



2024 Annual Report

**Chatham County-Savannah
Metropolitan Planning Commission**

Karen Jarrett
Chairperson

Melanie Wilson
Executive Director & CEO



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Melanie Wilson

Executive Director & CEO

I am excited to present the Chatham County Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission's (MPC) 2024 Annual Report. This report serves as our opportunity to highlight the accomplishments and dedication of our Staff and to say thank you to our Board members. It was a very busy year for the MPC staff as the City of Savannah and Chatham County continue to experience unprecedented growth and evolution.

Last year held many opportunities for training and implementation of new technology such as our Finance system, internal tracking systems and new firewalls. We held our annual Planning Commission Board retreat where we further defined the MPC's strategic goals/plan and mission statement. We also hosted our annual CAMP Historic training for Board members and staff virtually and it was well attended by the Historic Boards, members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Boards.

We also completed the Urban Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools for Optimized City Planning of Transportation and Infrastructure (FMT) study within the MPO boundary that covered all of Chatham County, portions of Bryan County and Effingham County. We are now seeking to expand Phase I flood modeling tools to inform the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and other planning processes that will include the new portion of the MPO boundary. We also revitalized our CERN network to help the public better understand the components of community resilience, be better able to assess their community risks, and prioritize, plan for, and implement necessary projects and policies to create and enhance community resilience.

Our CORE MPO staff has gone above and beyond this year as they completed the update to the MPO's boundaries, updated the Bylaws, completed and adopted the 2050 MTP. We also welcomed the Georgia Ports, Bryan County and Effingham County into the MPO and look forward to their input in the development of plans and roadways.

Additionally, I attended the annual GAMPO this year, where I was able to obtain additional funding for several projects. I was also elected to serve as the GAMPO Vice Chair for 2025.

We look forward with anticipation to what 2025 holds for our dedicated staff and Board members as we aid in the management of smart growth, resiliency and development for our City, County and the Coastal Region.



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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.”

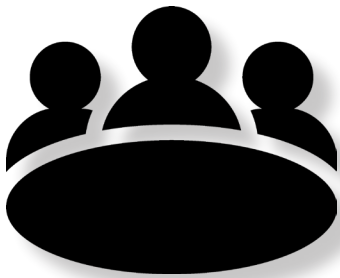
- MPC BYLAWS: October 1, 1974



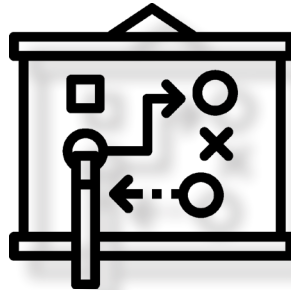
Our Services

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:

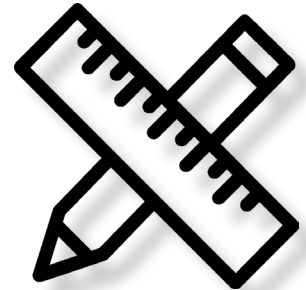
“Planning the Future, Respecting the Past”



Administrative Services & Information Technology



Advanced Planning & Special Projects



Development Services & Current Planning



Historic Preservation & Urban Design



Savannah Area GIS



Transportation & CORE MPO

Our Boards



Planning Commission



City of Savannah
Zoning Board of Appeals



Chatham County
Zoning Board of Appeals



Savannah Historic
District Board of Review



City of Savannah Historic
Preservation Commission



Chatham County Historic
Preservation Commission



Savannah-Chatham
County Historic Site and
Monument Commission



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

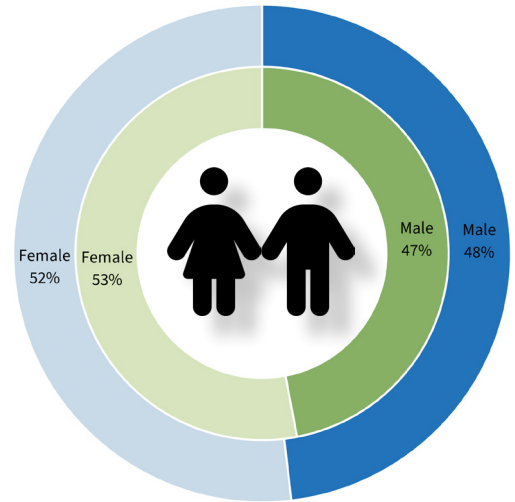


- Policy Board
- Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)
- Economic Development & Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC)
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
- Transportation Equity & Public Involvement Advisory Committee (TEPIAC)

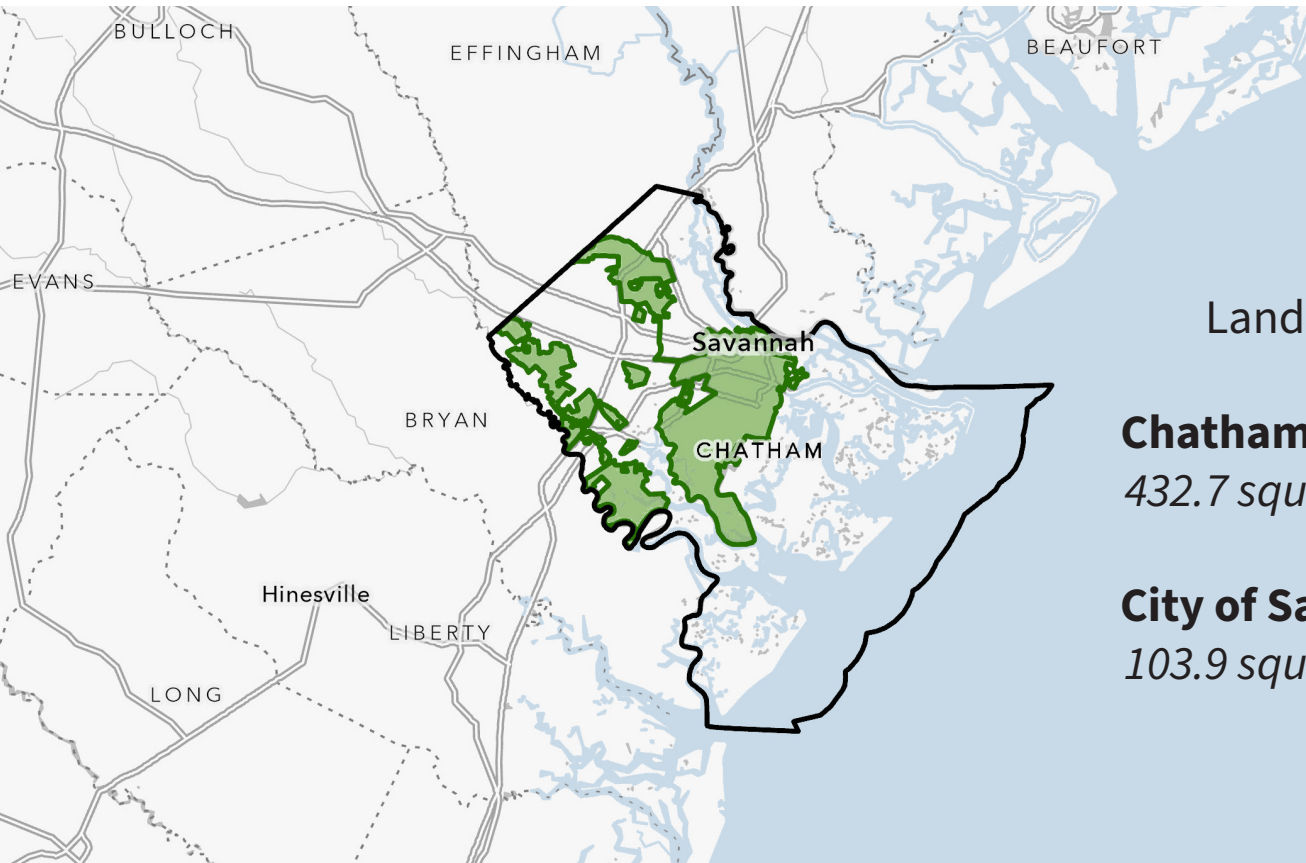
Our Community

Population
Chatham County:
 298,143

City of Savannah:
 147,546



■ Chatham County ■ City of Savannah



Land Area

Chatham County:
 432.7 square miles

City of Savannah:
 103.9 square miles

Demographics

Chatham County's population grew about 37% over the last four decades, while Savannah grew 7%. Young Millennials and Gen Z make up the largest age group from 20-34 year olds in both the County & City. Our planning area is majority White and Black/African American, with a larger White population in Chatham County and Black/African American population in the City of Savannah.

In Chatham County...



