



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.

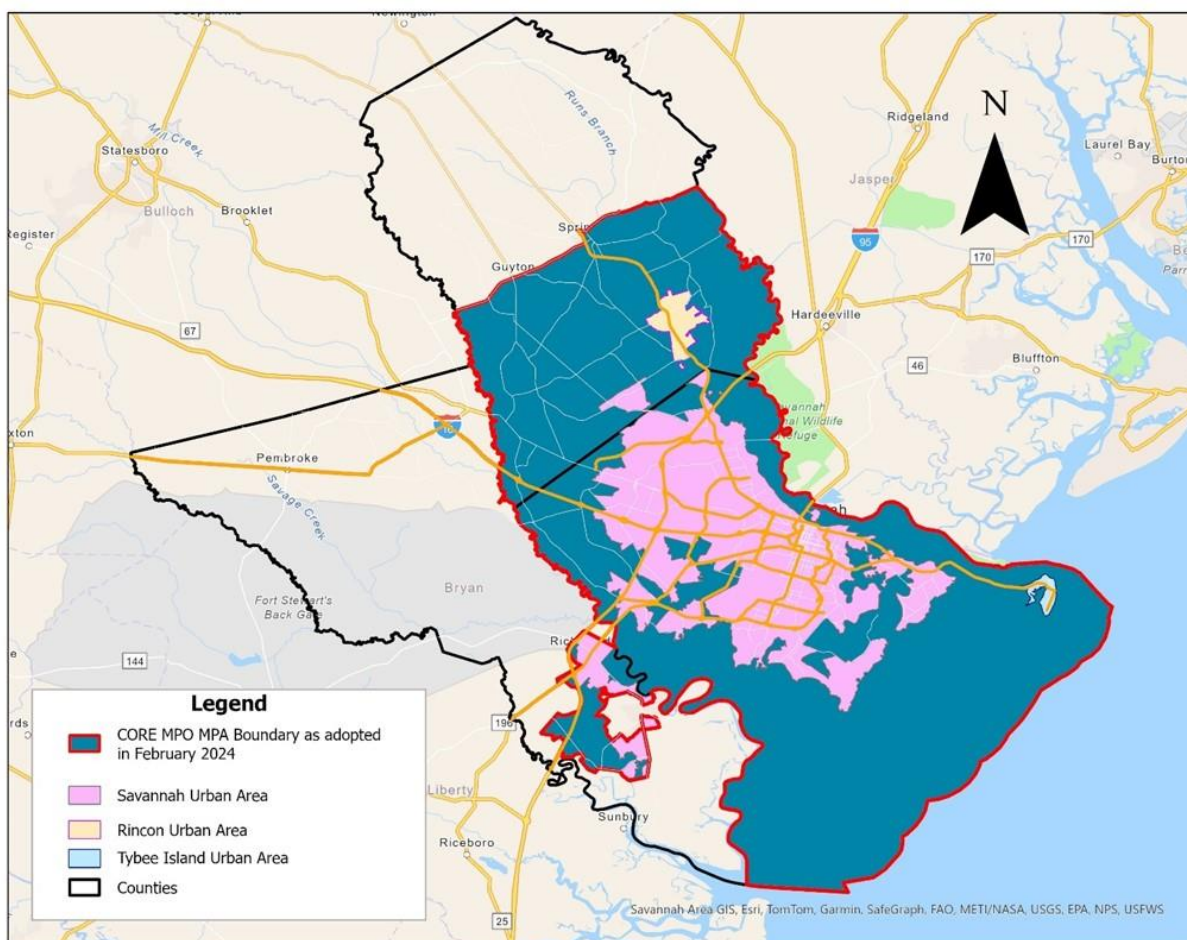
- **Federal Requirements**

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-cased 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.

