Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization FY2014 Annual Report



FY2014 Annual Report

Includes FY2014 Quarter 4 Report

Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization



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www.sgrc.us/transportation

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This document is prepared in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

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Introduction

Fiscal Year 2014 was a busy year for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Metropolitan Planning Organization (VLMPO) as we kicked-off the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan, a two year effort to develop a new long range transportation plan for Valdosta and Lowndes County.

To develop the vision for our region's transportation infrastructure the VLMPO partnered with Lowndes County and Valdosta to develop a Common Community Vision for Greater Lowndes County. An effort that built consensus from more than 800 comments into a common vision for the community that is economically, environmentally and equitably resilient in the areas of housing, health, education, economic development, land use, natural resources, and transportation among others. The input gathered from this community exercise will be able to be used by the VLMPO and other community planning partners as we develop new strategic and long range planning efforts over the coming years. This will help ensure that all community partners are aiming toward a common goal and vision, while each doing their part to help all succeed.

A resilient community where partnerships and coordination promote regional success in economic development, education, infrastructure, and a high quality of life. – Common Community Vision

In FY2014 two projects from the 2035 Transportation Plan were completed. The intersection improvements at St. Augustine and Twin Street have made access to businesses in this busy dining and hotel area much easier and safer. The opening of Gornto Road (Woodrow Wilson Extension) between Oak Street and Patterson Street provided a much needed east-west connection in Valdosta. This new roadway is lined with 35 Live Oaks (provided by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce Centennial Tree project), includes bicycle lanes, and has become a much travelled roadway already.

MPO Administration

Funding is always a challenge for transportation infrastructure programs. There never seems to be enough money to build all of the projects we want. FY2014 has been no different, but has required extra effort from VLMPO staff and our partners to develop projects that meet a purpose and need in an economically efficient manner. The FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (Adopted July 9, 2014) illustrates how much discussion and consensus building by the planning partners (Georgia Department of Transportation or GDOT, Lowndes County, Valdosta, and others) goes into developing our projects.

The VLMPO staff is active in several state and national organizations that are looking at the funding challenges at a national level. Staff participates in the Transportation Research Board's Metropolitan Policy, Planning and Processes Committee, its subcommittee on Transportation in Military Communities, and the Public Participation in Transportation Planning Committee. Staff is also active on the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Technical Committee, the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association, as well as the Georgia Association of MPOs Board of Directors. This past year, and for the foreseeable future, a significant amount of discussion in each of these groups is focused on the federal commitment of fully funding the Highway Trust Fund which pays for 80% of the costs for most highway and transit projects. Staff continues to be involved in these organizations to make sure the voice of South Georgia and other small cities is heard at the state and national levels.

Continued professional development for staff of the VLMPO is a required and important part of implementing the best practices of transportation planning in the community. Staff attended

conferences and meetings of the Transportation Research Board, Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association, the American Planning Association National Conference, the Georgia Association of MPOs, the Georgia Bike Summit, the Georgia Logistics Summit as well as various other webinars and meetings on topics including: freight, Safe Routes to School, and performance measures.



Figure 1 VLMPO staff participating in a public participation workshop at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, DC; January 2014.

Source: TR News.

In FY2014, to start the planning process for the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan, the VLMPO contracted with Transport Studio to conduct a Socioeconomic Data Study for the year 2040. This study provided population, employment and household characteristics that will be used by staff and elected officials to help inform the planning process. To better utilize the data, the VLMPO sought to work with our local land use and housing planning partners, and obtained data at levels that is more suited to their needs. This will result in all planning partners having access to the same future year data for other planning purposes.

Public Involvement

Public involvement and outreach is one of the key functions of the VLMPO. Public involvement and outreach is not only required by federal regulations, but it is up to the VLMPO to set our own standards in our Public Participation Plan (PPP) to engage the public in a meaningful dialogue so as to provide local officials with quality feedback on the community's transportation needs.

In FY2014 the VLMPO kicked off the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan by partnering with the local governments to develop a Common Community Vision for Greater Lowndes County. This effort involved meeting with stakeholder groups, civic groups, holding open houses and evaluating more than 800 comments and statements to develop a Common Community Vision (CCV) for the community. The VLMPO was fortunate to be able to include the CCV as an integral part of the City of Valdosta's celebration of National Community Planning Month, including lunch and learns and open houses throughout the city, seeking input for the CCV.

Title VI Annual Report

As required by the VLMPO Title VI Compliance Plan, included in this report is the Annual Report on Title VI activities undertaken during the past year by the VLMPO.

The VLMPO has not had any Title VI complaints and there have been no changes to the Title VI Plan during FY2014.

The VLMPO has worked to inform local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms of education and training opportunities provided by GDOT and other partners like the Valdosta State University Small Business Development Center that will better position firms in this region to succeed in transportation contracting.

