

**RESOLUTION BY THE MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MACORTS) POLICY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) must be adopted by the MACORTS Policy Committee and,

WHEREAS, the Technical Coordinating Committee has reviewed the technical merit of the elements of the FY 2026 UPWP and has recommended the adoption of the final draft:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MACORTS Policy Committee adopts the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program in its present form for submission to the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the MACORTS Policy Committee approves the proposed planning projects outlined in the 'Unfunded Section' of the FY 2026 UPWP should any of them be selected to receive funding. All member counties of MACORTS acknowledge and resolve to provide the necessary local match requirement for the completion of these projects, if funded by the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study Policy Committee at their meeting held on May 28, 2025.



Kelly Girtz, MACORTS Policy Committee Chairman

May 28, 2025



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Bruce Lonnee  
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee Chairperson

May 28, 2025

# **MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

## **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FY - 2026**

**ADOPTED  
May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Prepared by:  
Athens-Clarke County Planning Department**

**In Cooperation with:  
The Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway  
Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Madison County,  
& Oconee County**

*The opinions, findings, and conclusions in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the Department of Transportation, State of Georgia, the Federal Highway Administration, or Federal Transit Administration.*

*No person in the United States, shall, on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, disability, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination by the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) membership, staff, or agents.*

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# **INTRODUCTION**

## **Explanation of Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

The FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) describes the transportation planning activities proposed to be conducted from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Work is performed in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding dated June 12, 2013 between the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, the County of Oconee, the county of Madison, the county of Oglethorpe, the county of Jackson, the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center, the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department, and the Georgia Department of Transportation that details the roles and responsibilities of each agency.

The FY 2026 UPWP details the plans and programs developed in previous planning programs. Areas of the work program concentrate on developing the information, data, and procedures that are necessary to maintain a viable and effective transportation planning process. The program is organized into six major work elements. The six work elements categories are:

- I. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION
- II. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
- III. DATA COLLECTION
- IV. SYSTEM PLANNING
- V. TRANSIT PLANNING
- VI. COMPLETE STREETS

## **MPO Planning Process**

The metropolitan planning organization was formed in March 1969 with the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Athens, Clarke County, and the State Highway Department of Georgia (later renamed the Georgia Department of Transportation). The northern portion of Oconee County and the southern portion of Madison County were later incorporated into the study area. Athens-Clarke County Planning Department was designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study Area (MACORTS). The MACORTS area presently includes Athens-Clarke County and portions of Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Jackson Counties. However, Oglethorpe and Jackson Counties decided not to be active participants in the MACORTS transportation planning process. A map of the MPO area is included in Appendix A.

The MPO is responsible for administering the comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous performance-based multimodal transportation planning process that takes into consideration resiliency needs as required by the United States Department of Transportation under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) enacted on November 15, 2021 and as previously outlined in Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) enacted on

December 4, 2015. The structured transportation planning process is designed to be accomplished in a timely and coordinated manner as guided by the MACORTS Memorandum of Understanding dated June 12, 2013 (see Appendix B). This agreement spells out the responsibilities of all parties involved in transportation planning in the MACORTS study area, including locally elected officials, government administrator(s), public and private sector technical experts involved with transportation issues, and citizen advisors. The Athens-Clarke County Planning Department provides the staff support for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Participation is coordinated through the various committees organized to provide input to the transportation planning process. The MACORTS bylaws are included in Appendix C for more information regarding the committee process. To satisfy the Performance Management requirements of the FAST Act, MACORTS and all the MPO's in the state of Georgia entered into an agreement as to how the performance management process would be coordinated between the Georgia Department of Transportation and the MPO's (see Appendix D).

#### Relationship between UPWP and MTP

The UPWP will guide transportation planning activities to support the vision and goals of MACORTS as expressed in the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as part of FAST Act implementation and performance-based planning. The over-arching goal of MACORTS, as expressed in the MTP, is to provide for and maintain a multimodal transportation system that serves the needs of all citizens and provides efficient, safe, and convenient mobility, encourages desirable land use and development, promotes economic development, and minimizes adverse social and environmental impacts. The 2050 Metropolitan Goals are as follows:

1. Establishing a safe and accessible transportation system for both motorized and non-motorized users.
2. Creating a resilient infrastructure system capable of withstanding and adapting to severe conditions.
3. Developing an efficient transportation system that ensures the timely and safe movement of people, goods and services.
4. Maintaining an accessible and equitable transportation system that serves all members of the traveling public in an accessible, equitable and safe fashion.
5. Provide a sustainable transportation system that protects and enhances the natural environment, and improves the quality of life for residents.
6. Continue to develop a transportation system that provides connectivity to surrounding communities.
7. Maintain a transportation system that continues to promote economic growth and health. This includes movement of people, goods and services, in addition to access to employment centers and freight traffic.
8. Continue to provide a complementary transportation that enhances local land uses.
9. Maintain an operationally efficient transportation system.
10. Provide a transportation network that enhances regional accessibility for travel and tourism, and promotes local tourism industry.

#### Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Planning Factors



All endeavors undertaken by MACORTS will address as many of the planning factors encouraged by IJJA as possible. Table V shows the work elements of the FY 26 UPWP and their relationship to the Planning Factors identified in IJJA. The Planning Factors are as follows:

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and for freight.
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth, housing and economic development patterns.
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
7. Promote efficient system management and operation.
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
9. Improve transportation system resiliency and reliability.
10. Reduce (or mitigate) the storm water impacts of the surface transportation.
11. Enhance travel and tourism.

#### MACORTS FY 2025 Accomplishments

- Developed, held public comment sessions, stakeholder meetings and finally adopted the 2050 MTP in October 2024.
- MPO personnel attended classes / conferences / webinars / virtual meetings: Various Webinars in MPO subject areas.
- The FY 25 UPWP was administered through the MACORTS process and adopted in May 2024.
- Developed and adopted amendments to the FY 24-27 TIP and 2045 & 2050 MTP.
- MACORTS adopted annual safety targets and incorporated them into the 2050 MTP and 24-27 TIP in coordination with GDOT and FHWA.
- Transit Asset Management Plan and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) performance measures and targets for FY 2025 were administratively modified into the MTP and TIP documents.

#### MACORTS Priorities for FY 2026

MACORTS continues to strive to complete all work elements listed in the UPWP in an efficient and effective manner and transition to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) through coordination with the Georgia Department of Transportation and other transportation planning partners. The MPO will work to maximize federal metropolitan transportation planning funding while maintaining the ability to meet the federal and state requirements applicable to all MPO's in Georgia.

