



# MPC Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2022



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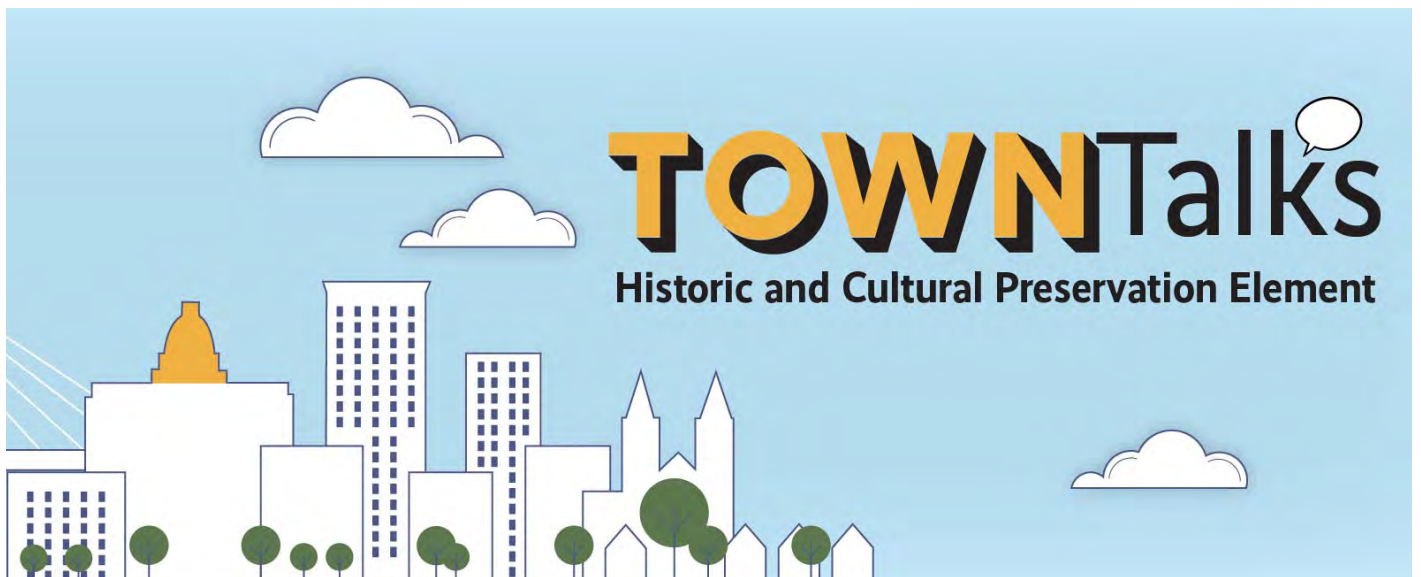
# MPC Celebrates Preservation Month

Every year in May, local preservation groups, state historical societies, and business and civic organizations across the country celebrate Preservation Month! Preservation Month began as National Preservation Week in 1973, but in 2005, the National Trust extended the celebration to the entire month of May and declared it Preservation Month to provide an even greater opportunity to celebrate Historic Preservation throughout the country. During the month of May, the MPC celebrated by creating a series of TownTalks. This 4-episode series discusses the history of preservation, procedures, and the hot topics relating to the Historic Preservation Movement in Savannah.

Preservation became an incredibly important topic in Savannah, as many historic resources were demolished during the 1950s and 60s in a period called Urban Renewal. Much of this demolition was performed to build parking structures and roads. While many historic resources were demolished, many more still exist today! Johnson Square, for instance, was created in 1733. 287 years later, residents and tourists alike enjoy the same square as those born centuries ago!

Visit the Historic Preservation home page on the [MPC Website](#), @MPChistoricpreservation on Instagram, and our [Youtube Channel](#) for more information.

*By: Leah G. Michalak-  
MPC Director of Historic Preservation*





# What is a Complete Street?



Illustration by: Nic Fazio

Street Section integrating Complete Street Principles including Bus and Bikeway Infrastructure into the Public Realm



There are numerous benefits to a community Complete Street policy, including improved health, traffic reduction, better safety and mobility for children, and equity for all residents. While there is no single interpretation of complete streets, a complete street is most often designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all modes of transportation and its users.

While this concept of pedestrian friendly streets has been around for a while, the city of Savannah recently adopted an initiative called “[Vision Zero](#)” which would propel our city towards a more robust network of mobility. Vision Zero is a road safety pledge to reduce traffic-related deaths and would provide funding to reduce auto dependency through design, with the goal of reducing the number of traffic deaths to zero by the year 2027. The idea of complete streets might be daunting to some, but the concept is simple. It is the rethinking of how we as residents view streets, and that streets as a public space, can offer more than just acting as a thoroughfare for vehicles.

To help illustrate the idea of a complete street, the illustration above depicts how a standard street can be seen as an extension of the public realm that helps to enrich the community while making it safer.

## Definition

**Complete Streets** — are streets that are designed, built and operated to enable safe access for all users, in that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across the street right-of-way.

