



Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

## Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Attributable (Y230) Funds

**APPLICATION**

**AUGUST 2022**

Send the electronic copy  
of the completed application by:

**5:00 p.m. on September 26, 2022**

to:

Jasmine Champion, Senior Transportation Planner  
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission  
110 E. State Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

**Contact info:**

912-651-1476

[championj@thempc.org](mailto:championj@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.  
 Y230     Z301
- 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 (Y230) Funds

### AUGUST 2022 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is conducting a competitive project selection process to award expected FY 2023 - 2027 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Urban Attributable (Y230) funds, provided through the act entitled Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” (BIL).

- **Expected Available Funds:**
  - FY 2023 = \$9,750,122 (federal portion)
  - FY 2024 = \$6,480,778 (federal portion)
  - FY 2025 = \$4,000,000 (federal portion)
  - FY 2026 = \$4,000,000 (federal portion)
  - FY 2027 = \$4,000,000 (federal portion)
- **Maximum Award for a project = available funds for that year (federal portion)**
- **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 in FY 2023 and FY 2024, will be programmed in the CORE MPO’s FY 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2024). Awarded projects in FY 2024 will be carried over to the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP as well. FY 2025 – 2027 funds will build the prioritized waiting list for projects to be included in the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP (revisit the prioritization during TIP development).**

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) <b>Chatham County</b>		Date <b>9/26/2022</b>
Street Address <b>124 Bull Street, Suite 430</b>	City, State <b>Savannah, GA</b>	Zip Code <b>31410</b>
Contact Person's Name <b>Nathaniel Panther, P.E.</b>	Title <b>Assistant County Engineer</b>	
Contact Person's Phone Number <b>(912) 652-7813</b>	Contact Person's Email Address <b>npanther@chathamcounty.org</b>	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) <b>Georgia Department of Transportation</b>	Title <b>N/A</b>	

<b>Project Overview</b>		
Project Name <b>Interstate 95 at Airways Avenue Interchange Improvements</b>		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) <b>Project location map attached.</b>		
County (or counties) in which project is located <b>Chatham</b>	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located <b>Pooler/Savannah</b>	
<p>Proposal Description Summary</p> <p>GDOT has programmed a Scoping Phase for this project in FY2023. GDOT will be the project sponsor but the scoping phase is unfunded at this time and the locals are required to identify funds. Chatham County is committed to providing the local match at this time. However, the County is concurrently working on a funding agreement to cost share the local match with the City of Savannah, City of Pooler, and the Savannah Airport Commission.</p> <p>The scoping phase will build on the previous study completed by the Savannah Airport Commission in January 2020. It will provide analysis of the interchange for the purpose of developing alternatives and selection of a preferred alternative, and lead to the development and approval by GDOT and FHWA of a concept report and Interchange Modification Report (IMR).</p>		
Total Estimated Project Cost* <b>\$ 2,000,000</b>	Federal Y230 Funds Requested <b>\$ 1,600,000</b>	Local Match Available <b>\$ 400,000</b>
<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	SPLOST and/or M&O Funds

*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
0013282	State Route 25 over Pipemakers Canal Bridge Replacement	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.
522790	Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.
0007259	Jimmy DeLoach Parkway at Highway 80 Interchange	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.

**What agency will maintain the project after completion?**

Georgia Department of Transportation

**If a maintenance agreement is necessary, has it been executed?** (Choose one)

If yes, please attach the agreement.

Y / N / NA

**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.**

This is an existing interchange that is currently maintained by the Georgia Department of Transportation. No additional maintenance funds are necessary.

**Will your project require purchase(s) or easement(s) for right-of-way** (Choose one)

Additional information:

Y / N / Maybe

Yes, but not for this phase.

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	
City of Savannah	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Heath Lloyd, P.E.	(912) 644-7795
Contact Email: hlloyd@savannahga.gov	
Status of Agreement	
Cost Share Agreement pending approval by the City of Savannah.	

Organization #2	
City of Pooler	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Robert Byrd	(912) 748-7261
Contact Email: rbyrd@pooler-ga.gov	
Status of Agreement	
Cost Share Agreement approved by Pooler on 09/06/2022.	

Organization #3	
Savannah Airport Commission	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Mark Denmark	(912) 964-0514, ext. 3308
Contact Email: mdenmark@flysav.com	
Status of Agreement	
Cost Share Agreement approved by the Savannah Airport Commission on 09/07/2022.	

**Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Fund Application, August 2022**

**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 Y230-funded	No. of Months
SCOPING PHASE (FY2023)	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
Chatham County Interstate Needs Analysis and Prioritization Plan - Project Discussed in Study	2008
CORE MPO Freight Transportation Plan - Recommended Improvements to the Interchange	2014
Total Mobility Plan 2040 MTP - Recommended Improvements to the Interchange	2014
2015 Chatham County Interstate Study Update - Recommended improvements to the Interchange	2015
Metropolitan Transportation Plan Mobility 2045 - Project Included in Cost Band 1 Improvements	2019
I-95 at Airways Avenue/Pooler Parkway Interchange Study - Recommended Improvements	2020

**Please describe status of any non-Y230 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 Y230 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 Y230-funded work begins	Estimated completion date
GDOT Consultant Procurement Underway	March 2023



**Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Fund Application, August 2022**

**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.)

Over the past two decades, rapid commercial and residential growth surrounding the interchange has increased traffic volumes and congestion on area roadways, constrained access and mobility, and degraded safety for users of this important interchange. This interchange provides the main access to the Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport, Gulfstream Aerospace as well as the Tanger Outlets and other commercial and residential areas. The proposed interchange modifications would enhance the ability to move vehicles to and from I-95 and would provide the capacity and operational efficiency needed to mitigate queuing which currently results in spillback of traffic onto I-95. In addition, crash and injury accident rates in and around the interchange are significantly higher than statewide averages. Pooler Parkway experienced crash rates four to six times higher than statewide averages. Airways Avenue similarly experienced crash and injury crash rates well above statewide averages. I-95 within the study area experienced crash and injury rates above statewide averages.

The scoping phase will build upon the recently completed feasibility study prepared by the Savannah Airport Commission and CORE MPO in January 2020. This phase will update existing traffic counts and traffic projections to complete an alternatives analysis for improvements to the interchange, including cost estimates. This phase includes completion and approval of a Concept Report and Interchange Modification Report (IMR). The scoping phase will address the congestion, mobility and safety concerns within the study area. Implementation of this project will achieve the performance targets for safety, freight, air quality and congestion management.

With the continued month over month growth of the Georgia Ports Authority and the announcement of the new Hyundai manufacturing facility, traffic growth and congestion in Chatham County will exceed anticipated projections over the next several years. And considering a project of this size can take 5 to 6 years to develop through GDOT's PDP process, it is imperative that this scoping phase is funded this fiscal year so work on the concept report and IMR can begin and a preferred alternative can be identified to move the project into the Preliminary Engineering phase.

**Project Sponsor Signature**

SPONSOR

*Suzanne Cooler*  
Signature (on hard copy)

9/26/2022

Date

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.

Print Name

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 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