During FY 2026, there will be specific focus on the following priorities:

- **Safety** – Safety was the number one goal in the recently adopted 2050 MTP and this was reflected through public comment, as well as stakeholder sessions. MACORTS has, and will continue to adopt Safety Performance Management Targets annually. This safety priority extends to Bicycle/Pedestrian activities as well.
- **Performance Management Implementation** – MACORTS will continue to implement performance-based planning and programming. The MPO will continue to coordinate with FHWA, GDOT, GAMPO, MPO members, and other planning partners to implement performance management.
- **Metropolitan Transportation Plan & Transportation Improvement Program** – MACORTS will administer the 2050 MTP and TIP during FY 2026. The 2050 MTP and TIP will be amended and /or modified as necessary during FY 2026.
- **Congestion Management** – As one of the national goals, it is appropriate for this to remain a priority for MACORTS. During FY 2026, MACORTS will implement performance measures and targets for safety, pavement and bridge condition, system reliability, and freight movement.
- **Freight** – In FY 2026, MACORTS will continue to work with and support FHWA – Georgia Division, GDOT, and their planning partners across the state in monitoring and addressing freight issues in the MACORTS region.
- **Equity** – As reflected in the goals of the recently adopted 2050 MTP, in FY 2026, MACORTS will continue to collaborate and participate with the community MACORTS serves and our planning partners to establish a system that is safe, accessible, affordable, reliable, and sustainable for everyone. MACORTS understands the importance of overcoming existing disparities and achieve transportation equity.
- **Economy** – One of the main points of emphasis in the 2050 MTP was the importance of encouraging economic growth in the MACORTS region. As such, MACORTS will continue to support infrastructure outcomes that stimulate economic growth, productivity and competitiveness and improve mobility and accessibility.
- **Climate Change** – Environmental stewardship is a critical goal of MACORTS, and the proper maintenance and protection of natural resources through sustainable infrastructure is a priority in FY 2026.

- Resiliency – In FY26, MACORTS will continue to consult with emergency and stormwater management agencies on infrastructure projects. As well as identify infrastructure projects in the vicinity of flood zones, waterways and other natural resources.

## **SECTION I – MACORTS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

### **1.1 PROGRAM COORDINATION**

#### **PURPOSE**

This element provides resources to allow planning staff to examine projects and provide data, as resources permit, on projects and studies not otherwise identified in the UPWP. MACORTS staff will work with the Federal Highway Administration, (FHWA), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO) to ensure regional planning cooperation. MACORTS will evaluate program coordination in all our annual priorities.

#### **PREVIOUS WORK**

During the last fiscal year, local planning staff was requested to provide a broad array of services. Services include, but are not limited to, the prompt response to requests for information such as upcoming planning activities and projects and future planning efforts as related to the 2050 MTP. The performance of these services is an ongoing MACORTS activity.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Perform requested services related to the MACORTS program, as resources allow. These services include, but are not limited to, fulfilling citizen or government official/staff requests for information or various data. Funds may be used from this element to employ an intern to assist with data synthesis when necessary. Also, staff will inform and educate the public through the news media concerning the MACORTS planning process and its products. This element also allows for participating in and providing information for planning activities in and beyond the MACORTS region conducted by others to foster regional planning coordination.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

1. Coordinate work among local government officials fostering regional planning cooperation in all MPO work.
2. Work with members of the Technical Coordinating Committee and Policy Committee focusing on the need for stronger regional cooperation and communication to support performance-based planning and programming.
3. Monitor and prioritize work program progress with internal MPO staff.
4. Provide requested data to officials, public, and others.

5. MPO staff will participate in regional planning activities performed by other agencies, as available.
6. Process any available Census data that will affect the MPO boundary and/or function.
7. Coordinate with counties' staff and leadership to expand the MPO boundary if indicated by Census results.
8. Work with GDOT & FHWA partners to incorporate the priorities of equity, economy, climate change, resiliency, and covid-19 relief in our planning efforts.

#### RESULTING PRODUCTS

- Well-coordinated planning efforts between MPO staff and MPO membership.
- MPO staff contributing to regional boards / committees both within and outside of the MPO region when available.

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Dept.

#### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Dept.

#### COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$16,736.69	\$0.00
Georgia DOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$732.23	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$2,719.71	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$732.23	\$0.00
Total	\$20,943.17	\$0.00

## 1.2 OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MACORTS)

### PURPOSE

The Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) administers the ongoing transportation planning process for the study area that includes the southern portion of Madison County, Athens-Clarke County, the northern portion of Oconee County, and tiny portions of Oglethorpe and Jackson Counties. MACORTS was created to comply with federal requirements that a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive performance-based multimodal transportation planning process takes into consideration resiliency needs would be the basis for the continued expenditure of federal funds for transportation in urbanized areas with a population of over 50,000 persons. Participation is coordinated through the various committees organized to provide input to the transportation planning process. These committees include:

Policy Committee – the ultimate decision-making body of MACORTS, whose responsibilities include setting priorities among projects;

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) – provides technical input and guidance to the transportation planning process; and

### PREVIOUS WORK

This is a continuing major element of the MACORTS annual work program. Specific administrative accomplishments include – grant reporting, meeting minutes, committee materials, and agenda preparation. Administrative tasks required as part of the day-to-day operations of MACORTS are included within the element.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Included in this task are the resources to allow appropriate Athens-Clarke County Planning Department staff members to attend meetings of the relevant planning committees and to provide the necessary administrative support to help ensure their efficient functioning. Time and funds are included in this element to ensure that activities associated with the planning process are carried out in an efficient and cost-effective manner. As in FY 25, committee meetings may be held virtually as necessary or at the direction of those committees in alignment with the MACORTS Participation Plan. The MPO annual priorities of safety, performance management implementation, MTP and TIP development, congestion management, freight, equity, economy, climate change, and resiliency are focus areas for the FY 2026.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Serve as administrative staff for the Technical Coordinating Committee meetings.
2. Serve as administrative staff for the Policy Committee meeting.

3. Coordinate information to public through media.
4. Prepare minutes, agendas and committee materials.
5. Set up and manage committee and other meetings either in-person or in virtual platform
6. Manage and process grants (5303 & PL)
7. Serve as MPO staff liaison between the federal, state, and local transportation planning partners.
8. Staff will modify operations/planning practices to address concerns identified during a Certification Review or Self Certification process.
9. Work with GDOT & FHWA partners to incorporate the priorities of equity, economy, climate change, resiliency and covid-19 relief in our planning efforts.

#### RESULTING PRODUCTS

Specific products from this work element include, but are not limited to:

Policy Committee minutes  
 Technical Coordinating Committee minutes  
 Minutes for other committees, as resources permit  
 Handouts and mail-outs (hardcopy & digital)  
 PL quarterly reports and reimbursement requests  
 Correspondence as required  
 Annual Performance Report, as required  
 Support for special committees, as resources permit

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department

#### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Dept.

#### COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$92,492.22	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County PL Match (3.5%)	\$4,046.53	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County PL Match (13%)	\$15,029.99	\$0.00
Oconee County PL Match (3.5%)	\$4,046.53	\$0.00
Total	\$115,615.28	\$0.00

## 1.3 TRAINING / EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

### PURPOSE

This element allows staff to attend relevant classes/conferences. This allows staff to remain current on the latest transportation planning theory and gain skills that will benefit the MPO. Registration and other course expenses are acceptable expenses covered by this element. Prior approval from Georgia Department of Transportation is required for classes/events not included in the Project Description below.

### PREVIOUS WORK

Continuing staff education is an ongoing MACORTS planning activity. During FY 2025, the following classes / conferences were attended by MPO personnel:

- Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO)
- Various Webinars on safety, equity, environmental justice, micromobility, electric vehicle infrastructure, Vision Zero, sustainability, technology, transit-oriented development.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

MPO staff shall submit a written request for any class/conference/event not included in the list below (e-mail is acceptable) to GDOT describing any class/conference they wish to attend and provide an estimate of anticipated associated expenditures. GDOT will then review the request and respond in writing.

MACORTS Staff typically attend the following events each year. Approval of the final version of this document includes the approval of attendance of these events by GDOT. Staff could attend the following events: Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO) meetings and conferences, Georgia Transit Association Annual Conference, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Conference, New Partners for Smart Growth conference, Tools of the Trade Conference, National Highway Institute classes, National Transit Institute classes, Georgia Planning Association Conference, American Planning Association Conference, and GDOT and/or FHWA sponsored classes/seminars.

#### Activities

1. Attend seminars, conference, and meetings, as available and relevant.
2. Attend other relevant training / conferences, as they are available.

### RESULTING PRODUCTS

Successful Training for MPO staff

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department

### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department.

COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$12,450.86	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County PL Match (3.5%)	\$544.73	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County PL Match (13%)	\$2,023.27	\$0.00
Oconee County PL Match (3.5%)	\$544.73	\$0.00
Total	\$15,563.58	\$0.00



## 1.4 EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

### PURPOSE

This element allows staff to purchase and maintain needed equipment including computers. The MPO may purchase computers, software, and peripherals under this element as well as hardware / software maintenance and software upgrades, as needed. This element will also include computer subscription services including those required for the MACORTS website, digital data needs, virtual meeting needs, and miscellaneous office supply expenses.

Minor expenditures for the maintenance of traffic counters purchased previously by MACORTS will be included in this element. Maintenance and repair of this equipment will allow for continued availability of traffic count information within the MPO area.

### PREVIOUS WORK

During the first half of FY 2025, funds were expended for miscellaneous supplies and to new software for the MACORTS website.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Upon deciding that a new item is needed, and it is of significant cost, planning staff shall submit a written request to GDOT describing the desired equipment and explaining why it is needed. GDOT will then review the request and respond in writing. For purchases that have a unit cost of over \$5,000, FHWA will also have to approve the purchase.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Repair of equipment, as necessary.
2. Replacement of equipment, as necessary.
3. Purchase supplies to carry out MPO activities.
4. Keep website licensing, hosting, etc. up-to-date.
5. Purchasing of equipment and/or subscriptions to enable staff to hold virtual meetings, as needed.

### RESULTING PRODUCTS

Purchases including, but not limited to the following:  
Website licensing, hosting, etc.  
Replacement &/or Repair of Equipment  
Miscellaneous Supplies

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department in coordination with GDOT and the Athens-Clarke County Information Technology (for the purchase of computer equipment for MPO use)

TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Dept.

COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$11,451.42	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$501.00	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$2,862.85	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$501.00	\$0.00
Total	\$14,314.27	\$0.00

## 1.5 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

### PURPOSE

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the compilation of MACORTS planning efforts scheduled by local planning staff for each fiscal year. The preparation of the UPWP is required for the MPO to receive planning funds.

### PREVIOUS WORK

The preparation of the UPWP is an ongoing MACORTS planning activity. The FY 25 UPWP was developed, adopted, and amended through the MACORTS process.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The UPWP document includes short descriptions of task elements, work products, responsible participants, and an identification of funding sources. The proposed UPWP undergoes review by the relevant federal and state agencies as well as committees that comprise the 3-C transportation planning process, resulting in its adoption by the MACORTS Policy Committee. The product is a contract between Athens-Clarke County and GDOT for the accomplishment of those transportation work elements included in the adopted UPWP for FY 2026.

MACORTS will continue to administer the performance-based planning transportation planning process during FY 2026. Amendments to the UPWP are reviewed by the FHWA, FTA, GDOT, and MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and approved by the MACORTS Policy Committee (PC). No public involvement is required for amendments to the UPWP.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Review transportation planning issues in the MACORTS.
2. Review changes in planning requirements following changes in federal law.
3. Prepare work element descriptions, which address issues and goals of the planning process.
4. Prepare cost estimates for each work element to comprise the ACC-GDOT Contract.
5. Submit new UPWP for review and adoption by MACORTS Policy Committee.

### RESULTING PRODUCTS

FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department

TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department

COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$8,368.44	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (10%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$366.12	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$1,359.86	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$366.12	\$0.00
Total	\$10,460.43	\$0.00

## **SECTION II – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

### **2.1 COMMUNITY OUTREACH / EDUCATION**

#### **PURPOSE**

This element allows staff the resources to provide information to the public regarding the Transportation Planning Process as outlined in the MACORTS Participation Plan. Funds will be used in the preparation of literature and presentations for public organizations as well as providing an outlet to get general public comment and / or educate the public concerning transportation issues and the transportation planning process.

#### **PREVIOUS WORK**

This is an on-going Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study activity. During FY 2025, public involvement periods were held to update the MTP and TIP document. A public comment opportunity was included on the agenda of all Policy and Technical Coordinating Committee meetings. Committee meetings and public involvement periods were coordinated through use of the MACORTS website and use of a virtual meeting platform for committee meeting. A combination of virtual and in-person public meetings were used.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In response to the planning regulations under the FAST Act and IIJA, public involvement and outreach were broadened. The MACORTS website is used to keep the public informed of upcoming events and provides information on all MACORTS activities. Publications are available to the public both in print and online. MPO representatives will be involved in community events as staff resources permit. Other possible venues for reaching the public would include ads in the legal organs of each of the MACORTS counties, a local Spanish language news publication (if available), and notices placed on Athens-Clarke County Transit Department website or other county government venues or websites. The public may sign up for the MACORTS Public Mailing List via the MACORTS website to receive e-mail notification of upcoming MPO events/work efforts. Funds from this element will be used to continually update the MACORTS website and continue efforts to foster transportation equity.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

1. Provide requested data to officials, public, and others to continue to foster transportation equity.
2. Public meetings for the update / amendment of the Transportation Improvement Program, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Participation Plan, and/or any other work that requires public outreach in easily accessible locations in the region at various times or using a virtual platform.
3. Continue to provide education to officials, public, and others regarding performance-based planning and to encourage regional coordination and communication.
4. Public education via the MACORTS website.
5. Advertisements in English & Spanish publications and government venues/websites.
6. Continue to keep the MACORTS website up-to-date to provide current information to the public.