*By: Nic Fazio—MPC Senior Planner*





# Coastal Empire Resilience Network CERN

Resilience is defined as the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events. This was the topic during February's Coastal Empire Resilience Network meeting, in which regional community partners, municipal staff, and policymakers gathered to coordinate strategies that address the physical, economic, and social challenges the Coastal Empire faces due to a changing climate. Hosted by the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), people from a variety of disciplines, backgrounds, and careers participated in discussions on how to prepare and protect the Georgia Coast. The array of topics discussed at the event demonstrated the need for a community-wide response, as the topic of resilience is complex and requires an equally complex analysis that encompasses everything that the coastal area must address.

The most crucial resource to creating resilience is people, as people are the ones who enact the policies and actions necessary to create a resilient society. Thus, the discussion was centered around what residents want to see in their communities' future. Multiple community leaders, organizations, and stakeholders shared their thoughts and ideas, engaging in in depth discussions that revealed an illuminating point: everyone in attendance, no matter what their background, wanted to see the community thrive, even in a future beyond their lifetime. This meeting was a first and important step in a long journey toward safety and preparedness, and it certainly will not be the last.

Check out the full meeting on the CERN website:  
Link: <http://www.coastalempireresilience.org/Home/Meetings>

*By: Kait Morano-MPC Senior Planner*

# Resilience Coffee Hour


Got an hour to spare? Come join the Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN) for our Coffee Hour Meetings! It is extremely important to continue the discussion on resiliency and invite the public to join the conversation and learn more about the variety of topics surrounding resiliency. The CERN team is hosting virtual meetings that occur on the first Friday of every month, where a variety of resilience related topics will be discussed.


Miss out on a meeting? Not a problem! All previous meetings are uploaded to the CERN website.

We hope to see you join the conversation!

Register for meetings on the CERN website:  
Link: <http://www.coastalempireresilience.org/>



 Coastal Resilience 101 Meetings Contact Us

**cern** coastal empire  
resilience network

Register for the July 1st Resilience Coffee Hour

Working together for a more resilient coast

Chatham County and the surrounding communities are in need of direction in the form of specific strategies to plan for and react to rising seas along the Georgia coast.

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) is partnering with Chatham County, the City of Savannah, Georgia Sea Grant, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division, University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and others to develop the Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN).

The network will engage regional community partners, municipal staff, and policymakers to coordinate strategies to address the physical, economic, and social challenges coastal Georgia faces due to a changing climate. CERN will work to align regional strategies, share resources, and advocate for collective action to improve the resilience of communities in our coastal region.

Financial assistance provided by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and passed through the Coastal Management Program of the Department of Natural Resources.

# HB 1405, Revisions to Zoning Procedures Act

The State of Georgia's 2022 legislative session resulted in the passing of house Bill 1405, a proposed amendment to the Zoning Procedures Law, sponsored by Representative Shea Roberts (D-Atlanta). The legislation was drafted to clarify the process for appeals of zoning decisions and disputes following some judicial decisions in recent years. The Senate amended the bill to add language to change the notification procedures for local governments proposing a zoning change from single family residential to multi-family residential.

## In summary the legislation:

- Simplifies and clarifies the arcane appeal process by providing that zoning decisions are subject to direct constitutional challenge regarding the validity of maintaining the existing zoning, the validity of conditions, or an interim zoning category other than what was requested in the superior court. These challenges would be by way of de novo review in the superior court but would require the entire record from the local government to be sent to the Court.
- Allows for local governments to provide by ordinance or resolution those officers, boards, or agencies that should exercise delegated quasi-judicial zoning powers and to establish procedures and notice requirements for hearing before such quasi-judicial officers, boards, or agencies. These quasi-judicial officers, boards, and agencies would have the power to hear appeals from administrative decisions and hear and render decisions on applications for variances,

special administrative permits, special exemptions, conditional use permits, and other similar permits, which would not be zoning decisions. The local government delegating decision-making powers to a quasi-judicial officer, board, or agency is required to provide for a hearing on each proposed action with a notice sent at least 30 days' prior. The local government is allowed to adopt specific standards and criteria governing such quasi-judicial decision-making authority.

- When a local government proposes a zoning change from single family residential to multi-family residential it is required to do the following:
  - (a) to hold two public meetings not less than 21 days apart;
  - (b) hold two public hearings before said meetings within 3 to 9 months of the zoning decision;
  - (c) hold at least one hearing between 5pm and 8pm;
  - (d) post signs and provide advertising;
  - (e) when more than 500 parcels are affected, in which case posting notice is required every 500 feet in the affected area; and
  - (f) provide project details to the public at no cost.
- Individual property owners seeking rezoning from single family to multi family are not required to follow these provisions in this law.

*Summary By: Marcus Lotson–  
MPC Director Development Services*



# Flood Modeling Tool



Photo Courtesy: Kait Morano

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) Planning Area includes all of Chatham County, the City of Richmond Hill in Bryan County, and a small portion (approximately 3.2 square miles) of Effingham County.