20,000+
are Veterans



36.80%
earned a Bachelor's degree or higher



English and Spanish
are the most common languages



15.50%
live with a Disability

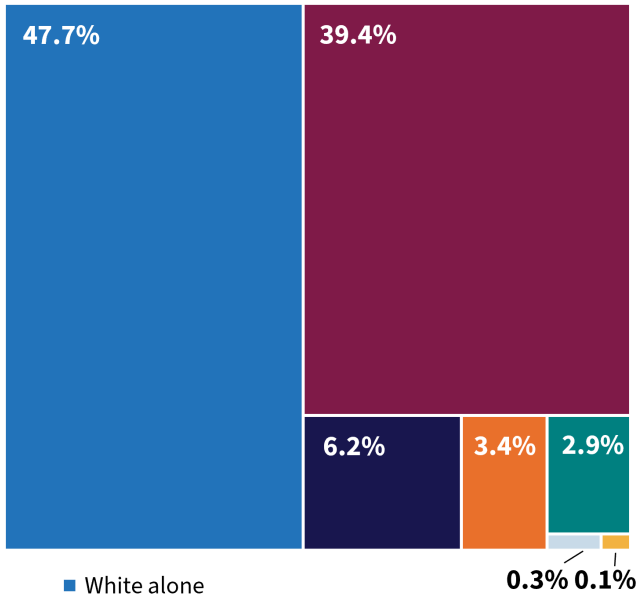


Driving
is the primary mode of transportation



5.7%
unemployment rate

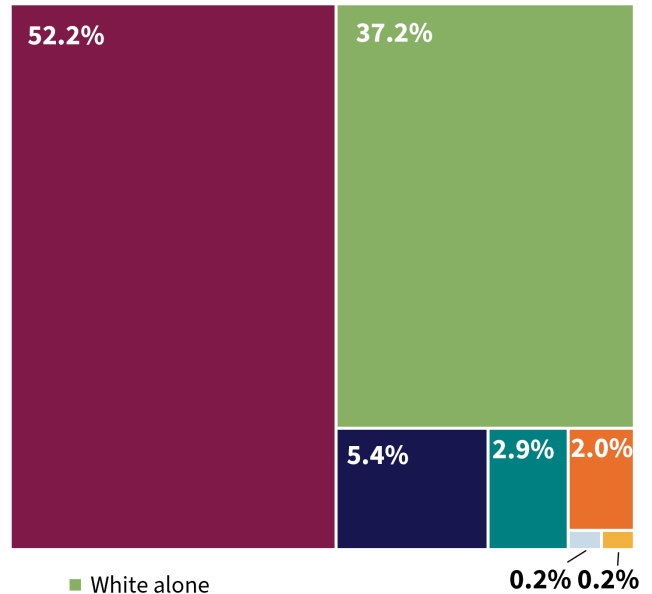
Race: Chatham County



- White alone
- Black or African American alone
- American Indian and Alaska Native alone
- Asian alone
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
- Some Other Race alone
- Two or More Races

23,945 identified as Hispanic or Latino

Race: City of Savannah



- White alone
- Black or African American alone
- American Indian and Alaska Native alone
- Asian alone
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
- Some Other Race alone
- Two or More Races

10,484 identified as Hispanic or Latino

Source: Census & American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2023)

Population Characteristics

Top Industries



1 Educational services, health care and social assistance

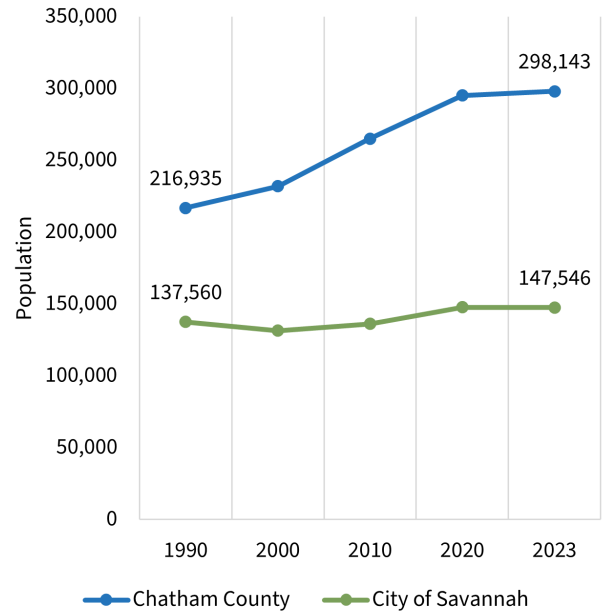


2 Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services

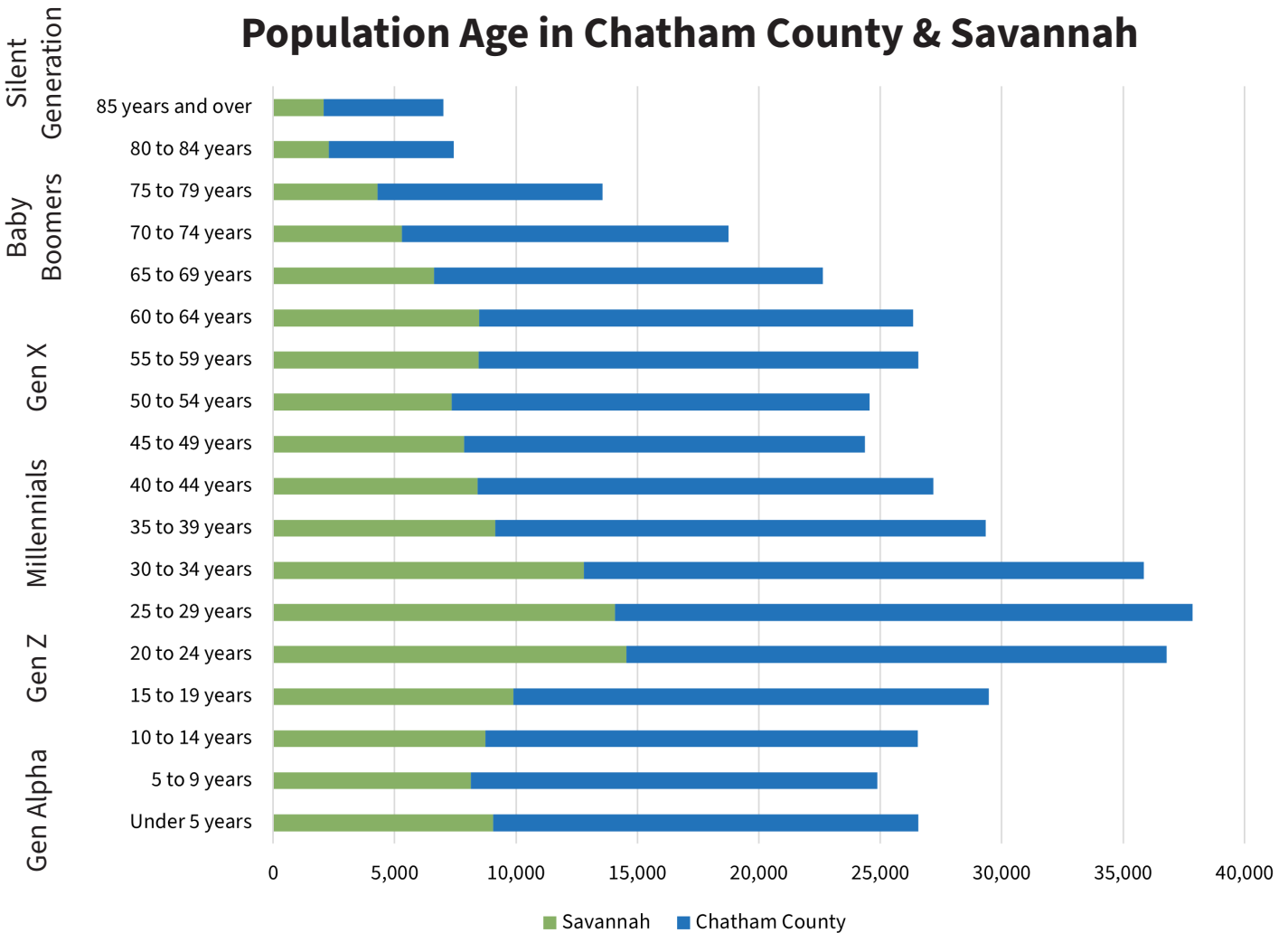


3 Professional, management, scientific, administrative and waste management services

Population Growth 1990-2023



Population Age in Chatham County & Savannah



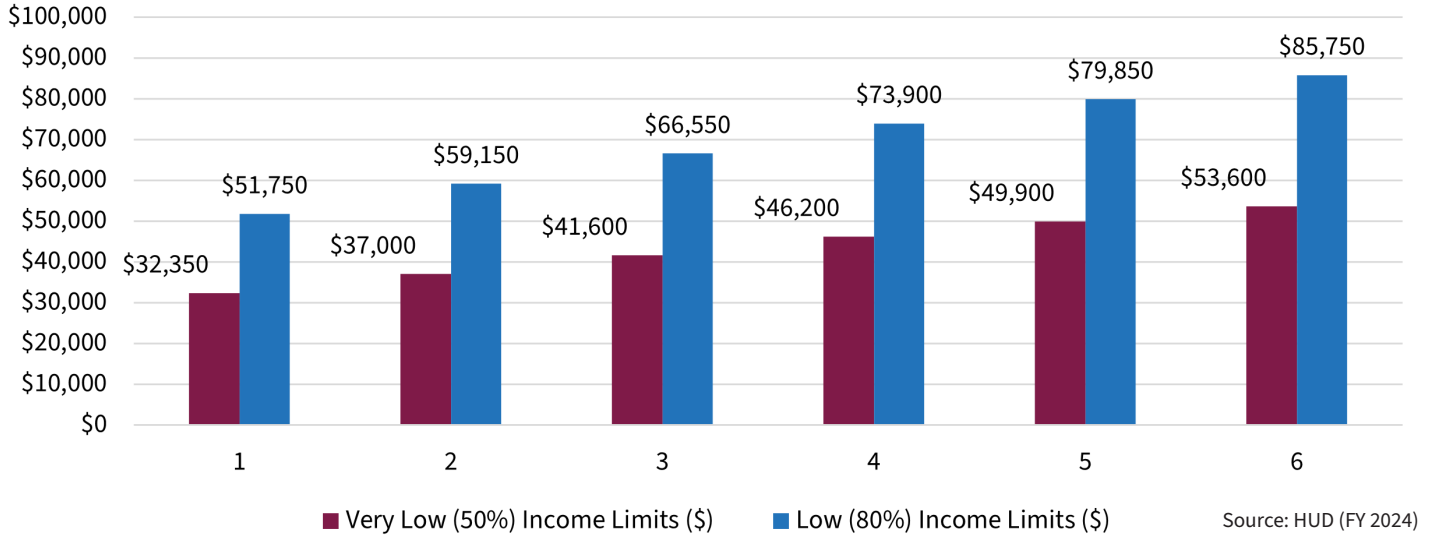
Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2023)