7. Record & respond to public comment. Provide public comment to committee members for their consideration before actions are taken.

RESULTING PRODUCTS

A well-informed public whose concerns are presented to the MACORTS committees for their consideration as part of the transportation planning process.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department in coordination with GDOT

TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Dept.

COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$20,039.98	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$876.75	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$3,256.50	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$876.75	\$0.00
Total	\$25,049.98	\$0.00

## 2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE / TITLE VI

### PURPOSE

This element is included to allow staff to explicitly address Environmental Justice and/or Title VI issues, as necessary. It will allow staff the resources to ensure that groups that have been traditionally underserved by the transportation community can be identified and included in the decision-making processes of MACORTS.

### PREVIOUS WORK

This is an on-going MACORTS activity.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The MACORTS website will be used to keep the public informed of upcoming events. Staff will preserve the functionality of the website to provide translations of every webpage into multiple languages. Publications will be available to the public in print and online (when practical). MPO representatives will be involved in as many community events as possible. In cases where a specific group will be affected disproportionately by a transportation endeavor, every effort will be made to take information to and receive input from that group to foster transportation equity. Update and implementation, as needed, of the MACORTS/ACCTD LEP Plan and MACORTS Title VI Plan is included.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Title VI Plan as required
2. Update to website to inform public of upcoming events
3. Attendance of community events, as possible
4. Advertisement in Spanish language publications for public involvement activities
5. Provide summaries of MPO products or public involvement materials translated into Spanish, as requested/necessary
6. Work with GDOT & FHWA partners to incorporate the priorities of equity, economy, climate change, resiliency, and covid-19 relief in our planning efforts.

### RESULTING PRODUCTS

1. Up-to-date Title VI Plan
2. Up-to-date Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP)
3. Up-to-date MACORTS website to inform public of upcoming events

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department in coordination with GDOT

### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Dept.

COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$20,039.98	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$876.75	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$3,256.50	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$876.75	\$0.00
Total	\$25,049.98	\$0.00



## 2.3 PARTICIPATION PLAN

### PURPOSE

This element allows staff resources to develop and maintain a Participation Plan. This plan was adopted by MACORTS Policy Committee and is used in all instances that necessitate public input and efforts to foster transportation equity. MACORTS staff will coordinate with GDOT and FHWA when changes to the Plan are necessary.

### PREVIOUS WORK

This is an on-going element in the MACORTS Unified Planning Work Program.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Future amendments to the plan will be reviewed by MACORTS TCC, PC, GDOT, FHWA, FTA, and the public as necessary.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Update of the Participation Plan
2. Necessary amendments to Participation Plan

### RESULTING PRODUCTS

Up-to-date Participation Plan

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department in coordination with GDOT, FTA, & FHWA

### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Dept.

### COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source

Responsible Agency  
MPO                      GDOT

FHWA PL (80%)	\$20,039.98	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$876.75	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$3,256.50	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$876.75	\$0.00
Total	\$25,049.98	\$0.00

## **SECTION III – DATA COLLECTION**

### **3.1/3.2 MAINTAIN AND MONITOR LAND USE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA**

#### **PURPOSE**

This element provides resources to maintain current data and to forecast socio-economic data for use in developing and maintaining MACORTS transportation models. This work element also includes activities to identify the location and make up of Environmental Justice (EJ) communities in the MACORTS area. One of the primary inputs into the planning process is the projection of future demand for transportation service. The maintenance of socioeconomic data is critical to the modeling process. Keeping GIS layers up-to-date in regards to land use is an important component of this task providing the ability to identify potential gaps in the transportation system regarding access to essential services.

#### PREVIOUS WORK

The maintenance of land use and socio-economic data is an ongoing MACORTS activity.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The database file includes updating of the base year and future year variables at the traffic analysis zone level. These variables include:

Population	Retail Employment	Households
Wholesale Employment	Service Employment	School Enrollment
Median Income	Manufacturing Employment	Acreage
Total Employment		

Maintenance of these files enables the MPO to monitor and update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan in a timely, cost-effective manner. The data derived from these files can facilitate analyses for a multitude of transportation and transit-related issues including gap analysis for access to essential services, safety, and traffic congestion. Additional support MPO activities involving the U.S. Census Bureau as it gathers information is also essential and will be funded by this element. The socio-economic database will be used as input into the transportation management information systems including the GIS and modeling efforts. Data generated is also used in EJ / Title VI analysis as necessary.

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Graphical representation and identification of EJ communities on a system-wide level in the MACORTS area for the update of the TIP.
2. GIS based system level analysis of access to essential services and EJ in support of updates to the MTP and generation of TAZ acreage
3. Model inputs of land use and socio-economic data will be used to generate model outputs to aid in the analysis of safety and congestion in the MACORTS region prior to and in conjunction with the update of the MTP to 2050.

RESULTING PRODUCTS

Updates, as necessary, to socioeconomic data as input into the travel demand model maintained by GDOT.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department

TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department.

COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCE

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$ 4,228.22	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$184.98	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$687.09	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$184.98	\$0.00
Total	\$ 45,285.27	\$0.00

### **3.3 TRANSPORTATION SURVEYS, MODELS, AND ANALYSIS – TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL REFINEMENTS (TP+)**

PURPOSE

One of the primary inputs into the planning process is the projection of future traffic volumes. This information is critical for making policy decisions and evaluating proposed transportation projects. This element will provide the resources for planning staff to update the modeling network as needed and to request special modeling. Staff will support GDOT in the review of network changes as necessary (examples include, but are not limited to, road network data,

functional classification review, and evaluation of projects to be included in the travel demand model) and provide information to support modeling efforts including those that help identify gaps in the transportation system in regards to connectivity to essential services.

#### PREVIOUS WORK

Assisting GDOT with the maintenance of a modeling network (TP+) and performing modeling requests is an ongoing MACORTS planning activity. TP+ is maintained through updating of the model network and traffic counts. For the update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to 2050 in FY 2025, the road network and its attributes were verified by MACORTS. TAZ's were updated for the MACORTS area, and socio-economic data was provided for input into the model. Updated networks were approved by MACORTS.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Updating the travel demand model (by GDOT and ACC Planning Department) could be required associated with any change in the air quality designation of all or a portion of the MACORTS area.