Applicant Information		
Agency Name (i.e. agency that will manage implementation) Chatham County		Date 10/09/2025
Street Address 124 Bull Street	City, State Savannah, Georgia	Zip Code 31401
Contact Person's Name Damon Rice	Title Civil Engineer I	
Contact Person's Phone Number (912) 652-7819	Contact Person's Email Address darice@chathamcounty.org	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) Damon Rice	Title Civil Engineer I	

Project Overview		
Project Name Johnny Mercer Blvd Pedestrian Improvements		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) Johnny Mercer BLVD roadway from US-80 to Turner's Rock RD		
County (or counties) in which project is located Chatham County	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located N/A	
Proposal Description Summary The Johnny Mercer Pedestrian Improvements will construct operational and safety improvements for bicycles, and pedestrians from the US-80 to Turners Rock Road. The project length is 2.2 miles. The project will improve Johnny Mercer Boulevard by adding a five foot concrete sidewalk and a multi-use path. All construction will be in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Pedestrian infrastructure at intersections will be updated for safety. This portion of Johnny Mercer Boulevard serves 3 schools, public library, community center, religious institutions and mixed socioeconomic housing communities.		
Total Estimated Project Cost* \$ 8,750,000	Federal Y301 Funds Requested \$ 7,000,000	Local Match Available \$ 1,750,000
<i>*Please also be sure to fill out the Budget Detail Table at the end of this application.</i>		

Who is providing the local match?

Name of Agency or Organization	Source (e.g. particular CIP fund)
Chatham County	Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)

Please attach a letter signed by either your governing board or an official who can commit to the stated local match.

Has your agency managed and completed other federal-aid transportation projects before? (Choose one)

- ☐ 0 completed federal-aid projects
- ☐ 1 completed federal-aid project
- ☐ 2 completed federal-aid projects
- ☐ 3 or more completed federal-aid projects

Please list as many as three federal-aid projects completed by your agency, ***preferably for projects that are similar to your proposal:***

P.I. No.	Project Name	Sponsor's Project Manager

What agency will maintain the project after completion?

If a maintenance agreement is necessary, has it been executed? (Chose one)
If yes, please attach the agreement.

Y / N / **(NA)**

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.

Will your project require purchase(s) or easement(s) for right-of-way (Choose one)

☒ Y / N / Maybe

Additional information:

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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	
Contact Name	Contact Phone
Contact Email:	
Status of Agreement	

Organization #2	
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
Preliminary Engineering	30
ROW	16
Construction	22

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
N/A	

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
N/A	

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.)**

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR


Signature (on hard copy)


Date

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.
Print Name

County Engineer
Title

Please remember:

- To fill out the Detailed Budget Table, to the extent applicable, on the following page.
- To attach a letter from your governing board or other official who can commit the agency to the stated local match.
- To attach a Project Location Map.
- To attach information showing the Basis of your Cost Estimate.
- To attach LAP certification record or agreement regarding LAP.

Budget Detail for Proposal										
Project Name: Johnny Mercer Blvd Pedestrian Improvements										
Activity	Desired Fiscal Year for TIP Programming (GDOT Fiscal Year) *	Total Estimate	Requested CORE MPO Y301 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	2027	1,506,500	1,205,200	301,300	301,300	SPLOST				
ROW	2029	1,248,500	998,800	249,700	249,700	SPLOST				
Utilities										
Construction	2030	5,995,000	4,796,000	1,199,000	1,199,000	SPLOST				
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Total Amounts		8,750,000	7,000,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	SPLOST				
Please use this area to explain whether other grants or sources (not already shown above) are dedicated either to the proposed phase or to future phases, of your project.										

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



AGENDA ITEM: 10.4

AGENDA DATE: October 03, 2025

TO: Chairman and Members of the Board
THRU: Michael A Kaigler, County Manager
FROM: Suzanne Cooler, County Engineer

Michael A. Kaigler

Suzanne Cooler

ISSUE:

Request Board approval to submit a Transportation Alternative (TA) Y301, Carbon Reduction Program (Y601), Surface and Transportation Block (Y230) Grant application to the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) for the Johnny Mercer Blvd Pedestrian Improvement Project in the amount of \$8,750,000 for Preliminary Engineering, Right of Way, and Construction for FY 2029. (NOTE: Local match in the amount of \$1,750,000 will be required.) [Districts: 1 & 4.]

