



2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendments

August 2025

The CORE MPO's current 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in August 2024. The MTP can be amended as project scopes change or new needs are identified. According to the CORE MPO's Participation Plan, any proposed changes to the MTP can be sorted into three categories.

- Administrative Modification – 1) Making a minor revision (as defined in GDOT's STIP Amendment Process) to a project that is already in the MTP's financially constrained plan; OR 2) Adding, deleting, or modifying a project in the MTP's vision (illustrative) plan, provided that any added projects come from an adopted study accepted by the CORE MPO.
- One Step Amendment – 1) The request is more than a minor revision (i.e. not eligible as an administrative modification); AND 2) The request would not affect the funding or timing of other projects in the MTP's financially constrained plan or TIP.
- Two Step Amendment – 1) The request is more than a minor revision (i.e. not eligible as an administrative modification); AND 2) The request would affect the funding or timing of other projects in the MTP's financially constrained plan (and TIP in many cases).

The key to any MTP amendment is to make sure that the MTP is financially balanced in the impacted cost band after the amendment, impacting both the total project costs and the expected revenues. The MTP amendment process for the proposed project change varies (either two-step or one-step), so it's important to determine what kind of amendment is being pursued.

CORE MPO received several amendment requests and processed them in August 2025. The details are summarized on the next pages.

2050 MTP Amendment Requests

CHATHAM COUNTY REQUEST

In August 2025, Chatham County requested to amend two projects into the 2050 MTP - the John Carter Road Widening Project and SR 204 at Pine Grove Signal Elimination project. The information on the projects is listed below.

John Carter Road Widening

- Project Identification: No PI#
- Sponsor: Chatham County
- Request: Add the PE and ROW phases of the project to Cost Band One (2025-2032) and UTL and CST phases to Cost Band Two (2033-2041)
- Project Description: This project includes the widening of John Carter Road from Little Neck Road to Old River Road (approximately 3 miles) from two to four lanes and is recommended to be a locally led project. The purpose of this project is to create redundancy in the roadway network by providing alternate routes to I-16, a vital mobility corridor in the region.

Reason for Amendment: This project is being amended into the 2050 MTP so it can satisfy the eligibility requirements for the 2025 Call for Projects. Transportation Alternatives (Y301), Surface Transportation Block Grant (Y230), and Carbon Reduction Program (Y601) funds will be available for this round of Call for Projects. Project consistency with the 2050 MTP is a pre-requisite for the grant application.

Financial Impact: Chatham County provided the following cost estimates. The County will provide local funds for the UTL and CST phases (local funds commitment letter is attached to the report).

	Cost Band One		Cost Band Two	
	PE	ROW	UTL	CST
John Carter Road Widening	\$2,000,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,200,000	\$12,000,000

SR 204 at Pine Grove Signal Elimination

- Project Identification: No PI#
- Sponsor: Chatham County
- Request: Add the project to Cost Band One (2025-2032), including PE, ROW, UTL and CST phases
- Project Description: Close median at Ford Ave and Pine Grove Dr; improve SR 204 WB off ramp to US 17; add U-turn underneath existing SR 204 bridge at US 17; add acceleration/deceleration lanes along SR 204 at Ford Ave and Pine Grove Dr; additional laneage on US 17 to tie into ramps

Reason for Amendment: This project is being amended into the 2050 MTP so it can satisfy the eligibility requirements for the 2025 Call for Projects. Transportation Alternatives (Y301), Surface Transportation

Block Grant (Y230), and Carbon Reduction Program (Y601) funds will be available for this round of Call for Projects. Project consistency with the 2050 MTP is a pre-requisite for the grant application.

Financial Impact: Chatham County provided the following cost estimates.

