17 Trail, completing the trail from Prince Street to Highway 17. Striping and signage are scheduled for next week and then the project will be complete.
- The Magnolia Park project is moving along well and is scheduled for a late July completion.
- City of Brunswick is planning to award a resurfacing project for approximately five miles of local resurfacing.
- The College Park project is kicking off. City of Brunswick is finalizing administrative paperwork with the DCA and grant administrators. RFPs will be going out for procurement of engineers and consultants for design work in the next few weeks.

#### **e. GDOT District 5**

Ms. Proctor provided status updates on preconstruction projects for GDOT District 5.

- SR 25 Spur East @ Mackay River bridge replacement continues in PFPR.
- GDOT is awaiting amendments for funding the widening of SR 25 CR 415 from Harry Driggers to SR 99 (Phase II). A let-to construction date will be set once amendments are completed.
- A concept plan meeting was held on April 4, 2022 for the CR 583/ Sea Island Road @ Dunbar Creek on St. Simons Island bridge replacement. The concept report is in development and approval is anticipated in November 2022.
- SR 32 @ Little Buffalo Creek bridge replacement continues toward the concept team meeting and is anticipated in June 2022.
- Corrected FFPR plans were submitted on April 28, 2022 for the roundabout on SR 25 @ SR 99. Final plans are scheduled for submission on June 10, 2022 and let is scheduled for August 2022.

Ms. Proctor provided status updates on active projects for GDOT District 5.

- GDOT Construction Department met with East Coast Asphalt on April 25, 2022 to discuss the striping revision and the potential start date for the resurfacing of Gloucester from SR 27 to SR 25. East Coast Asphalt submitted revised pricing from their subcontractors, which is currently being reviewed. There is no start date to report.
- Resurfacing on SR 25 from east of SR 303 extending south of Sidney Lanier Bridge is reporting at 86% complete and the team is pursuing corrective work.
- Bridge rehab on SR 27/US 341 over Yellow Bluff and Burnett Creek is reporting at 17% complete.
- The widening and reconstruction on SR 25 from Yacht Rd to Harry Driggers Blvd & Bridge over Thornhill Creek is awaiting the MTP.

#### **f. Jekyll Island Authority**

Mr. Jensen explained that Jekyll Island Authority is waiting on concrete for four miles of bicycle paths.

#### **g. Transit Agencies**

No updates from transit agencies were presented at this meeting.

#### **h. Other Items**

No updates on other items were presented or discussed at this meeting.



**i. Public Comment**

No public comments were provided at this meeting.

**8. Adjourn**

Mr. Alberson reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting scheduled on Monday, July 11, 2022. He asked Ms. Forbes if the upcoming meeting would be in the hybrid format and Ms. Forbes replied that the scheduled TCC meeting in July, as well as all other committee meetings beginning in June, will be held in the hybrid format. Mr. Alberson thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.

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BATS TCC Chair

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Date