BACKGROUND:

Johnny Mercer Boulevard is a minor arterial roadway with little pedestrian accommodations. This project will consider non-motorized transportation improvements on Johnny Mercer Boulevard from US-80 to Turner's Rock Road.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. This portion of the Johnny Mercer Boulevard corridor serves residential neighborhoods, schools, and churches. A need for pedestrian infrastructure has been identified to improve safety and accessibility. Sidewalks and paths will reduce the risks associated with pedestrians walking along the roadway. The proposed project will address these needs while also improving safety for all road users and enhancing drainage quality.
2. This project will construct a 2.2-mile shared-use path and sidewalk to enhance both sides of Johnny Mercer Boulevard.
3. Staff has prepared a Y301, Y230, and Y601 Grant application for \$8,750,000 for submittal to the CORE MPO. If awarded, these funds will require a local match of \$1,750,000. Funding applications are due on October 10, 2025.
4. Staff is applying for this project for fiscal year 2029.

BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:

1.4.2.4. Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

FUNDING:

Should the grant be awarded, local match funds are programmed on the County's SPLOST VIII project list for sidewalks and trails.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approve to submit a Surface Transportation Block Grant(Y230), Transportation Alternatives (Y301), and Carbon Reduction Program (Y601) Grant application for Johnny Mercer Blvd Pedestrian Improvement Project to the CORE MPO in the amount of \$8,750,000 for preliminary engineering, right-of-way, and construction costs, and have the chairman execute the required documents for the application.
2. Do not approve the grant application.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

It is consistent with Board Policy to approve all grant applications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commissioners adopt alternative No. 1.

Letter for JMB

JMB Location Map

Suzanne Cooler	Completed	09/26/2025 10:35 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Tara Jennings	Skipped	09/25/2025 9:28 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Suzanne Cooler	Completed	09/26/2025 10:34 AM
Leydy Espada-Arango	Completed	09/26/2025 11:00 AM
Robin Panther	Completed	09/25/2025 10:44 AM
Robin Panther	Completed	09/25/2025 10:46 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Vicki Center	Completed	09/29/2025 9:20 AM
Linda Cramer	Skipped	09/25/2025 9:29 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Deana Brooks	Completed	09/24/2025 2:29 PM
Nathaniel Panther	Completed	09/24/2025 2:36 PM
Tara Jennings	Completed	09/24/2025 3:21 PM
Leydy Espada-Arango	Skipped	09/25/2025 9:30 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Linda Cramer	Completed	09/29/2025 2:15 PM
Vicki Center	Skipped	09/25/2025 9:29 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Danielle Hillery	Completed	09/30/2025 9:57 AM
Michael A. Kaigler	Completed	09/30/2025 3:47 PM
Board of Commissioners	Completed	10/03/2025 9:30 AM



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

October 10, 2025

Ms. Wykoda Wang
Director of Transportation Administration
Coastal Region MPO
110 State Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Subject: Johnny Mercer Boulevard Pedestrian Improvements

