



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](mailto: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?

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- Has the appropriate person signed the application?

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- Have you filled out the detailed budget table on the last page of this application?

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

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- Have you attached a letter from your governing board or official able to commit to the local match?

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- Have you attached a project location map?

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- Have you attached information demonstrating the basis of your project's cost estimate?

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- 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

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Regional transportation authority

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Transit agency

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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

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Bridge Improvements

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Transit Improvements

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Operational/Safety Improvements

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Bicycle / Pedestrian /Non-Motorized Improvements

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Planning Studies

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Other

<b>Applicant Information</b>		
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	

<b>Project Overview</b>	
Project Name (2) 35ft. Fixed Route Diesel Buses	
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 purchase two (2), 35-ft. heavy-duty diesel buses. With many of CAT's fixed-route vehicles at or beyond their expected useful life in years (12 years), CAT maintenance staff have struggled to keep its buses in service. CAT proposes to use the Z230 funding to replace the oldest and least reliable buses in its fleet.</p> <p>With CAT in desperate need of bus replacement funding, this project aims to fill the immediate need for more vehicles and reduce long-term maintenance costs through the purchase of two (2) diesel buses.</p> <p>CAT proposes to match the z-230 funding at a 20% rate.</p>	

**Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Fund Application, August 2021**



Total Estimated Project Cost*	Federal Z230 Funds Requested	Local Match Available
\$1,170,000	\$936,000	\$234,000
<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

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- 1 completed federal-aid project

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- 2 completed federal-aid projects

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- 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-2017-018-00	Paratransit Bus Replacement	Steve Boatright
0015977	CAT Bus Reliability Project	Grant Sparks

**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 REPLACEMENT OF TWO (2) DIESEL BUSES WILL NOT REQUIRE OPERATING FUNDS. CAT'S EXISTING OPERATION EXPENDITURES ARE OFFSET THROUGH FARES, A LOCAL TRANSIT TAX, CONTRACT REVENUE, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES.

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**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	

**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 two (2) 35-ft. diesel buses	3
Vehicle build	12
Vehicle receipt and post-delivery inspection	2

**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 current on-time-performance (OTP) of the CAT system is 60%. 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. New vehicles have proven to be more reliable than vehicles older than 12 years.

**Safety:** Aged buses are more vulnerable to breakdown and more likely to present a hazard during a malfunction. CAT experiences bus breakdowns often. These breakdowns create traffic hazards for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. This project seeks to improve the condition of the fleet and in doing so decreases the frequency of breakdowns.

**Security:** CAT plays a critical role in emergency evacuations 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.

**Accessibility, Mobility, and Connectivity:** 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 frequent and reliable transit service. CAT will be deploying a transit system with more frequent service in the coming years, but vehicle reliability remains a concern.

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.

**State of Good Repair:** As CAT’s fleet continues to age, bus breakdowns are becoming more frequent. With a rapidly aging fleet, CAT’s mean distance between vehicle failure will decline unless the authority can develop a sustainable vehicle replacement schedule. Retiring two (2) diesel vehicles and replace them with new diesel 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.

