



Transportation Alternatives Application - August 2022

Applicant Organization:	Chatham County
Project Title:	PI# 0017976 Garrard Avenue Improvements



Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

# Transportation Alternatives (TA) Call for Projects

**APPLICATION**

**AUGUST 2022**

**An electronic copy of the completed application is due:  
September 26, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.**

**Send to:**  
Asia Hernton, Transportation Planner  
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission  
[herntona@thempc.org](mailto:herntona@thempc.org)

**Phone:**  
912-651-1456



Transportation Alternatives Application – August 2022

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Transportation Alternatives (TA)  
August 2022 Call for Projects**

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.

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- Y301       Y230

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- Have you attached a letter from your governing board or chief staff person who is 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 other information that is applicable to the answers in your application?



Transportation Alternatives Application – August 2022

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)

## Transportation Alternatives (TA)

# APPLICATION

August 2022

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is conducting a competitive project selection process in order to award expected Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds.

- **Expected Available Funds:**
  - FY 2023 = \$1,733,095 (federal portion)
  - FY 2024 = \$0 (federal portion)
  - FY 2025 = \$400,000 (federal portion)
  - FY 2026 = \$400,000 (federal portion)
  - FY 2027 = \$400,000 (federal portion)
- **Minimum Award for a Project = \$200,000 (federal portion, not total project cost)**
- **Maximum Award Each Year = total available funds for that year (federal portion, not total project cost)**
- **At least 20% of the eligible costs of the proposed project must be non-federal funds.**  
(Previously incurred costs cannot be counted as part of the 20% matching the newly awarded federal funds.)

The August 2022 Call for Projects will award approximately \$2,933,095 in FHWA Y301 funds from FY 2023 through FY 2027. The MPO may award one proposal or several. Therefore, an applicant may request up to the expected revenue for the *federally funded* portion for that fiscal year for their proposal. ***Please be aware that the entire \$2, 933, 095 is not immediately available for programming in the initial years of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and therefore project sponsors will need to provide additional local match if the project’s cost is more than the available revenue for each year.*** MPO staff will coordinate with the project sponsor regarding the TIP programming schedule for their project. The awarded projects or project phases will be amended into the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP or included in the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP.

The federal funding request in this application can represent no more than 80% of the total cost of the applicant’s proposal. Thus, for example, an applicant requesting \$1,000,000 in federal TA funds, and providing no more than the required 20% local match, would be submitting a proposal totaling \$1,250,000.

- **Federal requirements for the project development process are associated with federal funds.**

Applicants should keep in mind that this federal funding involves adherence to several 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. CORE MPO has set a minimum federal request because the federal requirements tend to make larger projects more administratively efficient. For guidance about the treatment of projects with these federal funds, see the

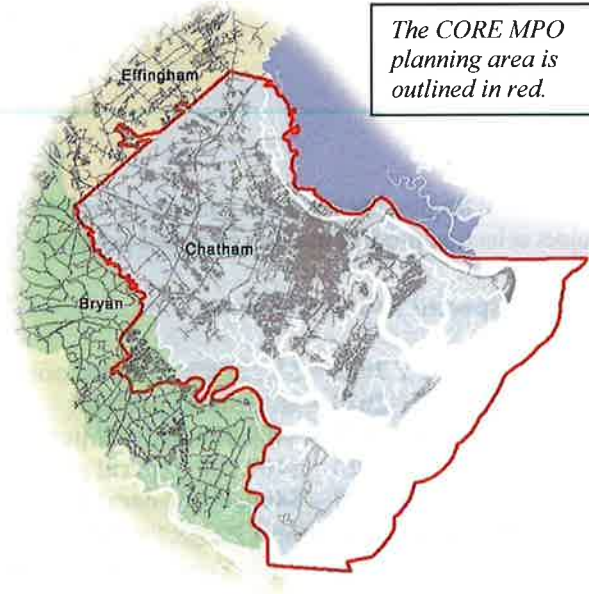
web page at:

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation\\_alternatives/guidance/ta\\_guidance\\_2022.pdf](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/ta_guidance_2022.pdf)

- **Projects funded through this selection process must be located within the CORE MPO’s Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary.**

The Metropolitan Planning Area includes all of Chatham County, as well as Richmond Hill in Bryan County and a small portion of unincorporated Effingham County (see map).

