



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.

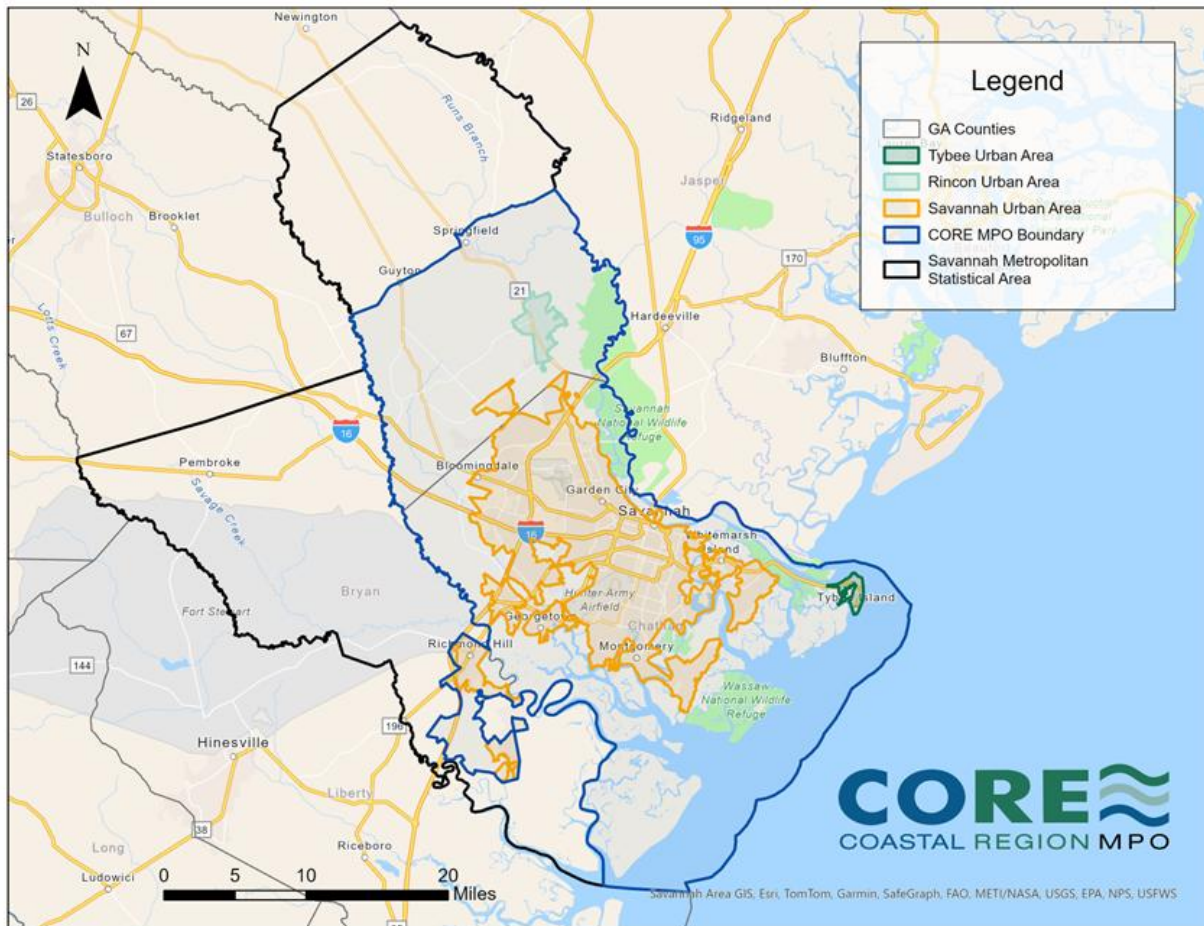
- **Federal Requirements**

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 (if different from agency that will manage implementation) Chatham County		1. Total Project Cost \$6,250,000 \$5,000,000
Street Address 124 Bull Street	City, State Savannah, Ga	2. Start Date 10/10/2025 Zip Code 31401
Contact Person's Name Deana Brooks	Title Senior Transportation Engineer	
Contact Person's Phone Number 912-652-7806	Contact Person's Email Address dbrooks@chathamcounty.org	
Project Manager's Name (if awarded) Deana Brooks	Title Senior Transportation Engineer	

Project Overview		
Project Name President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination		
Project Location Description (please also attach a location map) E. President Street at Truman Parkway Interchange		
County (or counties) in which project is located Chatham	City (or cities), if any, in which project is located Savannah	
Proposal Description Summary The President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination Study completed in March 2025 recommends advancing the Green-T Trumpet Interchange concept to grade separate President Street and create a new interchange with Truman Parkway. The project concept is attached. The concept is designed to widen President Street to six lanes, accommodate multi-modal and pedestrian features. The preliminary engineering will look at the environmental and engineering phases to address historic, archaeological, and ecological considerations.		
Total Estimated Project Cost* \$ 6,250,000	Federal Y601 Funds Requested \$ 5,000,000	Local Match Available \$ 1,250,000
*Please also be sure to fill out the Budget Detail Table at the end of this application.		

