

Applicant Organization:	CHATHAM COUNTY
Project Title:	GARRARD AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transportation Alternatives (TA) Call for Projects

APPLICATION

FEBRUARY 2020

**An electronic copy of the completed application is due:
March 25, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.**

Send to:
Wykoda Wang, Transportation Administrator
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission
wangw@thempc.org

Phone:
912-651-1466

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Transportation Alternatives (TA)
February 2020 Call for Projects**

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?

- Please indicate the sources of funding you are requesting for this project.

 - Z301 Z230
- Have you attached a letter from your governing board or chief staff person who is able to commit to the local match?

- Have you attached a project location map?

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

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)

Transportation Alternatives (TA)

APPLICATION

February 2020

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is conducting a competitive project selection process in order to award expected Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds.

- **Expected Available Funds:**
 - FY 2022 = \$400,000 (federal portion)
 - FY 2023 = \$400,000 (federal portion)
 - FY 2024 = \$400,000 (federal portion)
- **Minimum Award for a Project = \$200,000 (federal portion, not total project cost)**
- **Maximum Award Each Year = \$400,000 (federal portion, not total project cost)**
- **At least 20% of the eligible costs of the proposed project must be non-federal funds.** (Previously incurred costs cannot be counted as part of the 20% matching the newly awarded federal funds.)

The February 2020 Call for Projects will award approximately \$1.2 million in FHWA Z301 funds from FY 2022 through FY 2024. The MPO may award one proposal or several. Therefore, an applicant may request up to \$1,200,000 for the *federally funded* portion of their proposal. ***Please be aware that the entire \$1.2 million is not immediately available for programming in the initial years of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and therefore project sponsors will need to provide additional local match if the project's cost is more than \$400,000 for each year.*** MPO staff will coordinate with the project sponsor regarding the TIP programming schedule for their project.

The federal funding request in this application can represent no more than 80% of the total cost of the applicant's proposal. Thus, for example, an applicant requesting \$1,000,000 in federal TA funds, and providing no more than the required 20% local match, would be submitting a proposal totaling \$1,250,000.

- **Federal requirements for the project development process are associated with federal funds.**

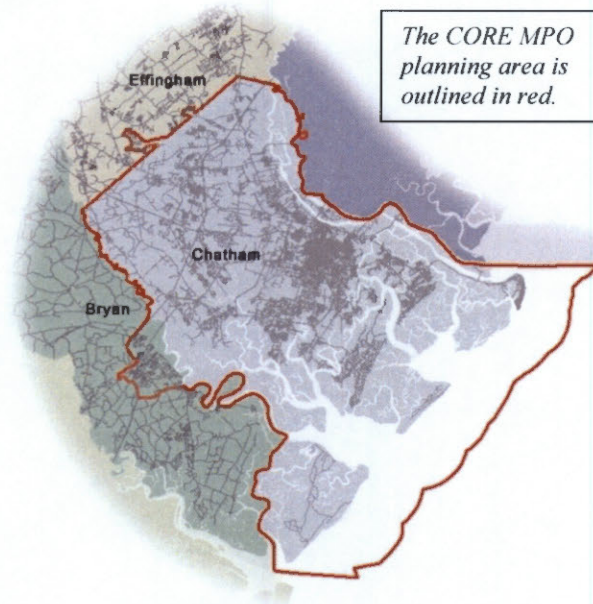
Applicants should keep in mind that this federal funding involves adherence to several federal requirements, as applicable, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prevailing wage rates (Davis-Bacon), Buy America, competitive bidding, and other contracting requirements, regardless of whether the projects are located within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway. CORE MPO has set a minimum federal request because the federal requirements tend to make larger projects more administratively efficient. For guidance about the treatment of projects with these federal funds, see the web page at:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/guidance_2016.cfm#TreatmentProjects.

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

The Metropolitan Planning Area includes all of Chatham County, as well as Richmond Hill in Bryan County and a small portion of unincorporated Effingham County (see map).

Transportation Alternatives funding is not subject to the prohibition against use on local roads or rural minor collectors, as generally applies to Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds. (Incidentally, TA-type projects are not subject to the prohibition even if funded with STBG funds.)



Please see CORE MPO Transportation Alternatives 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

Natural resource agency or public land agency

School district, local education agency, or school (public or nonprofit private)

Tribal government

Other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State of Georgia determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of subsection (c) of section 213 of title 23.

Non-profit entities responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs.

Types of Eligible Projects

Please indicate which categories your proposal falls under: (Select as many as apply. The number of categories does not affect your project’s score.)

- Construction, planning, and design of on-road or off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized forms of transportation, which can include sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.

- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized transportation users.

- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.

- Community improvement activities, which can include but are not limited to: inventory control, or removal of outdoor advertising; historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, vegetation management practices in transportation ROW, archeological activities relating to impacts of a transportation project eligible under Title 23 of the USC.

- Environmental mitigation activity, including stormwater management and water pollution prevention or abatement from highway construction or highway runoff; reduction of vehicle-caused wildlife death, restoration of the connectivity of habitat.

- Recreational trails under 23 USC 206

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure-related project

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) non-infrastructure-related project

- Planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

Applicant Information		
Primary Sponsor Agency Name (i.e. agency that will manage implementation)		Date
Chatham County		03/25/2020
Street Address	City, State	Zip Code
124 Bull Street, Suite 430	Savannah, GA	31401
Contact Person’s Name	Title	
Nathaniel Panther, P.E.	Senior Engineer	
Contact Person’s Phone Number	Contact Person’s Email Address	
(912) 652-7813	npanther@chathamcounty.org	
Project Manager’s Name (if awarded)	Title	
Pamela Bernard, P.E.	Senior Transportation Engineer	

Project Overview		
Project Name Garrard Avenue Improvement Project		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) Garrard Avenue from Chatham Parkway to Gamble Road. Location map is attached.		
County (or counties) in which project is located Chatham	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located N/A	
Proposal Description Summary <p>The Garrard Avenue Improvement Project proposes to construct operational and safety improvements for non-motorized and motorized roadway users from its intersection at Gamble Road to its intersection with Chatham Parkway, approximately 1.2 miles in length. This project will convert Garrard Avenue from a rural, two-lane roadway section without pedestrian improvements to a new two-lane, urban section with 5-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. The project will also install curb and gutter as well as stormwater and water quality improvements. This portion of Garrard Avenue is densely populated, lower income area with many residents not having vehicles to get to their destinations.</p> <p>Survey work and basic concept work is complete. Staff is requesting TA funds in FY2022 to help fund preliminary engineering and TA funds in FY2024 for construction. Staff is going to pursue additional funding opportunities to offset local construction costs.</p>		
Total Estimated Project Cost* \$ \$4,350,000	Federal Funds Requested under TA \$ \$680,000	Local Match \$ \$3,670,000
<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 County	Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds

Please attach a letter signed by either your governing board or an official or chief staff person who is able to commit to the stated local match.

Has the agency that will be managing this project previously completed other federal-aid transportation projects? (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 up to three federal-aid projects completed by your agency, if applicable, *preferably for projects that are similar to your proposal*:

P.I. No.	Project Name	Sponsor's Project Manager
0522790	Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.
0007128	Island's Expressway Bridge Replacement	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.
0007631	Truman Linear Park Trail, Phase 2A	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.

What agency will maintain the project after completion?

Chatham County

If a maintenance agreement is necessary, has it been executed? (Chose one) Y / N / **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. (TA funds will not cover operations.)

Chatham County already maintains the Garrard Avenue right of way. Once the project is complete Chatham County will continue to maintain the right of way. No maintenance agreement is required.

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

Right of way acquisition will likely be required. Staff will value engineer the project to minimize the required right of way and easement areas.

If other agencies or organizations are partnering with you on this application or on implementation of your proposal, please list and describe the nature of assistance 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, and you had already received a Notice to Proceed, 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 TA-funded	No. of Months
Preliminary Engineering	12
Construction	12

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
Survey / Concept Work	2017

Please describe status of any non-TA 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 TA + 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 TA-funded work begins	Estimated completion date
RFQ for Engineering Services	Fall 2021
Preliminary Engineering	Fall 2022
Right of Way Plans/Acquisition	Summer 2023
Construction Contract Let	Fall 2023
Construction	Spring 2024

In 500 words or less, please describe what public benefits and efficiencies would be provided to our area by your proposed project. (In preparing your answer, we suggest you review the TA scoring criteria related to access, connectivity, tourism, and safety, as shown in CORE MPO’s Transportation Alternatives Manual – February 2020.)

The Garrard Avenue Improvement Project propose to construct operational and safety improvements for non-motorized and motorized roadway users from its intersection at Gamble Road to its intersection with Chatham Parkway, approximately 1.2 miles in length. This project will convert Garrard Avenue from a rural, two-lane roadway section without pedestrian improvements to a new two-lane, urban section with 5-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. The project will also install curb and gutter as well as stormwater and water quality improvements. This portion of Garrard Avenue is densely populated, lower income area with many residents not having vehicles to get to their destinations. With the lack of existing, ADA compliant facilities, it is very dangerous for pedestrians that are walking to their destination on or to the bus stop. The proposed project will address this critical safety issue by providing a more equitable, non-motorized transportation system that is ADA compliant.

The benefits of this project are increasing connectivity and safer non-motorized, ADA compliant to bus stops and adjacent commercial areas in the vicinity of Garrard Avenue. Conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles will be minimized by providing safe access to bus stops and adjacent, existing pedestrian improvements. The added connectivity to the local community will provide additional opportunities for our citizens to utilize non-motorized transportation alternatives rather than using their vehicles to get to their destinations, improving the quality of life for all income levels in this local community.

Staff anticipates beginning preliminary engineering in FY2022 and being ready to let a construction contract in FY2024. This timeline is realistic and follows a similar path that the County used in delivering the Truman Linear Park Trail, Phase 2A.

I understand that the latest versions of the following, as they relate to this project, shall guide project development and design.

- Accessible Public Rights-of-Way, Planning and Designing for Alterations, Public Rights-of-Way Access Advisory Committee.
- ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Department of Justice.
- Context Sensitive Design Manual, GDOT.
- Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach, Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU).
- A Policy on the Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, AASHTO.
- Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, AASHTO.
- Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities, AASHTO.
- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), FHWA.
- Proposed Guidelines for Public Rights-of-Way (PROWAG)2, United States Access Board.
- Urban Bikeway Design Guide, NACTO.
- Urban Street Design Guidelines, NATCO.

SPONSOR *Suzanne Cooler*

Suzanne Cooler

Name

03/25/2020

Date

INTERIM COUNTY ENGINEER

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 or chief staff person who is able to commit the agency to the stated local match.
- To attach a Project Location Map;
- To attach an executed maintenance agreement if you indicated that one exists.



Budget Detail for Proposal

Project Name: Garrard Avenue Improvement Project

Activity	Desired Fiscal Year for TIP Programming (GDOT Fiscal Year) ¹	Total Estimate	Requested CORE MPO TA 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	FY2022	\$350,000	\$280,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	SPLOST				
ROW	FY2023	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	SPLOST				
Utilities	FY2023	\$0	\$0	\$0						
Construction	FY2024	\$3,500,000	\$400,000	\$3,100,000	\$3,100,000	SPLOST				
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Total Amounts		\$4,350,000	\$680,000	\$3,670,000	\$3,670,000					

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.
 Engineering staff is going to pursue additional grant and federal funds to offset the local construction costs for this project.

1. The first GDOT fiscal year in the MPO's TIP is FY 2021, which begins July 1, 2020. The last year of the next TIP is FY 2024, which begins July 1, 2023.



CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

124 Bull Street, Room 430
P.O. Box 8161
Savannah, Georgia 31412-8161
FAX 912-652-7818
912-652-7800

March 25, 2020

Ms. Wykoda Wang
Transportation Planner
Chatham County-Savannah MPC
110 E. State Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Subject: Transportation Alternatives (TA) February 2020 Call for Projects, Commitment of Stated Local Match for the Garrard Avenue Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Wang:

This letter is written to confirm that Chatham County has Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds available to provide the required local match for this project.

If you have any questions, please call Nathaniel Panther at (912) 652-7813.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Cooler". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.
Interim County Engineer

GARRARD AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Begin Project

End Project

CSX Transportation

Gamble Road

Garrard Ave

Chatham Parkway

Legend

- Roads selection
- Roads
- Railroad

Map by: David Anderson GISP/CMS
Map date: 3/19/2020

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

