



Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

APPLICATION

AUGUST 2022

State Route 204 Access Study

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 County Department of Engineering		Date 9/23/2022
Street Address 124 Bull Street, Suite 430	City, State Savannah, GA	Zip Code 31401
Contact Person's Name Pamela Bernard, P.E.	Title Senior Transportation Engineer	
Contact Person's Phone Number 912-652-7800	Contact Person's Email Address pbernard@chathamcounty.org	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) Pamela Bernard, P.E.	Title Senior Transportation Engineer	

Project Overview		
Project Name State Route 204 Access Study		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) State Route 204/ Abercorn Street between King George Boulevard and U.S. 17/State Route 25/Ogeechee Road.		
County (or counties) in which project is located Chatham	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located n/a	
<p>Proposal Description Summary</p> <p>The proposed study will evaluate alternatives for access on State Route 204/Abercorn Street at the intersections of Pine Grove Drive and Ford Avenue. These points are the only remaining at-grade intersections along an otherwise limited access corridor between Rio Road and Gateway Boulevard. The corridor is a heavily used commuter route for residents of Richmond Hill and other communities south and west of Savannah to get to jobs within the City, port or surrounding area. Since the completion of the King George Interchange in 2018 the traffic signal at Pine Grove Drive is the new bottleneck point, increasing commute travel times and creating back-ups that are a safety hazard. The crash frequency at this location is well above the state average with 713 crashes between the King George Interchange and US 17/ State Route 25 in the last nine years. This study will consider alternative methods of access at these two points along with estimated costs and cost/benefit ratios for each option. Feasible alternatives will be presented to the public at an open house to obtain feedback on the preferred option.</p>		
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	Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (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
0522790	Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.
0007218	Islands Expressway Bridge Replacment	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.
0007621	Truman Linear Park Trail, Phase 2A	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.

What agency will maintain the project after completion?

n/a - Study

If a maintenance agreement is necessary, has it been executed? (Chose one) ~~Y~~ / ~~N~~ / 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.

n/a - Study

Will your project require purchase(s) or easement(s) for right-of-way (Choose one) ~~Y~~ / N / ~~M~~ybe
 Additional information:

n/a - Study

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	
n/a	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Contact Email:	
Status of Agreement	

Organization #3	
n/a	
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
Access Study	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
GDOT Safety Analysis	ongoing

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 qualifications and proposals	60 days
Negotiation of scope and fee; contract execution	30 days

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 proposed study will evaluate alternatives for access on State Route 204/Abercorn Street at the intersections of Pine Grove Drive and Ford Avenue. These points are the only remaining at-grade intersections along an otherwise limited access corridor between Rio Road and Gateway Boulevard. The corridor is a heavily used commuter route for residents of Richmond Hill and other communities south and west of Savannah to get to jobs within the City, port or surrounding area. Trucks also use this route as the most efficient access to the south side of Savannah and the Truman Parkway. The intersection of Pine Grove Drive is currently signalized and provides access to communities on both sides of State Route 204. Both communities are land locked in that the only current access is via State Route 204. Since the completion of the King George Interchange in 2018 the traffic signal at Pine Grove Drive is the main bottleneck on State Route 204, increasing commute travel times and creating back-ups that are a safety hazard. The crash frequency at this location is well above the state average with 713 crashes between the King George Interchange and US 17/ State Route 25 in the last nine years. Due to the high crash rate, the Georgia Department of Transportation is considering closing the median crossings at both intersections and eliminating the traffic signal at Pine Grove Drive. This will make State Route 204 a safer corridor and increase the level of service for through traffic. This will also most likely add between ten and twenty minutes of travel time for residents who currently turn left onto State Route 204 from Pine Grove or Ford Avenue. Ford Avenue is currently stop controlled with a small community to the south of State Route 204. However, large tracts of land exist off Ford Avenue that, if developed, could add a significant amount of traffic to that intersection. Like Pine Grove Drive, the only current access to residents adjacent to Ford Avenue is via State Route 204. It is important to note that there is also a Fire Station on Ford Avenue that uses this intersection for emergency response in the area. Between the railroad tracks, creeks and wetlands, options for access to the communities adjacent to Pine Grove Drive and Ford Avenue are severely limited. Developing reasonable and cost effective alternatives for access to State Route 204 that will be safe and efficient are needed now to facilitate planning and programming of improvement projects.

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR

Suzanne Cooler
Signature (on hard copy)

9/26/22
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: State Route 204 Access Study										
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										
Other activity Specify:	FY 2023	\$300,000	\$240,000	\$60,000						
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Total Amounts										
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.



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: State Route 204 Access Study

Ms. Wang:

Chatham County proposes an Access Study on State Route 204 and Surface Transportation Block Grant (Y230) funds are requested through the CORE MPO 2022 Call for Projects for the study. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Cooler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.
County Engineer

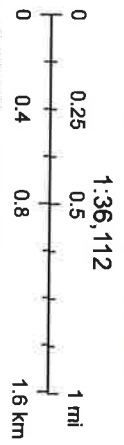
PB

State Route 204/ Abercorn St.



9/23/2022, 4:00:40 PM

Chatham County Boundary



SAGIS, City of Hinesville, Savannah Area GIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, Geotechnologies, Inc, METANASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US

State Route 204 Access Study Budget

To complete the State Route 204 Access Study the County will hire an engineering services firm through the Quality Based Selection process. The scope of the consultant contract will include:

- A. Traffic Counts and traffic projections based on development and current growth trends will be developed to better understand the future capacity needs of the corridor and side roads within the study area as well as a review of crash data.
Estimated cost for the traffic analysis is \$50,000

- B. Review of Previous and Related Studies that were completed for the corridor as well as coordination with current freight and safety studies that include this area.
Estimated cost for the review and coordination is \$10,000

- C. Development of Feasible Alternatives for access to communities on the north and the south side of State Route 204 in the study area, including cost estimates.
Estimated cost for development of alternatives is \$100,000

- D. Comparison analysis of various alternatives including cost/benefit ratio and final report with recommendation.
Estimated cost for alternative analysis is \$60,000

- E. Public Involvement including community engagement and collaboration with stakeholders.
Estimated cost for public engagement is \$35,000

- F. Project Management including coordination, administration and various reports to ensure timely and successful completion of the study.
Estimate for the cost of Project Management is \$30,000

- G. **Contingency cost of \$15,000**

The remaining portions of the plan including implementation, oversight, and progress reporting will be completed by staff and will be paid for with local Special Purpose Local Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds. **The total estimated budget for consultant engineering services to complete the Study is \$300,000.**