Staff will forward modeling requests to GDOT and interpret results as needed. Maintenance of the travel demand model will be a joint effort between the MACORTS and GDOT staffs.

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Staff will collect and compile data as necessary for GDOT to update the travel demand model, including, but not limited to road network data, functional classification review, and evaluation of projects to be shown in the model.
2. Coordinate with local GIS for additional data
3. Use model outputs with local GIS data and other data sources to aid in system level analysis of access to essential services, safety, congestion, and other performance measures in the MACORTS area in support of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

#### RESULTING PRODUCTS

Modeling analysis and updated model network

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

ACC Planning Department, GDOT

#### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department.

#### COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCE

	Responsible Agency
Funding Source	MPO                      GDOT

FHWA PL (80%)	\$ 4,228.22	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$184.98	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$687.09	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$184.98	\$0.00
Total	\$ 45,285.27	\$0.00

### 3.4 SYSTEM MONITORING

#### PURPOSE

Monitoring system performance is an important part of performance-based planning. This element includes gathering necessary data on system performance including, but not limited to, safety, congestion, pavement and bridge condition, travel time and freight reliability. It will continue to provide funds to gather traffic data within the MACORTS area to supplement Georgia DOT's annual count effort. The Traffic Volume Maps will be developed and published for distribution to the public via the MACORTS website.

#### PREVIOUS WORK

The MACORTS Traffic Volume Maps are an ongoing MACORTS planning activity. Traffic Volume Maps were produced for public use and posted on the MACORTS website. Maps were published as soon as GDOT and local counts were available.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Resources will be included in this item to allow staff to produce and distribute the MACORTS Traffic Volume Maps. Resources will be used to collect system data as required to comply with reporting requirements for safety, pavement and bridge condition, congestion, travel time, freight data, and/or any other required data to aid in performance-based planning and programming efforts. This task will include preparation and printing costs.

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Develop appropriate data sources that will support goals, performance measures and targets developed for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan that include, but are not limited to, safety, congestion, pavement and bridge condition, travel time and freight reliability.
2. Collection of traffic count volumes for the MACORTS area (Athens-Clarke County, Oconee County, and Madison County) by the state and local government for incorporation in the MTP and TIP.
3. Work with FHWA, GDOT, and member counties to develop Congestion Management Plan and process if MPO transitions to TMA status based on 2020 Census results.
4. Analysis of data sources at the local and state level could be used in analysis in the areas of transportation equity and transportation system resiliency

#### RESULTING PRODUCTS

1. MACORTS Traffic Volume Maps – hardcopy and web-copy
2. Completed System Performance Report and/or other required reporting

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department, ACC Traffic Engineering, Oconee County Public Works, Madison County Engineer

#### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Due to the need for data to be supplied by GDOT, ACC, Oconee County, and Madison County, the schedule may vary from year to year. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department.

#### COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCE

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$7,267.25	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$317.94	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$1,180.93	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$317.94	\$0.00

Total	\$9,084.06	\$0.00
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**SECTION IV – SYSTEM PLANNING**

**4.1 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN  
MAINTENANCE/UPDATE**

PURPOSE

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is the long-term planning tool that provides an overview of the transportation system challenges envisioned by MACORTS. The plan is developed to provide a transportation system that will be able to manage current and future congestion, identify and mitigate gaps in access to essential services, and foster regional planning cooperation. The Plan fosters an equitable transportation system that is resilient in the face of climate change and addresses the needs of freight to foster a growing economy. The purpose of this element is to maintain and update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan as necessary, including amendments. The last update was completed on October 1, 2024.



### PREVIOUS WORK

The maintenance of the MACORTS Metropolitan Transportation Plan is an ongoing planning activity. The 2050 MTP was adopted in October of 2024.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Amendments / administrative modifications will be handled as necessary using the procedures outlined by the Georgia Department of Transportation and the MACORTS Participation Plan. An addendum to the MTP is processed with the update of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to keep the MTP and TIP documents consistent. It may be necessary to amend both the MTP and TIP concurrently, depending on the scope of any proposed amendments. As necessary, the MTP and TIP will be modified to incorporate the PM 1, PM 2, PM 3, TAM Plan, and PTASP targets.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Necessary amendments and modifications to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
2. Process amendment with update of TIP to keep documents consistent.

### RESULTING PRODUCTS

1. Up-to-date 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department

### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Dept.

### COST ESTIMATE/PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$18,498.44	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$809.31	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$3,006.00	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$809.31	\$0.00
Total	\$23,123.06	\$0.00

## **4.2 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

### PURPOSE

Planned transportation improvements are contained in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. As they receive funding, they are moved into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This document identifies transportation improvements planned for the next four years (as funding permits). The TIP lists these projects and identifies the fiscal year during which preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction are scheduled. This schedule includes the estimated cost and identifies the funding sources for each project. It is federally mandated that the TIP be financially balanced for the funding period. The same priorities guide the development of the TIP that guide the MTP development. Federal regulations require that the TIP also include proposed public transportation activities such as capital improvements and requests for operating assistance in order to secure federal assistance in financing public mass transportation.

### PREVIOUS WORK

The preparation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is an ongoing MACORTS planning activity.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The development of the TIP includes soliciting input from individuals and groups at the local and state level to help in the process of setting priorities among projects. Resources are included to prepare and print the document. The TIP will be modified or amended, as necessary. An addendum to the MTP is processed with the update of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to keep the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and TIP documents consistent. It may be necessary to amend both the MTP and TIP concurrently, depending on the scope of any proposed amendments to ensure consistency between the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and TIP. As necessary, the MTP and TIP will be modified to incorporate the PM 1, PM 2, PM 3, TAM Plan, and PTASP targets.

#### ACTIVITIES

Develop an updated TIP for the MACORTS area.

#### RESULTING PRODUCTS

FY 2024 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Program amendments and admin mods. Development towards a new FY2027-2030 TIP will begin in Q2 of FY26.

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

The Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department

#### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026.

Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department.

#### COST ESTIMATES/FUNDING SOURCE

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$11,143.11	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$487.51	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$1,810.76	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$487.51	\$0.00
Total	\$13,928.89	\$0.00

## **4.3 BIKE / PEDESTRIAN FACILITY PLANNING**

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this element will be to provide staff resources to carry out planning activities related to multimodal facilities planning. Multimodal planning has been given a larger role with the advent of the FAST Act. The National Safety Goals include bike / pedestrian safety directly, and bike / pedestrian advocates have been included in the list of groups to be explicitly coordinated with during public involvement. Staff resources will be used to provide input and coordination opportunities to bicycle / pedestrian advisory groups, as necessary.

