



Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

# Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Attributable (Z230) Funds

# APPLICATION

**JANUARY 2017**

Send the electronic copy  
of the completed application by:

**February 3, 2017, 5:00 p.m.**

to:

Wykoda Wang, Transportation Administrator  
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission  
110 E. State Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

**Contact info:**

912-651-1466

[wangw@thempc.org](mailto:wangw@thempc.org)

**Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program**

**CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS**

- Have you answered all applicable questions in the application?

---

- Has the appropriate person signed the application?

---

- Have you filled out the detailed budget table on the last page of this application?

---

- Have you attached a letter from your governing board or official able to commit to the local match?

---

- Have you attached a project location map?

---

- Have you attached information demonstrating the basis of your project's cost estimate?

---

- Have you attached other information that is applicable to the answers in your application?

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)

# Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Urban Attributable (Z230) Funds

## 2017 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is conducting a competitive project selection process to award Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Urban Attributable (Z230) funds, provided through the act entitled Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (also known as FAST Act).

- **Expected Available Funds = \$13 million (federal portion)**
- **Maximum Award = N/A**
- **Minimum Award = \$200,000 (federal portion)**
- **At least 20% of the eligible costs of the proposed project must be locally funded.** (Previously incurred costs cannot be counted as part of the 20% match for the newly awarded federal funds.)

An applicant may request for *at least \$200,000 of federal funds*. The federal funding request in this application can represent no more than 80% of the total cost of the applicant's proposal. For example, if an applicant requests \$1,000,000, and provides no more than the required 20% local match, he/she would be submitting a proposal totaling \$1,250,000.

- **Federal Requirements**

Applicants should keep in mind that using the STBG funds involves adherence to federal requirements, as applicable, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prevailing wage rates (Davis-Bacon), Buy America, competitive bidding, and other contracting requirements, regardless of whether the projects are located within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway.

- **Projects funded through this selection process must be located within the CORE MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary.**

The CORE MPO administered STBG Urban Attributable funds can only be spent within the MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area which includes all of Chatham County, the portion of Effingham County and Bryan County located within the Savannah Urbanized Area, as well as Richmond Hill.

- **Projects, if awarded funds, will be programmed in the CORE MPO's FY 2018 – 2021 Transportation Improvement Program (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021).**

Once the project is programmed in the TIP and the awarded federal funding is authorized in a certain federal fiscal year, the funds must be obligated within two years, otherwise the funds will be rescinded for use by other selected priority projects.

**Please see CORE MPO Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Manual for additional information.**

## **Applicant and Project Information**

### **Eligible Entities**

Please indicate which type of eligible entity is the primary project sponsor: (Select one.)

Local government

---

Regional transportation authority

---

Transit agency

---

Other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation improvements that the State of Georgia determines to be eligible.

### **Eligible Projects**

Please indicate **all** applicable categories your proposal falls under. **Please see CORE MPO Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Manual for information on project eligibility.**

Highway Improvements

---

Bridge Improvements

---

Transit Improvements

---

Operational/Safety Improvements

---

Bicycle / Pedestrian /Non-Motorized Improvements

---

Planning Studies

---

Other

<b>Applicant Information</b>		
Agency Name (i.e. agency that will manage implementation) Chatham Area Transit Authority		Date 1/23/17
Street Address 610 West Oglethorpe Avenue	City, State Savannah, Georgia	Zip Code 31401
Contact Person's Name Grant Sparks	Title Senior Planner	
Contact Person's Phone Number 912-629-3948	Contact Person's Email Address <a href="mailto:Grant.sparks@catchacat.org">Grant.sparks@catchacat.org</a>	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) Grant Sparks	Title Senior Planner	

<b>Project Overview</b>		
Project Name Bus Reliability Initiative		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) The project area includes areas of Chatham County that are within the Transit Tax District.		
County (or counties) in which project is located Chatham	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located Savannah	
<p>Proposal Description Summary</p> <p>Chatham Area Transit (CAT) is seeking funding to replace three heavy-duty diesel transit vehicles in its aging fleet. Currently, more than half of CAT's fixed route vehicles are at or beyond their expected useful life (12 years or 500,000 miles). While CAT maintenance staff have worked diligently to keep its vehicles in service, the age of the fleet presents a significant threat to the long-term reliability of the system. CAT proposes to use the Z-230 funding to replace the oldest and least reliable buses in its fleet, which were delivered in 2003.</p> <p>Based on CAT's existing fleet size and the average lifespan of a heavy-duty vehicle, the authority must purchase and retire six vehicles per year in order to maintain a sustainable replacement schedule. With the vast majority of its funds being allocated to routine operational expenses, CAT must leverage its SPLOST allocation as a local match to secure additional capital funding from outside sources. In 2016, CAT successfully secured funding to replace twenty-five fixed route vehicles through the state's GoTransit program, however, the future of the program is uncertain and the need for additional vehicle replacement funding remains.</p> <p>With an updated fleet of vehicles and a more consistent replacement schedule, CAT will be able to provide a more reliable and higher quality transit service to the community.</p> <p>CAT proposes to match the Z-230 funding at a 25% rate.</p>		
Total Estimated Project Cost*	Federal Z230 Funds Requested	Local Match Available
\$1,687,500	\$1,265,625	\$421,875
<i>*Please also be sure to fill out the Budget Detail Table at the end of this application.</i>		

