



Chatham County - Savannah
Metropolitan Planning Commission

MPC

2023 ANNUAL REPORT A YEAR IN REVIEW

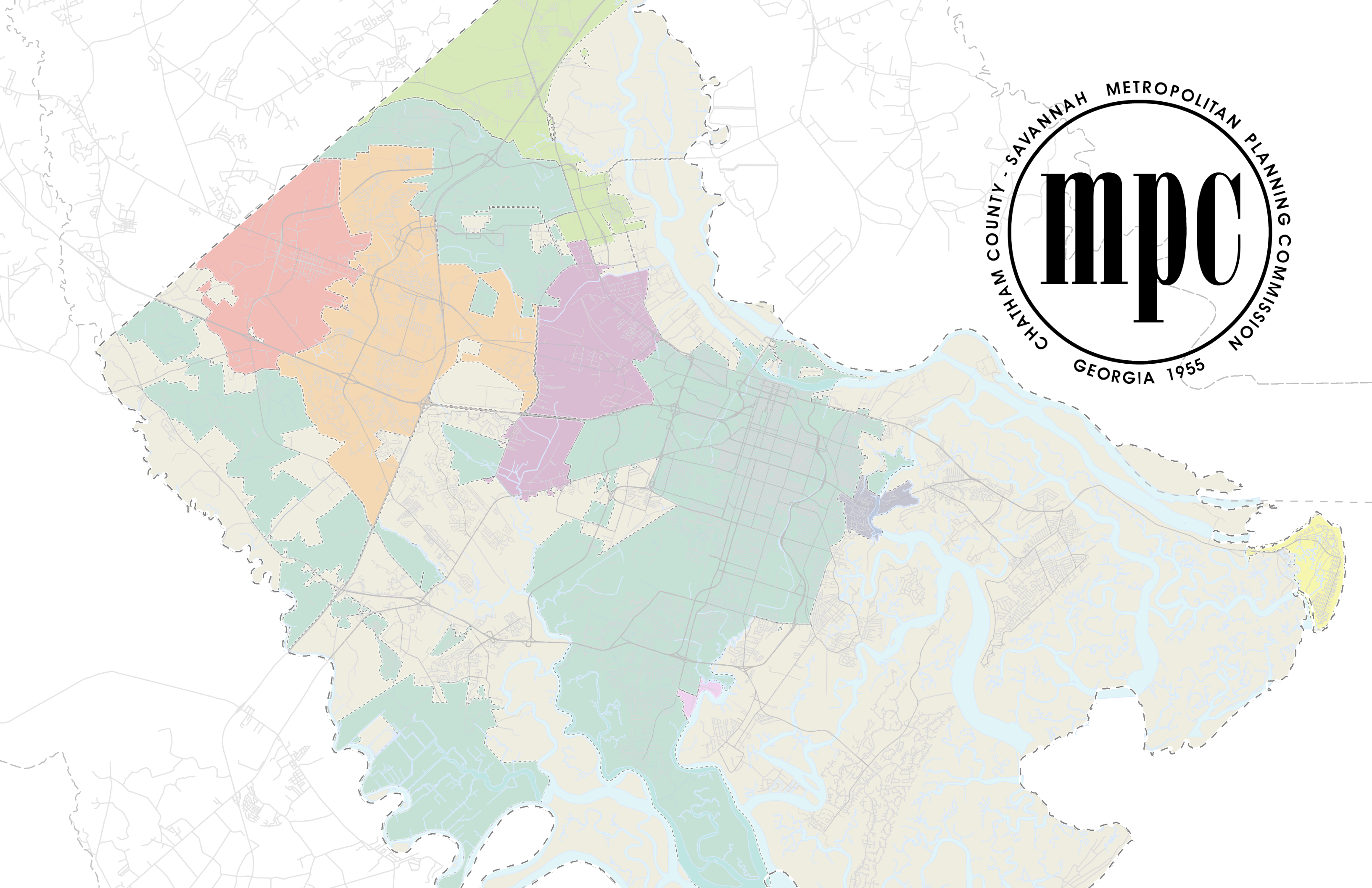
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Chairman

Melanie Wilson
Executive Director & CEO

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2023 Annual Report of the Chatham County Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC). This document not only highlights the remarkable achievements of our team but also extends a heartfelt thanks to our Board members for their unwavering support. This year marked a period of transition and growth, as we bid farewell to team members and welcomed new ones, each bringing their unique expertise and approaches to our organization.

2023 was a very busy year for us. For example, CORE/MPO staff had a productive year, completing significant projects such as the MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan update, the Urban Flooding Model Study, and updates to the Title VI Plans and Participation Plan. Additionally, we adopted a new CORE MPO metropolitan planning area boundary and updated the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan. The year also saw the return of in-person Board and public meetings, a welcomed change that included the hosting of our first GIS Day event since 2019. This event was particularly successful, drawing in over 250 students and teachers to learn about GIS, mapping, and addressing, furthering their educational experiences and career opportunities. Make sure to check out our highlights.

Moreover, we had the privilege of hosting a state-sponsored CAMP Historic training for Board members and staff, highlighting our commitment to continuing education and professional development. Several of our staff members also showcased their expertise at the 2023 Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference held in Savannah, further solidifying our role as leaders in the planning community.

As we look ahead to 2024, we do so with enthusiasm and optimism, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

-Melanie Wilson, Executive Director & CEO



ABOUT US

The Chatham County–Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) was jointly created in 1955 by the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County and the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah to develop a Master Plan for the orderly growth of the district, and the residential and industrial development of the city and the unincorporated portions of the County.

We are the bridge between Chatham County, metropolitan Savannah, and our neighboring low-country communities. We are privileged to work with our governmental partners at all levels to responsibly balance growth and development while preserving our unique natural and historic treasures. Through collaboration and uniting urban planning, development, transportation, zoning, historic preservation, and natural resource planning, we live our motto:

“Planning the Future, Respecting the Past”

OUR VISION

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission will be a leader in planning, developing, and preserving a greater community through partnerships and an open process.

Our Mission

“It shall be the mission of the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission to provide an accessible planning process, sound professional planning products, and recommendations to ensure a greater quality of life for all to enjoy a community that is historic, sustainable, mobile, and prosperous. ”

- MPC BYLAWS: October 1, 1974

Visit the MPC Website
at www.thempc.org/
or scan the QR code.



HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO

- » Created Citizens Guide to Government Book
- » Hosted Chatham Addressing Workshop & Luncheon
- » Updated Polling Places and Precinct Maps for Chatham County Elections
- » Participated in CATCast episode with Faye DiMassimo, Executive Director/CEO Chatham Area Transit and Ann Purcell, Vice Chairman of the State Transportation Board for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)
- » Planned and participated in 2023 GIS Day
- » Staff presented at 2023 Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference held in Savannah
- » Completed Flooding Dynamic Modeling for Optimized Planning of CORE MPO
- » Transportation Infrastructure Systems
- » Presented at 2023 Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference held in Savannah
- » Continued the 2050 MTP update: conducted public outreach and survey, refined goals and objectives, completed the socio-economic, travel demand model, and financial analysis
- » Conducted the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan update
- » Developed and adopted the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP
- » Updated and adopted the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area boundary
- » Updated CORE MPO's MOU and bylaws including membership due structure
- » Completed the CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan update

- » Coordinated with the City of Pooler to complete the US 80 Corridor Study
- » Assisted CAT to complete the Transit Master Plan and Transit Development Plan
- » Assisted local planning partners for special transportation planning studies: SR 25/US 17 Corridor Study, SR 204 Access Study, President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination Study, I-16 Exit Ramp Removal IMR, and ARP and AOPP funded studies
- » Completed Grayson Stadium, Harris Street, and Indian-Fahm Street Parking Studies.
- » Chatham County Historic Resources Survey Grant project from the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office
- » Hosted the CAMP Resilience and Disaster Planning training event at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, covering topics on issues affecting coastal communities, cultural, natural, and historic resources, and planning efforts
- » Featured a Preservation Month Instagram series every day in May to highlight various historic, archaeological, and cultural resources within Savannah and Chatham County
- » Created how-to videos for both staff level and Board level COA applications, available on the MPC YouTube channel and the MPC website
- » Completed the final draft of the Chatham County-Savannah Disaster Preparedness Plan for Historic and Cultural Resources
- » Completed the Savannah Victorian District 2021-2023 Survey Report
- » Staff and Board trainings
- » Wrote and illustrated The Wonderful Book of Resilience Activity Book

SERVICES

DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services & Information Technology

- » Process applications
- » Provide administrative and technical support to MPC Boards and Staff
- » Maintain SAGIS and MPC data



Development Services and Current Planning

- » Subdivision reviews
- » Zoning & subdivision ordinance development
- » Existing development review



Historic Preservation and Urban Design

- » Review Certificates of Appropriateness
- » Review markers, monuments & public art
- » Historic resource surveys



Savannah Area GIS (SAGIS)

- » Database development & administration
- » Property Map Viewer
- » Spatial analysis



Advance Planning & Special Projects

- » Comprehensive plans
- » Data collection
- » Natural resource planning



Transportation & CORE MPO

- » Multi-modal transportation planning
- » Congestion management
- » Traffic impact review



HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND URBAN DESIGN

PRESERVATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES

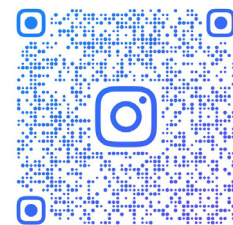
The Historic Preservation and Urban Design Department is responsible for the preservation of the City of Savannah and Chatham County's historic resources. It protects the area's architectural integrity and historic character through the use of local zoning ordinances and Secretary of the Interior Standards. This department staffs the City of Savannah's Historic Preservation Office and is responsible for reviewing and recommending Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior building changes within Local Historic Districts and other designated Historic Properties through Savannah and Chatham County. They also staff multiple MPC Commissions and Boards, coordinate historic resource identification, assist in drafting National Register nominations, draft ordinances that affect historic resources, apply for grants, provide training for Boards and the public, and performs Section 106 reviews for the City's Housing Department.