The area includes more than 160 square miles of open water, large areas of coastal wetlands, and extensive riverine lowlands associated with the Savannah and Ogeechee rivers. With a population approaching 300,000, it is the most populous area along the coast of Georgia and is projected to grow as people continue to move into the region. At the same time, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, increased rainfall, and a growing population all threaten the existing transportation infrastructure, public health and safety, and quality of life in the MPC and CORE MPO Planning Areas.

To address these important challenges, the MPC's transportation staff are working with researchers at the University of Georgia to develop flood modeling tools that will allow for optimal planning and design of resilient and equitable transportation infrastructure systems within the CORE MPO area.

Building upon existing research and resiliency planning efforts in Chatham County, the primary purpose of this project is to develop additional flood modeling and decision-planning tools which help target and prioritize projects and strategies aimed at mitigating the impacts of rainfall events and sea level rise on transportation infrastructure. Specifically, the project will build from the assessments conducted as part of the [Chatham County Sea Level Rise Study](#) in order to develop a Project Prioritization Tool that assists with optimizing the planning of new and existing transportation infrastructure to improve reliability and resiliency with additional consideration to economic constraints and social inequities. The tool will be designed to be utilized alongside an updated Road Vulnerability Assessment that includes social vulnerability data, high resolution topological data, and integrates flooding data in a more comprehensive way to consider "compound" impacts of rainfall.

For more information about the project, contact Kait Morano, [moranok@thempc.org](mailto:moranok@thempc.org).

*By: Kait Morano—MPC Senior Planner*



A satellite image of Hurricane Florence, showing a well-defined eye and a dense, swirling cloud structure over the Atlantic Ocean. The hurricane is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image, with its eye clearly visible as a dark, circular center.

# Are You Prepared for a Hurricane?

*Hurricane season runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> each year.*

Forecasters at Colorado State University are predicting a well above-average 2022 Atlantic hurricane season with 20 named storms, 10 hurricanes, and 5 major hurricanes. Now is the time to make and/or review your hurricane plan in case a storm threatens the Georgia coast. Luckily, the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) has information to help you safely prepare, evacuate, and shelter from the storm while also protecting yourself and others from COVID-19.

Do you have an emergency kit ready if needed? If not, CEMA makes it easy by providing a [list](#) of everything you'll need—don't forget to include COVID-19 basics like cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, and extra face coverings, and be sure to plan for your [pets](#) too! Given the supply chain issues the country is experiencing, it may take longer to stock up on necessary supplies, so now is the time to get started. Do you know which evacuation zone you live in or in which surge zone your home or business is located? If not, CEMA has [maps](#) to help you figure that out. What should you do when a hurricane watch has been issued? CEMA has your "[To Do List](#)." Do you need assistance evacuating because you have functional, access, or medical needs? Eligible residents can apply to be on the [Hurricane Registry](#) list maintained by the Health Department.

Don't wait until a hurricane is headed our way! Plan ahead and visit [www.chathamemergency.org](http://www.chathamemergency.org) to make sure that you and your loved ones are well prepared.

Small text somewhere on page: Follow CEMA on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) to stay informed.

Left: Hurricane Florence from the International Space Station (Credit: NASA)



# Heat Safety at Home

*Heat risk is often underestimated. Heatwaves are among the most dangerous and deadly of natural hazards, but their health impacts, death tolls, and impacts on urban infrastructure, energy, and other issues such as crime, are not always visible.*

Article Source: <https://ghhin.org/heat-and-covid-19/>

"As warmer weather and extreme heat days become more intense and prevalent due to climate change, it is important to know what measures you can take to stay safe and healthy. Below is a list from C40 Cities, an organization working to combat climate change in urban areas, of actions to help keep you and your household cool at minimal, moderate, or no cost to you.

## Heat Stress

Heat stress can affect anyone, but certain populations are particularly vulnerable, including the elderly, people with pre-existing medical conditions, essential workers who work outside, and people who are socially isolated. Symptoms of heat stress include:

- Higher body temperature
- Hot, red, dry, and/or damp skin
- Fast, strong pulse
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Fainting/passing out


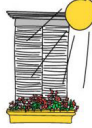




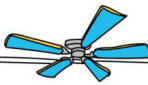
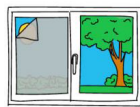
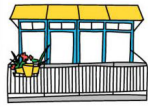
## Heat & COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic heightens the health risks of intense heat in our city. Many of our residents who are vulnerable to COVID-19 are also at higher risk to suffer from heat stress. When seeking heat relief outside of your home, make sure to stay 6 feet away from others in parks and public spaces[.]

For more information, visit <http://www.ghhin.org/heat-and-covid-19/>.