	Cost Band One				
	PE	ROW	UTL	CST	Total
SR 204 at Pine Grove Signal Elimination	\$3,420,000	\$590,000	\$280,000	\$16,050,000	\$20,340,000

GDOT Requests

In July 2025, GDOT requested several TIP amendments via the FY 2026 Annual Mass Amendment (AMA) package. One of the projects included in the package is not consistent with the 2050 MTP. The TIP is a subset of the MTP, so this project must be amended into the 2050 MTP before TIP amendments can be processed.

I-16 FROM I-95/CHATHAM TO SR 67/BULLOCH

- Project Identification: 0020739
- Sponsor: GDOT
- Request: Add the ROW, UTL and CST phases of the project to FY 2026, corresponding to 2050 MTP Cost Band One (2025-2032).
- Project Description: I-16 FROM I-95/CHATHAM TO SR 67/BULLOCH. The GDOT project includes segments (I-16 west of the Bryan County/Effingham County line) not located within the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). Only the segments within the CORE MPO MPA are being amended into the 2050 MTP.
- Project Type: Widening

Reason for Amendment: This project needs to be amended into the 2050 MTP before it can be amended into the TIP.

Financial Impact: GDOT provided the cost estimates and funding codes in the AMA package. Most of the cost will be covered by state funds - \$76,890,000 (SGF-F) and \$94,957,155 (SGF25). Only \$330,000 will be covered with federal funds (Y001).

	Cost Band One			
	ROW	UTL	CST	Total
I-16 FROM I-95/CHATHAM TO SR 67/BULLOCH	\$1,980,000	\$1,320,000	\$168,877,155	\$172,177,155

Note: The full project cost for I-16 FROM I-95/CHATHAM TO SR 67/BULLOCH is \$521,748,955. 33% of this project (I-95 to Bryan/Effingham County line) is within the CORE MPO MPA. The GDOT Office of Financial Management (OFM) broke down the costs of the project based on the percentage, so the total cost for the segments within the CORE MPO MPA is \$172,177,155.

City of Savannah Requests

In August 2025, the City of Savannah requested two amendments to the 2050 MTP.

- Benton Boulevard – Highlands Boulevard south to Pooler City Limits – Widen from two lane to four lane divided
- Skidaway Road – Gwinnett Street south to Montgomery Cross Road – Widening, sidewalks, turn lanes, intersection improvements

Financial Impact: The City of Savannah did not provide any information on cost estimates or schedule of project development.

CORE MPO Analysis

The key to any MTP amendment is to make sure that the MTP is financially balanced in the impacted cost band after the amendment, impacting both the total project costs and the expected revenues. The 2050 MTP must be financially constrained in each cost band, meaning the total project costs must be equal to or less than the expected revenues for that cost band. The MTP amendment process for the proposed project change varies (either two-step or one-step), so it's important to determine what kind of amendment is being pursued.

Financial Balance Determination: By reviewing the 2050 MTP financial balance and the requests, CORE MPO staff have made the following determinations.

- **John Carter Road Widening** - The requested project phases are not included in the 2050 MTP, so they must be amended into the plan. The current Cost Band One balance is around \$3.6 million and is enough to cover the requested inclusion of PE and ROW phases. Chatham County has committed additional local funds to cover the UTL and CST phases as indicated in the attached local fund commitment letter. These local funds will be considered additional revenues beyond the original 2050 MTP revenue projections. **Inclusion of the requested project phases into the 2050 MTP will not impact other projects in the plan, so one-step amendment is processed to accommodate the changes.**

- **Pine Grove Signal Elimination** – Since this project proposes to make operational improvements, is not a capacity-building project, and has a dedicated project sponsor (Chatham County), **CORE MPO staff determined that it is consistent with the 2050 MTP Operational Improvements Set Aside**. The 2050 MTP has more than \$73 million in Cost Band One to cover operational improvement projects. **This project does not need 2050 MTP amendments**. The 2050 MTP policy regarding this kind of projects is listed below.

2050 MTP Operational Improvements Set Aside Policy: Any operational improvement project (traffic signals, turn lanes, intersection improvement, etc.) in the Savannah region seeking CORE MPO highway funding is considered to be consistent with the MPO's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan provided that 1) the project is consistent with the MPO's plans (2050 Vision Plan, CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan, Congestion Management Process, etc.) or local Capital Improvement Programs; 2) the project makes improvements to functionally classified roadways (collectors and above); and 3) the project has a dedicated project sponsor with local match funding commitment.

- **P# 0020739, I-16 FROM I-95/CHATHAM TO SR 67/BULLOCH** – The 2050 MTP includes PI# 0015528, I-16 between I-95 and Pooler Pkwy with PE in Cost Band Two and CST in Cost Band Three. This project was programmed to address FHWA's comment on future congestion on I-16 when GDOT Planning was approving the I-16/I-95 reconstruction IMR. However, traffic increased more than projected and a larger corridor improvement was needed, so PI# 0020739 was created. GDOT will cancel PI# 0015528 and CORE MPO will send GDOT the project cancellation request. This means PI# 0015528 will not be needed in the 2050 MTP, releasing revenues from Cost Band Two and Cost Band Three. PI# 0020739 will be amended into Cost Band One to cover the I-16 widening needs.

The project costs of PI# 0020739 will be covered by state funds - \$76,890,000 (SGF-F) and \$94,957,155 (SGF25), as well as federal funds (330,000 of Y001 funds). These funds were not included in the original 2050 MTP revenue streams which were based on previous years' obligations; thus, they can be accounted for as additional revenues beyond the 2050 MTP revenue projections. As a result, **inclusion of the project phases into 2050 MTP Cost Band One will not impact other projects already included in that cost band**. Based on the CORE MPO Participation Plan, one-step amendment can be processed for the project.

- **Other State Funded Projects** – It has come to the attention of CORE MPO that multiple state-funded projects are in development in the CORE MPO region. During the 2024 Legislative Session, Governor Kemp recommended and the Georgia General Assembly appropriated state general funds for \$1.5 billion of the budget surplus to support improving the state's transportation infrastructure by advancing timing for key planned transportation projects and begin new strategic projects. Funding will be allocated in the budget under several categories. The state-funded projects in the CORE MPO region don't have to be a part of the fiscally

constrained 2050 MTP, but they have regional significance and should be documented. GDOT has more flexibility in development for the state-funded projects.

- PI# 0020172, SR 21 FROM SR 30/CHATHAM TO MCCALL ROAD/EFFINGHAM – This project is included in Cost Band One of 2050 MTP and was added to the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP as an Illustrative Project in June 2025. Having state funds available means the revenues allocated to this project in 2050 MTP can be released for use by other projects.
 - PI# 0020173, CONNECTOR FROM SR 17 TO SR 30 – This project was added to the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP as an illustrative project in June 2025.
 - PI 0020169, I-95 FROM SR 144 TO SR 21 – The 2050 MTP identified needs for I-95 widening but could not accommodate the project due to huge costs. Thus, the needs are documented in the Vision Plan. GDOT is implementing the project with state funds and requested that the project be added to the Illustrative Section of the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP.
- **Benton Blvd and Skidaway Road Project** – CORE MPO staff do not have enough project information, such as cost estimates and cost band, which is required to determine if adding these projects will impact other projects in the 2050 MTP. Thus, no MTP amendments were processed for these two projects in August 2025. Additionally, CORE MPO staff suggested that the City of Savannah coordinate with GDOT on the Benton Boulevard project, as GDOT has a widening project in development for that area – PI# 0020173, CONNECTOR FROM SR 17 TO SR 30. This project is in the illustrative section of the TIP. Coordination on project development will increase investment efficiency.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The adopted MTP amendment process outlined in the CORE MPO Participation Plan requires public review and comment and responses to all comments (either individually or in summary form) for all MTP amendments. To process the proposed amendments in August 2025, CORE MPO advertised a fifteen (15) day public comment period in the Savannah Morning News on Sunday, August 10, 2025 (Appendix B). The notice was sent to the local news media and the consultation agencies as well as neighborhood associations and posted on the CORE MPO website. The comment period started on August 13, 2025 and closed on August 27, 2025. A public hearing has been advertised and held in conjunction with the CORE MPO Board meeting on August 27, 2025.

