

Title VI Plan of

THE COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Prepared by
The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)
The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)
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Developed in 2009

Updated in 2016, 2019, and 2020

Projected Adoption Date on 2/24/2021

The Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) are committed to the principle of affirmative action and prohibit discrimination against otherwise qualified persons on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, familial status, parental status, political beliefs, genetic information, income, or other protected category in its recruitment, employment, facility and program accessibility or services.

MPC and CORE MPO are committed to enforcing the provisions of the Civil Rights Act, Title VI, and all the related requirements mentioned above. CORE MPO is also committed to taking positive and realistic affirmative steps to ensure the protection of rights and opportunities for all persons affected by its plans and programs.

Title VI Plan Activity Log

Date	Activity (Review/Update/Addendum/ Adoption/Distribution)	Concerned Person (Signature)	Remarks
2009	Title VI Plan Developed	Wykoda Wang	1 st comprehensive Title VI Plan
2015	Title VI Plan Updated	Wykoda Wang Jane Love	Including updates to all required Title VI components plus Participation Plan, LAP and EJ Plan
1/13/2016	Title VI Concurrence Letter Received	Nancy Cobb, FTA	Required concurrence
3/9/2016	Updated Title VI Plan Adopted by CORE MPO Board	MPO Chairman Al Scott	CORE MPO's official adoption of Title VI Plan
8/24/2016	Title VI Plan Amended	MPO Chairman Al Scott	Revised language regarding complaint procedure
April 2019	Comments received from GDOT on next update	Michele Nystrom	Suggested that MPO change plan format to match GDOT's template
April – August 2019	Title VI Plan updated (including 45-day public review and comment)	Wykoda Wang	Incorporated public participation evaluations since last plan update, newer data, and 2045 MTP development results; Revised plan format to match GDOT's template.
8/7/2019	Updated Title VI Plan adopted by CORE MPO Board	MPO Chairman Al Scott	New three-year update cycle begins.
10/30/2020	Updated the Participation Plan section of Title VI Plan	Asia Hernton	The changes in public outreach caused by COVID-19 necessitated an update. The scheduled CORE MPO adoption date for this update is February 28, 2021.

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1.0 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Policy Statement and Management Commitment to Title VI Plan

49 CFR Part 21.1(a): Every application for Federal financial assistance to which this part applies shall contain, or be accompanied by, an assurance that the program will be conducted or the facility operated in compliance with all requirements imposed or pursuant to [49 CFR Part 21].

The Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) are committed to the principle of affirmative action and prohibit discrimination against otherwise qualified persons on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, familial status, parental status, political beliefs, genetic information, income, or other protected category in its recruitment, employment, facility and program accessibility or services.

MPC and CORE MPO are committed to enforcing the provisions of the Civil Rights Act, Title VI, and all the related requirements mentioned above. CORE MPO is also committed to taking positive and realistic affirmative steps to ensure the protection of rights and opportunities for all persons affected by its plans and programs.

CORE MPO further agrees to the following responsibilities with respect to its programs and activities:

1. Designate a Title VI Liaison that has a responsible position within the organization and access to the recipient's Chief Executive Officer or authorized representative.
2. Issue a policy statement signed by the Executive Director or authorized representative, which expresses its commitment to the nondiscrimination provisions of Title VI. The policy statement shall be circulated throughout the Recipient's organization and to the general public. Such information shall be published where appropriate in language other than English.
3. Insert the clauses of Section 4.5 of this plan into every contract subject to the Acts and the Regulations.
4. Develop a complaint process and attempt to resolve complaints of discrimination against CORE MPO.
5. Participate in training offered on Title VI and other nondiscrimination requirements.
6. If reviewed by GDOT or any other state or federal regulatory agency, take affirmative actions to correct any deficiencies found within a reasonable time period, not to exceed ninety (90) days.
7. Have a process to collect racial and ethnic data on persons impacted by the agency's programs.
8. Submit the information required by FTA Circular 4702.18 to the GDOT. (refer to Appendix A of this plan)

THIS ASSURANCE is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all federal funds, grants, loans, contracts, properties, discounts or other federal financial assistance under all programs and activities and is binding. The person whose signature appears below is authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the agency.

Signature: _____



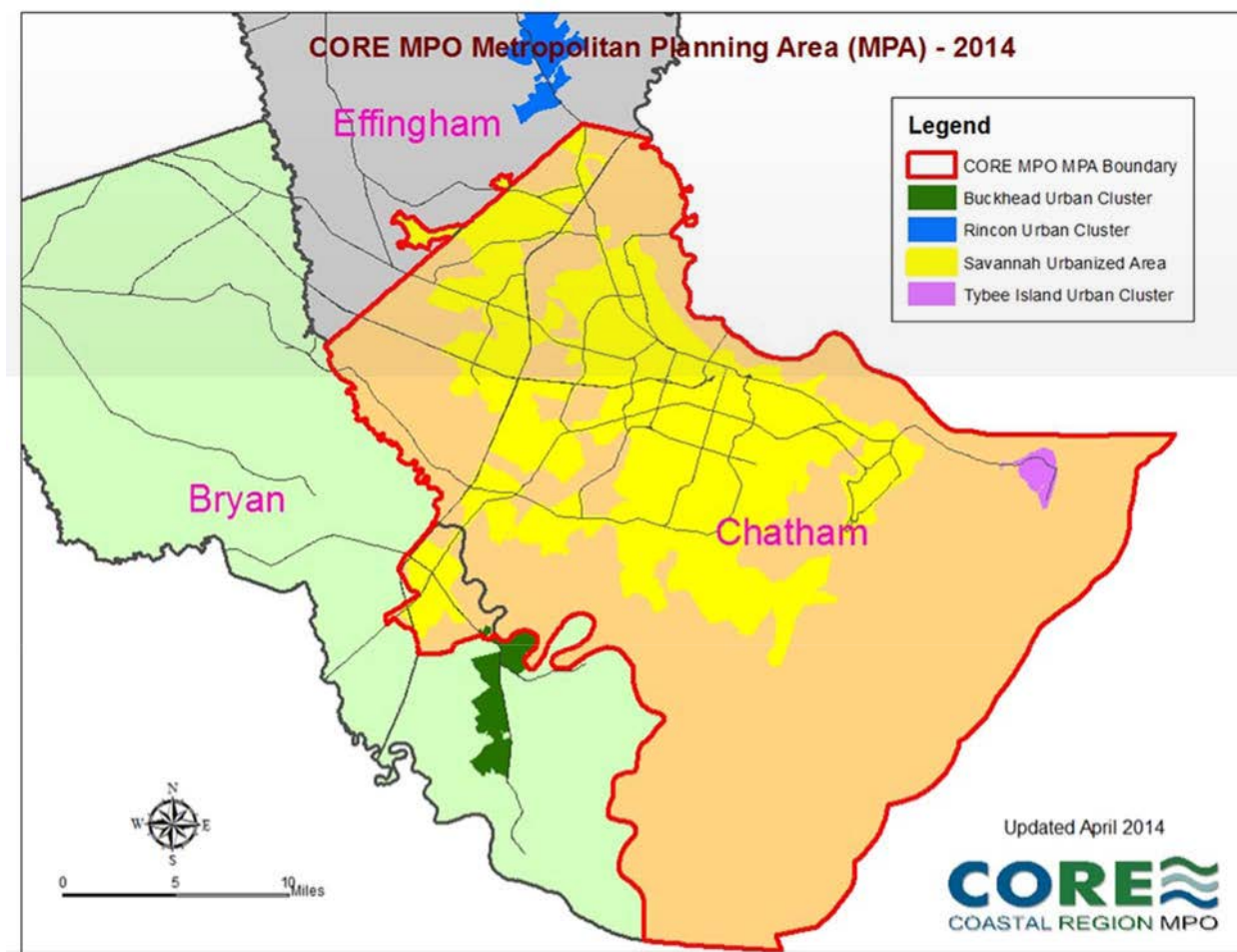
Printed Name: _____ Melanie Wilson _____
Executive Director

Date: August 13, 2019

2.0 Introduction & Description of Services

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Savannah urbanized area. CORE MPO was designated a TMA in July 2002. CORE MPO is a comprehensive, cooperative and continuing process and is the forum for decision-making on transportation issues in the Savannah area.

The CORE MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) includes all of Chatham County, the portion of the 2010 Savannah Urbanized Area located in Effingham County, the City of Richmond Hill, and the portion of the 2010 Savannah Urbanized Area located in unincorporated Bryan County (see map below).



As the designated MPO for the Savannah area, CORE MPO coordinates the regional transportation planning process and investments for the area including:

- Development and adoption of an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which identifies transportation planning activities, major regional planning and operational studies, transit-system planning tasks, and interagency coordination between CORE MPO and state and local jurisdictions;
- Development and maintenance of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), a 20 plus year plan for transportation systems and investments;

- Development and maintenance of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a four-year schedule of federally funded projects;
- Development and maintenance of the Congestion Management Process (CMP), which identifies congestion areas in the region and develops strategies to relieve congestion; and
- Providing opportunities for public involvement in the transportation planning and decision-making process following the adopted guidelines in the CORE MPO's Participation Plan.

