
BATS MEETING MINUTES

Brunswick Area Transportation Study Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Monday, May 9, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Via Teleconference

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (James Gilligan)
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item
 - a. Minutes from CAC 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
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 9, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.
Via Teleconference

ATTENDEES

Committee Members

James Gilligan
Roxanne George
Neil Ligon
Myrna Scott-Amos
Darren West

Others

Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Chris Cary, Glynn County

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:00 pm by Mr. James Gilligan, Chair of the BATS Citizens Advisory Committee.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item

a. Minutes from CAC meeting held on March 14, 2022

Mr. Gilligan asked if anyone had any comments or changes for the minutes from the CAC meeting held on March 14, 2022. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes for the March 14, 2022 meeting. Ms. George made a motion and Mr. West 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 CAC meeting, BATS staff presented BATS FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #3 and asked the CAC to take action to recommend that the Policy Committee release the amendment for a 30-day public comment period. She stated that the 30-day public comment period will end on May 11, 2022 and BATS staff has not yet received any comments from oversight agencies or the public. She mentioned that the amendment was published on the BATS website, Glynn County website, and in the Brunswick news. She explained that BATS staff recommends that the CAC move the amendment forward for the PC to take final action, pending the closing of public comment. She mentioned that the TCC moved to recommend approval by the PC.

Mr. Gilligan 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. West made a motion to move the amendment forward and Ms. George 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. She explained that BATS staff presented this amendment during the PC meeting on April 11, 2022 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 stated that due to the restricted timeline, the PC took action to release both Amendment #4 and Amendment #3 requests for a 30-day public comment period at their April meeting.

Ms. Forbes 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 by the PC for the 30-day public comment period. She added that this process would typically involve the CAC and TCC reviewing and making a recommendation first, but because of GDOT's restricted timeline and BATS staff not wanting to miss out on this additional funding, the PC took action prior to the CAC and TCC having the opportunity to see it.

Mr. Gilligan asked for any questions and there were none. He then told Ms. Forbes that Mr. Farley gave Mr. Gilligan his proxy and he will therefore be voting for him.

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

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

Ms. Forbes provided updates on the MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor Study. She reminded the committee that the consultant team provided an update at the last CAC meeting on March 11, 2022. She also stated that there was a Stakeholder meeting on April 13, 2022 at the Pate Building. Approximately 15 people attended in person and approximately 12 people attended virtually. She explained that the consultant is working on the draft report and anticipates that it will be ready in mid-May before the second Stakeholder meeting on May 23, 2022. She noted that this meeting date is tentative and has not yet been confirmed but stated that this meeting will be offered in a hybrid format. She then stated that the consultant intends to present the final report and presentation at the PC meeting on June 13, 2022 for adoption. Based on the timeline of the next PC meeting, she explained that there will be a Special Called meeting with both the TCC and CAC prior to the PC meeting on June 13, 2022.

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. She explained that GAMPO took action to award the funds requested for the Sea Island Road at Dunbar Creek Bridge/Corridor Study. She stated that BATS staff presented an update on the MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor Study and GAMPO was pleased with the progress on the study. Ms. Forbes mentioned that GAMPO presented a lot of information on the new funding sources from the BIL.

Ms. Forbes stated that BATS staff wanted to bring the discussion of PM-1 targets to the CAC's attention. She added that GDOT was transparent in explaining how many of the data sources used to set targets for safety performance measures have not been well-integrated. She gave the example of police accident report data not being verified by the actual outcome of the accident. As a result, targets have been overestimated by approximately 18%. GDOT is currently making efforts to improve data collection and verification to ensure more accurate projection of targets.

Ms. Forbes explained that the GDOT bridge office is working on new software to develop projections for TAMP. She explained 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. GDOT is adjusting the model based on what they are seeing in the field and what the data is showing.

Ms. Forbes stated that GDOT is updating PM-3 targets to ensure that all information from the BIL is incorporated into the targets. She explained that BATS staff learned about the timeline for updating population of the UZA with new 2020 Census data. Once the official data is available, BATS staff will incorporate it into the MTP. 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 oversight agencies and a consultant will begin in 2023.