**Who is providing the local match?**

Name of Agency or Organization	Source (e.g. particular CIP fund)
Chatham Area Transit (CAT)	SPLOST

*Please attach a letter signed by either your governing board or an official who can commit to the stated local match.*

**Has your agency managed and completed other federal-aid transportation projects before?**

(Choose one)

- 0 completed federal-aid projects

---

- 1 completed federal-aid project

---

- 2 completed federal-aid projects

---

- 3 or more completed federal-aid projects

Please list as many as three federal-aid projects completed by your agency, *preferably for projects that are similar to your proposal*:

P.I. No.	Project Name	Sponsor's Project Manager
GA-04-0024-00	CAT Hybrid Bus Replacement	Terri Harrison
GA-90-X346-00	FY2015 5307 Capital	Terri Harrison
GA-90-X332-01	FY2013 5307 Capital	Terri Harrison

**What agency will maintain the project after completion?**

Chatham Area Transit (CAT)

**If a maintenance agreement is necessary, has it been executed?** (Chose one) **NA**  
 If yes, please attach the agreement.

**If the completed project will generate the need for operational funds, please describe the estimated annual cost and the status and source of funding for operations.**

The replacement of three buses will not require any additional operating funds. CAT's existing operational expenditures are offset through fares, a local transit tax, contract revenue, and federal government subsidies.

**Will your project require purchase(s) or easement(s) for right-of-way** (Choose one) **N**  
 Additional information:

No

**If other agencies or organizations are partnering with you on this application or on implementation of your proposal, please list and describe the nature and the status of any agreements (e.g. ROW donations or easements):**

Organization #1	
N/A	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Contact Email:	
Status of Agreement	

Organization #2	
N/A	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Contact Email:	
Status of Agreement	

Organization #3	
N/A	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Contact Email:	
Status of Agreement	

**If funding were available today, how much time do you estimate would be needed for any phases of your project that would be funded by this request:**

Phase(s) to be Z230-funded	No. of Months
Procure three transit vehicles	2
Vehicle build	18
Vehicle receipt and post-delivery inspection	1

**Please list any necessary preliminary work that already *has been completed*, and provide dates (e.g. GDOT concept approval, FHWA environmental approval or categorical exclusion, etc.):**

Steps Completed	Date
N/A	

**Please describe status of any non-Z230 funded work that *still needs to be completed before the project or phase that would be funded by this request can begin* (e.g. if Z230 funds + Local Match will fund only the construction phase, what is the status and schedule for the incomplete preliminary engineering and ROW phases?).**

Status of Steps to be carried out before Z230-funded work begins	Estimated completion date
N/A	

**In 500 words or less, please describe what public benefits and efficiencies would be provided to our area by your proposed project.** (For example, how does your project match the project ranking criteria such as freight connections, safety improvements, congestion reduction, multi-modal connection, impacts to environment and tourism, etc? **Please reference the CORE MPO Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Manual for project ranking criteria.**)

**State of Good Repair:** As CAT’s fleet continues to age, bus breakdowns are becoming much more frequent. CAT measures its quality of service using “Mean Distance between Vehicle Failures.” Over the last year that figure has dropped by 30% going from 13,005 miles to 9,819 miles between failures. With a rapidly aging fleet, that figure will continue to decline unless the transit authority can develop a sustainable vehicle replacement schedule. This project will help CAT achieve that goal.

**Ladders of Opportunity:** The current on-time-performance (OTP) of the CAT system is 85%. For many people who rely on CAT to make trips to work, school, and health appointments, this lack of reliability compromises their ability to access opportunities for economic advancement. A primary driver of this low OTP is the condition of the vehicle fleet. Improvements to the condition of the vehicle fleet are the highest priority for CAT’s capital investment.

