



2025 Annual Report

**Chatham County-Savannah
Metropolitan Planning
Commission**

**Karen Jarrett
Chairperson**

**Melanie Wilson
Executive Director & CEO**

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625

625 E. Broad

625 East Broad Street, built in 1896 by German immigrant and entrepreneur Anna Caroline Matilda Goetke Hientz, is one of three identical Victorian doubles she developed using proceeds from a former saloon business. After decades of decline following government seizure during the World Wars, the home was saved from demolition by the Historic Savannah Foundation in 2017 and restored in 2021 by a preservation-minded owner.

A Message From The Director

I am proud to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Chatham County–Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) as we celebrated a significant milestone—our 70th Anniversary. This report reflects not only a year of significant accomplishments, but a moment of transition—one in which our region continues to grow, change, and redefine itself at an unprecedented pace. It is also an opportunity to thank our dedicated staff and Board members whose leadership, expertise, and service guide our work.

As Chatham County and the City of Savannah evolve, the importance of intentional, data-driven, and community-centered planning has never been clearer. In 2025, MPC remained focused on balancing growth with resilience, development with preservation, and vision with practicality. Our staff worked across disciplines and jurisdictions to ensure that planning recommendations made today support a more connected, equitable, and sustainable future.

This year marked an important step in sharpening our long-term direction. We successfully hosted our annual CAMP Historic training in person, which was well attended by members of the Historic Boards, Planning Commission, and Zoning Boards. This event continues to strengthen our collective understanding and preparation for stewardship of our City and County’s historic resources. Additionally, we were pleased to host the annual GAMPO Conference in our Historic District. This conference fosters collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the state.

Looking ahead, the initiatives advanced in 2025 will shape the region for decades to come. We began our work on the 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update. Plan 2045 is a five-year update of Chatham County and the City of Savannah’s existing Comprehensive Plan that will be used by local officials as a guide to help make policy decisions regarding the community's growth and development for the next twenty years and highlight the City and County’s accomplishments since 2020. Additionally, progress on Phase II of the Urban Flooding Model, updates to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, adoption of a refreshed Public Participation Plan, and the 2050 Call for Projects reflect our commitment to resilience, mobility, and meaningful public engagement. Further, we are working with the City of Savannah to create efficiencies in the development application process by moving this task to the MPC.



Melanie Wilson

Executive Director & CEO

“ We are building a future that reflects both the character of our communities and the opportunities ahead

As we reflect on 70 years of service, we look forward with optimism to the opportunities ahead—building a region that is resilient, connected, and prepared for the next 70 years of growth and development. As we move forward, MPC remains focused on anticipating change rather than reacting to it; using data, collaboration, and community insight to guide smart growth and informed decision-making. The work highlighted in this report lays the foundation for what comes next, and I am confident that, together with our partners and stakeholders, we are building a future that reflects both the character of our communities and the opportunities ahead.



About Us

The Chatham County–Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission 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”

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

Vision

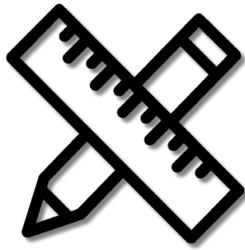
The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission will be a leader in planning, developing, and preserving a greater community through partnerships and an open process.

Visit the MPC website at
www.thempc.org.



TheMPC.org

Our Services



Development Services
& Current Planning



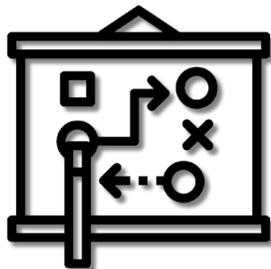
Historic Preservation
& Urban Design



Transportation
& CORE MPO



Savannah Area GIS



Advanced Planning
& Special Projects



Administrative Services
& Information Technology

Our Boards



Planning
Commision



City of Savannah
Historic Preservation
Commission



Chatham County Historic
Preservation Commission



Savannah-Chatham
County Historic Site &
Monument Commission



City of Savannah Zoning
Board of Appeals



Chatham County
Zoning Board of Appeals



Savannah Historic
District Board of Review



- Savannah Area GIS Board
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Public Safety GIS

- Policy Board Technical
- Coordinating Committee (TCC)
- Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC)
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
- Transportation Equity & Public Involvement Advisory Committee (TEPIAC)



The 2025 MPC Board

The MPC Board is made up of community leaders and appointed officials from the City of Savannah and Chatham County. Officer elections for the MPC Board are held every October.

Ms. Karen Jarrett

Chairwoman

City of Savannah

Mr. Travis H. Coles

Vice-Chairman

City of Savannah

Mr. Tom Woiwode

Secretary

Chatham County

Ms. Lauren Boles

Treasurer

City of Savannah

Mr. Stephen Plunk

City of Savannah

Ms. Coren Ross

Chatham County

Mr. Joseph B. Ervin

City of Savannah

Mr. Dwayne Stephens

City of Savannah

Mr. Jeff Notrica

Chatham County

Ms. Traci Amick

Chatham County

Mr. Joseph T. Welch

Chatham County

Ms. Amanda Wilson

Chatham County

Ex-Officio

Mr. Michael Kaigler

County Manager

Ex-Officio

Mr. Jay Melder

City Manager

Ex-Officio

Board changes as of October 2025

Mr. Travis H. Coles

Chairman

Mr. Tom Woiwode

Vice Chairman

Ms. Lauren Boles

Secretary

Mr. Jeff Notrica

Treasurer

Our Team



Roger Bell
Director of IT



Jodi Brown
Principal Planner



Caitlin Chamberlain
Director of Historic
Preservation & Urban Design



Kieron Coffield
Admin. Assistant



Pamela Everett
Asst. Executive Director of
Compliance & Operations



Sadie Esch-Laurent
Assistant Planner



Rohan Urs
Contracted Planner



Sarah Greenbush
Admin Assistant



Lara Hall
Director of GIS



Sally Helm
Admin Assistant II



Subhashi Karunaratne
Special Projects & Development
Services Current Planning Planner



Hunter Key
GIS Developer



Anna Brodmerkel McQuarrie
Special Projects &
Transportation Planner



Alexander Merced
Assistant Planner



Kelli Mitchell
Historic Preservation
Planner



Mary Mitchell
Admin. Assistant



Veronica Cox
GIS Analyst



Edward Morrow
Director of Development
Services & Current Planning



Bri Morgan
Admin Assistant II



Hind Patel
IT Support & Admin.



David Ramsey
GIS & Senior Design
Specialist



Terrell Richardson-Smith
Budget Analyst



Mandy Terkhorn
Senior GIS Analyst



Wykoda Wang
Director of Transportation
Administration



Melanie Wilson
Executive Director & CEO

Staff Highlights

David Ramsey

With **32 years of service**, David Ramsey is the longest-tenured member of the MPC team and a cornerstone of SAGIS. His institutional knowledge, technical expertise, and long-term stewardship have played a critical role in shaping how planning data is managed, accessed, and shared across the community.



Melanie Wilson

As **Vice President of the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO)**, Melanie Wilson provides statewide leadership on transportation planning and regional collaboration. Her role strengthens coordination among MPOs and ensures Savannah–Chatham County’s voice is represented at the state level.

Caitlin Chamberlain

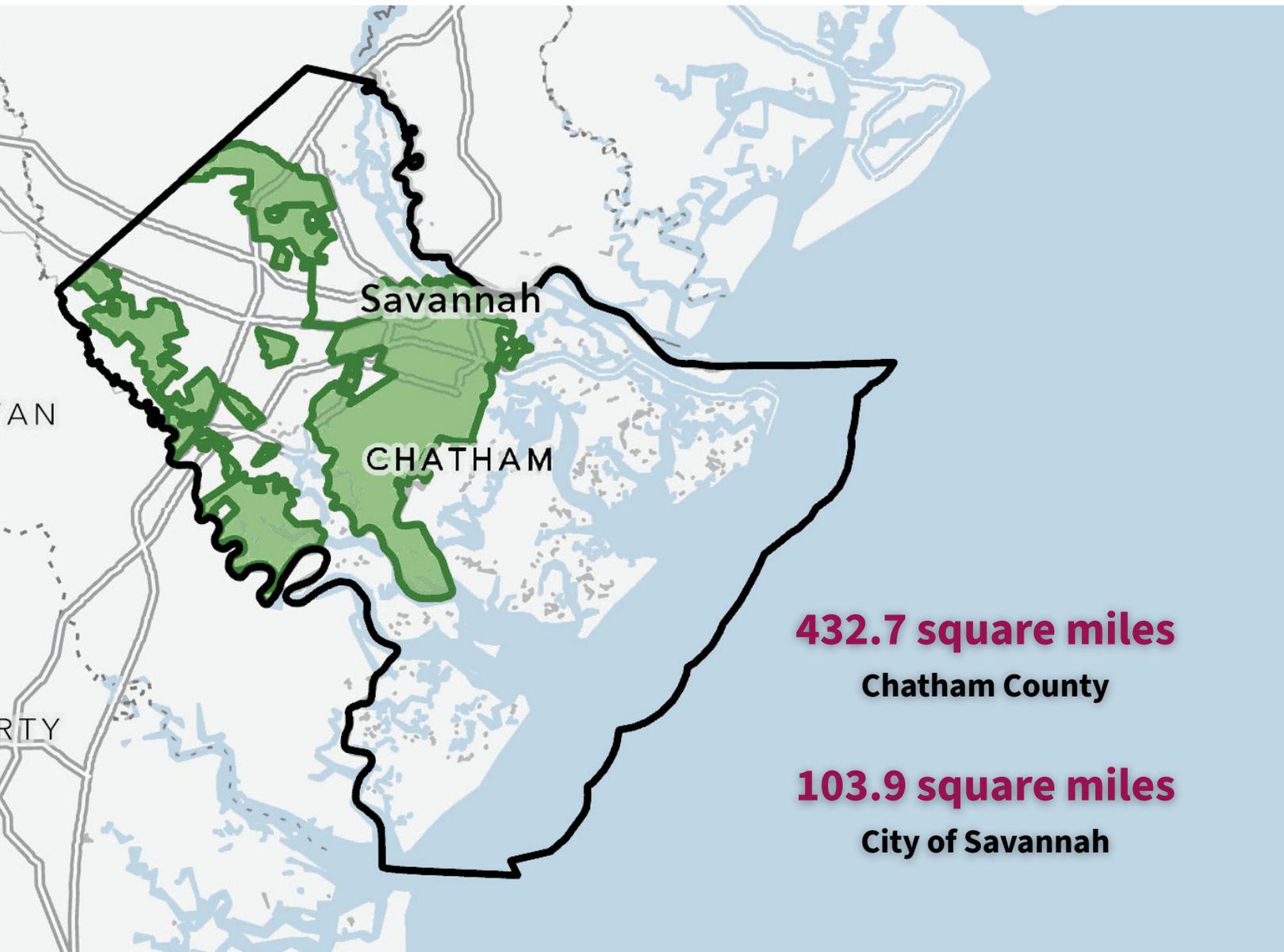
Caitlin Chamberlain was promoted to **Director of Historic Preservation and Urban Planning**, recognizing her outstanding contributions to Savannah’s built environment. Prior to joining MPC, she served as the Heritage Program & Historic Resources Manager for the Department of Recreation & Parks in Howard County, MD, bringing national-level experience and a deep commitment to thoughtful, community-centered preservation.



