



Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021 (CRRSAA) Funds

APPLICATION

AUGUST 2021

**Send the electronic copy
of the completed application by:**

5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2021

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

**THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021 (CRRSAA)**

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.

- Z230 CRRSAA

- 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?

THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021 (CRRSAA) Funds

AUGUST 2021 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is conducting a competitive project selection process to award the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funds.

- **Expected Available Funds: \$2,112,897**
- **Maximum Award = \$2,112,897**
- **Minimum Award for a Project = \$200,000 (federal portion)**
- **Minimum Award for a Planning Study = \$100,000 (federal portion)**
- **This funding is 100% federal with no local or state match required.**

- **Federal Requirements**

Applicants should keep in mind that using the CRRSAA 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 CRRSAA 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 amended into the CORE MPO's FY 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2024). If an eligible transportation study is awarded the CRRSAA funds, it must be included in the funded section of the CORE MPO's FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**

The CRRSAA funds are obligation ready. Once the project/study is programmed in the TIP and UPWP in a specific fiscal year, the awarded federal funding can be authorized in that year as long as the project development/study procurement process meets all milestone dates. All of the CRRSAA funds must be authorized by September 30, 2024. Otherwise, the funds will lapse.

Please see CORE MPO CRRSAA 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 CRRSAA 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 (CAT)		Date 9/21/2021
Street Address 900 E. Gwinnett St.	City, State Savannah, GA	Zip Code 31401
Contact Person's Name Shalonda Rountree	Title Interim Chief Strategy Officer	
Contact Person's Phone Number (912) 629-3907	Contact Person's Email Address Shalonda.rountree@catchacat.org	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) Shalonda Rountree	Title Interim Chief Strategy Officer	

Project Overview		
Project Name Flex Pilot Project		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) 900 E. Gwinnett St. Savannah, GA 31401		
County (or counties) in which project is located Chatham County	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located Savannah, Garden City	
<p>Proposal Description Summary</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted public transit in cities all over the world and has forced agencies to reassess their services and rethink commuting and mobility options. While Chatham Area Transit has and continues to face ridership and workforce challenges, the agency remains committed to being a regional leader in developing innovation and alternative mobility solutions.</p> <p>In order to address the increased demand for greater mobility options across our community, CAT will implement a Flex Pilot Program. The objective for this innovative new pilot program is to offer an alternative mobility option to our fixed route service by using smaller vehicles that will offer routing and scheduling flexibility for our customers.</p>		
Total Estimated Project Cost*	Federal CRRSAA Funds Requested	Local Match Available
\$450,000	\$450,000	\$0

**Please also be sure to fill out the Budget Detail Table at the end of this application.*

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.		
0017974	Electric Bus Conversion	Bren Daiss
0016793	ITS Project	Grant Sparks
0015977	CAT Bus Reliability Project	Grant Sparks

What agency will maintain the project after completion?

Chatham Area Transit

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 FLEX PILOT PROJECT WILL NOT REQUIRE OPERATING FUNDS. CAT'S EXISTING OPERATION 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:

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 CRRSAA-funded	No. of Months
Procurement of Vehicles	9
Flex Zone Study/Market Analysis	6
Pilot Project	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

Please describe status of any non-CRRSAA 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 CRRSAA funds 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 CRRSAA-funded work begins	Estimated completion date

In 500 words or less, please describe what public benefits and efficiencies would be provided to our area by your proposed project/study. (For example, how does your project match the project ranking criteria such as freight connection, truck traffic, bridge rating, transit ridership, non-motorized connection, etc.? [\(Please reference the CORE MPO CRRSAA Grant Program Manual for project or study ranking criteria.\)](#))

The one-year Flex Service Pilot Project goal is to test the concept of demand-responsive flexible service in low-density, low-demand areas. The pilot will will be completely demand-responsive, with passengers being able to request trips via phone, internet, or mobile application. The demand-responsive service will be accompanied by regular fixed-route service. The pilot project will allow CAT

to test an innovative service model in an area where traditional, fixed-route service is underperforming while also giving customers a flexible and innovative mobility option.

The Flex Service Pilot Project cost includes the study of potential service zones and a recommended service model prior to the launch of the program. In addition, technology costs and four 12-14 wheel-chair accessible passenger vehicles (vans/cutaways) will be used for this new service offering.

The recommendation to explore the feasibility of “flex zones” was included in CAT’s Transit Development Plan and CAT’s Board adopted Strategic Plan. This pilot project will help CAT evaluate the feasibility and cost of a wider scale project that may be added permanently to its service model in the future if the project is successful.

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR

Valerie Ragland
Signature (on hard copy)

September 30, 2021
Date

Valerie Ragland
Print Name

Interim Chief Executive Officer
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 (if you wish to provide a local match to boost your application).
- To attach a Project Location Map;
- To attach information showing the Basis of your Cost Estimate.

Budget Detail for Proposal

Project Name:

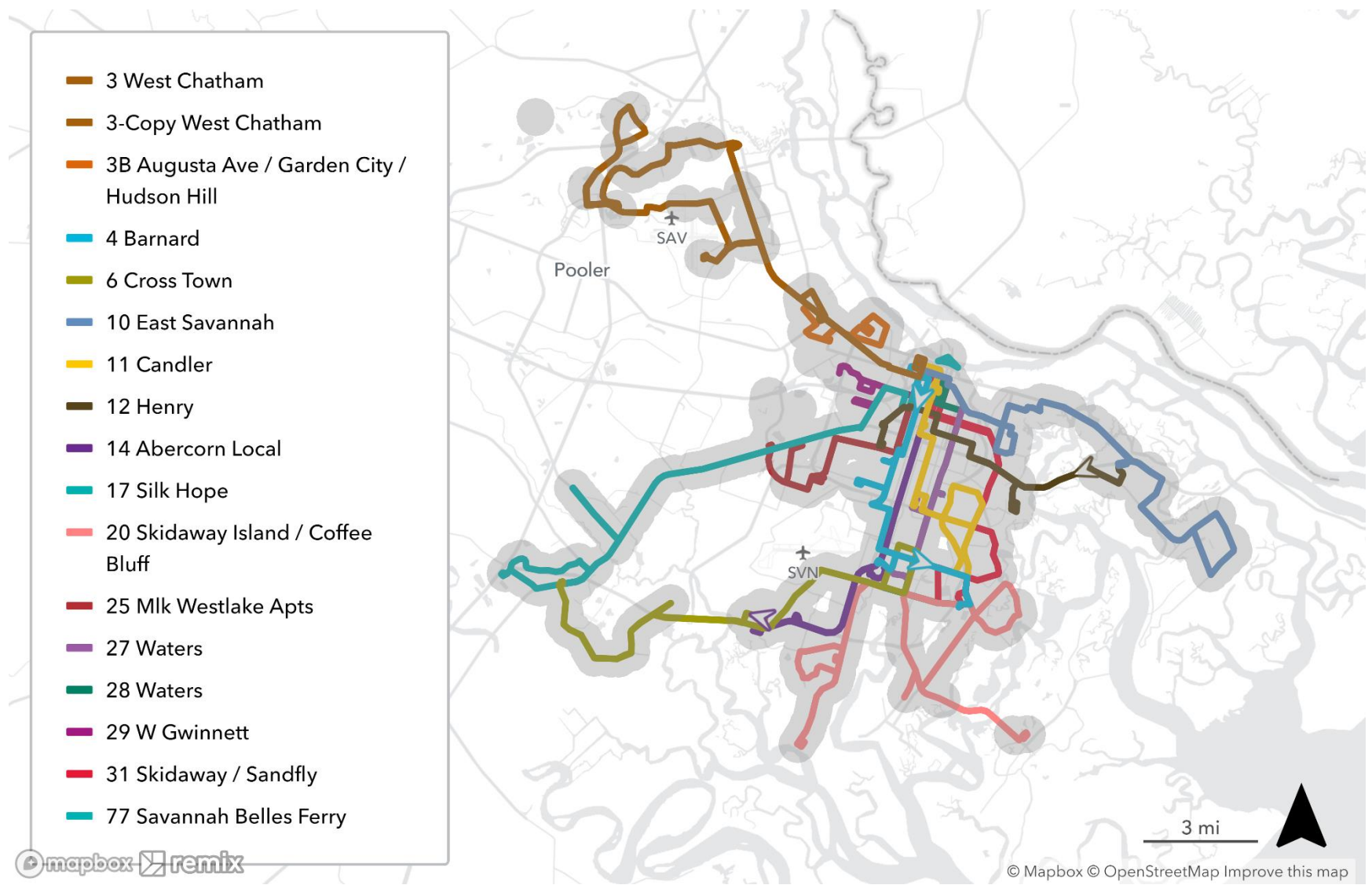
Activity	Desired Fiscal Year for TIP Programming (GDOT Fiscal Year) *	Total Estimate	Requested CORE MPO CRRSAA Federal Funds (Maximum allowed is 100% of your total eligible costs.)	Local Match (if you wish to provide a local match to boost your application.)	Local Match Breakdown (by source)					
					Amount A	Source A	Amount B	Source B	Amount C	Source C
PE										
ROW										
Utilities										
Construction										
Other activity Research, Development, Procurement and Testing		\$450,000	\$450,000	\$0						
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Total Amounts										

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 current TIP is FY 2021, which begins July 1, 2020. The last year of the next TIP is FY 2024, which begins July 1, 2023.

Potential Service Area of Pilot Project

Shaded areas represent .5 miles in distance from the fixed-route lines.



Flex Pilot Project Cost Justification

September 30, 2021

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) anticipates a project cost of \$450,000. This cost estimate uses historical pricing from previous CAT planning studies Lets Go! Redesign Study (2019), Origin and Destination (2017), TDP (2013). Additional costs include technology and vehicle cost. The calculations can be found in the table below.

Description	Cost
Flex Pilot Project Study (Market Analysis), Implementation Plan	\$200,000
(4) Vehicles (10-12 Passenger Vans)	\$200,00
Technology Upgrades	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$450,000