## HEAT RELIEF AT HOME

In these summer months during COVID-19, it's important to be aware of indoor heat risks. Here are some solutions for keeping cool inside:

<b>NO COST</b>  If outdoor air quality isn't poor, <b>open windows and doors on opposite facades to ventilate in the early mornings and late evenings</b> when outside temperatures are lower.	<b>NO COST</b>  During the day, <b>close windows and shutters</b> , especially those facing the sun, and <b>turn off artificial lighting</b> and electrical devices as much as possible.	<b>NO COST</b>  Have lighter meals, use <b>cooking techniques</b> that don't release much <b>heat or steam</b> , and avoid using the oven.
<b>LOW COST</b>  Drink enough water.	<b>LOW COST</b>  If you have air conditioning, buy or create <b>draft stoppers</b> for doors and windows to keep cool air in.	<b>MEDIUM COST</b>  Hang shades, curtains, or shutters on windows that face the sun.
<b>MEDIUM COST</b>  Use a regular fan or install ceiling fan that helps circulate the air in the room.	<b>MEDIUM COST</b>  Apply <b>solar window film</b> to help control light or heat coming through.	<b>MEDIUM COST</b>  Install temporary shading structures or planters on flat roofs, balconies and terraces.

Source: C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

**C40 CITIES**  
CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP



# Bloomingdale Urban Growth Plan

In February 2022, the city of Bloomingdale engaged with the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) to discover opportunities and identify strategic areas for future growth and conservation.

Bloomingdale is located in the western part of Chatham County and has been a prime real estate hotspot due to its connections to transportation infrastructure and zero city property taxes. The city currently has a population of 2,801 and is 14 square miles.

While the City of Bloomingdale acknowledges that development is part of living in a lucrative county, there are major concerns about the capacity of existing infrastructure mainly water/sewer, traffic, and property values. As a proactive approach to the changing character of Bloomingdale and to get a better understanding of the current trajectory of industrial development patterns, Bloomingdale's City Council approved a motion for an 8-month moratorium for Industrial Zoning Applications and Multi-Family Zoning Applications.

The MPC is working with the City of Bloomingdale to prepare a new master plan that includes areas for future growth, opportunities for conservation, and suggested implementation strategies in an effort to manage and encourage smarter growth.

*By: Nic Fazio—MPC Senior Planner*



# Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission

The Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) was established in 2005 by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. The Commission had been dormant since 2012 due to a lapse in funding. As of March 2022, Chatham County has reinstituted the CCHPC. The Commission is composed of five (5) volunteer county residents appointed by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. The CCHPC's primary responsibilities are to prepare and maintain a historic property inventory, review requests for historic property and district designations, and review and issue Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs) within Unincorporated Chatham County.

The Commission meets every other month in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room at 112 East State Street. The meetings are open to the public.



## CORE MPO Pre-Application Workshop

The CORE MPO is responsible for the allocation and management of multiple types of funds. In order for the jurisdictions within the CORE MPO boundary to apply, they must meet certain qualifications. With so many different types of funds and a multitude of stipulations within funding applications, the process to apply for and receive funds can be complicated. To help local jurisdictions better understand the process, on June 3rd, the CORE MPO hosted a workshop explaining the process for applying for and receiving funds.

A thorough understanding of the funding process is critical for the successful completion of transportation projects, leading to realistic expectations and better overall scheduling and project planning. For anyone that missed that meeting, do not worry!

The presentation slides can be accessed here:  
<https://www.thempc.org/docs/lit/CoreMpo/Latest/2022/Workshop.pdf>

# AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium

Recently, MPC Transportation staff got the opportunity to travel to sunny Florida to attend a symposium hosted by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)! The symposium brings together MPO staff and practitioners from around the country to share information on a variety of MPO technical issues and provide peer-to-peer training for the MPO community to discuss challenges, opportunities, and implementation strategies with regard to current planning tools and applications. The goal of the symposium is to identify (and share) MPO best practices; provide practical training; and develop materials that can be shared across the MPO community.

The workshops were divided into two tracks: Core Functions and Hot Topics. The Core Functions track was developed with junior staff in mind and provided practical training by topic area (i.e. MPO process and products, public involvement/environmental justice/Title XI, performance management, etc.). The Hot Topics track was developed with senior-level staff in mind and provides peer-to-peer exchange and training opportunities to discuss the state of the practice, innovation, and identify efficiencies.

The symposium provided a great setting for many MPOs to discuss how they operate and gave the Transportation staff new skills and knowledge.



Photo Courtesy: Asia Hernton

*By: Asia Hernton-MPC Planner*





# Service Delivery Strategy

## What is it and why it's important?

According to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) process gives local governments and authorities the opportunity to reach agreement on the delivery of services in an effective and cost-efficient manner to Georgia's citizens. The intent of the Act is:

- To provide a flexible framework for local governments and authorities to agree on service delivery arrangements.
- To minimize any duplication or competition among local governments and authorities providing local services.
- To provide a method of resolving disputes among service providers regarding service delivery, funding equity and land use.

