
BATS MEETING MINUTES

Brunswick Area Transportation Study Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

Monday August 10, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.
Via Teleconference

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Pamela Thompson)
2. Adoption of BATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) with SSI Sector Study – Action Item
3. BATS Administrative Updates
 - a. BATS FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Admin Mod
 - b. Annual Title VI Questionnaire
4. 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
5. Public Comment
6. Adjourn

Next Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting: Monday, September 14, 2020

Brunswick Area Transportation Study
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday August 10, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.
Via Teleconference

ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Pamela Thompson, Glynn County Community Development
Bob Nyers, Glynn County Geographic Information Systems Department
Ben Pierce, Glynn County
Cassius Edwards, GDOT
Garrow Alberson, Brunswick City Engineer
Paul Andrews, Glynn County Engineer
Troy Pittman, GDOT Engineer
Vernon Bessing, Manager, Glynn County Airport Commission
David Dantzler, Coastal Regional Commission
Noel Jensen, Jekyll Island Authority
Stefanie Lief, Glynn County Planning and Zoning

Others

Maurice Postal, Glynn County Community Development
Michael Plagens, CDM Smith Consultant
Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Rachel Hatcher, Senior Planner, RS&H
Jennifer Humphreys, CDM Smith
Ann-Marie Day, FHWA
Sean Thomas, GDOT
Tom McQueen, GDOT

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 am by Ms. Pamela Thompson, Chairman of the BATS Technical Coordinating Committee. Ms. Thompson gave the welcome and handed the meeting over to Ms. Forbes.

Ms. Forbes took a roll call, announcing every committee member and meeting participant, ensuring a quorum.

2. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update Adoption – Action Item

Ms. Forbes addressed this agenda item. She briefly reminded the committee members of the previous actions taken for the draft 2045 MTP. She stated that the 30-day public comment period closed on July 30, 2020, with comments provided by oversight agencies and BATS staff. There were no questions or comments. She added that the consultant team incorporated those comments into the final draft of the MTP and will be presenting those comments as well as additional information on the draft MTP. She then handed this action item over to Ms. Humphreys.

Ms. Humphreys gave a brief overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan timeline and highlighted key events. She gave a refresher over the performance measures included in the MTP, including safety, maintenance, reliability, and resiliency metrics. She stated objectives for the BATS 2045 MTP and said that these reflect input from the public and good planning practices for metropolitan transportation plans. She highlighted the fiscally constrained project maps and showed committee members the virtual meeting platform.

Ms. Humphreys reviewed the results from the public information meetings. She stated that the virtual public meeting was held from July 16, 2020 through July 31, 2020, and there were approximately 700 visitors contributing to 703 views and 83 participants who signed in with four comments received. She added that these comments were not substantial enough for changes to be made to the draft MTP. She stated that these comments ranged from wanting to know more about the performance measures, the widening on SR 303 and bike pads through the county, to wanting mass transit available to employees and residents around Glynn County.

Ms. Humphreys stated that the draft of the St. Simons Island Sector Study was released for review and comment. She explained the purpose of the sector study, and highlighted components of the study. She reviewed a map of St. Simons Island and what the sector study entailed in visual format. A mobility analysis and a cost/benefit analysis were performed in interpreting the challenges and possible solutions for the island. She stated that an island access analysis was also performed, with two potential options for a second connection to St. Simons Island being examined. She stated that the first option, with a connection on the northern part of St. Simons Island, would draw around 7,000 vehicles per day, with a 14% reduction on traffic on the Torras Causeway. She added that the second option, which included a connection near Chapel Crossing Road, would have around 14,000 vehicles per day, leading to a 26% reduction on the Torras Causeway. She stated that after completing this

analysis, a no build scenario is acceptable and there is not a recommendation to build a new connection to St. Simons Island. She stated this is based off current land use patterns and growth data available.

