
BATS MEETING MINUTES

Brunswick Area Transportation Study Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

Monday November 8, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Pamela Thompson)
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item
 - a. Minutes from TCC meeting held on September 13, 2021.
3. BATS FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Action Item
4. GAMPO Special PL Funding Applications – Action Item
5. BATS 2022 Meeting Calendar Schedule – Action Item
6. Calendar Year 2021 Performance Measures – Action Item
7. BATS Administrative Updates
8. 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
9. Adjourn

Brunswick Area Transportation Study
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday September 13, 2021 - 1:30 p.m.
Via Teleconference

ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Bob Nyers, Glynn County GIS Dept.
Vernon Bessing, Glynn County Airport Commission
Katie Proctor, GDOT District 5
Paul Andrews, Glynn County Engineering
Maurice Postal, Glynn County Community Development
Pamela Thompson, Glynn County Community Development
Ned Green, GDOT Planning
Noel Jensen, Jekyll Island Authority
David Dantzler, Coastal Regional Commission
Garrow Alberson, City of Brunswick
Troy Pittman, GDOT District 5
Dave Austin, Glynn County
John Hunter, City of Brunswick

Others

Vishanya Forbes, Transportation Planner, RS&H
Myron Mills
Phillip Peevy, GDOT
Ian Newman, Transportation Planner, RS&H

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Pamela Thompson)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 PM by Ms. Pamela Thompson, Chairman of the TCC. She welcomed and introduced committee members.

Ms. Forbes welcomed the new intermodal planner from GDOT, Mr. Phillip Peevy, who will be taking over the role of Mr. David Thompson.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item

a. Minutes from TCC meeting held on September 13, 2021.

Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the minutes from the TCC meeting held on September 13, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Bessing and was seconded by Mr. Alberson. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Forbes spoke on this agenda item. She mentioned that the MPO has been discussing the draft FY 2023 UPWP since the start of the fiscal year and it is being presented for action to recommend that the Policy Committee review and release for a 30-day public comment period. She provided a brief refresher of the feedback forms that were circulated earlier in the development process, so that committee members could provide input on planning priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. She added the feedback received were reviewed and incorporated into the draft document released in the meeting packet for review prior to the meeting.

Ms. Forbes provided an overview of the draft planning priorities, with the first one building on priorities from the current UPWP since the new census count data has not been released. The second priority is starting preparation for the annual self-certification review, which is done every four years; the last review performed was in FY 2019, making FY 2023 the year BATS will need to renew their annual self-certification. Other priorities for FY 2023 include an equity analysis for the MPO region and preparation for the upcoming BATS 2050 MTP.

Ms. Forbes stated that BATS staff will be working with the City of Brunswick and Glynn County to get the MLK-Altama Bike Corridor Special PL Study funding timeline completed. She added that the next priority will be to continue implementation of the 2045 MTP, FY 2021-2024 TIP and other special PL funding projects recently completed to ensure that the goals and objectives from these planning documents align with the various focus areas outlined in the UPWP.

She continued stating that that BATS staff will also be working with the federal government and state to make sure all safety performance targets and measures are incorporated into all current planning documents.

Ms. Thompson mentioned that the MLK-Altama Bicycle Corridor plan was awarded on November 4th, and she asked Mr. Alberson that if the POND consultant team reaches out to him to please let her know to move forward with the notice to proceed.

Ms. Forbes then went on to provide an overview of the draft budget table and mentioned that these numbers may change as the actual allocated funds for FY 2023 have not been provided by the GDOT office of planning. BATS staff will be using previous PL allocation numbers to get the draft budget but anticipate spending more funding in the areas that align with planning priorities for FY 2023.

She wrapped up this agenda item with a review of the anticipated federal funding for the 5303-grant application as well as the next steps for the draft UPWP. Initial comments received from oversight agencies will be incorporated before releasing to the public, and then brought back for action in the Spring of 2022.

There were no questions or comments.

Ms. Thompson called for a motion. Mr. Alberson made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee release draft FY 2023 UPWP for a 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bessing. The motion passed unanimously.