The VLMPO has continued to make regular updates to our mailing list, which now includes over 840 individuals and organizations.

Limited-English Proficiency Plan

As a recipient of federal funds the VLMPO is required to evaluate the services and products we provide for use by individuals that may speak English less proficiently. Annually the VLMPO reviews data to measure this population in Lowndes County. Included in the PPP is data from the US Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey (ACS). This year data is available from the 2008-2012 ACS and is compared below.

	05-09 ACS	08-12 ACS
Estimate	5,571	5,915
Margin of Error	+/-567	+/-275
Lowndes County %	5.9%	5.8%
United States %	19.6%	20.5%

PPP Performance Measures

When the VLMPO Public Participation Plan was adopted in 2011, included were performance measures that would be reviewed annually to evaluate how effective the VLMPO is at engaging the public. Included here are the performance measures, as well as an indication of whether this measure has increased or decreased in the last year, an indication of the effectiveness of our public engagement efforts.

Strategy 1: Raise public awareness and understanding of the transportation planning process including the functions, responsibilities and programs of the MPO and identify how interested citizens can become involved.

- Hosted 3 open houses for the FY14-17 and FY15-18
 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). A total of 11 individuals attended the events. Increase
- Delivered more than 4,000 quarterly newsletters. Distributed all MPO products electronically via website for easy access.
 Increase
- VLMPO staff was the featured speaker at more than 14 events. Increase
- Staff attended more than 11 events/meetings to represent the VLMPO. Decrease
- Local media reported or featured VLMPO activities at least 4 times. Decrease



Figure 2 October 29, 2013 VLMPO Policy Committee Meeting. Photo Courtesy of Gretchen Quarterman

Strategy 2: Provide the public and others with early, ongoing and meaningful opportunities for involvement in the transportation planning process.

 Over the past year the VLMPO has made at least daily updates to our social media websites and regular updates to our main website. Neutral

- The VLMPO formally responds to all comments received during a public comment period and responds to other comments throughout the year. Increase
- The VLMPO staff is available to the public during regular business hours, during open houses, at other public events and on social media websites where staff can respond outside of regular business hours. Neutral

Strategy 3: Maintain timely contact with key stakeholders and the public through the transportation planning process.

- The VLMPO held at least 10 stakeholder meetings in FY2014, as part of the Common Community Vision process. Increase
- The VLMPO hosted 19 public committee meetings and/or open houses in FY2014. Increase
- The VLMPO has continued to develop new tools in FY2014 to allow key stakeholders more access to transportation project data through our project database and websites. This will continue to be an important resource as we develop the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan. Increase

Strategy 4: Identify, involve and mitigate impacts on traditionally underserved communities (those communities with high concentrations of minority, low-income, elderly or disabled populations) in the transportation planning process.

- The VLMPO continues to provide information about DBE training offered by GDOT and other planning partners throughout the state. Neutral
- The VLMPO continues to update our mailing list to ensure all interested parties are included. **Increase**

 The VLMPO has met regularly in the past year with representatives of minority communities to address transportation issues and concerns. Neutral

The VLMPO has made efforts in the past year to provide timely and updated information in multiple formats to the public and our planning partners and stakeholders. In the eight strategy areas above, the VLMPO has increased our public involvement opportunities while maintaining similar levels to past involvement in four additional areas. Two areas saw a decrease in public involvement. These included the number of events staff attended to represent the VLMPO and the number of media appearances, both of which are dependent on outside factors out of our control.



Figure 3 VLMPO Twitter Page

The VLMPO maintains an active social media presence to target various audiences and to reach out to the most people possible. We utilize the following websites for outreach and information (some more than others): Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Tumblr, SlideShare, Google+, and Flickr. Below are some statistics on the usage of some of our social media websites:

271 Likes on Facebook (99% increase from FY2013)

- 49 users average reach per post on Facebook
- 272 Followers on Twitter (91% increase from FY2013)
- 1,986 SlideShare views in past year

Our main website (www.sgrc.us/transportation) is the primary location of all reports and information the VLMPO produces. We have seen an overall increase of 44% in the number of users to our website in the past year. 45% of the visitors to the website were new, and returning visitors increased by 144%. 32% (up from 12%) of the visitors to the website used a mobile phone or tablet device. The top search terms that referred users to our website were:

- Valdosta Public Transportation
- Valdosta MPO
- Freight Movement
- Hiking Trails in Southern Georgia

Overall our public participation efforts have grown this year through engaging interested parties in new and innovative ways using new technologies and seeking comments from non-transportation oriented groups. The CCV was a tremendous effort to get input from the community, the focus now turns to implementing the vision for the community by all of the partners involved.