Housing

2024 Income Limits by Family Size
Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area



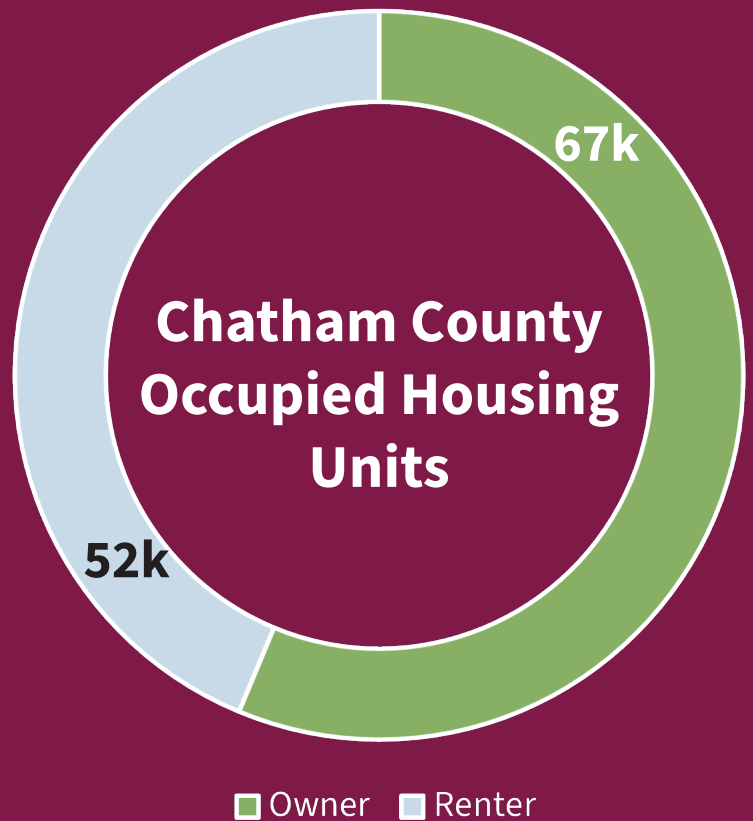
\$92,400 Sav. MSA
Median Family Income



\$2,000/month
Average Rental Price

\$321,132
Average Home Price

+3.9%
1-Year Change Value in Home Prices



Source: Zillow

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2023)

2024 Applications



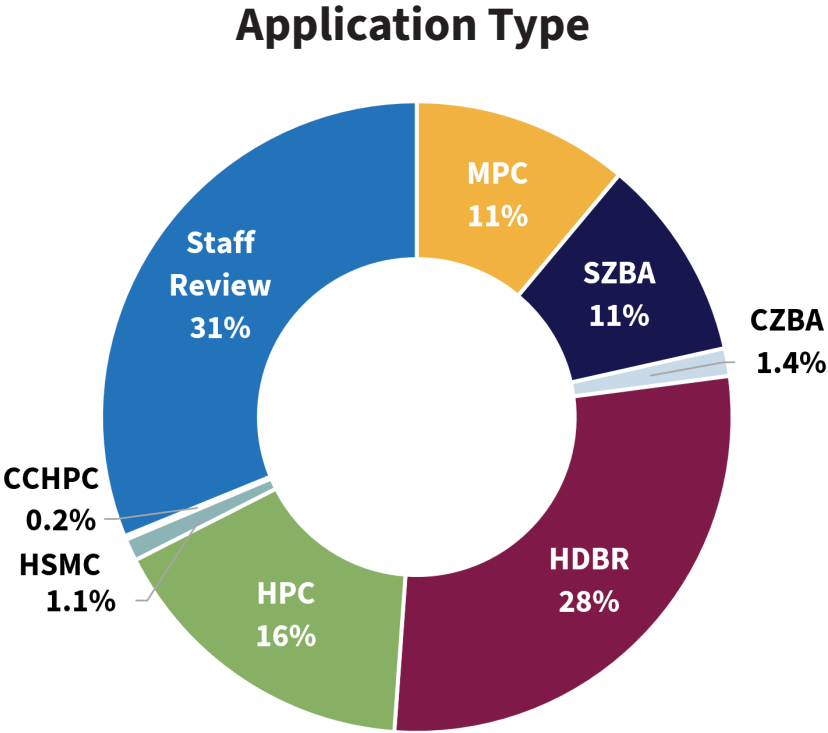
1,056
Applications



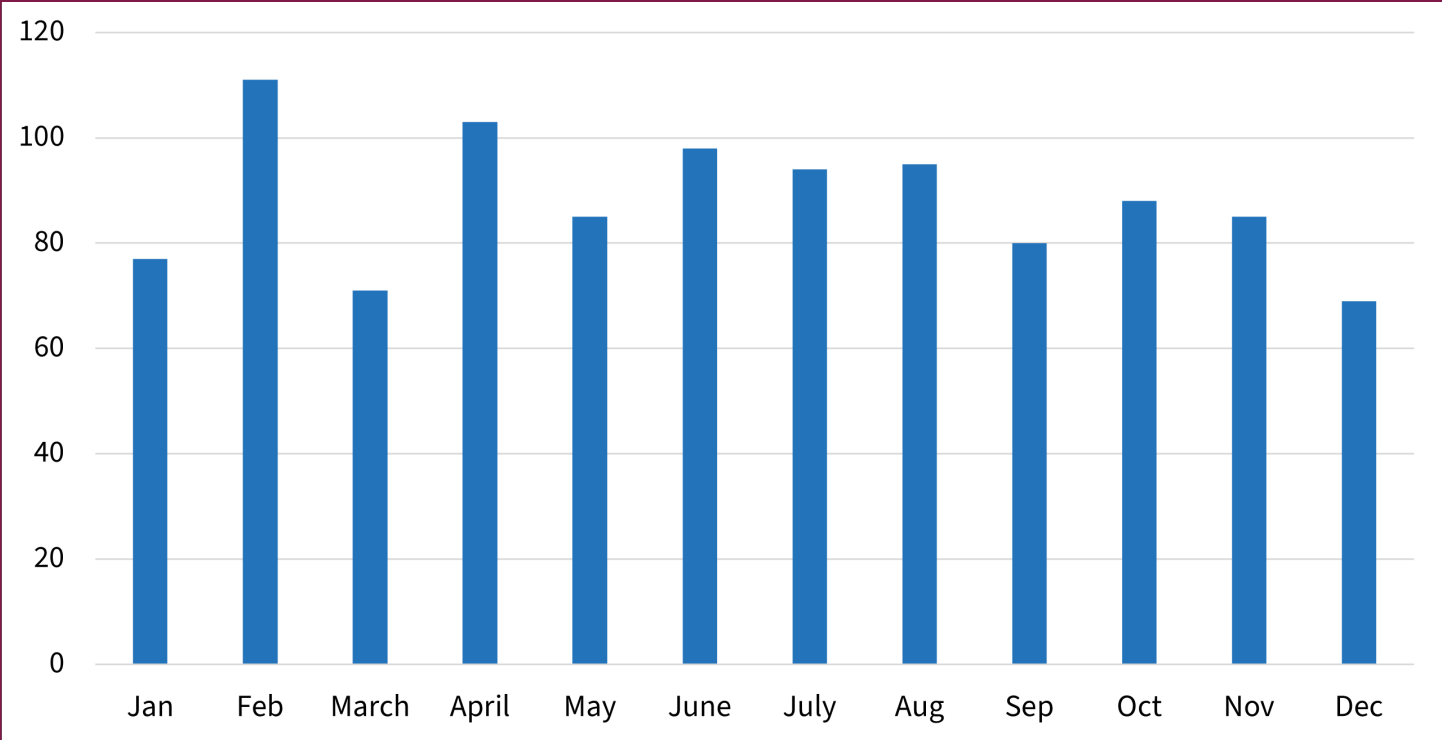
13,454
Mailouts



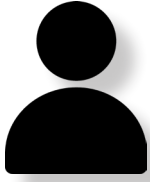
134
Stamped
Drawings



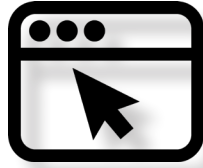
All MPC Applications in 2024



2024 Statistics



3.7k
Visitors



34k
Website Hits



32k
Phone Calls



2.5k
YouTube Views



350.7k
SAGIS Map Views



7k
Addresses
Created & Edited



\$2 Billion
Programmed
Transportation Projects

Administrative Services, Finance, & IT

2024 presented exciting and challenging opportunities for our Finance, Administrative Services, and IT staff as they worked with both internal and external customers. Our amazing Administrative Support Staff provides support to fourteen Boards, to include scheduling Board meetings, managing the Board calendars, transcribing meeting minutes, answering questions from the public, and managing meeting agendas.

During 2024, our Administrative Support staff processed and tracked over nine hundred applications for Development Services/Current Planning and Historic Preservation/Urban Planning. We supported over one hundred and fifty Board meetings, subcommittee meetings and other public meetings. We greeted over 3600 members of the public into the MPC's facilities. We managed thousands of calls for help with completing applications, meeting dates, understanding meeting procedures, scheduling meetings with MPC's Planners, quorum calls and Open Records Requests. Our staff mailed over 13,054 public notices and created 831 Certificate Of Appropriateness posting signs.