Transportation Alternatives funding is not subject to the prohibition against use on local roads or rural minor collectors, as generally applies to Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds. (Incidentally, TA-type projects are not subject to the prohibition even if funded with STBG funds.)



**Please see CORE MPO Transportation Alternatives 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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- Natural resource agency or public land agency

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- School district, local education agency, or school (public or nonprofit private)

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- Tribal government

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- Other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State of Georgia determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of subsection (c) of section 213 of title 23.

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- Non-profit entities responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs.

**Transportation Alternatives Application – August 2022**

**Types of Eligible Projects**

Please indicate which categories your proposal falls under: (Select as many as apply. The number of categories does not affect your project’s score.)

- Construction, planning, and design of on-road or off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized forms of transportation, which can include sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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- Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.

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- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized transportation users.

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- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.

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- Community improvement activities, which can include but are not limited to: inventory control, or removal of outdoor advertising; historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, vegetation management practices in transportation ROW, archeological activities relating to impacts of a transportation project eligible under Title 23 of the USC.

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- Environmental mitigation activity, including stormwater management and water pollution prevention or abatement from highway construction or highway runoff; reduction of vehicle-caused wildlife death, restoration of the connectivity of habitat.

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- Recreational trails under 23 USC 206

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- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure-related project

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- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) non-infrastructure-related project

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- Planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

<b>Applicant Information</b>		
Primary Sponsor Agency Name (i.e. agency that will manage implementation) <b>Chatham County</b>		Date <b>9/23/2023</b>
Street Address <b>124 Bull Street, Suite 430</b>	City, State <b>Savannah, GA</b>	Zip Code <b>31401</b>
Contact Person’s Name <b>Pamela Bernard, P.E.</b>	Title <b>Sr. Transportation Engineer</b>	
Contact Person’s Phone Number <b>912-652-7800</b>	Contact Person’s Email Address <b>pbernard@chathamcounty.org</b>	
Project Manager’s Name (if awarded) <b>Pamela Bernard, P.E.</b>	Title <b>Sr. Transportation Engineer</b>	

**Transportation Alternatives Application – August 2022**

<b>Project Overview</b>		
Project Name <b>Garrard Avenue Improvement Project</b>		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) <b>Garrard Avenue and Lane Avenue from Chatham Parkway to Gamble Road.</b>		
County (or counties) in which project is located <b>Chatham</b>	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located <b>n/a</b>	
<p>Proposal Description Summary</p> <p>The Garrard Avenue Improvement Project will construct operational and safety improvements for cars, trucks, buses, bicycles and pedestrians from its intersection with Chatham Parkway to Lane Avenue and Gamble Road. The project length is 1.2 miles. This project will convert Garrard Avenue from a rural, narrow two lane roadway section without pedestrian accommodations to a new urban section with a combination of five foot concrete sidewalks and multi-use path. All construction will be in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The project will include curb and gutter, drainage and water quality improvements. Traffic calming and intersection improvements as recommended for safety will also be incorporated into the project. This portion of Garrard Avenue is densely populated with lower income households with many residents without vehicles to get to their destinations.</p> <p>Topographic and environmental surveys as well as traffic counts and analysis are complete. Concept design is well underway. The draft concept report provided updated cost estimates for right of way and construction that are used here to request additional funding.</p> <p>This project ranked #2 at the 2020 Call for Projects.</p>		
Total Estimated Project Cost*	Federal Funds Requested under TA	Local Match
<b>\$ 8,450,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</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)
<b>Chatham County</b>	<b>Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)</b>

***Please attach a letter signed by either your governing board or an official or chief staff person who is able to commit to the stated local match.***

**Transportation Alternatives Application – August 2022**

**Has the agency that will be managing this project previously completed other federal-aid transportation projects? (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 up to three federal-aid projects completed by your agency, if applicable, *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.
0007128	Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.
0007631	Truman Linear Park Trail, Phase 2A	Nathaniel Panther, P.E.

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

Chatham County Department of Public Works

**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. (TA funds will not cover operations.)**

Chatham County already maintains the Garrard Avenue road and right of way. Once the project is complete, Chatham County Public Works crews will continue to maintain the roadway and right of way including any improvements. No maintenance agreement is required.