Transportation Systems

The VLMPO annually produces a Crash Report that examines trends in vehicle crashes in Lowndes County. As in years past, the FY2014 Crash Report followed the Georgia Governor's Office of Strategic Highway Safety Plan and its goals as a guide. Some of the trends from the Crash Report are detailed later in the Safety Trends section of this Report.

The number of fatal crashes in Lowndes County continues to fall to less than half what they were at the beginning of the last decade, while the total number of crashes over the past decade has generally held steady. Some of the key points of data for Lowndes County that were in the most recent Crash Report include:

- About 27% of all crashes involve an injury of some degree
- Motorcycle crashes have been cut in half (to 33) in the last three years
- Drivers in the 30-60 age group continue to cause the most crashes, including fatal crashes
- In the past three years, there have been 5 pedestrian fatalities in Lowndes County
- Most fatal crashes in the past three years occurred from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Crashes in Valdosta have decreased by 11% since 2011
- The top locations for crashes has not changed much: St. Augustine Road at Norman Drive continues to be a top location in Valdosta

In 2014, the VLMPO (in partnership with GDOT and local governments) undertook the reclassification of arterial and collector

roadways in Lowndes County. "Functional classification carries with it expectations about roadway design, including its speed, capacity and relationship to existing and future land use development. Federal legislation continues to use functional classification in determining eligibility for funding under the Federal-aid program. Transportation agencies describe roadway system performance, benchmarks and targets by functional classification. As agencies continue to move towards a more performance-based management approach, functional classification will be an increasingly important consideration in setting expectations and measuring outcomes for preservation, mobility and safety.\(^{17}\) The VLMPO recommended changes to nearly 70 roadway segments throughout Lowndes County and its cities. The VLMPO is continuing to work with GDOT to implement these changes.



Figure 5 Proposed Functional Classification in Lowndes County

¹ Source: Federal Highway Administration: Highway Functional Classification Concepts, Criteria and Procedures, 2013 Edition

Transportation Plans and Studies

Annually the VLMPO reports on the evaluation measures included in our 2035 Transportation Plan (TP) to examine how implementation of the plan is developing. These evaluation measures are a precursor to new federal regulations that will require the VLMPO 2040 Transportation Vision Plan to have a basic framework for implementing performance measures and reporting requirements. Up until this time, evaluation of transportation projects, policies and programs has been voluntary.

Priority 1: Develop a sustainable and safe regional transportation system that includes all modes for the transportation of people and goods that promote economic development.

1.1 Evaluate the level of service on roadways to and from activity centers, especially east-west routes.

The level of service (LOS) of a roadway is a rather static measure of the overall transportation system. It slowly changes over time, unless there is a major capital investment that either improves or deteriorates the LOS. Two projects in the region that will have significant impact on LOS are the US84/W Hill Avenue Overpass and the recently opened Gornto Road extension between Oak and Patterson Streets.

1.2 Evaluate number of jobs in freight intensive industries and conduct travel time studies to evaluate wait times at at-grade crossings.

² County Business Pattern data was used previously, however this data is no longer updated, all data has been updated to consistently reflect American Community Survey data from the US Census Bureau.

Using data from the US Census Bureau American Community Survey², a baseline number was developed in 2009 and continues through 2012.

Industry	2009	2010	2011	2012
Forestry/Ag.	447	553	562	556
Construction	3,035	3,113	2,936	2,501
Manufacturing	4,301	3,814	3,823	3,549
Wholesale	1,193	1,040	976	1,068
Retail Trade	7,415	7,565	7,383	7,595
Transportation	2,369	2,218	2,269	2,070
Total	18,760	18,303	17,949	17,339

This historical trend shows that the region is losing jobs in the freight intensive industries that rely on a strong regional transportation system.

In 2013 the Federal Highway Administration made available a new data set that allows users to conduct analysis on near real-time travel time data on certain roadways. The VLMPO is continuing to research how this data can be used in our transportation planning efforts.

1.3 Implementation of a coordinated public transit system in the Valdosta Urbanized Area.

In FY2011 the VLMPO, through its consultants, completed the implementation and financing studies for a five route, ten vehicle fixed route bus transit system in the Valdosta Urbanized Area. At this time however, no local funding has been identified to implement the system. The VLMPO Policy Committee is continuing to explore

options to implement a public transit system in Valdosta, and has scheduled future meetings with GDOT and other partners about starting a public transit system in the community.

1.4 Work with local land use agencies to analyze future improvements to ensure they will accommodate planning multi-modal improvements.

The VLMPO staff regularly works with local land use planners and other agencies to review development plans. The Common Community Vision for Greater Lowndes County, developed by the VLMPO in FY2014, is a partnership with local land use planners to use the same CCV Goals for an upcoming update to the local Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

1.5 Number of bike and pedestrian facilities implemented and/or interconnected.

In FY2013, the City of Valdosta had just over 100 miles of sidewalks, 3.6 miles of bike lanes, and 3.5 miles of multi-use trails. The City continues to expand their sidewalk network annually through road construction projects and as required for new developments. The City also has a sidewalk repair program where in FY2014 nearly 662 linear feet of sidewalk was repaired. Projects in Remerton and Valdosta that are currently underway will significantly expand the total amount of sidewalks and connect more of the community by the end of FY2015.

