

COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION JUNE 2026 SPECIAL CALLED CORE MPO BOARD MEETING

Agenda Item: FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendments

Presenter: Zhongze (Wykoda) Wang, CORE MPO Staff

Summary: The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the MPO's short-range programming document and is a staged, multi-year listing of surface transportation projects proposed for federal, state, and local funding within the metropolitan planning area. The TIP may be modified in accordance with the procedures outlined in the adopted Participation Plan by resolution of the CORE MPO Board if priorities, area goals, project schedules or funding levels change.

The current FY 2024 – 2027 TIP was adopted by the CORE MPO Board on November 1, 2023, and is referenced in the Statewide TIP (STIP). It is important to make sure that the information contained in the TIP is current and reflective of the most up-to-date cost estimates and development schedules. It is also important to amend the TIP to add new or delete existing projects/phases at the request of sponsoring agencies based on the project changes and MTP/TIP consistencies.

In May 2026, the Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) requested amendments to the TIP for FHWA Ferry Boat Program funds, particularly the FY 2023 funds. The following pages detail the proposed changes to the TIP.

Recommendation: Approve/endorse amendments to the FY 2024-2027 TIP.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The adopted TIP/STIP 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 TIP amendments. To process the proposed amendments on June 1, 2026 for the special called CORE MPO Board meeting, CORE MPO advertised a fifteen (15) day public comment period in the Savannah Morning News on Sunday, May 17, 2026 (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 May 18, 2026 and close on June 1, 2026. A public hearing has been advertised to be held in conjunction with the special called CORE MPO Board meeting on June 1, 2026.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDEMENTS TO FY 2024 – FY 2027 TIP

PI#	Description	Updates
TBA	FHWA FBP Flex Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add FY 2023 FHWA FBP allocation funds to Ferryboat Restoration - Susie King Taylor I in FY 2026;• Move estimated FY 2026 FHWA FBP funds to FY 2027
TBA	FHWA FBP Flex Funding	Combine estimated FY 2026 and FY 2027 FHWA FBP funds in FY 2027 for Ferryboat Restoration - Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus

Ferry Boat Restoration: Susie King Taylor I

PI#	TBA
MTP Priority:	Consistent with the 2050 MTP Transit Improvements
Project Description:	The project aims to enhance service reliability, safety, and accessibility for workers, residents, and visitors traveling across the Savannah River. Upon completion, the watercraft will be ADA-compliant, ensuring improved accessibility for all passengers. The rehabilitation effort will extend the ferry’s lifespan, reduce maintenance costs, and support continued high-quality transportation services in the region. The rehabilitation will involve thorough inspections and repairs of the hull structure, propulsion system, electrical components, and mechanical equipment to ensure optimal performance and compliance with maritime safety regulations. Additionally, critical components, such as the engine, generator, and navigational system, will be replaced to improve fuel efficiency and reduce operational downtime. Modernization efforts will include upgrades to passenger seating, lighting, and onboard amenities to enhance the overall rider experience.
Project Status:	<p>On April 22, 2026, the CORE MPO Board approved the TIP amendments to re-allocate the FHWA Ferry Boat Program (FBP) allocation funds in FY 2024 and 2025 to the Susie King Taylor I ferry boat restoration project in FY 2026. An updated project page has been added to the transit section of the TIP as a result of the amendments. On May 15, 2026, CORE MPO processed an administrative modification to move the project to the highway section of the TIP and revised the format of the project page to show specific funding codes to be in compliance with the required format for highway improvement projects.</p> <p>In May 2026, CAT requested an amendment to add FY 2023 FHWA FBP allocation funds to FY 2026 for Susie King Taylor I restoration, noting that they have received an extension from FHWA for these funds (originally supposed to have lapsed). At the same time, the estimated FY 2026 FHWA FBP funds will be moved to FY 2027 for restoration of the other three ferry boats.</p>
Amendment:	Add FY 2023 FHWA FBP allocation funds to Ferryboat Restoration - Susie King Taylor I in FY 2026; Move estimated FY 2026 FHWA FBP funds to FY 2027.
PBPP:	This project will help achieve the performance targets for Transit Safety and Transit Asset Management.
Requesting Agency:	Chatham Area Transit