Mr. Gilligan asked Ms. Forbes if St. Simons was classified in the Urbanized Area for the 2020 Census. Ms. Forbes responded that the Census Bureau released the initial data but did not include GEOIDs, which would allow BATS staff to analyze where changes in population have occurred. She added that they only have raw data currently and are waiting until the official data release in August 2022 to see if St. Simons is in the Urbanized Area. Mr. Gilligan reminded the committee that this is important because it affects how money is spent on transit systems in St. Simons.

Ms. Forbes stated that the GAMPO meeting included a lot of discussion about resilience and climate in transportation planning, which is particularly important to coastal communities. She added that GAMPO presented a climate disaster tracking system and showed a diagram of all disasters in 2021 to highlight the vulnerability of transportation assets. She explained how resilience is being built into Planning Emphasis Areas and said that BATS staff aims to prioritize resilience in the initial steps of planning.

Ms. Forbes stated that GAMPO presented on the six new funding programs from the BIL that will be available from FY 2022-2026. One of these programs is the Carbon Reduction Program, which is related to the 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 noted that funding for many of these programs will become available to the state and then GDOT will handle apportionment. 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. She added that the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure program and the Congestion Relief programs are both discretionary, so BATS can apply for funding from these programs themselves. She explained that \$210,930,745 of the \$6.4 billion in funding from the Carbon Reduction Program is available to the 16 MPOs in Georgia. She stated that this information is available in the CAC meeting materials and told the CAC that they could reach out to BATS staff with additional questions.

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 program 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 highlighted the caveat that MPOs must have a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan in place before applying for SS4A grants for construction or implementation. She explained that BATS must first apply for an Action Plan Grant since they do not already have an action plan in place. Once this plan is in place, BATS can then apply for grants related to planning, design, and development activities. She noted that SS4A grants are not 100% funded and there is a requirement for an 80% federal and 20% local match. She mentioned that USDOT recommends that these grants applications are completed jointly between MPOs and local governments.

There were no questions or comments.

c. FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Forbes updated the committee that the PC took action at their April meeting to adopt the UPWP, and the FHWA has since issued the approval letter. The letter has been incorporated in the final document and published on the BATS website for reference. Starting July 1, 2022, BATS will be in compliance with FHWA and GDOT regulations and new funding will be available for completing all of the priorities listed in the UPWP.

d. Return to In-Person MPO Meetings

Ms. Forbes informed the committee that MPO meetings will be held in a hybrid format beginning in June 2022. Representatives from oversight agencies who travel farther will attend virtually and local participants will have the option to attend meetings in person on the second floor of the Pate Building. She stated that BATS staff will provide additional information when they email the next meeting reminder.

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

Ms. Forbes provided the update that applications for Transportation Alternative projects are now open. She reminded the committee that BATS cannot pull these funds, but local governments are eligible to apply. The application closes on June 17, 2022 and BATS staff will forward the email with detailed information from GDOT if anyone is interested in putting this forward to their local government.

7. Agency Updates

a. Glynn County Airport Commission

Ms. Forbes informed the committee that no one was present from the Glynn County Airport Commission to share updates during the TCC meeting earlier in the day.

b. Glynn County School Board

Ms. Forbes provided Glynn County School Board updates.. She explained that there may be delays with summer school for the new Altama School, but the School Board does not expect any additional traffic in the region.

c. Glynn County

Ms. Forbes provided Glynn County updates. Glynn County has many projects out to bid for construction, but due to delays and the high cost of materials, the county has not been able to get any contractors to accept bids. She explained that many county projects are at a standstill as a result.

d. City of Brunswick

Ms. Forbes provided City of Brunswick updates. All city projects are still underway, including the Magnolia Park project and the Fourth Avenue segment of the MLK trail.

e. GDOT District 5

Ms. Forbes stated that Ms. Proctor from GDOT District 5 shared updates on preconstruction and active projects during the TCC meeting earlier in the day.

