



## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AUGUST 2024 MPO MEETINGS

**Agenda Item:** Amendments to FY 2025 UPWP

**Presenter:** Wykoda Wang, CORE MPO Staff

**Summary:** The FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), adopted in February 2024, is the MPO's staff work program for the fiscal year that runs from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The UPWP details the staff budget and work projects expected to be undertaken by the MPO in support of the federally mandated 3-C (Continuing, Cooperative and Comprehensive) transportation planning process.

The planning activities in the work program are supported by the formula Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) planning (PL) funds and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 funds, with matching funds from MPO member agencies.

The FY 2025 UPWP includes several Strategic Studies in the Unfunded Section. These studies have gone through several rounds of discussion by the CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). In August 2024, CORE MPO would like to submit applications for the Discretionary PL Funds to the Georgia PL Funds Review Committee for three of these studies.

- SR 26/US 80 Scoping Study – Effingham County
- Urban Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools for Optimized City Planning of Transportation and Infrastructure Phase II – CORE MPO
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Study – CORE MPO

The scopes and cost estimates for these three studies were further examined in July and August 2024 for the application preparation. Some updates have been made. The FY 2025 UPWP will be amended to reflect these updates, which will ensure consistency between the UPWP and the Discretionary PL funding applications.

The attached documentation shows the updated information for these studies in the CORE MPO's FY 2025 UPWP.

**Recommendation:** Endorsement and approval of proposed UPWP amendments.

**Appendix:**

Appendix A: Updated Project Information in FY 2025 UPWP

Appendix B: Resolution to Amend the FY 2025 UPWP

**Appendix A: Updated Project Information in FY 2025 UPWP**

## UNFUNDED STUDY - UPDATED PROJECT INFORMATION

### Urban Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools for Optimized City Planning of Transportation and Infrastructure Phase II

**Previous Work:** In FY 2022 CORE MPO applied for and got awarded discretionary PL funds for the Urban Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools for Optimized City Planning of Transportation and Infrastructure study **within the MPO boundary that covers all of Chatham County, the portions of Bryan County and Effingham County within the 2010 census designated Savannah Urbanize Area, as well as the connecting areas in Bryan County.** CORE MPO/MPC completed the procurement process and MPC contracted with the consultant team, the University of Georgia, to conduct the Urban Flooding Model Study. The multi-year effort of study development began in August 2022 and concluded in October 2023. The study resulted in the following deliverables:

- Storm Water Management Model (SWMM) to examine flood depths at stormwater drainage points for various combinations of rainfall, tides, and SLR.
- Hydrographs (ASCII/CSV file format) at select locations within the stormwater infrastructure.
- Vulnerability Assessment Application: An online ESRI Dashboard that integrates flood modeling, roadway vulnerability, and other GIS layers.
- Compilation of funding opportunities for the CORE MPO planning area that can support enhancements to the local transportation network, particularly using natural and nature-based infrastructure features.
- Final report with the study results and description of tools and data produced.

**These deliverables were used to help determine road vulnerability within the CORE MPO 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, identify funding sources for resilience building projects, and to demonstrate road vulnerability to community members through the interactive dashboard.**

**In FY 2024, CORE MPO expanded its Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary to South Effingham County and more areas in Bryan County.**

**FY 2025 Activities:** CORE MPO staff will apply for discretionary PL funds for Phase II of the study for the expanded areas in Bryan County and Effingham County. If funds are awarded, CORE MPO will conduct the RFP process to procure consultant services.

**Project Description:** Changes in climate are producing extreme weather events that are increasing in frequency. Events such as sea level rise and climate change present major threats for coastal community's road networks, rail, canals, greenways, and other infrastructure in the CORE MPO planning area. CORE MPO proposes to continue building a framework to inform the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and other planning processes that will include the new portion of the MPO boundary. This framework would ensure the MTP's goal of enhancing the resiliency and security of the transportation system by encompassing considerations to prioritization, land use, environmental, economic, community livability, and equitable improvements to disadvantaged communities.

The study will expand out to the new areas in the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area boundary for Bryan County and Effingham County. The SWMM, hydrographs, and online interactive dashboard tool will be used to help with targeting and prioritizing changes to the transportation infrastructure. This can include adaptation of infrastructure such as adding culverts, pedestrian trails, moving or raising roads, rail, etc., thus informing the MTP and promoting economic vitality and freight movement, reliability, and resiliency.

**The financial model can be further utilized in development review processes for agencies in the CORE MPO planning area/region** to identify cost requirements for mitigating surface runoff from proposed infrastructure and new development, thus benefiting the multi-modal transportation network by avoiding negative impacts of flooding such as increased congestion, road closures, loss of emergency access, delays to freight and goods movement, etc. Creating infrastructure that provides diverse transportation options ensures accessibility, provides system

redundancy, promotes economic vitality and freight movement, supports evacuation needs, and addresses social equity.

