



Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Attributable (Z230) 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

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?

- Please indicate the sources of funding you are requesting for this project.
 Z230 CRRSAA

- 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?

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Urban Attributable (Z230) Funds

AUGUST 2021 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is conducting a competitive project selection process to award expected FY 2023 and FY 2024 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:**
 - **FY 2021 = \$900,000 (federal portion – will be added to FY 2023 and FY 2024)**
 - **FY 2023 = \$3,178,721 (federal portion)**
 - **FY 2024 = \$6,030,778 (federal portion)**
- **Maximum Award Each Year = total federal portion of the fiscal year.**
- **Minimum Award for a Project = \$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 a minimum of *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 amended into the CORE MPO's FY 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2024).**

Once the project is programmed in the TIP and the awarded federal funding is authorized in the program 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 September 21, 2021
Street Address 900 E. Gwinnett Street	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 Bus Stop Improvement Program		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) Countywide: Bus stop shelters throughout the County in need of improvement and repair.		
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>The Bus Stop Improvement Program is an ongoing effort aimed at enhancing the quality of Chatham Area Transit bus stops, with a specific focus on improving bus stop shelters. Through this program, CAT Maintenance Staff replaces and repairs aging shelters, installs new shelters, and provides passenger amenities (e.g. benches, litter receptacles, customer information) at bus stops throughout the transit system.</p> <p>The placement of shelters and amenities are determined by survey data, current bus route strategies noted in the Transit Development Plan, citizen input, and through coordination with other City of Savannah and Chatham County-initiated transportation capital improvement projects. This program also includes the coordination, planning, design and construction of new bus stops as CAT adds or modifies bus routes.</p> <p>CAT proposes to match the Z230 funding at a 20% rate.</p>		
Total Estimated Project Cost*	Federal Z230 Funds Requested	Local Match Available
\$500,000	\$400,000	\$100,000
<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 Authority (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
STRA Go! Transit Capital Program	Bus Fleet Replacement Enhancement	Terri Harrison
GA-2017-018-00	Paratransit Bus Replacement	Steve Boatright
GA-04-0024-00	CAT Hybrid Bus Replacement	Ramond Robinson

What agency will maintain the project after completion?

Chatham Area Transit Authority (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 BUS STOP IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRAM 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)

NO

Additional information:

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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): N/A

Organization #1	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Contact Email:	
Status of Agreement	

Organization #2	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Contact Email:	
Status of Agreement	

Organization #3	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Contact Email:	
Status of Agreement	

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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
Procurement of amenities for Bus Stop Improvement Program	3
Review ADA compliance of bus stops	2
Coordination with City/County on Accessibility compliance (i.e. landing pads, curb cuts, ramps)	3
Installation (trash cans, benches, shelters etc.)	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 connection, truck traffic, bridge rating, transit ridership, non-motorized connection, etc.?) **(Please reference the CORE MPO Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Manual for project ranking criteria.)**

Economic Vitality: The design of bus stop waiting areas and provision of amenities that enhance security and comfort plays a significant role in a person’s decision to use transit. Passenger amenities are installed at selected bus stops to improve passenger comfort and the relative attractiveness of transit as a transportation alternative. This plan will give guidance to make transit a more attractive option that will increase the economic vitality of the area.

Safety: This plan seeks to improve the overall safety of all people using CAT’s fixed-route transit services. Motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists will realize a benefit to their safety through the application of this plan.

Security: Proper location of bus stops is critical to the safety of passengers and motorists and to the proper operation of the transit system. Bus stops are generally located at intersections where they maximize pedestrian accessibility from both sides of the street and provide connections to intersecting bus routes. This plan also seeks to improve security by upgrading to LED Solar Power Bus Stop Lightning to stop locations and ADA compliance.

Accessibility, Mobility, and Connectivity: CAT has added bus stops as demand in the community has changed over the years. This program will provide the resources to improve bus stops with needed amenities, which will in turn increase accessibility, mobility and connectivities in Chatham County. High-quality transit service plays a key role in a community’s congestion management plan.

Environment and Quality of Life: Savannah receives 14 million visitors per year, which is particularly significant because of its location on the Georgia coast. Coasts are sensitive to sea-level rise, changes in the frequency and intensity of storms, increases in precipitation, and warmer temperatures. Rising atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide cause oceans to absorb more gas, becoming more acidic, according to the EPA, causing impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems.

State of Good Repair: As CAT’s bus stops continue to age, new bus stop amenities will need to be added, while older deteriorating ones will need to be replaced to keep the transit system in a state of good repair.

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR

Valerie Bagland
Signature (on hard copy)

9/30/2021
Date

Valerie Bagland
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.
- To attach a Project Location Map;
- To attach information showing the Basis of your Cost Estimate.