Who is providing the local match?

Name of Agency or Organization	Source (e.g. particular CIP fund)
Chatham County	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
0019012	President Street Railroad Elimination Study	Deana Brooks
0019076	Garrard Avenue Improvement Project	Deana Brooks
0017515	I-16 @ SR 17	Nathaniel Panther

What agency will maintain the project after completion?

City of Savannah

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

Y / ☒ / 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.

This project includes a signal upgrade and potentially lighting. This project will eliminate one traffic signal and railroad crossing alarms. Operational funds will come from the maintenance and operation budget of the jurisdiction the final project is in. GDOT sites the annual cost of a traffic signal to be \$5,000.

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

Additional right-of-way will be needed, but is not included in this requested project phase.
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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	
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
Preliminary Engineering	30

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
Study incl. concept and cost est.	March 2025

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
Request for Qualifications	April 2026

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 President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination Study, completed in March 2025, recommends advancing the Green-T Trumpet Interchange concept to grade separate President Street and create a new interchange with Truman Parkway. The proposed design will widen President Street to six lanes and include multi-modal and pedestrian accommodations to improve safety and connectivity for all users. The project is identified as a priority under the City of Savannah and Chatham County SPLOST program and appears in Cost Band Two of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

President Street is one of only two major routes connecting the island communities of Whitmarsh, Wilmington, and Tybee to mainland Georgia. It carries an average of 27,170 vehicles per day, while Truman Parkway carries 17,410 vehicles per day. The nearby Savannah and Old Fort (SVHO) railroad yard creates substantial delays as trains frequently block the crossing—up to 85 minutes of total delay each day. The proposed grade separation would eliminate these delays, improving reliability for more than 44,000 daily travelers and ensuring uninterrupted access for emergency services.

This corridor serves an important industrial area, with businesses reporting 445,000 annual truck trips in 2023. Reducing rail-related congestion will directly enhance freight mobility, support the regional port economy, and reduce vehicle emissions from idling. Between 2018 and 2022, the corridor experienced 1,648 crashes, including 399 with reported injuries, underscoring the urgent need for safety improvements.

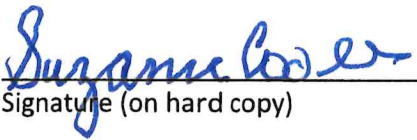
The project area is also designated as a high-poverty community, highlighting the need for equitable transportation investment. The addition of sidewalks, a shared-use path, and improved transit facilities will provide safer and more accessible connections to nearby destinations such as Andrea B. Williams Elementary School and the W.W. Law Branch Library, both located within one mile.

Environmental and resiliency considerations are integral to the project. According to NOAA and NHC mapping, this area is susceptible to storm surge during Category 1 hurricane events. The preliminary engineering phase will evaluate design alternatives that improve drainage, elevate critical infrastructure, and minimize impacts to nearby wetlands and cultural resources. This phase will also address historic, archaeological, and ecological requirements to ensure full NEPA compliance.

The President Street and Truman Parkway Interchange Improvement Project will relieve congestion, improve safety, strengthen freight movement, and expand equitable access to jobs and essential services. Advancing this project through preliminary engineering will move a long-identified regional priority closer to construction—creating a more resilient, efficient, and inclusive transportation network for the greater Savannah area.

