

MACON-BIBB COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

3661 Eisenhower Pkwy, SUITE MB104, MACON, GEORGIA 31206

MATS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES SUMMARY (DRAFT)

Meeting Description: MATS Citizens Advisory Committee – Regular Meeting **Date:** 04.09.2025

Time: 6:00PM **Location:** Macon-Bibb County P & Z Commission, “Hybrid”

NAME	REPRESENTING	Absent / Present
Jeffrey C. Ruggieri	Macon-Bibb Planning & Zoning Commission	Absent
Mike Greenwald	Macon-Bibb Planning & Zoning Commission	Present
Gregory L. Brown	Macon-Bibb Planning & Zoning Commission	Present
Robert Barrett	Macon-Bibb Planning & Zoning Commission	Present
Thomas Neaves	Macon-Bibb Planning & Zoning Commission	Present
Elizabeth Hardin	CAC/Commission District 1	Present
John MacNeil	CAC/Commission District 2	Present
VACANT	CAC/Commission District 3	VACANT
Dean Dummitt	CAC/Commission District 4	Present
VACANT	CAC/Commission District 5	VACANT
Johnathan Guin	CAC/Commission District 6	Present
Alphonzo Sanders	CAC/Commission District 7	Absent
VACANT	CAC/Commission District 8	VACANT
VACANT	CAC/Commission District 9	VACANT
Timothy D. Ingram	CAC/Jones County Representative (Dist. 4)	Absent
Kimbel “Kim” Stokes	CAC/Monroe County Representative (Dist. 3)	Present
VACANT	CAC/AARP Volunteer	VACANT
Kaylee Pruitt	CAC/Bike-Pedestrian Representative	Present
Antonio Simmons	CAC/Board of Education Transportation Division	Absent
Victoria Krysalika	CAC/Disabled Population Representative	Present (Proxy Michael Leverett)
Deborah Garcia	CAC/Disabled Transportation User	Absent
VACANT	CAC/Environmental Representative	VACANT
Andre Coquerel	CAC/League of Women Voters	Absent
Dianna Cooper	CAC/Macon Housing Authority	Present
Dave Dickey	CAC/Transit User	Present
VISITORS		
N/A		Visitor
N/A		Visitor
AGENDA Items and Minutes		
1	Called to Order (time index 0 min 3 sec): Chairperson Dummitt opened the meeting at 6:07 PM; Roll Call was conducted, and a quorum was established.	
2	Adoption of Agenda – Action Item (time index 2 min 31 sec): The agenda was adopted with the following changes: Staff suggested that a chairperson should formally be selected for CY 2025. Dean Dummitt requested clarification on whether newly appointed members to the CAC needed to be voted in and whether they could vote immediately. Staff clarified that members were active once their appointments were on file and that they could vote immediately. Dave Dickey was appointed by the Macon Transit Authority to serve on the CAC as a transit user. Staff clarified that Chairperson Dummitt was elected Chairperson at the April 2024 meeting, but his	

appointment ran out at the end of 2024. Elizabeth Hardin made a motion to nominate Dean Dummitt as chairperson for CY 2025, seconded by Dave Dickey. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously. Elizabeth Hardin made a motion to nominate Johnathan Guin for vice chairperson, seconded by Dave Dickey. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

- 3 Public Comment Period (time index 7 min 53 sec):**
- a. Dave Dickey proposed that a bridge be built into Jones County from Arkwright Road across the railroad tracks and the Ocmulgee River to State Route 18 or the Gray Bypass. Benefits would include safety improvements by providing an additional access point to Macon, reduced travel times for Jones County residents travelling to the interstate or Macon, and reduced traffic on Spring Street. Staff elaborated that any project involving bridges or affecting or leading into a state route is under the purview of GDOT. Chairperson Dummitt asked if we know if a bridge has ever been explored in that spot. Staff was not familiar with any attempts to build a bridge there. Staff recommended that the matter be brought up at the Policy Committee meeting and that it would not require a motion for the Chairperson to bring this to the Policy Committee.
 - b. Dave Dickey commented on the Middle GA Regional Airport runway expansion project and wanted to know of the possibility of attracting FedEx or UPS air freight carriers from Hartsfield Jackson Airport to grow the local air freight sector.
 - c. Dave Dickey made comments about high-speed rail from Atlanta to Macon to Savannah: “The time is now, it will never get cheaper. High speed rail would really energize downtown Macon.” Chairperson Dummitt said that the GDOT has an open project regarding this matter. Staff clarified that the project has been broken out into different phases and gave additional details about the matter.
 - d. Dave Dickey expressed concerns that the crosswalk from the new Cotton Ave Plaza is not adequately striped, and that drivers do not stop for pedestrians. Mr. Dickey stated that this is a big safety issue, especially given the speeds at which people come from the Second Street bridge. Kaylee Pruitt added that the signs for the crosswalk are turned so that cars cannot see the signs. Staff believes that this particular stretch of Second Street is a local street but would have to research it to be sure.
 - e. John MacNeil followed up with questions about communications from the State Department of Transportation following the change in presidential administrations. Staff recommended that Mr. MacNeil reach out to the MGRC Clean Air Coalition Policy Director, Greg Boike.
 - f. (Time index 59 min 22 sec) Michael Leverett shared information on a pilot program in Warner Robins called Courtesy Cares Rides for providing lift equipped rides to individuals that need it. It may be something to look into a little closer with Macon since it works well in Warner Robins. Dave Dickey said that there is already a paratransit program operated by the Macon Transit Authority, although Michael Leverett mentioned that this service does not operate on Sundays.

4 Approval of MATS Citizens’ Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (April 10, 2024) – Action Item (time index 4 min 14 sec): Elizabeth Hardin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 10th, 2024 meeting, seconded by Dave Dickey. After a vote, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as presented.

- 5 New Business:**
- a. **Adoption of FY 2026 UPWP – Action Item (time index 41 min 41 sec):** UPWP funding highlights were presented by staff, including specifics about how FHWA and FTA contracts work. Staff shared information regarding the funding of the upcoming MTP update and updates to the TIP. Staff also shared about the continuing development of standard operating procedures for interagency consultation. Staff recommended the following action: Approve FY 2026 UPWP (including Unfunded Project for MTP Update); Authorize MATS CAC Chair to vote in favor of adopting proposed FY 2026 UPWP at May 7, 2025 MATS Policy Committee meeting; Authorize MATS staff to publish the FY 2026 UPWP on the MATS website, update any and all MATS documents and/or applications where the FY 2026 UPWP is a required component, and begin writing application for PL Supplemental Funds grant for MTP Update, and RFP for

consulting services, return to MATS CAC Committee before GAMPO Fall 2026 meeting for approval of RFP and authorization to post. Kimbell Stokes made a motion to adopt staff recommendation, seconded by Elizabeth Hardin. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Amendments to MATS FY 2024 – 2027 TIP and 2050 MTP - Action Items (time index 1 hr 3 min 2 sec):

- i. Amendments to MATS FY 2024 – 2027 TIP to reflect GDOT Project 311400: I-75 From I-16 To CR 478/Pierce AVE - Phase VI: Staff presented information regarding this item, including fiscal rebalancing considerations, non-exempt status from air quality conformity analysis requirements, increases in project costs, and a breakdown of funding sources.
- ii. Amendments to MATS 2050 MTP Chapter 6 – Roads and Bridges, and Chapter 8 – Fiscal Balance to reflect aforementioned amendments: Staff shared details regarding this item. Staff recommended the following action:
 - o Approve amendments to MATS 2050 MTP to reflect the following updates:
 - Modification to Ch. 6 – Roads and Bridges: Updates to Tables 6-2 through 6-4, and associated narratives to reflect updated project budget for GDOT PL #311400
 - Modification of Ch. 8 – Fiscal Constraint: Modifications to Tables 8-1 through 8-6, and associated narratives, to reflect new fiscal balancing based on adding GDOT PL #311400 to FY 2024 – 2027 TIP
 - o Approve amendments to FY 2024 – 2027 TIP to reflect the following updates:
 - Chapter 2: Amendment to GDOT PI #311400 for Utilities and Construction Phases in FY 2026
 - Chapter 3: Update STIP Matching Funds and Financial Plans tables to reflect inclusion of GDOT PI #311400
 - Additional edits as needed throughout the document to properly reflect the proposed amendment
 - o Authorize MATS CAC Chair to vote in favor of proposed amendments at MATS Policy Committee meeting on May 7, 2025.
Dave Dickey made a motion to adopt staff recommendation, seconded by Elizabeth Hardin. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Amendments to MATS Public Participation Plan, to reflect (time index 26 min 45 sec):

- i. Updates to dollar values for Administrative Modifications
- ii. Allow for use of Administrative Modification processes to add project phases utilizing 100% non-Federal funds
- iii. Allow for the use of the Amendment Process to add new projects or project phases funded by Congressionally Directed Spending
- iv. Establish procedures for responses to comments received, and their incorporation into the MTP or TIP documents, as appropriate
- v. Various process clarifications – **Action Item:** Staff presented additional information on these items. Staff recommended the following action: Approve recommended amendment language (as highlighted in current document draft) into MATS Public Participation Plan, at identified sections; Authorize Chair to vote in favor of amendments at MATS Policy Committee meeting on May 7, 2025. Dave Dickey made a motion to adopt staff recommendation, seconded by Elizabeth Hardin. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Amendment to MATS Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary – Action Item (time index 1 hr 16 min 33 sec):** Staff discussed the various options available for the expansion of the MATS MPO boundary, including the minimum expansion option as required by GDOT. Kimbell Stokes requested further clarification about the area to be included under this boundary amendment. Staff clarified that the recommended action will not extend the boundary up to Rumble Road. Staff recommended the following action: Support adoption of GDOT recommended boundary for MATS Metropolitan Planning Area, as described on previous slides; Authorize MATS CAC Chair to vote in favor of proposed amendments at MATS Policy Committee meeting on

	<p>May 7, 2025. <u>Dave Dickey made a motion to adopt staff recommendation, seconded by Elizabeth Hardin and Kaylee Pruitt concurrently. The motion carried unanimously and was approved.</u></p> <p>e. Adoption of MATS 2050 Freight Plan – Action Item (time index 1 hr 26 min 42 sec): Staff gave additional information about this item and shared overview slides on the content of the Freight Plan and the status of the planning process. Staff also shared information about House Bill 164 from the previous legislative session and its potential to put increased strain on existing road infrastructure. Kaylee Pruitt asked for clarification about what is required of the CAC regarding the projects in the Freight Plan. Staff clarified that no action is necessary from the CAC regarding the Freight Plan, as it is a reference document. <u>No action was taken.</u> John MacNeil asked if any of the recommended projects involved rail lines. Staff shared that while none of the projects in the presentation just shared are about rail lines, staff does believe that there are projects of this nature in the Freight Plan document.</p>
6	<p>Review of GDOT Project Status Report – Information Item (time index 1 hr 50 min 38 sec): Staff gave additional information about these items. Elizabeth Hardin asked a question about project delays on Project #0015692. Staff said that the project manager would need to be consulted to learn exactly what delays have been run into. Staff will try to get answers about what’s going on. Elizabeth Hardin expressed frustration about the allocation of resources and why some projects that should be mostly finished have such a distant projected completion date.</p>
7	<p>Regular Meeting Calendar for CY 2025 (time index 2 hr 9 min 42 sec): Staff presented information on the 2025 regular meeting calendar for CY 2025. Staff shared information about this item. The TCC will meet at the Macon-Bibb County Planning & Zoning Commission on April 16th at 10AM and the Policy Committee will meet in the same place on May 7th at 9:30AM. The regular meeting schedule does not reflect the possibility of special call meetings, but great efforts are taken by staff to avoid these.</p>
8	<p>Adjourn (time index 2 hr 11 min 32 sec): <u>Dave Dickey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Elizabeth Hardin to adjourn. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.</u> Chairperson Dummitt adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM</p>

draft MATS CAC Minutes 04/29/25