



**COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
OCTOBER 2021 MPO MEETINGS**

Agenda Item: FY 2023 UPWP Development

Presenter: Mark Wilkes, CORE MPO Staff

Summary: To initiate the development of the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the CORE MPO staff conducted a call for plans and studies during September 2021. Four study requests were received from Chatham Area Transit:

- Transit Oriented Development Study. Cost: \$125,000
- Bus Stop Amenities Study. Cost: \$125,000
- Mobility Hub Study and Program. Cost: \$75,000
- Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study. Cost: \$200,000

Since these are major studies, it is anticipated that discretionary planning (PL) funds will be pursued, subject to future CORE MPO TCC and Board discussion and approval. Pending further review, these studies will be listed as unfunded illustrative studies in the draft FY 2023 UPWP.

In addition to the above requests, CAT staff has previously requested discretionary FTA Section 5303 funds in the amount of \$27,000 for the purchase of Remix software licensing. The CORE MPO previously funded Remix software for CAT in the FY 2020 UPWP.

In order to meet the GDOT and FHWA administrative schedules, CORE MPO staff will develop the draft FY 2023 UPWP during October and early November 2021.

The Draft FY 2023 UPWP will be reviewed by the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees at their December meetings, followed by a 30-day review and comment period by GDOT and FHWA. The final FY 2023 UPWP will be distributed to the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees for review and approval at the February 2022 meetings.

General study descriptions and 2023 UPWP development schedule are attached.

Recommendation: For information.

CAT Project Descriptions for 2023 UPWP

Transit Oriented Development Study

The TOD Planning Study helps support CAT's mission of providing quality public transportation services in a professional and responsive manner. Comprehensive planning funded through this grant will examine ways to improve economic development and ridership, foster multimodal connectivity and accessibility, improve transit access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, engage the private sector, and identify infrastructure needs.

The TOD planning study will include development of existing conditions, layout of potential future transit services, layout of potential future bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, internal project area circulation, evaluation of constraints, development of land use scenarios, and selection of a preferred design alternative. Once a preferred alternative has been identified, CAT will determine capital improvements needed, develop a financial plan, and identify recommended land use changes. Public participation, stakeholder input, and community feedback will be solicited throughout the planning process.

Approximate Cost: \$125,000

Duration: 9 months- 12 months

Bus Stop Amenities Study

In an effort to improve the quality of bus stops in Chatham County, Chatham Area Transit is proposing a Bus Stop Amenities Study to develop a set of guidelines for the improvement of current and proposed bus stops. The intent is to facilitate proper siting, design, installation, and maintenance of existing and proposed bus stops throughout Chatham County and within CAT service area.

Additional project requests include:

1. Creation of new Bus Stop Guidelines.
2. Studying existing bus stops on CAT routes and identifying needed improvements to better accommodate needs of riders.
3. Conducting multiple outreach efforts.
4. Researching best practices, ADA requirements, and peer city strategies for improved transit experiences.
5. Developing a manual regarding improvements to existing bus stops. Possible improvements include seating options (incl. accommodation for people with

disabilities), clear signage (incl. schedules, route information, and maps), trash receptacles, lighting, etc.

6. Developing standard conceptual engineering designs for different types of bus stops, based on location and volume.
7. Recommending better placement of bus stops along CAT routes through optimal stop spacing.
8. Recommending an implementation plan and schedule.

Approximate Cost: \$125,000.00

Duration: 12 months- 15 months

Mobility Hub Study and Program

The goal of the Mobility Hub Study and Program is to identify current and projected mobility needs and create a clear framework for prioritizing and implementing multi-modal mobility improvements in Chatham County. Ideally, these mobility hubs will act as focal points in the transportation network that seamlessly integrate different modes of transportation, multi-modal supportive infrastructure, and context-sensitive design to create active, easy to use facilities that maximize first mile/last mile connectivity. This project will build upon previous planning efforts including the **Park and Ride Lot Study, Non-Motorized Study and Mobility Plan 2040.**

Approximate Cost - \$75,000

Duration – 9 months -12 months

Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study

The objective of the BRT Feasibility Study is to investigate, analyze, and determine the feasibility of implementing Bus Rapid Transit in Chatham County. This system planning process will include a comprehensive overview of the existing transportation system, existing and future land use patterns, travel demand patterns, and roadway congestion issues. This study will begin with pre-selected potential rapid transit corridors in Chatham County (City of Savannah, Garden City, Pooler). These potential corridors will then be narrowed down to the most promising for rapid transit service. System characteristics will be evaluated in conjunction with bicycle and pedestrian improvements. This study will evaluate corridors identified in previous MPO planning studies and will prioritize BRT projects based on analysis of ridership demands, transit operational needs, corridor feasibility, cost and benefit considerations.

Bus rapid transit (BRT) service is high-frequency bus service that emulates rail transit, and provides fast and reliable service on a dedicated route. For the purpose of the study, BRT

service will be consistent with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) definition to ensure eligibility for future grant opportunities.

Approximate Cost: \$200,000

Duration: 12 months- 18 months

UPWP Schedule (FY 2023) Coastal Region (CORE) MPO

Activity	Timeframe	Start	Finish	Responsible party(ies)
I. UPWP Development		August 30, 2021	November 30, 2021	
Funding availability, including federal and local shares, are communicated to MPO	1 day	November 1, 2021	November 1, 2021	GDOT
Development of Draft UPWP	60 days	September 11, 2021	November 30, 2021	MPO
II. UPWP review		December 15, 2021	February 15, 2022	
Draft UPWP submitted for 30-day review by FHWA, FTA, and GDOT	1 Day	December 15, 2021	December 15, 2021	MPO
Review of draft UPWP	30 days	December 16, 2021	January 15, 2022	GDOT/FHWA/FTA
Revisions (Address Comments) and finalized UPWP by MPO	10 days	January 15, 2022	February 15, 2022	MPO
III. UPWP Approval		February 17, 2022	March 25, 2022	
Approval of 2023 UPWP development by Technical Coordinating Committee	1 day	February 17, 2022	February 17, 2022	MPO
Adoption of 2023 UPWP development by Policy Committee	1 day	February 23, 2022	February 23, 2022	MPO
Endorsement by GDOT	10 days	February 24, 2022	March 5, 2022	GDOT
- The GDOT Liaison recommends endorsement by GDOT to the Statewide MPO Coordinator. The coordinator verifies the UPWP budget is consistent with the federal and state allocations for the MPO. Once confirmed, the UPWP is sent to FHWA with an endorsement letter that requests FHWA approval of the document.				
- Project IDs are set up in FMIS				
Approval by FHWA/FTA	10 days	March 11, 2022	March 21, 2022	FHWA/FTA
FHWA/FTA reviews the request sent by GDOT. If approved by FHWA, FTA sends an approval letter including any contingencies specified within the letter to GDOT.				
UPWP Authorization	10 business days	March 26, 2022	April 6, 2022	GDOT
GDOT forwards an individual approval letter to MPO with a copy of the FHWA/FTA approval letter attached. The MPO is authorized to perform the eligible activities within their approved UPWP beginning on the effective date of FHWA/FTA approval. Work activities performed prior to the effective date will not be legible for reimbursement.				

CORE MPO FY 2023 UPWP Development Schedule

2021 2022

	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Call for Plans and Studies											
Draft Work Program Development											
GDOT Provides Budget			*								
MPO Committees Review Draft											
FHWA and GDOT Review Draft											
Revisions/Response to Comments											
MPO Committees Review and Approve Final						23-Feb					
GDOT Endorsement & FHWA/FTA Approval							Mar 5 & Mar 21				
UPWP Authorization								6-Apr			
FY 2023 Begins											*