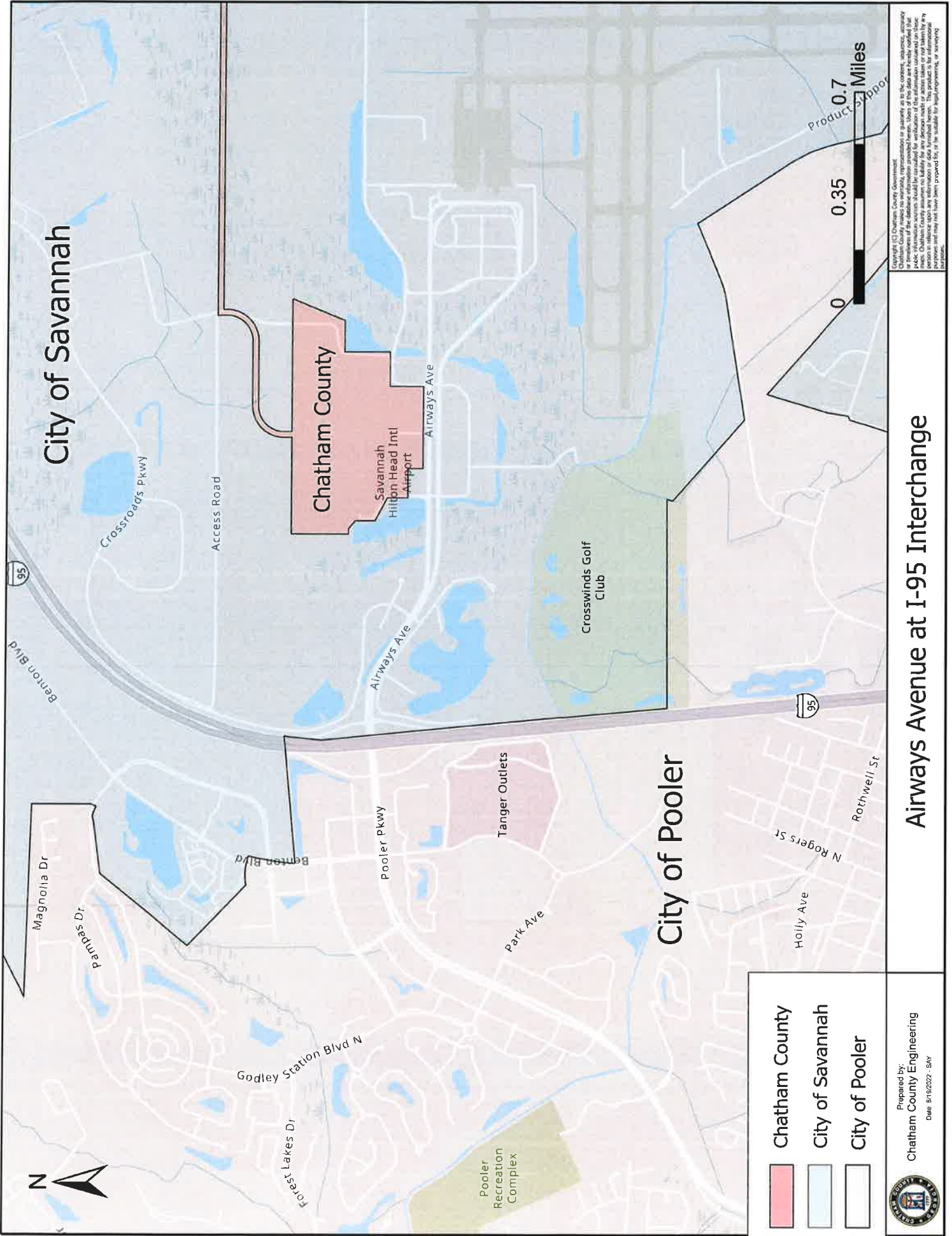
Project Name: Interstate 95 at Airways Avenue/Pooler Parkway Interchange - P.I. No. 0018402

Activity	Desired Fiscal Year for TIP Programming (GOOT Fiscal Year) *	Total Estimate	Requested CORE MPO Y230 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	Amount B	Amount C
PE	2023	\$2,000,000	\$1,600,000	\$400,000			SPLOST and/or M&O Funds
ROW							
Utilities							
Construction							
Other activity Specify:							
Other activity Specify:							
Other activity Specify:							
<b>Total Amounts</b>		<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>			<b>\$400,000</b>

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.

There are no other grants or other sources of funds identified at this time. The scoping phase will identify a preferred alternative so that additional Preliminary Engineering funds can be applied for through grant applications. Potential funding agreement between to cost share the local match has been approved by Pooler, the Airport and Chatham County. City of Savannah is considering approval of the funding agreement.

\*The GOOT fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. For example, FY 2024 starts on July 1, 2023 and ends on June 30, 2024.



City of Savannah

Chatham County

City of Pooler

- Chatham County
- City of Savannah
- City of Pooler



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## Airways Avenue at I-95 Interchange

Prepared by:  
 Chatham County Engineering  
 Date 8/19/2022 - SAV



# CHAIRMAN OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chester A. Ellis  
Chairman



Chatham County Courthouse  
Post Office Box 8161  
Suite 210 - 124 Bull Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31412

(912) 652-7950  
(912) 652-7880 - fax  
[Chairman@chathamcounty.org](mailto:Chairman@chathamcounty.org)

September 26, 2022

Ms. Wykoda Wang  
Director of Transportation Administration  
Coastal Region MPO  
110 East State Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

Subject: Interstate 95 at Airways Avenue/Pooler Parkway Interchange, P.I. No. 0018402

Dear Ms. Wang:

Chatham County is submitting a funding application for the subject project for Surface Transportation Block Grant (Y230) funds through the CORE MPO 2022 Call for Projects. The County has Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and/or M&O funds available for the required local match of \$400,000. We appreciate the opportunity to work with CORE MPO to improve the transportation system in Chatham County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chester A. Ellis", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chester A. Ellis  
Chairman