The Region

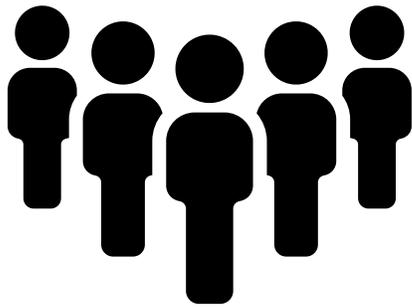
Savannah and Chatham County are dynamic, diverse communities experiencing different growth patterns and socioeconomic conditions. Understanding who lives here—and how residents experience housing, transportation, employment, and access to services—provides essential context for planning decisions, infrastructure investment, and community engagement.

This snapshot highlights key demographic and economic indicators that inform the Metropolitan Planning Commission’s work across land use, transportation, historic preservation, and long-range planning.



Our Community

Chatham County's growth story is one of opportunity and challenge. As the region expands economically and demographically, ensuring that housing and transportation infrastructure keep pace is essential to maintaining quality of life and sustainable growth.



307,336

Chatham County

148,809

City of Savannah

37 years

Median age



53%

Female



47%

Male



15.5%

Live with a disability



10%

Veteran % of overall population



37%

earned a Bachelor's Degree or Higher



\$99,600

Median household income

\$395,000

Median Home Listing Price



2.9%

Unemployment rate



\$1,739 - \$2,000

Average Rent

188,097

Housing Units



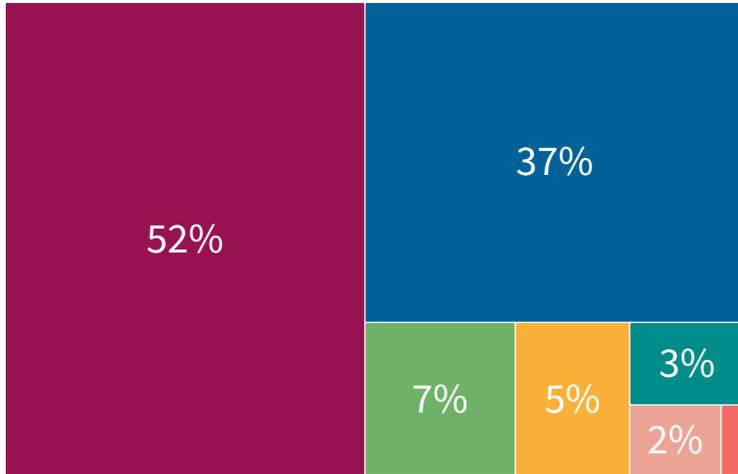
26.2 Minutes

Average Travel Time

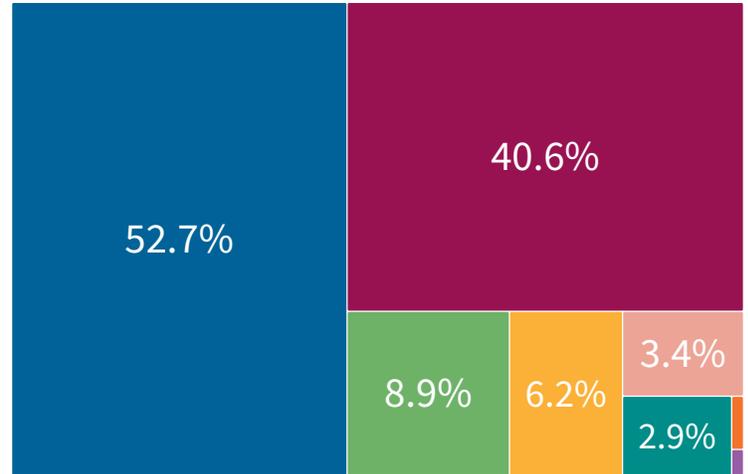
Sources: Census & American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2024), Zillow, and Realtor.com

Community Insights

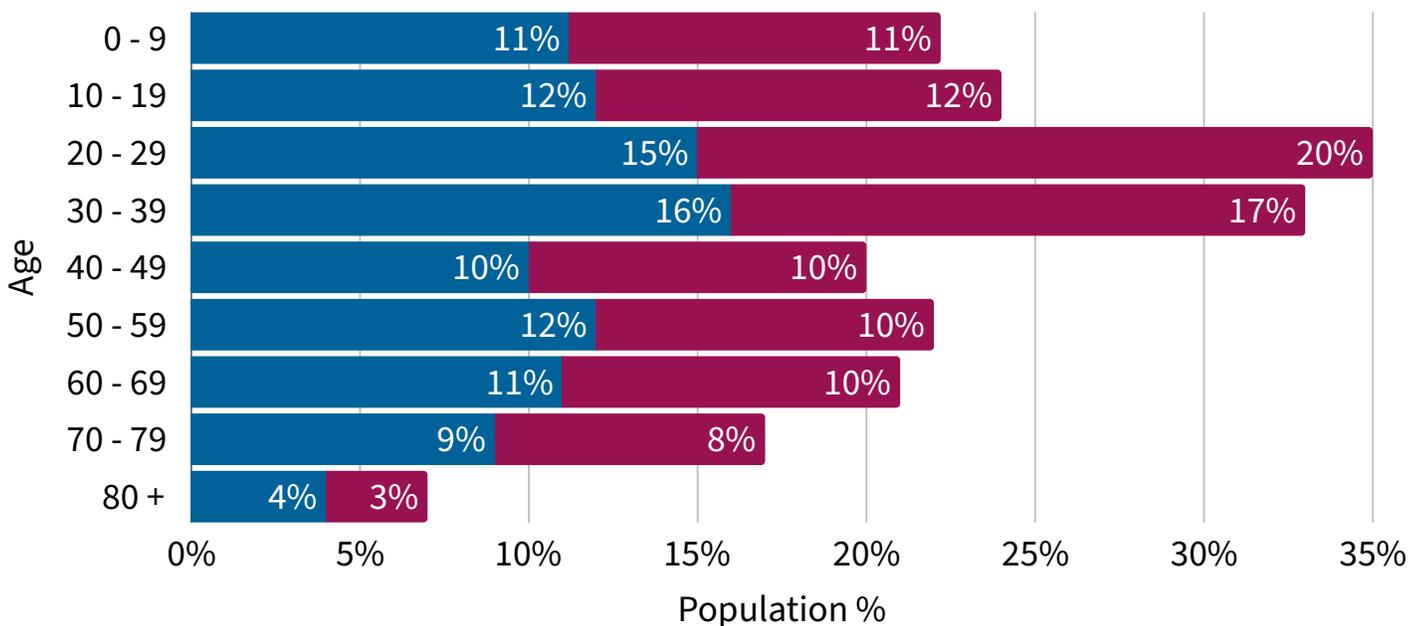
Race in City of Savannah



Race in Chatham County



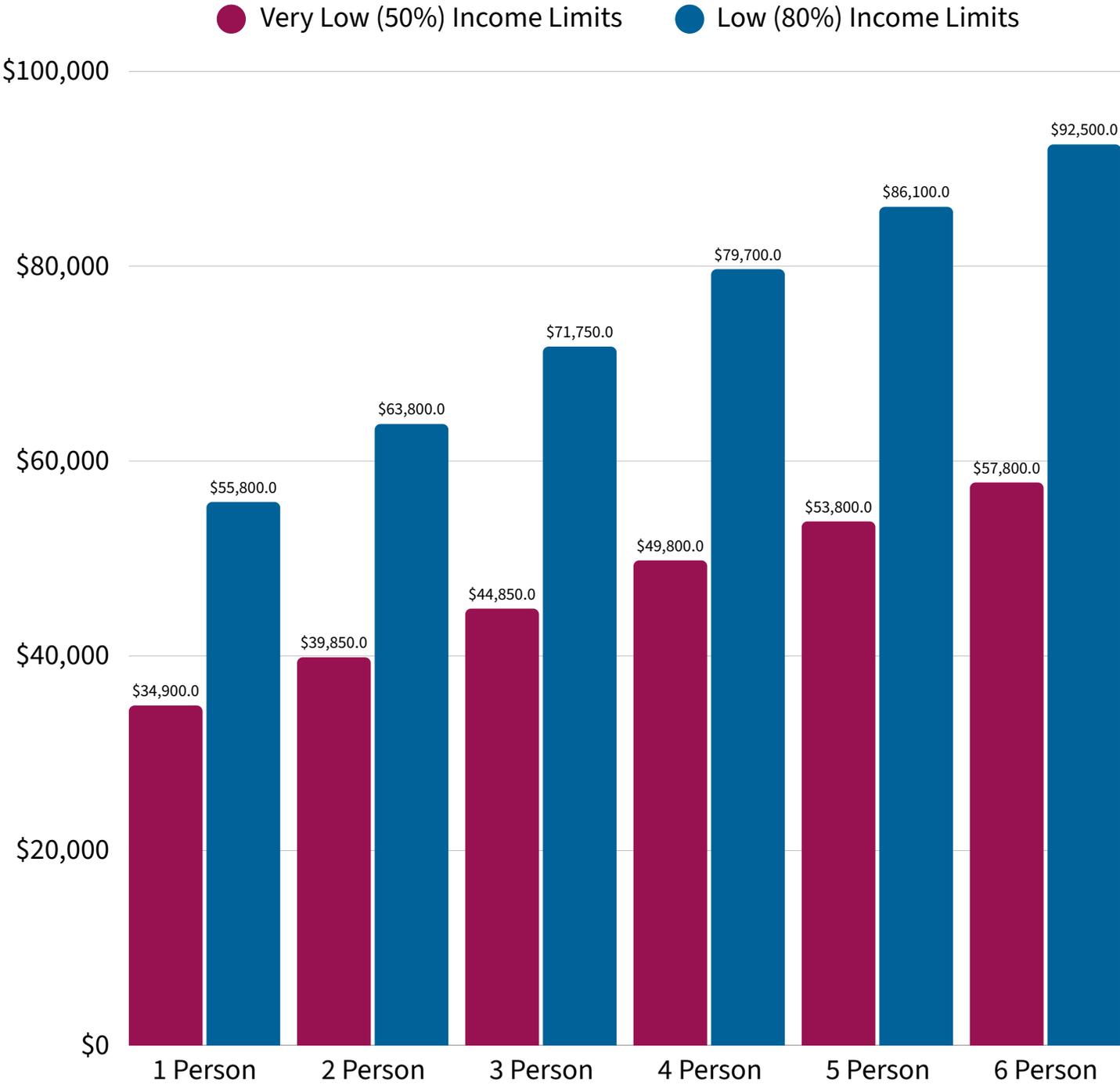
Population Age



Source: Census & American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2024)

Community Insights

Income Limits by Family Size



Source: U.S. Department of HUD State: Georgia - Savannah MSA



Administrative Services, Finance, & IT

2025 continued to present growth opportunities for our **Finance, Administrative Services, and Information Technology** staff as they worked with both internal and external customers. These Departments provide the operational foundation that enables the MPC to serve the public effectively and efficiently. Their work supports external and internal operations, public access, technology systems, and the day to day functions that allow planning, review, and decision making processes to run smoothly.

From managing public meetings and applications to maintaining secure technology systems and supporting digital engagement, this dedicated team ensures continuity, accountability, and accessibility across all MPC functions. As we enter 2026, we look forward to continuing to support the MPC, the public, and all the Boards with excellence.



YouTube



[2026 Meeting Calendar](#)

The Team



Pamela Everett

Asst. Executive Director
Compliance & Operations

Terrell Richardson-Smith

Budget Analyst

Kieron Coffield

Admin Assistant

Sarah Greenbush

Admin Assistant

Sally Helm

Admin Assistant II

Mary Mitchell

Admin Assistant

Bri Morgan

Admin Assistant II

Roger Bell

Director of IT

Hind Patel

IT Support & Admin



Administrative Support

The Administrative Services Department serves as the MPC’s first point of public engagement, delivering coordinated, high quality support to the public, boards, elected officials, and internal staff.



3,600+

Visitors to MPC facilities

120+

Board, Subcommittee, and Public Meetings supported

900+

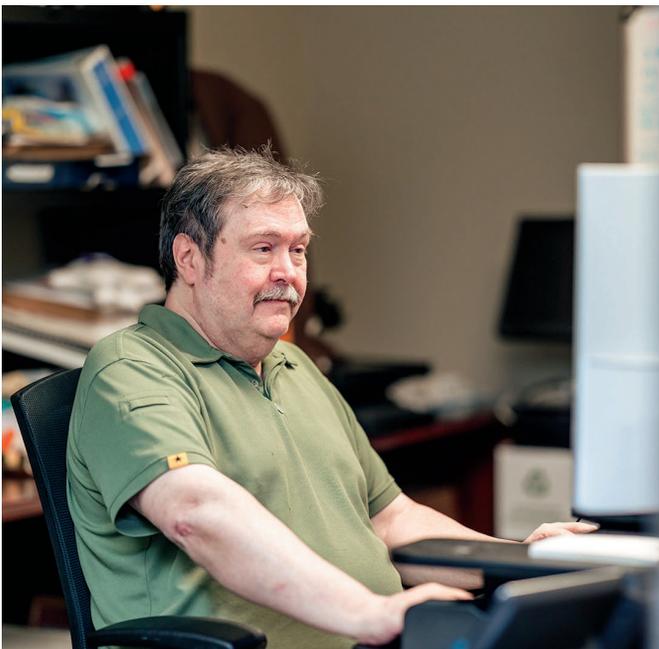
Applications Processed and Tracked

13,054

Public Notices Mailed

831

Certificates of Appropriateness
Posting Signs Created



In addition to in-person engagement, **Administrative Services and IT** supported virtual access to MPC meetings, expanding participation opportunities for residents and stakeholders.

410

Attendees

476

Registrants

88%

Average

Attendance Rate

113

Public

Meetings Hosted

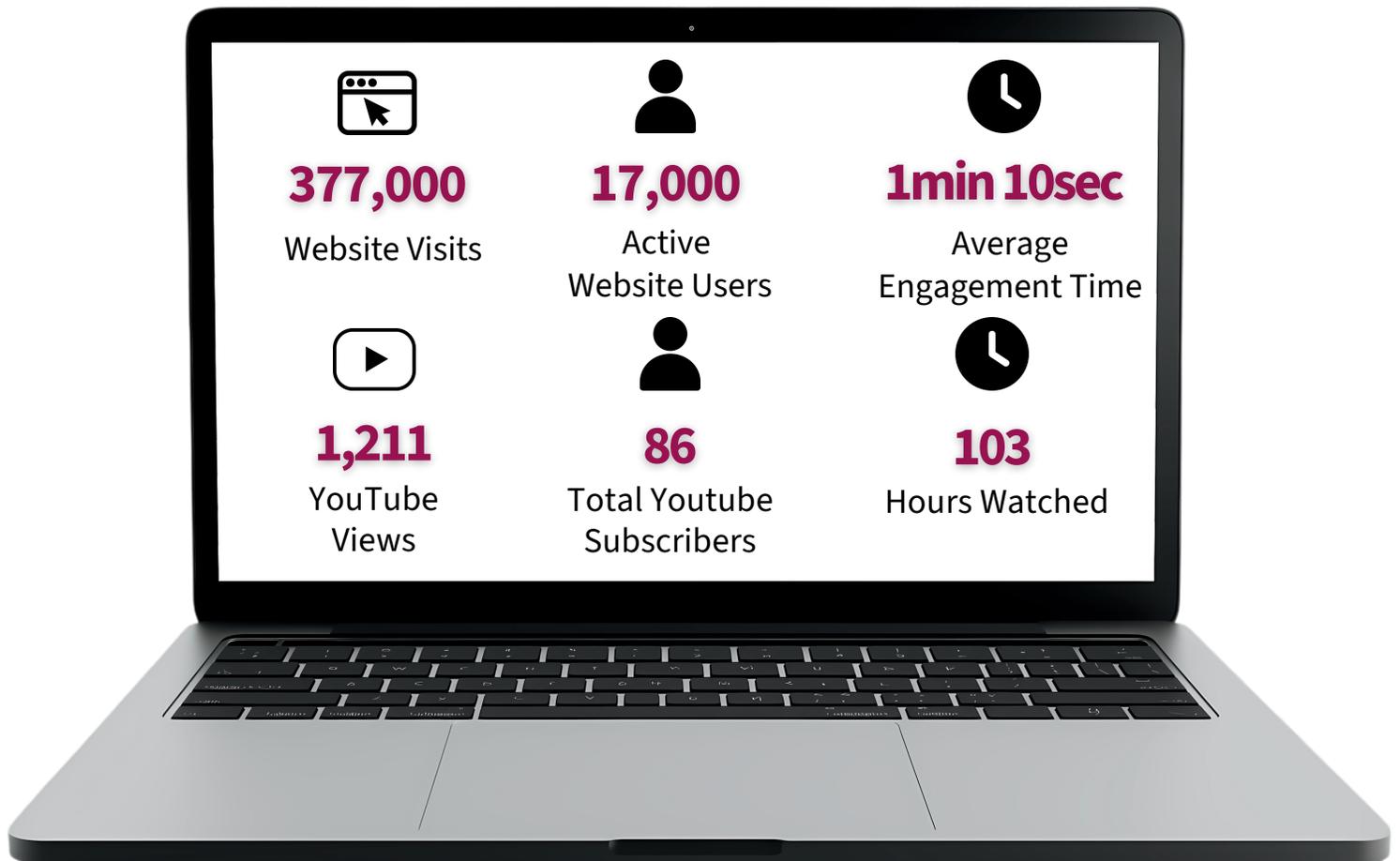


IT & Digital Access

Information Technology ensures the Metropolitan Planning Commission operates reliably, securely, and accessibly. In 2025, IT maintained core systems, supported public-facing digital platforms, and enabled hybrid engagement for Staff, boards, and the community.

IT supported enterprise platforms such as Microsoft 365, internal file storage, email systems, and network infrastructure through regular updates, vendor coordination, and hardware support. Digital platforms, including the MPC website and video hosting channels, continued to serve as primary points of access for meeting materials, planning documents, and recorded content.

As the IT Staff incorporated AI into our toolbox they created a Protocol to parse Zoning PDF records, created a single PDF file for all zoning documents created prior to 2023 and performed OCR on all the documents, and performed an AI backed records search to ensure all documents were captured. Cybersecurity and data integrity remained a priority, supported through system monitoring, access controls, updates, and responsible data stewardship practices.





Development Services & Current Planning

The **Development Services and Current Planning Department** is responsible for managing development review and current planning activities for the City of Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County. The Staff works with residents, elected officials, and the development community to help shape the built environment in a way that aligns with adopted ordinances, the Comprehensive Plan and community needs.

Development Services serves as the primary review body for rezoning requests, site plans, subdivisions, plats, and related development applications. Staff evaluate proposals for consistency with zoning regulations, future land use policies, and neighborhood context, serving as neutral advisors to governing bodies and decision-making Boards. This Department supports orderly growth, transparency in the development process, and informed decision-making for the City and County.

The Team



Edward Morrow
Director of Development Services & Current Planning

Subhashi Karunaratne
Special Projects & Development Services
Current Planning Planner

Sadie Esch-Laurent
Assistant Planner

Rohan Urs
Contracted Planner

Sally Helm
Administrative Assistant II



Zoning Applications



Development Services Webpage



Highlights

The Development Services staff review the following applications twice every month and present the recommendations to the MPC Board during Commission meetings. The following describes the statistics of the applications received and reviewed by Development Services staff from January 2025 to December 2025, in addition to the petition data sheet that tracks applications for the MPC and ZBA boards.

MPC and Zoning Board Applications

Board Items Supported



108 MPC Applications



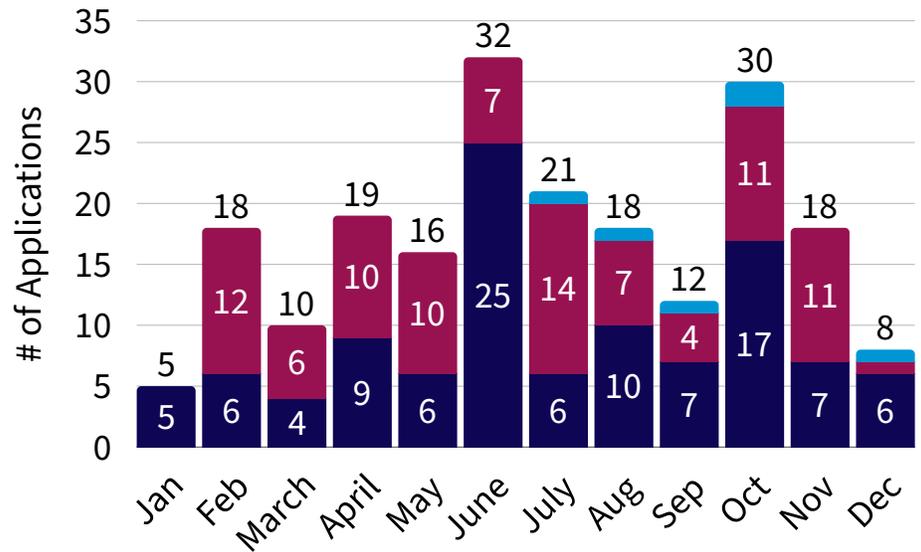
93 SZBA Applications



6 CZBA Applications

● MPC ● Savannah ZBA

● Chatham County ZBA

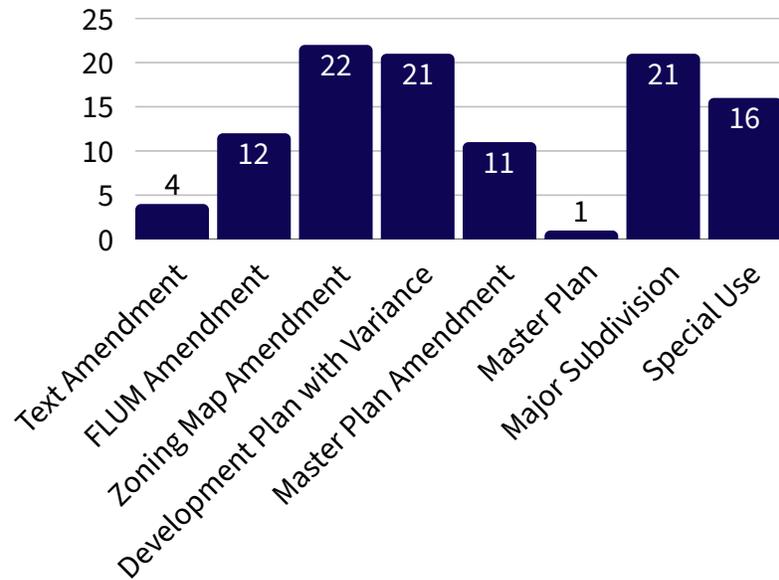




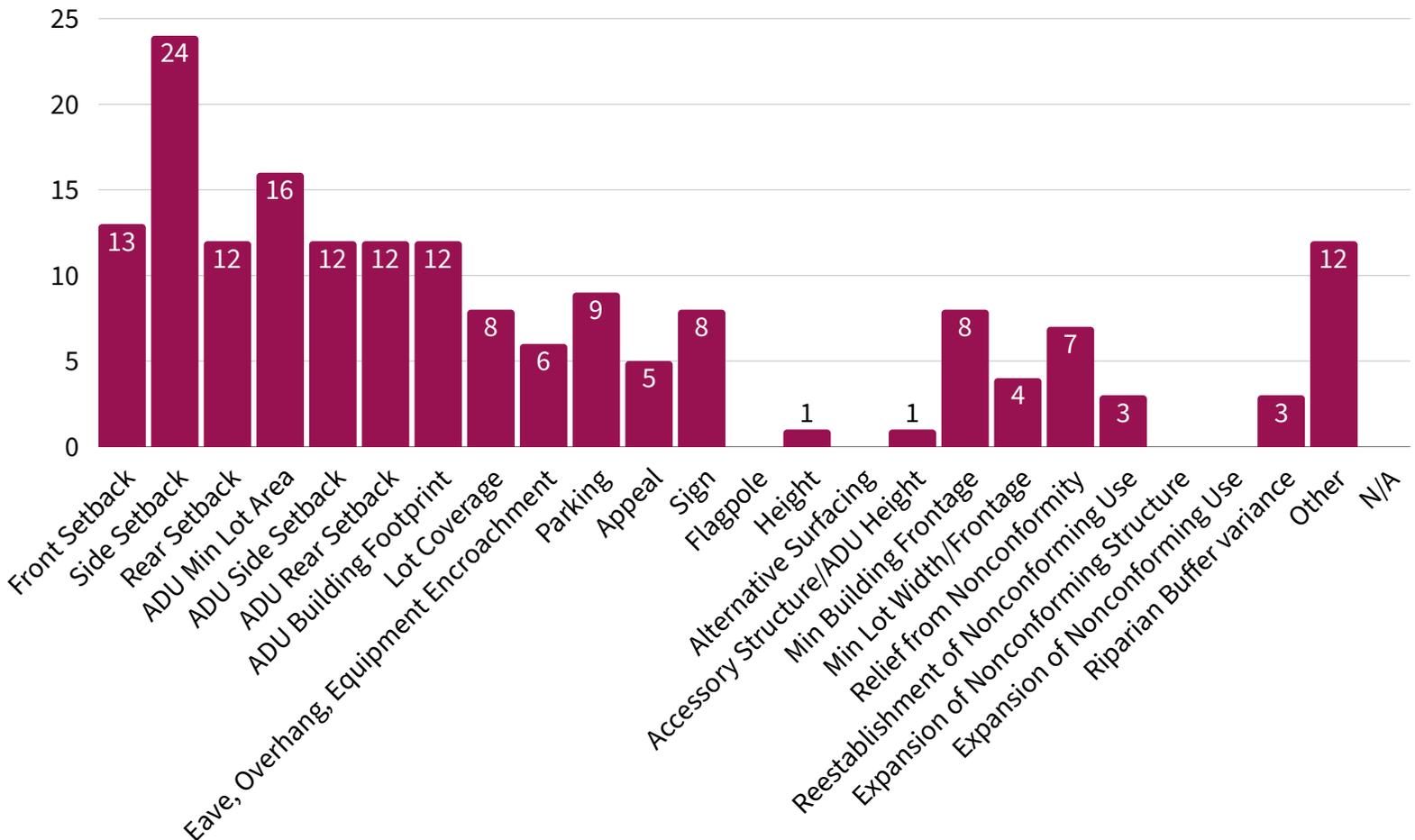
Applications

Applications Received and Reviewed	City of Savannah	Chatham County
Site plans	93	18
Subdivisions	131	24
Plats recorded	131	17
Towers	39	24

MPC Application Type



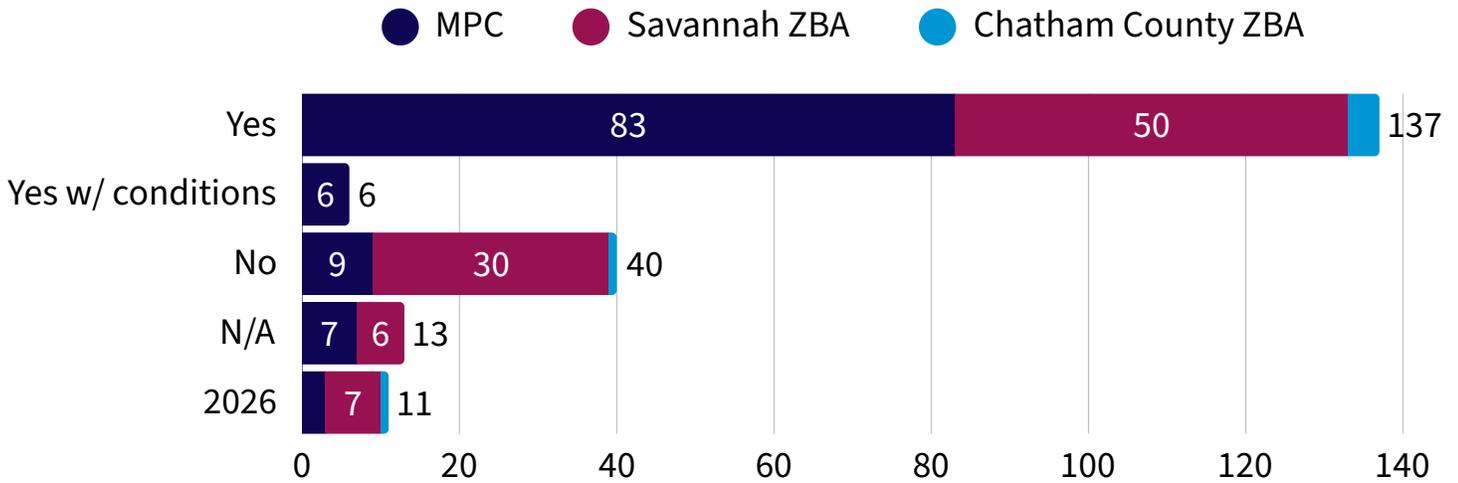
Zoning Boards Application Type



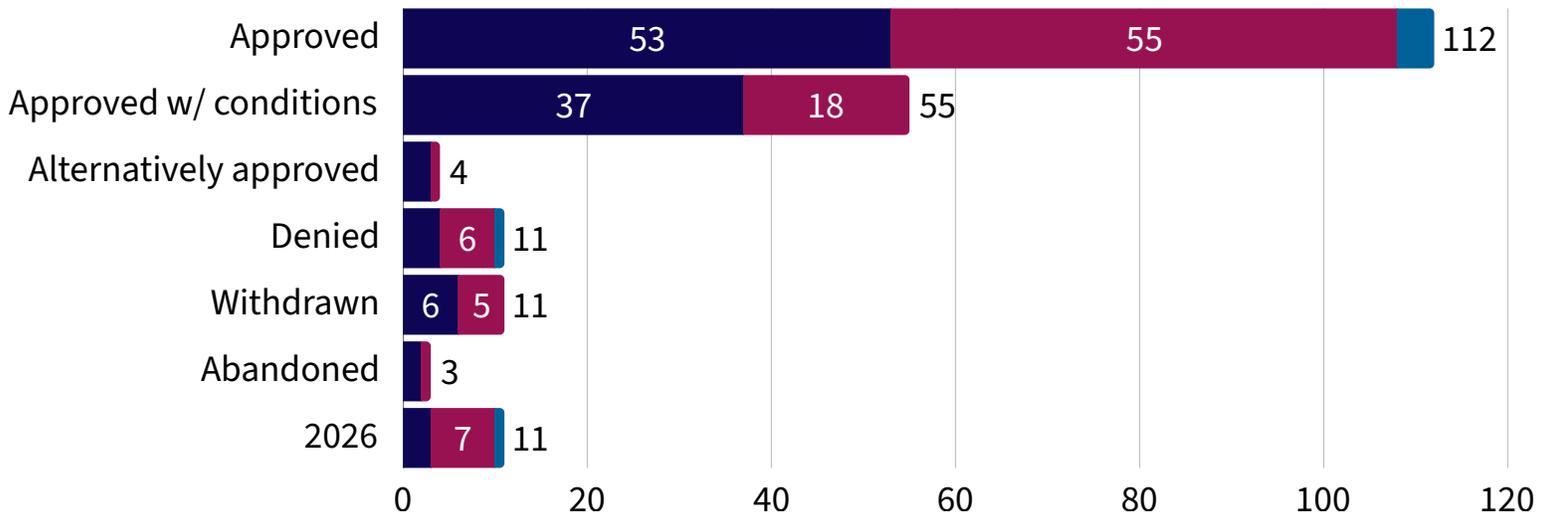


Applications

Staff Recommendations



Application Status



Transparency & Access

The City of Savannah has migrated the Zoning Ordinance to a new platform called enCodePlus. This service allows users to easily navigate the zoning code of the City of Savannah and it features a number of quick reference guides, tools, maps and intuitive search features.



enCodePlus
Zoning Ordinance Platform



Advanced Planning & Special Projects

The Advance Planning and Special Projects Staff studies how the physical, environmental, and community systems of Chatham County and Savannah interact and evolve over time. This includes land use patterns, infrastructure, parks and open space, storm drainage, and resilience-related systems that shape both daily life and long-term growth.

This Department updates the Chatham Savannah Comprehensive Plan every five years, partners with Pooler and Garden City on coordinated long-range planning, manages the Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN), and leads grant-supported studies that strengthen regional collaboration and preparedness.

The Team



Melanie Wilson
Executive Director & CEO

Subhashi Karunarathne
Special Projects &
Development Services
Current Planning Planner

**Anna Brodmerkel
McQuarrie**
Special Projects &
Transportation Planner



**MPC Comprehensive
Planning & Natural
Resources**



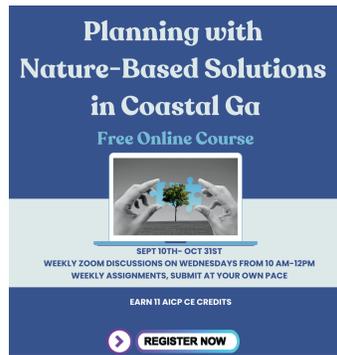
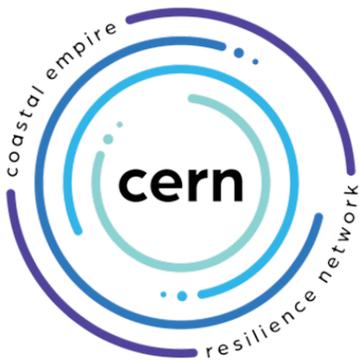
**Advanced Planning
& Special Projects
Webpage**



Highlights

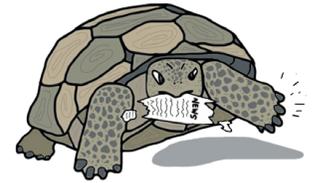
Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN)

The Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN) is a regional collaborative formed by the MPC with the support of a Coastal Incentive Grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division (GADNR CRD). CERN engages regional community partners, municipal staff, and policymakers to coordinate strategies to address the physical, economic, and social challenges coastal Georgia faces due to a changing climate. CERN is working to align regional strategies, share resources, and advocate for collective action to improve the resilience of communities in our coastal region.



Resilience Bight

Monthly Newsletter



715

Audience Reach

54.4%

Open Rate

50%

Subscriber Growth



CERN
Monthly Newsletter

SCAD Serve: Design For Good

March–May 2025 · Plan 2045

- Branded comprehensive plan templates
- Flexible visual identity systems
- Public-facing engagement assets
- Accessible formats across platforms





Coastal Incentive Grant

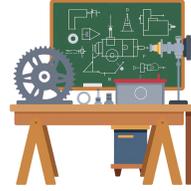
Incorporating Marsh Migration into The 2045 Comprehensive Plan



**SLAMM Data (2024)
GIS, HAZUS**



**FUTURE SEA LEVEL
SCENARIOS**



**LAND USE &
ZONING ANALYSIS**



**PLAN 2045
INTEGRATION**

What Is It?

This project uses the 2024 Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM) to examine how marsh migration and development patterns may change through mid-century. Findings will be integrated into the 2045 Comprehensive Plan to help align future land use and zoning decisions with evolving coastal conditions.

Regional Impact

This project supports the goals of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI) by protecting existing marshes and conserving future migration corridors to strengthen long-term coastal resilience across the region.

The CIG Review Committee recognized the project as a model for coastal Georgia communities.

Why It Matters

As sea levels rise, salt marshes will naturally migrate inland when pathways exist. When those pathways are blocked, marshes may be lost. Understanding where marsh migration is likely to occur allows communities to plan proactively for public safety, housing supply, and long-term resilience.

Project Outcomes

1. Marsh migration and development analysis through mid-century using SLAMM
2. Scenario-based estimates of land use and developable land impacts
3. Educational and outreach materials for residents, Staff, elected officials, and coastal partners

**Recommended for funding by NOAA
Pending final approval**



Events & Engagement

Throughout the year, Advanced Planning and Special Projects engaged with regional partners through meetings, workshops, and training sessions focused on resilience, emergency preparedness, and long-range planning coordination.

Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership 9th Annual Meeting Cultivating Climate-Resilient Communities

Chatham Emergency Management Agency Introduction to the Emergency Operations Center

FS/HAA Focused Readiness Regional Stakeholder Meeting

GA SASMI Implementation Plan Workshop

GAMPO 2045 Events





Historic Preservation & Urban Design

Historic Preservation and Urban Design is responsible for preserving the City of Savannah and Chatham County’s historic resources. The department protects architectural integrity and historic character through local zoning ordinances and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards, while Staffing the City of Savannah’s Historic Preservation Office.

In addition to reviewing and recommending **Certificates of Appropriateness** for exterior changes within local historic districts and designated historic properties, the department supports multiple MPC boards and commissions, coordinates historic resource identification, assists with National Register nominations, drafts and revises preservation ordinances, administers grants, provides training, and conducts Section 106 reviews for the City’s Housing Department.

The Team



Caitlin Chamberlain
Director of Historic Preservation & Urban Design

Jodi Brown
Principal Planner

Alexander Merced
Assistant Planner

Kelli Mitchell
Historic Preservation Planner

Bri Morgan
Historic Administrative Assistant II



Certificate of Appropriateness Applications



Historic Preservation Webpage



Highlights

Historic Preservation & Urban Design manages a high volume of applications and public-facing review each year, ensuring projects meet adopted standards and guidelines.

These figures reflect the volume of design review and public notification required to support historic preservation across Savannah and Chatham County.

143
Pre-Application Meetings

53
Final Project Inspections

108
Stamped Drawings

Board Support



Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission	13 signs	
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City of Savannah Historic Preservation Commission	Cuyler-Brownville 220 Signs Streetcar 156 Signs Victorian 24 Signs	32 Final Project Inspections 57 Stamped Drawings
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Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission	328 mailouts 16 Signs	
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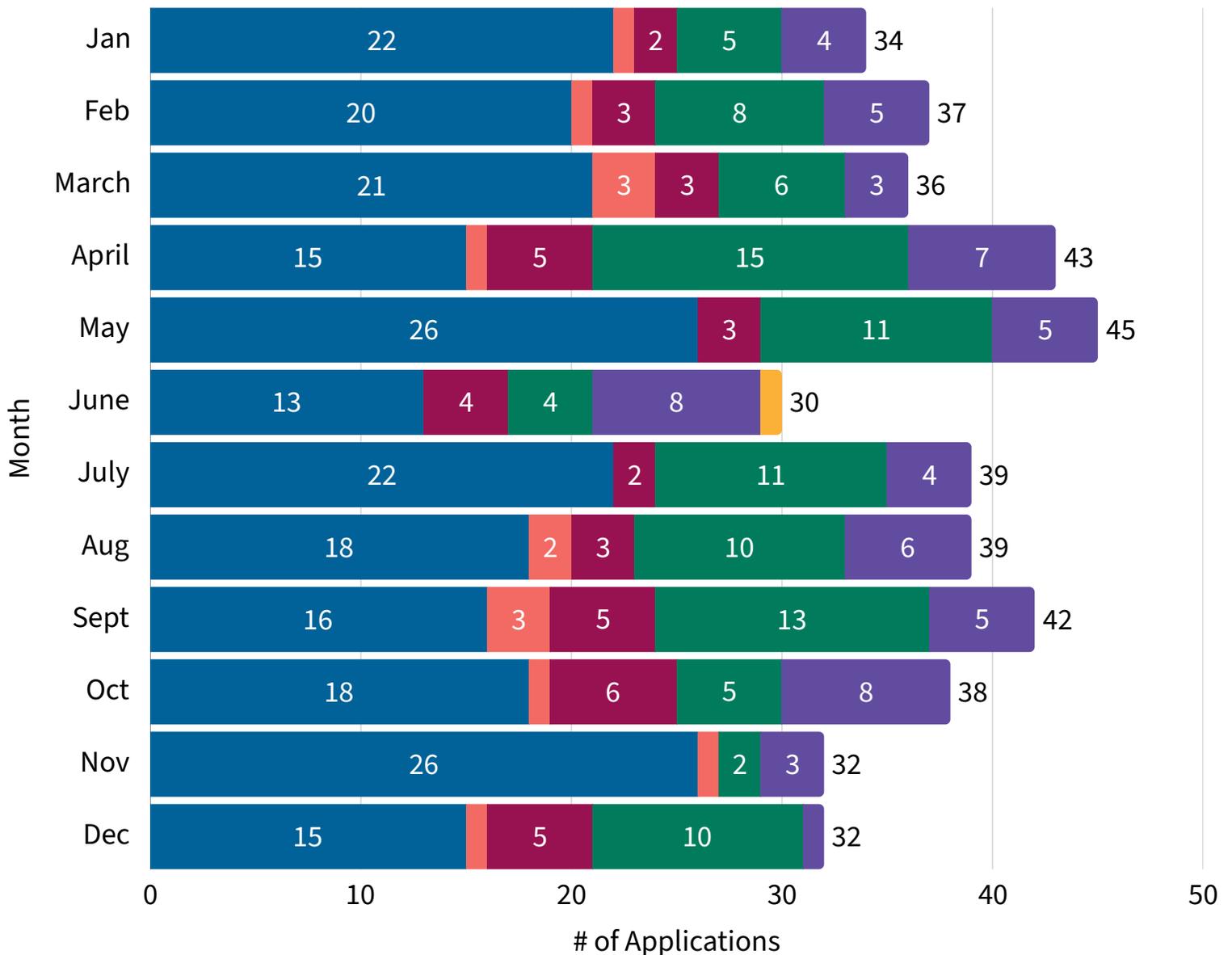


Savannah Historic District Board of Review	Downtown 86 Mailouts 156 Signs	21 Final Project Inspections 51 Stamped Drawings
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Highlights

2025 Board, Commissions & Staff Review Applications





Highlights

Grant-Funded Research & Public Engagement

Building on its core responsibilities, Historic Preservation and Urban Design advanced several strategic initiatives in 2025 that strengthened public engagement, improved regulatory clarity, modernized preservation data, and supported informed decision-making. In addition to ongoing review and compliance activities, staff expanded outreach efforts, enhanced mapping and transparency tools, and collaborated with City partners to refine policy and design standards. The accomplishments below reflect continued progress in balancing preservation, neighborhood character, and responsible growth.

In 2025, two grant-funded projects expanded public access to Savannah’s historic resources. A National Trust Fund grant supported the creation of a short Instagram video series highlighting lesser-known sites and stories, including hidden cemeteries, forgotten ballparks, and lost squares. The videos are available on the Historic Preservation Instagram page, extending digital outreach and public engagement.



MPCHISTORICPRESERVATION

Staff also completed Phase I of a Historic Resources Survey funded through the Historic Preservation Fund and administered by the National Park Service via the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Ethos Preservation documented 241 buildings, structures, sites, and objects constructed prior to 1983 in the westernmost portion of Chatham County along the Highway 17 corridor. The final survey report and interactive story map are publicly available on the MPC website, supporting future planning and research efforts.



**Chatham County
Historic Resources
Interactive Story
Map**



Highlights

Public Education & Community Awareness

Staff developed the **2026 MPC Calendar**, themed “**Did You Know?**”, highlighting lesser-known historical facts about Savannah to expand public awareness of the city’s heritage and the importance of preservation.



Did You Know?
2026 MPC Calendar

Neighborhood Engagement

Staff met with representatives from Baldwin Park, West Savannah, and Gordonston to provide guidance on establishing conservation districts, supporting community-driven efforts to protect neighborhood character while managing future development.

Board Training & Governance Support

Staff conducted training sessions for three new Historic Preservation Commission members and two new Historic District Board of Review members to support informed, consistent decision-making. On May 2nd, the MPC hosted a full-day, in-person Commission Assistance training for MPC Staff, Board and commission members, and stakeholders. Approximately 26 attendees participated in sessions covering legal basics in historic districts, enforcement and violations, alternative materials, meeting procedures, and board roles.



Highlights

Cultural Interpretation & Public History

Historic Preservation staff participated in a collaborative group of historians consulting with the City to update interpretive historic signage along River Street, contributing to clearer, more accurate storytelling of Savannah's waterfront history.

Regulatory Coordination & Zoning Support

Historic Preservation staff supported the Zoning Board of Appeals in cases involving historic projects seeking variances or appeals, ensuring consistency between preservation standards and zoning decisions. Staff also collaborated with City officials on ordinance revisions related to variances and special exceptions as they pertain to HDBR and HPC, updates to Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations, and refined design standards for the Cuyler-Brownville Historic Overlay District.

Data Modernization & Transparency

In coordination with SAGIS, staff developed a GIS map layer identifying contributing and non-contributing properties within historic overlays, improving transparency, data accessibility, and review efficiency.





733 W 52nd St (Brayboy Hotel)

It was discovered that the site at 733 West 52nd Street was once known as the Brayboy Hotel, featured in the Green Books of the 1950s. The owners are currently seeking to receive a historical marker to tell the story. This is one of the few intact Green Book sites in Savannah.



Franklin Square

One of the squares featured in the Instagram video series about the Lost Squares. While this square still exists, it was reduced in size over time. It is also the site of the Haitian Monument honoring the largest unit of men of African descent who were recruited from Haiti to serve in the Revolutionary War.

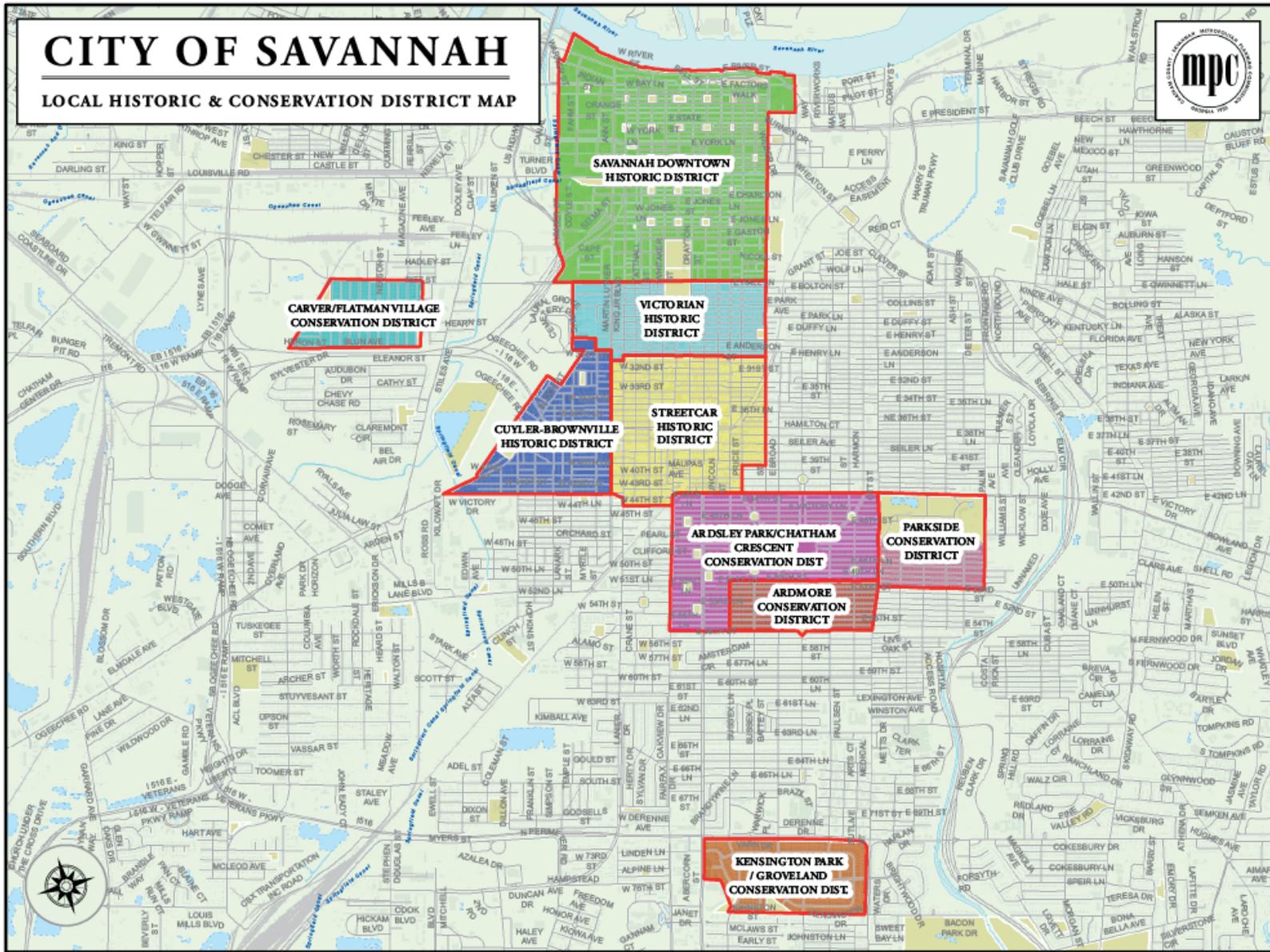


715 E. Broad

Former location of the Eastside Theatre. A new housing development includes plans to rehabilitate and restore the building.



Historic & Conservation Districts



The Savannah Area Geographic Information System (SAGIS) is a collaborative regional program supporting GIS partners across Chatham County and the greater Savannah area. Serving Chatham County, the City of Savannah, and the Chatham County–Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, SAGIS also works with regional agencies and institutions to ensure coordinated, cross-jurisdictional data sharing.

SAGIS centralizes geospatial data management, database administration, and information sharing to deliver accurate, consistent, and accessible data that supports planning, public safety, daily operations, and data-driven decision-making throughout the region. Oversight and coordination are provided through a collaborative governance structure that includes the Savannah Area GIS Board, Technical Advisory Committee, and Public Safety GIS Committee.

The Team



Lara Hall
Director of SAGIS

Veronica Cox
GIS Analyst

Hunter Key
GIS Developer

David Ramsey
GIS & Senior
Design Specialist

Mandy Terkhorn
Senior GIS Analyst



[Open Data Site](#)



[SAGIS.org](#)



[SAGIS MPC
Webpage](#)



Highlights

In 2025, SAGIS focused on improving the reliability and performance of its core systems. A major milestone was the completion of a comprehensive SQL upgrade across all City, County, MPC, and SAGIS GIS databases. This behind-the-scenes work strengthened system stability and supported the publication of updated versions of SAGIS.org, iMap, and other regional map viewers.

These improvements coincided with continued growth in public use of SAGIS platforms, reflecting strong demand for regional mapping tools and open data resources. Engagement across map viewers, iMap, and the Open Data Hub supported transparency, data reuse, and informed decision-making by residents, developers, researchers, and partner agencies.

Address Points

6,263	2,200
New Addresses Added	Additional Addresses Updated

SAGIS also remained the region’s authoritative source for addressing and spatial data completing thousands of address additions and updates to support planning, development review, and emergency response.

SAGIS Map Views

345,408	950	1,465
Views in 2025	Daily Views	Record High June 18 th

SAGIS Open Data Hub

173,018	500	980
Open Data Views in 2025	The Hub Daily Views	Record High Sept 30 th

iMap Views

57,204	300	477
Views in 2025	Daily Views	Record High Nov 12 th





Highlights

Supporting Planning, Development, & Decision-Making

SAGIS played a critical role in supporting zoning and land use processes across the community. In 2025, the team responded to petition requests, producing hundreds of maps to support zoning petitions, future land use changes, special-use requests, and master plan amendments. These mapping efforts provided clear geographic context for Planning Commission reviews, zoning boards, and elected officials.

SAGIS also supported Development Services through plat reviews, address confirmation letters, and ongoing updates to the Master Street Addressing Guide. Staff also reviewed and approved road names, helping maintain consistent and reliable addressing standards throughout Chatham County.

Development Services Support

35 Address Confirmation Letters

408 Plats reviewed

Master Street Addressing Guide

41 Inserts **16** Change Requests

58 Total Road Names Reviewed + Approved

Zoning, Land Use, ZBA and Special Use & Master Plan Amendment Petition Maps



21 Maps

3 Historic Preservation Related Maps



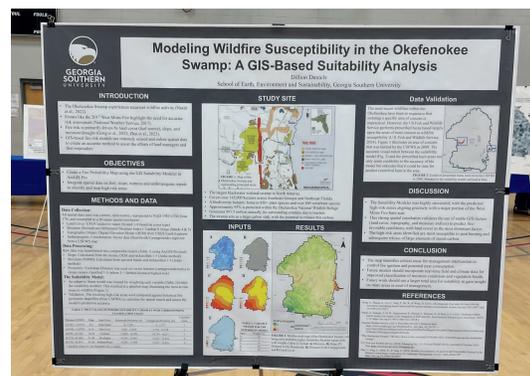
303 Maps

- 80** Special-Use Petition Maps
- 105** Zoning Petition Maps
- 21** Petition Boundary Descriptions
- 190** Petition Requests & Label Sets
- 65 maps** Future Land Use
- 128 maps** Master-Plan Variance & Amendment Petitions

Public Service, Special Projects, & Community Partnerships

In addition to its technical responsibilities, SAGIS contributed to a range of public-facing initiatives. Updates to the Citizen Guide to Government, production of the 2026 calendar, and the creation of special-request illustrations supported outreach, education, and public communication efforts across partner agencies.

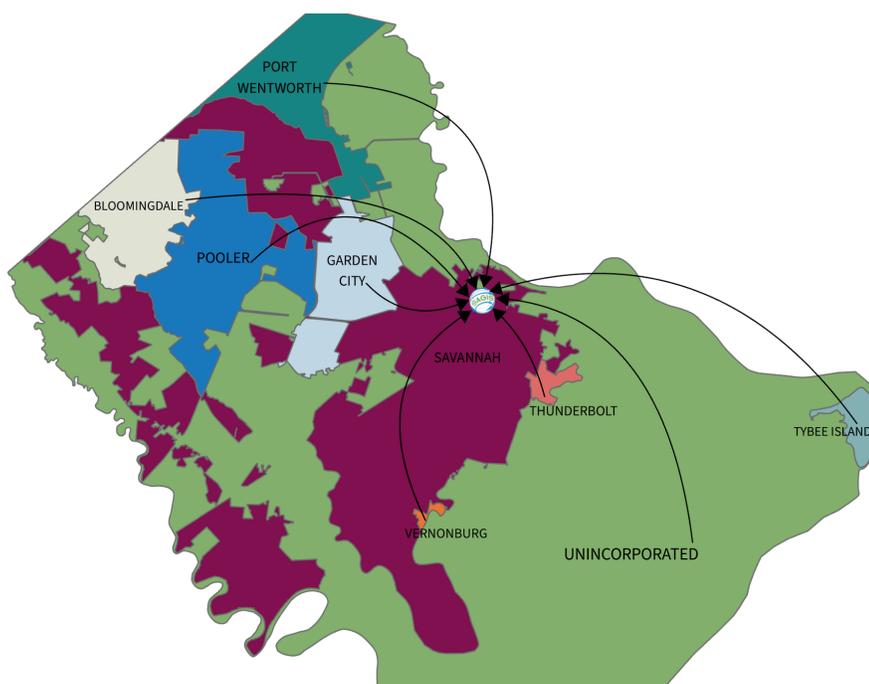
Community engagement remained a key focus in 2025. SAGIS hosted the 19th annual GIS Day Savannah, welcoming 282 middle school students and more than 40 high school student volunteers. The event brought together public agencies, educational institutions, and private-sector partners to introduce students to geospatial technology and its real-world applications in planning, public safety, and infrastructure.



GIS Day Savannah 2025 – 19th Annual event

Community Partnerships

- MPC
- Chatham County
- City of Savannah
- City of Tybee Island
- City of Pooler
- University System of Georgia
- Chatham Emergency Management
- SAV/HH International Airport



Events, Engagement, & Training

External Trainings and Conferences

- CEMA Hurricane Conference
- CEMA Introduction to EOC & Operations Training
- Esri Southeast User Conference
- Georgia Geospatial Conference

Webinars

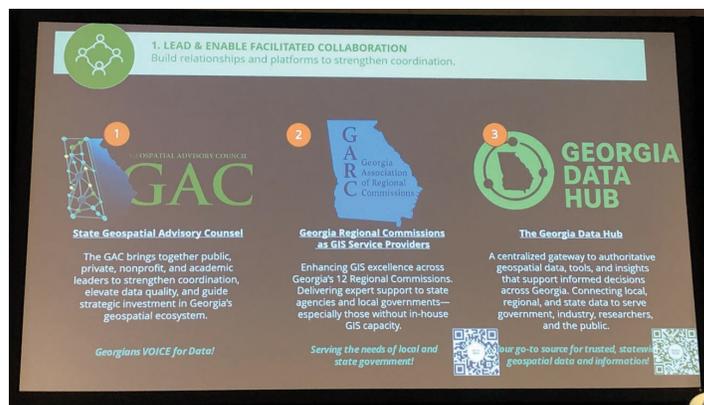
- Esri Live Training Seminar | Discover Express Mode in ArcGIS Experience Builder
- CSRA GGA Subchapter Lunch and Learn
- Navigating Disaster: FEMA Resources for Disaster Response
- Microsoft 365 Training
- Accelerating 911 Response with Accurate GIS Data: How Aerial Imagery Enhances Next-Gen 911
- Enhance Government Operations with Unified Address and Road Data Management

GIS Day Savannah 2025 – 19th Annual event

- 282 middle school students, 40+ high school student volunteers
- Sponsors include Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, CEMA, Chatham County Engineering, Floodplain Management, Fire, and Mosquito Control, Current Edge Solutions, GA Power, Ga Southern, Latapult, Moffatt & Nichol, Thomas & Hutton, Terracon, Spatial Engineering, Eagleview, Georgia Tech

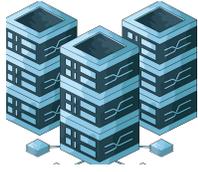


Staff at EOC Training



Georgia Geospatial Conference

Map Viewer



Authoritative
Centralized Data



Everyday Access &
Public Transparency



Open Data
Public Downloads &
Reuse



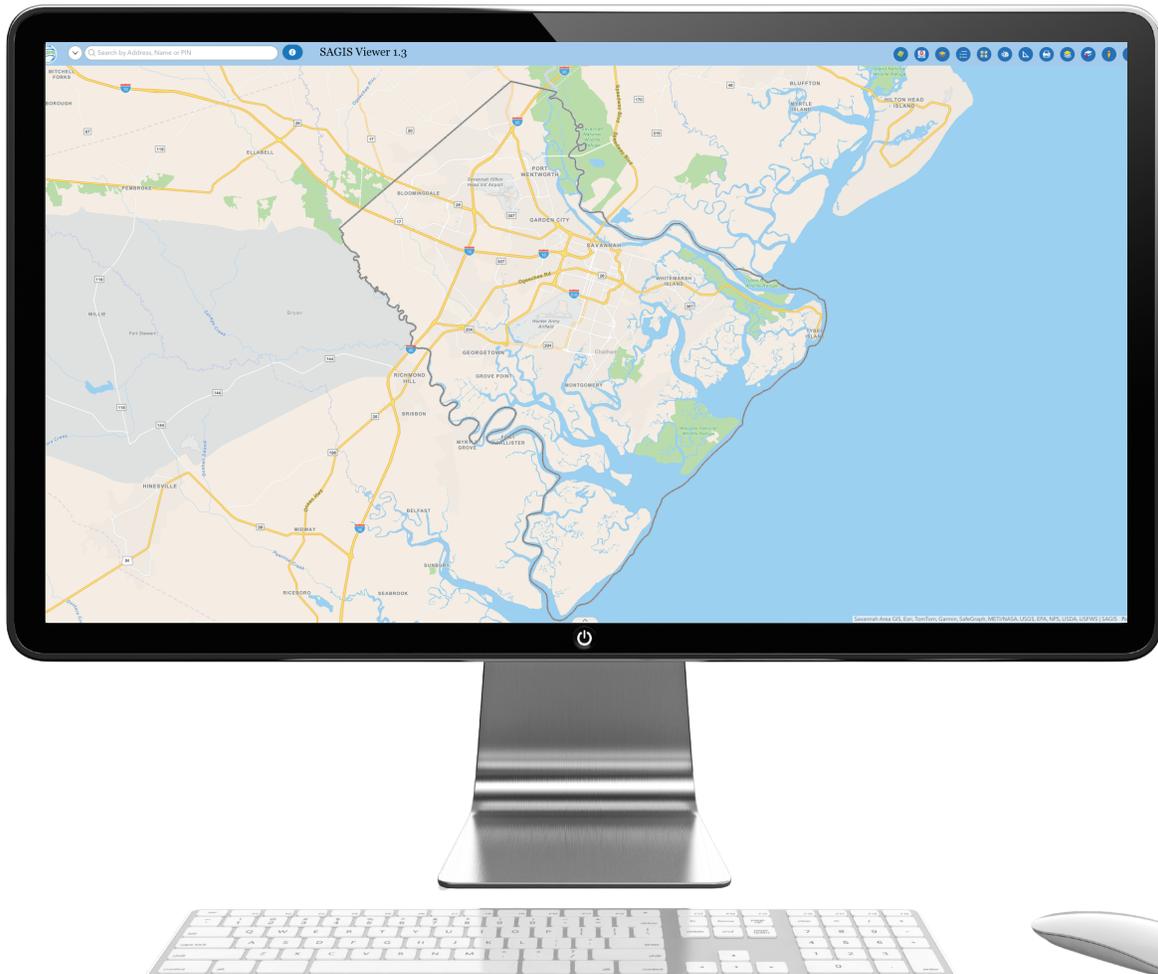
CGIC + Police
Behavioral Unit Dashboards
for Analysis



Online Map Viewers
Property, Zoning, Flood
Risk



CEMA Collaboration &
Emergency Coordination





CORE MPO

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) is responsible for transportation planning and programming for the Savannah metropolitan area. Working in coordination with federal, state, and local partners, CORE MPO develops long-range and short-range transportation plans and programs, manages federal transportation funds, and ensures compliance with federal planning requirements.

Through data-driven analysis, public engagement, and regional collaboration, CORE MPO supports a transportation system that improves mobility, safety, resilience, and access across the coastal region.



[CORE Connections Newsletter](#)



[2050 MTP Visual Executive Summary](#)



[Linktr.ee](#)



[CORE MPO Website](#)

The Team



Wykoda Wang
Director of Transportation Administration

Asia Hernton
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Administrative Assistant

Sadie Esch Laurent
Assistant Planner

Subhashi Karunaratne
Planner

Highlights

In 2025, CORE MPO continued to advance its federally required planning responsibilities while strengthening transparency, coordination, and public engagement across the region.

In February, the CORE MPO Board adopted the **2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**, establishing the framework for transportation planning activities and investments for the upcoming cycle. In March, the organization successfully completed its **Federal Certification Review**, reaffirming compliance with federal planning requirements and the integrity of its continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. Throughout 2025, staff maintained near-term project coordination by processing 20 amendments and administrative modifications to the **FY 2024–2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, ensuring consistency with the region’s long-range transportation plan while maintaining fiscal accountability and transparency.

Looking ahead, CORE MPO launched the **Call for Projects** for development of the **FY 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program**, initiating the next phase of project prioritization and regional collaboration.

To further support public access and engagement, CORE MPO updated its website and social media platforms, improving visibility into planning activities, public meetings, and ongoing transportation initiatives.

Plans & Studies



Unified Planning Work Program



Transportation Improvement Program



2025 Call for Projects



Participation Plan

Highlights

Discretionary PL Funded Studies

CORE MPO kicked off three studies in 2025 that are funded with Discretionary Planning (PL) grants, affirming compliance with federal requirements and reinforcing public trust in the regional planning process.

- **SR 26 / US 80 Scoping Study:** Evaluating corridor performance, safety, land use, community development, and future improvement needs.
- **Urban Flooding Model Phase II:** Expanding data-driven analysis of flood impacts on transportation systems.
- **Bicycle & Pedestrian Facility Study:** Guiding future active transportation investments. As part of this work, CORE MPO received updated bicycle and pedestrian inventory maps for the Savannah region. These maps will be used to identify system gaps, guide future infrastructure investments, and support safer, more connected walking and biking networks.

Plans & Studies



**SR 26/US 80
Corridor Study**



**Urban Flooding
Model Phase II**



**Bicycle &
Pedestrian Study**





2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

The 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, named **Moving Forward Together 2050**, sets a long-range vision for a safe, accessible, and resilient transportation system that supports the Savannah region’s growth, economic vitality, and quality of life. Shaped by extensive public engagement and collaboration with local governments, community organizations, and regional partners, the plan reflects local priorities and lived experiences while aligning transportation investments with land use, equity, environmental stewardship, and evolving mobility needs through 2050.

What We’re Funding

\$2 Billion Total Investments (to 2050)

\$1.47 Billion Highway Projects

\$210 Million Operational Improvements

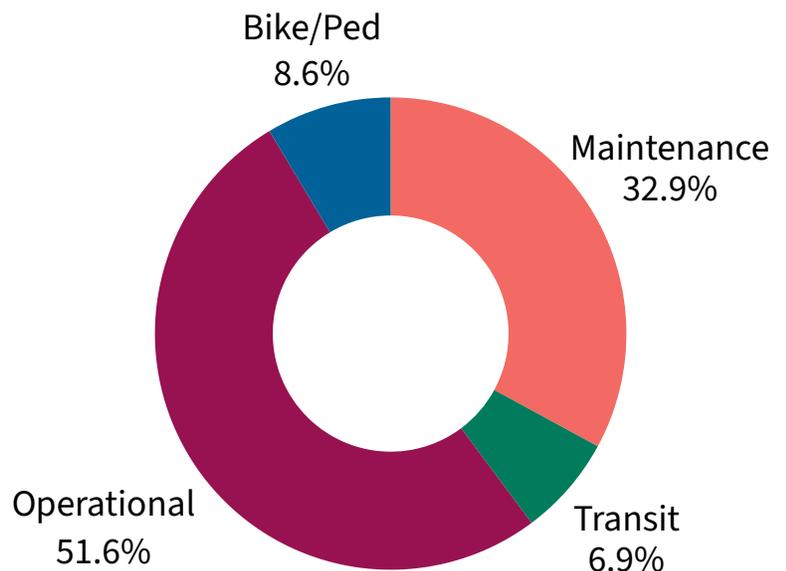
\$134 Million Maintenance

\$35 Million Bike & Pedestrian Projects

\$28 Million Transit Improvements

Goals: Safety, Reliability, Access/Connectivity, Stewardship, Environmental Preservation

- Maintenance
- Transit
- Operational
- Bike/Ped



Events & Engagement

Throughout the year, CORE MPO staff participated in external trainings, conferences, and working groups that strengthened planning capacity, supported regulatory compliance, and advanced regional coordination. Activities are grouped below by function to highlight how each engagement supported CORE MPO's transportation planning responsibilities.

Planning Leadership and Professional Coordination

- Georgia Association of MPOs (GAMPO) Spring Meeting
- Georgia Association of MPOs (GAMPO) Fall Meeting (hosted by CORE MPO in Savannah; 55 attendees)
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Annual Conference
- Transportation Research Board (TRB) Meeting

Resilience, Environment, and Infrastructure Planning

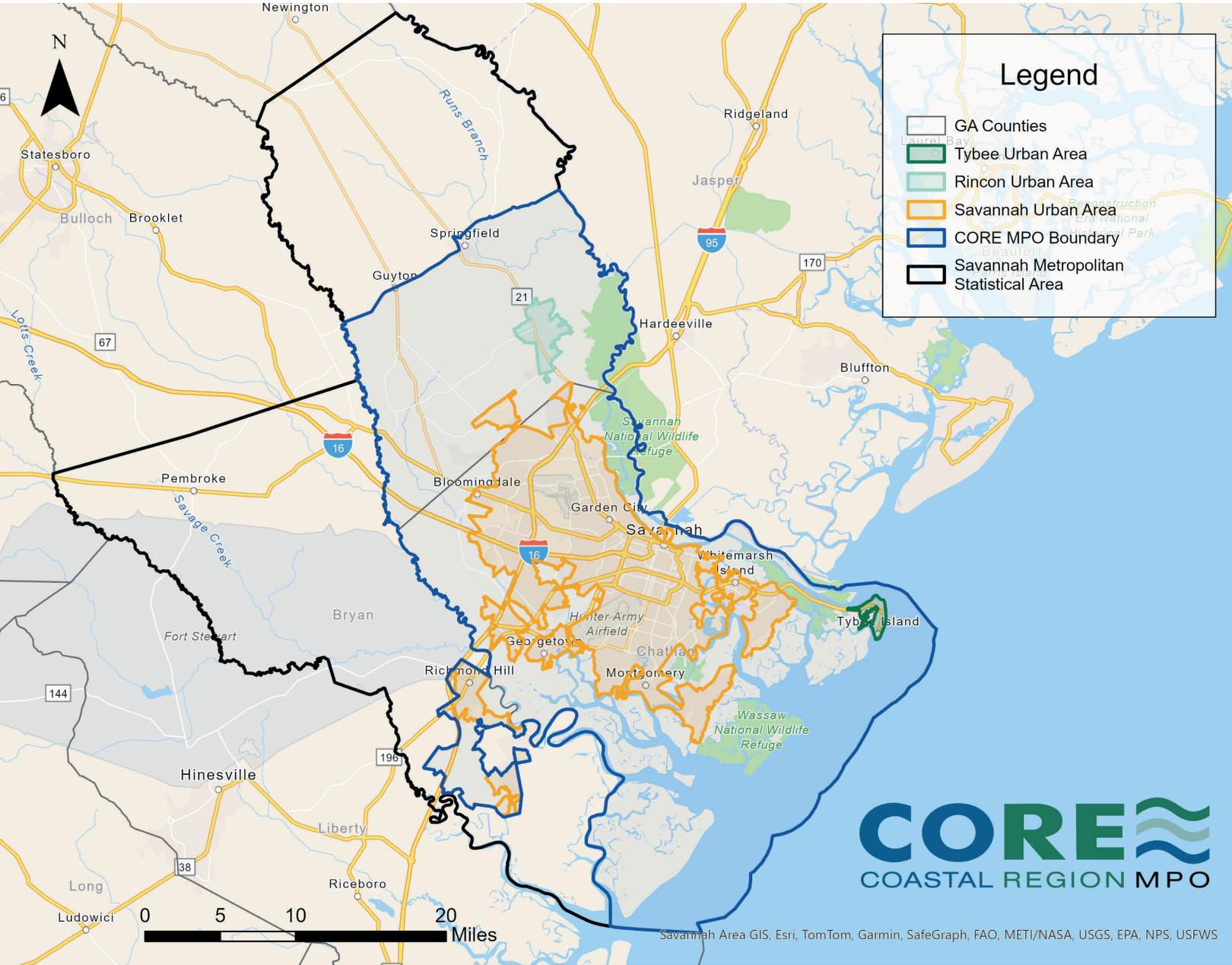
- American Commuter Transportation Meeting
- Atlanta–Savannah Passenger Rail Project Stakeholder Meeting
- Southeast Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership Annual Meeting
- HURREVAC Training for Resilience Planning
- Chatham County Surface Heat Analysis
- NASA DEVELOP Research Findings on Urban Heat and Tree Canopy Loss
- Working Group Meeting with Savannah Riverkeeper and Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) on transportation planning, land use, and resiliency coordination

Equity, Public Health, and Community Engagement

- Girls Engineer It Day Public Outreach Event
- Harambee House Roundtable Discussions related to the CORE MPO region's equity and Title VI outreach plans, programs, and actions
- Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) Task Team Meetings
- Urban Land Institute (ULI) Savannah Build Up Event
- Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Stakeholder Meeting
- REAL Taskforce Equity Meeting
- Words and Language to Comply with Federal Orders Workshop



CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary



Looking Forward

The year ahead will focus on strengthening core services, improving how the public navigates planning processes, and expanding the tools and training needed to meet a growing region's needs.

Build Skills and Capacity

- Launch a Planning Bootcamp to support consistent knowledge and shared practices.
- Expand staff training.
- Continue Board and Commission Training.
- Host Virtual Lunch and Learn sessions to encourage learning and coordination.

Improve Customer Experience

- Develop an Applications One-Stop Shop to simplify processes and increase transparency.
- Strengthen data gathering to support clearer reporting, analysis, and decision-making.

Modernize Tools and Systems

- Continue to update technology to improve performance, accessibility, and workflow efficiency.
- Expand planning and GIS tools that support long-term planning and real-time decision support.

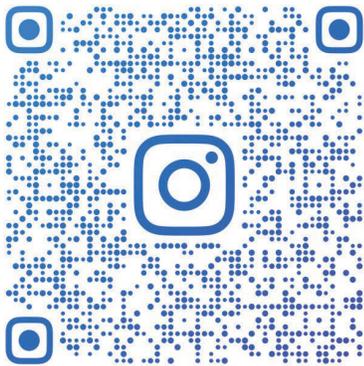
Advance Long-Range Planning

- Move forward with the 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update, aligning policy direction with today's realities and future growth.

Deepen Community Partnership

- Continued review of City-County Ordinances for collaborative updates.
- Strengthen partnerships with the community to support shared outcomes across agencies, organizations, and residents.

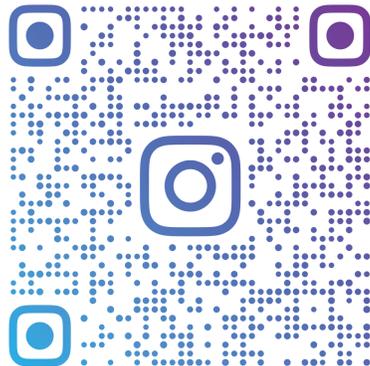
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METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION



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