



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).**

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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 County		Date 9/23/2022
Street Address 124 Bull Street, Suite 430	City, State Savannah, Georgia	Zip Code 31401
Contact Person's Name Nathaniel Panther, P.E.	Title Assistant County Engineer	
Contact Person's Phone Number (912) 652-7813	Contact Person's Email Address npanther@chathamcounty.org	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) Pamela Bernard, P.E.	Title Senior Transportation Engineer	

Project Overview		
Project Name President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination Project		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) The existing railroad tracks crossing in the vicinity of the existing interchange of President Street and Truman Parkway.		
County (or counties) in which project is located Chatham	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located Savannah	
Proposal Description Summary This task will provide a detailed study and alternatives analysis, including cost estimates, of the existing at-grade railroad crossing and Truman Parkway/President Street interchange. The goal of the study will be to identify a preferred alternative for a grade-separated railroad crossing including the required modifications to the existing interchange. Working with consultants, the County will develop a scope of services and solicit request for proposals for the study using Quality Based Selection process. The study will update traffic counts, evaluate the existing operation and safety of the railroad crossing and interchange, project new traffic volumes based on growth and land use data, evaluate the crash history, develop alternatives to grade separate the railroad crossing, evaluate alternatives using traffic projections, provide cost estimates for the alternatives and provide preliminary environmental screening to facilitate development of a future concept report. The County requested \$300,000 to complete the study. The County will reach out to the City of Savannah to request their partnership and coordination in regards to the study.		
Total Estimated Project Cost* \$ 300,000	Federal Y230 Funds Requested \$ 240,000	Local Match Available \$ 60,000
<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 County	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
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?

The City of Savannah and Chatham County

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.

The railroad tracks are the jurisdictional boundary between the City of Savannah and Chatham County. Each jurisdiction currently maintains the infrastructure in their jurisdiction and will continue to do so after the project is complete.

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

Y / N / Maybe

Additional information:

Yes, but all we are asking for at this time is study funds to develop a preferred alternative.

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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	
City of Savannah	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Heath Lloyd, P.E.	(912) 644-7795
Contact Email: hlloyd@savannahga.gov	
Status of Agreement	
Pending.	

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 Y230-funded	No. of Months
Study/Scoping Phase	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
N/A	

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
Request for Proposal for Professional Engineering Consulting Services	4 Months

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.)

The industries served by this shortline railroad crossing continue to grow and expand their operations and they do not have adequate room on their terminals to add additional track on their property. This combination has resulted in longer trains needing to be built and has increased the frequency of blocked traffic on President Street, including during AM and PM peak hours. As such, the study will provide for feasible alternatives and their associated costs for constructing a grade-separated crossing to eliminate the delays and improve the safety of the crossing. Complicating the existing, at-grade crossing is that it is at the intersection of two major arterial routes used for access to downtown Savannah. These are President Street/Island's Expressway and Truman Parkway. President Street had an AADT of 29,300 in 2019 (pre-covid) and the ramps on/off Truman Parkway had an AADT of 10,720 vehicles in 2019. Elimination of the at-grade rail crossing could eliminate delays and improve safety for the average of 40,000 vehicles per day that use this area to get to and from downtown Savannah.

The industries served by this railroad expect annual total truck trips using this intersection to be about 445,000 in 2023. By 2032, they are projecting annual truck trips using this intersection to double to more than 1,000,000 per year. It is imperative that planning start now to reduce congestion and delay's associated with the at-grade rail crossing as well as improve safety and mobility through the interchange. The results of this study will be used as a basis to apply for future federal funding through the Federal Railroad Administration's At-Grade Crossing Elimination program.

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR

Suzanne Cooler
Signature (on hard copy)

9/23/2022

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: **President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination Project**

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	Amount B	Amount C				
PE											
ROW											
Utilities											
Construction											
Other activity Specify:	FY2023 Scoping/ Study	\$300,000	\$240,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	SPLOST					
Other activity Specify:											
Other activity Specify:											
Total Amounts		\$300,000	\$240,000	\$60,000							

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.

County staff will work to develop a cost share agreement with the City of Savannah to split the local match. At this time the County has SPLOST funds available to provide for the required local match.

*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.



CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

124 Bull Street, Room 430
P.O. Box 8161
Savannah, Georgia 31412-8161
FAX 912-652-7818
912-652-7800

Suzanne V. Cooler, P.E.
County Engineer

Nathaniel Panther, P.E.
Assistant County Engineer

September 23, 2022

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

Subject: President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination Project

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) funds available for the required local match of \$60,000. We appreciate the opportunity to work with CORE MPO to improve the transportation system in Chatham County.

Thank-you,

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.
County Engineer

PRESIDENT STREET AT TRUMAN PARKWAY VICINITY MAP