4. GAMPO Special PL Funding Application – Action Item

Ms. Forbes spoke on this agenda item. She reminded committee members that the next rounds of GAMPO Special PL funding applications will be due in March 2022. BATS has been in coordination with the County and has developed an application packet for the was a project proposed in coordination with the current TIP project (#0014914: CR 583/Sea Island Road @ Dunbar Creek Bridge Replacement).

Ms. Forbes stated that staff in coordination with the MPO Director have developed a draft application for submittal to GAMPO in March 2022 and that this application was provided to the committee in the meeting material packet.

Ms. Forbes mentioned that there was a thorough screening conducted on the project to determine if this was studied previously, if there were PL funds used previously, how this project supports the Long-Range Plan/MTP and if there is local support for the project. The application packet was put

together following the screening. She highlighted the extension to the study area to what the original project scope is on Sea Island Road.

Ms. Forbes presented the 2015 “Base-Year” Network table with the level of service being a D and the 2045 projection in the “Do-Nothing” Network scenario table which showed this corridor at a level of service F.

Ms. Forbes showed the details of the project draft scope with the project fee estimate being approximately \$120,000 with the local 20% match equating to approximately \$24,000 and 96,000 awarded to BATS if successful with the GAMPO application. She listed the deliverables of this study:

- Alternatives for roadway widening and bridge widening that support Project #0014914
- Schematics showing widened roadway and bridge alignments with bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure (if warranted) and integration with signalized intersections
- Cost estimates
- Public and Stakeholder engagement, and presentation to BATS and Glynn County at project milestones

Ms. Forbes reviewed the GAMPO/Special PL Funding Timeline which shows the timeline for this type of application. She mentioned that BATS is currently in the “Present updated scope and fee to CAC and TCC”. She showed that after this meeting, the updated scope and fee will be shown to the Citizens Advisory Committee later that day, then to the Policy Committee for action before being incorporated in the UPWP and submitted to GAMPO.

Ms. Thompson stated that she has heard questions on if the bridge needs to be replaced, if BATS needs to plan for additional lanes for future traffic needs, and that this is what the study will help determine.

Mr. Alberson made a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee that Sea Island Road @ Dunbar Creek Corridor Study be considered for approval and submitted to the GAMPO committee. Mr. Dantzler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. BATS 2022 Meeting Calendar Schedule – Action Item

Ms. Forbes stated that at the last meeting of the calendar year, the schedule for the next calendar year’s committee meetings are presented with the new dates. There are no conflicts with the Citizens Advisory Committee meetings. She mentioned that until further notice meetings will remain virtual per the updated and approved BATS Committee Bylaws.

Mr. Alberson made a motion to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the 2022 BATS Committee Calendar with all TCC meeting dates as presented. Mr. Bessing seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Calendar Year 2021 Performance Measures – Action Item

Ms. Forbes stated that this agenda item is presented every year after the GAMPO Fall meeting to present the new recommended performance targets by GDOT. As of 2017, BATS adheres to the targets set forward by GDOT as opposed to developing their own targets. It is then brought back to recommendation and action via resolution. The new targets show the number of fatalities which went down from approximately 1,700 to 1,671 with the goal to maintain the projected number of fatalities under 1,696 (2018-2022 rolling average) by 2022. The number of serious injuries and fatality rate has decreased as well. The serious injury rate has also decreased, and total number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries has decreased this year, as well. She showed the actual numbers and the targets in comparison. This is included on the MPO website under the performance management tab. Once approval is received, the targets will be updated and placed onto the MPOs website for reference.

There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Jensen made a motion to adopt by resolution the Calendar year 2022 Safety Performance Management Targets as approved by GDOT. Seconded by Mr. Alberson. The motion passed unanimously.