The next update to the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) has begun and is being overseen by the MPC. One of the vital roles of local government is planning and the preparation of plans. The results of each community's localized planning efforts are summarized in the recently updated 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Local governments in Georgia are required to submit comprehensive plans in accordance with the State's Local Planning Requirements to the DCA for approval and adoption every five years. A critical yet separate component of the Comprehensive Plan is the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS). The MPC is the agency that is charged with overseeing all of the Comprehensive Plan and SDS efforts for the City of Savannah and Unincorporated Chatham County.

As noted, the SDS process is governed by the DCA with the intent of requiring local governments take a careful look at the services they provide to identify overlap or gaps in service provision. In addition, the process allows for the development of a rational approach to allocating delivery and funding of these services among the various local governments and authorities in each county.

Without a Service Delivery Strategy verified by DCA, a local government is not eligible to receive any state permits or financial assistance. In addition, any local projects that are not consistent with the strategy will not receive any state permits or financial assistance. The current SDS covers the following general areas:

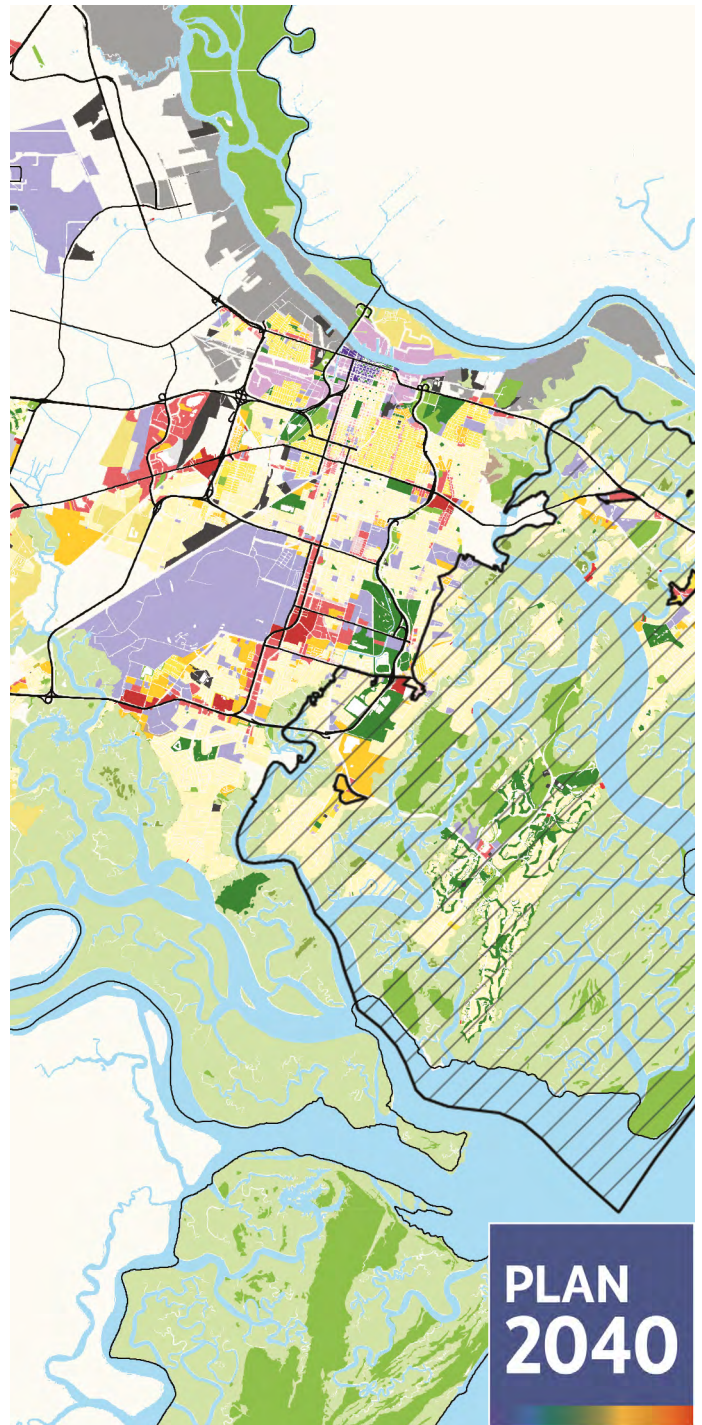
- Utilities
- Transportation
- Public Works
- Health and Welfare
- Leisure Services
- Criminal Justice
- Public Safety
- Other General Services

*By: Kait Morano–MPC Senior Planner*

# MPC Initiates Future Land Use Map Update

Plan 2040, the comprehensive plan for the County and City, directs growth and development for the future. The adoption of the Comprehensive Plan was a major accomplishment, and while the document is comprehensive and fully developed, it has prompted a further study of the future land use for the County. To be more specific, the MPC is now focusing on corridors and districts that have changed over time and have been receiving development pressure. Over the course of 2022, the MPC staff will meet on a regular basis to identify, discuss, and implement future land use changes that have been prone to development pressure.