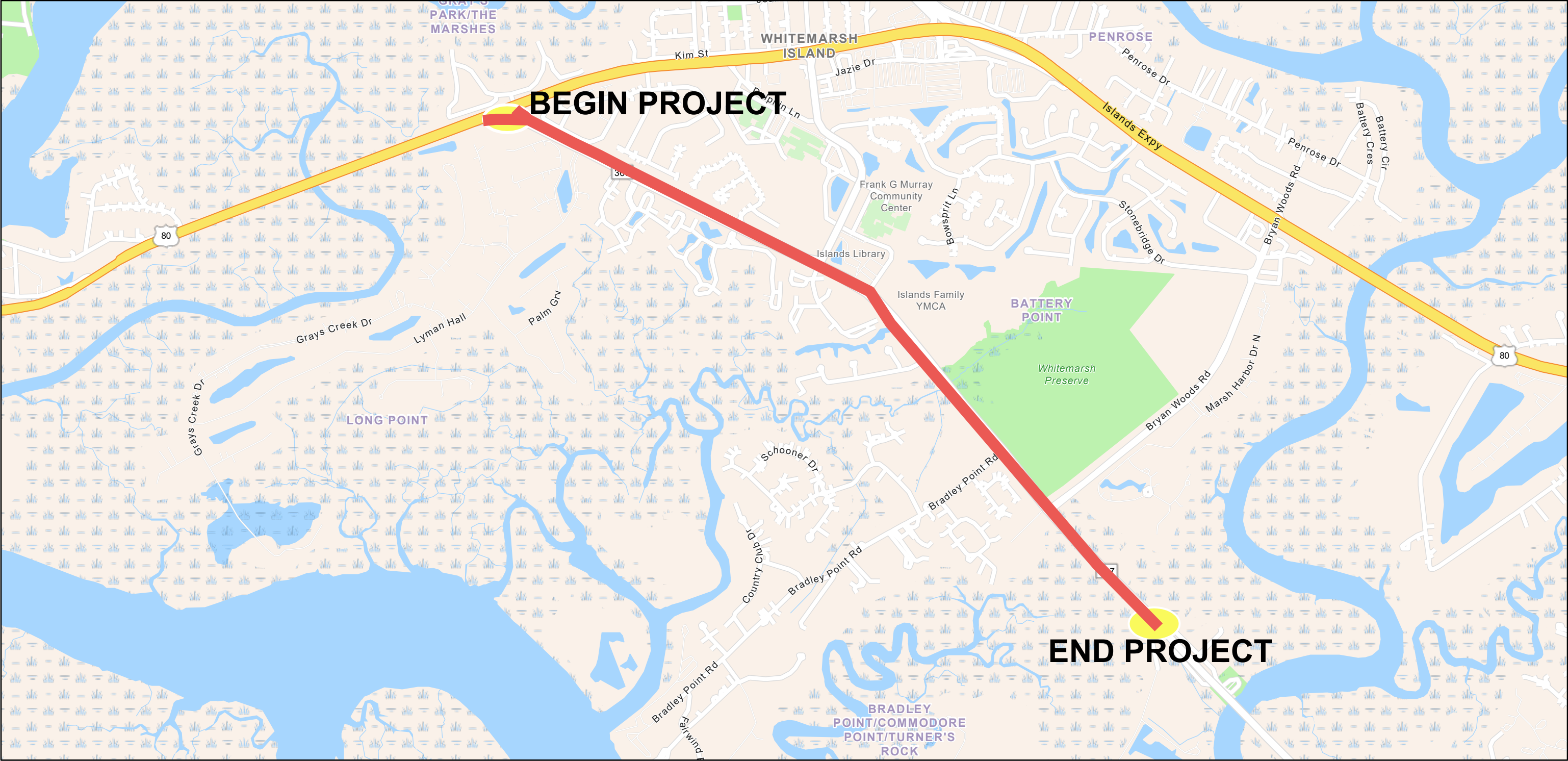
Dear Ms. Wang:

Chatham County is submitting a funding application for the subject project for Surface Transportation Block Grant (Y230), Transportation Alternative (Y301) and Carbon Reduction Program (Y601) funds through the CORE MPO 2025 Call for Projects. On October 3, 2025, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved the submission of this application and confirmed that Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds are available to provide the required local match of \$1,750,000. We appreciate the opportunity to work with CORE MPO to improve the transportation system in Chatham County.

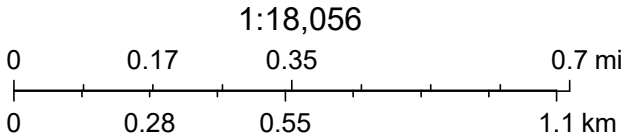
Sincerely,

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.
County Engineer

Johnny Mercer Blvd Pedestrian Improvements



9/23/2025, 10:03:39 AM



Esri Community Maps Contributors, Savannah Area GIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

Johnny Mercer Blvd Pedestrian Improvements

Cost Estimates

Utilized GDOT's Cost Estimate Appendix

Preliminary Engineering Cost Estimate

Category	Estimate
Concept Preparation	200,000
Traffic/Env/Geo Studies	120,000
Preliminary Design	450,000
Right of Way Plans	250,000
Final Design	249,500
Bid Preperation	100,000
Subtotal	\$ 1,369,500.00
10% contingency	\$ 137,000.00
Total Estimated Cost	\$ 1,506,500.00

Right of Way Cost Estimate

Category	Estimate
Right of Way	250,000
Easements	180,000
Improvments	270,000
Consequential Damages	200,000
Other Costs	235,000
Subtotal	\$ 1,135,000.00
10% contingency	\$ 113,500.00
Total Estimated Cost	\$ 1,248,500.00