Funding/Year:			
Status	Phase	Funding	2026
Current FY 2024 -2027 TIP as of April 22, 2026	CST	FHWA FBP /Local	FY 2024: \$358,398/\$89,600
			FY 2025: \$383,469/\$95,867
			FY 2026: \$356,449/\$89,112
			FY 2024 – 2026 Total: \$1,098,316/\$274,579
Updated FY 2024-2027 TIP as of June 1, 2026	CST	FHWA FBP Allocations/Local	FY 2023: \$363,292/\$90,823
			FY 2024: \$358,398/\$89,600
			FY 2025: \$383,469/\$95,867
			FY 2023 – 2025 Total: \$1,105,159/\$276,290

Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus

PI#	TBA
MTP Priority:	Consistent with the 2050 MTP Transit Improvements
Project Description:	The project aims to enhance service reliability, safety, and accessibility for workers, residents, and visitors traveling across the Savannah River. Upon completion, the watercrafts will be ADA-compliant, ensuring improved accessibility for all passengers. The rehabilitation effort will extend the ferry’s lifespan, reduce maintenance costs, and support continued high-quality transportation services in the region. The rehabilitation will involve thorough inspections and repairs of the hull structure, propulsion system, electrical components, and mechanical equipment to ensure optimal performance and compliance with maritime safety regulations. Additionally, critical components, such as the engine, generator, and navigational system, will be replaced to improve fuel efficiency and reduce operational downtime. Modernization efforts will include upgrades to passenger seating, lighting, and onboard amenities to enhance the overall rider experience.
Project Status:	<p>On April 22, 2026, the CORE MPO Board approved the TIP amendments to re-allocate the FHWA Ferry Boat Program (FBP) allocation funds in FY 2024 and 2025 to the Susie King Taylor I ferry boat restoration project in FY 2026. An updated project page has been added to the transit section of the TIP as a result of the amendments, including the FY 2027 estimated FHWA FBP funds for Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus. On May 15, 2026, CORE MPO processed an administrative modification to move the project to the highway section of the TIP and revised the format of the project page to show specific funding codes to be in compliance with the required format for highway improvement projects.</p> <p>In May 2026, CAT requested an amendment to move the estimated FY 2026 FHWA FBP funds to FY 2027 for Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus.</p>
Amendment:	<p>Move estimated FY 2026 FHWA FBP funds FY 2027.</p> <p>Combine estimated FY 2026 and FY 2027 FHWA FBP funds for Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus.</p>
PBPP:	This project will help achieve the performance targets for Transit Safety and Transit Asset Management.
Requesting Agency:	Chatham Area Transit

Funding/Year:			
Status	Phase	Funding	2027
Current FY 2024 - 2027 TIP as of April 22, 2026	CST	FHWA FBP Estimates/Local	\$356,449/\$89,112
Updated FY 2024 -2027 TIP as of June 1, 2026	CST	FHWA FBP Estimates/Local	FY 2026: \$356,449/\$89,112
			FY 2027: \$356,449/\$89,112
			FY 2026 – 2027 Total: \$712,898/\$178,224

Appendix:

Appendix A: Updated Project Pages

Appendix B: Public Involvement Materials

Appendix C: TIP Amendment Request

Appendix D: Resolution to Adopt TIP amendments

Appendix E: Supporting Documents

- FHWA FBP funding allocations
- Local Match Commitment from CAT
- Other Supporting documentation for the ferry rehabilitation project

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Appendix A: Updated Project Pages

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Current Project Pages – May 15, 2026

