

Project Purpose

The City of Pooler, in cooperation with the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO), is undertaking the SR 26/US 80 Corridor study (PI No. 0018344) to identify and prioritize short term (0-5 years) and long term (5+ years) improvement projects needed for the SR 26/US 80 corridor to operate at an acceptable level of service. The study will result in a prioritized list of recommendations to facilitate the planning and programming of projects through the CORE MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) process. The study will also help justify the future programming of projects in the CORE MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and *Mobility 2045* Plan.

Meaningful engagement of the community is critical to ensure that residents, businesses, community leaders, and other stakeholders have an opportunity to actively participate in the process and support the final project recommendations. This Stakeholder Engagement Plan serves as a guide for the Project Team and should be considered a living document that can be adjusted as needed to ensure public participation goals are met or exceeded.

To leverage the intellectual capital of the community, the approach includes engaging the following stakeholders: **Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Georgia Ports Authority (GPA), the City of Bloomingdale, the City of Pooler, the City of Garden City, the City of Savannah (“the Cities”), Chatham County, CORE MPO, Chatham Area Transit, Bike/Walk Savannah, SEDA, Pooler Chamber of Commerce, Savannah/Hilton Head Airport, Gulfstream, FedEx, and JCB.**

Public Participation Goals and Process

The SR 26/US 80 Corridor Study will adhere to the requirements and recommendations outlined in the CORE MPO's Public Participation Plan. The goals of public participation for the SR 26/US 80 Corridor Study are to:

- Raise the level of awareness of how stakeholders can become involved in the Study
- Ensure that those interested in the study have adequate, appropriate, and meaningful opportunities to participate
- Utilize the Stakeholder Advisory Team to reach interested parties in the community and within the planning area

Stakeholder Advisory Team

Early in the process, a Stakeholder Advisory Team (SAT) will be established to provide input and feedback regarding the development of the SR 26/US 80 Corridor Study. This group can also act as ambassadors for the project by sharing information with their constituent groups and encouraging members of the community to participate in the planning process.

The SAT will consist of key stakeholders, such as agencies, local government partners, business owners, and relevant community organizations. A list of the SAT members and organizations is shown in **Table 1** on the following page.

The project team will hold up to two meetings with the SAT. The first meeting will invite stakeholders to share their perspectives on existing challenges in the corridor as well as their vision for its future. This meeting will be held during the data gathering and needs assessment phase. At the second meeting, a variety of potential alternatives will be shared with the SAT to discuss opportunities and challenges, and this meeting will help inform the final recommendations for the corridor. Both SAT meetings will be held virtually, in-person, or as a hybrid in-person/virtual format. The project team will manage meeting logistics, invitations to SAT members, and prepare meeting summaries. Additional updates and information will be shared throughout the study with the SAT as needed.



Table 1: SAT Members and Organizations

Organization	Name	Email	Phone
City of Pooler	Robbie Byrd	Rbyrdjr@pooler-ga.gov	912-748-4800
	Leon Davenport	paulleondavenport@gmail.com	912-644-0285
CORE MPO	Wykoda Wang	wangw@thempc.org	912-651-1466
Chatham County	Pamela Bernard	pbernard@chathamcounty.org	912-652-7819
City of Bloomingdale	Charles Akridge	cakridge@bloomingdale-ga.gov	912-748-0970
City of Garden City	Scott Robider	srobider@gardencity-ga.gov	912-966-7777
City of Savannah	Steve Henry	shenry@savannahga.gov	912-525-3100
Georgia Ports Authority (GPA)	Jamie McCurry	jmccurry@gaports.com	912-963-5562
Georgia DOT – Planning	Ned Green	ngreen@dot.ga.gov	404-631-1806
Georgia DOT – District 5	Joseph Capello	jcapello@dot.ga.gov	912-530-4410
	Troy Pittman	trpittman@dot.ga.gov	912-651-2144
Georgia DOT – Research Freight Group	Radney Simpson	rsimpson@dot.ga.gov	404-631-1785
	Joseph Longo	Joseph.longo@dot.gov	
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Olivia Lewis	Olivia.lewis@dot.gov	
Chatham Area Transit	Faye DiMassimo	Faye.DiMassimo@catchacat.org	912-629-3925
Pooler Chamber of Commerce	Pam Southard	Pam.s@poolerchamber.com	912-748-0110
Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA)	Jesse Dillon	jdillon@seda.org	912-447-9704
Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport	Mark Denmark	mdenmark@flysav.com	
FedEx	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>	
Gulfstream	Mark Bennett	Mark.Bennett@gulfstream.com	
JCB	Ken Bianco	Ken.bianco@jcb.com	912-247-9869
Bike Walk Savannah	Caila Brown	caila@bikewalksavannah.org	912-228-3096



Community Engagement

Agency Coordination Meetings

Up to six (6) interagency meetings are included in the project scope that are intended to be small group or individual meetings. Small group or individual meetings allow a more focused discussion on specific geographic areas or topics of interest. This is particularly important as SR 26/US 80 provides critical east-west connections and crosses several municipal boundaries including the Cities of Pooler, Bloomingdale, Garden City, and Savannah. Anticipated meetings include:

- Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)
- Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) and Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA)
- The Cities
- CORE MPO and Chatham County
- Alternative Transportation Modes – Chatham Area Transit (CAT) and Bike Walk Savannah
- Businesses – Pooler Chamber of Commerce, Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, Gulfstream, FedEx, and JCB

Public Information Open House

One Public Information Open House (PIOH) will be hosted by the project team to seek feedback on a draft list of recommendations and concepts for the SR 26/US 80 corridor. The PIOH will be open to the larger community including those who live and work in the communities served by SR 26/US 80. A survey will also be available to seek feedback through the project website. Notification of the PIOH will include a media release, legal ad prepared for use by the City of Pooler, and collaboration with the Stakeholder Advisory Team for distribution through existing local government venues. Social media posts will be developed for use by the City of Pooler and other stakeholders.

Online Engagement

The project team will assist the City of Pooler with a project-specific website to be hosted on the City's website. This website will serve as a hub for all information, project documentation, findings, and schedules for the study. The website will be regularly updated with information to keep the public informed of the study's progress.

The project team will also prepare up to two online surveys to capture targeted feedback from the overall community. The first survey will focus on the identification of existing challenges along the corridor. The second survey will coincide with the PIOH to seek feedback on the alternatives.

Email Updates

Early in the process, a database will be established to be used for email notifications to engage and inform residents and stakeholders. The Project Team will send out regular updates to invite stakeholders to participate through surveys and/or meetings. An email sign-up form will be available on the project website.



CORE MPO Engagement

Informational presentations will be provided to the CORE MPO Policy Board during two major project milestones. The first meeting will be focused on Existing Conditions while the second meeting will be focused on Final Recommendations. These informational presentations may also be provided to the CORE MPO subcommittees listed below upon request of the MPC/CORE MPO.

- Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)
- Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee (EDFAC)