Project Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR


Signature (on hard copy)


Date

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.
Print Name

County Engineer
Title

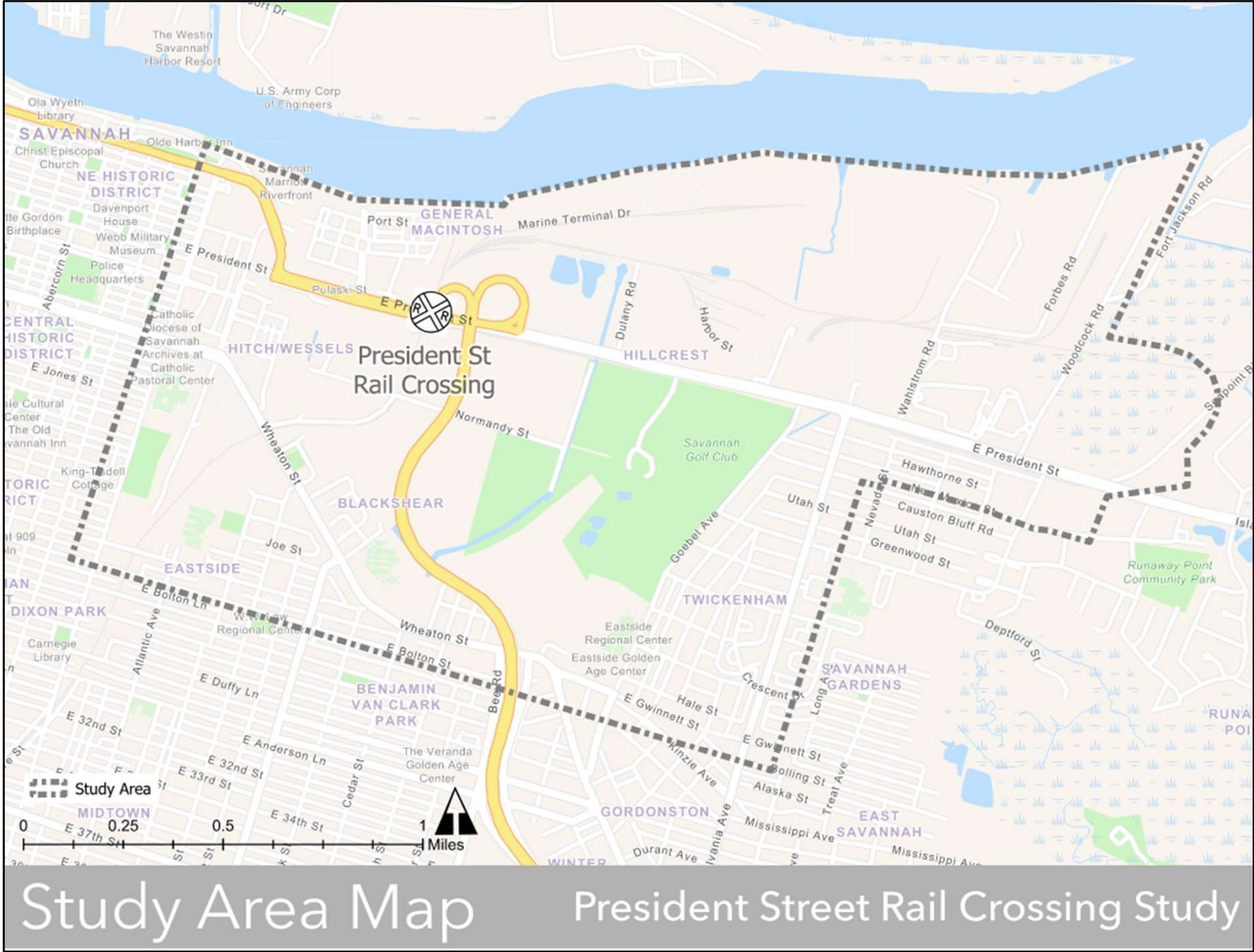
Please remember:

- 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:										
Activity	Desired Fiscal Year for TIP Programming (GDOT Fiscal Year) *	Total Estimate	Requested CORE MPO Y601 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	2026	6,250,000	5,000,000	1,250,000						
ROW		12,000,000								
Utilities		5,000,000								
Construction		56,000,000								
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Other activity Specify:										
Total Amounts		79,250,000	5,000,000	1,250,000						
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. Chatham County is only requesting support for the Preliminary Engineering at this time. Due to the size and scale of this project, Chatham County anticipates exploring additional funding sources for right-of-way, utilities, and construction.										

*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.

STUDY AREA



Chatham
County
GEORGIA



President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination

Budget Justification

The cost estimate was derived from the study completed March 2025. Please see the relevant page attached. The project described is alternative 3.



Table 10 below contains the necessary input parameters and their values used in the cost-benefit calculations shown above.