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

Some right of way acquisition will be required. Staff will ensure that right of way impacts are minimized.

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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 of assistance and the status of any agreements (e.g. ROW donations or easements):**

Organization #1	
Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Robert Johnson, Project Manager	470-747-2555
Contact Email: robjohnson@dot.ga.gov	
Status of Agreement	
Project Framework Agreement (PFA) for preliminary engineering was executed. GDOT is providing oversight of the project to ensure federal guidelines are followed.	

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	



**Transportation Alternatives Application – August 2022**

**If funding were available today, and you had already received a Notice to Proceed, 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 TA-funded	No. of Months
Right of Way	16
Construction	18

**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
Topographic and environmental survey complete	August, 2022
Traffic counts and traffic engineering memo	under review
Draft Concept Report	under review

**Please describe status of any non-TA 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 TA + 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 TA-funded work begins	Estimated completion date
Completion of concept design and preliminary design	July 2023
Completion and approval of an environmental document	Nov 2023
Right of way plans and GDOT authorization for acquisition	Dec 2023
Right of way acquisition and final plans complete	May 2025
GDOT authorization for construction	June 2025

**Transportation Alternatives 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.** (In preparing your answer, we suggest you review the TA scoring criteria related to access, connectivity, tourism, and safety, as shown in CORE MPO’s Transportation Alternatives Manual – August 2022.)

The Garrard Avenue Improvement Project will construct operational and safety improvements for non-motorized and motorized roadway users from its intersection with Chatham Parkway to Lane Avenue and ending at Gamble Road, approximately 1.2 miles in length. This project will convert Garrard Avenue from a narrow, two-lane road with ditches and no pedestrian accommodations to a safer, more urban two-lane road with five foot wide sidewalk and an 8-10 foot wide multi-use path. The project will include curb and gutter, drainage and water quality improvements as well as traffic calming and intersection improvements. This portion of Garrard Avenue is a densely populated, lower income area with many residents not having vehicles to get to their destinations. With the lack of existing ADA compliant pedestrian facilities, it is unsafe for people to walk along the shoulder of the road. The proposed project will address this critical safety issue by providing a more equitable non-motorized transportation system that is ADA compliant.

The benefits of this project are increasing connectivity and safer non-motorized, ADA compliant facilities to enable residents to get to bus stops and adjacent commercial areas in the vicinity of Garrard Avenue. Conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles will be minimized by separating the pedestrians from the motorized travel way. The added connectivity to the local community will provide additional opportunities for our citizens to utilize non-motorized transportation alternatives rather than using their vehicles to get to their destinations, improving the quality of life for all income levels in this community. The addition of street lighting will enhance safety as well.

Preliminary engineering work began in February of 2022 and multiple stakeholder meetings have taken place to obtain input from Chatham Area Transit, local church leadership, local businesses and homeowners associations. A public information open house (PIOH) is anticipated to be held in November of this year. Preliminary and right of way design will begin after comments from the PIOH are reviewed and the concept revised appropriately. Right of Way acquisition is expected to begin in January of 2024 and take about one year to complete. Construction will follow completion of right of way acquisition and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

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**I understand that the latest versions of the following, as they relate to this project, shall guide project development and design.**

- Accessible Public Rights-of-Way, Planning and Designing for Alterations, Public Rights-of-Way Access Advisory Committee.
- ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Department of Justice.
- Context Sensitive Design Manual, GDOT.
- Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach, Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU).
- A Policy on the Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, AASHTO.
- Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, AASHTO.
- Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities, AASHTO.
- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), FHWA.
- Proposed Guidelines for Public Rights-of-Way (PROWAG)2, United States Access Board.
- Urban Bikeway Design Guide, NACTO.
- Urban Street Design Guidelines, NATCO.

SPONSOR

  
Signature

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.

Name

County Engineer

Title

9/23/22

Date

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 or chief staff person who is able to commit the agency to the stated local match.
- To attach a Project Location Map;
- To attach an executed maintenance agreement if you indicated that one exists.