f. Jekyll Island Authority

Ms. Forbes Jekyll Island Authority updates. Jekyll Island Authority is waiting on concrete for four miles of bicycles paths and has been met with the same challenge of a construction material shortage that Glynn County is dealing with.

g. Transit Agencies

Ms. Forbes informed the committee that no one was present from the city transit agencies or the Coastal Regional Commission to share updates at the TCC meeting earlier in the day.

h. Other Items

Ms. Forbes asked for any additional questions or comments. Mr. Gilligan suggested that BATS invite Mr. Hunter from the City of Brunswick to the July CAC meeting to present updated plans for the proposed transit system. He explained that Mr. Hunter presented at the November 2021 meeting so it would be appropriate to present more recent updates at the next meeting. Ms. Forbes said that she will reach out to Mr. Hunter to let him know the CAC is interested in hearing from him at the next CAC meeting in July.

Mr. Gilligan asked the committee to share topics they are interested in receiving updates on or learning about from experts. He added that committee members can reach out to Ms. Forbes with any suggestions or ideas.

Ms. Forbes reminded the committee that the membership drive for the CAC remains open based on the approval from the PC. She noted that a few members are no longer part of the committee and she encouraged current members to let BATS staff know if they know of anyone interested in applying for the committee.

Mr. Gilligan asked Ms. Forbes about the current CAC membership numbers. Ms. Forbes replied that the CAC can hold up to 18 people. She explained that there were 12 people on the committee after the membership revamp but there are currently eight people, including Mr. Farley, whose membership is going to expire soon. Mr. Gilligan encouraged committee members who know of anyone interested in transportation or serving their community to ask them to apply. Ms. Forbes explained that those who want to apply can reach out to her directly or find the application materials, in both Spanish and English, on the BATS website.

Mr. Gilligan stated that Mr. Farley will be leaving the committee on June 30, 2022 at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Farley has been a long-time committee member and currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the CAC. He added that the CAC is looking to fill Mr. Farley's Vice-Chair position and told committee members that they should send an email to Ms. Forbes if they are interested in serving as Vice-Chair beginning on July 1, 2022. He explained that the role would involve running meetings when the Chair is unavailable and participating as needed.

i. Public Comment

No public comments were provided at this meeting.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Gilligan asked Ms. Forbes about the Special Called meeting in June. Ms. Forbes explained that this Special Called meeting will be very important because without recommendation from the CAC and TCC, GDOT will not allow BATS to close out the Special PL Funding Project (MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor Study). She stated that the next PC meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2022 and BATS staff is working to schedule the Special Called meeting on either June 9, 2022 or June 10, 2022. Mr. Gilligan asked if this will be a short meeting to review only the Special PL Funding Project. Ms. Forbes anticipates that the meeting will be approximately 30 minutes and will include a presentation from the consultant and questions and answers with the committee. Ms. Forbes explained that the draft document will become available at the Stakeholder meeting on May 23, 2022 and following the meeting, the consultant will likely finalize the study. BATS staff will then send the study to the CAC seven days prior to the Special Called meeting to give everyone ample time to review. Ms. Forbes told the committee that she will send out a Doodle poll so everyone can provide their input and she will then finalize the meeting date and time. Mr. Gilligan emphasized the importance of these Special Called meetings and explained that committee member's participation is appreciated and welcomed. Ms. Forbes stated that there must be at least five committee members present at the meeting for a quorum.

Mr. Gilligan asked Ms. Forbes to confirm that the next normally scheduled meeting on July 11, 2022 would be offered in a hybrid format. Ms. Forbes confirmed that future meetings will be hybrid and no longer solely virtual for vaccinated participants. Mr. Gilligan asked if Ms. Forbes has plans to be in-person or virtual for the next meeting and she responded that BATS staff will be in-person for the next CAC meeting and plans to return to working in Brunswick on days with TCC and CAC committee meetings. Mr. Gilligan asked if committee members have any questions about the location of the in-person meetings and explained that it will be held on the second floor of the Pate Building. There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Gilligan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. George made a motion and Mr. Gilligan seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gilligan reminded the committee of the upcoming meeting scheduled on Monday, July 11, 2022 and thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

BATS CAC Chair

Date