1.6 Evaluate net number of jobs gained near transportation improvements.

Beginning in FY2014 the VLMPO no longer has access to accurate data for the number of jobs located near our transportation improvements. Historical data is available on our website. The VLMPO will continue to review new sources of data for this

evaluation measure and other proposed performance measures that will be implemented as part of the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan.

- Priority 2: Encourage the MPO, SGRC and their member communities to cooperatively consider land use decisions by encouraging public participation and involvement in the transportation planning process.
 - 2.1 Annually evaluate public involvement effectiveness through number of persons contacted and events held.

See the analysis of public involvement effectiveness under the Public Involvement section of this report.

2.2 Produce documents for education and public information, including annual crash reports and intersection safety audits.

The VLMPO annually produces a Crash Report that highlights crash statistics and trends in Lowndes County. This year the VLMPO partnered with the City of Valdosta, Valdosta State University (VSU) and GDOT to conduct a Road Safety Audit on the Patterson Street corridor near the University. By July 2014 the partners had already begun to implement some of the short term recommendations from this report to improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists along this congested corridor.



Figure 6 VSU Road Safety Audit
Site Visit

2.3 Develop criteria for implementing transportation investments.

A project selection criterion was developed for the 2035 TP, where it is described in detail. It included evaluating projects in five primary categories: Congestion Management, Safety and Security, Land Use, Economic and Multimodal Development, and Public Input and Community Impact. The VLMPO will be developing new criteria over the next year for the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan based on performance measure requirements and input from stakeholders and planning partners.

2.4 Evaluate number of public/private partnerships accomplished.

To date there have been no locally implemented public/private partnerships in this region. GDOT has, however, begun the process for a public/private partnership for rest areas and welcome centers throughout the state. This includes the one near Lake Park in Lowndes County on I-75.

2.5 Evaluate land development outside of urban service areas.

Past efforts to evaluate any growth outside of the urban service area in Lowndes County have not yielded the results originally anticipated. The VLMPO will reevaluate this measure as we develop the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan.

2.6 Number of multi-jurisdictional or coordinated transportation improvement projects/policies.

Local and state partners continue to develop plans for multijurisdictional projects on Forrest Street and Oak Street Extension. A full update on these and other projects is included in the FY2015-2018 TIP. Priority 3: Promote an aesthetically pleasing, sustainable transportation system that respects the needs of, and mitigates and/or enhances the impacts on disadvantaged populations and the context of the nearby built and natural environments.

3.1 Evaluate context sensitive solutions implemented in transportation projects and policies.

The VLMPO regularly works with local and state jurisdictions and project managers to ensure that transportation projects and policies mitigate their impacts on surrounding communities and the environment. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission (of which the VLMPO is a part) recently adopted a Best Practices Guide for Complete Streets in Rural Communities. The VLMPO is working to further implement these principles through future training workshops hosted by GDOT and Georgia Bikes!

3.2 Report use of alternative fuels and infrastructure projects for alternative modes of transportation.

There are currently two alternative fuel locations in Lowndes County. Flash Foods operates a station located in the 4100 block of Bemiss Road that sells E85 gasoline and the Langdale Fuel Company Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station on James P. Rogers Drive in Valdosta. Another Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) fueling station is also looking to build a retail location in Valdosta, but no location has been identified. The Tesla Automotive Company has previously announced that it sought to build an electric vehicle charging station in Valdosta. Moody Air Force Base has developed several electric vehicle charging stations as well.

3.3 Report on signs installed and public acceptance of new signage.

At this time no new way-finding signs have been installed.

2035 Transportation Plan Project Status Report

Below is a report of the projects included in the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that are currently being tracked by the VLMPO. Note: years indicate fiscal years.