### PREVIOUS WORK

This is an on-going MACORTS planning activity. MACORTS staff has engaged in discussion with local municipalities, especially related to Vision Zero concepts. Coordination is ongoing with ACC Public Works related to bicycle projects that have grant-focused opportunities.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Multimodal facility planning, data collection, and analysis regarding access to essential services in support of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and/or TIP will be included in this element. The MACORTS region's quality and quantity of bicycle / pedestrian infrastructure

varies from county to county. Athens-Clarke County has a robust bicycle / pedestrian infrastructure and planning process through the 'Athens in Motion' committee and dedicated TSPLOST funding.

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Coordinate with MACORTS counties regarding any available funding for bicycle/pedestrian activities
2. Make staff available to participate in regional or local bike / pedestrian planning efforts and communicate the need to support bicycle / pedestrian safety projects.
3. Gather and report safety data pertaining to cyclists / pedestrians in support of the MTP and/or TIP, as required by GDOT / FHWA.

#### RESULTING PRODUCTS

- Updated bike / pedestrian elements of the MTP and/or TIP.

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County Planning Department (ACC).

#### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 / Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department.

#### COST ESTIMATE/PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (80%)	\$3,083.07	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (3.5%)	\$134.88	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (13%)	\$487.51	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (3.5%)	\$134.88	\$0.00
Total	\$3,853.84	\$0.00

## **SECTION V – TRANSIT PLANNING**

### **5.1 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

**Activity Line-Item (ALI) Code: 44.21.00**

*FTA C 8100.1D ALI Description:*

*“Include basic overhead, program support, and general administrative costs directly chargeable to the FTA project. Examples include direct program support, administration, interagency coordination, citizen participation, public information, local assistance, and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) development. (If direct program administrative and support costs are included in each work plan or activity, do not enter them a second time in this category).”*

#### **PURPOSE**

To administer and operate the MPO transit planning process by coordinating MPO functions with the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, and all involved stakeholders, including time and financial accounting for MPO transit planning-related activities during the fiscal year.

#### **PREVIOUS WORK**

- MACORTS Policy Committee meetings

- MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee meetings
- ACC Planning Department Plans Review meetings

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Preparation of 5303 program budgets, quarterly progress reports, and reimbursement requests;
- Monitor program progress and budgets;
- Preparation of meeting documents, including notices, agendas, and minutes;
- Attendance at meetings, workshops, training, and classes,
- Modification of the program in response to regulatory changes;
- Administer transit and paratransit operation;
- Ensure that environmental justice populations are identified and concentrations are mapped according to the latest U.S. Census data;
- Ensure that participation in the transportation planning process is available to all citizens via public notice;
- Ensure that use of transportation facilities, particularly transit, is available to all citizens by providing route and fare information In Spanish as well as in English;
- Ensure that transportation projects do not put an undue burden on any group of citizens;
- Increase efforts to inform the public about the paratransit services offered by ACC Transit.

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Attend seminars, conferences, and meetings, as available and relevant.
2. Attend other relevant training / conferences, as they are available.

#### RESULTING PRODUCTS

- Federal and State quarterly progress reports
- Federal and State quarterly financial reports
- FTA 5307 Grant Application & Administration
- National Transit Database reporting
- System monitoring and reporting

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACCTD) and ACC Planning Department.

#### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department

#### COST ESTIMATES / FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Total
FTA Sect. 5303 Transit Planning (80%) – FY26	\$11,870.00
GDOT Sect. 5303 Transit Planning Match (10%)	\$1,484.00
Local Sect. 5303 Transit Planning Match (10%)	\$1,484.00
FY 2026 Total	\$14,838.00

## 3.2 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Activity Line-Item (ALI) Code: 44.23.01

*FTA C 8100.1D ALI Description:*

*“Include only the costs of activities specifically emphasizing long-range transportation system planning and analysis. Examples include long-range travel forecasting and modeling, including appropriate data base development and maintenance for transportation in the entire metropolitan area or State; system analysis; sketch planning; system plan development; reappraisal or revision; and all long-range Transportation System Management (TSM) activities.”*

### PURPOSE

Develop and keep current the transit portion of the MACORTS Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Transit Planning will be in accordance with the national transit goals, Planning Activity Factors, and the Planning Emphasis Areas to support the MTP.

### PREVIOUS WORK

In FY 2025, the major focus was on performing Transit Planning in compliance with the performance-based, multi-modal 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Review and update the MTP every five years, based on new land use and socio-economic data in the Travel Demand Model;
- When the MTP is updated, ensure that it complies with the FAST Act and IIJA;
- Carry out minor updates to the MTP in response to changes in project scope, schedule, or funding, generally, at the state level;
- Make the document available to the public for comments and address relevant comments.

### ACTIVITIES

Activities will focus on long-range transit planning for the Metropolitan Planning Area. In FY 2026, work will include:

- System monitoring and reporting

### RESULTING PRODUCTS

- As necessary updates to the MTP for any changes on the ACC Transit System.

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACCTD) and ACC Planning Department.

### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department

### COST ESTIMATES / FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Total
FTA Sect. 5303 Transit Planning (80%) – FY26	\$4,945.00
GDOT Sect. 5303 Transit Planning Match (10%)	\$618.00
Local Sect. 5303 Transit Planning Match (10%)	\$618.00
FY 2026 Total	\$6,182.00

### 3.3 SHORT RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Activity Line-Item (ALI) Code: 44.24.00

*FTA C 8100.1D ALI Description:*

*"Include only the costs of activities specifically emphasizing short-range transportation system or project planning and analysis proposed in the next three to five years. Examples include management analyses of internal operations such as management/administration, maintenance, personnel, and labor relations; service planning including appropriate data base development and maintenance; Transportation Development Plan (TDP) preparation; financial management planning, including alternative fare box policies; and all short-range Transportation System Management (TSM) activities including vanpool/ridesharing, high occupancy vehicles, parking management."*

#### PURPOSE

To perform transit planning activities and reports that are immediate and reviewed for implementation within the next 3-5 years. Staff will undertake their required short-range transit planning activities. This includes preparing the necessary operations reports, periodically evaluating the level of transit service, monitoring requirements of the grant process, preparing the annual update to the Title VI assurances, and assisting in the following year's UPWP.

### PREVIOUS WORK

- Database maintenance / management.
- Transit vehicle operator incentive plan.
- Transit capital project scheduling and costing.
- Trip sampling validation.
- On-Demand service planning and modeling.
- Transit-oriented development planning.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Transit Planning staff will collect data in order to study and update all activities necessary for the successful administration of transit activities. This includes helping the ACCTD in coordinating with other agencies, develop the Athens-Clarke County Transit Development Plan (TDP), and applying the ADA regulations to the operation of paratransit services. Performance of certain duties, as needed, will also include, but is not limited to:

### ACTIVITIES

- Development / Update of the Athens-Clarke County Transit Development Plan
- Participate in development and adoption of GDOT's Statewide Transit Asset Management Plan.