Meet the Team



Pamela Everett
Asst. Executive Director of Compliance & Operations



Terrell Richardson-Smith
Budget Analyst



Bri Morgan
Admin. Assistant II



Sally Helm
Admin. Assistant II



Roger Beall
Director of IT



Hind Patel
IT Support & Admin.



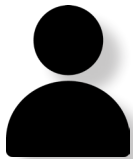
Sarah Greenbush
Admin. Assistant



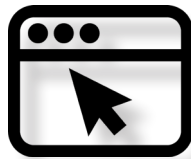
Kieron Coffield
Admin. Assistant



Mary Mitchell
Admin. Assistant



3.7k
Visitors



34k
Website Hits



32k
Phone Calls



831
COA Signs



960
Webinar Attendees



2.5k
YouTube Views



13k
Public Notices



150 +
Board Meetings

Services & Support

Financial Management

In 2024 we implemented a new financial software program which enables us to better track our budget, expenditures, contracts, reimbursements, and vendor payments. We worked hard to ensure that the MPC had another clean audit and successfully managed our 2024 budget despite ever-increasing costs for personnel, supplies, and services.

IT Services

Our IT Department Staff installed a new firewall, handled over 950 internal and external Help Desk requests, and managed virtual access for one hundred thirty-three Board meetings. They are also responsible for editing and posting the MPC Board meetings on the Chatham County, City of Savannah TV stations and YouTube.

Our IT staff produced 163 audio files to support our Boards, and developed an internal records site to support Development Services, developed two programs for use with City of Savannah and Chatham County Zoning Ordinances for internal use and an internal ticket system to streamline calls and callbacks. In addition, they helped man the County's EOC to provide support for three hurricanes, two with federal disaster declarations.

Looking Ahead

As we enter 2025, we are cautiously delving deeper into AI to aid in the transcription of meeting minutes, develop better tracking systems, streamlining processes and training. We are excited about what 2025 holds for the MPC and our tremendous staff.



Advanced Planning & Special Projects

Advanced Planning and Special Projects 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.

The MPC prepares the Chatham County–Savannah Comprehensive Plan every 5 years, along with partnering with Pooler and Garden City. This essential public document is named “Plan 2040,” details specific goals and strategies designed to achieve a shared community vision. Advanced 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.

This department also manages the Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN), writes grants, and completes other projects, such as school facility and parking studies, in relation to these elements.



Meet the Team



Melanie Wilson
Executive Director & CEO



Anna B. McQuarrie
Planner



Subhashi Karunaratne
Planner



**5 Resilience
Coffee Hours**



**130
Attendees**

Resilience Coffee Hour Summer Series

May

June

July

September



Trees & Community



GPA Sustainable Solutions



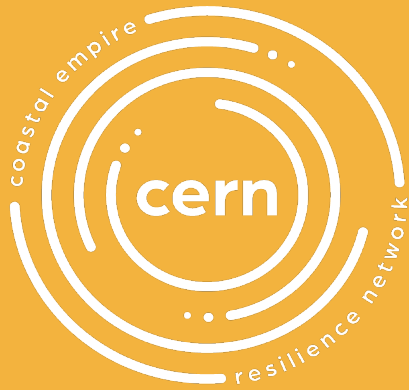
Safe Water Together



*BIPOC Community
Perspectives on EJ*



*5 Steps to Effective Climate
Communication*



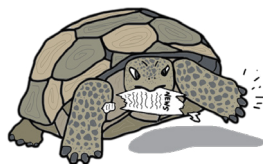
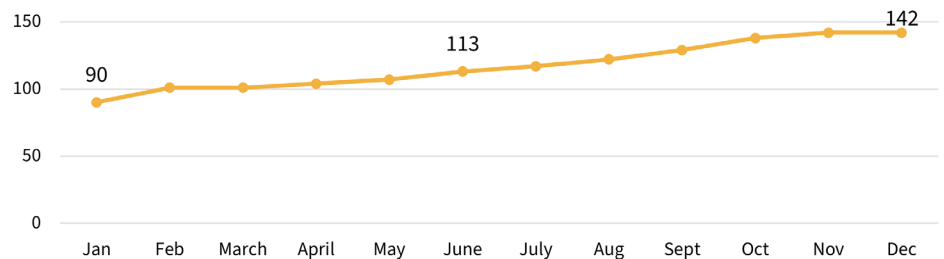
cern coastal empire resilience network

The Coastal Empire Resilience Network (CERN) is a network engaging 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.

In addition to hosting five Resilience Coffee Hours, CERN released the Resilience Bight Monthly Newsletter this year to share bite-size resilience updates in Coastal Georgia. The MPC also partnered with the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR) to develop and teach the online course Planning with Nature-Based Solutions in Coastal Georgia.



The Resilience Bight Newsletter Subscribers



58% Increase in subscribers

Planning with Nature-Based Solutions

The MPC/CERN, and the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve Collaboration & Training Sector partnered to deliver an innovative, month-long training.

Eleven people participated and represented six Counties: Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Fulton, and Athens-Clark, along with two states: North Carolina and Washington. Participants represented a wide variety of fields, including planners, consultants, interested citizens, students, and resilient and disaster specialists.

This program utilized an accessible online Google Classroom platform, where students were able to pace readings and assignments on their own time, weekly Zoom meetings for group discussion, and a final in-person field trip to visit NBS sites in Liberty County at Seabrook Village and downtown Hinesville.

The training emphasized collaboration, where weekly zoom calls enabled the cohort to share past experiences, new ideas, and solutions to local problems. Post-training evaluations of the first cohort demonstrated increased confidence in utilizing nature-based solutions and a strengthened network of regional collaboration.

Planning with Nature-Based Solutions in Coastal Ga
Free Online Course

OCT 1ST - NOV 9TH
WEEKLY ZOOM DISCUSSIONS ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 10 AM-11:30AM
SHORT WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

EARN 7 AICP CE CREDITS

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER NOW!
or visit coastalempireresilience.org/WhatsNew

Open until September 25th or class is filled.

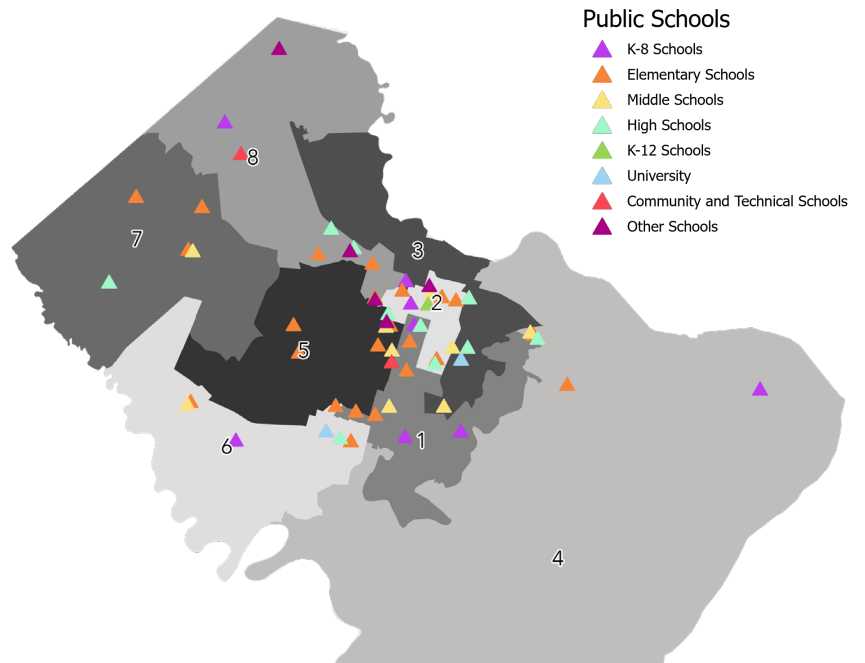
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SAPELO ISLAND NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE, CHATHAM COUNTY-CHATHAM METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION, AND THE COASTAL EMPIRE RESILIENCE NETWORK



"The course helped paint a clearer picture of the policy and regulatory landscape for how we can approach NBS in our professions."

-Course Participant

SCCPSS 2024 Enrollment Study



The 2024 Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) engaged the MPC to conduct an Enrollment Study. The decision-making tool will be integrated into the district's Long-Range Facilities Plan, and evaluated current and future conditions to guide school attendance zones and facility planning effectively. The Study examined population growth trends, analyzed new development patterns, forecasts enrollment trends, and calculated school capacities to balance overutilized and underutilized facilities.

In October 2024, the study was updated to incorporate refreshed projection models and trends. This update ensures the Study remains a dynamic and reliable tool for addressing the evolving needs of the district. By emphasizing equity in school placement and highlighting the broader influence of schools on community development, the study underscores its importance in long-term educational and urban planning.



Development Services & Current Planning

The Development Services and 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. Staff 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.

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.



