



# Transportation Alternatives (Y301) Funds

## APPLICATION

SEPTEMBER 2025

**Send the electronic copy  
of the completed application by:**

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

**to:**

Asia Hernton, Transportation Planner  
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission  
110 E. State Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

**Contact info:**

912-651-1456  
herntona@thempc.org

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

## Transportation Alternatives (TA)

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.  
☒ Y301    ☒ Y230    ☒ Y601
- ☒ 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?

# Transportation Alternatives (Y301) 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 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Y301 funds, provided through the act entitled Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, Pub. L. 117-58).

- **Expected Available Funds:**
  - **FY 2026 = \$1,248,676 (federal portion)**
  - **FY 2027 = \$1,414,111 (federal portion)**
  - **FY 2028 = \$1,414,111 (federal portion)**
  - **FY 2029 = \$1,414,111 (federal portion)**
  - **FY 2030 = \$1,414,111 (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.

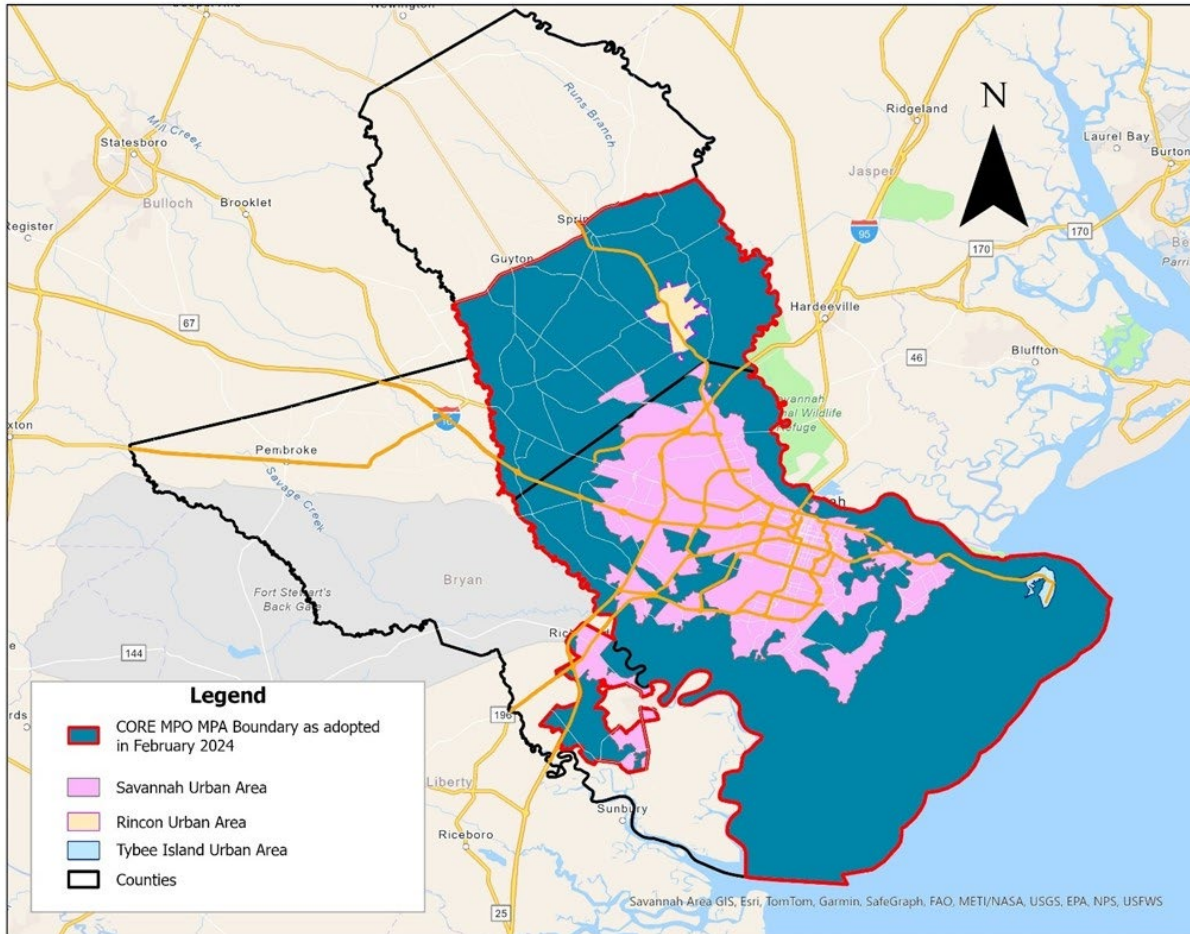
- **Federal Requirements**

Applicants should keep in mind that using the TA 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 TA 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 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
- ☐ Regional transportation authority
- ☐ Transit agency
- ☐ Natural resource or public land agencies
- ☐ School districts, local education agencies, or schools
- ☐ Tribal governments
- ☐ Other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation improvements that the State of Georgia determines to be eligible.
- ☐ Non-profit entities responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs.

