



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

APPLICATION

SEPTEMBER 2025

Send the electronic copy
of the completed application by:

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

to:

Wykoda Wang, Director of Transportation Administration
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission
110 E. State Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Contact info:

912-651-1466

wangw@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 | ☒ Y301 | ☒ 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? | |

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Urban Attributable (Y230) 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 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Urban Attributable (Y230) funds, provided through the act entitled Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, Pub. L. 117-58).

- **Expected Available Funds (subject to change):**
 - FY 2026 = \$19,000,000 (federal portion)
 - FY 2027 = \$4,000,000 (federal portion)
 - FY 2028 = \$4,000,000 (federal portion)
 - FY 2029 = \$4,000,000 (federal portion)
 - FY 2030 = \$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.

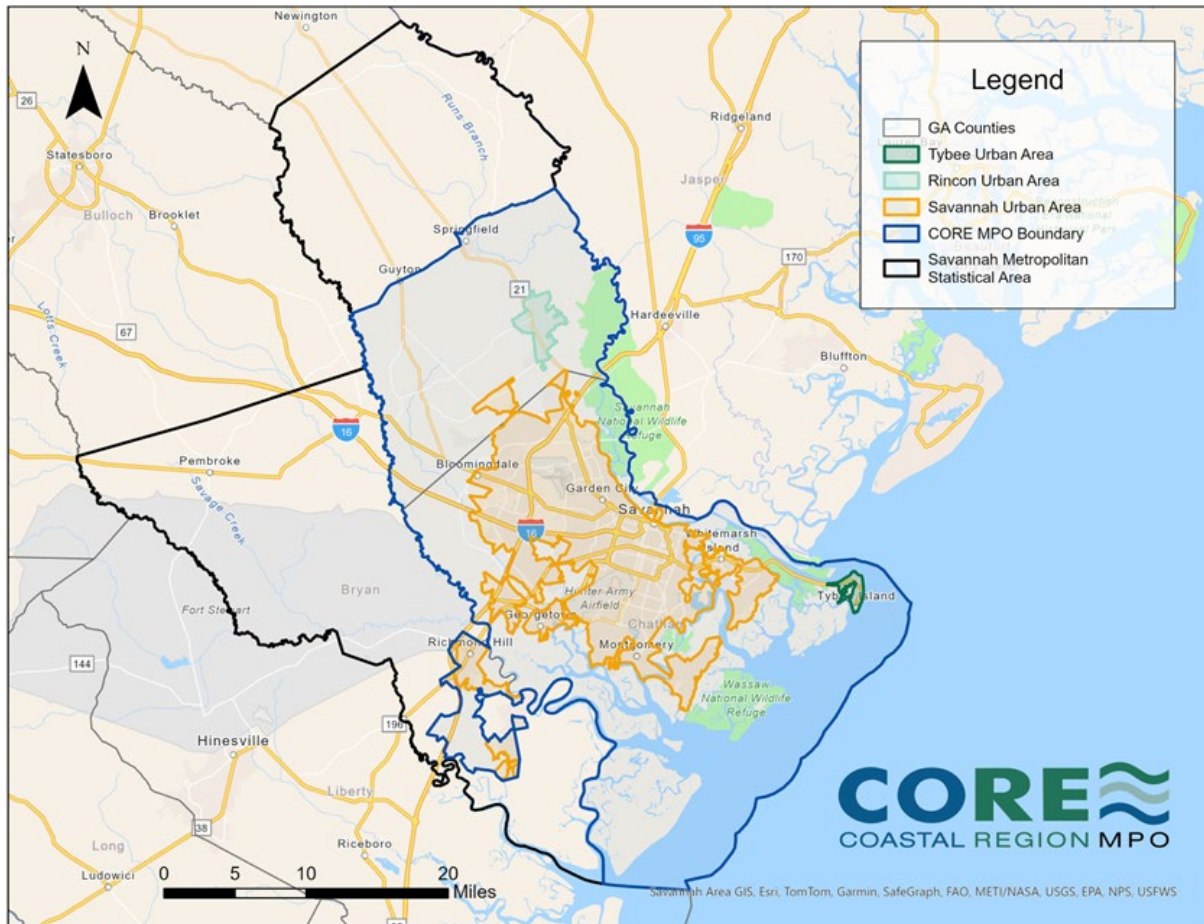
- **Federal Requirements**

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 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 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) 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	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located	
Proposal Description Summary The Georgia Hi-Lo Trail Connector, Effingham County Segment will provide a 28 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 \$7,420,000	Federal Y230 Funds \$5,936,000	Local Match Available \$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:***

What agency will maintain the project after completion?

Effingham County Board of Commissioners

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 COUNTY WILL MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO ADJACENT PARCELS.
EFFINGHAM COUNTY WILL MAINTAIN THE COMPLETED FACILITY AND CURRENTLY MAINTAINS THE EXISTING ROADWAY
RIGHT-OF-WAY.

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
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-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
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

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 Georgia Hi-Lo Trail Connector – 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

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	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 Specify:	FY2028	\$ 325,080.00	\$ 260,064.00	\$ 65,016.00	\$ 65,016.00	TSPLOST/ SPLOST				
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.

GDOT Freight Operations Program

Tailored to address freight-specific operational challenges, the GDOT Freight Operations Program is responsive to the needs of communities grappling with issues related to truck and freight rail activity. The program targets solutions such as improving turn lanes and enhancing signal timing at key intersections along freight-heavy routes. The program offers awards of up to \$2 million.

LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES

The following policies provide the primary local sources of funding for transportation improvements in Georgia.