**Congestion Reduction:** High quality transit service can play a key role in a community’s congestion management plan. To be successful, however, CAT must make its service an attractive option for “choice” riders who typically have access to personal automobiles. While there are many factors that can influence an individual’s decision to use transit over a personal automobile, one of the most common characteristics is a frequent and reliable transit service. CAT will be deploying a transit system with more frequent service in the coming years, but vehicle reliability is remains a concern.

**Security:** CAT plays a critical role in emergency evacuation efforts. During Hurricane Matthew CAT helped evacuate more than 1,500 Chatham County residents. Having a reliable fleet is critical to CAT’s ability to safely evacuate local residents.

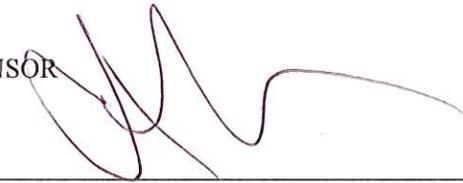
**Safety:** Aged buses are more vulnerable to breakdown and more likely to present a hazard during a malfunction. CAT experiences bus breakdowns daily. These breakdowns create traffic hazards for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. This project seeks to improve the condition of the fleet and in doing so decrease the frequency of bus breakdowns. New buses will incorporate safety features not present on existing buses including mirrors which reduce blind spots, improved wheelchair harness systems, and improved exterior lights.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs:** All of CAT’s fixed route transit vehicles are ADA accessible and are equipped with bike racks. While all of the projects listed in CORE MPO’s Non-Motorized Transportation Plan are infrastructure projects and therefore do not directly involve CAT, this project will help enhance bicycle and pedestrian activity on many of the top 20 bicycle and pedestrian projects.

**Travel and Tourism:** On average, CAT transports 10,000 passengers per day, of which 400 are attributed to the transit authority’s “downtown routes.” These services are intended for tourists as they circulate between hotels, parking garages, and key landmarks. Despite their production, however, the vehicles used on these routes are subject to consistent breakdowns and service delays. Because CAT rotates its vehicles route-to-route, this project will not only benefit the traditional fixed route services but it will also enhance the quality of tourist-driven services.

**Project Sponsor Signature**

SPONSOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (on hard copy)

1/30/2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Curtis Koleber

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Please remember:

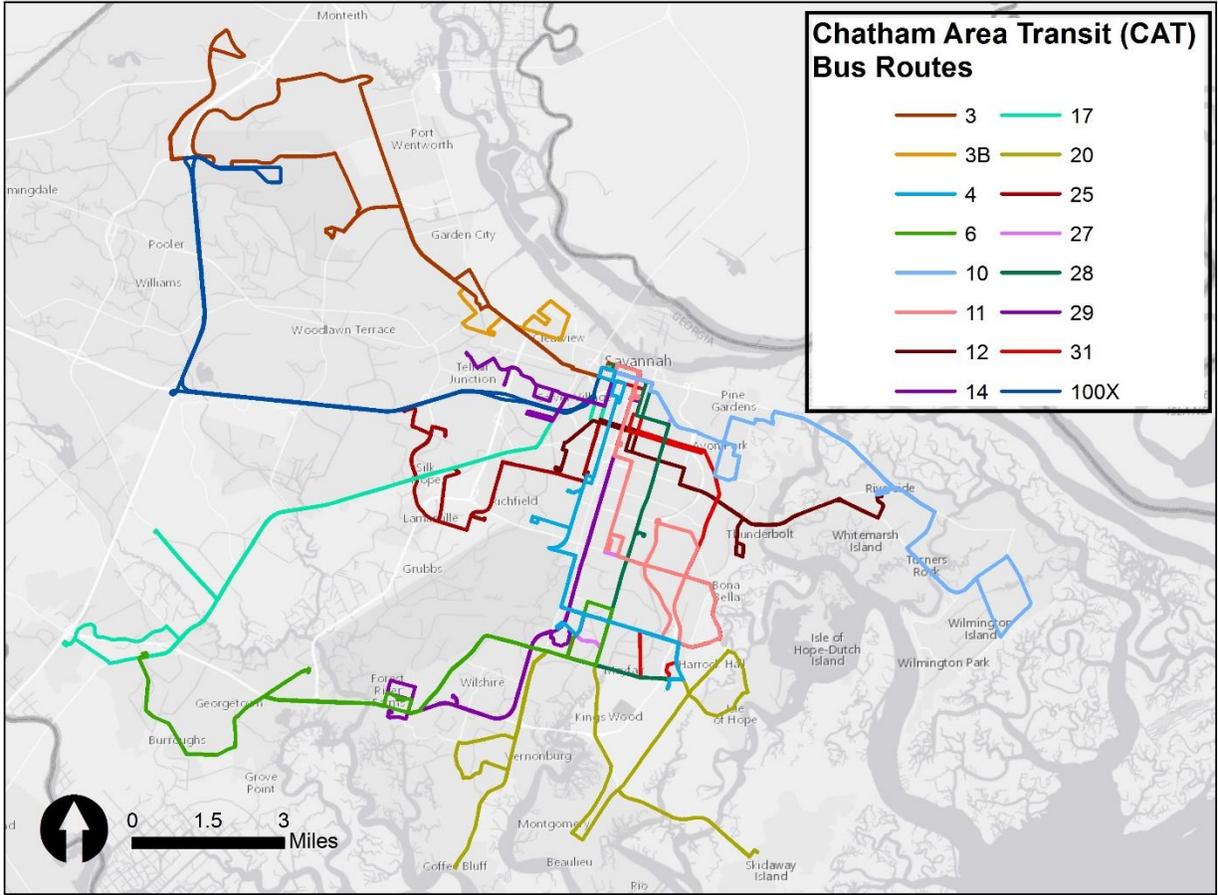
- To fill out the Detailed Budget Table, to the extent applicable, on the following page;
- To attach a letter from your governing board or other official who can commit the agency to the stated local match.
- To attach a Project Location Map;
- To attach information showing the Basis of your Cost Estimate.