No public comments have been received. The comments received from the project sponsors as well as the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees have been addressed and incorporated into the updated report.

CORE MPO ACTION FOR AUGUST 2025

The proposed 2050 MTP amendments as summarized in the report were endorsed by the CORE MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Community Opportunities and Public Involvement Committee (COPIC) on August 19, 2025, and by the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) on August 21, 2025. The CORE MPO Board adopted the 2050 MTP amendments on August 27, 2025.

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Project Pages

Appendix B: Public Involvement Materials

Appendix C: 2050 MTP Amendment Coordination

Appendix D: Resolution to Adopt 2050 MTP Amendment

Appendix A: Project Pages

New Project Page

PROJECT NAME: John Carter Road Widening		GDOT PI #:			
PROJECT TERMINI: Little Neck Road to Old River Road					
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project includes the widening of John Carter Road from Little Neck Road to Old River Road (approximately 3 miles) from two to four lanes and is recommended to be a locally led project. The purpose of this project is to create redundancy in the roadway network by providing alternate routes to I-16, a vital mobility corridor in the region.					
Thoroughfare Type: Major Collector	Map Project ID: Not mapped		Total Project Cost:		
Performance Measures	PM1/Highway Safety	PM2/Pavement & Bridge	PM3/Freight & CMAQ	Transit Asset Management	Transit Safety
	X		X		
Comments: In August 2025, Chatham County requested to amend this project into the plan. 					
PROJECT PHASE	Cost Band 1 2025 - 2032	Cost Band 2 2033 - 2041		Cost Band 3 2042 - 2050	
Preliminary Engineering	\$2,000,000				
Right-of-Way	\$1,400,000				
Utility		\$1,200,000			
Construction		\$12,000,000			

New Project Page

PROJECT NAME: I-16 FROM I-95/CHATHAM TO SR 67/BULLOCH		GDOT PI #: 0020739			
PROJECT TERMINI: I-95/CHATHAM TO Bryan/Effingham County Line with CORE MPO MPA					
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project includes the widening of I-16 from I-95 to SR 67. The segments within the CORE MPO MPA is between I-95 and Bryan/Effingham County Line. The full project cost for I-16 FROM I-95/CHATHAM TO SR 67/BULLOCH is \$521,748,955. 33% of this project is within the CORE MPO MPA. The GDOT Office of Financial Management (OFM) broke down the costs of the project based on the percentage, so the total cost for the segments within the CORE MPO boundary is \$172,177,155.					
Thoroughfare Type: Interstate	Map Project ID: Not mapped		Total Project Cost: \$172,177,155		
Performance Measures	PM1/Highway Safety	PM2/Pavement & Bridge	PM3/Freight & CMAQ	Transit Asset Management	Transit Safety
	X		X		
Comments: In July 2025, GDOT requested to amend this project into the plan. <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>					
PROJECT PHASE	Cost Band 1 2025 - 2032	Cost Band 2 2033 - 2041		Cost Band 3 2042 - 2050	
Preliminary Engineering					
Right-of-Way	\$1,980,000				
Utility	\$1,320,000				
Construction	\$168,877,155				

Appendix B: Public Involvement Materials

August 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR MTP and NMTP AMENDMENTS

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is the transportation planning agency for the Savannah urbanized area. The CORE MPO is intending to process amendments to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Non-motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP). These amendments will ensure that amended projects are eligible for funds for the upcoming Call for Projects application period. CORE MPO is requesting the public to review and provide comments on the draft MTP and NMTP amendments. The amendments will be available for review at the Live Oak public libraries, the Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) office, the MPC website at <https://www.thempc.org/Core>, and other public review agencies. Any changes to the amendments report will be posted on the website.

The comment period starts on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**, until the close of business on **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**. Comments are accepted via text, email, or mail. Please send your comments to Asia Hernton via:

Text: Send texts to herntona@thempc.org

Email: herntona@thempc.org

Mail: Metropolitan Planning Commission, 110 E. State Street, Savannah, GA 31401

CORE MPO will host one (1) hybrid public meeting to answer questions and accept comments on the proposed MTP and NMTP Amendments in conjunction with the August 2025 CORE MPO Board meeting. The public can attend the meeting in person or virtually via Go-To-Webinar. The meeting time, location and link are listed below.

CORE MPO Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Metropolitan Planning Commission

110 E. State Street, Savannah GA 31401

The virtual meeting will be conducted with Go-To-Webinar, so advanced registration is required. Please register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6157430486506551898>. After registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

For a complete list of public review agencies, additional information regarding the draft TIP amendments, and information regarding the virtual public meeting, please call (912) 651-1456.

Disclaimer: 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.

Appendix C: 2050 MTP Amendment Coordination


RE: TCC Follow Up - IMPORTANT

From Deana Brooks <DBrooks@chathamcounty.org>

Date Fri 8/8/2025 3:39 PM

To Asia Hernton <herntona@thempc.org>

Cc Kieron Coffield <coffieldk@thempc.org>; Tina Bockhold <TiBockhold@chathamcounty.org>; Damon Rice <darice@chathamcounty.org>

 2 attachments (1 MB)

LaRoche Ave Limits.pdf; Ferguson Ave Limits.pdf;

Hey,

I figured it might be easier if I also responded to this email directly to help track the request for amendments.

Amendments needed for NMTP:

Extend limits of Ferguson Ave to be the full extents of Ferguson, from Shipyard Ave to Skidaway Road. Map attached.

Extend limits of Laroche Ave to be full extents of Laroche, from Bluff Drive to Skidaway Road. Map Attached

Amendments needed for STBG, CRP, TA:

John Carter Road Widening, request to be added. Project was identified in the Freight Plan Update and Coastal Empire Transportation Study

SR 204 at Pine Grove Signal Elimination including improvements at SR 204 at US 17, project identified in SR 204 Study

Let me know if additional information is needed.

Thanks,

Deana



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

August 13, 2025

Coastal Regional MPO
Attn: Asia Hernton
110 East State Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Subject: Chatham County Local Fund Commitment

Ms. Hernton:

Chatham County is formally requesting an amendment to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to include the John Carter Road Widening Project.

We understand that the available funds will only be sufficient to cover the Preliminary Engineering and Right-of-Way phases, which are currently estimated at \$3.4 million. Chatham County is committed to providing local funds to support the Utility and Construction phases, which are anticipated to total approximately \$13.2 million.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with the Coastal Regional MPO to advance this important transportation improvement for our community.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cooler, PE
Chatham County Engineer



**Resolution to Amend the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan of
the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)**

WHEREAS, the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) desires to adopt amendments to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan called Moving Forward Together 2050 for the CORE MPO transportation planning area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed MTP amendments are to add several projects to the plan at the request of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, an analysis was conducted, and it was determined that the proposed plan amendments will not negatively impact the financial balance of the 2050 MTP; and

WHEREAS, CORE MPO, in accordance with the adopted Participation Plan, has completed a 15-day public review and comment period for the proposed MTP amendments and has addressed all received comments; and

WHEREAS, CORE MPO has conducted a public hearing for the proposed MTP amendments, and has taken into consideration comments made at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, all requirements of the Participation Plan pertaining to MTP amendments have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization adopts the amendments to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as shown in the summary of MTP amendment report with any corrections based upon the motion of the August 27, 2025 meeting.

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 27, 2025**.

Chester A. Ellis, Chairman
Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization