



Carbon Reduction Program (Y601) Funds APPLICATION

SEPTEMBER 2025

Send the electronic copy
of the completed application by:

5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2025

to:

Subhashi Karunaratne, Special Projects Planner
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission
110 E. State Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Contact info:

912-651-1496
ksubhashi@thempc.org

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

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.
☒ Y601 ☒ Y230 ☒ Y301
- ☒ 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?

Carbon Reduction Program (Y601) Funds

September 2025 Call for Projects

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is conducting a competitive project selection process to award expected FY 2026 - 2030 Carbon Reduction Program (Y601) funds, provided through the act entitled Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, Pub. L. 117-58).

- **Expected Available Funds (subject to change, funding after 2026 contingent upon IIJA Continuing Resolution or CRP inclusion in future transportation legislation):**
 - FY 2026 = \$1,200,000 (federal portion)
 - FY 2027 = \$0 (federal portion)
 - FY 2028 = \$1,200,000 (federal portion)
 - FY 2029 = \$1,200,000 (federal portion)
 - FY 2030 = \$1,200,000 (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.

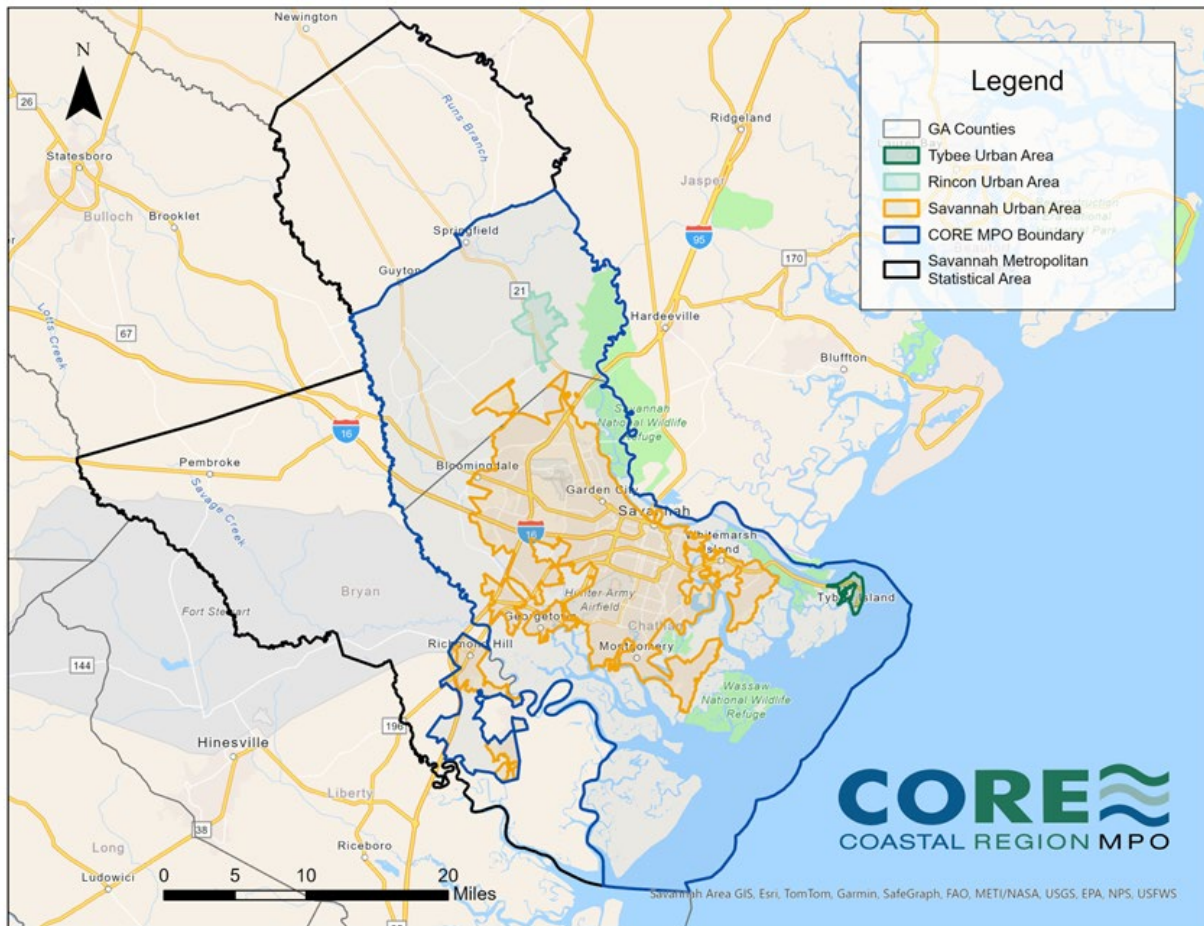
- **Federal Requirements**

Applicants should keep in mind that using the CRP 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 CRP funds can only be spent within the MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area which includes all of Chatham County and portions of Effingham County and Bryan County (see map on the next page).

CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area as approved by the Governor of Georgia in 2024



- **Projects, if awarded funds in FY 2026 and FY 2027, will be programmed in the CORE MPO's FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Awarded projects in FY 2027 will be carried over to the FY 2027 – 2030 TIP as well. FY 2028 – 2030 funds will build the prioritized waiting list for projects to be included in the FY 2027 – 2030 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 Carbon Reduction 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 Carbon Reduction Program Manual for information on project eligibility.**

- ☐ Innovative technologies and modes
- ☐ Operational efficiency improvements
- ☒ Sustainable infrastructure

Applicant Information		
Agency Name (i.e. agency that will manage implementation) Effingham County (County Engineering Services)		Date 10/7/2025
Street Address 804 South Laurel Street	City, State Springfield, GA	Zip Code 31329
Contact Person's Name Jonathan Hulme, P.E.	Title County Engineer	
Contact Person's Phone Number (912) 754-8080	Contact Person's Email Address jhulme@effinghamcounty.org	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) Jonathan Hulme, P.E.	Title County Engineer	

Project Overview		
Project Name Georgia Hi-Lo Trail Connector		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) This project proposes to design and construct a new multi-use trail segment within Effingham County as part of the larger Georgia Hi-Lo Trail, a 211 mile regional trail network that will ultimately connect Savannah to Athens. The Effingham County segment will extend approximately 10.8 miles through the Ebenezer Creek and Atlas Park area, linking planned trailheads, recreational areas, and community facilities while connecting to future extensions in Screven County to the north and Chatham County to the south.		
County (or counties) in which project is located Effingham County	County (or counties) in which project is located Effingham County	
Proposal Description Summary The Georgia Hi-Lo Trail Connector, Effingham County Segment will provide a 10.8-mile, 12-foot-wide paved multi-use path designed for pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized users. The corridor will connect key natural, recreational, and cultural destinations such as Ebenezer Creek, Atlas Park, and surrounding neighborhoods. This project represents a major investment in regional trail connectivity, supporting recreation, tourism, and alternative transportation options across multiple counties. The trail will meet ADA standards, include stabilized shoulders, drainage and grading improvements, and trailhead amenities such as signage, seating, and wayfinding markers. The Effingham County segment will serve as a critical link between existing and planned trail networks under the Georgia Hi-Lo Trail master plan. It will also tie into local trail and sidewalk systems identified in the Effingham County Transportation Master Plan (2025) and the County's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.		
Total Estimated Project Cost*	Federal Y230 Funds Requested	Local Match Available
\$7,420,000	\$5,936,000	\$1,484,000
<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)
Effingham County	SPLOST/TSPOLST

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

What agency will maintain the project after completion?

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

Y / ☒ / 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.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY WILL PROVIDE FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS. THE COUNTY ALREADY PROVIDES MAINTAINCE OF THE EXISTING ROADWAY WITHIN THE RIGHT OF WAY AND WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE.

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

RIGHT OF WAY WILL BE REQUIRED. THE GOAL IS TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO THE ADJACENT PROPERTIES.
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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	
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 Y601-funded	No. of Months
Design	12
Right of Way	9
Permitting	6
Construction	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
Effingham Master Transportation Plan	7/20/2025
Effingham Master Bike Pedestrian Plan	6/2025
Effingham SS4A Plan	8/2024

Please describe status of any non-Y601 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 Y601 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 Y601-funded work begins	Estimated completion date
Planning / Concept Development	Completed – July 2025
Environmental Screening (Preliminary)	Completed – July 2025
Utility Coordination	Ongoing – Complete by March 2026
Preliminary Engineering (PE)	Start: April 2026 → Complete: March 2027
Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition	Start: April 2027 → Complete: December 2027
Construction (CST)	Start: February 2028 → Complete: May 2029

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 safety, community benefit, mobility, hazard response, air quality co-benefits, implementation factors, potential to reduce carbon emissions, consumer savings, economic and workforce development? **(Please reference the CORE MPO Carbon Reduction Program Manual for project ranking criteria.)**

The Georgia Hi-Lo Trail Connector – Effingham County Segment will serve as a cornerstone of regional mobility, recreation, and economic development. This 10.8-mile multi-use trail will expand access to outdoor recreation, provide a safe and sustainable transportation option for residents, and connect Effingham County to a statewide trail network linking Savannah to Athens.

