



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

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
- ☐ 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		Date 9/26/2022
Street Address 900 E Gwinnett St	City, State Savannah, GA	Zip Code 31401
Contact Person's Name Faye DiMassimo	Title CEO/Executive Director	
Contact Person's Phone Number 912-629-3925	Contact Person's Email Address Faye.Dimassimo@catchacat.org	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) Ashley Goodrich	Title Grants Planning Manager; Ashley.goodrich@catchacat.org	

Project Overview	
Project Name CAT State of Good Repair Fleet Replacement	
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 retire and replace three heavy-duty diesel transit vehicles with three heavy-duty hybrid-diesel transit vehicles. 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. Keeping to CAT's Transit Asset Management Plan hybrid-powered heavy duty vehicles will not only reduce the community's carbon footprint, but it will also reduce maintenance costs over the lifespan of the vehicles. CAT proposes to use the Z-230 funding to replace the oldest buses in the CAT fleet, which were delivered in 2006.</p> <p>The electric transit vehicle industry has grown over the last few years as battery capacities have significantly improved and costs have dramatically decreased. As CAT transitions to Zero-Emission, slowly converting the fleet with replacement vehicles will help fulfill CAT's responsibilities to the community as an environmentally friendly transit provider. As CAT remains in desperate need of bus replacement funding, this project aims to fill the immediate need for more vehicles, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions through the purchase of hybrid heavy duty transit vehicles.</p>	

Total Estimated Project Cost*	Federal Y230 Funds Requested	Local Match Available
\$2,872,800	\$2,298,240	\$574,560
<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	Local Match

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
GA-2022-026	5339c Electric LowNo Fleet Replacement, Savannah UZA	Stephanie Cutter
GA-2021-028	Flex to 5307; Vehicle Replacement with electric bus; CAT, Savannah UZA	Stephanie Cutter

GA-2022-007	FY2021 5307 ARP Act Funds; Operating Assistance; Chatham Area Transit	Stephanie Cutter
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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 REPLACEMENT OF THREE BUSES WILL NOT REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL OPERATING FUNDS. CAT'S EXISTING OPERATIONAL 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):

Organization #1	
N/A	
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 Y230-funded	No. of Months
Procure 3 Heavy-Duty Transit Vehicles	3
Vehicle Build	18
Vehicle Receipt and Post Delivery Inspection	6

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
NA	

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
NA	

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.)**

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 failures will decline unless the authority can develop a sustainable vehicle replacement schedule. Retiring three diesel vehicles and replacing it with three hybrid 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.

Environment: CAT recognizes the impact that greenhouse gases from the transportation industry has on the environment. Its fleet of vehicles are no exception to the causes of this impact.

Accessibility, Mobility, & Connectivity: This project is identified as the highest priority in CAT's Transit Asset Management Plan; CAT's Zero-Emission Implementation; and CAT's Transit Development Plan.

Ladders of Opportunity: 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. Electric vehicles have proven to be more reliable than diesel vehicles over a 12-year lifespan due to fewer components.

Congestion Reduction: 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 a frequent and reliable transit service. CAT will be deploying a transit system with more frequent service in the coming years, but vehicle reliability is remains a concern.

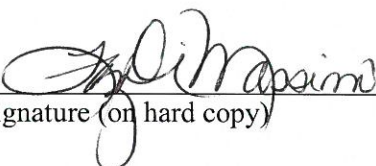
Security: CAT plays a critical role in emergency evacuation efforts. During Hurricane Matthew CAT helped evacuate more than 1,500 Chatham County residents. Having a reliable fleet is critical to CAT's ability to safely evacuate local residents.

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 decrease the frequency of bus breakdowns.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs: 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.

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR



Signature (on hard copy)

9/26/2022

Date

Faye Q. DiMassimo

Print Name

CEO/Executive Director

Title

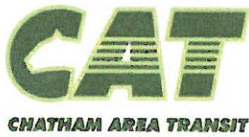
Please remember:

- 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 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	Source A	Amount B	Source B	Amount C	Source C
PE										
ROW										
Utilities										
Construction										
VEHICLES	FY2024	\$2,872,800	\$2,298,240	\$574,560	SPLOST or Local CAT Revenues					
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Total Amounts		\$2,872,800	\$2,298,240	\$574,560	SPLOST or Local CAT Revenues					
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 GDOT 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.



September 26, 2022

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
(CORE MPO)

Attn: Jasmine Champion
110 East State Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Subject: Chatham Area Transit (CAT) 2022 Y-230 Application

Dear Jasmine:

This letter confirms that CAT will be responsible for the local match amount listed in its "CAT State of Good Repair Heavy-Duty Bus" application.

