



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

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

Applicant Information		
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 Grant.sparks@catchacat.org	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) Grant Sparks	Title Senior Planner	

Project Overview	
Project Name Maintenance Equipment Upgrades	
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 requesting funds to procure essential maintenance equipment: a tire alignment rack, vehicle lift systems, diagnostic technology, software upgrade, radio systems, facility upgrades, and various tools. This project will relieve critical bottlenecks and capacity constraints on CAT's maintenance staff. Specifically, several categories of need will be addressed through this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misaligned tires are a major cost to CAT. Tires which have uneven wear due to incorrect alignment need to be replaced 6 to 12 months earlier than properly aligned tires. The cost of these tires drains CAT's operational budget. A tire alignment rack and lift has been identified as a solution for all vehicles in the CAT fixed route and paratransit fleet to address this problem. A tire alignment rack will allow maintenance staff to quickly assess and align tires, preventing premature tire damage. This will save time spent by mechanics replacing tires and material costs. • CAT uses a variety of diagnostic technology to evaluate equipment on its fixed route and paratransit vehicles. Currently, CAT has dedicated software and hardware to diagnose its transmissions, engines, HVAC systems, and other bus components. In order to keep pace with evolving computerized diagnostic systems and coordinate with enterprise software, CAT has documented a need to upgrade its diagnostic software and integrate its maintenance software (RTA) with other enterprise software systems (INDRA, the CAD/AVL system, &c.). The lack of integration duplicates efforts and costs staff time. CAT currently uses one diagnostic computer station to collect digital information from buses. This constrains staff when two or more vehicles require diagnostics. This project will cover the upgrade costs to install four diagnostic computers (one per repair bay) with current software and hardware required to assess systems on all CAT vehicles. Without this funding, CAT will continue to experience maintenance backlogs which adversely impact the availability of buses. 	

- The CAT bus garage currently has four repair bays but unfortunately, CAT has limited lift equipment to perform basic repairs to buses and paratransit vehicles. CAT has four-post lifts that require multiple mechanics to configure safely. CAT maintenance staff have identified a need to replace the two in-ground lifts (which are over 30 years old and in disrepair) and procure two new two-post lifts. This will result in substantial savings of staff time: especially for routine under-body maintenance tasks such as service to brakes and tires. In addition, this project will remove a critical bottleneck in the current maintenance workflow caused by the limited number of lifts available. By increasing the number and variety of lifts in the shop, CAT will be able to more efficiently service its fleet of fixed route buses and paratransit vehicles. This will optimize the time spent by maintenance staff and lead to significant cost savings. This upgrade will help CAT ensure that it has the vehicles needed to provide necessary transportation services to the community.

CAT proposes to match the Z-230 funding at a 25% rate.

Total Estimated Project Cost*	Federal Z230 Funds Requested	Local Match Available
\$752,920	\$564,690	\$188,230
<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
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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.

This project will not generate the need for any additional operating funds.

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	

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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
Issue RFPs for maintenance equipment	2
Award and execute contracts	1
Equipment order, delivery, and installation	6

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	

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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.**)

This project will make CAT buses more reliable and protect the long term stability of the transportation system for its users. The use of new maintenance equipment will lead to reduced breakdowns, improved safety, reduced delays, and optimized use of operating funds. This project will allow CAT to re-prioritize its maintenance needs and keep bus service running on schedule.

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 and preventative maintenance schedules. This project will help CAT achieve a more effective and efficient preventative maintenance process.

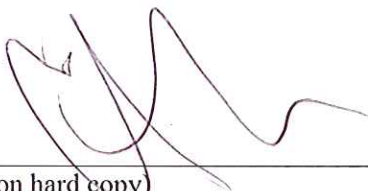
Ladders of Opportunity: The current on-time-performance (OTP) of the CAT system is 85%. For many people who rely on CAT to make trips to work, school, and health appointments, this lack of reliability compromises their ability to access opportunities for economic advancement. A primary driver of this 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.

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: This project addresses the safety of CAT vehicles and CAT employees. The installation of a new radio system will address a critical safety need in the event of a weather emergency. The equipment proposed in this project will ensure that vehicles continue to leave the garage in compliance with all safety features. Diagnostic technology will assist in the detection of issues with vehicle systems. In addition, occupational safety of CAT maintenance staff will be taken into consideration in the selection of all new equipment and systems. For instance, vehicle lift systems present unique safety concerns to the staff who operate them. CAT will prioritize employee safety in its procurement for all equipment and systems that can pose a safety hazard.

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR



1/30/2017

Signature (on hard copy)

Date

Curtis Koleber

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Print Name

Title

Please remember:

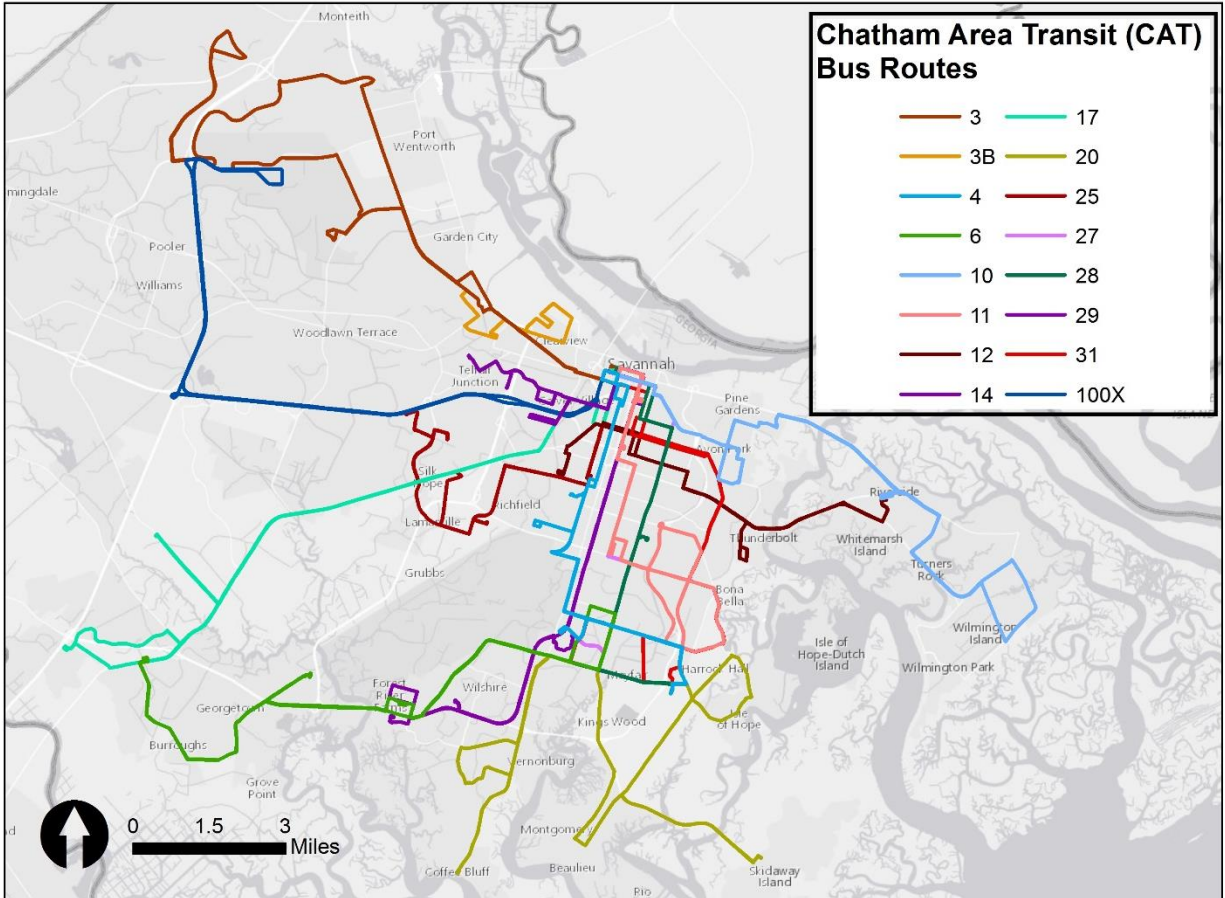
- To fill out the Detailed Budget Table, to the extent applicable, on the following page;
- To attach a letter from your governing board or other official who can commit the agency to the stated local match.
- To attach a Project Location Map;
- To attach information showing the Basis of your Cost Estimate.



Budget Detail for Proposal										
Project Name: Maintenance Equipment Upgrades										
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 maintenance equipment	FY18	\$752,920	\$564,690	\$188,230	SPLOST					
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Total Amounts		\$752,920	\$564,690	\$188,230						
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



Maintenance Equipment Upgrades Cost Justification

January 26, 2017

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) anticipates the following unit costs for each piece of maintenance equipment based on historical pricing and initial quotes received:

	Unit Cost	Units	Total Cost
Tire Alignment Rack	\$ 102,000	1.00	\$ 102,000
Diagnostic Technology and ITS Integration	\$ 115,000	1.00	\$ 115,000
Two-Post Lifts	\$ 34,000	1.00	\$ 34,000
Replace In-Ground Lifts	\$ 235,000	1.00	\$ 235,000
Storage Room Enhancements	\$ 50,000	1.00	\$ 50,000
Radio System Upgrade	\$ 136,000	1.00	\$ 136,000
Miscellaneous Tools and Equipment	\$ 80,920	1.00	\$ 80,920
			\$ 752,920



CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT

912.233.5767

610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401

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