Local Option Sales Tax (LOST)

An additional one-percent sales tax levied by jurisdictions upon approval by public referendum. This tax is applied to the purchase, sale rental, storage, use, or consumption of tangible personal property and related services. Typically, a portion of a local jurisdiction's LOST is used to fund transportation improvements. A LOST program must include a specific list of projects to be completed using the revenues.

Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) from the Transportation Investment Act (TIA)

This tax can be implemented upon approval by a public referendum to levy one-percent regional sales tax. Funds can be used for a specific list of projects.

Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST)

This is a one-percent sales tax that can be levied upon approval by public referendum. These funds can only be used for transportation and is distributed among the county and cities based on population.

PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATION

The MTP analysis process determined planning-level cost estimates for all projects identified in this plan. Baseline estimates were developed from the following unit costs and the characteristics of proposed improvements. These estimates were derived by escalating unit costs from the Atlanta Regional Commission Estimation Tool.

Based on the overall construction costs, the following percentages were applied to derive planning-level cost estimates for other phases:

- Preliminary Engineering (PE): 10% of Construction Costs
- Right-of-Way Acquisition (ROW): 20% of Construction Costs
- Utility Coordination (UTL): 15% of Construction Costs
- Construction management (CMT): 7% of Construction Costs

In addition, a 15% contingency was applied to cost estimates (15% of construction costs). While these project cost estimates were derived in 2024 dollars, costs may need to be adjusted to account for inflation in the year of expenditure for programming of future costs for the County or MPO. An estimated annual escalation of 3% is recommended.

Table 4-20. Planning Level Unit Cost Estimates

Improvement Type	Assumptions	Unit	Estimated Construction Unit Cost	Estimated Total Unit Cost
Roadway Widening	One lane in each direction. Does not include median.	LM	\$3,000,000	\$5,010,000
Roadway Widening with Median	One lane in each direction (with raised or depressed median).	LM	\$5,000,000	\$8,350,000
New Roadway Alignment	One lane in each direction. Doubled for four lane road.	LM	\$2,500,000	\$4,175,000
Left Turn Lane	Per 250' turn bay.	EA	\$200,000	\$334,000
Right Turn Lane	Per 150' turn bay.	EA	\$171,000	\$285,570
Single Lane Roundabout		EA	\$2,500,000	\$4,175,000
Multi-Lane Roundabout		EA	\$3,500,000	\$5,845,000
Add RCUT on Two-Lane Road		EA	\$1,000,000	\$1,670,000
Add RCUT on Multi-Lane Road		EA	\$500,000	\$835,000
Roundabout Bypass Lane	Per 250' turn bay.	EA	\$200,000	\$334,000
Repaving	*Assumes milling and inlay for 2-lane roadway section with restriping.	LM	\$250,000	\$417,500
Miscellaneous Striping Improvements	One lane in each direction.	LM	\$10,000	\$16,700
Sidewalk	Urban section with 5' sidewalk, curb and gutter.	LM	\$430,000	\$718,100
Multiuse path	Urban section with 10' MUP, curb and gutter.	LM	\$430,000	\$718,100
Open Drainage (Ditch)	Modify ditch to provide open drainage system with 20 ft ditch	LM	\$300,000	\$501,000
Curb and Gutter with Piped Drainage System	Curb and Gutter on both sides of road with Piped drainage	LM	\$1,000,000	\$1,670,000
Detention Pond		EA	\$75,000	\$125,250
Traffic Signal	Mast arm configuration	EA	\$350,000	\$584,500
Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)	Double-sided RRFB assemblies with push button detection.	EA	\$30,000	\$50,100
Signal Modification	Modifications to add signal heads, and/or pedestrian signals with no modifications to poles or vehicle detectors.	EA	\$20,000	\$33,400
Stop Control		EA	\$5,000	\$13,945
Bridge Replacement	150 ft x 50 ft bridge	EA	\$1,125,000	1,878,750
Right In- Right Out Driveway Island		EA	\$50,000	\$83,500
Unpaved Shoulder	Grade and add material to create a 6 ft shoulder with 4 ft additional clear zone beyond pavement.	LM	\$80,000	\$133,600
Median Break		EA	\$50,000	\$83,500
Bike Lanes	4 ft bike lanes on both sides of the road with repaving with no curb modifications	LM	\$575,000	\$960,250

Improvement Type	Assumptions	Unit	Estimated Construction Unit Cost	Estimated Total Unit Cost
Bike Lanes with curb modification	4 ft bike lanes on both sides of the road with repaving with curb modifications	LM	\$850,000	\$1,419,500
Rural Freight Upgrades <3,000 ADT	Widen 2 lanes by 2 ft each with 3' shoulder and 3:1 transition to ditch.	LM	\$315,000	\$526,050
Lane Widening	Widen 2 lanes by 2 ft each with repaving without additional shoulder improvement.	LM	\$475,000	\$793,250
Freight Upgrades to Provide Major Collector Cross-Section	Widen 2 lanes by 2 to 4 ft each and provide 6 ft unpaved shoulder with 10 ft clearzone buffer which can include ditch.	LM	\$625,000	\$1,043,750

Note: the unit costs above are Planning Level Costs, based on information on similar project, and experience of the Pond Design and planning team and input from cost estimate sources such as the GDOT Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) tool and Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) costing spreadsheet.

*Total unit cost includes PE, ROW, Utility coordination, and construction management (see factors on page 4-28).

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. Wykoda Wang
Director of Transportation Administration
CORE MPO
110 E. State Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Subject: Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Attributable (Y230) Funds – Local Match Commitment for the GA Hi-Lo Trail Project

Dear Ms. Wang,

The Effingham County Board of Commissioners is pleased to submit this request for STBG Y230 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 STBG Y230 funding of \$5,647,104 (80%) to complete this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Hulme, County Engineer, 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