## 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). **Please see CORE MPO Transportation Alternatives Manual for additional information.**

- ☒ 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.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized transportation users.
- ☐ Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
- ☐ 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.

- 
- ☐ 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.
- 
- ☐ Recreational trails under 23 USC 206
- 
- ☐ Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure-related project
- 
- ☐ Safe Routes to School (SRTS) non-infrastructure-related project
- 
- ☐ 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>                                                                                |                                                              |                   |
| Agency Name (i.e. agency that will manage implementation)<br>Effingham County (County Engineering Services) |                                                              | Date<br>10/7/2025 |
| Street Address<br>804 South Laurel Street                                                                   | City, State<br>Springfield, GA                               | Zip Code<br>31329 |
| Contact Person's Name<br>Jonathan Hulme, P.E.                                                               | Title<br>County Engineer                                     |                   |
| Contact Person's Phone Number<br>(912) 754-8080                                                             | Contact Person's Email Address<br>jhulme@effinghamcounty.org |                   |
| Project Manager's Name (if awarded)<br>Jonathan Hulme, P.E.                                                 | Title<br>County Engineer                                     |                   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                      |                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Project Overview</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                      |                                      |
| Project Name<br>Georgia Hi-Lo Trail Multi-Use Trail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                      |                                      |
| Project Location Description (please also attach a location map)<br>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 28 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<br>Effingham County                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | County (or counties) in which project is located<br>Effingham County |                                      |
| Proposal Description Summary<br><br>The Georgia Hi-Lo Trail Connector, Effingham County Segment will provide a 28mile, 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.<br>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.<br>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*<br>\$7,058,880                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Federal Y301Funds Requested<br>\$5,647,104                           | Local Match<br>Available \$1,411,776 |
| <b><i>*Please also be sure to fill out the Budget Detail Table at the end of this application.</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                      |                                      |

**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.

**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 Y301-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  | 7/2025 |
| Effingham Master Bike Pedestrian Plan | 6/2025 |
| Effingham SS4A Plan                   | 8/2024 |
|                                       |        |
|                                       |        |
|                                       |        |
|                                       |        |
|                                       |        |

**Please describe status of any non-Y301 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 Y301 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 Y301-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 |
|                                                                  |                                             |

**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, connectivity and accessibility, transit access, crash reductions, etc.? **(Please reference the CORE MPO Transportation Alternatives Program Manual for project ranking criteria.)**

The Georgia Hi-Lo Multi-Use Trail – Effingham County Segment will serve as a cornerstone of regional mobility, recreation, and economic development. This 28 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

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Jonathan Hulme</u>    | <u>10/7/2025</u> |
| Signature (on hard copy) | Date             |

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Jonathan Hulme</u> | <u>County Engineer</u> |
| Print Name            | 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                           | FY2026                                                       | \$ 464,400.00   | \$ 371,520.00                                                                                | \$ 92,880.00                                                        | \$ 92,880.00                      | TSPLOST/ SPLOST |          |          |          |          |
| ROW                          | FY2027                                                       | \$ 928,800.00   | \$ 743,040.00                                                                                | \$ 185,760.00                                                       | \$ 185,760.00                     | TSPLOST/ SPLOST |          |          |          |          |
| Utilities                    | FY2027                                                       | \$ 696,600.00   | \$ 557,280.00                                                                                | \$ 139,320.00                                                       | \$ 139,320.00                     | TSPLOST/ SPLOST |          |          |          |          |
| Construction                 | FY2028                                                       | \$ 4,644,000.00 | \$ 3,715,200.00                                                                              | \$ 928,800.00                                                       | \$ 928,800.00                     | TSPLOST/ SPLOST |          |          |          |          |
| Other activity<br>Specify:   | FY2028                                                       | \$ 325,080.00   | \$ 260,064.00                                                                                | \$ 65,016.00                                                        | \$ 65,016.00                      | TSPLOST/ SPLOST |          |          |          |          |
| Other activity<br>Specify:   |                                                              |                 |                                                                                              |                                                                     |                                   |                 |          |          |          |          |
| Other activity<br>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. Asia Hernton  
Transportation Planner  
CORE MPO  
110 E. State Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

Subject: Transportation Alternatives (TA) (Y301) Funds – Commitment of Stated Local Match for the GA Hi-Lo Trail Project

Dear Ms. Hernton,

The Effingham County Board of Commissioners is pleased to submit this request Transportation Alternatives (TA) (Y301) 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 Transportation Alternatives (TA) (Y301) Funds of \$5,647,104 (80%) 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