On behalf of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, we appreciate your consideration of our FY23-27 Y-230 application and we look forward to hearing from you.

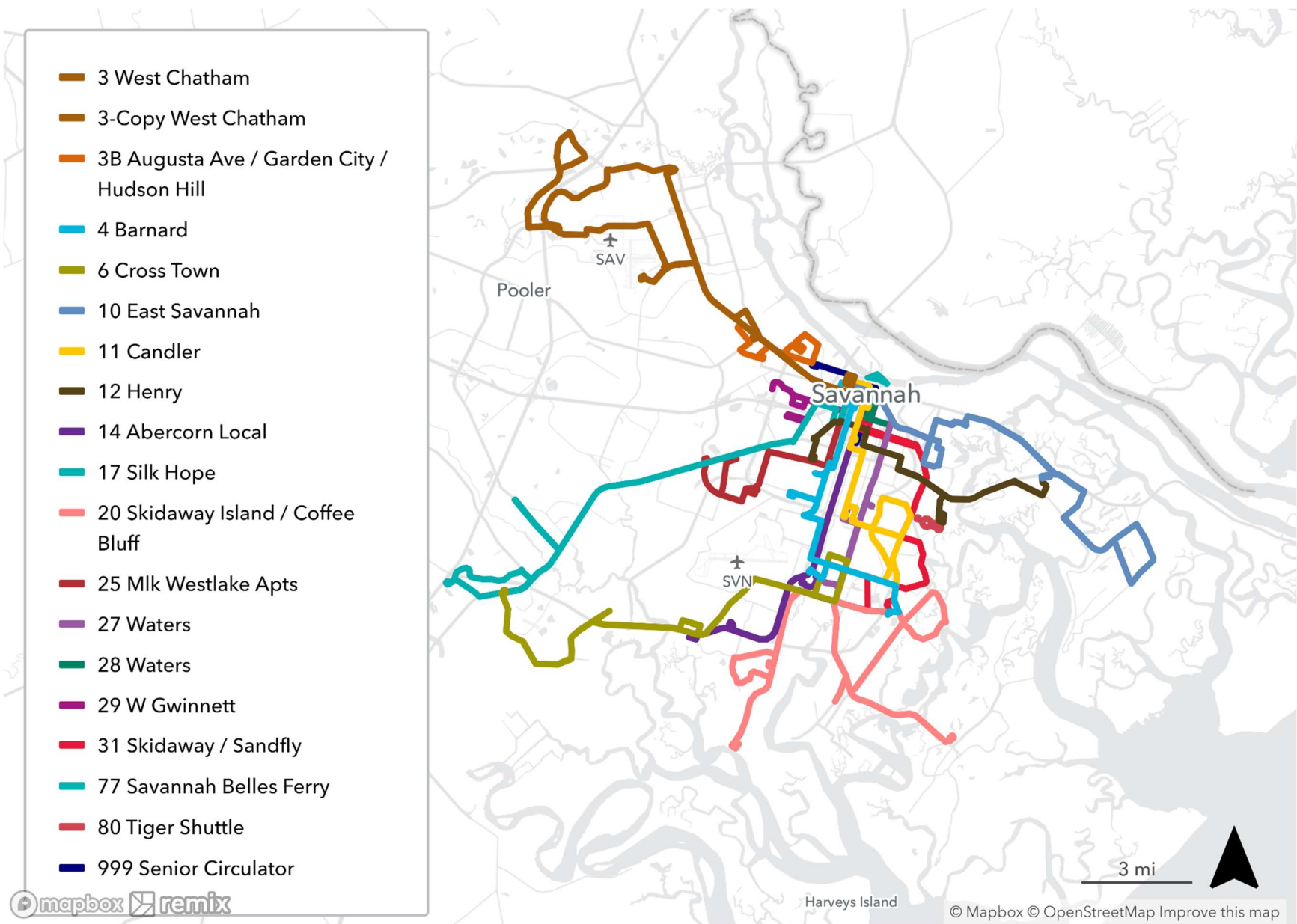
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faye DiMassimo", is written over the printed name.

Faye DiMassimo
CEO/Executive Director
Chatham Area Transit

Potential Service Area of Three (3) 35 ft Hybrid Buses

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



CAT State of Good Repair Cost Justification

September 26,2022

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) anticipates the price of three (3) 35 ft hybrid buses at the total cost of \$2,872,800. 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 (%)
3	Heavy Duty Hybrid Bus	1	\$957,600	\$957,600	\$191,520	20%	\$766,080	80%
Total				\$2,872,800	\$574,560	20%	\$2,298,240	80%

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