Construction Cost Estimate

Category	Estimate
Traffic Control	200,000
Grading Complete	1,600,000
Curb and gutter	500,000
Erosion Control	250,000
Water Quality	200,000
Drainage	50,000
Sidewalk	850,000
Multi-Use Path	1,300,000
Lighting	300,000
Sign/Marking	200,000
Subtotal	\$ 5,450,000.00
10% contingency	\$ 545,000.00
Total Estimated Cost	\$ 5,995,000.00



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

Date: 7/9/2025

Mr. Nathaniel Panther, P.E.
Assistant County Engineer
Chatham County
124 Bull Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

RE: Local Administered Project (LAP) Certification, CA-Certification Acceptance

Dear Mr. Panther,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that Chatham County has been recertified to administer federal-aid projects for a period of five (5) years, from 7/9/2025 until 9/30/2030. As specified in the agreement, the local public agency agrees to adhere to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Local Administered Project Manual for the local administration of Federal-aid projects. The "Person in Responsible Charge" accepts the following responsibilities:

- Ensures that all applicable Federal and State regulations are followed on the project and have the responsibility, authority, and resources to manage the project accordingly.
- Serves as agency point of contact for issues or inquiries concerning the project and certification.
- Performs regular maintenance of records with an adequate filing system is mandatory and stored on-site.
- Performance measures are tracked and reported with timely responses for all requests.

Please note, as specified in the LAP Manual, the government may lose certification status or have delegation authority reduced if found to be in non-compliance through project manager reviews, final project inspection, changes in qualification of local government staff, and state or federal audits. In addition, the local government may be required to reimburse the Federal Highway Administration for federal-aid payments previously received on the project.

If you have any questions, please contact Ja'Nece Gibson, LAP Program Manager at (404)532-0076.

Sincerely,

Derrick Brown,
Program Control Administrator

cc: Malik Al-Kush, Local Administered Project Coordinator
Ja'Nece Gibson, Local Administered Project Program Manager
Katie Proctor, District Five District Planning & Programming Liaison
Kimberly Nesbitt, State Program Delivery Engineer
Albert Shelby, Director of Program Delivery

GDOT – LAP Certification Committee

The GDOT – LAP Certification Committee has evaluated the completed statement of qualifications provided by the requesting Local Public Agency (LPA) along with the Department's current records and recommends the following:

X	Approval of full administration of all project work types by the LPA, subject to satisfactory performance and no change in stated qualifications. Comments:
	Denied – Approval pending the provision of supplemental information. The LPA qualification package was lacking the following information necessary to make a determination:

Name	Title	Office	Phone	Email	Training
Malik Al-Kush/ Ja'Nece Gibson	LAP Coordinator/ LAP Program Manager	Program Control	404-631-1830/ 404-532-0076	malkush@dot.ga.gov/ jgibson@dot.ga.gov	LAP & PDP
Spencer Lord	Asst. Chief Procurement Officer	Procurement	404-631-1434	slord@dot.ga.gov	Procurement
Tiffany Robinson	State Local Government ROW Coordinator	Right-of-Way	404-347-0145	trobenson@dot.ga.gov	ROW
Byron Browning/Tara Jackson	Title VI/Environmental Justice Specialist	Equal Employment Opportunity	404-631-1497/ 404-631-1272	bbrowning@dot.ga.gov tjackson@dot.ga.gov	Title VI

GDOT Local Administered Project Certification Committee (LAPCC)

Derrick Brown, Program Control
Malik Al-Kush, Program Control
Kimberly Nesbitt, Program Delivery
Abdel Koundaba, Utilities
Tiffany Robinson, Right-of-Way
Spencer Lord, Procurement
Ja'Nece Gibson, Program Control

Eric Duff, Environmental Services
Jacob Walker, Materials & Testing
Lenicia Rogers-Lattimore, Construction
District Planning & Programming Liaisons
Neosha Lawhorn, FHWA
Byron Browning, EEO
Josh Nix, Audits



7/9/2025

Derrick Brown, Program Control Administrator

Date