Ms. Humphreys briefly explained the results from the virtual public information meeting held regarding the St. Simons Island Sector Study. She stated that the meeting was held from July 16, 2020 to July 31, 2020:

- Approximately 700 visitors
- 83 signed-in visitors
- 10 comments received

She stated that some of the comments received included inquiries about the bike path and bike and sidewalk facilities on the island, as well as intersection performance. She pointed out that there were several comments related to the impacts of the projects, with people wanting to know how the projects will look like and how will the trees along the side of the road be impacted. She stated that this validated the scoring that was in place for ranking projects. She added that those comments will be incorporated, and the document will be finalized by the end of August 2020.

Mr. Pierce asked why the focus of the St. Simons Island Sector Study was corridor analysis instead of individual intersection analyses.

Ms. Humphreys asked if he got that information from the presentation today.

Mr. Pierce responded that he saw this on the report that is online.

Ms. Humphreys stated that a full intersection analysis was not conducted, but intersections that have levels of service issues and are crash concerns were identified. She added that that the mobility solutions matrix categorized different types of projects as intersection improvements.

Mr. Pierce asked for clarification regarding traffic counts and GDOT count stations.

Ms. Humphreys stated that GDOT data was used for traffic counts.

Ms. Hatcher stated that traffic counts that were collected during the Pond study were compared with GDOT stations to determine the accuracy of those counts and where GDOT count stations were not available.

Mr. Pierce stated the importance of doing corridor analyses and individual segment analyses and not using annual average daily traffic (AADT) counts for individual intersections.

Mr. McQueen asked if the Project #10 was labeled as a widening/restriping project, due to the cost on the project. He explained the work on the project was more than just restriping, so the project should be relabeled as a widening/restriping project to justify the costs on the project.

Ms. Humphreys stated that the necessary changes would be made.

Ms. Day asked when the completion date is for the St. Simons Island Sector Study.

Ms. Hatcher stated that the sector study should be completed before August 30, 2020. She added the final comments are being incorporated and time given to BATS staff to review the recommendations.

There were no additional questions or comments.

Ms. Thompson called for a motion. Mr. Pierce made a motion to recommend that the Policy Committee adopts the BATS 2045 MTP with St. Simons Island Sector Study pending the completion of the SSI Sector Study. Mr. Alberson seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. BATS Administrative Updates

a. BATS FY 2018 – 2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Admin Mod

Ms. Forbes provided the committee with the administrative updates. She stated that BATS staff received a request from GDOT on July 24, 2020 to carry out an administrative modification to the BATS FY 2018 – 2021 TIP. She added that the modification was to move right of way programming year for the Little Buffalo Creek Bridge from 2020 to 2021. She stated that no funding was changed, just the right of way program year. This document is available on the MPOs website for review.

There no questions or comments on this agenda item.

b. Annual Title VI Questionnaire

Ms. Forbes presented on this agenda item. She reminded the committee that in FY 2018, BATS MPO completed and adopted a policy and procedure document with a complaint form that is available on the MPOs website. She stated that this form is due on August 15, 2020, and a copy will be published on the BATS website for review once the process is completed. She highlighted key components of the questionnaire, including public input, monitoring, outreach, limited English proficiency, training, self-monitoring, and goals of the upcoming year.

There were no questions or comments on this agenda item.

4. Agency Updates

a. Glynn County Airport Commission

There were no airport project updates presented at this meeting.

b. Update on School Board Projects

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

c. Glynn County

There were no county project updates presented at this meeting. There is a project update sheet provided as part of the meeting packet.

d. Update on City Projects

There were no city project updates presented at this meeting.

e. Update on GDOT Projects

There were no GDOT project updates presented at the meeting, but there is a GDOT project sheet available for review on the BATS website.

There were no questions/comments on GDOT project updates.

f. Jekyll Island Authority

There were no Jekyll Island updates presented at this at the meeting.

g. Transit Agencies

There were no transit agency updates presented at the meeting.

5. Public Comment

No comment from the public.

6. Adjourn

Ms. Thompson encouraged everyone to look at the St. Simons Island Sector Study on the MPO website, and the consultant team is in the process of finishing the document. She reminded the committee of the next regularly scheduled Technical Coordinating Committee on September 14, 2020. She thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 am.

BATS TCC Chairman

Date