Budget Detail for Proposal

Project Name: P.1.0017976 Garrard Avenue Improvement Project

Activity	Desired Fiscal Year for TIP Programming (GDOT Fiscal Year) <sup>1</sup>	Total Estimate	Requested CORE MPO TA 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)					
PE					Amount A	Source A	Amount B	Source B	Amount C	Source C
	FY 21/22	\$1,200,000 (see note 1 below)								
ROW	FY 2024	\$1,250,000 (see note 2 below)	200,000	50,000	50,000	SPLOST				
Utilities	FY 2025	0								
Construction	FY 2025	\$6,000,000 (see note 3 below)	800,000	200,000	200,000	SPLOST				
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
<b>Total Amounts</b>		<b>\$8,450,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</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.

Note 1: Preliminary engineering is being funded with a combination of previously awarded 301 (\$280,000) and 230 (\$230,000) funds and local SPLOST funds.

Note 2: \$800,000 of Z30 funds previously awarded along with \$200,000 local match will cover the remaining cost of right of way. Additional funds are requested for the increased cost estimate. Current schedule for right of way is FY 24.

Note 3: A combination of 301 and 230 funds were awarded previously to cover \$5 Million of the construction costs in FY 24. Additional funds are requested for the increase in the cost estimate. Current schedule is construction in FY 25.

1. The awarded projects or project phases will be amended into the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP or included in the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP. The GDOT fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30. For example, FY 2024 begins on July 1, 2023 and ends on June 30, 2024. FY 2027 starts on July 1, 2026 and ends on June 30, 2027.



# 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: PI 0017976 Garrard Avenue Improvements

Ms. Wang:

Chatham County is sponsoring the Garrard Avenue Improvement Project, PI #0017976, and Transportation Alternative (Y301) funds are requested 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 \$250,000. We appreciate the opportunity to work with CORE MPO to improve the transportation system in Chatham County.