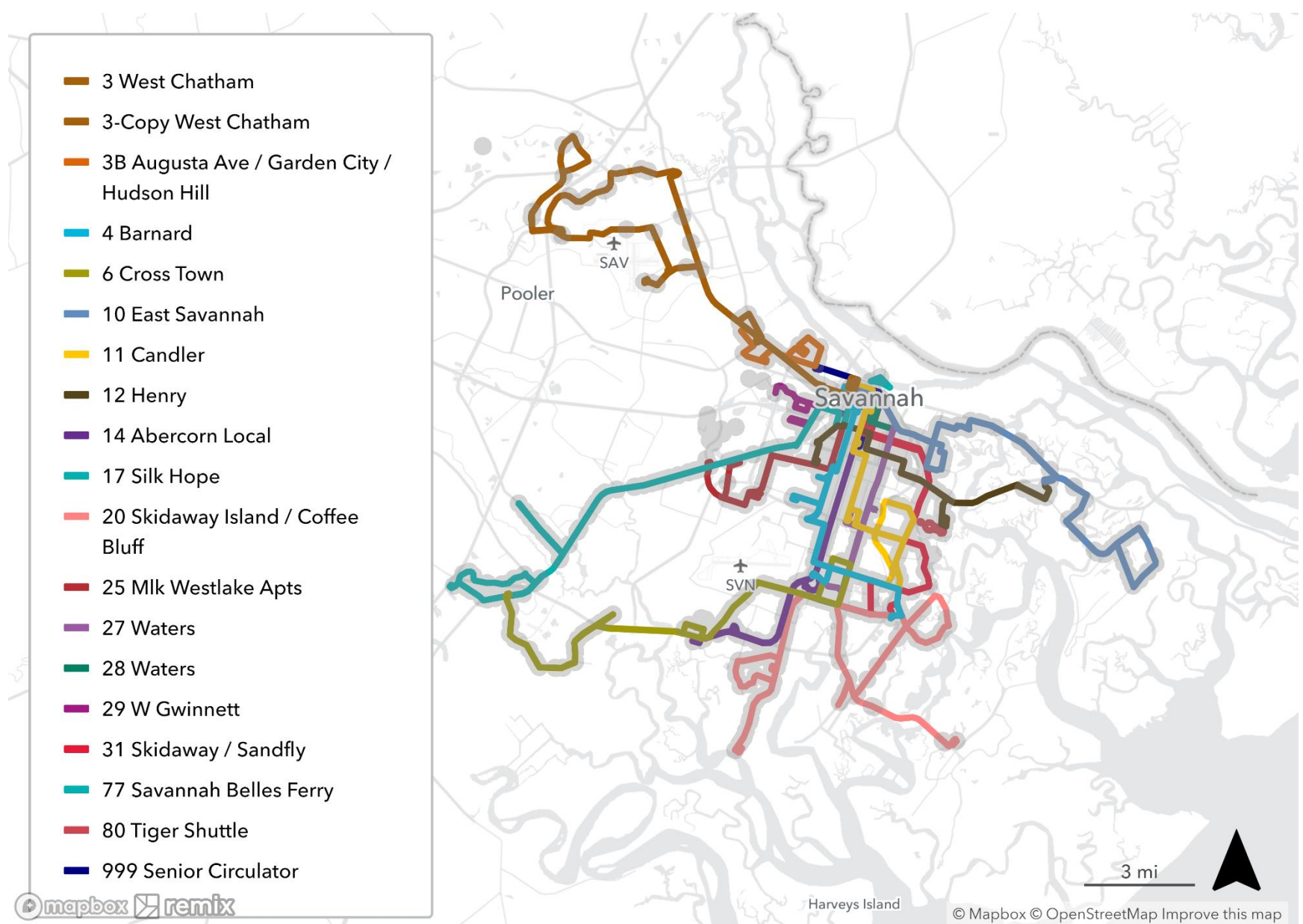


Budget Detail for Proposal										
Project Name:										
Activity	Desired Fiscal Year for TIP Programming (GDOT Fiscal Year) *	Total Estimate	Requested CORE MPO Z230 Federal Funds (Maximum allowed is 80% of your total eligible costs.)	Local Match (Minimum required is 20% of your total eligible costs.)	Local Match Breakdown (by source)					
					Amount A	Source A	Amount B	Source B	Amount C	Source C
PE										
ROW										
Utilities										
Construction										
Vehicles										
Other activity Specify: Research and Development	2023	\$500,000	\$400,000	\$100,000	SPLOST					
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Total Amounts		\$500,000	\$400,000	\$100,000	SPLOST					
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.

Project Location - Bus Stop Improvement Program

This project would be conducted along the existing fixed-routes and not extend beyond ¼ mile of current bus stop locations.



Bus Stop Improvement Plan Cost Justification

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) anticipates a cost of \$500,000 for the Bus Stop Improvement Plan. This cost estimate uses a quote from Tola Manufacturing Group to do the research and development. Budget details can be found below.

Quantity	Budget Description	Units	Unit Cost	Project Total	CAT Match (\$)	CAT Match (%)	Fed Request (\$)	Fed Request (%)
1	Bus Stop Improvement Plan	1	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$100,000	20%	\$400,000	80%



CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT

912.233.5767

610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401

www.catchacat.org

September 23, 2021

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)

Attn: Wykoda Wang

110 East State Street

Savannah, GA 31401

RE: Bus Stop Improvement Program, Chatham Area Transit (CAT) FY21 Surface Transportation Block Program (STBP) Application

Dear Wykoda:

In my capacity as Chatham Area Transit's Interim CEO, I fully support CAT's FY21 Surface Transportation Block Program (STBP) application: Bus Stop Improvement Program. The proposed work is highly relevant and well in line with CAT's efforts 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 the application.

On behalf of CAT, we appreciate your consideration of our FY21 STBP application for a bus stop improvement program and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Valerie Ragland, Interim CEO

Stephanie Cutter, Chief Financial Officer

Cc: Shalonda Rountree, Chief Strategy Officer