CORE MPO is governed by a policy committee (CORE MPO Board) made up of elected officials from the jurisdictions within the Savannah area, as well as representatives of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the modal agencies. The organization of CORE MPO consists of the CORE MPO Board and four (4) advisory committees: (1) the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), (2) the Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC), (3) the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and (4) the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT). Additional committees, subcommittees and ad hoc committees are formed as deemed necessary. The Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) provides staffing and administrative support to CORE MPO.

As a sub-recipient of FHWA and FTA funds, the CORE MPO's transportation planning program is required to comply with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the President's Executive Order on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders, and federal regulations. The primary function of the CORE MPO's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Program is to address Title VI and Environmental Justice principles and requirements as they apply to the CORE MPO's transportation planning process. CORE MPO submits this Title VI Plan in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 49 CFR Part 21, and the guidelines of FTA Circular 4702.1B, published October 1, 2012.

CORE MPO must designate a liaison for Title VI issues and complaints within the organization. The liaison is the focal point for Title VI implementation and monitoring of activities receiving federal financial assistance. Key responsibilities of the Title VI Liaison include:

- Maintain knowledge of Title VI requirements.
- Ensure that all CORE MPO program administration is in compliance with Title VI requirements.
- Monitor progress, implementation, and compliance issues.
- Attend training on Title VI and other nondiscrimination authorities when offered by GDOT or any other regulatory agency.
- Disseminate Title VI information to the public including in languages other than English, when necessary.
- Provide Title VI information on the CORE MPO website and provide Title VI training and/or materials upon request.
- Develop a process to collect data related to race, gender and national origin of planning area population to ensure low income, minorities, and other underserved groups are included and not discriminated against.
- Ensure that no person is denied access to, or participation in MPO plans and programs.
- Ensure that full and fair participation is available to all potentially impacted communities in the decision-making process.
- Distribute Title VI information to MPO staff, committee members, sub-recipients and contractors.

- Ensure that intergovernmental agreements or contracts with any subcontracting entities will include language that requires Title VI compliance including nondiscrimination and environmental justice language.
- Implement procedures for the prompt processing, investigating and resolving of Title VI complaints regarding CORE MPO, sub recipients, consultants, and contractors.
- Sign the GDOT-MPO Joint Certification during the annual TIP development process which includes compliance with Title VI provisions.

The Executive Director of the Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) oversees the CORE MPO transportation planning process and compliance with the Civil Rights Act, Title VI and other related nondiscrimination acts. The Transportation Administrator of MPC serves as the Alternate Title VI Liaison and is responsible for coordinating with the Title VI Specialist in GDOT’s Office of Civil Rights and for managing the day-to-day operations of the CORE MPO’s Title VI compliance process.

Title VI Liaison

Melanie Wilson, Executive Director
 Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission
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 Savannah, GA 31401
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 Email: wilsonm@thempc.org

Alternate Title VI Contact

Zhongze (Wykoda) Wang, Transportation Administrator
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2.1 First Time Applicant Requirements

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 3: Entities applying for FTA funding for the first time shall provide information regarding their Title VI compliance history if they have previously received funding from another Federal agency.

CORE MPO is not a first-time applicant for FHWA/FTA/GDOT funding. The following is a summary of CORE MPO's current and pending federal and state funding.

Current and Pending FTA Funding

1. [FY 2019 Section 5303 Funds], [9/26/2018], [\$125,758.00], [Current]
2. [FY 2020 Section 5303 Funds], [in process], [\$151,226.00], [Pending]

Current and Pending GDOT Funding

1. [FY 2019 Section 5303 Funds State Match], [9/26/2018], [\$15,719.75], [Current]
2. [FY 2020 Section 5303 Funds State Match], [in process], [\$18,903.25], [Pending]

Current and Pending Federal Funding (FHWA)

1. [FY 2019 PL Funds], [8/27/2018], [\$347,528.48], [Current]
2. [FY 2020 PL Funds], [in process], [\$355,741.06], [Pending]

Current and Pending Federal Funding (FHWA)

1. [Discretionary PL Funds for PI# 0015849-PLN], [4/27/2018], [\$320,000], [Current]
2. [Discretionary PL Funds for PI# 0015850-PLN], [4/28/2018], [\$320,000], [Current]

During the previous three years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) completed a Title VI compliance review of CORE MPO's planning process. CORE MPO has not been found to be in noncompliance with any civil rights requirements.

The following is a summary of the compliance review.

- a. Date of the compliance review
May 23 - 27, 2016
- b. The purpose or reason for the review
Federal certification review of the CORE MPO's planning process
- c. Agency or organization that performed the review
FHWA and FTA
- d. Summary of the finding and recommendations of the review
FHWA and FTA found the CORE MPO's planning process to be compliant with Title VI requirements.
- e. Report on the status of the findings and recommendations
None regarding Title VI
- f. Current status of the compliance review
CORE MPO is compliant with Title VI requirements.

2.2 Annual Certifications and Assurances

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 2: Every application for financial assistance from FTA must be accompanied by an assurance that the applicant will carry out the program in compliance with the Title VI regulations.

In accordance with 49 CFR Section 21.7(a), every application for financial assistance from FHWA/FTA must be accompanied by an assurance that the applicant will carry out the program in compliance with Title VI regulations. This requirement shall be fulfilled when the applicant/recipient submits its annual certifications and assurances. Primary recipients will collect Title VI assurances from sub-recipients prior to passing through FHTA/FTA funds.

CORE MPO will remain in compliance with this requirement by annual submission of certifications and assurances as required by GDOT.

2.3 Title VI Plan Concurrence and Adoption

This Title VI Plan was adopted by the CORE MPO Board during a meeting held on August 7, 2019. The Plan received GDOT concurrence on August 19, 2019. A copy of the adoption resolution signed by the CORE MPO Board Chairman and the GDOT concurrence letter are included in Appendix C of this Plan.

3.0 Title VI Notice to the Public

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 5: Title 49 CFR 21.9(d) requires recipients to provide information to the public regarding the recipient's obligations under DOT's Title VI regulations and apprise members of the public of the protections against discrimination afforded to them by Title VI.

3.1 Notice to Public

FHWA/FTA funding recipients must notify the public of its rights under Title VI and include the notice and where it is posted in the Title VI Plan. The notice must include:

- A statement that the agency operates programs without regard to race, color and national origin
- A description of the procedures members of the public should follow in order to request additional information on the grantee's nondiscrimination obligations
- A description of the procedure members of the public should follow in order to file a discrimination complaint against the grantee

CORE MPO's Title VI Notice to the Public is included in Appendix D of this Plan. The notice has been translated into Spanish based on the Safe Harbor Threshold analysis defined in the Language Assistance Plan (LAP).

3.2 Notice Posting Locations

The Notice to Public will be posted at many locations to apprise the public of CORE MPP's obligations under Title VI and to inform them of the protections afforded them under Title VI. The notice is posted in public areas of the MPC office including the lobby, reception desk and meeting rooms, and on the MPC website at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/TitleVi>.

4.0 Title VI Procedures and Compliance

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 6: All recipients shall develop procedures for investigating and tracking Title VI complaints filed against them and make their procedures for filing a complaint available to member of the public.

4.1 Complaint Procedure

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color or national origin by CORE MPO may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting the agency's Title VI Complaint Form (refer to Appendix E). CORE MPO investigates complaints received no more than 180 days after the alleged incident. CORE MPO will process complaints that are complete.

Once the complaint is received, CORE MPO will review it to determine if our office has jurisdiction. The complainant will receive an acknowledgement letter informing him/her whether the complaint will be investigated by our office.

CORE MPO has ninety (90) days to investigate the complaint. If more information is needed to resolve the case, CORE MPO may contact the complainant. The complainant has ten (10) business days from the date of the letter to send requested information to the investigator assigned to the case. If the investigator is not contacted by the complainant or does not receive the additional information within ten (10) business days, CORE MPO can administratively close the case. A case can also be administratively closed if the complainant no longer wishes to pursue their case.

After the investigator reviews the complaint, she/he will issue one of two letters to the complainant: a closure letter or a letter of finding (LOF). A closure letter summarizes the allegations and states that there was not a Title VI violation and that the case will be closed. A LOF summarizes the allegations and the interviews regarding the alleged incident, and explains whether any disciplinary action, additional training of the staff member or other action will occur. If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision, she/he has seven (7) days to do so from the time he/she receives the closure letter or the LOF.

The complaint procedure will be made available to the public on the CORE MPO website at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/TitleVi>.

4.2 Complaint Form

A copy of the complaint form in English and Spanish is provided in Appendix E of the Title VI Plan on the CORE MPO website at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/TitleVi>.

4.3 Record Retention and Reporting Policy

FTA requires that all direct and primary recipients (GDOT) document their compliance by submitting a Title VI Plan to their FTA regional civil rights officer once every three (3) years. CORE MPO as a GDOT subrecipient will submit our Title VI Plan to GDOT for concurrence on an annual basis or any time a major change in the Plan occurs.

Compliance records and all Title VI related documents will be retained for a minimum of three (3) years and reported to the primary recipient (GDOT) annually.

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 11: Primary recipients should assist their sub-recipients in complying with DOT's Title VI regulations, including the general reporting requirements.

4.4 Sub-recipient Assistance and Monitoring

CORE MPO currently has two sub-recipients (consultants to performed special studies) of FHWA discretionary planning funds listed below. CORE MPO is required to ensure that sub-recipients of federal funds comply with all Title VI requirements. To meet this mandate, CORE MPO monitoring consists of collecting data from the consultants through progress report, DBE participation invoice, and other reports/forms. CORE MPO uses these reports to determine if the sub-recipients are complying with the Title VI requirements as outlined in FTA Circular 4702.1B and their Title VI Plan.

Title VI Complaint procedures, Title VI Complaint Form, and the CORE MPO's Title VI Notice have been developed and distributed to our sub-recipients. CORE MPO also assists the sub-recipients with demographic maps for Title VI purposes upon request.

List of CORE MPO's Sub-recipients

- Pond and Company
- Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHS)

4.5 Sub recipients and Subcontractors

CORE MPO is responsible for ensuring that subcontractors are in compliance with Title VI requirements. Sub recipients may not discriminate in the selection and retention of any subcontractors. Subcontractors also may not discriminate in the selection and retention of any subcontractors. CORE MPO and its subcontractors may not discriminate in their employment practices in connection with federally assisted projects. Subcontractors are not required to prepare or submit a Title VI Plan. However, the following nondiscrimination clauses will be inserted into every contract with contractors and subcontractors subject to Title VI regulations.

Nondiscrimination Clauses

During the performance of a contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor") must agree to the following clauses:

1. **Compliance with Regulations:** The Contractor shall comply with the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation (hereinafter, "USDOT") Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21, as they may be amended from time to time, (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations), which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this Agreement.
2. **Nondiscrimination:** The Contractor, with regard to the work performed during the contract, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion or family status in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The Contractor shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by section 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers a program set forth in Appendix B of the Regulations.
3. **Solicitations for Subcontractors, including Procurements of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations made by the Contractor, either by competitive bidding or negotiation for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials or leases of equipment; each potential subcontractor or supplier shall be notified by the Contractor of the subcontractor's obligations under this contract and the

Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion or family status.

4. **Information and Reports:** The Contractor shall provide all information and reports required by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the *Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and/or the Federal Transit Administration*, to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Regulations, orders and instructions. Where any information required of a Contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information the Contractor shall so certify to the *Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and/or the Federal Transit Administration*, as appropriate, and shall set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this contract, CORE MPO shall impose contract sanctions as appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - a. withholding of payments to the Contractor under the contract until the Contractor complies, and/or
 - b. cancellation, termination or suspension of the contract, in whole or in part.
6. **Incorporation of Provisions:** The Contractor shall include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (6) in every subcontract, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Regulations, or directives issued pursuant thereto. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as CORE MPO, Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and/or the Federal Transit Administration, may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Policy

As a condition of our agreement with GDOT, CORE MPO and its contractors and subcontractors agree to ensure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, as amended, have the opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts. CORE MPO and its contractor and subcontractors shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of any contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of GDOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of the contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.

E-Verify

As a condition of our agreement with GDOT, vendors and contractors of CORE MPO shall utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the vendor or contractor while contracted with CORE MPO. Additionally, vendors and contractors shall expressly require any subcontractors performing work or providing services pursuant to work for CORE MPO shall likewise utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the subcontractor while working for CORE MPO.

5.0 Title VI Investigations, Complaints, and Lawsuits

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 7: In order to comply with the reporting requirements of 49 CFR 21.9(b), FTA requires all recipients to prepare and maintain a list of any of the following that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin: active investigations....; lawsuits, and complaints naming the recipient.

In accordance with 49 CFR 21.9(b), CORE MPO must record and report any investigations, complaints, or lawsuits involving allegations of discrimination. The records of these events shall include the date the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint was filed; a summary of the allegations; the status of the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint; and actions taken by CORE MPO in response; and final findings related to the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint. The records for the previous three (3) years shall be included in the Title VI Plan when it is submitted to GDOT. The format to summarize these incidents is shown in Table 1.

CORE MPO has had no investigations, complaints, or lawsuits involving allegations of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin over the past three (3) years.

Table 1: Summary of Investigations, Lawsuits, and Complaints

	Date (Month, Day, Year)	Summary (include basis of complaint: race, color, or national origin)	Status	Action(s) Taken
Investigations	None	NA	NA	NA
1.				
2.				
Lawsuits	None	NA	NA	NA
1.				
2.				
Complaints	None	NA	NA	NA
1.				
2.				

6.0 Public Participation Plan

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 4.a.4: Every Title VI Plan shall include the following information: A public participation plan that includes an outreach plan to engage minority and limited English proficient populations, as well as a summary of outreach efforts made since the last Title VI Plan submission. A recipient's targeted public participation plan of minority populations may be part of efforts that extend more broadly to include constituencies that are traditionally underserved, such as people with disabilities, low-income populations, and others.

The Participation Plan (PP) for CORE MPO was developed to ensure that all members of the public, including minorities and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations, are encouraged to participate in the decision-making process for CORE MPO. Policy and service delivery decisions need to take into consideration community sentiment and public opinion based upon well-executed outreach efforts. The public outreach strategies described in the PP are designed to provide the public with effective access to information about the CORE MPO's planning process and to provide a variety of efficient and convenient methods for receiving and considering public comment prior to adoption of CORE MPO's plans and programs. The PP is included as Appendix F to this Title VI Plan.

Current Outreach Efforts

CORE MPO is required to submit a summary of public outreach efforts made over the last three (3) years. The following is a list and short description of CORE MPO's recent, current, and planned outreach activities.

- March 2016 – adoption of revised Participation Plan (PP) as a part of the Title VI Program after a 45-day public review and comment period. Revisions to the PP included updates to Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs), updates to the public involvement process for MTP and TIP amendments, updates to include public involvement process for other MPO's plans and programs (CMP, Title VI, etc.), and updates to public involvement venues (media contact list, public review agencies, neighborhood associations, etc.).
- March 2016 to August 2019 – continued public involvement process for MTP amendments and TIP development/amendments according to the procedures outlined in the Participation Plan: advertisements, making documents ready for public review, collecting and incorporating input from MPO Board and advisory committees, hosting public meetings, responding to and reporting on written and oral comments from the public, incorporating comments into final documents, etc.
- March 2016 to August 2019 – continued public involvement process for other MPO plans and programs (CMP, Freight Plan, UPWP, etc.) through the committee process.
- March 2016 to August 2019 – continued to maintain and revise the CORE MPO's website to distribute the MPO's planning and programming information. The revised MPO website incorporated Google Translation support to convert the web contents to various languages.
- March 2016 to August 2019 – continued to provide information to governments, agencies and the general public on traffic counts, transportation improvement projects, various developments, etc.
- March 2016 to August 2019 – continued to staff the two public outreach committees - Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT). The MPO added a voting member for ACAT for the deaf community and secured sign language interpreters.

- March 2016 to August 2019 – continued to provide orientation on the CORE MPO’s planning process to CORE MPO Board and advisory committee members.
- June 2017 to August 2019 – intensive public involvement process for 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan development: advertisements through local media, website and social media; development and utilization of surveys, brochures, newsletters, maps, games, comment cards and other handouts; establishment of working groups and hosting working group meetings; hosting committee meetings, public meetings and public information open houses; making presentations at various government, agency, organization and neighborhood meetings; making draft document ready for public review, responding to and reporting on written and oral comments, and incorporation of comments into final document; translation of surveys and executive summary to Spanish; evaluation of the effectiveness of public involvement process, etc.
- April to August 2019 – updates to the CORE MPO’s Participation Plan and Title VI Plan (including the Language Assistance Plan and Environmental Justice Plan). Major updates include converting the MPO’s Title VI Plan to GDOT format, incorporating results from the latest census information, evaluating the quantitative public involvement measures of effectiveness for the past three years, incorporation of additional Title VI related goals and objectives, and incorporating the public involvement process and EJ analysis from the 2045 MTP Update. The plan updates included a 45-day public review and comment period for the documents.
- October 2020 to Current – this update is focused on offline and online based outreach that can be conducted at a distance due to Covid-19. In following guidance and measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, a heavy focus was placed on virtual public outreach including internet and social media, which has the potential to reach more residents. Because internet may not be accessible to everyone, other outreach methods, including those accessible to deaf and low hearing individuals, blind and low vision individuals, the elderly, those with low English skills, and underrepresented areas/demographics were also considered during this update. Accessible outreach in this update did not only focus on using the internet as a vector to spread CORE MPO news. Resources such as the Georgia Radio Reading Service, printable informational materials, and collaborating with organizations support people with disabilities are also being explored.