7. BATS Administrative Updates

a. GAMPO Fall Meeting

Ms. Forbes stated that BATS staff attended GAMPO fall meeting after attending the September TCC meeting. Discussion included updating the Georgia Freight and Logistics Plan. This plan is required to be updated every five years, with the most recent update in 2017. She then highlighted the types of projects that are currently recommended that would support the freight and logistics movement in the state. Updates provided at the meeting include the continuing growth of Georgia's ports, with Georgia ranked as a top exporting state for the first time in 2020, top exporting commodities for the ports of Brunswick and Savannah and where expansion considerations are taking place; one for West-Central Georgia and one currently underway in the Northeast Georgia area. 2017 freight tonnage by mode graphs were presented and GDOT is looking to update these numbers with 2021 figures. She added that GAMPO is conducting a statewide air cargo study to project future activities based on issues and analyses during the process of reviewing current air cargo activity.

An additional update from the meeting included status reports on all GAMPO contracts and peer MPOs. Ms. Forbes mentioned that for BATS, the Bay Street Corridor Study adoption was presented as well as the Special PL MLK-Altama Bike Route Study. The next GAMPO meeting will be in March 2022.

b. GAMPO Special PL Funding

Ms. Forbes reminded those on the call that BATS staff participated in a freight assessment session with FHWA in October, with discussions about the possibility of developing a stand-alone freight plan. This was presented to the PC, but there was no interest at the time due to scheduling conflicts. She added that a more detailed description of the stand-alone freight plan is in the unfunded section of the UPWP and can be brought back up for discussion in the future. Ms. Forbes added that to put a GAMPO application together there will need to be a 20% local match from an identified sponsor. She also said that this could be a split between the City of Brunswick and Glynn County.

c. 5303 Transit Planning Grant Application

Ms. Forbes stated that the Policy Committee took action to approve the FY 2023 5303 application resolution and authorized the Chair to fully execute the grant funding application at the PC meeting held on October 18, 2021. This application was completed and submitted on November 1st.

8. Agency Updates

a. Glynn County Airport Commission

Mr. Bessing spoke on this update. He stated that Seaboard Construction Co. will start tomorrow to pave the Taxi Lane to the calibration pad. He mentioned that the pad is complete and in the next three days it will be paved as well. Ms. Thompson asked if the fire station plan would be a new station or a renovation. Mr. Bessing responded it would be a brand new one and will be a joint station between the County and the airport.

Ms. Thompson reminded him to coordinate with Chief Jordan to include the county portion.

b. Glynn County School Board

There were no Glynn County School Board updates presented at this meeting.

c. Glynn County

Mr. Austin presented the update. He stated the County was sued for the Frederica Road project; however, he did not mention who the suing party was. He went on to share updates regarding the sidewalk projects that extend past Palm Drive. Sea Island/Demere pedestrian improvement project. Spur 25/Atlama has been awarded and the County is working on a contract and notice to proceed, and the Pennick Road project is under construction.

Ms. Thompson asked if the injunction was approved on the Frederica Road realignment.

Mr. Austin responded that they have not received the injunction or the stop-work order.

d. City of Brunswick

Mr. Alberson provided the update on City of Brunswick projects. He stated that the City of Brunswick is finishing Phase I of the Magnolia Park project. The project is moving into Phase II, with a completion date of July/August 2022. The go-ahead was given to DRMP, Inc. for design of boardwalk trail between Overlook Park and the causeway. DRMP will begin with surveying and environmental activities. He added that the City of Brunswick is waiting on buffer variance along 4th Avenue to install the final leg of the MLK bike and pedestrian trail between MLK and 17th Street.

Ms. Thompson mentioned that Mr. Alberson may need to get together with herself or Mr. Dantzler to discuss what can happen on 4th street between 341 to Altama and Altama to 17th Street.

Mr. Austin mentioned that they are replacing the sidewalk close to the school mariners down to the health department to fight that ditch and carry it around the corner to 17th. He then mentioned that the district 5 commissioner wants to run the sidewalk the opposite way through city areas from Altama to Seldom Park.

Mr. Austin asked Mr. Alberson if he has any projects in that area and Mr. Alberson said he does not.