In 2023, Historic Preservation Department staff processed, researched, reviewed, and completed 542 COA applications, which included staff level reviews as well as those for the four Boards: Historic District Board of Review; Historic Preservation Commission; Historic Site and Monument Commission; and Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission. Historic Preservation staff also stamped 180 sets of approved drawings and inspected 61 completed project sites.

We are pleased to welcome new staff members Jonathan Mellon and Kelli Mitchell to our team. Visit the department page at <https://www.thempc.org/Historic>

We're Social!

Visit our [Instagram](#) page or scan the QR Code



@MPCHISTORICPRESERVATION

Boards Served by Historic Preservation



Savannah Historic District Board of Review



Savannah Historic Preservation Commission



Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission



Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission



JONATHAN MELLON

Director of Historic Preservation and Urban Design

PROJECTS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND URBAN DESIGN

Chatham County-Savannah Disaster Preparedness Plan for Historic and Cultural Resources

The *Disaster and Resiliency Plan for Historic and Cultural Resources* will serve as partner document to the *Multi-Jurisdictional Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan*. This document includes information, goals, and strategies to aid local law and policy makers in making changes to current ordinances and guidelines, to provide pathways for owners and managers of historic/cultural buildings and sites to respond to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change with care and intention. A 2024 publication date is anticipated.

Savannah Victorian District 2021-2023 Survey Report

This survey was conducted between June 2021 and November 2022 as part of an agreement between the MPC and the City, within the current boundaries of the local Victorian Historic District. The survey focused on resources 40 years and older, and other resources outside the period of significance which are currently considered to be non-contributing. The survey also included previously unsurveyed resources such as outbuildings and carports. 135 resources were surveyed in total. A 2024 publication date is anticipated.



PROJECTS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND URBAN DESIGN

2023 CAMP: Resilience and Disaster Planning Training

On July 28, 2023, the Historic Preservation Department hosted an all-day event by The Commission Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP), which took place at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum. The focus of the session was disaster and resiliency planning for historic, cultural, and natural resources. The three presenters provided several case studies of recovery implementation methods based on various disaster recovery implementation methods, including the two recent flash flood events in the historic district of Ellicott City, MD.

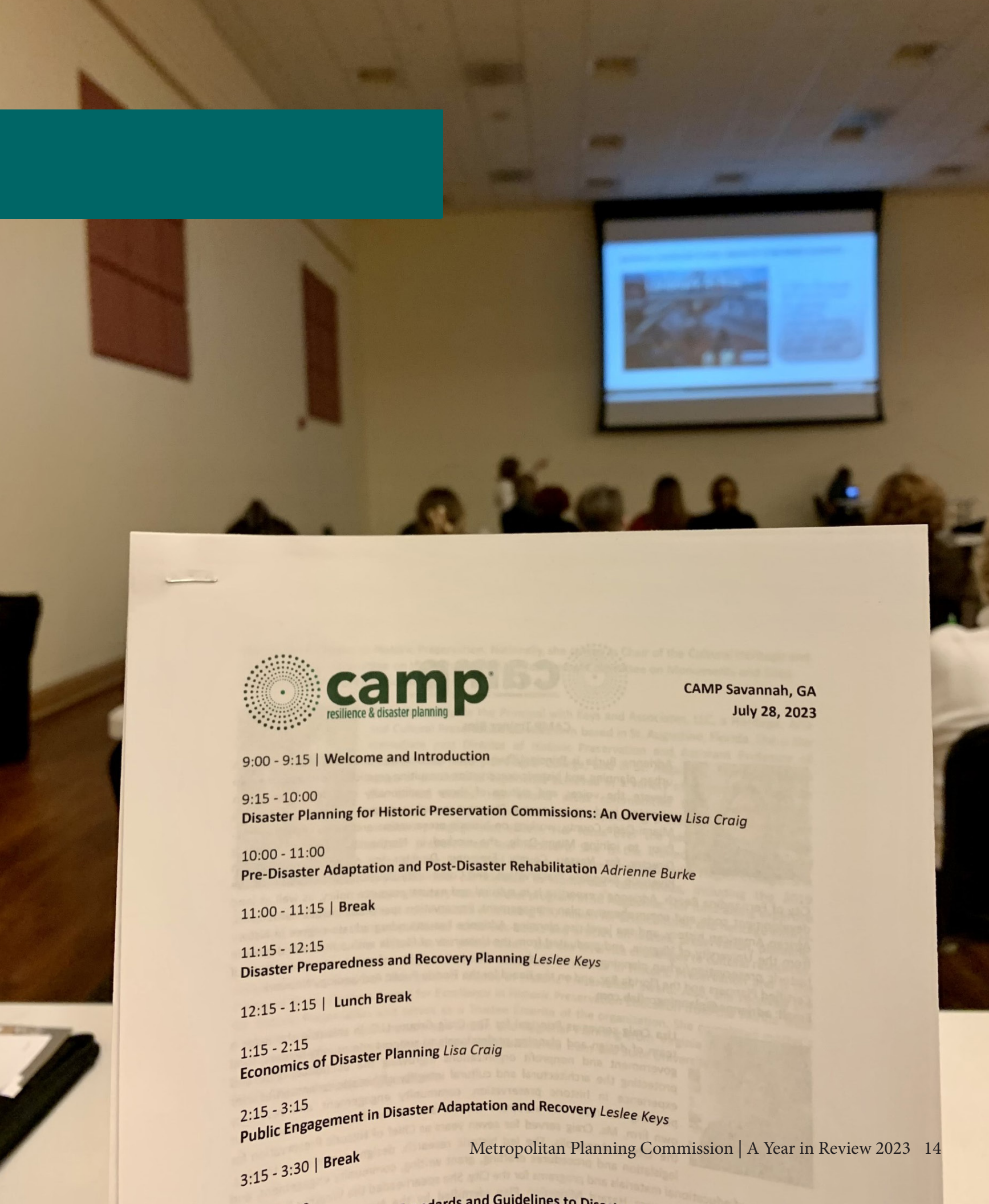
There were 40 people in attendance, including members of the HDBR, HPC, and CCHPC, as well as MPC staff and other interested parties.



Board Members: Robin Williams (HPC), Robert Becker (HDBR), Kathy Ledvina (HPC) Jane Cosilick (CCHPC), Kiersten Conner (HPC), Karen Guinn (HDBR), Melissa Rowan (HDBR), Michael Higgins, (HDBR), and Melanie Wilson, Executive Director & CEO of the MPC. Not pictured but in attendance: Thomas Thomson and Mae Bowley.



MPC Staff: Anna Brodmerkel McQuarrie, Caitlin Chamberlain, Bri Morgan, and Leah Michalak.



CAMP Savannah, GA
July 28, 2023

- 9:00 - 9:15 | Welcome and Introduction
- 9:15 - 10:00
Disaster Planning for Historic Preservation Commissions: An Overview *Lisa Craig*
- 10:00 - 11:00
Pre-Disaster Adaptation and Post-Disaster Rehabilitation *Adrienne Burke*
- 11:00 - 11:15 | Break
- 11:15 - 12:15
Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Planning *Leslee Keys*
- 12:15 - 1:15 | Lunch Break
- 1:15 - 2:15
Economics of Disaster Planning *Lisa Craig*
- 2:15 - 3:15
Public Engagement in Disaster Adaptation and Recovery *Leslee Keys*
- 3:15 - 3:30 | Break



91 posts 1,404 followers 336 following

MPC Historic Preservation

Government organization

The Historic Preservation Department at the Chatham County- Savannah Metropolitan

on protects and preserves local historic resources.

https://www.instagram.com/mpc_hjnyk/

savannahtreefoundation, richmondhillhistoricalsociety, chathamareatransit + 12 more

