

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

FOR THE

COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

BETWEEN

The Counties of Chatham and Effingham, the municipalities of Bloomingdale, Garden City, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Richmond Hill, Savannah, Thunderbolt, Tybee Island, and Vernonburg, and the agencies of the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the Georgia Ports Authority, the Savannah Airport Commission, and the Georgia Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation,

RELATIVE TO

The continuing, comprehensive, cooperative regional transportation planning process known as the "Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization" (CORE MPO).

I. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE PARTIES:

That the CORE MPO is to:

1. Maintain a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process as defined in Title 23 USC Section 134 that explicitly regards the current surface transportation act's planning factors and focus areas and results in plans and programs consistent with comprehensively planned development of the urbanized area.
2. Update and revise the 20-year multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), to create a fiscally feasible transportation system that integrates thoroughfare development, public transportation, air facilities, port facilities, rail systems, intermodal facilities, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and transportation enhancements; and reflects consideration of the area's comprehensive land-use plan and overall social, economic, environmental, and energy conservation plans, goals and objectives.
3. Create a functional relationship between transportation planning and the development of cities and counties in the CORE MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA).

4. Maintain the data obtained in the original data collection phase of the study and any pertinent data collected thereafter on a current level so that existing and forthcoming recommendations may be evaluated and updated periodically.
5. Produce all documents and studies that are necessary to maintain a federally certified transportation planning process.

- II. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the areas of responsibility of the aforementioned counties, municipalities, and agencies shall lie within the transportation Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary established by the CORE MPO Board and the Governor of Georgia. This area 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. At this time Bryan County has not opted to join in the CORE MPO, but this agreement can be amended to include it in the future. The MPA boundary is shown in Exhibit A, CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area.
- III. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as designated by the Governor of Georgia is the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO). The CORE MPO shall have the primary responsibility for carrying out the regional transportation planning process and of developing the planning work program, transportation plan, transportation improvement program, participation plan and other studies for the CORE MPO MPA.
- IV. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the CORE MPO shall be coordinated by a project director who shall be the executive director (Director) of the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission or his designee, and his/her staff. Additional staff resources may be provided, upon request, from the existing staff resources of the participating agencies and governments. The Director shall coordinate all requests under the direction of the CORE MPO Board.
- V. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the CORE MPO shall continue to function to adopt appropriate goals, work programs, and plans; and to establish the need, form, and direction of future transportation improvements in the CORE MPO MPA. The CORE MPO shall be the forum for cooperative decision-making by principal elected and appointed officials of general purpose local government and intermodal transportation providers. The individuals representing the government jurisdictions involved in the CORE MPO planning process and other involved agencies shall comprise the CORE MPO Board. The membership and duties shall be enumerated in the CORE MPO Board Bylaws. The CORE MPO Board shall have final authority in the matters of policy and plan adoption for the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- VI. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the committee known as the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) shall continue to function to ensure the involvement of all operating departments, advisory agencies, and multimodal transportation providers concerned with, or affected by, the planning process and subsequent implementation of plans. The technical guidance and direction of the continuing CORE MPO transportation planning process shall be furnished by

the TCC. The membership and duties shall be enumerated in the Technical Coordinating Committee Bylaws.

- VII. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) shall continue to function as a public information and involvement committee, and shall be representative of a cross-section of the community. The CAC shall keep the CORE MPO Board informed of the community's perspective and shall also provide information to the community about transportation policies and issues. The membership and duties shall be enumerated in the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws.
- VIII. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC) shall be established to advise the freight planning efforts of the CORE MPO and to ensure economic development is considered in identifying transportation improvement projects and setting priorities. The membership and duties shall be enumerated in the Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee Bylaws.
- IX. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT) shall continue to function to advise the CORE MPO and the Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) on accessible transportation related policies and projects. The membership and duties shall be enumerated in the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Bylaws.
- X. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the various committees meet at significant stages in the planning process in accordance with the adopted bylaws.
- XI. **IT IS FURTHER INTENDED**, that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) shall be responsible for the following per the current planning rules of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA):
1. Provide available maps, aerial photographs, charts, and records as deemed necessary to maintain the CORE MPO planning process.
 2. Update and maintain travel simulation models for use in evaluating the metropolitan area's transportation needs. Said models shall be the "official" CORE MPO's travel demand models. The Department shall also provide the expertise and computer software for the above-mentioned tasks.
 3. Aid the MPO in preparation of planning-oriented planning, scoping, preliminary engineering, right-of-way, utility and construction cost estimates where applicable for multimodal projects in the CORE MPO's 20-year multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
 4. Provide the local agencies with current information concerning the status of planning and implementation of the CORE MPO's 20-year multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
 5. Provide funding availability and proposed project schedules for federally funded projects for use in MTP and TIP development.

6. Incorporate the adopted CORE MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); and coordinate with the CORE MPO's multimodal transportation plan in the development of the Statewide Transportation Plan.
7. Concurrently certify with the CORE MPO, to the FHWA and the FTA that the CORE MPO's planning process is addressing the major issues facing the area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable federal laws based on the federal certification review schedule (currently the MPO is certified every four years); annually certify the CORE MPO's planning process with CORE MPO in conjunction with the TIP development.
8. Provide various types of traffic count data.
9. Provide other assistance as mutually agreed upon.
10. Contribute funds under FTA Section 5303 and other programs as appropriate toward the annual budget for the CORE MPO's operations, as established by the adopted UPWP and funding agreements outlined in Exhibit B, Contribution Formula of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization.
11. Notify CORE MPO in advance of public meetings and concept meetings as well as stakeholder meetings, provide draft concept plans before their approval, so that the information can be incorporated into the CORE MPO's plans and programs.

XII. IT IS FURTHER INTENDED, that the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), only to the extent that it may be bound by contracts which may hereafter be entered into, shall be responsible for the following:

1. Prepare planning-oriented planning, scoping, preliminary engineering, right-of-way, utility and construction cost estimates, where applicable, for multimodal projects in the CORE MPO's 20-year multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
2. Make recommendations for revisions to the CORE MPO's 20-year multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to conform to new planning goals, objectives, policies, or developments.
3. Prepare and publish a fiscally constrained 20-year multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that leads to the development of an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods. The multimodal transportation plan shall be reviewed and updated at least every five years.
4. Prepare and maintain a financially-balanced four-year multimodal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which will be updated annually.
5. Prepare and publish a Participation Plan (PP) which documents how the CORE MPO will provide complete information, timely public notices, full public access to key decisions, and support early and continuing involvement of the public in the development of plans and TIPs; and meets the criteria specified in 23 CFR Part 450.
6. Prepare an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to document planning activities and budget for the next fiscal year; in sufficient detail to indicate who will perform the work, the schedule for completion, and the products that it will produce.

7. Develop and update a Congestion Management Process (CMP) which documents the congestion areas and strategies to address them. Ensure that the CMP will be a part of the metropolitan transportation planning process and the CMP results will be considered in the development of the multimodal MTP and TIP, to the extent appropriate.
8. Update and maintain maps showing existing and proposed land use, and make appraisals of actual land use development in comparison with projections.
9. Review zoning and subdivision requests in accordance with the CORE MPO's transportation and land use plans.
10. Provide or maintain social and community development plans as they may relate to transportation needs.
11. Develop and maintain base and projected population, housing, employment, economic, vehicle, and land use data by traffic analysis zone and supply information as requested concerning special generators.
12. Periodically review traffic analysis zone boundaries and make appropriate recommendations to the Technical Coordinating Committee and cooperate with the Georgia Department of Transportation in revision of said boundaries.
13. Provide available maps, aerial photographs, charts, records, and directories to the extent possible.
14. Collect and analyze data such as traffic counts and crash statistics and distribute (if available) to the public, governmental agencies, and other parties if requested.
15. Prepare an annual performance report for the comparison of established goals in the UPWP and completed work elements.
16. Compile, maintain, and document data on existing water, air, motor freight and rail terminal and transfer facilities as identified in the UPWP.
17. Concurrently certify with the Georgia Department of Transportation, to the FHWA and the FTA that the CORE MPO's planning process is addressing the major issues facing the area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable federal laws based on the federal certification review schedule (currently the MPO is certified every four years); annually certify the CORE MPO's planning process with GDOT in conjunction with the TIP development.

XIII. IT IS FURTHER INTENDED, that the signatory counties and municipalities, within its official jurisdiction, be responsible for the following:

1. Collaborate with the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process of the CORE MPO.
2. Maintain records including crashes occurring on the roads and highways by location and description, and maintain these files on a current basis as provided by your policies and procedures and provide the data to the CORE MPO for analysis and reports upon request.
3. When requested, assist the CORE MPO to collect planning information within the counties and/or municipalities such as socioeconomic data, utility locations, land use

and zoning, street inventories, inventories of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and other data as required for the metropolitan planning process.

4. Consider providing local funds for planning, scoping, preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, utility and construction to leverage or match federal funds to further the implementation of the CORE MPO priorities per appropriate project framework agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation.
5. Aid the MPO in developing planning-oriented planning, scoping, preliminary engineering, right-of-way, utility and construction cost estimates where applicable for the CORE MPO's 20-year multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
6. Contribute funds toward the annual budget for the CORE MPO's operations as established by the adopted UPWP and the funding contribution formula provided in Exhibit B.
7. Notify the CORE MPO in advance of public meetings and project-related neighborhood meetings and/or stakeholder meetings so that the information can be incorporated into the CORE MPO's plans and programs.

XIV. IT IS FURTHER INTENDED, that the Chatham Area Transit Authority shall:

1. Collaborate with the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process of the CORE MPO.
2. Make available to the CORE MPO any records, documents or information necessary to accomplish the planning objectives and to develop the CORE MPO's 20-year multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the TIP.
3. Contribute funds toward the annual budget for the CORE MPO's operations as established by the adopted UPWP and the funding contribution formula provided in Exhibit B or by the MPC – CAT Inter-local agreement.
4. Notify CORE MPO in advance of public meetings and project-related neighborhood meetings and/or stakeholder meetings so that the information can be incorporated into the CORE MPO's plans and programs.

XV. IT IS FURTHER INTENDED, that the Savannah Airport Commission assist the MPO in gathering information and data relating to the planning process as may be necessary to ensure that the Savannah Airport Commission is adequately served by the CORE MPO.

Such data includes but is not limited to employment, land use, traffic, air traffic, and major street or enplanement changes.

The Savannah Airport Commission will contribute funds to support the CORE MPO's operations, as established by the adopted UPWP and the funding contribution formula provided in Exhibit B.

XVI. IT IS FURTHER INTENDED, that the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) (non-voting member) provide or assist the MPO in gathering information and data relating to the planning process as may be necessary to ensure that GPA is adequately served by the CORE MPO.

Such data includes but is not limited to employment, traffic, projected port activity, and major street or gate changes.

XVII. IT IS FURTHER INTENDED, that:

1. The CORE MPO's planning process shall be of a continuing, comprehensive, cooperative nature and that all planning decisions shall be reflective of and responsive to the needs and desires of the local communities as well as the programs and requirements of the Georgia Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation.
2. A reappraisal shall be made of the CORE MPO whenever there is a significant change in the community's goals and objectives, land use patterns, or travel characteristics or at least once every five (5) years.
3. The participating agencies shall cooperate in all phases of the CORE MPO's transportation planning process. Adequate and competent personnel shall be assigned to ensure development of adequate and reliable data.
4. All parties to this agreement shall have access to all study related information developed by the other agencies, including the right to make duplication thereof.

This document is a Memorandum of Understanding (inclusive of Exhibit A and Exhibit B) expressing the present intentions of the parties. Obligations established within any previous versions of this Memorandum of Understanding are rescinded upon the execution of this agreement. Nothing contained herein shall require the undertaking of any act, project, study, analysis, or any other activity by any party until a contract for such activity is executed. Nor shall this document require the expenditure of any funds by any party until a contract authorizing such expenditure is executed.

However, nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit any party's undertaking any act, project, study, analysis, or any other activity which the party is required by law or contract to undertake as part of any other program which fulfills some function shown herein as intended to be performed by the party undertaking such act, project, study, analysis, or other activity.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 20 day of May, 2015.

CITY OF SAVANNAH

Kohutich FCD

Witness

[Signature]
Mayor

[Signature]
Notary Public

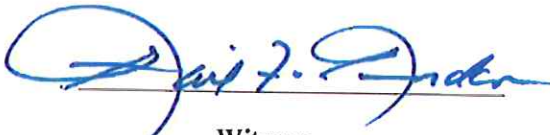


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8th In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this day of May, 2015.

COUNTY OF CHATHAM


Witness


Commission Chairman


Notary Public


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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 7 day of May, 2015.

CITY OF BLOOMINGDALE

Virginia Kay
Witness

[Signature]
Mayor

Diane Proudfoot

Notary Public
DIANE R. PROUDFOOT
Notary Public, Chatham County GA
My Commission Expires Sept. 25, 2016

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18 In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this day of MAY, 2015.


CITY OF GARDEN CITY



Witness



CITY MANAGER
~~Mayor~~
w/ PERMISSION



Notary Public



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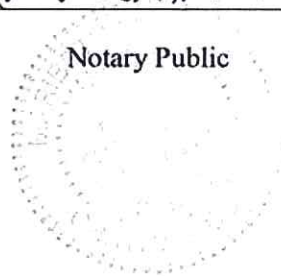
In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 4th day of May, 2015.

CITY OF POOLER

Thick H. Jay
Witness

Michael F. Lamb Maribeth S. Siler
Mayor

Notary Public



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23rd In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this day of April, 2015.

CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

Shirley Clifton
Witness

G. ALT
Mayor



RECEIVED
MAY 01 2015
METROPOLITAN PLANNING
COMMISSION

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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 13 day of may, 2015.

TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT

Cawlin R. Nguyen

Witness

Beth E. Acette

Mayor

Ky McCafferty

Notary Public



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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 23 day of April, 2015.

CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

Shirley Hynes
City Attorney -
Witness

Don L. Schopf

Jim Butler
Mayor

Janet R. Leviner

Notary Public

JANET R. LEVINER
Notary Public, Chatham County GA
My Commission Expires Oct. 16, 2016

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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 11 day of May, 2015.

TOWN OF VERNONBURG

Andrew C. Thompson
Witness

[Signature]
Mayor

M. Burke Wimbish Nadeau
Notary Public

M. Burke Wimbish Nadeau
Notary Public
Chatham County
State of Georgia
My Comm. Expires 03-27-2017

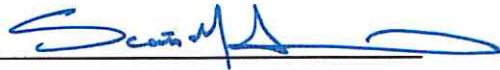


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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 5th day of May, 2015.

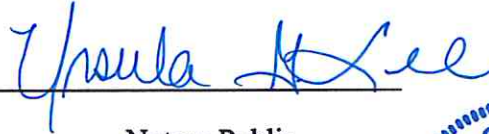
CITY OF RICHMOND HILL



Witness



Mayor



Notary Public



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**METROPOLITAN PLANNING
COMMISSION**

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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 5th day of May, 2015.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

Toss Allen

Witness

[Signature]

Commission Chairman

S. Johnson

Notary Public



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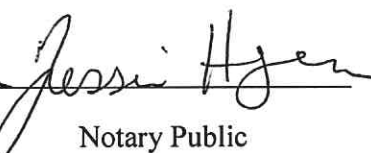
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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 28 day of April, 2015.

CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION



Witness

Executive Director

Notary Public

JESSICA HAGAN
Notary Public, Chatham County GA
My Commission Expires July 19, 2017



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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 25th day of Apr. 1, 2015.

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY



Witness



Executive Director

Notary Public
BEVERLY DUMAS
Notary Public, Chatham County GA
My Commission Expires June 3, 2018

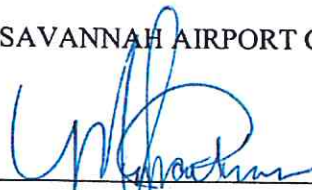


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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 7th day of May, 2015.


SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION



Witness



Executive Director



Notary Public



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In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, this 15th day of May, 2015.

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY


Witness


Executive Director


Notary Public

DEBRA H. WYNN
Notary Public, Chatham County GA
My Commission Expires Sept. 29, 2018



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RECOMMENDED:



Director of Planning
Georgia Department of Transportation



Chief Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation



Witness



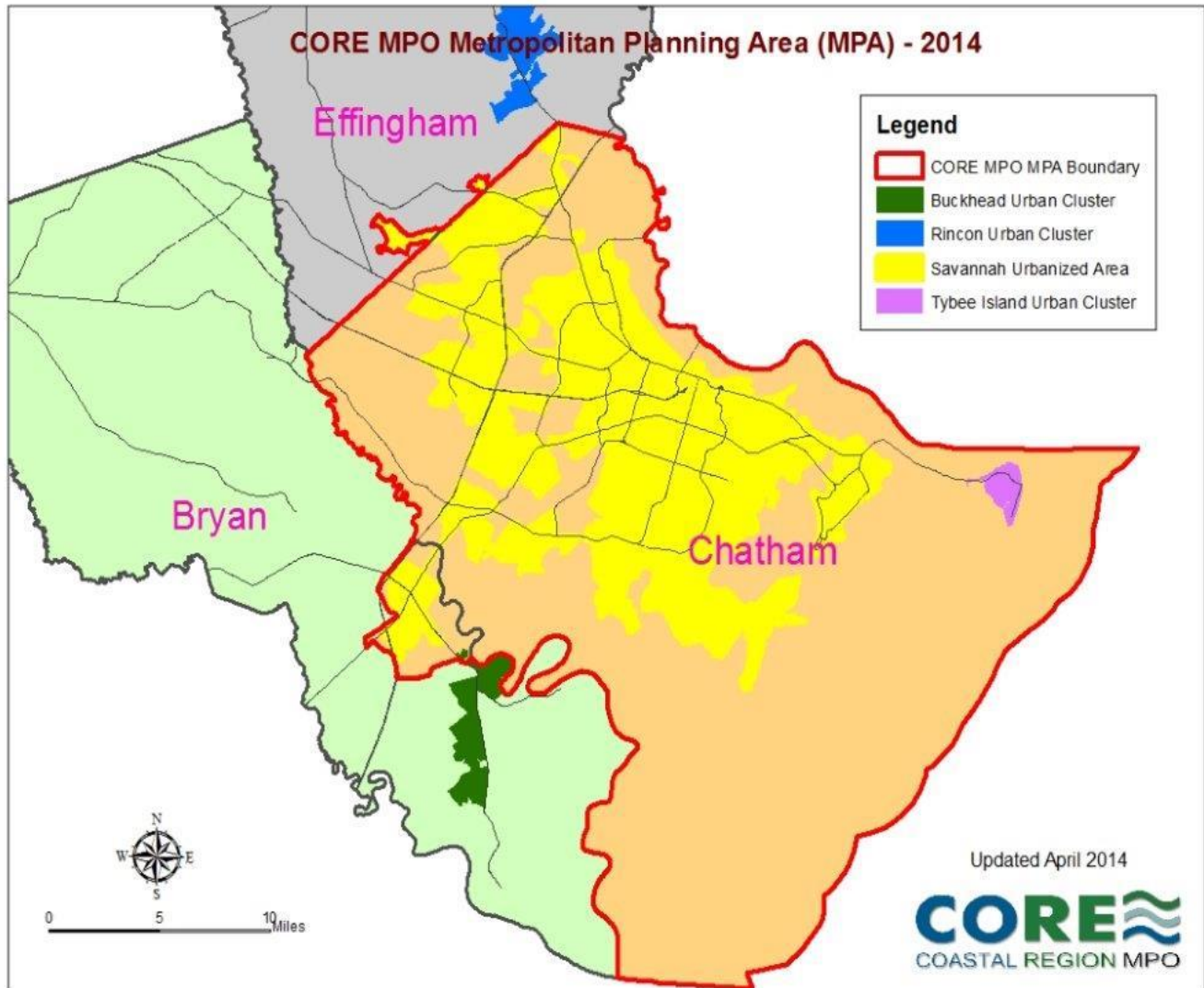
Commissioner



Notary Public



Exhibit A –Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)



**Exhibit B – Contribution Formula of the Coastal Region
Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO)**

Exhibit B

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Contribution Formula

The Parties agree that it is in the best interest of the public and governmental entities that the function of CORE MPO be supported. The CORE MPO's operating functions will be funded through the federal Metropolitan Planning set aside pursuant to the provisions of 23 USC §104(f), the Metropolitan Transit Planning funds pursuant to the provisions of 49 USC §5303, the federal Urban Attributable funds, and the local membership dues to match the federal grants. This Exhibit specifies the formula for membership contributions to support the CORE MPO's transportation planning process.

In general the CORE MPO's functions will be to maintain a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Bryan – Chatham – Effingham region within the CORE MPO's MPA boundary as defined in Title 23 USC Section 134 and Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act. The CORE MPO's detailed staff work activities and planning procedures will be outlined in the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The CORE MPO UPWP will include detailed budget information based on the anticipated grant funding contracts with the Georgia Department of Transportation. The local match to the federal grants for MPO's operations will be based on the UPWP budget. The local matching funds will be funded by the Parties based upon a formula as described herein. The population component of the formula will be based on the 2010 decennial census population information. The formula for dues will be as follows:

The total local funds contribution will be the dollar amount approved by the CORE MPO in the Unified Planning Work Program (and budget) annually.

1. The amount of each member's contribution would be a base of \$1,000 plus a proportion based upon population. Counties would contribute based upon their unincorporated population plus 25% of the municipalities' population. Municipalities' proportional contribution would be based upon 75% of their population. Authorities would contribute a fixed amount based upon the 70th percentile of the counties and municipalities contributions. The Authorities share and the total of the \$1,000 base amounts would be subtracted from total local fund contribution amount before applying the proportional population calculation for the county or each municipality. The Georgia Department of Transportation, the Georgia Ports Authority, the Economic Development and Freight, Citizens and Accessible Transportation Advisory groups and the Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission members will not be assessed dues.
2. Invoices will be sent out to members after the approval of the Unified Planning Work Program each year and payment will be due by June 30.

2010 Census CORE MPO Planning Area Population

Jurisdiction/Agency*	Population	Percent of MPA Population	
Richmond Hill	9,281	3.36%	
Unincorporated Bryan County in MPA	542	0.20%	
Bloomingtondale	2,713	0.98%	
Garden City	8,778	3.18%	
Pooler	19,140	6.92%	
Port Wentworth	5,359	1.94%	
Savannah	136,286	49.31%	
Thunderbolt	2,668	0.97%	
Tybee Island	2,990	1.08%	
Vernonburg	122	0.04%	
Unincorporated Chatham County	87,072	31.50%	
Effingham County within Savannah UZA	1,455	0.53%	
Total CORE MPO MPA Population	276,406	100.00%	
Chatham Area Transit	N/A		
Savannah Airport Commission	N/A		
Georgia Ports Authority	N/A		

*At this time Bryan County has not opted to join in the CORE MPO, but this agreement can be amended to include it in the future.