The project will create a continuous, ADA-compliant, 12-foot-wide trail that accommodates pedestrians, cyclists, and families while preserving the scenic and environmental value of the Ebenezer Creek and Atlas Park corridor. The new segment will provide safe, non-motorized access between neighborhoods, recreation areas, and regional destinations, eliminating pedestrian–vehicle conflicts along rural roadways and providing residents with a viable alternative to vehicle travel for short trips.

The Georgia Hi-Lo Trail will also serve as a major tourism and economic catalyst, supporting Effingham County’s goals for recreation-based economic development. By connecting parks, waterways, and cultural landmarks, the project will attract visitors, support local small businesses, and strengthen the region’s outdoor recreation economy.

Environmental sustainability and community sensitivity are central to the design. The trail alignment will follow existing public rights-of-way and natural contours to minimize grading and impacts to wetlands and tree cover. Drainage improvements and vegetative buffers will be integrated to manage stormwater and protect water quality.

This project advances the Effingham County Transportation Master Plan (2025) goals for multimodal connectivity and regional cooperation and directly supports the CORE MPO’s regional priorities for alternative transportation and safety. It also aligns with the intent of the Justice40 initiative by investing in equitable, accessible infrastructure that benefits residents across income levels.

Once complete, the Effingham County Roads Division will maintain the trail, ensuring long-term sustainability and community benefit. The project will connect local residents and visitors alike to nature, recreation, and economic opportunity, helping position Effingham County as a key link in Georgia’s statewide trail system.

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR

Jonathan Hulme
Signature (on hard copy)

10/7/2025
Date

Jonathan Hulme
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.
- To attach LAP certification record or agreement regarding LAP.

Budget Detail for Proposal										
Project Name: GA Hi-Lo Trail										
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		\$ 464,400.00	\$ 371,520.00	\$ 92,880.00	\$ 92,880.00	TSPLOST/ SPLOST				
ROW		\$ 928,800.00	\$ 743,040.00	\$ 185,760.00	\$ 185,760.00	TSPLOST/ SPLOST				
Utilities		\$ 696,600.00	\$ 557,280.00	\$ 139,320.00	\$ 139,320.00	TSPLOST/ SPLOST				
Construction		\$ 4,644,000.00	\$ 3,715,200.00	\$ 928,800.00	\$ 928,800.00	TSPLOST/ SPLOST				
Other activity					\$ 65,016.00	TSPLOST/ SPLOST				
Specify:		\$ 325,080.00	\$ 260,064.00	\$ 65,016.00						
Other activity										
Specify:										
Other activity										
Specify:										
Total Amounts		\$ 7,058,880.00	\$ 5,647,104.00	\$ 1,411,776.00	\$ 1,411,776.00					

*The GDOT fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. For example, FY 2027 starts on July 1, 2026 and ends on June 30, 2027.

Georgia HiLo TRAIL LOCATION MAP



DAMON RAHN
Chairman At Large

STEPHANIE JOHNSON
County Clerk



TIMOTHY J. CALLANAN
County Manager

EDWARD L. NEWBERRY, JR.
County Attorney

Effingham County Board of Commissioners

FORREST FLOYD
District 1

ROGER BURDETTE
District 2

JAMIE DELOACH
Vice-Chairman District 3

BETH HELMLY
District 4

PHIL KIEFFER
District 5

October 7, 2025

Ms. Subhashi Karunaratne
Special Projects Planner
CORE MPO
110 E. State Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Subject: Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) (Y601) Funds – Commitment of Stated Local Match for the GA Hi-Lo Trail Project

Dear Ms. Karunaratne,

The Effingham County Board of Commissioners is pleased to submit this request for Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) (Y601) funding for the GA Hi-Lo Trail Project.

Effingham County hereby confirms that TSPLOST and SPLOST funds are available to provide the required 20% local match in the amount of \$1,411,776 for the total project cost of \$7,058,880. The County respectfully requests federal Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) (Y601) Funds of \$5,647,104 to complete this project.

If you have any questions, please call Jonathan Hulme at (912) 754-8080.

Sincerely,

Damon Rahn
Chairman At Large
Effingham County Board of Commissioners



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E.,
Commissioner**
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 631-1000 Main Office

10/17/2025

To Whom it May Concern,

Effingham County has initiated the LAP Certification process. Jonathan Hulme has completed all five required training classes and is currently working on the application and supporting documents. The county's goal is to submit the package in November and be granted Full LAP Certification by January 2026.

Sincerely,

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

Katie Proctor

District Planning & Programming Liaison



District 5 Jesup
PO Box 610
Jesup, GA, 31598
912-530-4457 Office
912-424-9458 Mobile