Meet the Team



Edward Morrow, Jr., AICP,
Director



Brad Clement
Senior Planner



Subhashi Karunarathne
Planner



Sadie Esch-Laurent
Asst. Planner



Sally Helm
Admin. Assistant II



Nykobe Richardson
Intern

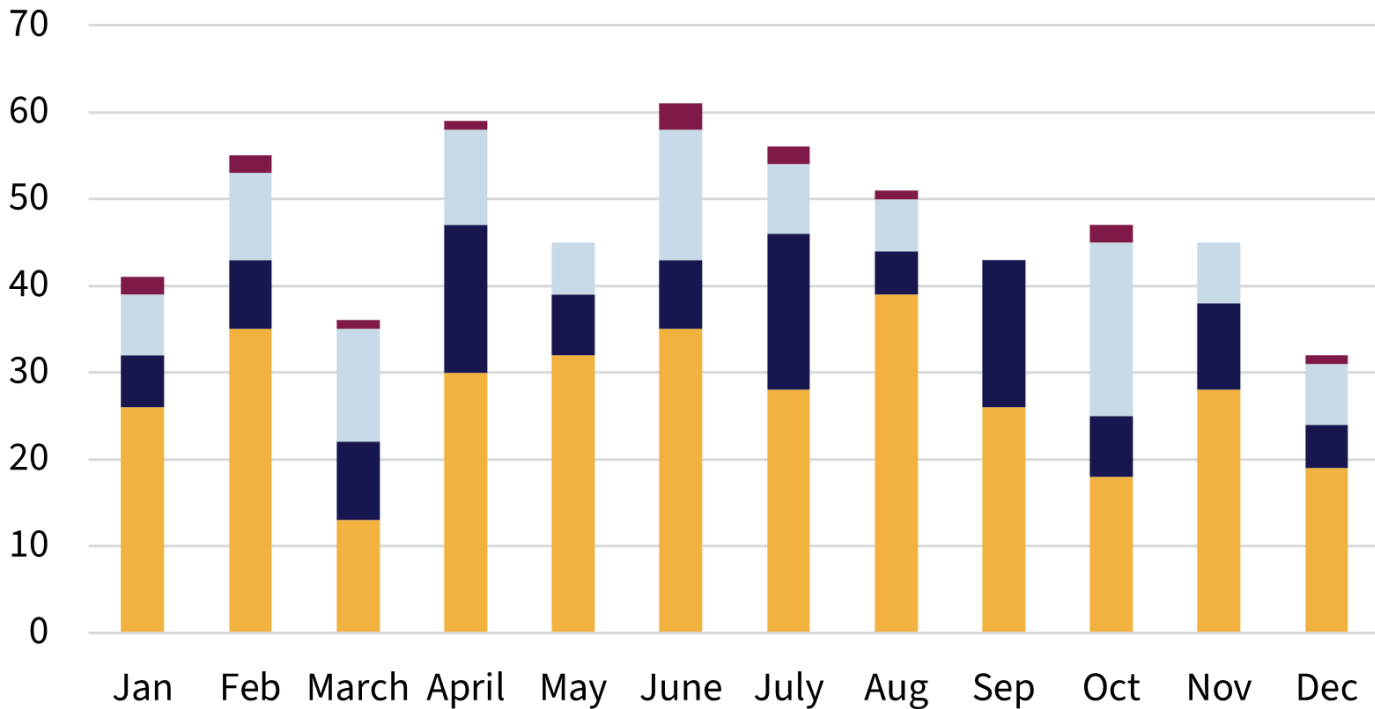


571
Applications



13,054
Mailouts

2024 Board, Commission & Staff Review Applications

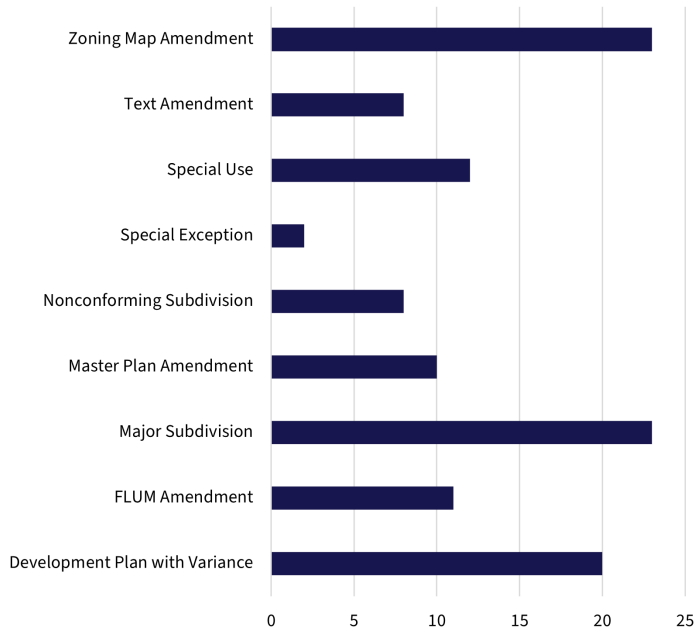


■ Staff Review
 ■ MPC
 ■ SZBA
 ■ CZBA

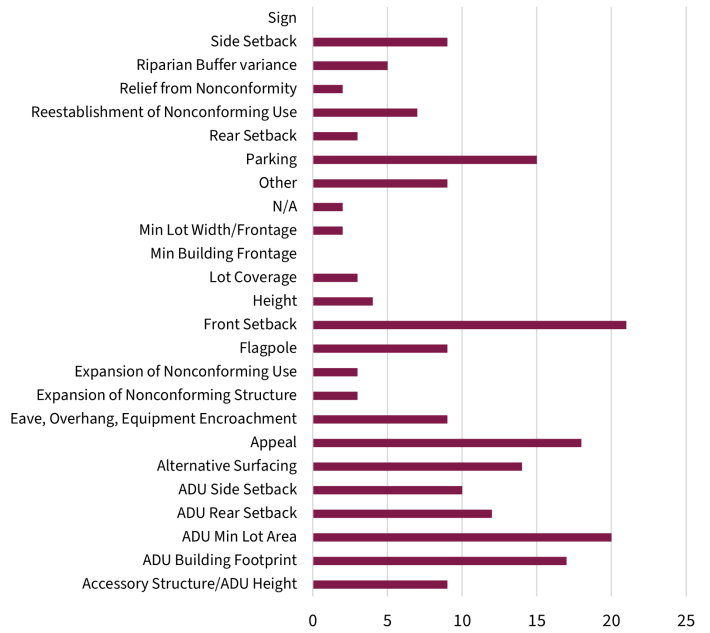
Staff Review= 329
 MPC= 117
 Savannah ZBA= 110
 Chatham County ZBA= 15

MPC & ZBA Applications in 2024

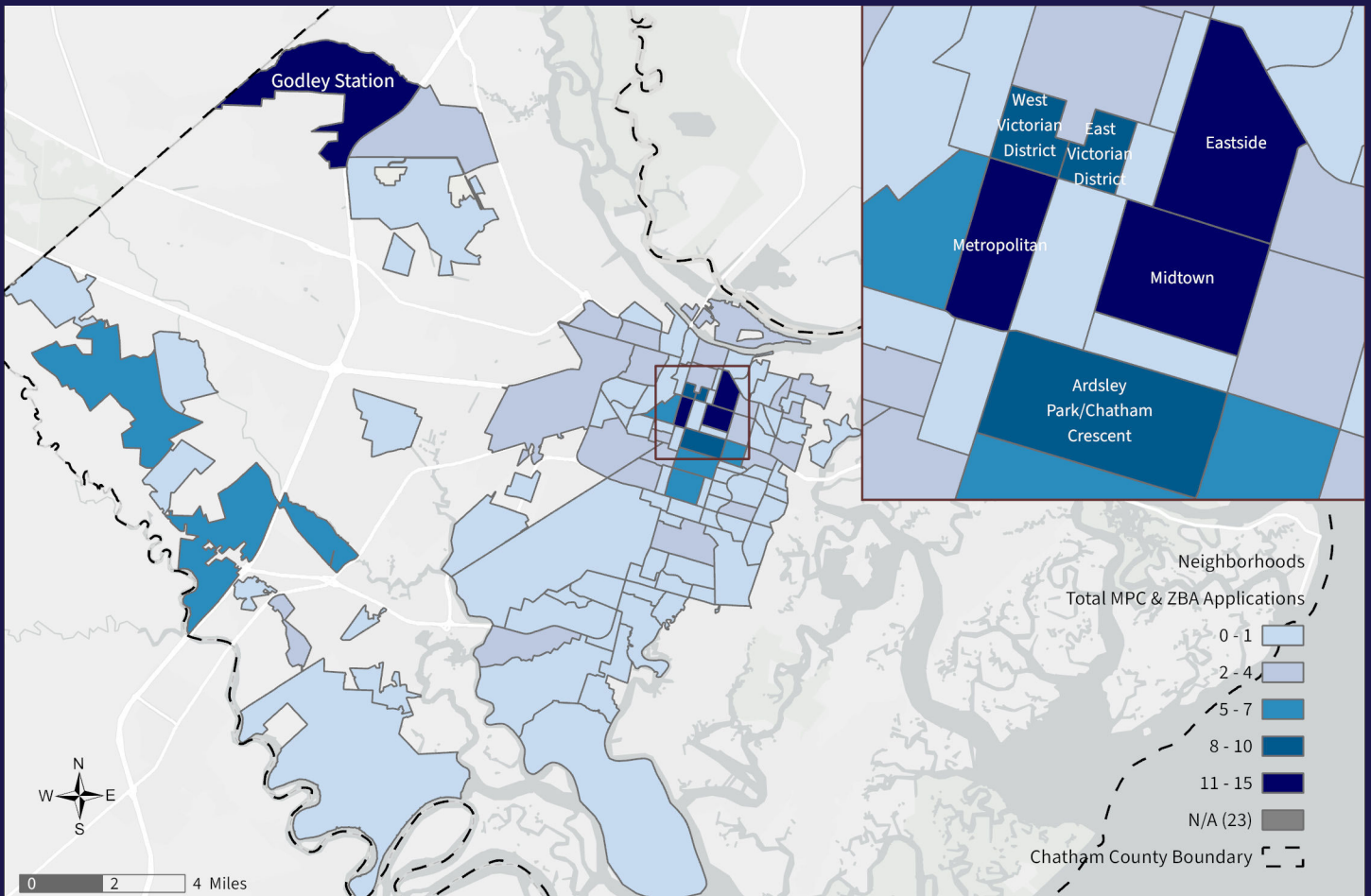
MPC Applications



Zoning Board Applications



MPC & ZBA Applications in Savannah Neighborhoods



Affordable Housing

The MPC strives to promote affordable housing through planning, policy development, and partnerships with organizations like the Chatham County Housing Coalition, the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF), CHSA, Inc. (Community Housing Services Agency), and the Housing Authority of Savannah. It supports initiatives encouraging diverse and equitable housing options, such as zoning recommendations for higher-density developments, mixed-use projects, and accessory dwelling units. The Staff collaborate with local governments, developers, and community organizations to identify housing needs and implement strategies that address affordability challenges.

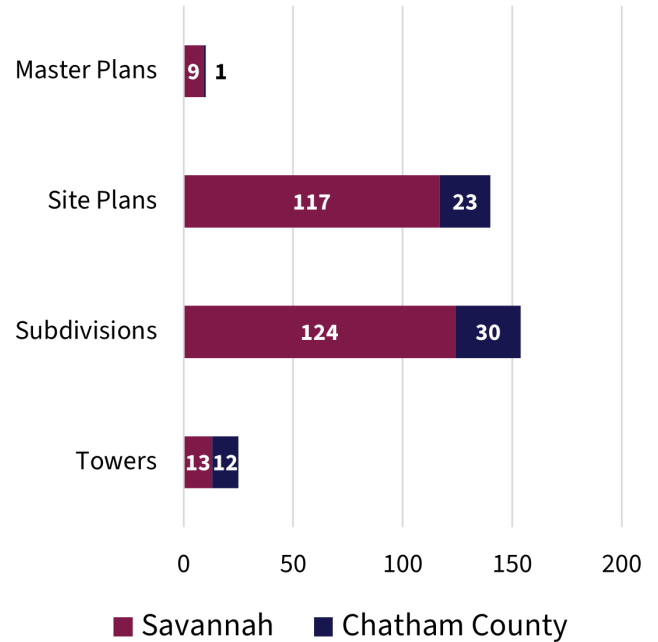
Density Bonus Program

In October 2024, the MPC recommended a zoning text amendment to establish a density bonus program. This program encourages affordable housing development within Savannah's traditional zoning districts by allowing increased density for projects that include affordable units.

By integrating affordable housing into broader land use and transportation planning efforts, the Department works to create sustainable, inclusive neighborhoods across Savannah.

Savannah Local Initiatives gained HPC approvals to construct several affordable housing units in the Cuyler-Brownsville Historic District. MPC Staff had the opportunity to tour one of the completed homes on Lavinia Street in June 2024.

Staff Reviewed Applications



Historic Preservation & Urban Design

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.

In addition, the Department oversees the Conservation Districts which provide a level of protection for the proposed demolition of contributing buildings. They also staff multiple MPC Commissions and Boards, coordinate historic resource identification, assist in drafting National Register nominations, draft and provide revisions to ordinances that affect historic resources, apply for grants, provide training for Boards and the public, and perform Section 106 reviews for the City's Housing Department.



Meet the Team



Jonathon Mellon
Director



Caitlin Chamberlain
Principal Planner



Kelli Mitchell
Senior Planner



Bri Morgan
Admin. Assistant II



485 Applications



70 Inspections

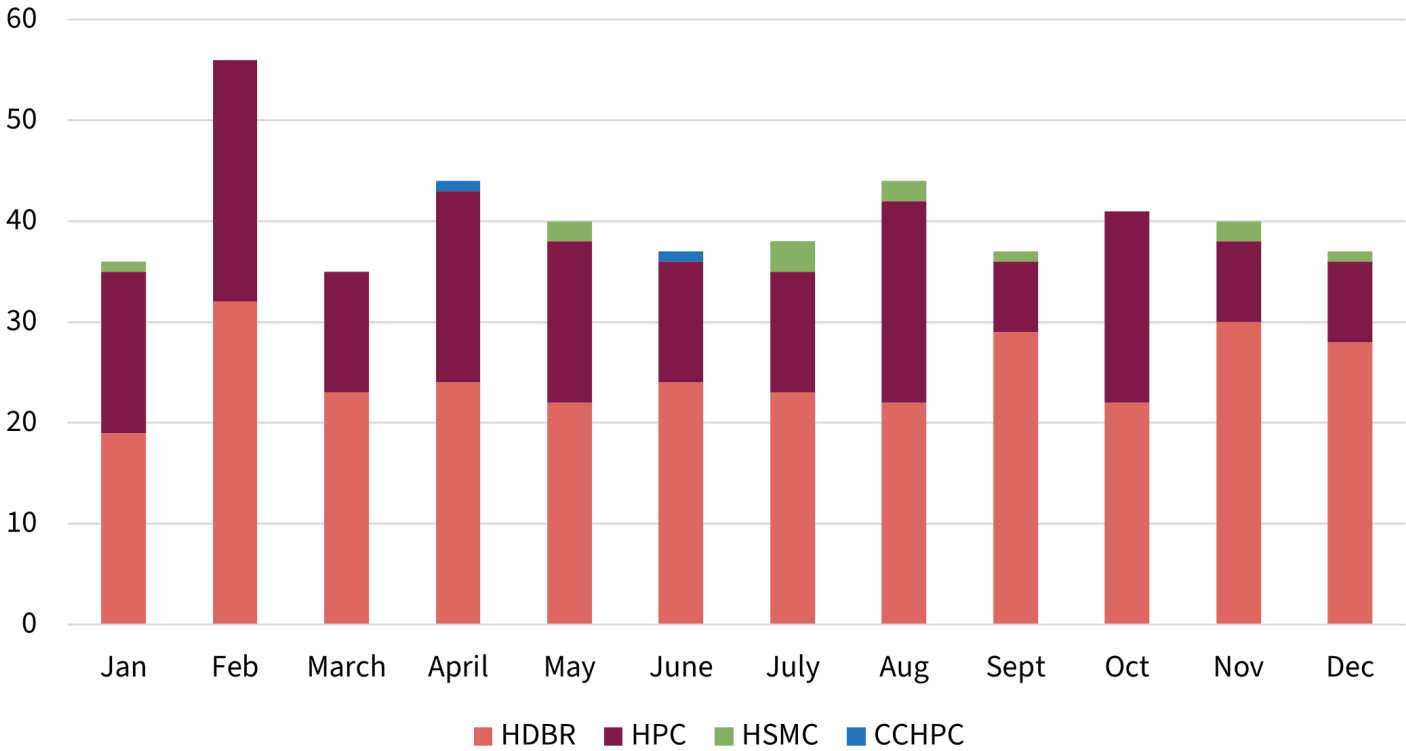


134 Stamped Drawings



400 Mailouts

2024 Board, Commission & Staff Review Applications



HDBR= 298
HPC-Victorian= 46

HPC-Streetcar= 87
HPC-Cuyler-Brownville= 40

HSMC=12
CCHPC=2

Updates & Revisions

Updating Historic District Contributing & Noncontributing Resources

An overall goal of this project is to determine if the period of significance for each district needs to be updated and expanded to incorporate additional resources. There are a number of buildings within each district that are fifty years old or older that are relatively intact but that do not have the same level of protection as contributing resources.

Staff will review each contributing building list to determine when the noncontributing buildings were constructed and if an expansion of the period could be justified. Staff has begun work on updating the contributing building list, starting with the Thomas Streetcar Historic District. The update will address multiple concerns and determine:

1. Contributing status
2. Which buildings have been demolished
3. Construction date for noncontributing buildings

The Olde Pink House, a well-known historical landmark in Savannah, is a good example of traditional stucco on a historic building and reflects what the ordinance requires for true stucco on historic and new buildings.

Ordinance Revisions

Review and amendment of existing ordinances, including definitions, delegations for staff review, and work subject to review by sections. One notable example of an ordinance revision completed in 2024 was the definition of “True Stucco” which was undertaken after considerable consultation with stakeholders and research on how other municipalities handled the use of stucco in local historic overlay districts.

MPC staff determined that the existing ordinance which limited the application / use of stucco to only masonry construction was not in-line with the direction of the National Park Service (NPS) on the use of the material nor with applications that had been undertaken historically on contributing resources in Savannah.



Establishment of New Conservation District Kensington Park-Groveland



As part of the continuing efforts to preserve the built environment within the City of Savannah, MPC staff worked closely with the Kensington Park Community Association over the past two years on the proposal to designate the Kensington Park-Groveland National Register Historic District (2014) as a locally designated Conservation District.

The goal of this important planning tool is to allow for the preservation of the historic character of Savannah’s neighborhoods that are not protected through a local historic district overlay using the zoning ordinance, Sec. 7.15 Conservation Overlay District.

Kensington Park-Groveland is a notable example of a post-war community that reflects the patterns of growth found in Savannah and throughout the nation as

the built environment was increasingly shaped by the automobile.

The neighborhood was established in 1950 on a roughly 160-acre site south of the streetcar neighborhoods that had themselves followed the earlier patterns of development in the Savannah Downtown Historic District.

The neighborhood is defined as well by its collection of houses that were constructed between 1950 and 1968, which are almost all Ranch style on large lots with mature landscaping, including live oak trees. The Kensington Park-Groveland Conservation Overlay District was officially established by the City of Savannah on October 24, 2024. MPC staff will continue to work to identify historic resources that are in-need of protection, including through the use of the Conservation Overlay District tool.

