

COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AUGUST 2025 MPO MEETINGS

Agenda Item: 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendments

Presenter: Asia Hernton, CORE MPO staff

Summary: The CORE MPO's current 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in August 2025. 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 two amendment requests and are processing them in August 2025. The details are summarized on the next pages.

Recommendation: For endorsement and approval of the proposed amendments.



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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: 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

	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

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 will provide local funds for the UTL and CST phases.

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



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	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

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.

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 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 letter. These funds will be considered additional revenues beyond the 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 project 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.)



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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.

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 will start on August 13, 2025 and close on August 27, 2025. A public hearing has been advertised to be held in conjunction with the CORE MPO Board meeting on August 27, 2025.



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Appendix

Appendix A: Project Pages

Appendix B: Public Involvement Materials

Appendix C: 2050 MTP Amendment Coordination

Appendix D: Resolution to Adopt 2050 MTP Amendment

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T H E C O A S T A L R E G I O N

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Appendix A: Project Pages

New Project Page

PROJECT NAME: John Carter Road Widening		GDOT PI #:			
PROJECT TERMINI:					
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:	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			



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.



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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



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Appendix D: Resolution to Adopt the 2050 MTP Amendments

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 1) add the John Carter Road Widening project and 2) add the SR 204 at Pine Grove Signal Elimination project; 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 since the discretionary grant funded projects are separated from the formula funded projects; 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 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.

Approved this day, August 27, 2025.

Chester A. Ellis, Chairperson
Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization



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