This phase will also include a training module to ensure planners within the CORE MPO jurisdiction can utilize these tools and resources to the fullest extent possible and better understand the connection between development and impact on roadways.

Product	Lead Agency/Local Sponsor	Consultants Needed
SWMM, hydrographs, and vulnerability application for road network in expanded MPO boundary, training module for planners in CORE MPO jurisdictions on how to use products, and financial model to identify cost requirements for green infrastructure to mitigate stormwater runoff challenges in TIP projects.	CORE MPO	Yes

**Responsible Agencies:**

Organization	Activity
MPC	Study oversight, funding applications, RFP development, consultant procurement.
GDOT and FHWA	Project coordination.
Other local agencies	Consultation and coordination.

**Funding:**

Funding Source	Amount
FHWA Discretionary PL	\$120,000.00
Discretionary PL Match	\$30,000.00
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$150,000.00</b>

## SR 26/US 80 Scoping Study

**Previous Work:** In FY 2022, the CORE MPO awarded CRRSAA funds to the City of Pooler for the SR 26/US 80 Corridor Study through the Call for Projects process. Pooler completed the procurement process and contracted with the consultant team, Kimley-Horn, to conduct the study. The multi-year effort of study development was kicked off in July 2022. The FY 2023 work included establishing a steering committee, developing a Project Management Plan, collecting data, completing an Existing Conditions Report and Traffic Forecasting, and conducting Alternatives Analysis. **This US 80 Corridor Study phase focused on the segments within Chatham County.**

In FY 2024, CORE MPO expanded its Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary to South Effingham County.

**Proposed 2025 Activities:** **CORE MPO staff will apply for discretionary PL funds for the study on behalf of Effingham County. If funds are awarded, CORE MPO will conduct the RFP process to procure consultant services.**

**Project Description:** This proposed study, requested by Effingham County, aims to extend the SR 26/US 80 Corridor Study (PI 0018344 Chatham County) to cover approximately 6.5 miles from the Ogeechee River at the Bryan-Effingham County line to the Effingham-Chatham County Line. The study limits fall within the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area.

The study's primary objectives are to determine traffic volumes and identify the operational and capacity improvements needed along the SR 26/US 80 corridor in Effingham County. It will involve collecting traffic data and projections based on current land use to assess the need for congestion improvements in the short term. Additionally, the project will collect and analyze crash data to recommend necessary safety improvements. The study will consider all modes of transportation, including freight and pedestrian/bicycle movements.

Effingham County's rapid growth, coupled with its reliance on the SR 26/US 80 corridor for access to critical industrial and commercial hubs, underscores the importance of this study. The study will establish goals for the corridor and aid in planning both short-term local projects and long-term projects through the CORE MPO. It will complement and extend the CORE MPO/City of Pooler SR 26/US 80 Corridor Study (PI 0018344 Chatham County), offering a time- and cost-saving measure by building upon existing work.

The final product of this study will be a detailed corridor analysis that identifies and prioritizes short-term (0-5 years) and long-term (5+ years) projects aimed at improving the corridor's operation and safety. This comprehensive study will help justify future programming of projects in the CORE MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), ensuring that Effingham County can efficiently manage its growth and maintain a safe, efficient transportation corridor.

Product	Lead Agency/Local Sponsor	Consultants
Final, detailed corridor study that identifies and prioritizes short-term (0-5 years) and long-term (5+ years) projects that will improve the operation and safety of the corridor. The study will help justify the future programming of projects in CORE MPO's MTP and TIP.	MPC/Effingham County	Yes

**Responsible Agencies:**

Organization	Activity
MPC	Study oversight, funding applications, RFP development, consultant procurement, project management.
Effingham County	Local sponsor and project management.
GDOT and FHWA	Project coordination
Other local agencies	Consultation and coordination

**Funding:**

Proposed Funding Source	Amount
FHWA Discretionary PL	\$216,000.00
Discretionary PL Match	\$54,000.00
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$270,000.00</b>

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Study

**Previous Work:** The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) has previously collected data regarding the location of bicycle and pedestrian facilities through updating the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Individual municipalities have also provided updates on projects utilizing MPO-directed funds.

**Project Description:** Pedestrian and bicycle facilities that improve active transportation while promoting safety, comfort, and accessibility are a crucial step in creating sustainable and equitable transportation systems.