**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.

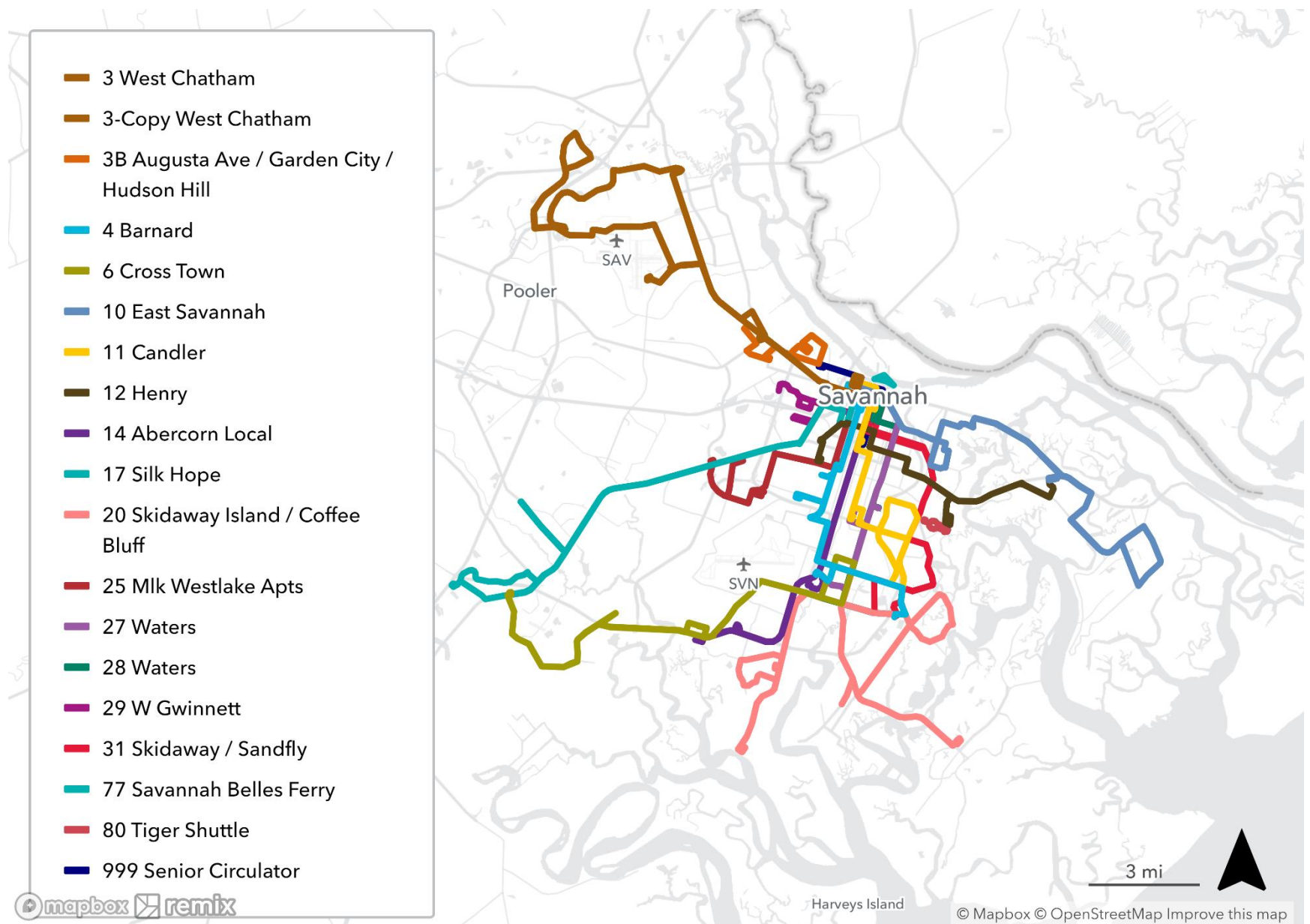


Budget Detail for Proposal										
Project Name:										
Activity	Desired Fiscal Year for TIP Programming (GDOT Fiscal Year) *	Total Estimate	Requested CORE MPO Z230 Federal Funds (Maximum allowed is 80% of your total eligible costs.)	Local Match (Minimum required is 20% of your total eligible costs.)	Local Match Breakdown (by source)					
					Amount A	Source A	Amount B	Source B	Amount C	Source C
PE										
ROW										
Utilities										
Construction		\$1,170,000	\$936,000	\$234,000	SPLOST					
Vehicles	2023									
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
<b>Total Amounts</b>		\$1,170,000	\$960,000	\$234,000	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.

### Potential Service Area of Two (2) 35 ft Diesel Buses

CAT will use the two 35 ft diesel buses within the transit system in a non-discriminatory way and ensure compliance with Title VI and other Federal regulations.



## Two (2) 35 ft Diesel Buses Cost Justification

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) anticipates the price of two (2) 35 ft diesel buses at the total cost of \$1,170,000. This cost estimate uses a quote from Gillig to manufacture the 35' bus. Budget details can be found below.

Quantity	Budget Description	Units	Unit Cost	Project Total	CAT Match (\$)	CAT Match (%)	Fed Request (\$)	Fed Request (%)
2	On-Route Electric Charging Station	1	\$585,000	\$1,170,000	\$234,000	20%	\$936,000	80%
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1,170,000</b>	<b>\$234,000</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$936,000</b>	<b>80%</b>

This cost estimate includes all aftermarket add-ons such as fareboxes, security equipment, vehicle locator hardware, etc.



September 23, 2021

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)

Attn: Wykoda Wang

110 East State Street

Savannah, GA 31401

**RE: (2) 35 ft. Fixed-Route Diesel Buses, Chatham Area Transit (CAT) FY21 Surface Transportation Block Program (STBP) Application**

Dear Wykoda:

I am writing to express my support for CAT's FY21 Surface Transportation Block Program (STBP) application: (2) 35 ft. Fixed-Route Diesel Buses. This project will greatly enhance CAT'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 the application.*

On behalf of CAT, we appreciate your consideration of our FY21 STBP application and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Valerie Ragland, Interim CEO

Stephanie Cutter, Chief Financial Officer

Cc: Shalonda Rountree, Chief Strategy Officer