Ferry Boat Restoration: Susie King Taylor I				P.I. #:	TBA	
				TIP #:	2026-FHWA-FBP-01	
Description: The project aims to enhance service reliability, safety, and accessibility for workers, residents, and visitors traveling across the Savannah River. Upon completion, the watercrafts will be ADA-compliant, ensuring improved accessibility for all passengers. The rehabilitation effort will extend the ferry’s lifespan, reduce maintenance costs, and support continued high-quality transportation services in the region. The rehabilitation will involve thorough inspections and repairs of the hull structure, propulsion system, electrical components, and mechanical equipment to ensure optimal performance and compliance with maritime safety regulations. Additionally, critical components, such as the engine, generator, and navigational system, will be replaced to improve fuel efficiency and reduce operational downtime. Modernization efforts will include upgrades to passenger seating, lighting, and onboard amenities to enhance the overall rider experience.				COUNTY:	CHATHAM	
				PROJ. #:		
				FUND:	Z95F, Y95B, Y954, Z95G, Y955, FBP (TBA)	
				GDOT DISTRICT:	5	
FHWA Funding Allocation Confirmed? Yes	Local Match Confirmed? Yes	CONG. DISTRICT:	1			
GDOT Programming Needed? Yes		RC:	CRC			
FHWA Funding Flexing to FTA Needed? Yes		LENGTH (MI):	NA			
COMMENTS/REMARKS: In March and April 2026, Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) requested to re-allocate the FHWA Ferry Boat Program (FBP) funds in FY 2024 and 2025 to the Susie King Taylor I ferry boat restoration project in FY 2026. The total cost is projected at \$1,372,895. The federal portion is \$1,098,316, and the local portion is \$274,579 to be provided by CAT Capital Reserves. The funds for the project originally come from FHWA and will be flexed to FTA. FY 2024 and FY 2025 funds were programmed in previous TIPs for ferry dock repair. This application has been deleted, and the funds are reallocated to the SKT I Ferry Restoration Project. CORE MPO processed a TIP amendment in April 2026 to merge FY 2024 and FY 2025 FHWA FBP allocation funds with FY 2026 FBP estimated funds for a complete overhaul of the ferryboat SKT I. After funding authorization, the funds will be flexed to FTA and will become FTA funds which CAT can apply directly. Note - Another amendment is being processed with expected adoption on June 1, 2026 for this project.						
PROJECT PHASE	\$ SOURCE	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	TOTAL
PRELIM. ENGR.	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RIGHT-OF-WAY	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
CONSTRUCTION	HTF Pre-BIL FY2024 (Z95F)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$7,039/\$1,760	\$0	\$8,799
CONSTRUCTION	HTF Post-BIL FY2024 (Y95B)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$209,460/\$52,365	\$0	\$261,825
CONSTRUCTION	GF Post-BIL FY2024 (Y954)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$141,899/\$35,475	\$0	\$177,374
CONSTRUCTION	HTF Pre-IIJA FY2025 (Z95G)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$13,373/\$3,343	\$0	\$16,716
CONSTRUCTION	HTF Post-IIJA FY2025 (Y95B)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$223,289/\$55,822	\$0	\$279,111
CONSTRUCTION	GF Post-IIJA FY2025 (Y955)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$146,807/\$36,702	\$0	\$183,509
CONSTRUCTION	FY 2026 Estimated FBP/Local	\$0	\$0	\$356,449/\$89,112	\$0	\$445,561
PROJECT COST		\$0	\$0	\$1,372,895	\$0	\$1,372,895
FEDERAL COST		\$0	\$0	\$1,098,316	\$0	\$1,098,316
STATE COST		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LOCAL COST		\$0	\$0	\$274,579	\$0	\$274,579
PROJECT LOCATION						
Ferry Boat Restoration: Susie King Taylor I						

Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus				P.I. #:		TBA
				TIP #:		2026-FHWA-FBP-02
<p>Description: The project aims to enhance service reliability, safety, and accessibility for workers, residents, and visitors traveling across the Savannah River. Upon completion, the watercrafts will be ADA-compliant, ensuring improved accessibility for all passengers. The rehabilitation effort will extend the ferry's lifespan, reduce maintenance costs, and support continued high-quality transportation services in the region. The rehabilitation will involve thorough inspections and repairs of the hull structure, propulsion system, electrical components, and mechanical equipment to ensure optimal performance and compliance with maritime safety regulations. Additionally, critical components, such as the engine, generator, and navigational system, will be replaced to improve fuel efficiency and reduce operational downtime. Modernization efforts will include upgrades to passenger seating, lighting, and onboard amenities to enhance the overall rider experience.</p>				COUNTY:		CHATHAM
				PROJ. #:		
				FUND:		FHWA FBP (TBA)
				GDOT DISTRICT:		5
				CONG. DISTRICT:		1
FHWA Funding Allocation Confirmed? No		Local Match Confirmed? No		RC:		CRC
GDOT Programming Needed?		Yes		LENGTH (MI):		NA
FHWA Funding Flexing to FTA Needed?		Yes		COMMENTS/REMARKS: Estimated FHWA FBP funds are programmed. When specific funding amounts and funding codes become available, this page will be updated. Note - Another amendment is being processed with expected adoption on June 1, 2026 for this project.		
PROJECT PHASE	\$ SOURCE	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	TOTAL
PRELIM. ENGR.	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RIGHT-OF-WAY	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 Estimated FBP/Local	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$356,449/\$89,112	\$445,561
PROJECT COST		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$445,561	\$445,561
FEDERAL COST		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$356,449	\$356,449
STATE COST		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LOCAL COST		\$0	\$0	0	\$89,112	\$89,112
PROJECT LOCATION						
Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus						

Updated Project Pages – June 1, 2026

Ferry Boat Restoration: Susie King Taylor I				P.I. #:		TBA	
				TIP #:		2026-FHWA-FBP-01	
Description: The project aims to enhance service reliability, safety, and accessibility for workers, residents, and visitors traveling across the Savannah River. Upon completion, the watercrafts will be ADA-compliant, ensuring improved accessibility for all passengers. The rehabilitation effort will extend the ferry’s lifespan, reduce maintenance costs, and support continued high-quality transportation services in the region. The rehabilitation will involve thorough inspections and repairs of the hull structure, propulsion system, electrical components, and mechanical equipment to ensure optimal performance and compliance with maritime safety regulations. Additionally, critical components, such as the engine, generator, and navigational system, will be replaced to improve fuel efficiency and reduce operational downtime. Modernization efforts will include upgrades to passenger seating, lighting, and onboard amenities to enhance the overall rider experience.				COUNTY:		CHATHAM	
				PROJ. #:			
				FUND:		Z95B, Z95F, Y95B, Y952, Y954, Z95G, Y955	
				GDOT DISTRICT:		5	
FHWA Funding Allocation Confirmed? Yes		Local Match Confirmed? Yes		CONG. DISTRICT:		1	
GDOT Programming Needed? Yes				RC:		CRC	
FHWA Funding Flexing to FTA Needed? Yes				LENGTH (MI):		NA	
COMMENTS/REMARKS: On April 22, 2026, the CORE MPO Board approved the TIP amendments to re-allocate the FHWA Ferry Boat Program (FBP) allocation funds in FY 2024 and 2025 to the Susie King Taylor I ferry boat restoration project in FY 2026. An updated project page has been added to the transit section of the TIP as a result of the amendments. On May 15, 2026, CORE MPO processed an administrative modification to move the project to the highway section of the TIP and revised the format of the project page to show specific funding codes to be in compliance with the required format for highway improvement projects. In May 2026, CAT requested an amendment to add FY 2023 FHWA FBP allocation funds to FY 2026 for Susie King Taylor I restoration, noting that they have received an extension from FHWA for these funds (originally supposed to have lapsed). At the same time, the estimated FY 2026 FHWA FBP funds will be moved to FY 2027 for restoration of the other three ferry boats.							
PROJECT PHASE	\$ SOURCE	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026		FY 2027	TOTAL
PRELIM. ENGR.	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
RIGHT-OF-WAY	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
CONSTRUCTION	HTF Pre-BIL FY2023 (Z95B)	\$0	\$0	\$13,251/\$3,313		\$0	\$16,564
CONSTRUCTION	HTF Post-BIL FY2023 (Y95B)	\$0	\$0	\$208,142/\$52,036		\$0	\$260,178
CONSTRUCTION	GF Post-BIL FY2023 (Y952)	\$0	\$0	\$141,899/\$35,475		\$0	\$177,374
CONSTRUCTION	HTF Pre-BIL FY2024 (Z95F)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$7,039/\$1,760		\$0	\$8,799
CONSTRUCTION	HTF Post-BIL FY2024 (Y95B)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$209,460/\$52,365		\$0	\$261,825
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CONSTRUCTION	HTF Pre-IIJA FY2025 (Z95G)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$13,373/\$3,343		\$0	\$16,716
CONSTRUCTION	HTF Post-IIJA FY2025 (Y95B)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$223,289/\$55,822		\$0	\$279,111
CONSTRUCTION	GF Post-IIJA FY2025 (Y955)/Local	\$0	\$0	\$146,807/\$36,702		\$0	\$183,509
PROJECT COST		\$0	\$0	\$1,381,449		\$0	\$1,381,449
FEDERAL COST		\$0	\$0	\$1,105,159		\$0	\$1,105,159
STATE COST		\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
LOCAL COST		\$0	\$0	\$276,290		\$0	\$276,290
PROJECT LOCATION							
Ferry Boat Restoration: Susie King Taylor I							

Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus				P.I. #:		TBA	
				TIP #:		2026-FHWA-FBP-02	
<p>Description: The project aims to enhance service reliability, safety, and accessibility for workers, residents, and visitors traveling across the Savannah River. Upon completion, the watercrafts will be ADA-compliant, ensuring improved accessibility for all passengers. The rehabilitation effort will extend the ferry's lifespan, reduce maintenance costs, and support continued high-quality transportation services in the region. The rehabilitation will involve thorough inspections and repairs of the hull structure, propulsion system, electrical components, and mechanical equipment to ensure optimal performance and compliance with maritime safety regulations. Additionally, critical components, such as the engine, generator, and navigational system, will be replaced to improve fuel efficiency and reduce operational downtime. Modernization efforts will include upgrades to passenger seating, lighting, and onboard amenities to enhance the overall rider experience.</p>				COUNTY:		CHATHAM	
				PROJ. #:			
				FUND:		FWHA FBP (TBA)	
				GDOT DISTRICT:		5	
				CONG. DISTRICT:		1	
FHWA Funding Allocation Confirmed? No		Local Match Confirmed? No		RC:		CRC	
GDOT Programming Needed?		Yes		LENGTH (MI):		NA	
FHWA Funding Flexing to FTA Needed?		Yes					
<p>COMMENTS/REMARKS: On April 22, 2026, the CORE MPO Board approved the TIP amendments to re-allocate the FHWA Ferry Boat Program (FBP) allocation funds in FY 2024 and 2025 to the Susie King Taylor I ferry boat restoration project in FY 2026. An updated project page has been added to the transit section of the TIP as a result of the amendments, including the FY 2027 estimated FHWA FBP funds for Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus. On May 15, 2026, CORE MPO processed an administrative modification to move the project to the highway section of the TIP and revised the format of the project page to show specific funding codes to be in compliance with the required format for highway improvement projects. In May 2026, CAT requested an amendment to move the estimated FY 2026 FHWA FBP funds to FY 2027 for Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus.</p>							
PROJECT PHASE	\$ SOURCE	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	TOTAL	
PRELIM. ENGR.	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
RIGHT-OF-WAY	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
CONSTRUCTION	FY 2026 Estimated FBP/Local	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$356,449/\$89,112	\$445,561	
CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 Estimated FBP/Local	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$356,449/\$89,112	\$445,561	
PROJECT COST		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$891,122	\$891,122	
FEDERAL COST		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$712,898	\$712,898	
STATE COST		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
LOCAL COST		\$0	\$0	0	\$178,224	\$178,224	
PROJECT LOCATION							
Ferry Boat Restoration: Mary Musgrove, Juliette Gordon Lowe I, Florence Martus							