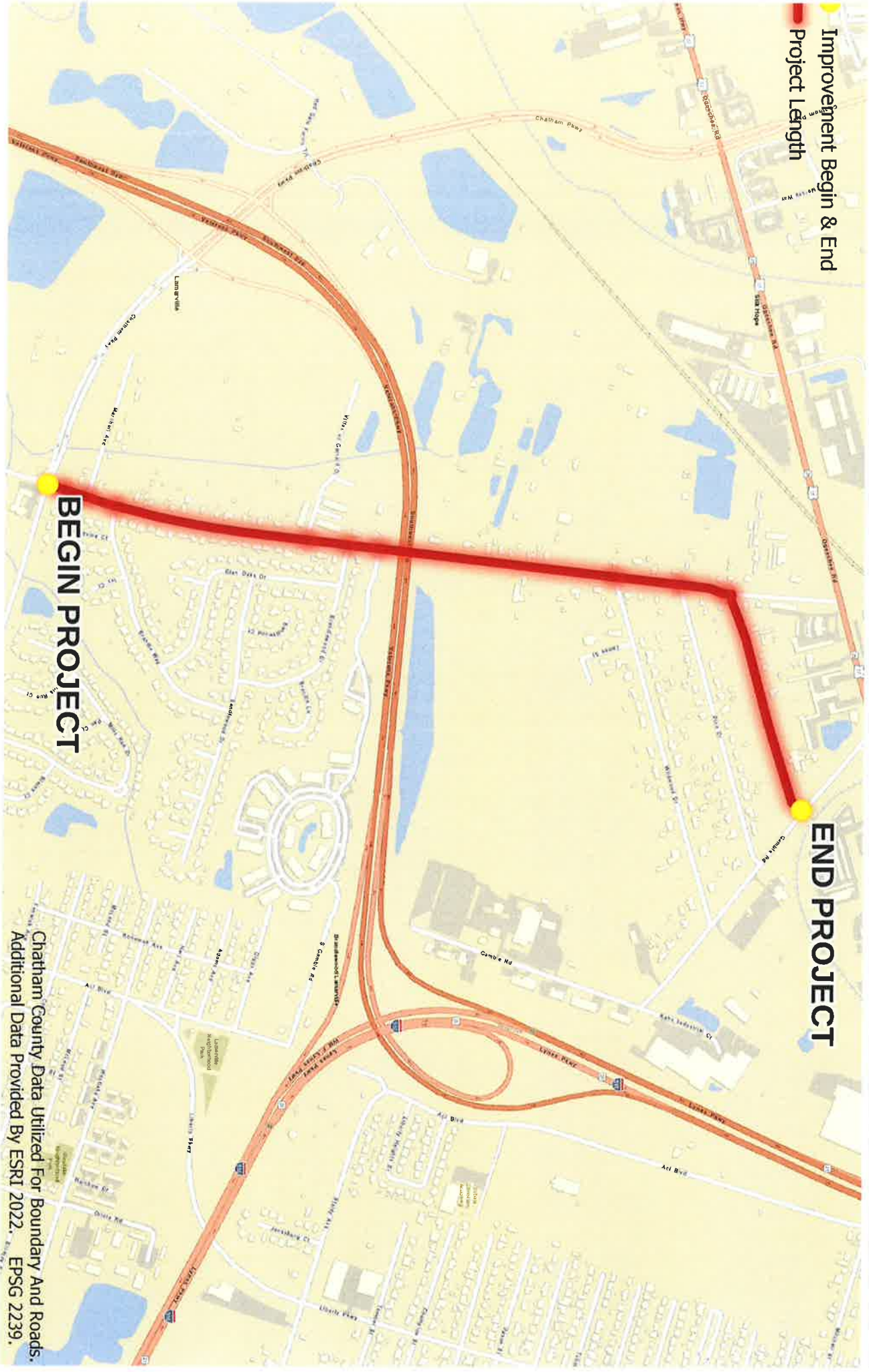
Thank-you,

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.  
County Engineer

PB

Improvement Begin & End  
Project Length

BEGIN PROJECT



Chatham County Data Utilized For Boundary And Roads.  
Additional Data Provided By ESRI 2022. EPSG 2239.

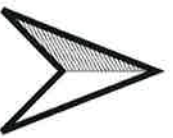
Prepared By:

Matt Gerig

Date: 09/22/2022



# Garrard Ave Improvement Project



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**UPDATED**

Garrard Avenue Improvement Project				P.I. #: 0017976		
<p><b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b> The Garrard Avenue Improvement Project proposes to construct operational and safety improvements for non-motorized and motorized roadway users from its intersection at Gamble Road to its intersection with Chatham Parkway, approximately 1.2 miles in length. This project will convert Garrard Avenue from a rural, two-lane roadway section without pedestrian improvements to a new two-lane, urban section with 5-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. The project will also install curb and gutter as well as stormwater and water quality improvements. The project will benefit the densely populated, lower income area where many residents do not have vehicles to get to their destinations.</p>				TIP #: 2020-TA-02		
				COUNTY: CHATHAM		
				PROJ. #:		
				FUND: Z301, Z230, Local		
				GDOT DISTRICT: 5		
TRAFFIC VOL. 2015 AADT: N/A		2040: N/A		CONG. DISTRICT: 1		
NO. OF LANES EXISTING: N/A		PLANNED: N/A		RC: CRC		
LOCAL ROAD #:		STATE/US ROAD #:		LENGTH (MI): 1.2		
<p><b>COMMENTS/REMARKS:</b> The project ranked #2 during the 2020 Z301 Call for Projects. Chatham County is the local sponsor. Chatham County was awarded \$280,000 of Z301 funds for preliminary engineering in FY 2021 and \$1,041,114 of Z301 funds for construction in FY 2024. The County will provide the required 20% match plus additional local funds needed. The County is using the local SPLOST funds for the right-of-way phase in FY 2023. The project ranked 3rd in the Z230 Call for Projects and was awarded \$800,000 for the ROW phase programmed in FY 2023 and \$2,958,885 for the CST phase programmed in FY 2024. Chatham County will provide the local match. The County also updated the PE cost estimate in FY 2021. <b>In April 2022 the project was awarded \$230,000 in released Z230 funds for the PE phase in FY 2022, and the County will provide the required match of \$57,500.</b></p>						
PROJECT PHASE	\$ SOURCE	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	TOTAL
PRELIM. ENGR.	Federal/Local	\$1,200,000	\$287,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,487,500
RIGHT-OF-WAY	Federal/Local	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
CONSTRUCTION	Federal/Local	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
<b>PROJECT COST</b>		<b>\$1,200,000</b>	<b>\$287,500</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>	<b>\$7,487,500</b>
FEDERAL COST		\$280,000	\$230,000	\$800,000	\$4,000,000	\$5,310,000
STATE COST		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LOCAL COST		\$920,000	\$57,500	\$200,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,177,500

**PROJECT LOCATION**