7.0 Language Assistance Plan

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 9: Recipients shall take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to benefits, services, information, and other important portions of their programs and activities for individuals who are limited English proficient (LEP).

CORE MPO conducts transportation planning for the Savannah region. The Language Assistance Plan (LAP) has been prepared to address CORE MPO’s responsibilities as they relate to the needs of individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) during the transportation planning process. Individuals who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English are LEP persons. In the three-county Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) there are 2,908 residents or 1.07% who describe themselves as not able to communicate in English very well (Source: 2010 US Census). Of these, 1,711 residents or 0.63% can only speak Spanish. This is the only group that has reached the Safe Harbor threshold. CORE MPO is federally mandated (Executive Order 13166) to take responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to the benefits, services, information and other important portions of its programs and activities for individuals who are LEP. CORE MPO has utilized the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) LEP Guidance Handbook and performed a four-factor analysis to develop its LAP. The LAP is included in this Title VI Plan as Appendix G.

8.0 Transportation Planning and Advisory Bodies

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 10: Recipients that have transit-related, non-elected planning boards, advisory councils or committees, or similar committees, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, must provide a table depicting the racial breakdown of the membership of those committees, and a description of efforts made to encourage the participation of minorities on such committees.

The organization of CORE MPO consists of the CORE MPO Board and four (4) advisory committees: (1) the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), (2) the Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC), (3) the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and (4) the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT).

CORE MPO Board

The membership of the CORE MPO Board consists of elected officials of the local government entities or their designees, GDOT representative, as well as modal representatives from the transit, port and airport.

Voting Members

Chairman, Chatham County Commission
 Commissioner or designee, Chatham County Commission
 Commissioner or designee, Chatham County Commission
 Mayor, City of Savannah
 Councilman or designee, City of Savannah
 Councilman or designee, City of Savannah
 Mayor or designee, City of Bloomingdale
 Mayor or designee, City of Garden City
 Mayor or designee, City of Port Wentworth
 Mayor or designee, City of Pooler
 Mayor or designee, City of Tybee Island
 Mayor or designee, Town of Thunderbolt
 Mayor or designee, Town of Vernonburg
 Chairman or designee, Effingham County Commission
 Mayor or designee, City of Richmond Hill
 Commissioner or designee, Georgia Department of Transportation
 Executive Director, Chatham Area Transit Authority
 Chairman or designee, Chatham Area Transit Authority
 Executive Director or designee, Savannah Airport Commission
 Chairman, Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission
 Chairman, CORE MPO Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee
 Chairman, CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee
 Chairman, CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Non-Voting Advisory Members

Division Administrator or designee, Federal Highway Administration
 Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration

Garrison Commander, Hunter Army Airfield
 Executive Director or designee, Georgia Ports Authority
 Director, Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (HAMPO)
 Director, Low-country Area Transportation Study (LATS – Hilton Head Area MPO)

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) is composed of key staff members of participating governmental jurisdictions and modal transportation representatives.

Voting Members

Director of Traffic Engineering or designee, City of Savannah
 County Engineer or designee, Chatham County
 Transit Planner, Chatham Area Transit
 Engineering Staff, Georgia Ports Authority
 Director of Engineering or designee, Savannah Airport Commission
 Executive Director, Metropolitan Planning Commission
 Director of Transportation Planning, Metropolitan Planning Commission
 Staff Representative, City of Bloomingdale
 Staff Representative, City of Garden City
 Staff Representative, City of Pooler
 Staff Representative, City of Port Wentworth
 Staff Representative, Town of Thunderbolt
 Staff Representative, City of Tybee Island
 Staff Representative, Town of Vernonburg
 Staff Representative, City of Richmond Hill
 Staff Representative, Effingham County
 District Engineer or designee, Georgia Department of Transportation
 Transportation Planner, Georgia Department of Transportation
 Representative, Bicycle Advocacy Group
 Transportation Staff, Coastal Regional Commission

Non-voting Advisory Members

Parking and Mobility Services Administrator, City of Savannah
 Transit Planner, Office of Intermodal Programs, Georgia Department of Transportation
 Transportation Planner, Federal Highway Administration
 Transportation Planner, Federal Transit Administration
 US Army District Engineer, Corps of Engineers

Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC)

The Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC) is composed of key staff members of freight stakeholders and economic development agencies of the Savannah region.

County Manager, Chatham County
 County Manager, Effingham County
 City Manager, City of Savannah
 Garrison Commander, Fort Steward/Hunter Army Airfield
 President and CEO, Savannah Economic Development Authority
 President and CEO, Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
 Director, Bryan County Economic Development Agency

Director, Effingham County Industrial Development Authority
 Representative, Manufacturing and Logistics Industry
 Representative, Georgia Ports Authority
 Representative, Savannah Airport Commission
 Representative, CSX Transportation/Railroad Industry
 Representative, Norfolk Southern/Railroad Industry
 Representative, Trucking Industry
 Representative, GDOT Freight Planner
 Representative, Environmental Group
 Representative, Emergency Management Agency
 Representative, Law Enforcement
 Representative, School Board

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

The membership of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is made up of appointed local citizens. The appointment process consists of the following steps: each CORE MPO Board voting member from the local government nominates a CAC member, the local government approves the nomination, and the local government notifies CORE MPO and the nominee about the appointment.

The total CAC membership is fifteen (15) and consists of the following: Unincorporated Chatham County (3), City of Savannah (3), City of Bloomingdale (1), City of Garden City (1), City of Pooler (1), City of Port Wentworth (1), Town of Thunderbolt (1), City of Tybee Island (1), Town of Vernonburg (1), City of Richmond Hill (1), and Effingham County (1).

Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT)

The ACAT members shall consist of representatives from the disabled, elderly, low-income and minority communities in the Savannah region. Voting membership is determined by organizational position, with the positions listed below as members. There are four (4) opportunities for interested citizens to serve on the ACAT. Interested citizens cannot be employed by any of the ACAT member organizations. These positions will be filled by the Chairperson on a first come, first serve basis.

Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT), Staff Representative
 Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), Transportation Planner
 Coastal Center for Developmental Services, Staff Representative
 Economic Opportunity Authority for Savannah-Chatham County (EOA), Staff Representative
 Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), District 5 Staff Representative
 Georgia Infirmary Day Center, Staff Representative
 Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire, Staff Representative
 Housing Authority of Savannah, Resident Service Coordinator
 Interested Citizens (4)
 Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc., Independent Living Coordinator
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) - Savannah Chapter, Staff Representative
 National Federation of the Blind of Georgia - Local Chapter, Staff Representative
 Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision, Staff Representative
 Savannah – Chatham Council on Disability Issues (SCCDI)
 Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council, Staff Representative
 Savannah Council of the Blind
 Senior Citizens Savannah - Chatham County Inc., Staff Representative

Chatham County, Staff Representative
 Richmond Hill, Staff Representative
 Effingham County, Staff Representative
 Chatham County Coastal Chapter – Georgia Association of the Deaf, Staff Representative

Racial Breakdown of Advisory Committees

As indicated above, most of the CORE MPO Board and advisory committee members are position determined, particularly the CORE MPO Board, TCC and EDFAC. The CAC members are appointed by their respective municipalities through either an advertisement process (e.g. the City of Savannah advertises for and fills these positions) or other selection methods. The 4 interested citizens positions on ACAT are filled mostly by transit riders who are interested in the MPO's planning process. Some of them are disabled, or low-income, or senior citizens. Overall, CORE MPO has no influence in determining racial breakdowns of these committee members. The hiring agencies/governments or the appointing municipalities determine who will serve on these committees.

However, the committee composition is reflective of the diverse population composition of the Savannah region to a degree (e.g. black majority within the City of Savannah), particularly ACAT that is charged with providing input on better the transit service in the area. The table below shows the racial breakdowns of the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees as of August 2019.

Body	Caucasian	Latino	African American	Asian American	Native American	Other
Savannah MSA Population*	54.73%	4.95%	33.87%	2.08%	0.27%	4.10%
CORE MPO Board	73.91%	0%	26.09%	0%	0%	0%
TCC	90%	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%
EDFAC	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
CAC	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%
ACAT	66.66%	0%	26.67%	6.67%	0%	0%

*Savannah MSA Statistics are based on 2010 census data.

For the committees, please be noted that we do not have detailed racial breakdown information on the members. The Latino, Asian and Native American percentages are mostly assumed to be 0 unless some data are available to the CORE MPO staff.

9.0 Title VI Equity Analysis

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 4.a.8: If the recipient has constructed a facility, such as vehicle storage, maintenance facility, operation center, etc., the recipient shall include a copy of the Title VI equity analysis conducted during the planning stage with regard to the location of the facility.

Title 49 CFR, Appendix C, Section (3)(iv) requires that “the location of projects requiring land acquisition and the displacement of persons from their residences and business may not be determined on the basis of race, color, or national origin.”

CORE MPO is a planning agency and does not operate transit services. The MPO is not in charge of constructing transit facilities. CORE MPO has not recently constructed any transit facilities nor does it currently have any transit facilities in the planning stage. Therefore, CORE MPO does not have any Title VI Equity Analysis reports to submit with this Plan.

CORE MPO does, however, develop Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) to guide federal transportation investments in the Savannah region. When the planned highway and/or transit projects enter the implementation stage, the implantation agencies (GDOT, Chatham Area Transit, etc.) make sure that the projects go through the required steps including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process before being constructed.

CORE MPO has developed an Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan in which the MPO utilizes the demographic information to analyze the equity distribution of transportation investments in the latest MTP. This report is included in Appendix I.

10.0 System-Wide Service Standards and Service Policies

FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter III, Paragraph 10: All fixed route transit providers shall set service standards and policies for each specific fixed route mode of service they provide.

CORE MPO is not a fixed route service provider.

11.0 Appendices

APPENDIX A	FTA CIRCULAR 4702.1B REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MPOs AS SUBRECIPIENTS
APPENDIX B	CURRENT SYSTEM DESCRIPTION
APPENDIX C	TITLE VI PLAN ADOPTION MEETING MINUTES AND GDOT CONCURRENCE LETTER
APPENDIX D	TITLE VI NOTICE TO PUBLIC
APPENDIX E	TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM
APPENDIX F	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
APPENDIX G	LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PLAN
APPENDIX H	LANGUAGE DATA: SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
APPENDIX I	DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PLAN
APPENDIX J	TITLE VI EQUITY ANALYSIS

Appendix A

FTA Circular 4702.1B Reporting Requirements for MPOs as Subrecipients

Every three years, on a date determined by FTA, each recipient is required to submit the following information to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as part of their Title VI Program. Sub-recipients shall submit the information below to their primary recipient (the entity from whom the sub-recipient receives funds directly), on a schedule to be determined by the primary recipient.

General Requirements

All recipients must submit:

- ☐ Title VI Notice to the Public, including a list of locations where the notice is posted
- ☐ Title VI Complaint Procedures (i.e., instructions to the public regarding how to file a Title VI discrimination complaint)
- ☐ Title VI Complaint Form
- ☐ List of transit-related Title VI investigations, complaints, and lawsuits
- ☐ Public Participation Plan, including information about outreach methods to engage minority and limited English proficient populations (LEP), as well as a summary of outreach efforts made since the last Title VI Program submission
- ☐ Language Assistance Plan for providing language assistance to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP), based on the DOT LEP Guidance
- ☐ A table depicting the membership of non-elected committees and councils, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, broken down by race, and a description of the process the agency uses to encourage the participation of minorities on such committees
- ☐ Primary recipients shall include a description of how the agency monitors its sub-recipients for compliance with Title VI, and a schedule of sub-recipient Title VI Program submissions
- ☐ A Title VI equity analysis if the recipient has constructed a facility, such as a vehicle storage facility, maintenance facility, operation center, etc.
- ☐ A copy of board meeting minutes, resolution, or other appropriate documentation showing the board of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions reviewed and approved the Title VI Program. For State DOTs, the appropriate governing entity is the State's Secretary of Transportation or equivalent. The approval must occur prior to submission to FTA.
- ☐ Additional information as specified in Chapters IV, V, and VI, depending on whether the recipient is a transit provider, a State, or a planning entity (see below)

Requirements of MPOs as Subrecipients

All MPOs as subrecipients must submit:

- ☐ All requirements set out in Chapter III (General Requirements)
- ☐ A demographic profile of the metropolitan area that includes identification of the locations of minority populations in the aggregate
- ☐ A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations are identified and considered within the planning process
- ☐ Demographic maps that overlay the percent minority and non-minority populations as identified by Census or ACS data, at Census tract or block group level, and charts that analyze the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds in the aggregate for public transportation purposes, including Federal funds managed by the MPO as a designated recipient

An analysis of impacts identified in paragraph (4) that identifies any disparate impacts on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and, if so, determines whether there is a substantial legitimate justification for the policy that resulted in the disparate impacts, and if there are alternatives that could be employed that would have a less discriminatory impact

Appendix B

Current System Description

Current System Description

1. An overview of the organization including its mission, program goals and objectives.

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Savannah urbanized area. CORE MPO was designated a TMA in July 2002. CORE MPO is a comprehensive, cooperative and continuing process and is the forum for decision-making on transportation issues in the Savannah area.

As the designated MPO for the Savannah area, CORE MPO coordinates the regional transportation planning process and investments for the area including:

- Development and adoption of an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which identifies transportation planning activities, major regional planning and operational studies, transit-system planning tasks, and interagency coordination between CORE MPO and state and local jurisdictions;
- Development and maintenance of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), a 20 plus year plan for transportation systems and investments;
- Development and maintenance of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a four-year schedule of federally funded projects;
- Development and maintenance of the Congestion Management Process (CMP), which identifies congestion areas in the region and develops strategies to relieve congestion; and
- Providing opportunities for public involvement in the transportation planning and decision-making process following the adopted guidelines in the CORE MPO's Participation Plan and Title VI Plan.

CORE MPO is governed by a policy committee (CORE MPO Board) made up of elected officials from the jurisdictions within the Savannah area, as well as representatives of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the modal agencies. The organization of CORE MPO consists of the CORE MPO Board and four (4) advisory committees: (1) the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), (2) the Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC), (3) the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and (4) the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT). Additional committees, subcommittees and ad hoc committees are formed as deemed necessary. The CORE MPO Board makes final decisions on transportation investments in the Savannah region. The advisory committees provide input to the CORE MPO Board in the decision-making process.

2. Organizational structure, type of operation, number of employees, service hours.

CORE MPO is staffed by the Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC). Besides providing staff and administrative support to CORE MPO, the MPC is responsible for planning activities for the City of Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County - developing the Comprehensive Plan, reviewing of and making recommendations on zoning and developmental changes, managing the natural resources, and conducting historic reviews and making recommendations.

The MPC is made up of twenty-seven (27) full-time employees.

The MPC office hours are from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

3. Indicate if your agency is a government authority.

The MPC is a local government agency.

4. Who is responsible for insurance, training and management, and administration of the agency's transportation programs?

The MPC's Director of Transportation Planning is responsible for all of the day-to-day operations of CORE MPO and reports to the CORE MPO Board.

5. Who provides vehicle maintenance and record keeping?

Not applicable.

6. Number of current transportation related employees

Four (4) MPC staff members support the CORE MPO's planning process.

- Director of Transportation Planning
- Transportation Administrator
- Senior Transportation Planner
- Transportation Coordinator

7. Who will drive the vehicle, number of drivers, CDL certifications, etc.?

Not applicable.

8. A detailed description of service routes and ridership numbers

Not applicable.

Appendix C

Title VI Plan Adoption Resolution and GDOT Concurrence Letter

The CORE MPO Board adopted the Title VI Plan and the Participation Plan on August 7, 2019 in two separate motions. The signed resolution for the Title VI Plan is attached on the next page.

GDOT sent the concurrence letter for CORE MPO's Title VI Plan update on August 19, 2019. The concurrence letter is included in this Appendix as well.



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Resolution to Adopt the Title VI Plan Updates of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)

WHEREAS, the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) has been designated by the Governor of Georgia as the Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Savannah urbanized area in accordance with federal requirements of Title 23, Section 134 of the United States Code to have a cooperative, comprehensive and continuing transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, the CORE MPO is a recipient of federal funding and is required to develop a Title VI program in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other related statutes, executive orders and other regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Title VI updates include revising the following documents: Title VI Plan, Language Assistance Plan, Environmental Justice Plan and Participation Plan; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2012 the Governor of Georgia signed HB 397 into law that amends the Georgia Open Meetings and Open Records Laws; and

WHEREAS, for all federal funding recipients (including subrecipients), the Title VI plans must be approved by the recipient's board of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, the process to update the Title VI program was carried out in accordance with the most recently adopted Participation Plan, including the required 45-day public comment period; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2019, all associated revisions to the CORE MPO Participation Plan were adopted by this Board in a separate resolution; and

WHEREAS, CORE MPO has conducted a public hearing for the Title VI updates and has taken into consideration comments made at the public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization adopts the CORE MPO's updated Title VI Plan, Language Assistance Plan and Environmental Justice Plan as required by Title 23 (USC 134 Section 450.308) and pursuant to the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 13166, US DOT Order 5610.2(a), Executive Order 12898 of 1994, Executive Order Title 50 OCGA, and other related statutes, executive orders and regulations.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Board at a meeting held on August 7, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Albert J. Scott".