Appendix B: Public Involvement Materials

May 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR TIP AMENDMENTS

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO), the transportation planning agency for the Savannah urbanized area, is requesting the public to review and provide comments on a draft report titled: May 2026 Amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The report includes proposed updates to the TIP regarding the FHWA Ferry Boat Program. Copies of the draft TIP amendment report 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 TIP amendment report will be posted on the website.

The comment period starts on **Monday, May 18, 2026**, until the close of business on **Monday, June 1, 2026**. 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) public meeting to answer questions and accept comments on the proposed TIP Amendments in conjunction with the special called June 1, 2026 CORE MPO Board meeting. This is an in-person meeting. The meeting time and location are listed below.

Special Called CORE MPO Board Meeting

Monday, June 1, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Metropolitan Planning Commission

110 E. State Street, Savannah GA 31401

The public participation process for development and amendment of the TIP meets the FTA public participation requirements related to the development of the Section 5307 Program of Projects and other federal grant projects.

For a complete list of public review agencies, additional information regarding the draft TIP amendments, and information regarding the 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: TIP Amendment Request

From: Frisch, Courtney <Courtney.Frisch@aecom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 4:09 PM
To: Wykoda Wang <wangw@thempc.org>
Cc: Stephanie Cutter <stephanie.cutter@catchacat.org>; Smart, Brian <Brian.Smart@aecom.com>
Subject: CAT FY 23 FBP TIP Amendment Request

Good afternoon Wykoda,

I am working with Ms. Cutter at Chatham Area Transit to transfer FY 23 FHWA FBP funds to FTA for the Ferryboat Restoration – Susie King Taylor I project. We are under a tight deadline of 6/1/2026 to complete this transfer and obligate the funds. I was wondering if an administrative adjustment is feasible and what steps I need to take to include these FY 23 FBP in the TIP.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Best,

Courtney Frisch

Senior Transportation Planner, Transportation, East Region
M +803-960-3562
courtney.frisch@aecom.com

[Click here to connect with me on LinkedIn](#)

AECOM

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T +1-404-965-9600
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From: Stephanie Cutter <Stephanie.Cutter@catchacat.org>

Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 5:07 PM

To: Van Johnson <vjohnson01@savannahga.gov>; Kieron Coffield <coffieldk@thempc.org>; Jay Melder <jay.melder@savannahga.gov>

Cc: Pamela Everett <everettp@thempc.org>; Melanie Wilson <wilsonm@thempc.org>; Wykoda Wang <wangw@thempc.org>

Subject: RE: [Caution - External Email] Re: Memo in regard to the Request for TIP Amendment

Importance: High

Mayor Johnson

GDOT communications outlining the steps needed were sent to me, CAT's consultant, and MPC staff regarding the following.

1. The FY 2023 Ferry Boat funding programming request process must be included and include an administrative modification by the MPO. We must program FY 2023 FHWA flex funds into the FY 2024–FY 2027 TIP and obligate them immediately. The MPO staff was copied to ensure that processes are followed and completed.
2. MPO staff, in coordination with CAT, must provide a regular FHWA TIP sheet. Currently being worked on by CAT's consulting firm, AECOM.
3. MPO needs to send a request letter to GDOT to flex the funds, which is needed prior to submittal of a Form 1575C, to allow the Office of Financial Management to request flexing and obligate funds.