While development is important to a growing county, development without firm and clear planning can have a negative effect on the welfare of residents. This land use activity will aid in creating a clear direction that aligns with the visions identified by elected officials and community engagement opportunities. As we progress, the MPC will be facilitating a series of additional community meetings to discuss the proposed land use changes and continue an open discussion about the scope of modifications to land use in the County.



Adopted Future Land Use Map for PLAN2040

*By: Nic Fazio–MPC Senior Planner*



# All about Sanborn Maps

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Georgia Towns and Cities were produced between 1884 and 1973, and depict commercial, industrial, and residential areas for 133 municipalities in the state, including the City of Savannah. Originally designed for fire insurance assessment, the color-coded maps relay important information about the buildings in the City, such as location, use, materials, and configuration. For the Historic Preservation staff at the MPC, Sanborn Maps are a critical research tool for tracking changes in buildings in the local historic districts over a span of 89 years.

For many years, the Historic Preservation Department maintained two (2) copies of five (5) physical volumes of City of Savannah Sanborn Maps, dating from 1916–1973. As time went on, it became apparent that an office environment was not suitable for the long-term care of these books, some of whose bindings and pages are over one hundred years old. It was determined that the physical volumes needed to be digitized and stored in a controlled environment.

In addition to the perpetual protection of the physical books, another benefit of the digitization is that it makes these important maps more accessible to the public, as previously it was required to make an appointment with the MPC to utilize them for research.

In collaboration with Luciana Spracher and Kelly Zacovic, from the City of Savannah Municipal Archives division, all volumes were digitized by and donated to the City's Municipal Archives in August of 2021. There, the team digitized the maps and have them archived for long term preservation.

The digitized maps can now be accessed by the public on the City of Savannah's Municipal Archives webpage: <https://bit.ly/savsanborn>.



*By: Aislinn Droski–MPC Assistant Planner  
Monica Gann–MPC Assistant Planner*

# Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update

For far too long, transportation planning and construction has prioritized moving cars over moving people. Rather than being people focused and human scale, most transportation systems are designed for large vehicles driving at fast speeds. This not only makes it harder for people to travel without a vehicle, it also makes communities less safe for pedestrians and cyclists alike. In order to effectively address the pedestrian and cycling needs of the area, the CORE MPO regularly updates its Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

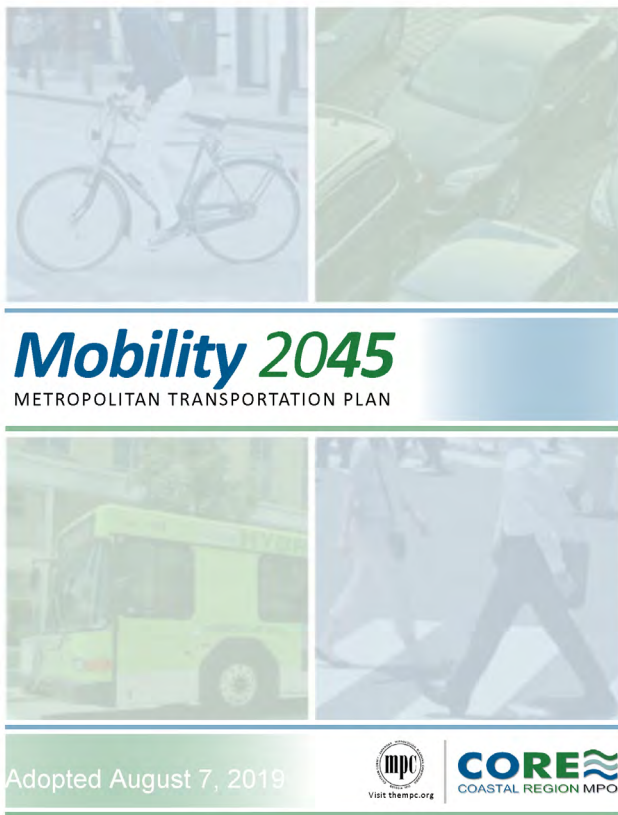
The goal of this plan is to identify and prioritize specific transportation projects, so they can eventually be funded and constructed. Transportation staff is beginning the first steps in updating the document, so please look out for the public input opportunities that will occur throughout the region! Additionally, this plan update will prioritize new areas, such as equity and resilience, as these topics are the foundation of creating a well-rounded transportation system that effectively serves all people.



*By: Asia Hernton-MPC Planner*



# Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050



The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a large and detailed document with an outlook of 20 years. This is because it covers just about everything surrounding transportation. From highways, to public transit, to bike lanes, the MTP lays out a long-range plan on all forms of transportation in the Savannah Metropolitan Planning area. The plan is required to be updated every 5 years.

The goal of this plan is to identify and describe transportation priorities from now until the year 2050, so these proposed plans can receive funding. These updates give residents the opportunity to give their input and communicate their transportation needs. It provides a forum for people to have their voices heard, documented, and put into action. This current update will kick off this year, starting with public input opportunities that will take place around the metropolitan area.