PROJECTS

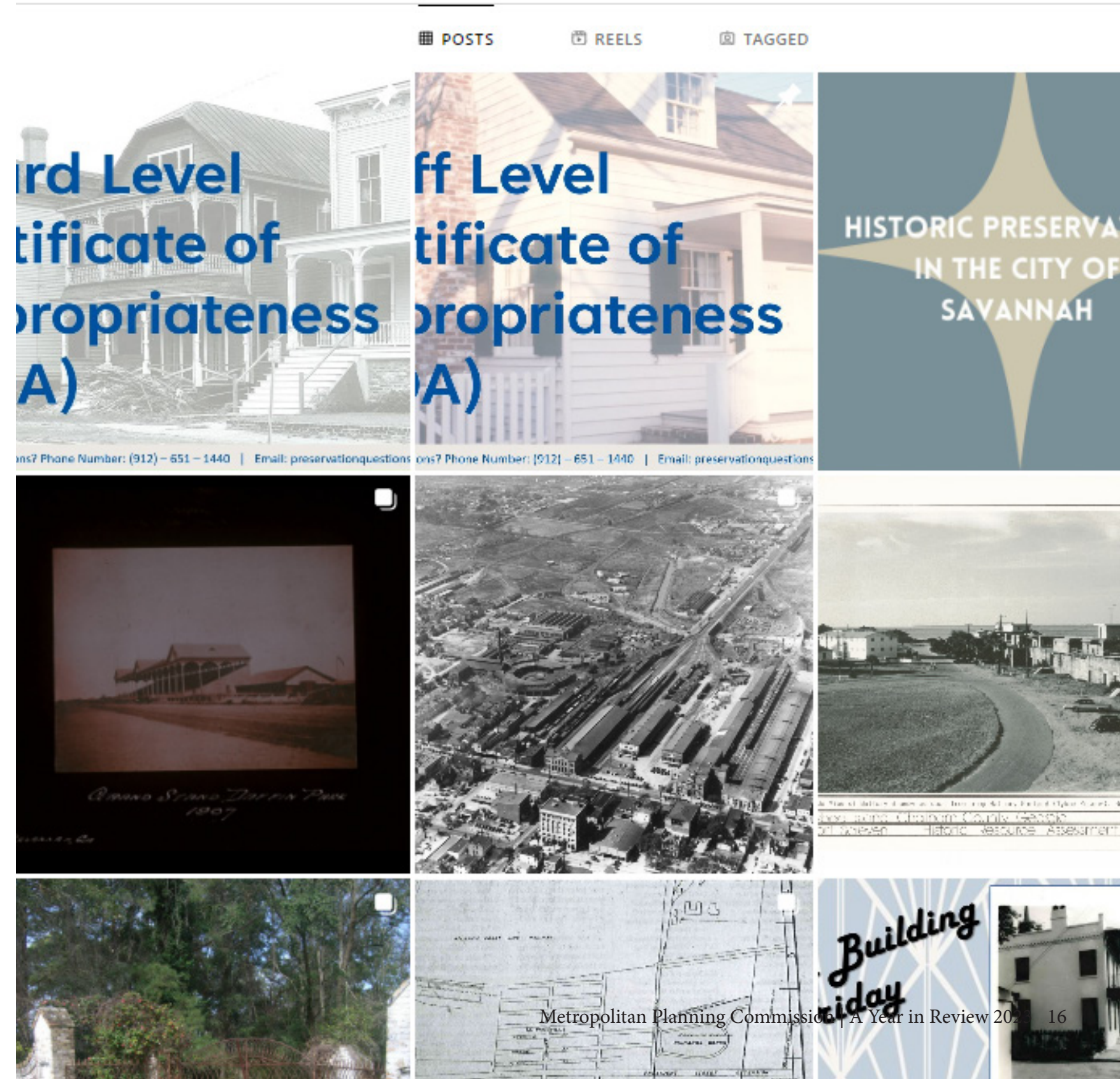
HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND URBAN DESIGN

Historic Preservation Month

For Historic Preservation Month, staff prepared and recorded two how-to videos describing the application process for both Board level and staff level COAs. These videos are available on the MPC YouTube channel; the MPC website; and the MPC Historic Preservation Instagram page.

Chatham County Historic Resources Survey

In 2023, Historic Preservation staff worked with Chatham County staff to implement a historic resources survey grant from the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office. A Request for Proposals process was held, where MPC and County staff reviewed and evaluated the proposals received. Ethos Preservation was selected as the consultant group who will complete the survey work to determine the amount of historic resources forty years and older within an area of the southwestern portion of the County. The work is currently underway, with an anticipated completion date in mid-2024.



SAVANNAH AREA GIS

SAGIS

The MPC, City of Savannah, and Chatham County participate in a partnership that established a regional Geographic Information System (GIS), used for economic development, infrastructure management, and community planning.

Known as SAGIS (Savannah Area Geographic Information System), the Department maintains standards, manages data, supports geospatial education, and coordinate geospatial projects that affect the greater Chatham County-Savannah area.



SAGIS provides public access to geospatial data through the SAGIS Map Viewer and the Open Data site. The MapViewer contains data layers such as parcels, zoning, roads, census data, and more. SAGIS also provides government-facing services to Chatham County and the City of Savannah to support their various software providers with up to date geographic information. The SAGIS Board is an operational department of the Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission. The Board regular meeting is held quarterly and met four times in 2023.

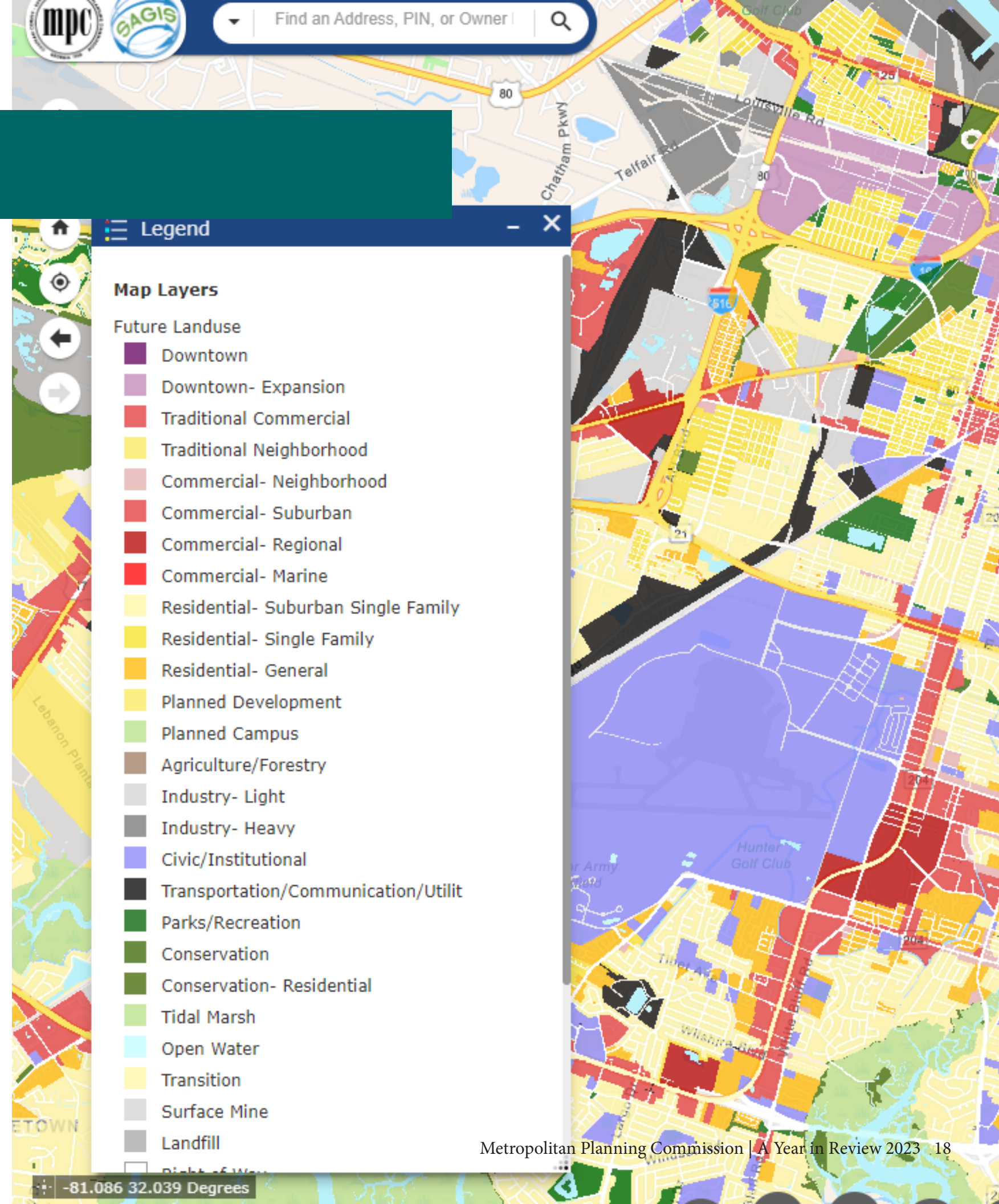
In 2023, SAGIS updated 35,000 address points, created 5,381 new addresses, and its Map Viewer responded to 261,000 web requests for information.

We are pleased to welcome a new staff member, Veronica Cox, to the SAGIS team.

Visit the SAGIS Map Viewer at <https://www.sagis.org/map/>



LARA HALL
Director of SAGIS



PROJECTS

SAGIS

GIS for Public Safety

Recognizing the importance of current, accurate geospatial information for emergency response, SAGIS has always prioritized public safety and supporting emergency response personnel throughout Chatham County. SAGIS staff have participated as the Subject Matter Experts, also known as SMEs, for the Chatham County Public Safety Improvement Program and E911 Executive Advisory Board since 2018, including chairing the GIS/Mapping Subcommittee. This involvement led to SAGIS to schedule biweekly Public Safety GIS meetings to review data issues, questions, and concerns with Chatham County and City of Savannah staff.

This team of GIS professionals is currently working on a county-wide Addressing Standard to be adopted by all cooperating jurisdictions. In August, SAGIS Senior GIS Analyst Mandy Terkhorn led an addressing workshop for all interested planning staff to better understand the process of assigning new addresses, best practices, and how the data is shared with emergency response teams. One main goal is to prevent duplicating addresses and street names so there is no confusion when seconds count in emergency situations.

The SAGIS team was proud to be part of the overall success when Chatham County and partner jurisdictions transitioned to the new Computer Aided Dispatch or CAD system at the 911 Center in October of 2023. The SAGIS staff looks forward to continuing our great working relationship with emergency responders and to provide support for public safety in Chatham County.



PROJECTS

SAGIS

GIS DAY SAVANNAH 2023

In 2023, for the first time since the 2019 COVID outbreak, SAGIS and regional GIS professionals organized an in-person event for the annual celebration of geospatial science known as GIS Day. The event was held at the new Herschel V. Jenkin High School campus, utilizing both the gym and football field.