This amendment to merge FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025 FHWA FBP funding for a complete overhaul of the ferryboat SKT I. After funding authorization, the funds will be flexed to FTA and will become FTA funds, which CAT can apply directly. The original FY 2026 FBP funds will be used to restore the other three ferry boats. The challenge of a revenue shortfall to support operating and capital expenses, and the crucial need for ferry services to meet the growth needs of Hutchinson Island, require that CAT move forward with preparations to address them. The costs of new ferryboats are much higher and have a two-year construction period.

It is critical that we work collaboratively to meet the tight deadline. Thank you for your inquiry in an effort to obtain clarity.

Regards,

Stephanie Cutter | Executive Director/CEO
Chatham Area Transit | www.catchacat.org
900 East Gwinnett St., Savannah, GA 31401
(912) 629-3925 **Phone** | (912) 704-6604 **Cell**

Appendix D: Resolution to Adopt TIP Amendments

Resolution to Amend the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program 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, CORE MPO adopted the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on November 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, CORE MPO desires to adopt amendments to the FY 2024 - 2027 TIP for the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area to reflect the updated information and the latest developments; and

WHEREAS, the proposed TIP amendments include updates to projects funded with FHWA Ferry Boat Program (FBP) funds within the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area boundary as outlined in the TIP amendment staff report;

WHEREAS, CORE MPO has completed the public review and comment period for the proposed TIP amendments according to the Participation Plan and addressed all comments received; 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 TIP amendments and administrative modifications have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization approves the proposed amendments to the FY 2024 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Program as shown in the summary of TIP amendment staff report with any corrections based upon the motion of June 1, 2026.

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 special called meeting held on **June 1, 2026**.

Chester A. Ellis, Chairman
Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Appendix E: Supporting Documents

- FHWA FBP funding allocations
- Local Match Commitment from CAT
- Other Supporting documentation for the ferry rehabilitation project

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State	Title	Purpose ID	Eligible	HTF Pre-BIL FY2023 (Z958)	HTF Post-BIL FY2023 (Y958)	GF Post-BIL FY2023 (Y952)	HTF Pre-BIL FY2024 (Z95F)	HTF Post-BIL FY2024 (Y958)	GF Post-BIL FY2024 (Y954)	HTF Pre-III A FY2025 (Z95G)	HTF Post-III A FY2025 (Y958)	GF Post-III A FY2025 (Y955)	Total Available
GA	Cumberland Island National Seashore (Lang's Seafood, Inc. as concessionaire)	FBPHGA0003	Publicly owned Terminal only	\$0.	\$45,426.	\$30,950.	\$0.	\$45,713.	\$30,950.	\$0.	\$57,559.	\$37,825.	\$248,423.
GA	Savannah Belles Ferry	FBPHGA0002	Publicly owned Terminal & Vessels	\$13,251.	\$208,142.	\$141,899.	\$7,038.	\$209,460.	\$141,899.	\$13,373.	\$223,389.	\$146,807.	\$1,105,159.
GA	State of Georgia, Department of Natural Resources	FBPHGA0001	Publicly owned Terminal & Vessels	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$0.	\$33,174.	\$22,490.	\$2,168.	\$38,855.	\$25,532.	\$122,187.



April 13, 2026

Melanie Wilson, Executive Director & CEO
Chatham County – Savannah
Metropolitan Planning Commission
110 East State Street

Savannah, GA 31401

RE: Susie King Taylor I Restoration Project
FY 2023, FY 2024, FY 2025 FHWA Flex Funding

Dear Melanie:

Per request, please be advised that the 20% local match requirement of \$276,290 for the above-referenced project will be funded by CAT's Capital & Special Projects Fund.

Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephanie S. Cutter'.