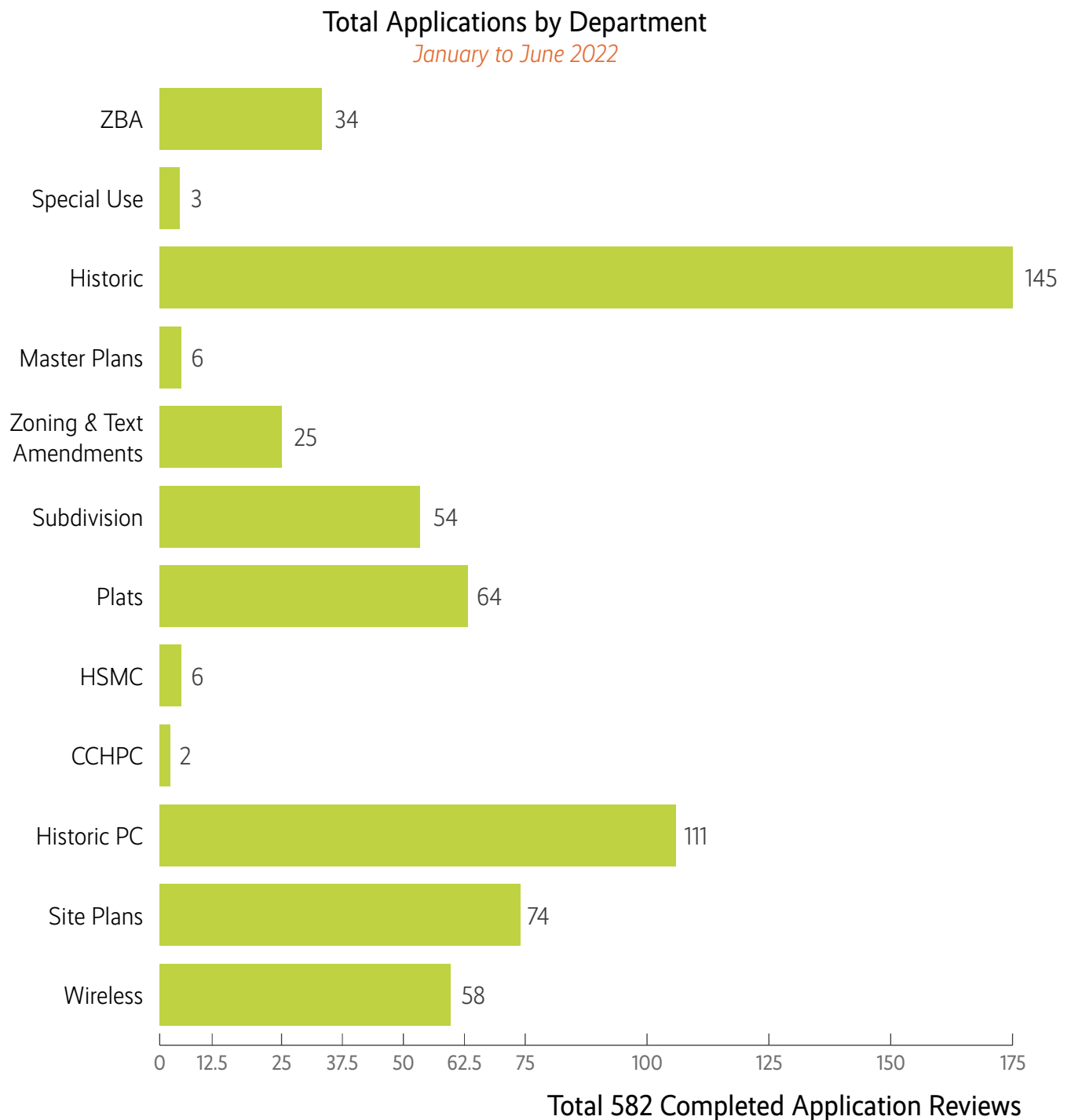
Be on the lookout for your opportunity to be heard and get involved with the 2050 MTP update coming soon!

Feel free to browse the CORE MPO website for more information about the MTP and other transportation plans and projects.

Link: <https://www.thempc.org/Core#gsc.tab=0>

*By: Asia Hernton-MPC Planner*

# By the Numbers



*By: Christy Adams—MPC Director Administrative Services*



# Grant Writing Skills Course for Non-Profits

The Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition and Healthy Savannah sponsored a free, two-day grant writing skills course on May 6 and 13, 2022 at the Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus. Georgia Southern University Professor Dr. Joseph Telfair from the Office of Practice and Research presented the course.

The course provided detailed information and instructions related to grant writing, including how to clearly understand the grant requirements, clearly communicating one's request to the funders, the necessity of a good team, how to network/connect with other teams, asking the correct questions and providing alternative solutions. Practical exercises were conducted, and participants shared their learning experiences, successes, and funding resources. In addition, there were opportunities to network with other attendees.