Project ID	Project Description	Engineering/Design	Right-of-Way	Utilities	Construction
0000762	I-75 FM N of SR 133 to Cook County Line - Phase II (Exits 22 & 29)	Complete	Underway	2016	2016
0007386	I-75 @ CR274/Lake Park Bellville Road - Phase II (Exit 2)	Complete	2016	2017	2017
0010297	I-75 @ SR 31 - Phase II (Exit 11)	Complete	2016	2017	2017
0000837	CR 784/Jerry Jones Rd FM Gornto Rd to Oak St. (Jadan Pl.)	Continuing	2016	Long Range	Long Range
450200	CR 138/NORTH FORREST STREET FROM CS 1428/PARK AVE TO SR 125	Continuing	2016	Long Range	Long Range
422710	US 84/W Hill Ave Grade Separation	Complete	Complete	Complete	Under Const.
	Cat Creek Road Bridge at Beatty Creek	Complete	Complete	Complete	Under Const.
	Gornto Road Extension, Oak Street to Patterson Street	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
432100	SR 31 Bridge over Withlacoochee River at Florida State Line	Complete	Complete	Complete	Under Const.
000684	Tucker Road Bridge over Dukes Bay Canal	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
0008437	Davidson Road at Bemiss Road/Moody AFB	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
	I-75 at Exit 18 Southbound Ramp Improvements	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
	St. Augustine Road at Twin Street	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
	Oak Street, Five Points to Breckenridge Drive	Continuing	Long Range	Long Range	Long Range

Safety Trends



Figure 7 Fatal Crashes in Lowndes County have decreased since 2010.

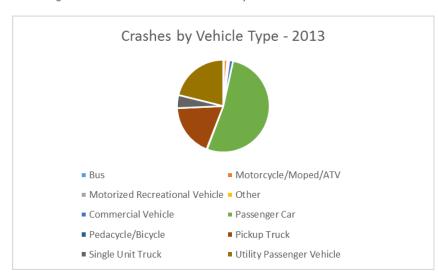


Figure 8 Various types of vehicles are involved in crashes.



Figure 9 Fatal Crashes by Age shows that in Lowndes County there are more crashes in the 31-50 age groups than in most others. Crashes are not just caused by one age group, but are spread out across all age groups.

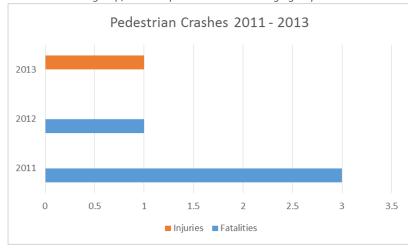
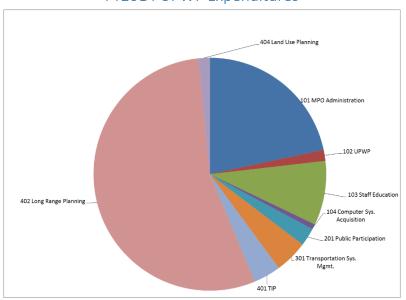


Figure 10 In the past three years there have been four pedestrian fatalities in Lowndes County, in a total of five crashes.

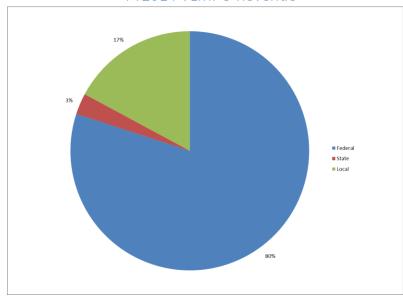
Financial Highlights

The VLMPO expends funds through projects that are identified in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP identifies and outlines the planning activities which the MPO plans to undertake for the following year. The VLMPO received its funds through federal and state grants and local matching funds in FY2014. Federal funds make up a majority of the revenues at 80%, with state funding at 3%, and the local matching funds at 17%.

FY2014 UPWP Expenditures



FY2014 VLMPO Revenue



FY2014 FHWA PL and FTA 5303 Funds

This chart is a breakdown of the Revenue and Expenditures of FHWA PL and FTA 5303 Funds utilized by the VLMPO in FY2014.

	FY2014 Reven	ue and Expend	ditures		
	Budgeted	Expended	Expended	Expended	Expended
Work Element	Total	Total	Federal	State	Local
101 MPO Administration	\$ 60,629.94	\$ 43,630.83	\$ 34,904.66	\$ -	\$ 8,726.17
102 UPWP	\$ 11,830.23	\$ 3,091.95	\$ 2,473.56	\$ -	\$ 618.39
103 Staff Education	\$ 23,660.46	\$ 18,006.72	\$ 14,405.38	\$ -	\$ 3,601.34
104 Computer Sys. Acquisition	\$ 1,478.78	\$ 1,478.78	\$ 1,183.02	\$ -	\$ 295.76
201 Public Participation	\$ 29,575.58	\$ 5,033.24	\$ 4,026.59	\$ -	\$ 1,006.65
301 Transportation Sys. Mgmt.	\$ 17,745.35	\$ 9,225.54	\$ 7,380.43	\$ -	\$ 1,845.11
401 TIP	\$ 14,787.79	\$ 7,632.47	\$ 6,105.98	\$ -	\$ 1,526.49
402 Long Range Planning	\$ 177,694.29	\$110,263.62	\$ 88,210.90	\$ 5,717.55	\$16,335.17
403.2 Transit Implementation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
404 Land Use Planning	\$ 20,702.90	\$ 3,152.62	\$ 2,522.10	\$ -	\$ 630.52
Total	\$ 358,105.32	\$201,515.77	\$161,212.62	\$ 5,717.55	\$34,585.60

FY2014 FHWA PL Funds by Quarter

This chart is a breakdown of the expenditures of FHWA PL funds by Quarter utilized by the VLMPO in FY2014.

FY2014 FHWA PL Expenditures by Quarter																
Work Element	Fi	First Quarter		First Quarter		cond Quarter	Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		Total Year End		Contract Total		Contract Balance	
101 MPO Administration	\$	20,046.20	\$	6,531.53	\$	11,753.54	\$	5,299.56	\$	43,630.83	\$	60,629.94	\$	16,999.11		
102 UPWP	\$	2,624.24	\$	88.86	\$	0.64	\$	378.21	\$	3,091.95	\$	11,830.23	\$	8,738.28		
103 Staff Education	\$	2,108.31	\$	6,436.44	\$	5,516.98	\$	3,944.99	\$	18,006.72	\$	23,660.46	\$	5,653.74		
104 Computer Sys. Acquisition	\$	432.32	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,046.46	\$	1,478.78	\$	1,478.78	\$	-		
201 Public Participation	\$	1,271.19	\$	1,529.07	\$	1,801.33	\$	431.65	\$	5,033.24	\$	29,575.58	\$	24,542.34		
301 Transportation Sys. Mgmt.	\$	3,772.11	\$	818.42	\$	1,544.47	\$	3,090.54	\$	9,225.54	\$	17,745.35	\$	8,519.81		
401 TIP	\$	984.08	\$	3,057.89	\$	288.78	\$	3,301.72	\$	7,632.47	\$	14,787.79	\$	7,155.32		
402 Long Range Planning	\$	16,837.66	\$	28,708.09	\$	7,707.42	\$	(165.08)	\$	53,088.09	\$	115,344.75	\$	62,256.66		
404 Land Use Planning	\$	1,412.07	\$	47.83	\$	756.30	\$	936.42	\$	3,152.62	\$	20,702.90	\$	17,550.28		
Totals	\$	49,488.18	\$	47,218.13	\$	29,369.46	\$	18,264.47	\$	144,340.24	\$	295,755.78	\$	151,415.54		

FY2014 FTA 5303 Funds by Quarter

This chart is a breakdown of the expenditures of FTA 5303 funds by Quarter utilized by the VLMPO in FY2014.

FY2014 FHWA PL Expenditures by Quarter														
Work Element	Fi	rst Quarter	Sec	cond Quarter	Thi	rd Quarter	Fo	urth Quarter	To	tal Year End	Co	ntract Total	Cont	ract Balance
101 MPO Administration	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
102 UPWP	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
103 Staff Education	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
104 Computer Sys. Acquisition	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
201 Public Participation	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
301 Transportation Sys. Mgmt.	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
401 TIP	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
402 Long Range Planning	\$	16,264.93	\$	20,441.25	\$	6,245.67	\$	14,223.68	\$	57,175.53	\$	62,337.62	\$	5,162.09
404 Land Use Planning	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Totals	\$	16,264.93	\$	20,441.25	\$	6,245.67	\$	14,223.68	\$	57,175.53	\$	62,337.62	\$	5,162.09

FY2014 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports 2014-101 / MPO Administration

Objective:

To coordinate and conduct the transportation planning activities of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws regulations and requirements.

Project Description:

Maintain proper records as required under Federal and State regulations for contracts administered by the MPO. Coordinate MPO Committee meetings and overall transportation planning efforts in the Region. Continue to work with GAMPO and other state and national organizations on the role of MPOs in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning. Continue to work with GDOT and surrounding jurisdictions/agencies to maintain a comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, regional, multi-modal transportation planning process.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared minutes and agendas for multiple Citizen's Technical and Policy Committee meetings. Staff completed required follow-though of contracts with GDOT staff. Staff met with newly appointed board and committee members for orientation sessions.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff prepared minutes and agendas for multiple MPO Committee meetings. Staff completed the execution of contracts with GDOT Planning and Intermodal Departments. Staff met with newly appointed members of the MPO Citizen's Advisory Committee. Staff attended several GDOT Board Meetings.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff prepared minutes and agendas for 5 MPO committee meetings in this quarter. Staff met with new members of the CAC for orientations. Staff attended GDOT Board meetings in March and attended the Lowndes County Bird Supper in Atlanta.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared minutes and agendas for 5 MPO committee meetings in this quarter. Staff met with new members of the PC for orientations. Staff attended GDOT Board meetings in May. Staff met with GDOT transit planners about starting the discussion of an urban transit system in Valdosta.

Comparisons of Actual to Date performance to stated goals: Actual to Date performance matches stated goals.

Progress in meeting schedules: All schedules met during this quarter.

Approved Budget: \$60,629.93

Expenditures to Date: \$43,630.83

Percent Expended: 72%

Project Complete %: 100%

2014-102.1 UPWP

Objective:

Develop annual work program to guide staff in the transportation planning activities of the MPO as directed by the Policy Committee in compliance with all federal, state and local laws, regulations and requirements.

Project Description:

Prepare the annual UPWP, including the preparation of work tasks, budgets and financial reports. Prepare quarterly reports, invoices and reimbursement requests. Prepare an annual report reviewing the activities of the past fiscal year.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared the FY2013 Annual Report and quarterly reports to close out the FY2013 year for the PL and 5303 funding programs.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff prepared the FY14 Quarter 1 Reports. Staff prepared the budget amendments for Policy Committee adoption to use FY13 Carryover funds in FY14. Staff began the preparation of the FY15 UPWP and budget and presented it for review to GDOT and committee members.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff completed the FY14 Quarter 2 reports. Staff finalized the FY15 budget and UPWP, it was reviewed by GDOT and our partners, presented and approved by the VLMPO Policy Committee at our March meetings. Staff also presented the FY15 5303 Application to the Policy Committee and the SGRC Council for approval.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff completed the FY14 Quarter 3 reports. Staff presented a budget amendment to the VLMPO Policy Committee for FTA 5303 funds that was not approved by the Committee.

Comparisons of Actual to Date performance to stated goals: Actual to Date performance matches stated goals.

Progress in meeting schedules: All schedules met during this quarter.

Approved Budget: \$11,830.23

Expenditures to Date: \$3,091.95

Percent Expended: 26%

Project Complete %: 100%

2014-103.1 Staff Professional Development

Objective:

Develop MPO staff knowledge of transportation planning procedures through relevant workshops, conferences, and seminars.

Project Description:

To provide continuing education and training for MPO staff that will enable the MPO to effectively carry out the planning process in the Metropolitan Planning Area. Some of the conferences the staff may attend include but are not limited to: GA Planning Assoc., GA Transit Assoc., American Planning Assoc., Transportation Research Board, GA Assoc. of MPOs, Assoc. of MPOs, GA Highway Safety Conference, National Assoc. of Development Organizations, and training provided by FHWA, FTA, or GDOT. VLMPO will continue membership in AMPO and NADO (through SGRC), and will consider other association memberships as needed.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended the Transportation Research Board Summer meeting in Washington, DC, participating in three committee meetings of which they are active members (MPO Policy, Public Involvement, Military and Metropolitan Transportation). Staff attended several webinars, including: Safe Routes to School and GIS, FHWA Probe Data, Performance Measurement, Travel Models, Benefit Cost among others.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff attended the Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference, the Georgia Bike Summit, and attended several webinars sponsored by NADO, SRTS, FHWA, and Talking Freight. Staff attended the GA MPO Annual Meeting in Dalton.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff attended the Transportation Research Board Meeting in Washington, DC, where staff serves on three committees. Staff also attended the Georgia Logistics Summit in Atlanta. Staff attended several webinars on the following topics: SRTS, Performance Measures, NPMRDS, Federal Policies and Funding,

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff attended the American Planning Association National Planning Conference in Atlanta. Staff attended the summer work session of the Georgia Association of MPOs. Staff attended a two-day web-based course on Adobe Illustrator software. Staff participated in an FHWA webinar on PEAs.

Comparisons of Actual to Date performance to stated goals: Actual to Date performance matches stated goals.

Progress in meeting schedules: All schedules met during this quarter.

Approved Budget: \$23,660.46

Expenditures to Date: \$18,006.72

Percent Expended: 76%

Project Complete %: 100%

2014-104.1 Computer System Acquisition

Objective:

Acquire relevant computer systems and software and train staff as related to the transportation planning process.

Project Description:

This element allows the SGRC to purchase computer systems and software for activities relative to the MPO planning process. Update and/or purchase GIS, CUBE, and other transportation related software packages as needed. Coordinate purchases of computer systems, software and training with GDOT and local governments (such as traffic count database software)

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff purchased annual maintenance license for ESRI GIS software.

Quarter 2 Report:

No work completed in this quarter.

Quarter 3 Report:

No work completed in this quarter.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff maintained computer software and resolved issues with computer systems.

Comparisons of Actual to Date performance to stated goals: Actual to Date performance matches stated goals.

Progress in meeting schedules: All schedules met during this quarter.

Approved Budget: \$1,478.78

Expenditures to Date: \$1,478.78

Percent Expended: 100%

Project Complete %: 100%

2014-201.1 Public Involvement Program

Objective:

To implement the Participation Plan (PP) that outlines the goals of the VLMPO and opportunities for interaction amongst units of government and the public as they relate to the planning process.