Stephanie S. Cutter, Executive Director/CEO
Chatham Area Transit Authority



CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT

Chatham Area Transit Authority

FY 2023 FBP Flex Funds Project Programming Package

May 2026



Project Programming Package

Project Description

The FY 2023 FHWA Ferry Boat awarded grant project includes the full rehabilitation of the Susie King Taylor I ferryboat in the Savannah Belles Ferry System, owned and operated by Chatham Area Transit (CAT), which provides essential transportation between River Street and Hutchinson Island. The project aims to enhance service reliability, safety, and accessibility for workers, residents, and visitors traveling across the Savannah River. The rehabilitation effort will extend the ferry's lifespan, reduce maintenance costs, and support continued high-quality transportation services in the region. Upon completion, the Susie King Taylor I ferry will also be ADA-compliant, ensuring improved accessibility for all passengers.

Scope of Work

The project includes the full rehabilitation of the Susie Taylor King I ferryboat. Specific rehabilitation efforts include:

- Replacing main engines and hydraulic drive pumps, performing a hydraulic sound mitigation study and applying results to the vessel renovation, blast and paint, interior renovations in passenger accommodations and pilothouse, installation of security system, rub-rain structural refurbishment and fender replacement, exterior renovations, and upgrading running lights.
- Thorough inspections and repairs of the hull structure, propulsion system, electrical components, and mechanical equipment to ensure optimal performance and compliance with maritime safety regulations.
- Critical component replacements, such as the engine, generator, and navigational system to improve fuel efficiency and reduce operational downtime.
- Modernization efforts, including upgrades to passenger seating, lighting, security system, and onboard amenities to enhance the overall rider experience.
- ADA-compliant efforts, including improvements to the boarding ramps, handrails, and seating areas to enhance accessibility for passengers with disabilities.

Cost Breakdown

The project includes flexing FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025 FHWA Ferry Boat Program (FBP) funds to FTA for use by Chatham Area Transit. The FY 2023 funds are set to lapse

on September 30, 2026. See the table below for the FY 2023 FBP funding sources, federal and local shares, and total amount.

Source	Amount
FY 2023 Y95B	\$ 208,142
FY 2023 Y952	\$ 141,899
FY 2023 Z95B	\$ 13,251
Total Federal Share (80%)	\$ 363,292
Local Share (20%)	\$ 90,823
Total FY 2023 Amount	\$ 454,115

See table below for the FY 2024 FBP funding sources, federal and local shares, and total amount.

Source	Amount
FY 2024 Y954	\$ 141,899
FY 2024 Y95B	\$ 209,460
FY 2024 Z95F	\$ 7,039
Total Federal Share (80%)	\$ 358,398
Local Share (20%)	\$ 89,600
Total FY 2023 Amount	\$ 447,998

See table below for the FY 2025 FBP funding sources, federal and local shares, and total amount.

Source	Amount
FY 2025 Y954	\$ 146,807
FY 2025 Y95B	\$ 223,289
FY 2025 Z95G	\$ 13,373
Total Federal Share (80%)	\$ 383,469
Local Share (20%)	\$ 95,867
Total FY 2023 Amount	\$ 479,336

Schedule

The table below provides the anticipated schedule for using the FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025 FHWA FBP funds, assuming funds will be available by July 1, 2026.

Milestone	Est. Completion Date	Description
ITB Issue Date	07/01/2026	Anticipated Issue Date
Contract Award Date	08/15/2026	Anticipated Award Date
Contract Completion Date	03/31/2028	Anticipated Completion of Rehabilitation Efforts

Funding Details

Chatham Area Transit Authority is a designated recipient of these FBP funds. CAT is committed to providing 20% matching funds from its Capital & Special Projects Fund.

Next Steps

CAT will monitor the existing grant application in TrAMS for the FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025 FBP funds during the review process to ensure timely responses to FTA reviewer comments. Once the flex funds have been received by FTA, the funds will be obligated and the grant executed by FTA.