Table 10: Cost-Benefit Parameters and Values

General Parameters	Value
Discount Rate	7%
Fuel Price (\$/gallon)	2.40
Fuel Economy (miles per gallon)	18.03
Value of automobile travel (\$/hour)	13.75
Value of truck travel (\$/hour)	72.65
Parameters specific to this project	
Percent trucks	9%
No. of working days in a year	250
Hours of AM Peak	2.5
Hours of Noon Peak	1.5
Hours of PM Peak	3.25
Operational Design Life (years)	20

The estimated project costs for each alternative were also included for preliminary engineering, right-of-way, utility, and construction costs in year 2024 dollars and are provided below in Table 11.

Table 11: Estimated Costs

Costs	Estimate	
	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Preliminary Engineering	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 6,250,000
Right of Way	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 12,000,000
Utility	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Construction	\$ 93,000,000	\$ 56,000,000
Total	\$ 125,000,000	\$ 79,250,000

The benefit-cost ratio calculation process involves monetizing the delay savings determined from the VISSIM model and comparing them between the No-Build and Build scenarios using the equations in Figure 35 with the above parameter values as follows:

1. Delay Calculation – Network delay is calculated by multiplying the number of vehicles served by the delay per vehicle (sec)⁹. Separate delay calculations were made for the a.m., noon, and p.m. peak periods being analyzed.

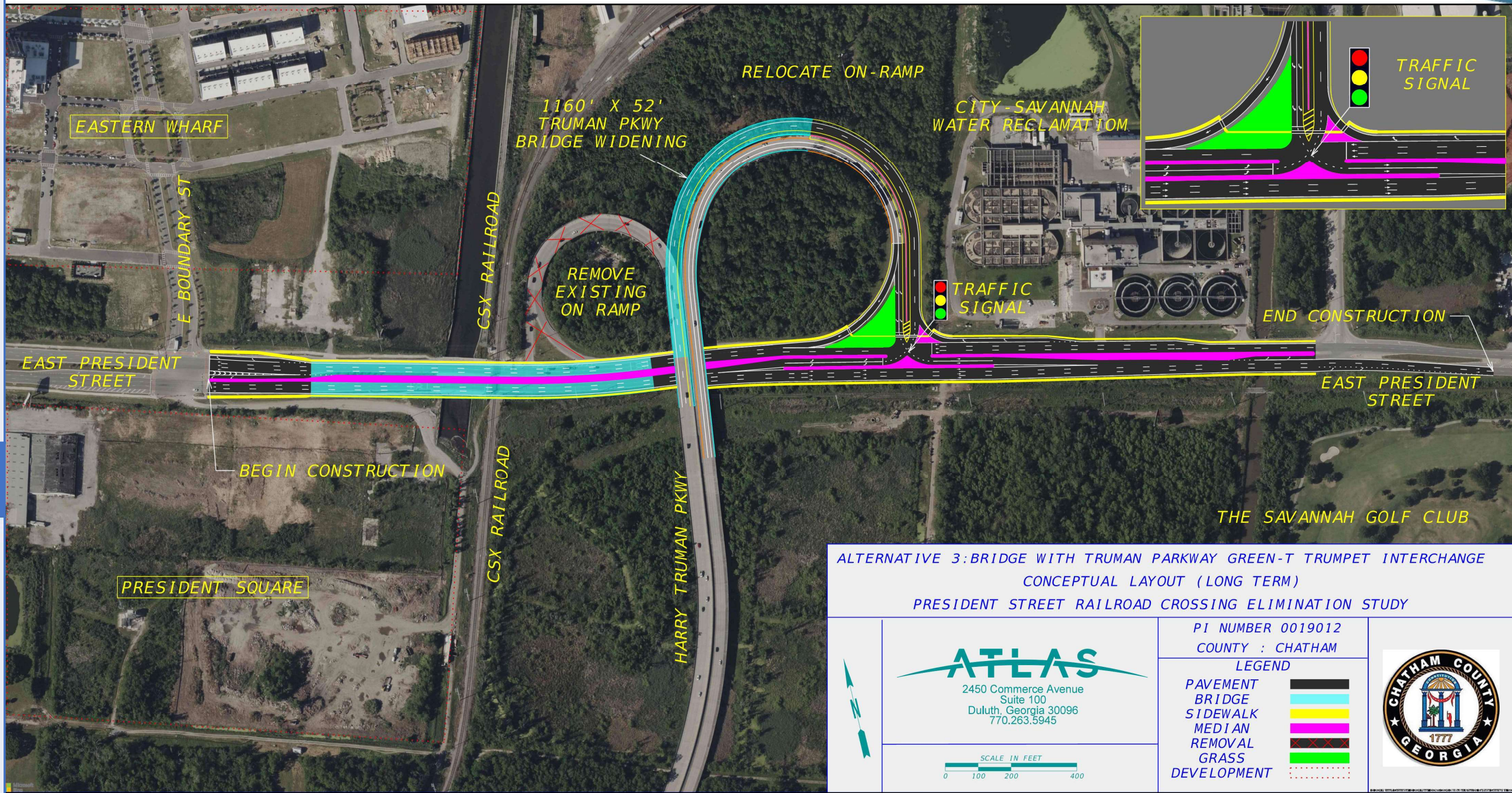
⁹ For the purpose of this study, no vehicles were denied into the network; therefore this variable was not used in the calculations.

Description

- Grade separate E President over RR, return to grade west of bridge overpass
- 6-lane E President Street typical section (3 lanes each direction)
- Double EB / SB Left-turn lanes to/from Truman Pkwy
- Continuously moving eastbound thru lanes, signal control for left-turns to and from Truman Pkwy

Benefits

- Eliminates blocked crossings
- Consolidates existing two intersections into one
- Provides continuous free-flow movement for heavy morning inbound traffic to Savannah
- Can be constructed at two separate projects for easier phased implementation





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: President Street Railroad Elimination

Dear Ms. Wang:

Chatham County is submitting a funding application for the subject project for Surface Transportation Block Grant (Y230) 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 \$1,250,000. We appreciate the opportunity to work with CORE MPO to improve the transportation system in Chatham County.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cooler, P.E.
County Engineer



AGENDA ITEM: 10.7

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 Carbon Reduction Program (Y601) and Surface Transportation Block (Y230) Grant application to the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) for President Street Railroad Elimination in the amount of \$6,250,000 for Preliminary Engineering and execute required documents. (NOTE: Local match in the amount of \$1,250,000 will be required.) [Districts: 2 & 3.]

BACKGROUND: Chatham County received funding during the 2022 CORE MPO Call for Projects to conduct a study of the E President St at Truman Parkway Railroad Crossing (PI 0019012). The final report, completed in March 2025, recommended a grade separated railroad crossing as the most cost-effective method to remove the delay citizens face at this crossing. Chatham County is seeking funding for preliminary engineering to continue the work of eliminating this railroad crossing.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The President Street Railroad Elimination Study that involved stakeholder and public input found the Green-T interchange to be the preferred alternative. This alternative elevates E. President Street over the canal and railroad east of E. Boundary Street, then lowers it before the Truman Parkway overpass. The Truman Parkway on-ramp would be rebuilt parallel to the off-ramp, merging into one signalized intersection. E. President Street would be widened to six lanes with dual left-turn lanes for movements to/from Truman Parkway. The west loop ramp would be removed and restored to the environment. The design creates a Continuous Green-T intersection, with eastbound through lanes flowing freely and a single signal for left-turn movements
2. The application for the CORE MPO is only for preliminary engineering. Staff will seek additional funding sources for Right-of-Way and Construction. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$79,250,000.
3. Staff has prepared a Y230 and Y601 Grant application for \$ 6,250,000 for submittal to the CORE MPO. If awarded, these funds will require a local match of \$ 1,250,000. Funding applications are due on October 10, 2025.

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 in the County's SPLOST VIII project list.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approve to submit a Surface Transportation Block Grant(Y230) and Carbon Reduction Program (Y601) Grant application for President Street Railroad Elimination Project to the CORE MPO in the amount of \$6,250,000 for preliminary engineering and have the Chairman execute the documents required 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.

0019012 Pres Street Railroad Elimination Preferred Alternative

President.LetterforMatch

Suzanne Cooler	Completed	09/26/2025 10:34 AM
Tara Jennings	Skipped	09/25/2025 10:18 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Leydy Espada-Arango	Completed	09/26/2025 11:04 AM
Robin Panther	Completed	09/25/2025 10:45 AM
Robin Panther	Completed	09/25/2025 10:46 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Vicki Center	Completed	09/29/2025 9:18 AM
Vicki Center	Skipped	09/25/2025 10:22 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Nathaniel Panther	Completed	09/24/2025 3:28 PM
Tara Jennings	Completed	09/24/2025 4:29 PM
Leydy Espada-Arango	Skipped	09/25/2025 10:19 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Vicki Center	Skipped	09/25/2025 10:19 AM
Duplicate workflow item.		
Linda Cramer	Completed	09/29/2025 2:20 PM
Danielle Hillery	Completed	09/30/2025 10:32 AM
Michael A. Kaigler	Completed	09/30/2025 3:47 PM
Board of Commissioners	Completed	10/03/2025 9:30 AM



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