

COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION October 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 (2050 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 are processing them in October 2025. The details are summarized on the next pages.

Recommendation: For endorsement and approval of the proposed MTP amendments.



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2050 MTP Amendment Requests

GDOT REQUEST

In September 2025, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) requested to amend a project into the 2050 MTP and FY 2024 – 2027 TIP – the I-95 @ Belfast Keller Road project. The information on the project is listed below.

I-95 @ Belfast Keller Road

- Project Identification: PI 0021292
- Sponsor: Bryan County
- Request: Add the PE, ROW, and CST phases of the project to Cost Band One (2025-2032).
- Project Description: Ramp (Interchange Improvements)

Reason for Amendment: For MTP/TIP consistency, this project needs to be amended into the 2050 MTP before it can be subsequently amended into the FY 2024-2027 TIP.

Financial Impact: There is no expected financial impact on the financially constrained projects in the 2050 MTP, because the requested project is funded by the FY 2024 Congressional Directed Spending/Earmark funds and committed local funds, which will be an addition to the 2050 MTP revenues.

	Cost Band One		
	PE	ROW	CST
I-95 @ Belfast Keller Road	\$25,000	\$100,000	\$5,980,000

Effingham County Request

In September 2025, Effingham County requested six amendments to the 2050 MTP.

- SERN
- Jabez Jones Extension
- Old River Road realignment
- Low Ground Road Extension
- Effingham Parkway Widening
- Effingham Parkway Extension

Financial Impact: Effingham County did not provide any information on cost estimates or schedule of project development.



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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.

- **I-95 @ Belfast Keller Road** - The requested project phases are not included in the 2050 MTP, so they must be amended into the plan. Because the project is funded by committed local funds and earmark funds, and will not require the financially constrained funds of the MTP, CORE MPO has determined that this project will not financially impact the other MTP projects. **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.**
- **Effingham County's Requested Projects: SERN, Jabez Jones Extension, Old River Road realignment, Low Ground Road Extension, Effingham Parkway Widening, Effingham Parkway Extension** - 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 will be processed for these projects in October 2025. CORE MPO staff suggests requesting an amendment for a future round of MPO meetings with funding and schedule information included in the request.

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 October 2025, CORE MPO advertised a fifteen (15) day public comment period in the Savannah Morning News on Sunday, October 5, 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 October 8, 2025 and close on October 22, 2025. A public hearing has been advertised to be held in conjunction with the CORE MPO Board meeting on October 22, 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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Appendix A: Project Pages

New Project Page

PROJECT NAME: I-95 @ Belfast Keller Road		GDOT PI #: 0021292			
PROJECT TERMINI:					
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Ramp (Interchange Improvements)					
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			
Comments: In September 2025, GDOT requested to amend this project into the 2050 MTP.					
PROJECT PHASE	Cost Band 1 2025 - 2032	Cost Band 2 2033 - 2041		Cost Band 3 2042 – 2050	
Preliminary Engineering	\$25,000				
Right-of-Way	\$100,000				
Utility					
Construction	\$5,980,000				



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Appendix B: Public Involvement Materials

October 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR MTP and TIP AMENDMENTS

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO), the transportation planning agency for the Savannah urbanized area, is intending to process amendments to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the FY 2024 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). CORE MPO is requesting the public to review and provide comments on the draft reports for the MTP and TIP amendments. The reports include proposed updates to the MTP and TIP. Copies of the draft amendment reports for the MTP and the TIP 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 MTP and/or TIP amendment reports will be posted on the website.

The comment period starts on **Wednesday, October 8, 2025**, until the close of business on **Wednesday, October 22, 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 TIP Amendments in conjunction with the October 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, October 22, 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/4875879315589455709>. 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 MTP and 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

From Sathi, Kaniz S <KSathi@dot.ga.gov>

Date Wed 9/10/2025 1:53 PM

To Wykoda Wang <wangw@thempc.org>; Asia Hernton <herntona@thempc.org>

Cc kcraasmun@bryancountyga.gov <kcraasmun@bryancountyga.gov>; Eric Van Otteren <evanotteren@bryancountyga.gov>; Troy Pittman <trpittman@dot.ga.gov>; Shelby, Albert <ashelby@dot.ga.gov>; Nesbitt, Kimberly <knesbitt@dot.ga.gov>; Martin, Kelly <KMartin@dot.ga.gov>; Vivian Canizares <mcanizares@dot.ga.gov>

1 attachment (36 KB)

Congressional Earmark Table Excerpt.pdf

Good afternoon Wykoda/Asia,

The Office of Planning would like to request an amendment to the current TIP and MTP for adding a new earmark project PI 0021292 based on the information below, and the Congressional Earmark Table (attached). Please add the proposed TIP and MTP project amendment to the next TCC and PC agendas for October 2025. The federal funds have been awarded through the federal fiscal year 2024 Congressional Directed Spending/Earmarks. This earmark should be an addition to the MTP revenues.

Amendment:

Project Identification: PI 0021292

Project Description: I-95 @ BELFAST KELLER ROAD

Primary Work Type: Ramp (Interchange Improvements)

Sponsor: Bryan County

GDOT PI	Fiscal Year	Phase	Fund Code	Federal Amount	State Amount	Local Amount	Total Amount
0021292	2026	PE	LOC	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
	2027	ROW	LOC	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
	2028	CST	Y603	\$4,784,000	\$0	\$1,196,000	\$5,980,000

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you!

Thanks,

Kaniz S. Sathi

Transportation Planning Specialist



Office of Planning
600 West Peachtree Street, 5th Floor
Atlanta, GA, 30308
Phone: 404.631.1745 office



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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 add a project to the plan at the request of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT); 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 October 22, 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 **October 22, 2025**.

Chester A. Ellis, Chairperson
Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization



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