The Savannah region has many characteristics that make it an excellent place to promote walking and biking as a means of transportation. Temperatures remain comfortable for outdoor activities throughout the year, there is a vibrant park system, and the layout of the City of Savannah, particularly the downtown Historic District, makes it easy to walk, bike, and access transit. Further, residents across the region have expressed a strong desire for more bicycle lanes, trails, and continuous sidewalks according to input received from numerous surveys and public outreach efforts. Despite the demand for active transportation facilities, accessibility and safety concerns – especially beyond the downtown Savannah area – serve to discourage active transportation usage for many people. For local governments across the CORE MPO region, the current NMTP guides the development of Capital Improvement Programs, makes recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure development, provides active transportation data, and assists organizations in applying for grants.

While CORE MPO has previously collected bicycle and pedestrian count and facility data at several locations, this data is limited in geographic coverage and has not been kept up to date. Now that the CORE MPO planning area boundary has expanded, there are more data gaps that need to be filled. The Chatham Area Transit conducted a Bus Stop Inventory Study, which recorded the existence or condition of bike and pedestrian resources next to bus stops in Chatham County, but data regarding bicycle and pedestrian facilities for the entire CORE MPO planning area is not available. In many locations, bicycle lanes and sidewalks have not received the ongoing maintenance necessary to provide safe facilities, and many sidewalks and bicycle lanes are frequently unusable. Additionally, little information is known about the current characteristics, condition, and locations of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, which makes it difficult to direct resources toward the improvement of these facilities.

The travel patterns of pedestrians and bicyclists are directly influenced by their perception of the surrounding environment. An uncomfortable or threatening condition, such as a dangerous intersection, will cause people walking and biking to alter their route, choose a different mode of travel, or even decide to not make the trip at all. Based on available crash data and recent corridor studies on SR 307, SR 21, SR 26/US 80, and SR 25/US 17, several non-motorists are killed or seriously injured on streets in our region every year. The conditions of bicycle and pedestrian facilities are frequently dangerous and unpleasant, especially for vulnerable populations and underserved communities. With positive public opinion toward active transportation, ongoing Vision Zero efforts, and the creation of the CORE MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), this is a wonderful opportunity to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities and create safer streets for all road users. Investing in this study will enhance these efforts toward creating safe and accessible streets.

To address these issues, CORE MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Study ("the Study") will identify the location and condition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities including intersections across the CORE MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area boundary. The results of the Study will include:

- An inventory and map of bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the CORE MPO area
- The identification of current network connectivity, opportunities for improvement, and the potential economic development impact
- The identification of safety improvements by overlaying Numetric crash data over maps
- The creation of a system or database to provide continuous updates to the Study and to reduce future CORE MPO and member agency staff time needed to capture data collection efforts



The work to produce these results will include:

- Data collection
- Creating an app or database for current and future facility tracking
- Creating a bicycle and pedestrian facility prioritization system
- Using the CORE MPO’s map survey for public input
- Collaborating with CORE MPO member municipalities and supporting agencies for information
- Creating a condition matrix of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- Public outreach throughout the community
- Examining bicycle and pedestrian facilities using a variety of methods

The completed Study will then be used to direct the efforts of the NMTP and plans within partnering agencies. The information therein will be used to prioritize areas for project development and connectivity with an overall emphasis on road safety. Ultimately, this guiding document will lead to infrastructure that provides diverse transportation options that ensure accessibility and system redundancy; promote economic vitality; and enhance social equity.

Product	Lead Agency/Local Sponsor	Consultants
The study will provide detailed information on bike and pedestrian infrastructure and connectivity. It will also produce a process so this information can be continually updated.	CORE MPO	Yes

**Responsible Agencies:**

Organization	Activity
MPC	Study oversight, funding applications, RFP development, consultant procurement.
GDOT and FHWA	Project coordination.
Other local agencies	Consultation and coordination.

**Funding:**

Proposed Funding Source	Amount
FHWA Discretionary PL	\$240,000.00
Discretionary PL Match	\$60,000.00
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>

**Appendix B: Resolution to Amend the FY 2025 UPWP**



## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### **Resolution to Amend the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the joint Federal Transit Administration - Federal Highway Administration regulations on urban transportation planning (23 CFR Parts 420 and 450, and 49 CFR Part 613), a Unified Planning Work Program is required to be developed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) has been designated by the Governor of Georgia as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Savannah urbanized area; and

**WHEREAS**, CORE MPO did formally adopt the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as the official staff work program and budget for the CORE MPO at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 28, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, CORE MPO did formally amend the FY 2025 UPWP at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 15, 2024 to update project scopes and/or cost estimates in the Unfunded Studies Section for the following studies – 1) Urban Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools for Optimized City Planning of Transportation and Infrastructure Phase II; 2) SR 26/US 80 Scoping Study; and 3) Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Study.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization approves the proposed amendments to the CORE MPO FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program as shown in the summary UPWP amendment report with any corrections based upon the motion of August 15, 2024.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Board at a meeting held on August 15, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chester A. Ellis".

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Chester A. Ellis, Chairperson  
Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization