



## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### **Resolution to Amend the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**WHEREAS**, the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) desires to adopt an amendment to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) called CORE Connections 2040 Total Mobility Plan for the CORE MPO transportation planning area; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment is to add a new pedestrian crossing project located in Port Wentworth to the 2040 MTP;

**WHEREAS**, the pedestrian crossing will serve the population of a growing residential neighborhood and a new elementary school, and residents will be able to use the crossing to safely cross SR 21 to take their children to school instead of driving, and access goods and services provided by Rice Hope and Rice Creek developments; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment will not impact the financial balance of the 2040 MTP; and

**WHEREAS**, CORE MPO, in accordance with the adopted Participation Plan, has completed a 15-day public review and comment period for the proposed MTP amendment and has incorporated all received comments; and

**WHEREAS**, CORE MPO desires to complete the amendment process to add the new pedestrian crossing project to the 2040 MTP.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization adopts the amendment to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as shown in the summary of MTP amendment report with any corrections based upon the motion of August 26, 2015 regularly scheduled meeting.

Approved this day, August 26, 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert J. Scott".

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Albert J. Scott, Chairman  
Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization



## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AUGUST 2015 MPO MEETINGS

**Agenda Item:** Adoption of an Amendment to the 2040 Total Mobility Transportation Plan for the Pedestrian Bridge Project in Port Wentworth

**Presenter:** Wykoda Wang, MPO Staff

**Summary:** The CORE MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), CORE Connections 2040 Total Mobility Plan, was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in August 2014. The MTP can be amended as project scopes change or new needs are identified.

According to the MPO's Participation Plan, the MTP amendment is a two-step process.

- After the receipt of an amendment request, the MPO staff and the MPO's advisory committees will review the request and recommend to the CORE MPO Board to authorize a detailed study of the proposal. The MPO Board will decide either to reject the application or authorize detailed analysis of the proposal.
- If further study is authorized, the MPO staff will conduct a detailed analysis and present the findings and recommendations to the MPO's advisory committees and the MPO Board. The MPO Board will then decide either to reject the proposal or schedule the proposed change for public hearing. If a public hearing is held, the MPO Board will decide at the conclusion of the hearing whether to reject the proposal, approval the proposal, or approve the proposal with modifications.

Only projects included in the MTP are able to be programmed in the MPO's short-range programming document – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is a subset of the MTP. The TIP may be modified as well in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Participation Plan. The CORE MPO's current FY 2015 - 2018 TIP was adopted by the MPO Board in August 2014.

In May 2015 CORE MPO received a request to amend the 2040 MTP and the FY 2015 - 2018 TIP from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for a new pedestrian bridge project - SR 21 @ CS 705/Parkside Blvd in Port Wentworth. The CORE MPO initiated the MTP amendment process for the project in June 2015 to authorize further analysis. In August 2015 the MPO intends to complete the MTP amendment so that the requested project can be programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) after the adoption of the MTP amendment.

## **SR 21 @ CS 705/Parkside Blvd in Port Wentworth**

### ***Reason for Requested MTP Amendment:***

Addition of a project to the MTP requires an amendment according to the MPO's Participation Plan.

### ***Project Description:***

Construct a new pedestrian bridge (crossing) at SR 21 @ CS 705/Parkside Blvd in Port Wentworth.

### ***Project Justification:***

The pedestrian crossing will serve the population of a growing residential neighborhood and a new school. Residents will be able to use the crossing to safely cross SR 21 to take their children to school instead of driving, and access goods and services provided by Rice Hope and Rice Creek developments.

### ***Special Considerations:***

- **Land Use:** The adjacent land uses include single-family homes in Rice Creek and Rice Hope subdivisions as well as multi-family in Rice Creek and big box retail in Rice Hope. The pedestrian bridge will serve these two major developments as well as the new Rice Creek School.
  - 1) The Rice Hope Development is located on the eastern side of SR 21 with 2 main access points. The development is planned and approved to include up to 4,500 residential units and roughly 100 acres of commercial space. The new Rice Creek 3-9 School opened in 2015. A new 45,600 square foot grocery store will open in 2015 as well.
  - 2) The Rice Creek Development is located on the western side of SR 21 with 1 main access point. An estimated 300 single family homes and 10 apartment buildings will be located within this development. Over 400 additional residential units will be constructed. A new 30,700 square foot retail development is planned. Approximately 65 acre area is planned for development in the near future which includes a mix of commercial and residential uses.

- **Traffic Volume and Capacity:** SR 21 is a heavily-congested roadway, especially during the AM and PM peak hours (Level of Service from C to F). The average annual daily traffic count (AADT) on SR 21 in the project area is 31,400. The construction of the pedestrian bridge will avoid adding more driving trips to SR 21 by providing an option for the people who prefer walking to their destinations in the area.
- **Functional Classification and Design:** SR 21 is classified as a Principal Arterial.
- **Environmental Impact:** The proposed pedestrian bridge is located in previously disturbed areas and in the GDOT right-of-way. No environmental impact or permitting is anticipated for this project.
- **Social and Economic Impact:** The pedestrian bridge will provide a safe alternative to driving, enabling residents in the area to cross the busy SR 21 and reach their destinations by walking. It also provides a safe route to school for the children living in the area.