Eighteen different agencies and organizations participated in the Map Gallery to demonstrate how they use GIS in daily workflows and research. Over 250 eighth grade students from six middle schools attended the event. Jenkins High school students participated by volunteering throughout event, including setting up, escorting students on campus, and cleaning up at the end of the day.

The program allowed the students to practice their GIS navigation skills using a predesigned course, compasses for navigation and dedicated training on how to use the compass and map to perform basic land navigation tasks. Training was also provided on fundamental map reading, symbology and the use of modern methods of navigation. Partner agencies also provided examples of maps created as part of their production processes, and student submissions were also displayed.

The GIS Day Committee is grateful for the continued support of GIS professionals and businesses for this annual educational event.

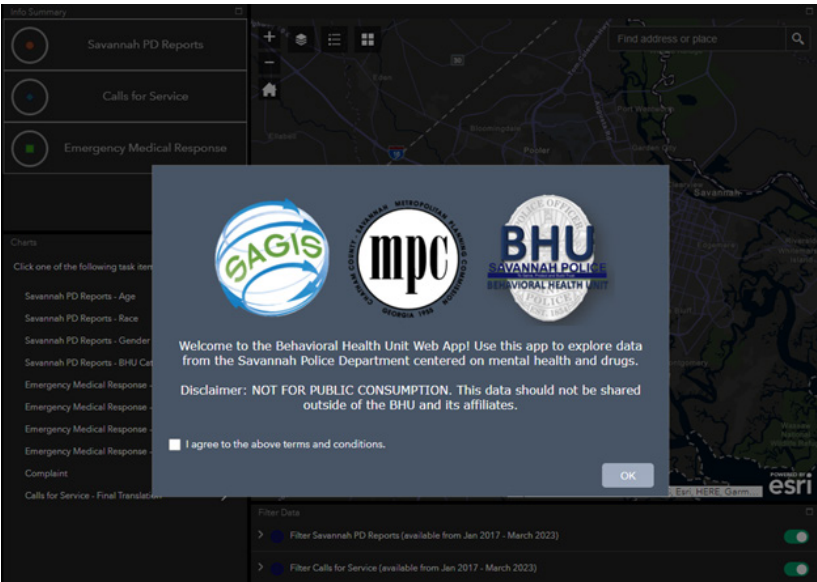


PROJECTS

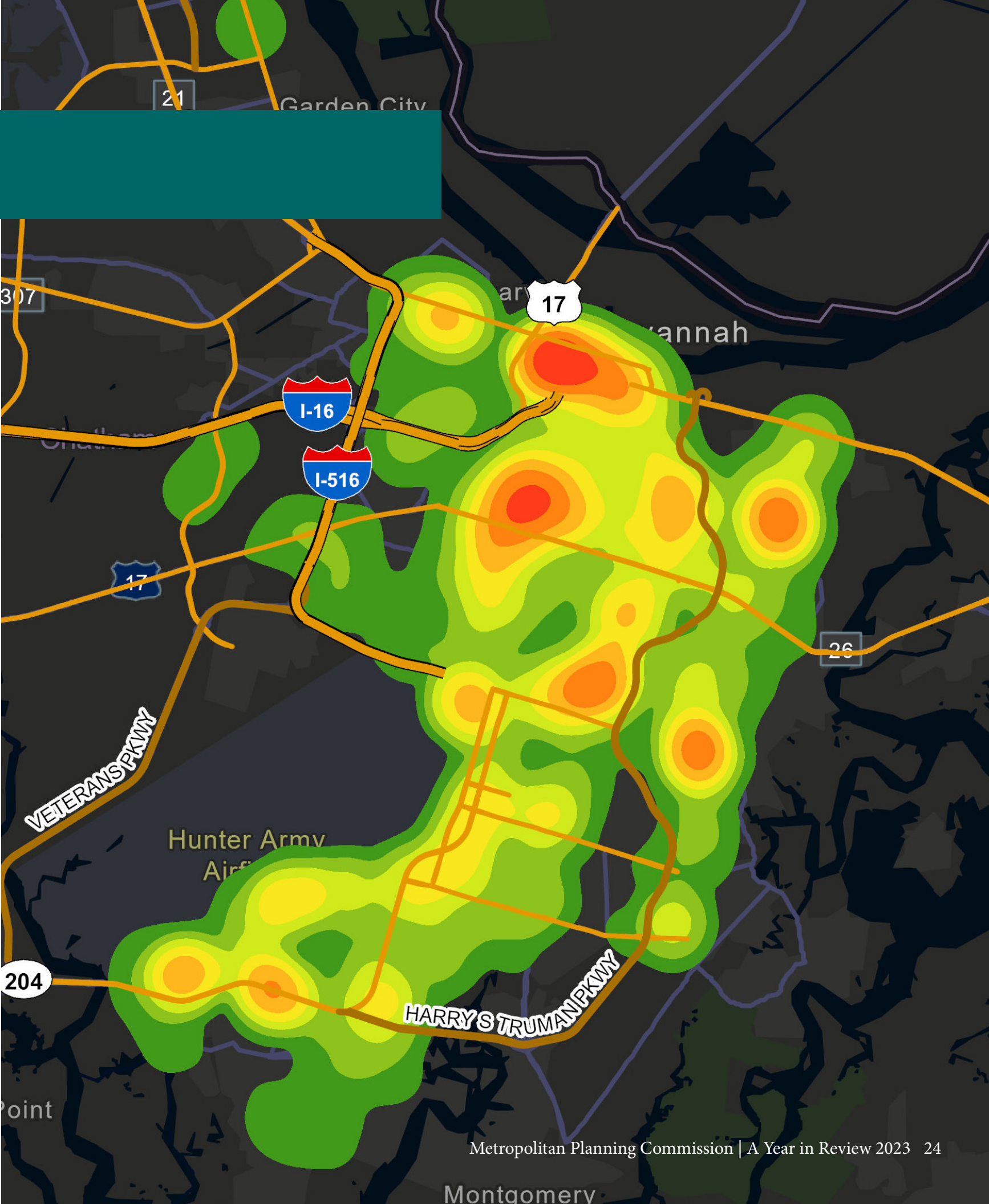
SAGIS

SAGIS PROVIDES DATA ANALYSIS FOR THE BHU

The Savannah Police Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) has provided support for child safety and child and family well-being in our community since 2019. Their overall goal is to reduce jail time for adults and youth through alternative services for mental health and substance abuse needs. The SAGIS team assists this program by working with BHU team members each month to export and process data from Savannah Police, Emergency Dispatch, and Emergency Medical Services. SAGIS supports the BHU partners by providing analysis that identifies patterns in locations, demographics, changes in resource needs, and potential hotspots of different types of emergency needs. Analysis is also completed overtime to see the changes in activity through the year.



The BHU Dashboard provides spatial tools to review the data from SPD, EMS, and 911.



TRANSPORTATION

Coastal Region MPO (CORE MPO)

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is the transportation planning organization for the Savannah region, including Chatham County and its municipalities, portions of Effingham County south of SR 119, and Bryan County outside of Fort Stewart. CORE MPO was initiated in 1963 and is housed at the MPC. The planning process focuses on identifying needs in the region's transportation system, proposing projects that address deficiencies and needs, and securing funding for those projects.

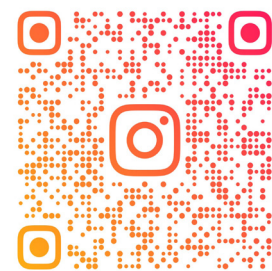
The 1962 Federal-Aid Highway Act mandated that all urbanized areas with a population of more than 50,000 establish a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) planning process in order to be eligible to receive U.S. Department of Transportation funding. The 1974 Federal-Aid Highway Act further formalized the process by creating MPOs for all urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000. The CORE MPO is responsible for compliance with all federal planning requirements overseeing many grants and projects, as well as facilitating all meetings.

In 2023, CORE hosted 19 meetings, with a combined attendance of 516 persons. Audio recordings of the meetings are available on the CORE MPO website at www.thempc.org/Core and we invite you to visit us there.

We are pleased to welcome Genesis Harrod to the CORE team.

We're Social!

Scan QR codes to visit our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



COASTALREGIONMPO



WYKODA WANG
Director of Transportation Administration

Boards Served by CORE

CORE Board

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT)

Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC)



PROJECTS

TRANSPORTATION & CORE MPO

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

CORE MPO maintains the performance based, multimodal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) on a continuous basis. Staff updates the MTP at least every five years and promotes all multimodal planning practices that support the goals and objectives of the MTP. Staff is updating the 2050 MTP as an in-house effort with the target adoption date in August 2024. Staff completed several tasks in 2023 regarding 2050 MTP update - completed the 2020 base year and 2050 horizon year socio-economic data, conducted the 2nd round of public involvement, monitored and analyzed survey responses, completed network checks for the travel demand model, and worked on development of project prioritization and financial plan. Learn more at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/Mtp2050>

Updating the CORE MPO's Memorandum of Understanding & Bylaws

The CORE MPO is required to have a defined Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that defines roles and responsibilities of participating agencies and membership due structure, and bylaws that guide the MPO's operations. All of these must be updated after each decennial census to reflect the changes. In 2023, CORE MPO staff worked on the updates in coordination with the Working Group, the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees, as well as governmental agencies in the expanded areas. The updated MPA boundary was adopted by the CORE MPO Board in June 2023. The updated MOU and Bylaws are expected to be finalized in 2024.

Transportation Improvement Program

CORE MPO maintains the four-year, performance based, multi-modal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and update it at least every four years. The TIP projects and strategies are consistent with and support the goals and objectives of the MTP. The TIP is the MPO's short-range programming document. CORE MPO adopted the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP in 2023 to guide the project implementation for the next four years. Learn more at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/Tip>



PROJECTS

TRANSPORTATION & CORE MPO

CORE MPO Regional Freight Transportation Plan Update

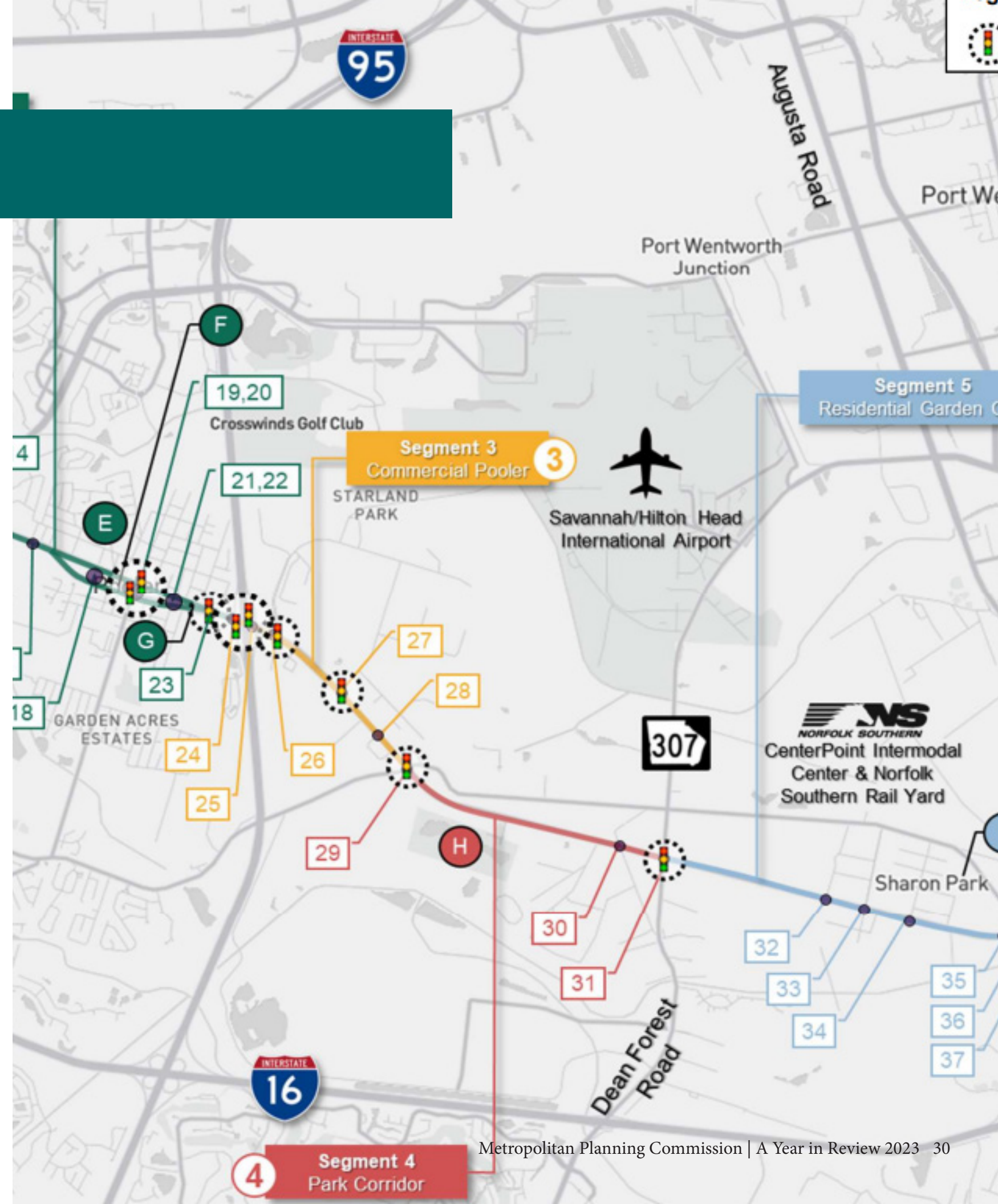
CORE MPO maintains the Regional Freight Transportation Plan and conducts the comprehensive update every five years to inform the MTP and TIP. The latest update was completed in October 2023 with the assistance of the consulting firm Cambridge Systematics. Learn more at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/Fp>

Urban Flooding Model Study

The Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools for Optimized Planning of CORE MPO Transportation Infrastructure Systems assessed the vulnerability of the region's stormwater infrastructure and surface transportation network to present and future flooding. This assessment developed a tool for optimal planning and design of resilient and equitable transportation infrastructure systems, an urban stormwater management model for several watersheds that outfall into the Savannah River in the City of Savannah, and a spreadsheet that lists numerous funding opportunities particularly through natural and nature-based (NNBF) infrastructure. Learn more at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/Ufm>

US 80 Corridor Study

CORE MPO supports the maintenance and updates of the MTP and TIP through detailed study of specific transportation issues or specific transportation facilities which the CORE MPO has determined require focused attention and additional resources. In 2023, CORE MPO coordinated with the City of Pooler to complete the US 80 Corridor Study. Learn more at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/Us80>



PROJECTS

TRANSPORTATION & CORE MPO

Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Plan Update

The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is a document that addresses the development of bike and pedestrian infrastructure in the CORE MPO planning area. This plan involves multiple facets of bike and pedestrian planning, including deciding what new projects should be added, using data to better understand local needs, and seeking public input to give the community a say. This plan is currently being updated and has involved activities such as giving presentations at local meetings to spread the word, building a project list, and processing local data. The plan will be adopted in June of 2024 and will feed directly into the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update.

Learn more at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/Bpp>

Congestion Management Process Update

The Congestion Management Process identifies strategies to alleviate current observed and future projected congestion. CORE MPO monitors effectiveness of congestion mitigation strategies on a continuous basis and updates the CMP every five years to maintain currency with the MTP objectives. The latest CMP update is expected to be completed in February 2024. The 2023 work included document review, data collection and analysis, and coordination with ongoing transportation studies.



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND CURRENT PLANNING

DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING

The Development Services/Current Planning Department is responsible for all aspects of current and future planning in the City of Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County. The staff works with residents, local officials, and the development community with a focus on helping to shape the built environment. Development Services is charged with the primary responsibility of review and analysis of all rezoning requests for both the City of Savannah and Chatham County.

The analysis includes an examination of not only the relationship of the proposed changes to the overall community needs, but to the resulting impact on the immediate neighborhood and Future Land Use Map. In this role, Department staff must ensure compliance with applicable ordinances, assist developers and residents on review procedures and serve as a neutral advisor to the governing bodies. In addition to these responsibilities, members of the Department also serve as Planning staff for the City and County Zoning Board of Appeals and the Metropolitan Planning Commission, where recommendations are presented for the Boards' consideration during public hearings and to the City Council and County Commission.

In 2023, there were approximately 660 residential building permits issued, and five text amendments to the zoning ordinance. Development Services reviewed 537 applications, sent 4,135 notifications regarding these applications and reviewed these applications with the Planning Commission across 16 public meetings. The meetings were recorded and are available on the MPC Channel at youtube.com. For additional information, meeting minutes and links to these and other video and audio recordings of meetings, you are invited to visit the department page at <https://www.thempc.org/Development>

We would like to welcome Edward Morrow, Jr., AICP, Brad Clement, Nykobe Richardson, and Subhashi Karunarathne to the Development Services team.



EDWARD MORROW JR., AICP
Director of Development Services and Current Planning

Boards Served by Development Services



**Metropolitan Planning
Commission**



**Chatham County Zoning Board
of Appeals**



**City of Savannah Zoning Board
of Appeals**

PROJECTS

PARKING STUDIES

Grayson Stadium Parking Study

The MPC examined the existing parking in Daffin Park and around Grayson Stadium for the Savannah Bananas semi-professional baseball team to create a parking model to demonstrate future parking needs based on potential future development based on approved land use. The recommendations identify additional parking locations, ADA parking areas, materials for parking, and appropriate number of spaces. Recommendations extend beyond parking to include non-automotive transit alternatives, updated design standards, and the inclusion of social equity and community engagement considerations to provide a comprehensive approach to parking that meets the needs of the Savannah Bananas and surrounding neighborhoods.

Harris Street Parking Study

This study adapted the current Parking Model to provide for present and future demand throughout the South Historic District and Beach Institute neighborhoods. The Harris Street Parking Study area is bounded by Liberty Street to the north, Broad Street to the east, Gaston Street to the south, and Lincoln Street to the west. The adapted model will be used in the future to help make determinations on the viability of proposed projects as well as potential impacts on parking supply in the area. MPC staff analyzed land uses within the study area, identified the amount of parking required by City ordinance, and reviewed on-street parking availability and parking count data.

Indian-Fahm Street Parking Study

This study adapted the current Parking Model to provide for present and future demand along the Indian-Fahm Street corridor. The Indian-Fahm Street Parking Study area is bounded by West River Street to the north, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the east, West Bay Street to the south, and Warner Street to the west. MPC staff analyzed land uses within the study area, identified the amount of parking required by City ordinance, and reviewed on-street parking availability and parking count data. MPC staff then updated the City's Parking Model to reflect the appropriate context specific to the Indian-Fahm Street study area.



ADVANCE PLANNING

COMPREHENSIVE PLANS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Advance Planning and Special Projects Department is continually studying the community, its many elements and those impacts on our region. Some of the various physical elements which make up the community are water and sewer systems, community facilities, parks and open space, land use patterns and storm drainage systems.

Population and economic characteristics are also vital to the comprehensive planning process. Each year, the MPC evaluates its planning program in relation to these elements.

An essential document the Department prepares every 5 years is known as the Chatham County–Savannah Comprehensive Plan. This public document named “Plan 2040,” details specific goals and strategies designed to achieve a shared community vision.

Advance Planning staff also work to educate the public and ultimately ensure that other plans and projects are consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

In 2023, the Advance Planning team launched the Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN) newsletter The Resilience Bight, hosted a 2023 partner meeting with partner organizations across the Georgia and South Carolina areas. CERN completed the requirements for its first round of grant funding and is submitting for the second round of funding.

We are pleased to welcome Anna Brodmerkel McQuarrie to the Special Projects team.

Visit the department page at <https://www.thempc.org/Comprehensive>



MELANIE WILSON
Executive Director & CEO

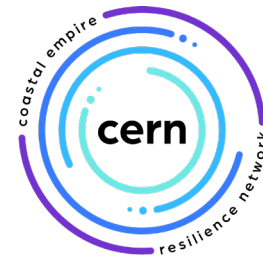


PROJECTS

ADVANCE PLANNING

Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN)

The Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN) is a regional collaborative formed by the Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) with the support of a Coastal Incentive Grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division (GADNR CRD).



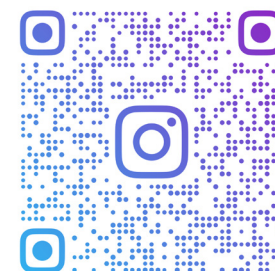
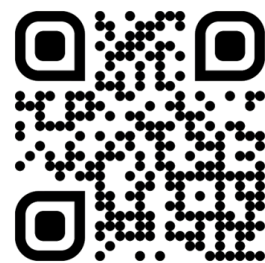
In 2023, CERN assembled community members to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee with help from the Steering Committee and planned the second partner meeting. The 2023 Partner Organization Meeting was a success with almost 50 attendees from counties all along the Georgia Coast and South Carolina Lowcountry. Participants discussed the mission, geographic scope, and actionable goals, with a focus on equity and environmental justice and becoming a self-sustaining organization. The Coastal Incentive Grant was completed and accepted by GADNR CRD in October 2023.

In 2023, CERN hosted monthly virtual coffee hours, facilitated 3 in person events and redesigned its website.

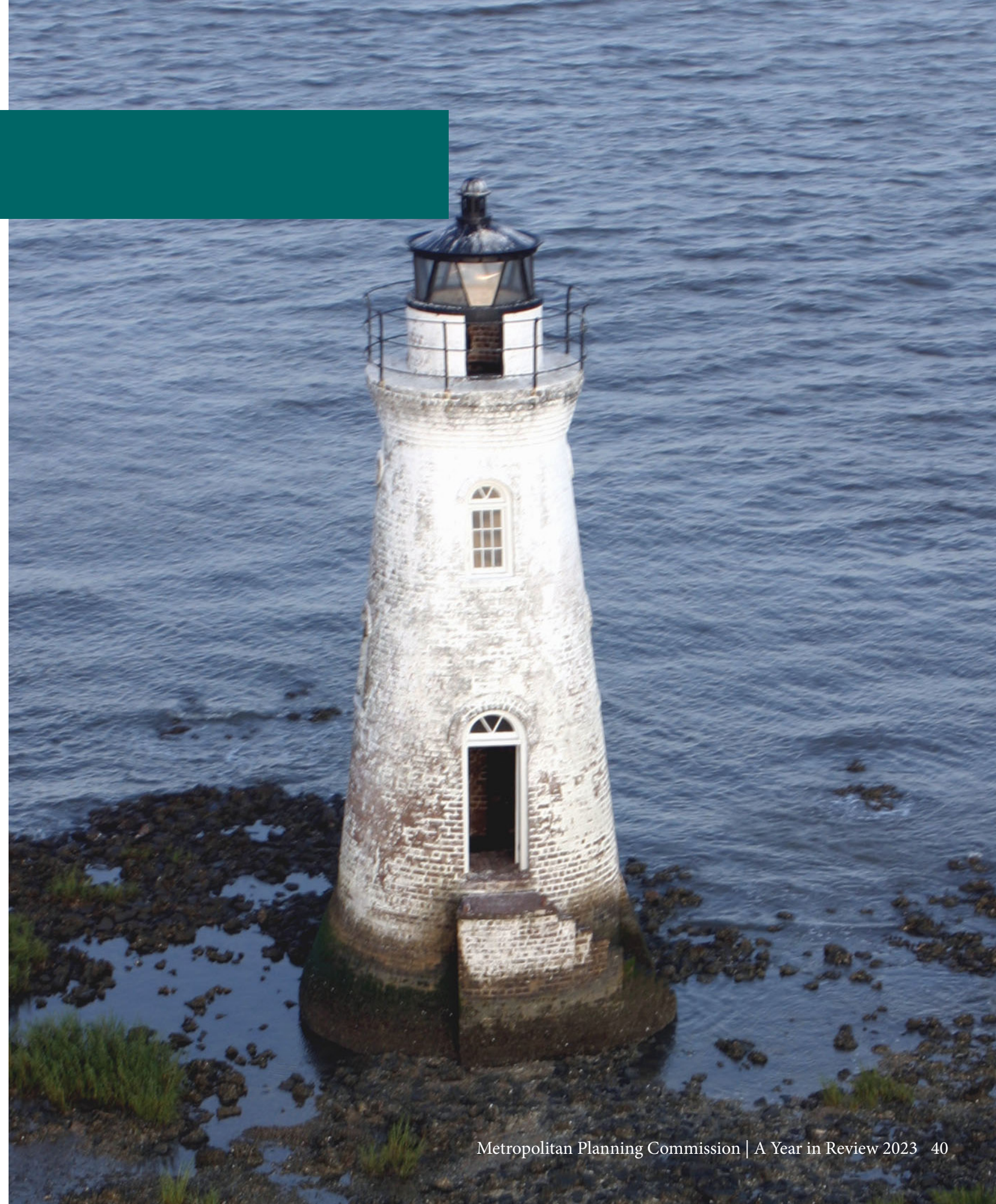
We invite you to read more at <http://www.coastalempireresilience.org/>

We're Social!

Scan QR codes to visit our [website](http://www.coastalempireresilience.org/) and [Instagram](#).



CERN_MPC



Information Technology & Systems

DATA AND SOFTWARE MANAGEMENT

The Information Technology and Systems Department provides direct support to Boards, Commissions and Staff within the Metropolitan Planning Commission, and indirect support to City of Savannah and Chatham County Information Technology staff when needed. The Information Technology department maintains both SAGIS and MPC data, the internal system that provides services to the government-facing sector, and the public services provided through websites and REST services for general use. Additionally, the IT department provides custom coding services to perform data transformation and loading for SAGIS and the related partner agencies to ensure that the geographic data is presented in a manner that allows for integrated operation of SAGIS products.

In 2023, the Information Technology and Systems Department performed or was instrumental in completing a wide variety of projects, including:

- » Produced 15 meeting videos for the Planning Commission, 90 audio transcripts for other Boards and Commissions, 127 agenda packets to support public meetings
- » Implemented third party software solutions to support social media and audio transcription
- » Performed rapid restoration of SAGIS services after major UPS failure caused a data center shutdown. This restoration was particularly complex in that it required a manual rebuild of locally hosted services
- » Implemented software vendor change for MPC's financial software to support life cycle management of the software
- » Updated 83 computers to windows 11, including life cycle management for units that did not meet software requirements

- » Performed software and hardware lifecycle management on portions of the Data Center complex, including replacement of five servers, and SQL software upgrades to support extending IT service support for the Development Services department
- » Commenced implementation of Artificial Intelligence projects to support Zoning Code applications, focusing on the initial loads of the Chatham County and City of Savannah Codes, with planned growth to include incoming Master Plans and related zoning products
- » Started infrastructure modernization for internally maintained software code projects, including MPC and SAGIS web-based assets with the goal of completing this in a three-year time period
- » Updated video and audio capabilities in all hearing rooms to allow for efficient hybrid meetings
- » Implemented ISBN registration for select publications of the Planning Commission.
- » Backed up 20 TB of data during the 2023 year, grew data by 2.7 GB during the year
- » Served as test model for Chatham County phone system to modern VOIP standards from POTS service

The Information Technology department wishes a happy retirement to Julie Yawn and welcomes Hind Patel to the MPC Staff.



MPC BOARD MEMBERS

2023

Mr. Dwayne Stephens, City of Savannah
Chair

Mr. Travis H. Coles, City of Savannah
Vice-Chair

Mr. Tom Woiwode, Chatham County
Secretary

Ms. Elizabeth Epstein, City of Savannah
Treasurer

Ms. Traci Amick, Chatham County

Ms. Laureen Boles, City of Savannah

Mr. Shedrick Coleman, Chatham County

Mr. Joseph B. Ervin, City of Savannah

Ms. Karen Jarrett, City of Savannah

Mr. Wayne Noha, Chatham County

Mr. Jeff Notrica, Chatham County

Mr. Joseph T. Welch, Chatham County

Mr. Michael Kaigler, County Manager
Ex-Officio

Mr. Jay Melder, City Manager
Ex-Officio

2024

Ms. Karen Jarrett, City of Savannah
Chair

Mr. Travis H. Coles, City of Savannah
Vice-Chair

Mr. Wayne Noha, Chatham County
Secretary

Ms. Laureen Boles, City of Savannah
Treasurer

Ms. Traci Amick, Chatham County

Mr. Joseph B. Ervin, City of Savannah

Mr. Jeff Notrica, Chatham County

Mr. Stephen Plunk, City of Savannah

Ms. Coren Ross, Chatham County

Mr. Dwayne Stephens, City of Savannah

Mr. Joseph T. Welch, Chatham County

Mr. Tom Woiwode, Chatham County

Mr. Michael Kaigler, County Manager
Ex-Officio

Mr. Jay Melder, City Manager
Ex-Officio

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS



CORE Board

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT)

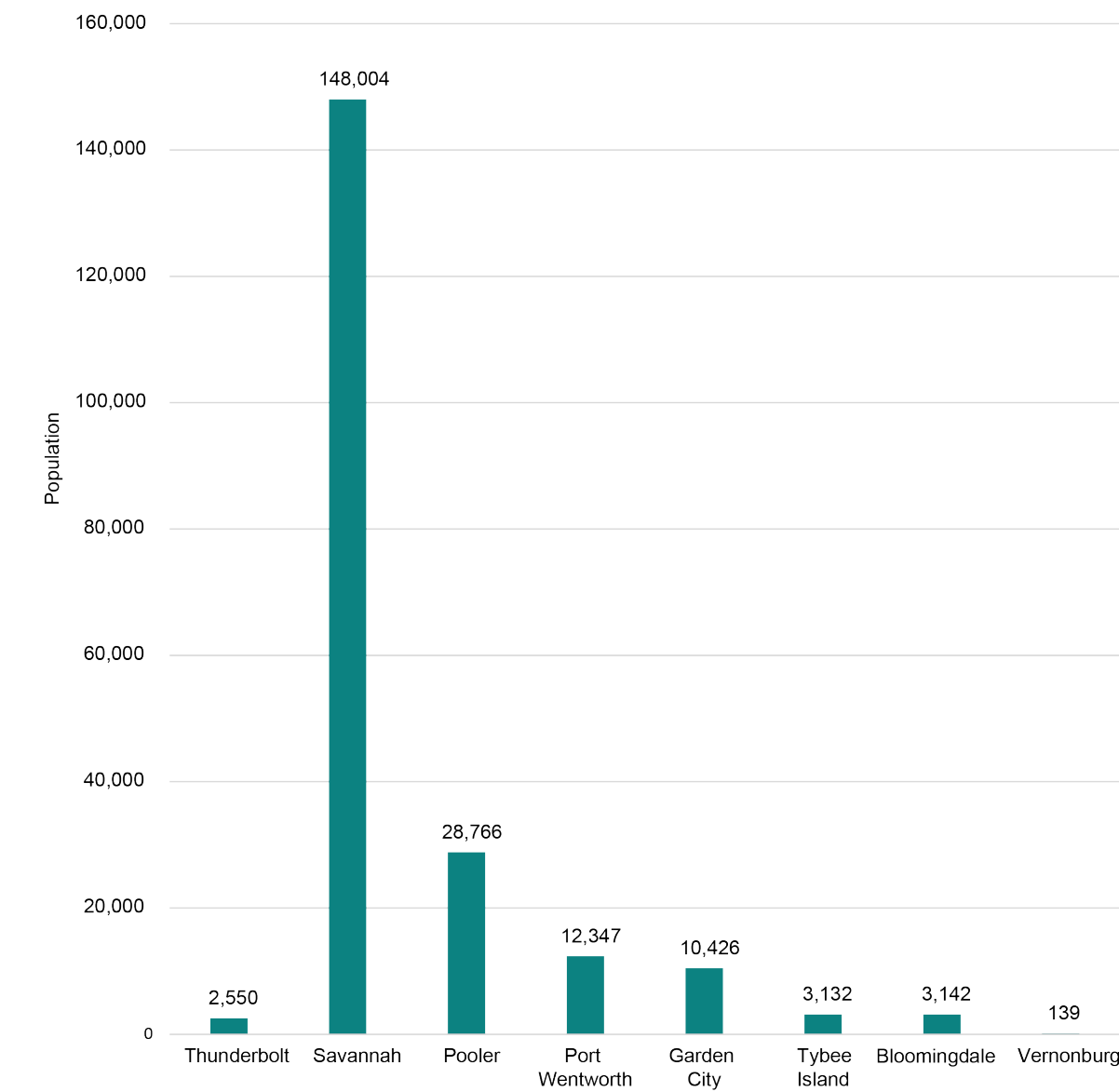
Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC)



CHATHAM COUNTY GROWTH

2022 POPULATION OF JURISDICTIONS

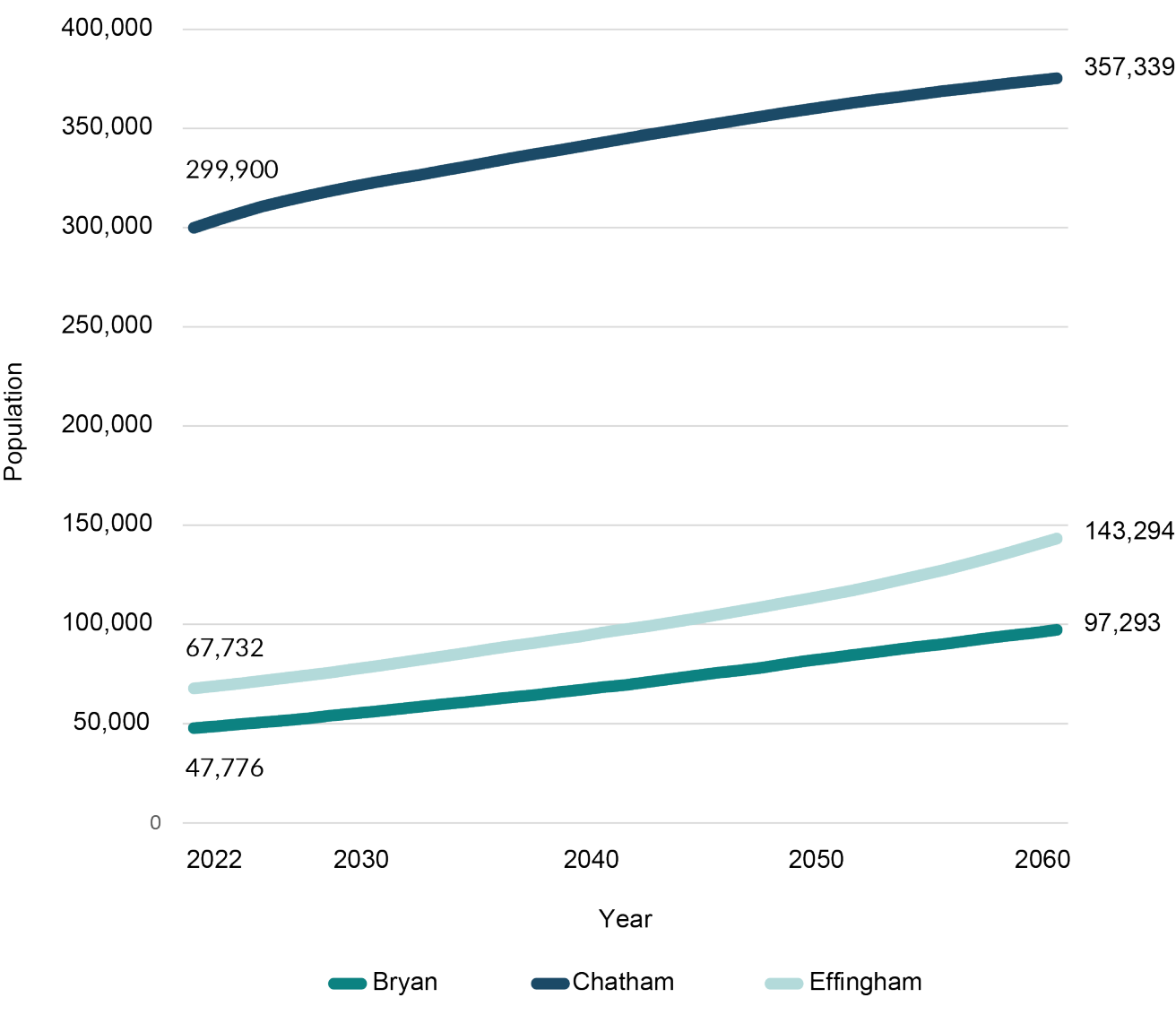
The population of Chatham County is estimated at 301,107 people in the 2022 US Census data. Savannah remains the urban center and Pooler is the next most populous municipality in the county.



Data Source: US Census, 2023

Population Growth 2022-2060 in Bryan, Chatham, and Effingham Counties

Chatham County is expected to remain the most populous county in the metropolitan area, however, population in Bryan, Chatham, and Effingham Counties is projected to continue to grow through 2060.



Data Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2023

OUR IMPACT

HOW WE ARE DOING

Outreach



Applications



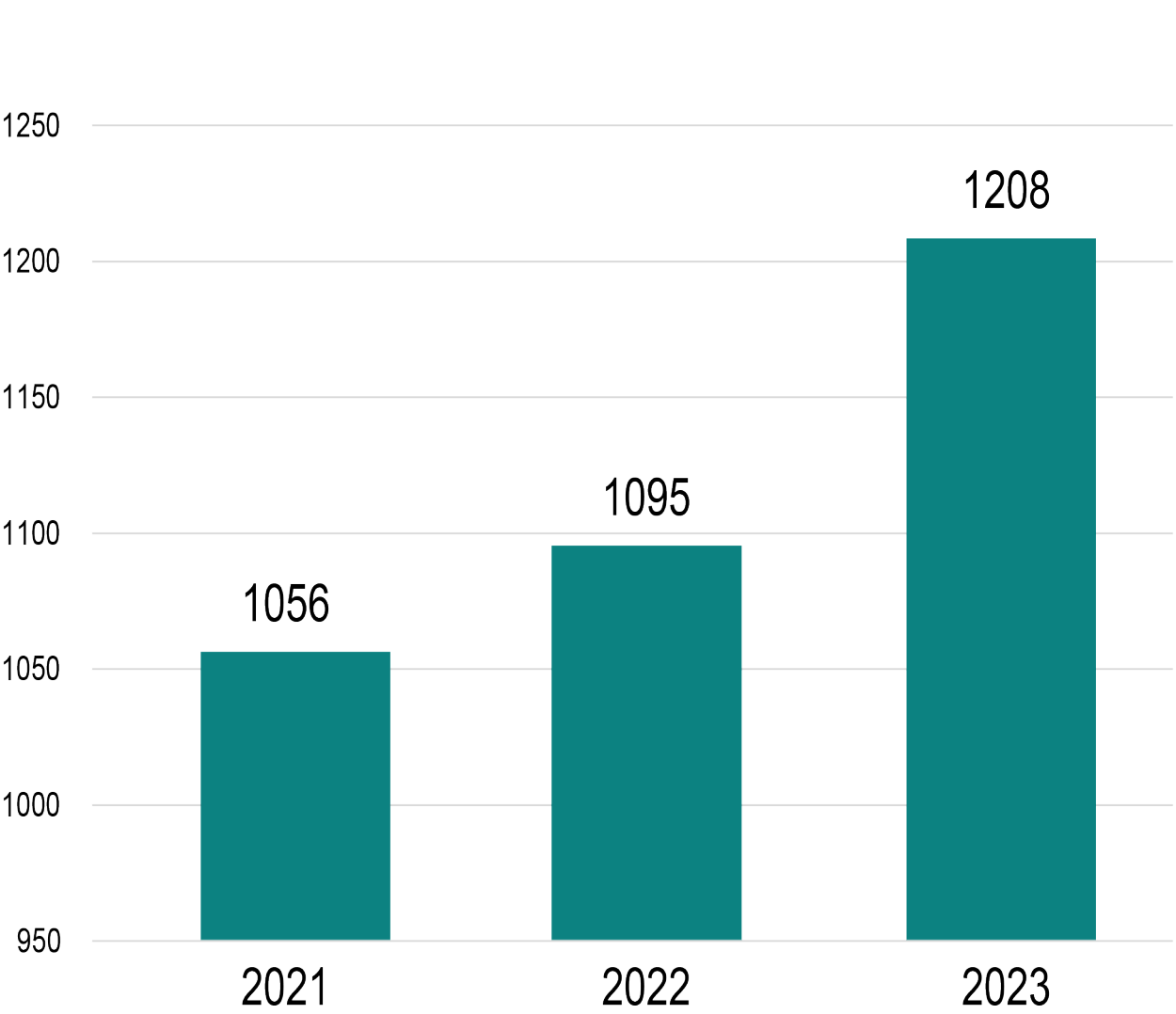
Growth



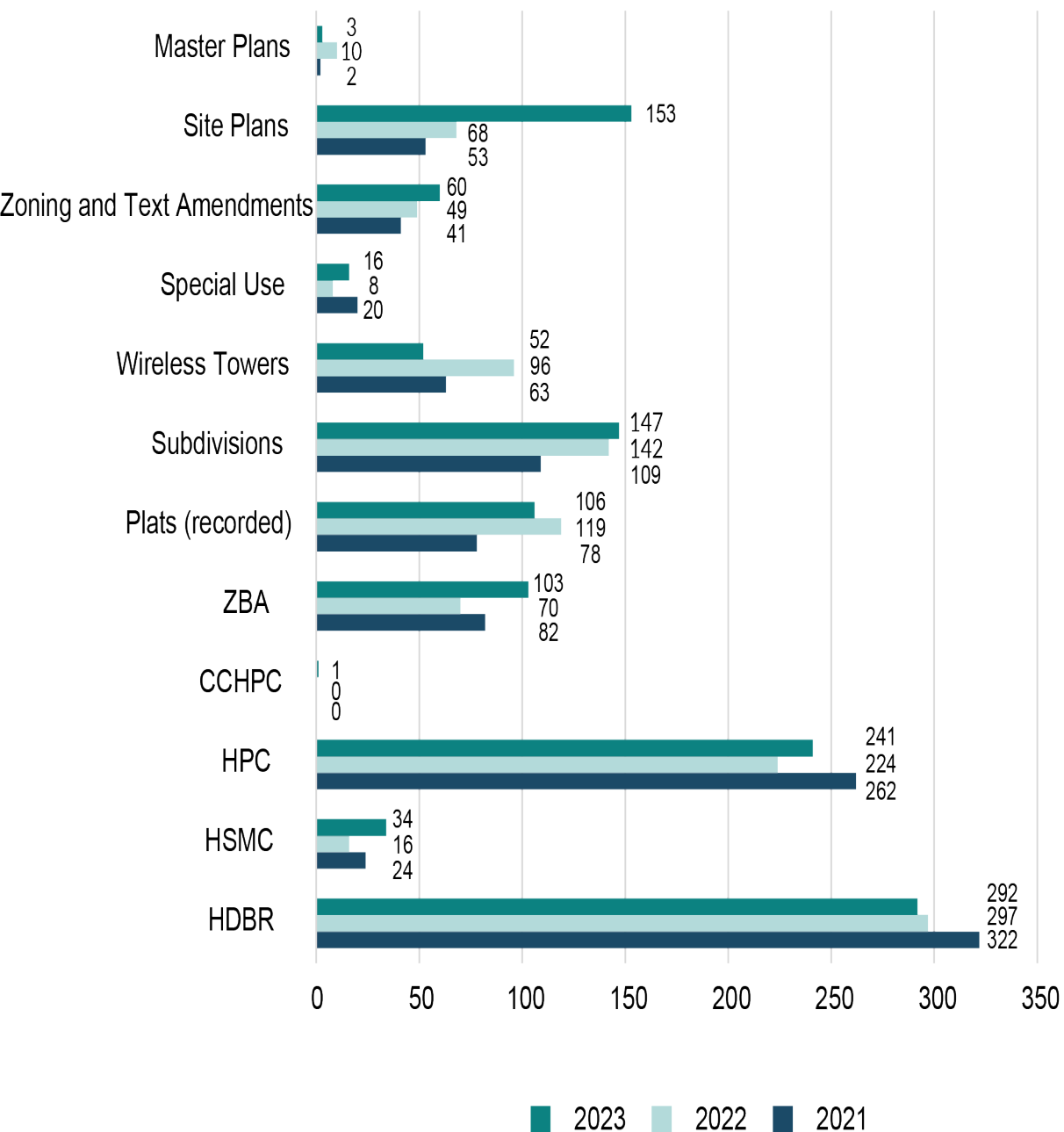
LOCAL INVESTMENTS

APPLICATIONS

Total Processed Applications 2021-2023



Breakdown of Processed Applications 2021-2023



MOVING FORWARD

WHERE WE WANT TO GO IN 2024

- » Completion of the Chatham County Historic Resources Survey grant project
- » Publication of the Chatham County-Savannah Disaster Preparedness Plan for Historic and Cultural Resources
- » Public Safety GIS Strategic Plan for Chatham County
- » ArcGIS Urban for Development Services and Planning
- » Improvements for SAGIS.org and other Map Viewers
- » Supporting SCCPSS for attendance zone mapping and proposed changes
- » Providing crash data and vulnerability analysis for MPO
- » Maintain and update the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP through amendments and administrative modifications. Conduct Call for Projects as needed in support of the TIP updates
- » Work with FHWA, FTA and GDOT to complete the federal certification review process
- » Monitor the rule-making process and implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- » Update the MPC Citizens Academy Planning Course
- » Continue the update of the 2050 MTP as an “in house” effort
 - » Complete the 3rd round of public involvement. Complete the 2050 MTP public review and comment period and incorporate all received comments
 - » Adopt the 2050 MTP in August 2024. Finalize all chapters and appendices. Develop a graphic driven Executive Summary and translate it into the required LEP languages.
 - » Distribute copies of the 2050 MTP document

- » Coordinate with planning partners in conducting and/or completing the special Transportation Planning Studies and make sure the recommendations feed into future MTPs
 - » SR 25/US 17 Corridor Study
 - » SR 204 Access Study
 - » President Street Railroad Crossing Elimination Study
 - » I-16 Exit Ramp Removal IMR
 - » ARP and AOPP funded studies
- » Collaborate with GDOT and transit providers on Performance Management and Performance Targets. Activities can include but are not limited to:
 - » Develop specific written provisions for PM1, PM2, PM3, transit safety and TAM performance measures as needed.
 - » Update the System Performance Report to incorporate the performance targets
 - » Update CORE MPO’s Metropolitan Planning Agreements as needed
 - » Link investment priorities to the achievement of performance targets





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Melanie Wilson, *Executive Director & CEO*

Pamela Everett, *Assistant Executive Director, Compliance and Operations*

Roger Beall, *Director IT*

Lara Hall, *Director SAGIS*

Johnathan Mellon, *Director Historic Preservation and Urban Design*

Edward Morrow, *Director Development Services and Current Planning*

Wykoda Wang, *Director Transportation Administration*

Hind Patel, *IT*

Ashley Ward, *Financial & Systems*

Kieron Coffield, *Administrative Support*

Sally Helm, *Administrative Support*

Mary Mitchell, *Administrative Support*

Bri Morgan, *Administrative Support*

Genesis Harrod, *CORE MPO*

Asia Hernton, *CORE MPO*

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Nykobe Richardson, *Development Services and Current Planning*

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Kelli Mitchell, *Historic Preservation and Urban Design*

Veronica Cox, *SAGIS*

David Ramsey, *Information Systems and Mapping*

Mandy Terkhorn, *SAGIS*