Chatham County



Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission

In 2023, the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) was reestablished with seven members. In 2024, two applications were received for historic site designations. The Jacob Fox Gould House was approved as an officially designated County site, and was the first designated historic site in unincorporated Chatham County since 2019. Southfield Cemetery was also unanimously approved by the County Board of Commissioners in October.

Historic Resources Survey Grant

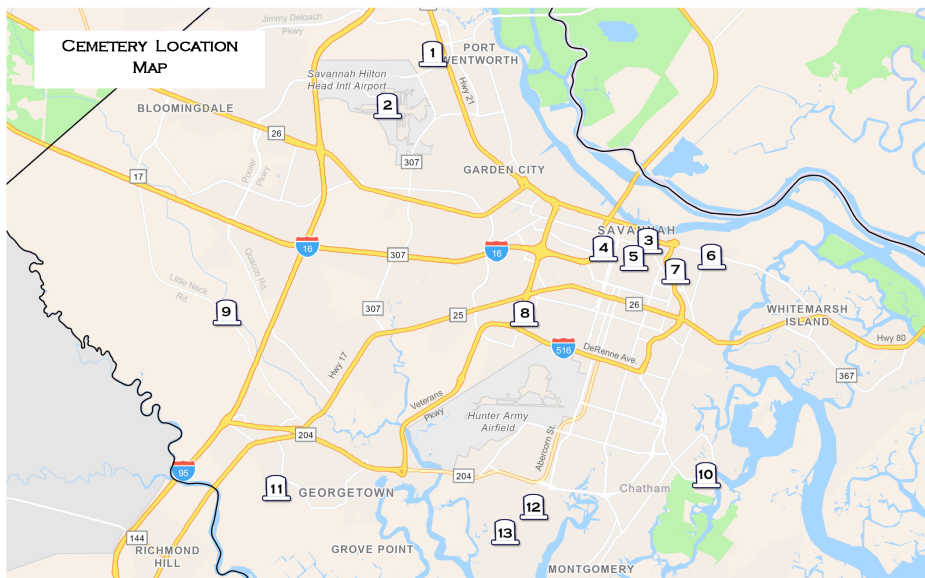
Over the last year, Staff worked as a liaison between Chatham County, The State Historic Preservation Office, and Ethos Preservation and Consulting, who completed the survey work. Staff handled grant administration, communications among all involved parties, and worked closely with the Ethos Preservation and Consulting group on their project drafts and maintaining deadlines. The final deliverables include a report of the survey area and a StoryMap that highlights points of interest.



Sacred Grounds: Untold Resting Places

2025 MPC Calendar

The Historic Preservation Department Staff led the project team to create the 2025 MPC calendar. It was an interdepartmental effort and features a variety of culturally and historically significant cemeteries that receive less attention than sites such as Bonaventure, Laurel Grove, and Colonial Park. The project is part of a larger initiative to document cemeteries in the region for the purpose of creating a comprehensive cemetery inventory.



MAP LEGEND:

1. CHEROKEE HILL BURIAL SITE
2. DOTSON FAMILY / AIRPORT GRAVESITES
3. YAMACRAW BURIAL SITES
4. JEWISH COMMUNITY CEMETERY
5. WHITEFIELD & TAYLOR SQ. EARLY CEMETERIES
6. LEPAGEVILLE
7. HILLCREST CEMETERY (EAST)
8. EVERGREEN CEMETERY
9. BETHAL CEMETERY
10. ISLE OF HOPE CEMETERY
11. SOUTHFIELD CEMETERY
12. HIDDEN CEMETERY
13. CEDAR GROVE CEMETERY

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



NOTE:
MEETING SCHEDULES & PHOTO CREDIT SOURCE DATA
ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
FOR THE MOST CURRENT MEETING SCHEDULE
PLEASE REFER TO THE MPC WEBSITE AT
WWW.THEMPC.ORG

Savannah Area GIS

The mission of Savannah Area Geographic Information System (SAGIS) is to consolidate geospatial information into a central repository, ensuring access for all interested parties while providing professional GIS expertise from the staff of our partner agencies. By centralizing database administration, data distribution, and data sharing within one department, both the City of Savannah and Chatham County can reduce operational costs and share hardware and knowledge. At the heart of SAGIS is an enterprise GIS, which features a read-only database containing over 800 data layers accessible to all departments within the City of Savannah and Chatham County.

To maintain data ownership and integrity, separate editing databases are available for each department, including Public Works, Development Services, Engineering, Water and Sewer, Operations, and Public Safety for both agencies. SAGIS staff are responsible for database management, advanced hardware, data security, and backup services. Smaller municipalities can also participate in the program. By sharing all GIS data developed by each department in an accessible, non-editable format, we eliminate data silos and reduce the duplication of data creation.



Meet the Team



Lara Hall
Director



David Ramsey,
Design & Mapping



Mandy Terkhorn
Senior GIS Analyst



Yahya Khan
GIS Programmer



Veronica Cox
GIS Analyst

2024 Summer Intern: **Avery Young**, GIS Assistant, University of Georgia



350,697
Map Views



6,963 Address Edits
5,573 new addresses added with
an additional 1,390 edits made.

Mapping Services

- Centralized GIS Data distribution hub for local government agencies and citizens.
- Develop and maintain department specific mapping applications for City and County Staff.
- Provide subject matter expertise in GIS for the Chatham County Communications Center and all public safety agencies in Chatham County.
- Address and street naming authority for City of Savannah and Unincorporated Chatham County as well as additional support for municipalities as needed.
- Annexations and record of changes for all municipalities within Chatham County.
- Create all petition maps and labels for each board supported by the MPC.



46,239
Internal
Map Views



35
Zoning
Map Changes

Community Resources

Attendance Zones

SAGIS collaborated with the Savannah Chatham Public School System to create current GIS map boundaries of school attendance zones for all public schools in the county.

43 Attendance Zones Edited

Elections Office Updates

SAGIS supports the Chatham County Board of Elections by maintaining current precincts and polling places shared on the Chatham County Elections Map Viewer.

7 Precincts/Polls Edited

5 Maps Created

1 New Precinct

SAGIS Director Lara Hall was a panel member in the GA Southern Distinguished Lecture Series with Dr. Robert L. Santos, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, to discuss how census data is used in southeastern Georgia to aid local economic and community development.

Open Data & Map Viewers

The SAGIS Open Data site makes local government GIS data available for citizens and businesses to use or download at no cost.

182,791 Open data views & downloads

GIS Education & Training

Community outreach, custom training, and guest lectures when requested throughout the year.

2024
STONE
DISTINGUISHED
LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Robert L. Santos,
Director of the U.S.
Census Bureau

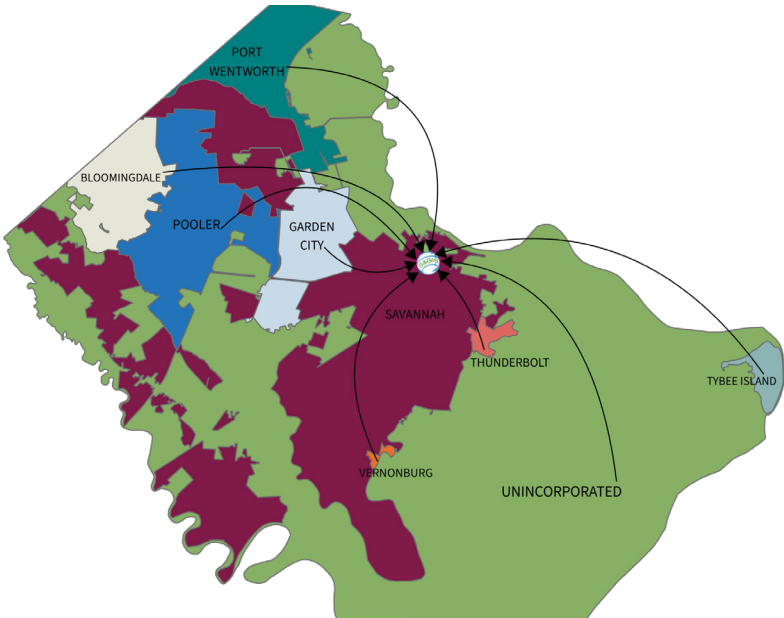
September 5-6

Keynote Lecture	Community Sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday, September 5, 2024• 10:00 am• Statesboro Campus• Russell Union Ballroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday, September 6, 2024• 9:00-12:30 PM• Armstrong Campus• University Hall, Room 121

Municipality Collaboration

SAGIS is a collaborative initiative involving:

- MPC
- Chatham County
- City of Savannah
- City of Tybee Island
- City of Pooler
- University System of Georgia
- Chatham Emergency Management Agency
- Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport



GIS Day



GIS Day Savannah is an annual event held in November. Our goal is to introduce students to the world of Geographic Information Sciences through hands-on activities, meeting GIS professionals, and viewing GIS work completed right here in our community. During their scheduled field trip, students rotate through 2 workshops and the GIS Map Gallery.

In two workshops, students are introduced to ArcGIS Online, solve a series of geographic questions, and learn to use a compass and handheld GPS unit by navigating the geocache course with points given to determine distances and bearings.

Students are given the opportunity to meet a variety of GIS professionals in the GIS Map Gallery. Each sponsor booth around the room display content related to GIS, where students are encouraged to engage with GIS professionals. This is a great way to learn to think critically about maps, analyze their vital elements and learn more about the many components of GIS!

10 Committee Members, 56 Volunteers, and 22 Sponsors helped to make this event possible in addition to SAGIS Staff.

Department Collaboration

County Historic Resources Map

SAGIS Staff collaborated with Historic Preservation Staff to map Chatham County Historic Resources survey area.