Though the course was fast paced, it was highly informative and stimulating. Lizann Roberts of Coastal Georgia Indicators invited the MPC to participate in the course. Thank you, Lizann for the opportunity!

Healthy Savannah seeks to make Savannah a healthier place to live, work, and play. It leads and supports a culture of health by creating an environment that makes a healthy choice an easy choice. Its goal is to promote equitable opportunities for residents to engage in physical activities and consume a nutritious, balanced diet. They implement policy, systems, and environmental change and collaborate with 200 community partners to institute cultural change.

Link: [www.healthysavannah.org](http://www.healthysavannah.org)

The Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, Inc. (CGIC), a group of community members and advocates working together in a comprehensive, coordinated approach for planning, accountability, and more recently awarded a contract with Chatham County to develop a community-wide long range strategic plan. CGIC's goal is to improve community well-being by engaging and leading the community to work collectively in its development of strategic priorities that guide policy, programs and resource allocation.

Link: [www.coastalgaaindicators.org](http://www.coastalgaaindicators.org)



MPC Staff enjoying the Grant Writing Skills Course

Photo Courtesy: Bri Morgan

*By: Bri Morgan—MPC Administrative Services*

# Around the MPC Office



## Mark Wilkes' Retirement

After 25 years of service at the Metropolitan Planning Commission, Mark Wilkes, Director of the Transportation Department, has retired. Sent off with kind words from the people he has worked with over the years, Mark was celebrated for all his contributions to the CORE MPO and the MPC as a whole. Now, he will be leaving behind TIP Amendment and staff reports and instead have some much-needed relaxation and many vacations. While those at the MPC will miss someone who has had a constant presence at the organization, staff is excited for him and his new phase of life! Good luck on all your future ventures, Mark.



## Mardi Gras Celebration

Savannah may be 700 miles and a 10-hour drive away from New Orleans, but a little King cake can bring a slice of Mardi Gras festivities to any place! Thanks to MPC's Executive Director Melanie Wilson, the MPC got their own piece of cake from a famous Louisiana bakery, where orders have to be placed months in advance to get a taste of this absolute treat. Decorated with necklaces and that iconic purple frosting, MPC staff enjoyed the cake, hoping to get the lucky baby hidden in the dessert!





## Summer Hours

The MPC has implemented an adjusted summer work schedule. Beginning **June 6th to September 6th 2022**, the MPC's office will be open from 8:00am-5:15pm Monday through Thursday and 8:30am-12:00pm on Friday. The public is encouraged to contact staff 72-hours in advance if a Friday meeting is needed after 12pm.



## Birthdays & Staff Meetings

The MPC is reinstituting the birthday celebrations on a bi-monthly basis using a format, which also includes a staff meeting to discuss updates and any other important matters.

The first meeting was **June 29, 2022 at 4pm**. In which MPC's Executive Director, discussed office policies and updated procedures. The next meeting will be in August at a date to be determined.

# Upcoming Meetings

*\*\*Schedule may change. Please refer to the MPC website [www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org) for additional details & all application deadlines, including those pertaining to COVID-19.*

## June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pride Month	2 Site & Monument 4:00 p.m.	3	4
5	6	7	8 Historic Review Board 1:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13	14 MPC 1:30 p.m.	15	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22 CORE MPO 10:00 a.m. Historic Preservation Commission 3:00 p.m.	23 SZBA 10:00 a.m.	24	25
26	27	28 CZBA 9:00 a.m. MPC 1:30 p.m.	29	30		

## July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5 MPC 1:30 p.m.	6 Chatham Historic Preservation Commission 3:00 p.m.	7 Site & Monument 4:00 p.m.	8	9
10	11	12	13 Historic Review Board 1:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26 CZBA 9:00 a.m. MPC 1:30 p.m.	27 CORE MPO 10:00 a.m. Historic Preservation Commission 3:00 p.m.	28 SZBA 10:00 a.m.	29	30



**\*\*Schedule may change. Please refer to the MPC website [www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org) for additional details & all application deadlines, including those pertaining to COVID-19.**

## August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Site & Monument 4:00 p.m.	5	6
7	8	9	10 Historic Review Board 1:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16 MPC 1:30 p.m.	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 CZBA 9:00 a.m.	24 CORE MPO 10:00 a.m. Historic Preservation Commission 3:00 p.m.	25 SZBA 10:00 a.m.	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Site & Monument 4:00 p.m.	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 MPC 1:30 p.m.	7 Chatham Historic Preservation Commission 3:00 p.m.	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Historic Review Board 1:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 SZBA 10:00 a.m.	23	24
25	26	27 CZBA 9:00 a.m. MPC 1:30 p.m.	28 CORE MPO 10:00 a.m. Historic Preservation Commission 3:00 p.m.	29	30	



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## Website

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

## Youtube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv\\_VguPf8qolZ2NaVXohxHQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv_VguPf8qolZ2NaVXohxHQ)

## STAFF

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