Ms. Thompson mentioned they would talk and see what type of project this would need to be.

e. GDOT District 5

Ms. Proctor provided GDOT District 5 project updates. She highlighted the seven projects currently in the preconstruction phase. The SR 25 Spur East @ Mackay River scoping is being reevaluated but is still working towards PFPR. The widening of SR 25 FM CR 372/Yacht Rd. to CR 415/Harry Driggers

is scheduled to let in November. The SR 25 FM CR 415/Harry Driggers to SR 99 – Phase II is anticipated to let to shelf in February. CR 583/Sea Island RD @ Dunbar Creek on St. Simons Island is still in concept development. Ms. Proctor mentioned that the SR 32 @ Little Buffalo Creek bridge project is in concept development. SR 25 @ SR 99 roundabout has complete its FFPR and anticipates next milestones of final plan submission in January. The bridge replacement at SR 25 at Darien River in Darien is undergoing schedule development.

Ms. Proctor stated that for active projects, the resurfacing at Gloucester is anticipating beginning work at any time but hasn't begun yet. Resurfacing on SR 25 from N of on the SR 303 extending South of Sidney Lanier Bridge is reporting at 54% complete, the resurfacing on SR 32 from Brantley County Line extending West of SR 27 is reporting at 86% complete, the Marking upgrades SR 405/I-95 from N of Dover Bluff Overpass extending South of US 25/US341/SR27 is reporting at 90% complete, and the bridge rehab on SR 27/US 341 over Yellow Bluff and Burnett Creek is reporting at 2% complete.

Mr. Bessing asked about the widening on 17th St., and if there are plans for the intersection on Glynco parkway tying into the new four lane system. Mr. Pittman responded that the widening passes through that intersection.

Ms. Thompson mentioned they had sent some information preparing it for a future four lane, along with curbing so that this process does not have to be completed twice.

Mr. Bessing added that the Development Authority will need to move the airport sign as well as the Development Authority sign on the end of the parkway and 17th Street, to see what the intersection will look like when it ties into the new four lane system.

Mr. Pittman mentioned he isn't sure what the ROW negotiations look like or when to move the signs. He stated that he can provide plan drawings of the location to see what the final layout will be and how the signs will be impacted so Mr. Bessing can make accommodations.

Ms. Thompson asked if Mr. Andrews can be copied on this email as well. Mr. Bessing also asked when the four-lane project will start. Mr. Pittman replied that this project is letting this month and will hopefully get good bids for awarding it. There might be activity at the earliest in the beginning of February.

f. Jekyll Island Authority

Mr. Jensen stated that there were no major updates except for the completed rehabbing and adding about 3 miles worth of bike paths on Jekyll and that the loop on the south side of the island. He added that the lights will turn on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

g. Transit Agencies

Mr. Hunter stated that the City of Brunswick Transit is wrapping up stakeholder feedback and then recommendations will be sent to the City Commission at the first meeting in December. A transit system will be in operation in the beginning of FY 2023.

Mr. Dantzler said that everything looks good for FY 2023 funding for the Coastal Regional Commission. He added that the Georgia Transit Association conference will be in December on Jekyll Island from the 8th through the 10th.

Ms. Thompson asked for a link to this to invite commissioners as she knew that Commissioner Booker was interested in attending the conference.

h. Public Comment

There was no public comment provided during this meeting.

i. Other Items

Ms. Forbes stated that BATS staff updated the advertisement for the FY 2021-2024 TIP amendment to include the new temporary location for the community development office. A second advertisement is running for the 30-day public comment period.

Ms. Thompson added that Community Development will be operating for the rest of the year from the Ballard Office. Ms. Thompson asked if there were any comments or questions.

Mr. Bessing mentioned that, as a reminder, the in-kind forms for organizational reimbursement are necessary to fill out and send to Ms. Forbes.

Ms. Forbes stated there's a copy on the website above the meeting calendars.

9. Adjourn

Ms. Thompson then asked if there were any comments or questions. Hearing none, Ms. Forbes wished those on the call a happy holiday. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.

BATS TCC Chairman

Date