### RESULTING PRODUCTS

- Annual Certifications and Assurances.
- TAM Plan Updates.
- Transit section of UPWP completed.
- Continued implementation of the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP).
- Annual NTD Report.

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACCTD) and ACC Planning Department.

### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: Athens-Clarke County Planning Department.

### COST ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SOURCES

FTA Sect. 5303 Transit Planning (80%) – FY26	\$80,124.00
GDOT Sect. 5303 Transit Planning Match (10%)	\$10,015.00

Local Sect. 5303 Transit Planning Match (10%)	\$10,015.00
FY 2026 Total	\$100,155.00

### **3.4 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Activity Line-Item (ALI) Code: 44.25.00

FTA C 8100.1D ALI Description:

*"Include only the costs of activities specifically emphasizing TIP development and monitoring."*

#### **PURPOSE**

To develop and maintain a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) in cooperation with local and state planning partners.

#### **PREVIOUS WORK**

- Maintenance and amendments of the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

ACTIVITIES

- Process amendments and admin mods to the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP

RESULTING PRODUCTS

- Amendments and admin mods of the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Development towards a new FY2027-2030 TIP will begin.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department in cooperation with Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACCTD).

TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department.

COST ESTIMATES / FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Total
FTA Sect. 5303 Transit Planning (80%) – FY26	\$1,979.00
GDOT Sect. 5303 Transit Planning Match (10%)	\$247.00
Local Sect. 5303 Transit Planning Match (10%)	\$247.00
FY 2026 Total	\$2,474.00

## **SECTION VI - COMPLETE STREETS**

### **6.1 COMPLETE STREETS / SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS**

#### **PURPOSE**

Increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities.

#### **PREVIOUS WORK**

Coordination with ACC Public works on potential grant opportunities, attended webinars related to safety improvement and NOFOs.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Incorporate standards or policies that ensure the safe and adequate accommodation of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, children and older individuals, individuals with disabilities, motorists, and freight vehicles. Create a network of active transportation facilities (including sidewalks, bikeways, or pedestrian and bicycle trails) to connect neighborhoods with destinations such as workplaces, schools, residences, businesses, recreation areas, healthcare and childcare services, or other community activity centers; Integrate active transportation facilities with public transportation service or improve access to public transportation; Create multiuse active transportation facilities (including bikeways or pedestrian and bicycle trails) that make connections within or between communities; Increase public transportation ridership; and Improve the safety of bicyclist and pedestrians.

#### RESULTING PRODUCTS

Complete Streets standards and policies. Bike/Ped activities may also use this funding.

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Planning Department.

#### TARGET START AND END DATES / LEAD AGENCY

Work on this element will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 / Lead Agency: ACC Planning Department.

#### COST ESTIMATES / FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Responsible Agency	
	MPO	GDOT
FHWA PL (100%)	\$6,411.99	\$0.00
GDOT PL Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison County Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Athens-Clarke County Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oconee County Match (0%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$6,411.99	\$0.00

## **SECTION VII – UNFUNDED PROPOSED WORK ELEMENTS**

Beginning with FY 2017, MPO's in Georgia were no longer allowed to carryover unspent metropolitan transportation planning (PL) funds into the following year's PL contract. Those funds instead are collected from all MPO's in Georgia, except the Atlanta Regional Commission, and made available to MPO's through a competitive process. The Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO) in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) must



award the carryover funds to one or more of the unfunded proposed work elements throughout the state.

There are currently no projects in this category.

## **SECTION VIII – UPWP FINANCIAL TABLES**

**Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS)  
FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program**

**Source of Funds - PL Grant**

UPWP Work Element	MPO Transportation Planning PL Grant Source of Funds			
	FHWA	GDOT	Local	TOTAL
1.1 Program Coordination	\$ 16,736.69	\$ -	\$ 4,184.17	\$ 20,920.86
1.2 Operations and Administration	\$ 92,492.22	\$ -	\$ 23,123.06	\$ 115,615.28
1.3 Training / Employee Education	\$ 12,450.86	\$ -	\$ 3,112.72	\$ 15,563.58
1.4 Equipment and Supplies	\$ 11,451.42	\$ -	\$ 2,862.85	\$ 14,314.27
1.5 UPWP	\$ 8,368.34	\$ -	\$ 2,092.09	\$ 10,460.43
2.1 Community Outreach / Education	\$ 20,039.98	\$ -	\$ 5,010.00	\$ 25,049.98
2.2 Environmental Justice / Title VI	\$ 20,039.98	\$ -	\$ 5,010.00	\$ 25,049.98
2.3 Participation Plan	\$ 20,039.98	\$ -	\$ 5,010.00	\$ 25,049.98
3.1/3.2 Maintain & Monitor Land Use & Soc-Ec.	\$ 4,228.22	\$ -	\$ 1,057.05	\$ 5,285.27
3.3 Trans. Surveys, Models, & Analysis (TP+)	\$ 4,228.22	\$ -	\$ 1,057.05	\$ 5,285.27
3.4 System Monitoring	\$ 7,267.25	\$ -	\$ 1,816.81	\$ 9,084.06
4.1 Transportation Plan Maintenance / Update	\$ 18,498.44	\$ -	\$ 4,624.61	\$ 23,123.06
4.2 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	\$ 11,143.11	\$ -	\$ 2,785.78	\$ 13,928.89
4.3 Bike / Pedestrian Facilities Planning	\$ 3,083.07	\$ -	\$ 770.77	\$ 3,853.84
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ 250,067.78	\$ -	\$ 62,516.95	\$ 312,584.73

**Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS)  
FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program**

**Source of Funds - Section 5303 Transit Planning Funds**

UPWP Work Element	MPO Transportation Planning Section 5303 Transit Planning Source of Funds			
	FTA	GDOT	Local	TOTAL
5.1 Program Administration	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 17,500.00
5.2 Metropolitan Transportation Plan	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 7,500.00
5.3 Short Range Transportation Planning	\$ 73,432.00	\$ 9,179.00	\$ 9,179.00	\$ 91,790.00
5.4 Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ 97,432.00	\$ 12,179.00	\$ 12,179.00	\$ 121,790.00

**Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS)  
FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program**

**Source of Funds - Section 5303 Transit Planning Funds**

UPWP Work Element	MPO Transportation Planning Section 5303 Transit Planning Source of Funds			
	FTA	GDOT	Local	TOTAL
5.1 Program Administration	\$ 11,870.00	\$ 1,483.75	\$ 1,483.75	\$ 14,838
5.2 Metropolitan Transportation Plan	\$ 4,945.00	\$ 618.13	\$ 618.13	\$ 6,182
5.3 Short Range Transportation Planning	\$ 80,124.00	\$ 10,015.50	\$ 10,015.50	\$ 100,155
5.4 Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 1,979.00	\$ 247.38	\$ 247.38	\$ 2,474
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ 97,432.00	\$ 12,179.00	\$ 12,179.00	\$ 121,790.00

**Madison Athens-Clarke Coonee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS)  
FY 2028 Unified Planning Work Program**

**Source of Local Match Funds For PL Grant & PL Self-side**

UPWP Work Element	Total Grant Amount	Federal Share (80%)	Total Local Share (20%)	Madison County (3.6%) Maximum Cash Match	Athens-Clarke County (19%) Maximum Cash Match	Coonee County (3.6%) Maximum Cash Match
<b>Section 1.0 - Program Administration</b>						
1.1 Program Coordination	\$ 20,920.86	\$ 16,736.69	\$ 4,184.17	\$ 732.23	\$ 2,719.71	\$ 732.23
1.2 Operations and Administration	\$ 115,615.28	\$ 92,492.22	\$ 23,123.06	\$ 4,046.53	\$ 15,029.99	\$ 4,046.53
1.3 Training / Employee Education	\$ 15,563.58	\$ 12,450.86	\$ 3,112.72	\$ 544.73	\$ 2,023.27	\$ 544.73
1.4 Equipment and Supplies	\$ 14,314.27	\$ 11,451.42	\$ 2,862.85	\$ 501.00	\$ 1,860.86	\$ 501.00
1.5 UPWP	\$ 10,460.43	\$ 8,368.34	\$ 2,092.09	\$ 366.12	\$ 1,359.86	\$ 366.12
<b>Section 2.0 - Public Involvement</b>						
2.1 Community Outreach / Education	\$ 25,049.98	\$ 20,039.98	\$ 5,010.00	\$ 876.75	\$ 3,256.50	\$ 876.75
2.2 Environmental Justice / Title VI	\$ 25,049.98	\$ 20,039.98	\$ 5,010.00	\$ 876.75	\$ 3,256.50	\$ 876.75
2.3 Participation Plan	\$ 25,049.98	\$ 20,039.98	\$ 5,010.00	\$ 876.75	\$ 3,256.50	\$ 876.75
<b>Section 3.0 - Data Collection</b>						
3.1/3.2 Maintain & Monitor Land Use & Soc-Ec.	\$ 5,285.27	\$ 4,228.22	\$ 1,057.05	\$ 184.98	\$ 687.09	\$ 184.98
3.3 Trans. Surveys, Models, & Analysis (TP+)	\$ 5,285.27	\$ 4,228.22	\$ 1,057.05	\$ 184.98	\$ 687.09	\$ 184.98
3.4 System Monitoring	\$ 9,084.06	\$ 7,267.25	\$ 1,816.81	\$ 317.94	\$ 1,180.93	\$ 317.94
<b>Section 4.0 - System Planning</b>						
4.1 Transportation Plan Maintenance / Update	\$ 23,123.06	\$ 18,498.44	\$ 4,624.61	\$ 809.31	\$ 3,006.00	\$ 809.31
4.2 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	\$ 13,928.89	\$ 11,143.11	\$ 2,785.78	\$ 487.51	\$ 1,810.76	\$ 487.51
4.3 Bike / Pedestrian Facilities Planning	\$ 3,853.84	\$ 3,083.07	\$ 770.77	\$ 134.88	\$ 501.00	\$ 134.88
<b>Section 5.0 - Transit Planning</b>						
5.1 Program Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5.2 Long Range Transportation Planning (System Level)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5.3 Short Range Transportation Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5.4 Transportation Improvement Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Section 6.0 - Complete Streets</b>						
6.1 Complete Streets	\$ 6,411.99	\$ 6,411.99	\$ -			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 318,896.72</b>	<b>\$ 258,478.78</b>	<b>\$ 62,618.86</b>	<b>\$ 10,840.47</b>	<b>\$ 40,838.02</b>	<b>\$ 10,840.47</b>

# Appendices

# Appendix A

## MACORTS Boundary Map

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY  
JACKSON COUNTY  
MADISON COUNTY  
WILKES COUNTY  
OCONEE COUNTY


ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY  
JACKSON COUNTY  
MADISON COUNTY  
WILKES COUNTY  
OCONEE COUNTY

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Athens-Clarke County Planning  
GIS/Graphics Division

 MPO

☐ Jackson County

 Oconee County

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Athens-Clarke County Planning  
GIS/Graphics Division  
April 25, 2013

## Appendix B

# MACORTS Memorandum of Understanding

# Appendix C

## MACORTS Bylaws

# Appendix D

## Performance Management Agreements



# Appendix E

## Work Schedule



# Appendix F

## Planning Factor Applicability

**Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study**  
**FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program**  
**Appendix G - Table VI**  
**Planning Factor Applicability**

WORK ELEMENTS	PLANNING FACTORS*										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION</b>											
1.1 Program Coordination	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
1.2 Operations and Administration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
1.3 Training/Employee Education		X	X	X			X	X			
1.4 Equipment and Supplies	X						X				
1.5 Unified Planning Work Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</b>											
2.1 Community Outreach / Education	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
2.2 Environmental Justice / Title VI	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
2.3 Participation Plan				X			X	X			
<b>DATA COLLECTION</b>											
3.1/3.2 Maintain and Monitor Land Use and Socio-Economic Data	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
3.3 Transportation, Surveys, Models and Analysis (TP+)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
3.4 System Monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>SYSTEM PLANNING</b>											
4.1 Transportation Plan Maintenance / Update	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.2 Transportation Improvement Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.3 Bike / Pedestrian Facilities Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>TRANSIT PLANNING</b>											
5.1 Program Support & Administration	X			X	X		X	X	X		X
5.2 Long Range Transportation Planning (System Level)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5.3 Short Range Transportation Planning											
5.4 Transportation Improvement Program											
<b>COMPLETE STREETS</b>											
6.1 Complete Streets / Safe and Accessible Transportation Options	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Additional Awarded PL Funds</b>											
<b>UNFUNDED PROPOSED WORK ELEMENTS</b>											

**\*PLANNING FACTORS:**

- 1 Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- 2 Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- 3 Increase the security of the surface transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- 4 Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and for freight.
- 5 Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life.
- 6 Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- 7 Promote efficient system management and operation.
- 8 Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
- 9 Improve transportation system resiliency and reliability.
- 10 Reduce (or mitigate) the storm water impacts of the surface transportation system
- 11 Enhance travel and tourism



# Appendix G

## Unfunded Proposed Work Elements

Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study  
FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program  
Appendix H - Table VII  
Unfunded Proposed Work Elements

Associated Work Element(s) Supported by Proposed Activity	Activity	Estimated Federal Share (80%)	Estimated Local Share (20%)	Estimated Total	Notes
	TOTALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