Albert J. Scott, Chairman
Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization



Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree NW
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

Via E-mail transmission

August 19, 2019

Ms. Wydoka Wang, Transportation Administrator
Savannah MPO
110 E. State Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Dear Ms. Wang,

The Department has completed its review of your Title VI Plan and has determined that it meets the requirements established in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Circular 4702.1B, "Title VI Program Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients," effective October 1, 2012.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and compliance of the FTA Civil Rights Program requirements. Should you need assistance or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Michele Nystrom, Transit Compliance and Asset Manager directly at (404) 631-1235 or at mnystrom@dot.ga.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LA Trainer", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Leigh Ann Trainer, Transit Program Manager
Division of Intermodal

cc: Michele Nystrom, Transit Compliance and Asset Manager
Patricia Smith, Program Delivery Manager
Ryan Walker, MPO Transit Planner

Appendix D

Title VI Notice to Public

Notifying the Public of Rights Under Title VI

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

- The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with CORE MPO.
- For more information on CORE MPO's civil rights program, and the procedures to file a complaint, please contact Wykoda Wang, (912-651-1466); email wangw@thempc.org; or visit our administrative office at 110 E. State Street, Savannah GA 31401. For more information, visit <https://www.thempc.org/Core/TitleVi>.
- If information is needed in another language, contact 912-651-1466.
- You may also file your complaint directly with the FTA at: Federal Transit Administration Office of Civil Rights Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor - TCR 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590

Notificación al público de los derechos en virtud del título VI

Organización de planificación metropolitana de la región costera

- La Organización de Planificación Metropolitana de la Región Costera (CORE MPO) opera sus programas y servicios sin distinción de raza, color y origen nacional, de acuerdo con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles. Cualquier persona que crea que él o ella ha sido agravada por cualquier práctica discriminatoria ilegal bajo el Título VI puede presentar una queja ante CORE MPO.
- Para obtener más información sobre el programa de derechos civiles de CORE MPO y los procedimientos para presentar una queja, comuníquese con Wykoda Wang, (912-651-1466); correo electrónico wangw@thempc.org; o visite nuestra oficina administrativa en 110 E. State Street, Savannah GA 31401. Para obtener más información, visite <https://www.thempc.org/Core/TitleVi>.
- Si necesita información en otro idioma, llame al 912-651-1466.
- También puede presentar su queja directamente ante el FTA en: Oficina de Derechos Civiles de la Administración Federal de Tránsito: Coordinador del Programa Título VI, Edificio Este, 5to piso – TCR 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590

Appendix E

Title VI Complaint Form

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Title VI Complaint Form

Section I:				
Name:				
Address:				
Telephone (Home):			Telephone (Work):	
Electronic Mail Address:				
Accessible Format Requirements?	Large Print		Audio Tape	
	TDD		Other	
Section II:				
Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf?			Yes*	No
*If you answered "yes" to this question, go to Section III.				
If not, please supply the name and relationship of the person for whom you are complaining:				
Please explain why you have filed for a third party:				
Please confirm that you have obtained the permission of the aggrieved party if you are filing on behalf of a third party.			Yes	No
Section III:				
I believe the discrimination I experienced was based on (check all that apply):				
<input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Color <input type="checkbox"/> National Origin <input type="checkbox"/> Age				
<input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Family or Religious Status <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) _____				
Date of Alleged Discrimination (Month, Day, Year): _____				
Explain as clearly as possible what happened and why you believe you were discriminated against. Describe all persons who were involved. Include the name and contact information of the person(s) who discriminated against you (if known) as well as names and contact information of any witnesses. If more space is needed, please use the back of this form.				
_____ _____				
Section IV				
Have you previously filed a Title VI complaint with this agency?			Yes	No

Section V

Have you filed this complaint with any other Federal, State, or local agency, or with any Federal or State court?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, check all that apply:

☐ Federal Agency: _____

☐ Federal Court _____

☐ State Agency _____

☐ State Court _____

☐ Local Agency _____

Please provide information about a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed.

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone:

Section VI

Name of agency complaint is against:

Contact person:

Title:

Telephone number:

You may attach any written materials or other information that you think is relevant to your complaint.

Signature and date required below

Signature

Date

Please submit this form in person at the address below, or mail this form to:

Melanie Wilson, Executive Director
Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission
110 E. State Street
Savannah, GA 31401
Phone: 912-651-1446
Email: wilsonm@thempc.org

Organización de planificación metropolitana de la región costera

Formulario de quejas del Título VI

Sección I:				
Nombre:				
Dirección:				
Teléfono (Casa):			Teléfono (Trabajo):	
Dirección de correo electrónico:				
Requisitos de formato accesible?	Letra grande		Cinta de audio	
	TDD		Otro/Otra	
Sección II:				
¿Está presentando esta queja en su propio nombre??			Sí *	No
* Si respondió "sí" a esta pregunta, vaya a la Sección III.				
Si no es así, proporcione el nombre y la relación de la persona por la que se queja.:				
Por favor, explique por qué ha solicitado representar un tercero: _____				
Confirme que ha obtenido el permiso de la parte perjudicada si está presentando una solicitud en nombre de un tercero.			Sí	No
Sección III:				
Creo que la discriminación que experimenté se basó en (marque todo lo que corresponda):				
<input type="checkbox"/> Carrera <input type="checkbox"/> Color <input type="checkbox"/> Origen nacional <input type="checkbox"/> Años				
<input type="checkbox"/> Discapacidad <input type="checkbox"/> Estado familiar o religioso <input type="checkbox"/> Otro (explicar) _____				
Fecha de presunta discriminación (mes, día, año): _____				
Explique lo qué sucedió lo más claramente posible y por qué cree que lo discriminaron. Describa a todas las personas que estuvieron involucradas. Incluya el nombre y la información de contacto de las personas que lo discriminaron (si se conoce), así como los nombres y la información de contacto de los testigos. Si necesita más espacio, utilice el lado reverso de este formulario.				

Sección IV				
¿Ha presentado anteriormente una queja del Título VI con esta agencia?			Sí	No

Sección V

¿Ha presentado esta queja ante cualquier otra agencia federal, estatal o local, o ante cualquier tribunal federal o estatal?

☐ Sí ☐ No

En caso afirmativo, marque todo lo que corresponda:

☐ Agencia Federal: _____

☐ Corte federal _____

☐ Agencia del estado _____

☐ Corte estatal _____

☐ Agencia local _____

Proporcione información sobre una persona de contacto en la agencia / corte donde se presentó la queja.

Nombre:

Título:

Agencia:

Dirección:

Teléfono:

Sección VI

El nombre de la agencia que la queja es en contra:

Persona de contacto:

Título:

Número de teléfono:

Puede adjuntar cualquier material escrito u otra información que considere relevante para su queja.
Firma y fecha requerida abajo

Firma

Fecha

Entregue este formulario en persona a la dirección que figura a continuación, o envíe este formulario a:

Melanie Wilson, Executive Director
Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission
110 E. State Street
Savannah, GA 31401
Phone: 912-651-1446
Email: wilsonm@thempc.org

Appendix F

Public Participation Plan (PPP)

There are 4 overarching goals within the Participation Plan:

Goal 1: Raise interested citizens'/parties' level of understanding of the MPO transportation planning process and identify how interest citizens/parties can become involved.

Goal 2: Ensure that the interested citizens/parties have been provided with adequate, appropriate, and meaningful opportunities to participate in the decision-making process.

Goal 3: identify and involve traditionally underserved communities (those communities with high concentrations of minority, low-income, Limited English Proficiency, disabled or elderly populations) in the MPO transportation planning process.

Goal 4: Utilize the CAC to its fullest extent to reach interested parties in the community including citizens within the planning area, the CORE MPO Board and local, state, and federal transportation and public officials.

Goal 3 overlaps with the current Title VI plan, and outreach methods were developed in accordance with Title VI.

Below are the Goal 3 outreach methods that are being explored:

- Put QR codes around underserved communities that link directly to meetings and online resources
 - Many people have never heard of the CORE MPO and may not even know that there is a website to access. Because of this, it may be beneficial to put QR codes and informational posters around the area, especially in underserved and underrepresented communities, that link directly to the organization's website.
- Create printed versions of infographics and charts, then administer them to elderly communities, nursing homes, and to anyone without internet access.
 - Not everyone in the Savannah MSA has access to internet. In fact, according to the 2018 5-Year data for the American Community Survey, an estimated 12.2% of people in Bryan County, 13.2% of people in Chatham County, and 12.8% of people in Effingham County do not have access to the internet. Providing printed information that can be given to people without internet can bridge that information gap.
- Provide sign language translations for deaf and low hearing people
 - Online meetings may be able to reach a lot more people than physical meetings, but they also are less accessible to deaf and low hearing individuals. Live sign language translations allow deaf individuals to access the organizations meetings at the same time as hearing individuals.
 - To accomplish this, collaborating with organizations like the Savannah Chatham Council on Disability Issues and the Coastal Council of the Deaf is crucial in learning the specific needs of deaf individuals. This is helpful in coming up with outreach methods for deaf residents that do not have internet.
- Provide informational materials accessible to blind and low vision people
 - Similar to the disability discussion above, blind and low vision individuals require translations of CORE MPO information, specifically if they do not have access to the internet.
 - Contacting the Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision for help with translations and outreach will be helpful
- Provide translated summaries for people who speak Spanish
 - To ensure that Spanish speaking people with limited English skills still have access still have access to information, we want to provide Spanish translations.
- Provide closed captions
 - Closed captions can help low hearing individuals more easily follow live meetings
- Create a voluntary survey demographic survey to learn the composition of meetings and identify if there is any underrepresentation.
 - This is necessary to ensure that all demographics of people are represented.

See the separate document for the Participation Plan (PP) for more detailed information.

Appendix G

Language Assistance Plan (LAP)

See the separate document for the Language Assistance Plan (LAP).

Appendix H

Language Data:

Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area

	Bryan County, Georgia		Chatham County, Georgia		Effingham County, Georgia		Savannah MSA, Georgia	
	Estimate	% County Pop	Estimate	% County Pop	Estimate	% County Pop	Estimate	% MSA Pop
Total:	30,794	100.00%	260,239	100.00%	51,166	100.00%	342,199	100.00%
Speak only English	28,849	93.68%	236,415	90.85%	48,958	95.68%	314,222	91.82%
Spanish or Spanish Creole:	1,128	3.66%	13,221	5.08%	1,318	2.58%	15,667	4.58%
Speak English "very well"	726	2.36%	7,343	2.82%	1,081	2.11%	9,150	2.67%
Speak English less than "very well"	402	1.31%	5,878	2.26%	237	0.46%	6,517	1.90%
French (incl. Patois, Cajun):	47	0.15%	1,126	0.43%	157	0.31%	1,330	0.39%
Speak English "very well"	47	0.15%	921	0.35%	69	0.13%	1,037	0.30%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	205	0.08%	88	0.17%	293	0.09%
French Creole:	0	0.00%	116	0.04%	0	0.00%	116	0.03%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	99	0.04%	0	0.00%	99	0.03%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	17	0.01%	0	0.00%	17	0.00%
Italian:	32	0.10%	212	0.08%	0	0.00%	244	0.07%
Speak English "very well"	32	0.10%	199	0.08%	0	0.00%	231	0.07%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	13	0.00%	0	0.00%	13	0.00%
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole:	7	0.02%	218	0.08%	49	0.10%	274	0.08%
Speak English "very well"	3	0.01%	180	0.07%	22	0.04%	205	0.06%
Speak English less than "very well"	4	0.01%	38	0.01%	27	0.05%	69	0.02%
German:	102	0.33%	846	0.33%	88	0.17%	1,036	0.30%
Speak English "very well"	83	0.27%	620	0.24%	65	0.13%	768	0.22%
Speak English less than "very well"	19	0.06%	226	0.09%	23	0.04%	268	0.08%
Yiddish:	0	0.00%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	8	0.00%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	8	0.00%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Other West Germanic languages:	0	0.00%	96	0.04%	0	0.00%	96	0.03%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	85	0.03%	0	0.00%	85	0.02%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	11	0.00%	0	0.00%	11	0.00%
Scandinavian languages:	28	0.09%	101	0.04%	3	0.01%	132	0.04%
Speak English "very well"	28	0.09%	52	0.02%	3	0.01%	83	0.02%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	49	0.02%	0	0.00%	49	0.01%
Greek:	0	0.00%	110	0.04%	0	0.00%	110	0.03%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	105	0.04%	0	0.00%	105	0.03%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	5	0.00%
Russian:	73	0.24%	208	0.08%	30	0.06%	311	0.09%
Speak English "very well"	73	0.24%	202	0.08%	30	0.06%	305	0.09%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	6	0.00%	0	0.00%	6	0.00%
Polish:	0	0.00%	107	0.04%	0	0.00%	107	0.03%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	97	0.04%	0	0.00%	97	0.03%

Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	10	0.00%	0	0.00%	10	0.00%
Serbo-Croatian:	0	0.00%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	0.00%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	0.00%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Other Slavic languages:	17	0.06%	87	0.03%	0	0.00%	104	0.03%
Speak English "very well"	17	0.06%	38	0.01%	0	0.00%	55	0.02%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	49	0.02%	0	0.00%	49	0.01%
Armenian:	0	0.00%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	0.00%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	0.00%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Persian:	0	0.00%	110	0.04%	0	0.00%	110	0.03%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	47	0.02%	0	0.00%	47	0.01%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	63	0.02%	0	0.00%	63	0.02%
Gujarati:	27	0.09%	773	0.30%	186	0.36%	986	0.29%
Speak English "very well"	27	0.09%	433	0.17%	186	0.36%	646	0.19%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	340	0.13%	0	0.00%	340	0.10%
Hindi:	49	0.16%	651	0.25%	163	0.32%	863	0.25%
Speak English "very well"	21	0.07%	282	0.11%	163	0.32%	466	0.14%
Speak English less than "very well"	28	0.09%	369	0.14%	0	0.00%	397	0.12%
Urdu:	50	0.16%	51	0.02%	4	0.01%	105	0.03%
Speak English "very well"	50	0.16%	41	0.02%	4	0.01%	95	0.03%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	10	0.00%	0	0.00%	10	0.00%
Other Indic languages:	55	0.18%	282	0.11%	24	0.05%	361	0.11%
Speak English "very well"	55	0.18%	207	0.08%	24	0.05%	286	0.08%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	75	0.03%	0	0.00%	75	0.02%
Other Indo-European languages:	0	0.00%	213	0.08%	6	0.01%	219	0.06%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	162	0.06%	6	0.01%	168	0.05%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	51	0.02%	0	0.00%	51	0.01%
Chinese:	94	0.31%	1,051	0.40%	72	0.14%	1,217	0.36%
Speak English "very well"	18	0.06%	515	0.20%	40	0.08%	573	0.17%
Speak English less than "very well"	76	0.25%	536	0.21%	32	0.06%	644	0.19%
Japanese:	0	0.00%	212	0.08%	5	0.01%	217	0.06%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	166	0.06%	0	0.00%	166	0.05%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	46	0.02%	5	0.01%	51	0.01%
Korean:	30	0.10%	810	0.31%	0	0.00%	840	0.25%
Speak English "very well"	14	0.05%	477	0.18%	0	0.00%	491	0.14%
Speak English less than "very well"	16	0.05%	333	0.13%	0	0.00%	349	0.10%
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian:	0	0.00%	29	0.01%	0	0.00%	29	0.01%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	29	0.01%	0	0.00%	29	0.01%

Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Hmong:	0	0.00%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	8	0.00%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	8	0.00%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Thai:	0	0.00%	98	0.04%	4	0.01%	102	0.03%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	27	0.01%	4	0.01%	31	0.01%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	71	0.03%	0	0.00%	71	0.02%
Laotian:	0	0.00%	48	0.02%	0	0.00%	48	0.01%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	0.00%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	46	0.02%	0	0.00%	46	0.01%
Vietnamese:	124	0.40%	1,066	0.41%	18	0.04%	1,208	0.35%
Speak English "very well"	28	0.09%	511	0.20%	18	0.04%	557	0.16%
Speak English less than "very well"	96	0.31%	555	0.21%	0	0.00%	651	0.19%
Other Asian languages:	0	0.00%	375	0.14%	0	0.00%	375	0.11%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	237	0.09%	0	0.00%	237	0.07%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	138	0.05%	0	0.00%	138	0.04%
Tagalog:	49	0.16%	411	0.16%	54	0.11%	514	0.15%
Speak English "very well"	18	0.06%	319	0.12%	40	0.08%	377	0.11%
Speak English less than "very well"	31	0.10%	92	0.04%	14	0.03%	137	0.04%
Other Pacific Island languages:	4	0.01%	298	0.11%	27	0.05%	329	0.10%
Speak English "very well"	4	0.01%	233	0.09%	27	0.05%	264	0.08%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	65	0.02%	0	0.00%	65	0.02%
Navajo:	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Other Native North American languages:	0	0.00%	35	0.01%	0	0.00%	35	0.01%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	35	0.01%	0	0.00%	35	0.01%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Hungarian:	0	0.00%	6	0.00%	0	0.00%	6	0.00%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	6	0.00%	0	0.00%	6	0.00%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Arabic:	0	0.00%	365	0.14%	0	0.00%	365	0.11%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	177	0.07%	0	0.00%	177	0.05%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	188	0.07%	0	0.00%	188	0.05%
Hebrew:	0	0.00%	88	0.03%	0	0.00%	88	0.03%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	88	0.03%	0	0.00%	88	0.03%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
African languages:	0	0.00%	349	0.13%	0	0.00%	349	0.10%
Speak English "very well"	0	0.00%	264	0.10%	0	0.00%	264	0.08%

Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	85	0.03%	0	0.00%	85	0.02%
Other and unspecified languages:	29	0.09%	31	0.01%	0	0.00%	60	0.02%
Speak English "very well"	29	0.09%	31	0.01%	0	0.00%	60	0.02%
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

Appendix I

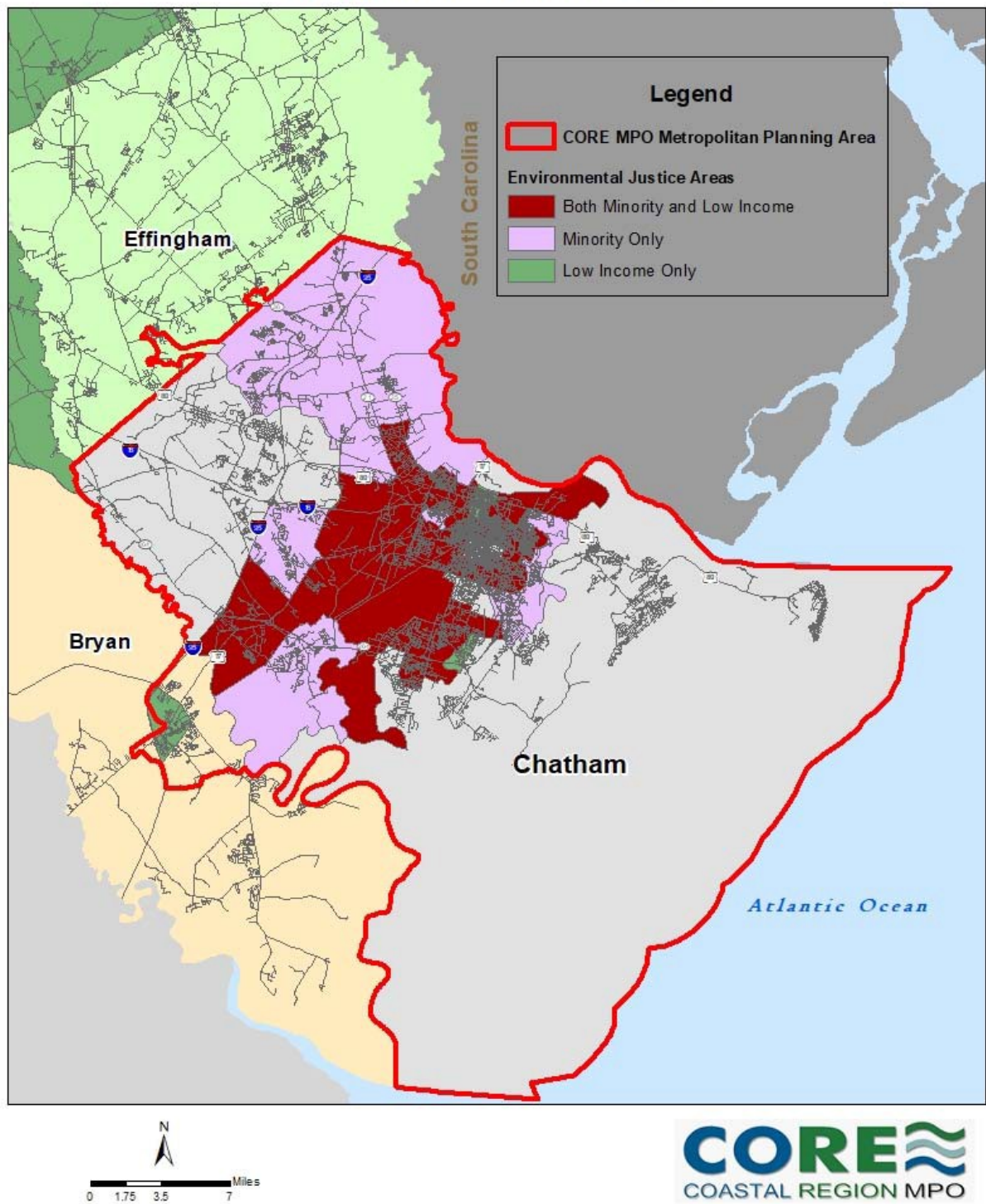
Demographic Maps and Environmental Justice Plan

The maps below demonstrate where the minority populations, low-income populations, and Hispanic populations (substitute for Hispanic-speaking LEP persons) are distributed in the Savannah region.

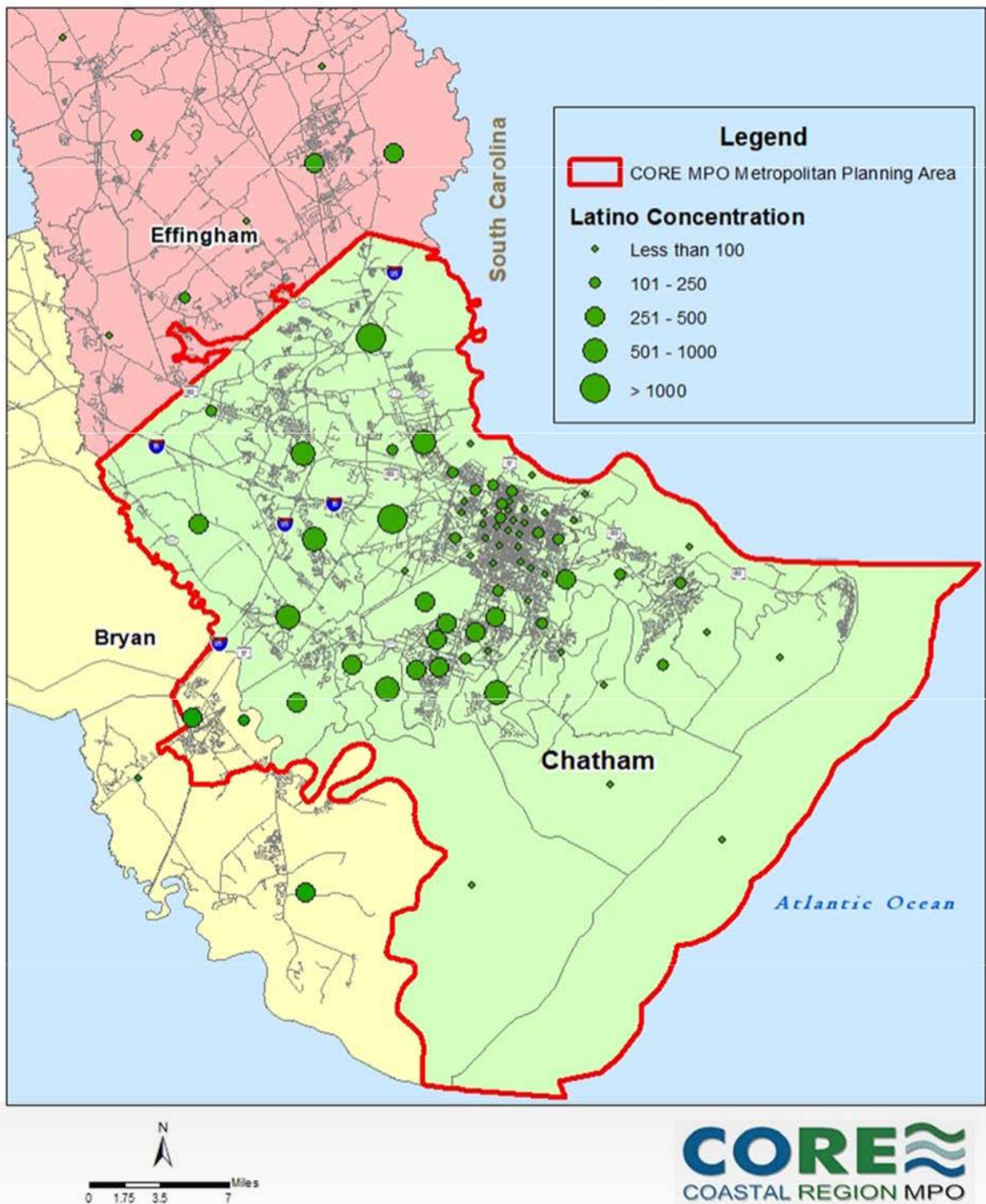
For more details on the demographic information, see the separate documents for the Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan and the Language Assistance Plan (LAP).

- The demographic information on minority and low-income populations is included in Chapter Three of the EJ Plan.
- The LEP population map and demographic information are included in Chapter Three of the LAP.

Environmental Justice Areas



Concentration of Hispanic Population



Appendix J

Title VI Equity Analysis

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) has not performed Title VI Equity Analysis because we are a planning agency and is not charged with constructing transit facilities.