Budget Detail for Proposal										
Project Name: Bus Reliability Initiative										
Activity	Desired Fiscal Year for TIP Programming (GDOT Fiscal Year) *	Total Estimate	Requested CORE MPO Z230 Federal Funds (Maximum allowed is 80% of your total eligible costs.)	Local Match (Minimum required is 20% of your total eligible costs.)	Local Match Breakdown (by source)					
					Amount A	Source A	Amount B	Source B	Amount C	Source C
PE										
ROW										
Utilities										
Construction										
Other activity Specify: Purchase 3 diesel transit vehicles	FY18	\$1,687,500	\$1,265,625	\$421,875	SPLOST					
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
<b>Total Amounts</b>		\$1,687,500	\$1,265,625	\$421,875						
Please use this area to explain whether other grants or sources (not already shown above) are dedicated either to the proposed phase or to future phases, of your project.										

\*The first GDOT fiscal year in the MPO's next TIP is FY 2018, which begins July 1, 2017. The last year of the next TIP is FY 2021, which begins July 1, 2020.

# Attachment 1: Project Map



## Heavy-Duty Diesel Transit Vehicle Cost Justification

January 26, 2017

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) anticipates a vehicle cost of \$562,500 per unit in FY 2018. This cost estimate uses historical pricing from FY 2016 and average annual rate increase of 4%. The calculation can be found in the table below.

Description	Annual % Increase	2016	2017	2018
40 ft. Gillig Lowfloor	4%	520,063	540,866	562,500

This cost estimate includes all aftermarket add-ons such as fareboxes, security equipment, vehicle locator hardware, etc.



CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT

---

912.233.5767

610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue  
Savannah, Georgia 31401

[www.catchacat.org](http://www.catchacat.org)

January 30, 2017

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)

Attn: Wykoda Wang

110 East State Street

Savannah, GA 31401

**RE: Chatham Area Transit (CAT) FY17 Surface Transportation Block Program (STBP) applications**

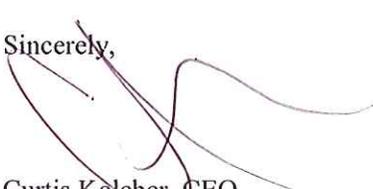
Dear Wykoda:

I am writing to express my support for all three of CAT's FY17 Surface Transportation Block Program (STBP) applications: (1) Bus Reliability Initiative; (2) Electric Conversion Initiative; and (3) Maintenance Equipment Upgrades. Each of the proposed projects will greatly enhance the transit authority's ability to provide convenient, safe, and reliable public transportation services to the community.

*This letter confirms that CAT will be responsible for the local match amount listed in each of the three applications.*

On behalf of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, we appreciate your consideration of our FY17 STBP applications and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Curtis Koleber, CEO

Cc: Terri Harrison, CFO; Grant Sparks, Senior Planner

610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401  
912.233.5767 [www.catchacat.org](http://www.catchacat.org)