**Project Status:**

Detailed scope of work is being developed. GDOT is proposing to program the preliminary engineering, right-of-way and construction of this project in fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively (see table below). After the MTP amendment is adopted, the project will be amended into the MPO’s FY 2015 - 2018 TIP.

PI #: 0013549

Phase	Fiscal Year	Fed.	State	Total
PE	2016	\$91,884.80	\$22,971.20	\$114,856.00
ROW	2017	\$149,600.00	\$37,400.00	\$187,000.00
CST	2018	\$988,556.80	\$247,139.20	\$1,235,696.00
UTL	2018	\$160,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$200,000.00

*\*Funding Source for all Phases: M240*

**Expected Funding Sources and MTP Financial Balance:**

For any MTP amendment, the most important consideration is to maintain the financial balance of the plan, meaning the available revenues must be equal to or more than the total project costs. Since the federal requirement is that the MTP must use Year-of-Expenditure (YOU) dollars, the financial balance of each cost band of the MTP must be maintained. Based on the development schedule of the pedestrian bridge project, the Cost Band One (2015 – 2020) of the 2040 Total Mobility Plan will be impacted, particularly the Non-Motorized Set-Aside.

GDOT indicated that the pedestrian bridge project would be implemented with additional funds beyond the revenue projections conducted for the development of the 2040 MTP. Thus adding the pedestrian bridge project to the 2040 MTP Cost Band One is not expected to affect the financial balance of the plan. The additional revenue will come from M240 funds in the amount of \$1,737,552.

The new financial balance of the Non-Motorized Set Aside in the 2040 MTP, Cost Band One after adding the pedestrian bridge project is as follows.

Updated Total Non-Motorized Set Aside (revised expected revenue) - \$35,516,171

Updated Total Non-Motorized Project Costs (revised) - \$27,311,713

Updated Non-Motorized Set Aside Balance (revised) - \$8,204,458

***Conclusion:***

Based on the above analysis, the pedestrian bridge project at SR 21@ CS 705/Parkside Blvd in Port Wentworth will provide a safe alternative for driving and its inclusion in the 2040 MTP will not negatively impact the financial balance of the plan.

**Recommendation:** For endorsement and approval of an amendment to the CORE MPO's 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to include the pedestrian bridge project at SR 21 @ CS 705/Parkside Blvd in Port Wentworth.

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AUG 14 2015

METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

Personally appeared before me, Alaina Fincher, to me known, who being sworn, deposes and says:

That he/she is the authorized agent of Southeastern Newspapers Company, LLC d.b.a. Savannah Morning News, a Georgia corporation, doing business in Chatham County, Georgia as a daily newspaper published in said county;

That he/she is authorized to make affidavits of publication on behalf of said company;

That said newspaper is of general circulation in said county and in the area adjacent thereto;

That said newspaper is the legal organ for publication in Chatham County, Georgia

That he/she has reviewed the regular editions of the Savannah Morning News, published on:

August 9, 2015, 2015, 2015, 2015,

and finds that the following advertisement, to-wit:

August, 2015 PUBLIC NOTICE FOR MTP AND TIP AMENDMENTS The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO), the transportation planning agency for the Savannah urbanized area, is requesting the public to review and provide comments on proposed amendments to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and FY 2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MTP evaluates transportation system performance and is a source of policies, projects and actions that implement community vision of transportation improvements needed to reach the community goals. The TIP is the short-term programming document that lists transportation improvement projects to receive funding in the next four years. Reports providing details of the proposed MTP and TIP amendments are available for review at the Chatham County Public Libraries, the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) office, the MPC website at http://www.thempc.org/transportation.htm, and other public review agencies. Any changes to the reports will be posted on the website. The comment period starts on August 11, 2015 and written comments on the proposed MTP and TIP amendments will be accepted until close of business on August 25, 2015. Please send your comments to Wykoda Wang, Metropolitan Planning Commission, 110 E. State Street, Savannah, GA 31401, or via email at wang@thempc.org. CORE MPO will host a Public hearing for the proposed MTP and TIP amendments in August 2015 in conjunction with the CORE MPO Board meeting. Meeting time and location are listed below: CORE MPO Board Meeting August 26, 2015 10:00 a.m. MPC Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room 112 East State Street, Savannah, GA 31401 For a complete list of public review agencies or additional information regarding the proposed MTP and TIP amendments, please call (912) 651-1466.

[Signature]

(Deponent)

appeared in each of said editions. Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 10 day of Aug, 2015

[Signature] Notary Public; Chatham County, Ga.

EUGENE J. CRONK Notary Public, Chatham County GA My Commission Expires Jan. 24, 2018