



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 Electric Bus Conversion 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 requesting funds to retire and replace two heavy-duty diesel transit vehicles with two zero-emission, battery-powered electric transit vehicles and a fast-charger. With more than half of CAT's fixed route vehicles at or beyond their expected useful life (12 years or 500,000 miles), CAT maintenance staff have struggled to keep its buses in service. Converting CAT's fleet to battery-powered electric vehicles will not only reduce the community's carbon footprint, but it will also reduce maintenance costs over the lifespan of the vehicles. 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>The electric transit vehicle industry has grown over the last few years as battery capacities have significantly improved and costs have dramatically decreased. Most promising, though, is that lifetime maintenance costs of these vehicles are projected to be significantly lower than their diesel counterparts. Some early adopters of these vehicles have reported savings of as much as 50%. With CAT in desperate need of bus replacement funding, this project aims to fill the immediate need for more vehicles, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions through the purchase of electric transit vehicles.</p> <p>The EV fast-charger will be installed at one of CAT's primary transfer locations for maximum deployment flexibility.</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
\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$500,000
<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	Ramond Robinson
GA-90-X346-00	FY2015 5307 Capital	Terri Harrison
GA-90-X332-01	FY2013 5307 Capital	Ramond Robinson

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 two 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 two electric transit vehicles and a fast charger	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 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 to 9,819 miles between failures. With a rapidly aging fleet, that figure will continue to decline unless the authority can develop a sustainable vehicle replacement schedule. Retiring two diesel vehicles and replacing them with two zero-emission electric vehicles will help CAT achieve this goal. This project will also allow the transit authority to reallocate operational funding to improved service due to the savings in maintenance costs.

Environment: CAT recognizes the impact that greenhouse gases from the transportation industry has on the environment. Its fleet of vehicles are no exception to the causes of this impact. The electric vehicles that will be purchased through this project produce zero tailpipe emissions and will therefore contribute to improved air quality, noise pollution, and public health.

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. Electric vehicles have proven to be more reliable than diesel vehicles over a 12-year lifespan due to fewer components.

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.

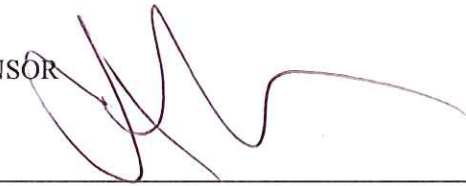
Security: CAT plays a critical role in emergency evacuation efforts. During Hurricane Matthew CAT helped evacuate more than 1,500 Chatham County residents. Having a reliable fleet is critical to CAT’s ability to safely evacuate local residents.

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.

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.

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: Electric Bus Conversion 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: Vehicle fast-charger	FY19	\$500,000	\$375,000	\$125,000	SPLOST					
Other activity Specify: Purchase 2 electric transit vehicles and 1 fast charger	FY19	\$1,500,000	\$1,125,000	\$375,500	SPLOST					
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Total Amounts		\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$500,000						
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.

Bus Routes	
	West Chatham
	Augusta Ave/Garden City/Hudson Hill
	Barnard
	Cross Town
	East Savannah
	Candler
	Henry
	Abercorn Local
	Silk Hope
	Skidaway Island/Coffee Bluff
	MLK Jr. Blvd/ Westlake Apts
	Waters
	Waters
	W. Gwinnett/Cloverdale
	Skidaway/Sandy
	Airport Express
	Gateway Express

For FREE

Thanks to partnerships with the City and with the "dot," Savannah's fare-free, Downtown Transportation System, CAT is proud to offer a completely free system of transit, spanning both land and water, to get around Savannah's beautiful historic district.

