

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:** 07.09.2025

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
Hart Eidelman	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
Weston Stroud	CAC/Commission District 5	Absent
Johnathan Guin	CAC/Commission District 6	Present
Alphonzo Sanders	CAC/Commission District 7	Absent
VACANT	CAC/Commission District 8	VACANT
Beverly Davis	CAC/Commission District 9	Absent
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 Hilford)
Deborah Garcia	CAC/Disabled Transportation User	Absent
VACANT	CAC/Environmental Representative	VACANT
Andre Coquerel	CAC/League of Women Voters	Present
Dianna Cooper	CAC/Macon Housing Authority	Present (Proxy Adria Hancock)
Dave Dickey	CAC/Transit User	Present
VISITORS		
N/A		Visitor
N/A		Visitor
AGENDA Items and Minutes		
1	Called to Order: Chairperson Dummitt opened the meeting at 6:00 PM; Roll Call was conducted by Mike Greenwald, and a quorum was established.	
2	Adoption of Agenda – Action Item: The agenda was adopted with no changes submitted or requested. <u>Dave Dickey</u> made a motion to approve the agenda, this was seconded by Kim Stokes. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.	
3	Public Comment Period: Staff remarked that no one signed up for public comment for this day’s meeting. However, they took the opportunity to have Hart Eidelman, the new staff member, introduce himself. a. Hart Eidelman explained that he was the new Planner I, and originally came from Ohio, where he recently finished his grad school program for Community Planning at the University of Cincinnati. He remarked that	

he is an avid transportation planner. Mike Greenwald remarked that it was his third day working for MBPZ, and 5th day in Macon overall.

4 **Approval of MATS Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (April 9, 2025) – Action Item:** Dave Dickey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 9th, 2025 meeting, seconded by Elizabeth Hardin. After a vote, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as presented.

5 **New Business:**

a. MATS MPO 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update RFQ/P – Action Item: This is for the approval of a RFP/Q document for the update of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. MATS is required to regularly update the MTP every 4-5 years for certification purposes. The update deadline is May 3rd, 2027. Staff outlined the required scope for the MTP Update RFP/Q, which includes socio-demographic forecasting, Road and Bridge Projects related to GDOT, Public Transit, Freight, and Aviation budgets, as well as other measures related to Fiscal Balancing and Air Quality/Safety Measures.

- i. Due to the large size of the task of getting the 2050 Plan Update, staff mentioned that GDOT and FHWA recommended to apply for the PL Supplemental Funds Grant, which will cover 80% of the \$300,000 project (\$240k from the Federal Grant, \$60k for the local match, in cash). Staff assured the committee that once funds are granted, we would be able to go ahead and submit the RFP/Q requests out for approval.
- ii. Scope of work was detailed as the following- to assemble the stakeholder group, develop the project schedule, perform public outreach, and assist with the validation of the forecasted socio-demographic data and GDOT Travel Demand Model.
- iii. The Travel Demand Model is being updated to support the MTP Update, and there was a meeting between the MPO and GDOT that kicked off the TDM Update on 6/24/2025.
- iv. The staff told the Citizen's Advisory Committee that they will mainly play an informational role with this update, and to help inform any updates to the MATS projects list.
- v. The timeline for obtaining the MTP Update consultant was informed as follows
 - i. 8/6/2025 – Policy Committee would accept the matching funds grant from Macon-Bibb County, and direct MATS Staff to apply for PL Supplemental Funds grant
 - ii. 8/25/2025 – MATS Staff will submit PL Supplemental Funds Grant application
 - iii. 9/26/2025- MATS Staff will present grant to GAMPO board for the award
 - iv. 9/30/2025 – MATS staff posts RFP/Q for bids
 - v. 10/31/2025 – Bids close for the RFP/Q. Staff notes there may need to be special call meeting for CAC and TCC to review MATS staff recommendations for consultant.
- vi. Staff recommended the following action:

Authorize MATS CAC Chair to vote at MATS Policy Committee meeting (on 8/6/2025) to:

- i. Approve the MATS 2050 MTP Update RFQ/P.
- ii. Accept matching funds from Macon-Bibb County Board of Commissioners
- iii. Direct MATS Staff to:
 - i. Apply for PL Supplemental Funds award at earliest opportunity and
 - ii. Post RFQ/P to bid, pending the necessary approval.