CORE MPO Planning Products

Created a map for CORE MPO 2024 Congestion Management Plan showing vehicular crashes in Bryan, Effingham, and Chatham County.

Mapped financially feasible projects 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Petition Maps & Labels

Development Services Plat Review

Review of Development Services plats and master plans for addressing and approval of new street names



Transportation & 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 portions of Southern Bryan County, including Richmond Hill. CORE MPO engages in multi-modal planning, meaning that planning efforts address multiple forms of transportation, including highway, public transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and more. 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.

CORE MPO was initiated in 1963 and is housed at the MPC. The MPO is responsible for compliance with all federal planning requirements overseeing many grants and projects, as well as facilitating all meetings. The 1962 and 1974 Federal-Aid Highway Acts established a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) planning process formalized the process by creating MPOs for all urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000.



Meet the Team



Wykoda Wang
Director



Asia Hernton
Senior Planner



Anna B. McQuarrie
Planner



Kieron Coffield
Admin. Assistant



Sadie Esch-Laurent
Asst. Planner



Programmed over \$2 BILLION
in transportation projects over the
next 25 years in the 2050 MTP.



\$1.47 Billion
Highway Projects



\$287 Million
**Transit & Capital
Improvements**



\$210 Million
**Operational
Improvements**

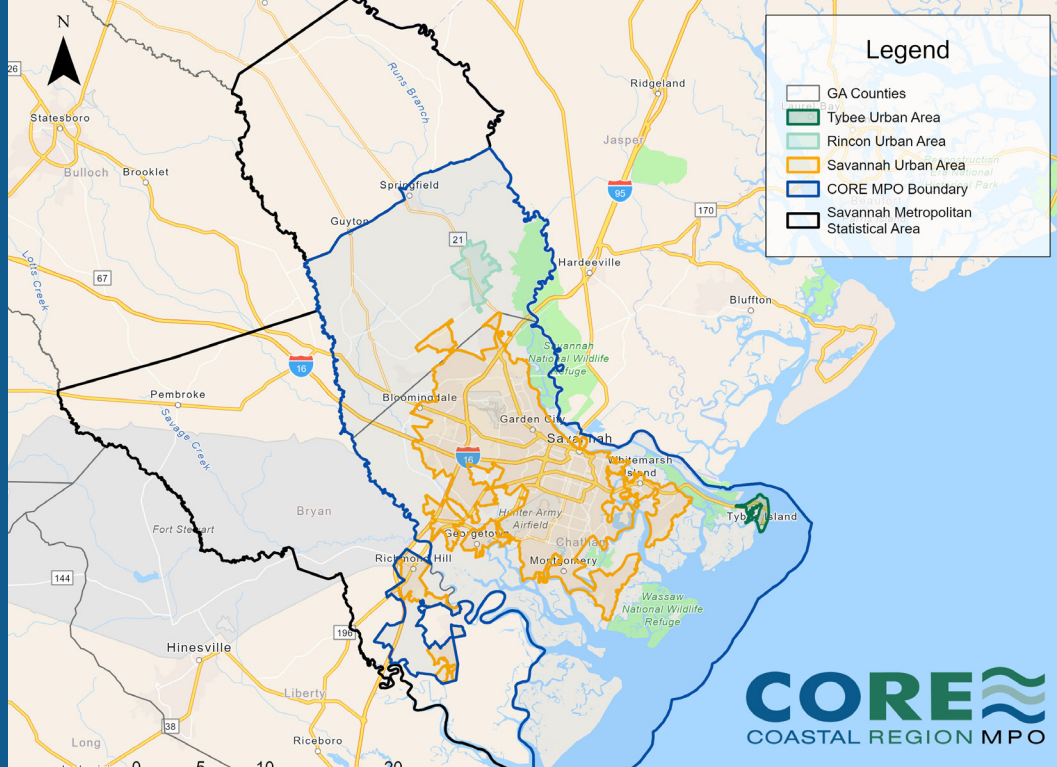


\$137 Million
**Highway
Maintenance**



\$35 Million
**Bike & Pedestrian
Projects**

MPA, MOU & Bylaws



The change of the 2020 Census Savannah Urban Area triggered updates of the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and Bylaws. CORE MPO Staff completed this process after two years of extensive outreach, meetings, and discussions.

Adoption Dates:

- **MPA Boundary:** Adopted by the CORE MPO Board on February 28, 2024 and approved by the Governor of Georgia.
- **MOU:** Adopted by CORE MPO Board May 3, 2024, executed by local voting members May-August 2024, and executed by GDOT October 2024
- **Revised Bylaws & Structure:** Adopted in June 2024

New committees created in this process:

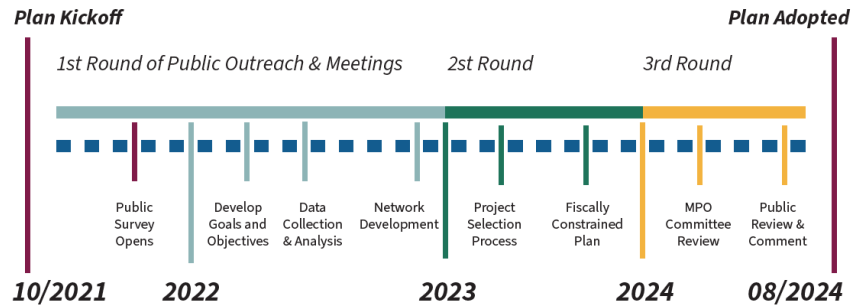
1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
2. Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee (combined the Citizens Advisory Committee and Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation)

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

The Moving Forward Together 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was completed in 2024 by collaborative effort of CORE MPO staff, SAGIS, MPC IT, and Development Services. The MTP continues the framework of the previous plans and emphasizes a multi-modal performance-based planning approach to transportation planning to meet the travel demands over the next 26 years, while taking into consideration the region's goals and financial capacity. The Plan identifies existing and anticipated transportation issues and proposes solutions and opportunities that are both financially feasible and supportive of the community priorities.

Plan Highlights:

- Incorporated resilience and equity in project prioritization.
- Increased the set asides for bike, pedestrian & transit projects.
- Emphasized outreach through social media, website, surveys, brochures, and community pop-up events.



The 2050 MTP was adopted August 15, 2024.



Plans & Studies

Congestion Management Process

- Updated and adopted in June 2024
- Collaborative effort with SAGIS
- Incorporated bike and pedestrian data
- Identified and proposed solutions to congestion problems
- Data was used for Needs Assessment of projects in 2050 MTP

Title VI & Participation Plan

- Updated and adopted October 2024
- CORE MPO staff maintain the Plan with oversight of TEPIAC
- Updated measures of effectiveness with quantitative and qualitative data

2025 Funded Studies

1. SR 26/US 80 Scoping Study Phase II
2. Urban Flood Model Phase II
3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Study

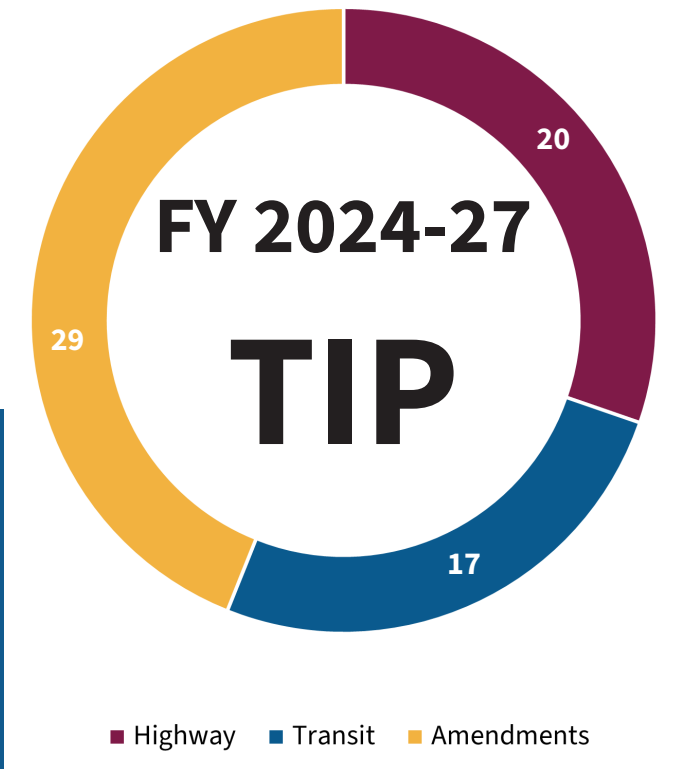
\$720,000
in Federal & Local Funds for
Transportation Studies

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP is a short-term, multi-modal plan that documents the programming of transportation funding and projects that will be implemented in the near term. The TIP plans for a 4-year timeline.

Multi-modal highlights:

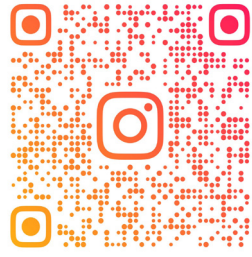
- Truman Linear Park Trail – Phase II-B
- I-16 from Gwinnett Street to Chatham Parkway – NEVI Charging Station
- Green Island Road Multipurpose Path off Diamond Causeway



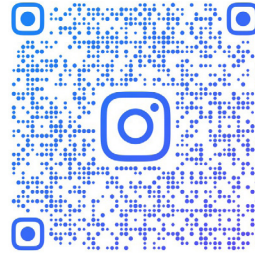
Scan QR Codes to Learn More



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CERN_MPC

Instagram Accounts





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