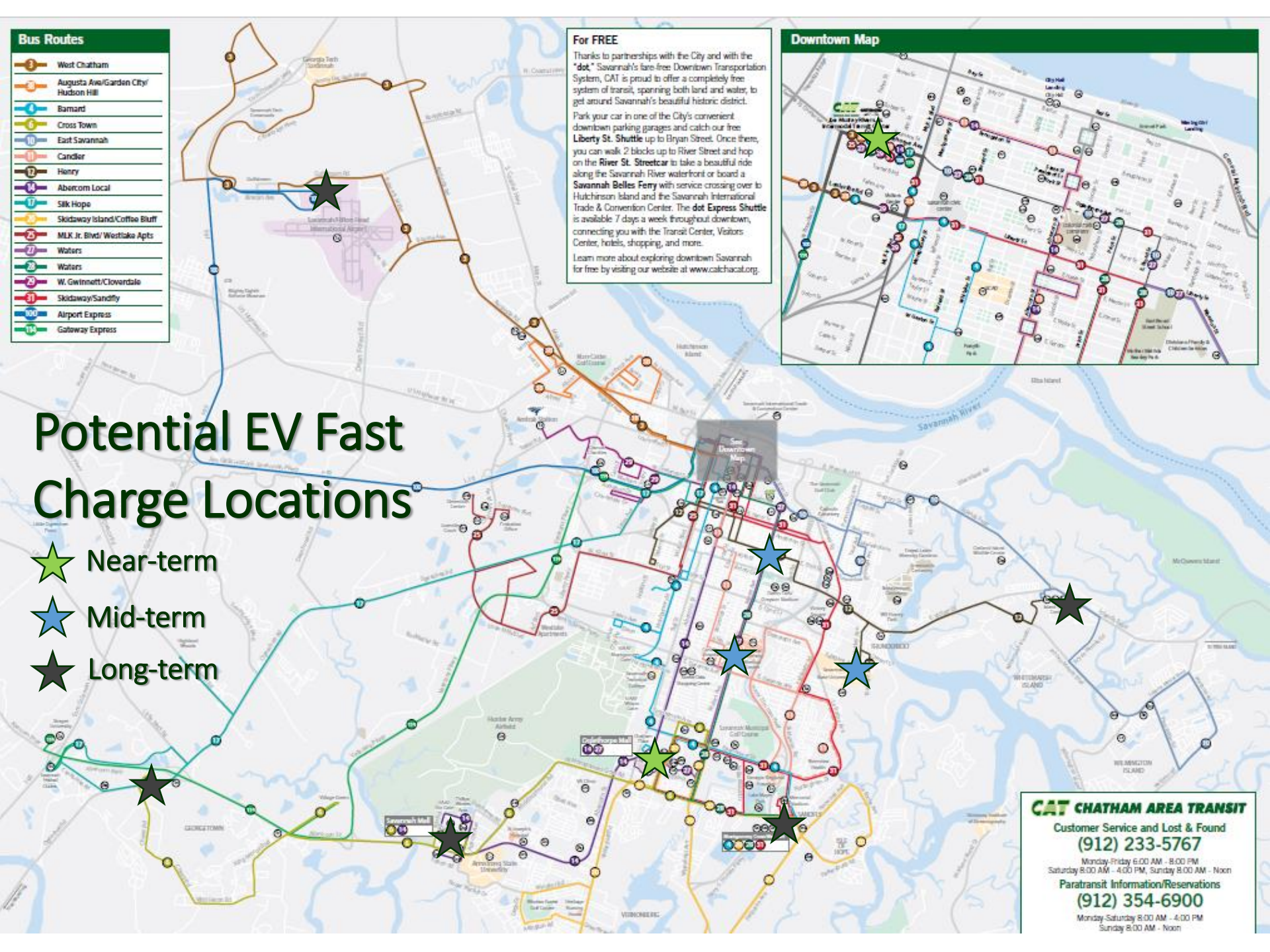
Park your car in one of the City's convenient downtown parking garages and catch our free **Liberty St. Shuttle** up to Bryan Street. Once there, you can walk 2 blocks up to River Street and hop on the **River St. Streetcar** to take a beautiful ride along the Savannah River waterfront or board a **Savannah Belles Ferry** with service crossing over to Hutchinson Island and the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center. The **dot Express Shuttle** is available 7 days a week throughout downtown, connecting you with the Transit Center, Visitors Center, hotels, shopping, and more.

Learn more about exploring downtown Savannah for free by visiting our website at www.catchacat.org.



Potential EV Fast Charge Locations

- Near-term
- Mid-term
- Long-term



CAT CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT

Customer Service and Lost & Found
(912) 233-5767
 Monday-Friday 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM
 Saturday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sunday 8:00 AM - Noon

Paratransit Information/Reservations
(912) 354-6900
 Monday-Saturday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Sunday 8:00 AM - Noon

Electric Transit Vehicle Cost Justification

January 26, 2017

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) anticipates a vehicle cost of \$750,000 per unit. This cost estimate uses an average of quotes from three different EV manufacturers: Proterra, BYD, and New Flyer. Budget details can be found below.

	Unit Cost	Units	Total Cost
35 ft electric bus	\$ 750,000	2.00	\$ 1,500,000
Fast-charging station	\$ 500,000	1.00	\$ 500,000
			\$ 2,000,000

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

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