When prompted for questions, CAC member John MacNeil asked if there would be a hold up for the update project. If there would be a holdup, staff said there would be a larger concern within MATS. John MacNeil also asked for how would this affect the Atlanta-Macon-Savannah rail plans for 2028. Staff said that they are independent of each other, it just needs to be included in the freight & rail portion of the MTP Update plan. Once questions were adequately answered, Elizabeth Hardin made a motion to adopt staff recommendation, seconded by Johnathan Guin. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution in Support of Atlanta-Macon-Savannah rail corridor option for Atlanta-Savannah Passenger Rail Service- Action Item:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Staff informed the committee that GDOT is doing research for a variety of passenger-rail routes, including Atlanta to Savannah, Atlanta-Athens-Savannah, Atlanta-Augusta-Savannah, Atlanta-Athens-Augusta-Savannah, and our Atlanta-Macon-Savannah route. ii. Staff informed the committee that there was a request from the former mayor Robert Reichert for support of this Atlanta-Macon-Savannah route at the June 17th, 2025, meeting for the Macon-Bibb County Board of Commissioners. This resolution is being worked on right now for the county, whereas the MATS staff would like a separate but similar resolution supporting the Atlanta-Macon-Savannah route. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The route is already identified by the Southeast Corridor Commission (which covers 7 states, including DC) as their preferred route. iii. Staff outlined additional reasons for supporting the resolution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There are redundant rail lines already existing between Macon to Atlanta and Macon to Savannah. This includes the H and S lines, currently owned by Norfolk Southern. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Hardin asked where the lines were in Macon- staff explained where the lines were within Macon-Bibb County, named adjacent to Amerson River Park (the H line) and through the Terminal Station (the S line). • Dave Dickey later surmised that the transit lines are not truly redundant- the H line is filled with hard-to-move freight trains, and the S line is too curved for passenger rail. Thus, he postulated that the route might possibly go within the I-75 median. ii. The proposed line will reduce car traffic on I-75 and I-16, which allows for additional freight movement, which is a recent effort made in part by the county and the FHWA. <p>Once fully explained, the MATS staff explained the recommended action for the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Motion was to authorize MATS CAC Chair to vote for the endorsement of the Atlanta-Macon-Savannah route at the Policy Committee meeting on May 7, 2025. <u>Dave Dickey made a motion to adopt staff recommendation, seconded by Elizabeth Hardin. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.</u>
6	<p>Old/Unfinished Business:</p> <p>a. Status Update on Bass Rd. Phase 1 – Information Item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Staff informed committee that Macon-Bibb County Board of Commissioners approved funds for the company “Value Engineering” at the 6/17/2025 Board Meeting. The funds (\$100,000) are currently being processed in GDOT’s system to procure services from the approved Value Engineering vendors list. ii. Staff informed committee of what Atlas Engineering received in terms of final acknowledgements/comments from various utility companies on where the utilities are/are not regarding this project over the I-75 Bridge @ Bass Rd. They are currently coordinating with FHWA, next they (Atlas Engineering) will write a letter to GDOT of how the project is consistent with current TIP/STIP based on cost estimates. iii. Staff let CAC know that GDOT will select and engage with pre-approved vendors to complete the Value Engineering study, anticipated Project Let for Big Date is 7/14/2027. iv. New staff member Hart Eidelman asked a clarifying question regarding the role of Atlas Engineering. <u>No action was taken at this time.</u>
7	<p>Review of GDOT Project Status Report – Information Item: Staff gave additional information about these items. Dave Dickey commented on Project #0014896 that it looked like they were beginning to set up the concrete machine for this bridge project. Chairman Dean Dummitt asked regarding any road closures for Project #0013921’s bridge/or the bridge on Rocky Creek Rd. Staff said they would check in with GDOT. There were no further questions for staff regarding GDOT projects.</p>
8	<p>Regular Meeting Calendar for CY 2025: Staff presented information on the 2025 regular meeting calendar for CY 2025. Staff shared information about when the TCC and Policy Committees will meet. The TCC will meet at the Macon-Bibb County Planning & Zoning Commission on July 16th at 10AM and the Policy Committee will meet in</p>

	the same place on August 6 th at 9:30AM. The next regularly scheduled meeting for CAC will meet on October 8 th at 6PM. The regular meeting schedule does not reflect the possibility of special call meetings, but great efforts are taken by staff to avoid these.
9	Adjourn: <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 7:09 PM

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