Project Description:

Review and update the Public Participation Plan as appropriate. Continue to engage the Citizen's Advisory Committee through innovative and new public involvement techniques to increase participation and public outreach. Continue to promote existing transit systems and fixed-route transit implementation. Continue to develop and maintain websites, social media, mobile applications, and documents with the most recent and relevant data for public and local government consumption. Continue to develop visualization tools and techniques to better communicate MPO plans, programs, and public involvement.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared for a public comment period for the amendment to the TIP. Staff hosted a public Open House during this comment period. At least weekly updates were made to the VLMPO/SGRC website, Facebook and Twitter accounts providing public information about various transportation topics. Staff spoke at several community/civic organizations regarding transportation, including two radio interviews. These speaking engagements were primarily tied to the Valdosta/Lowndes Common Community Vision, a joint effort of the MPO, Valdosta and Lowndes County to develop a common set of planning goals for the upcoming 2040 Transportation Plan development. Staff participated in meetings with the City of Valdosta to celebrate Community Planning Month in Valdosta.

Quarter 2 Report:

To complete the Common Community Vision Initiative staff held three public meetings and spoke at 10 different community groups. Staff met with various media outlets regarding the CCV as well. Staff spoke with two classes at Valdosta State University about transportation planning.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff presented to two classes at Valdosta State University on the topics of EJ in Transportation and Climate Change and Transportation Planning. Staff met with several VSU students regarding class projects that are reviewing current transportation projects in the community. Staff we represented on a Youth Leadership League Community Panel, staff attended meetings of the local Chamber and Industrial Authority. Staff led a workshop on Digital Economy planning in the region with local stakeholders.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared and sent a quarterly newsletter to our mailing list. Staff hosted a TIP open house for a draft TIP. Staff maintained and updated social media and websites with current and historical information. Staff participated in an interview with local media regarding the TIP and 2040 LRTP development.

Comparisons of Actual to Date performance to stated goals: Actual to Date performance matches stated goals.

Progress in meeting schedules: All schedules met during this quarter.

Approved Budget: \$29,575.58

Expenditures to Date: \$5,033.24

Percent Expended: 17%

Project Complete %: 100%

2014-301.1 Transportation Systems Management

Objective:

Promote the safety, security, preservation, maintenance, and operations of the existing transportation system through the integration and connectivity of modes, for people and freight. Provide data for local and state officials to implement programs to improve the overall safety and efficiency of the transportation system.

Project Description:

Incorporate traffic and access management and other strategies to improve system efficiency into MPO plans. Coordinate with GDOT to update statewide ITS architecture to include information about Valdosta UZA. Continue to integrate freight and goods movement planning into long range and short range planning efforts and update previous freight planning efforts. Continue to work with local and regional transit providers in developing Coordinated Transit Plans. Continue to work with local communities and other interested parties to develop projects and pursue funding for alternative transportation projects and programs (safety/education). Continue to develop GIS and other data resources to be used by local and state planning partners for travel demand modeling, asset and project management, crash reporting, land use planning, and transportation planning to be used in project development. Conduct special transportation studies (ex. traffic studies, concept reports, etc.) as requested by local planning partners, which may include the solicitation of consultants.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared and updated various transportation data layers in GIS. Staff began to prepare the 4th Freight Report on Employment in Freight Related industries in Metro Valdosta. Staff prepared and completed a regional bicycle route map (jointly developed with the SGRC through another GDOT contract). Staff met with local stakeholders regarding the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the community. Staff met with the new GDOT Safe Routes to School Resource Center representative to discuss local issues.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff determined that the 4th Freight Report on Employment would not be completed due to lack of data to support our hypothesis. Staff is currently working to develop a new report on a different topic. Staff completed a review of freight planning activities with our FHWA partners.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to develop a freight report looking at regional logistics resources that can help inform the economic development community in the region. Staff continued to develop our 2040 Socioeconomic Data by meeting with local stakeholders to share the data as a resource to local development and planning efforts. Staff met with representatives from Valdosta State University, GDOT and Valdosta to discuss conducting a Road Safety Audit near the campus, this has been scheduled for the 4th quarter.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff participated in a Road Safety Audit near the VSU campus. Staff worked with GDOT and local governments to review functional classification changes to present to the VLMPO Policy Committee in FY15.

Comparisons of Actual to Date performance to stated goals: Actual to Date performance matches stated goals.

Progress in meeting schedules: All schedules met during this quarter.

Approved Budget: \$17,745.35

Expenditures to Date: \$9,225.54

Percent Expended: 52%

Project Complete %: 100%

2014-401.1 Transportation Improvement Program

Objective:

Develop and maintain a fiscally constrained Transportation Improvement Program in cooperation with local and state planning partners.

Project Description:

VLMPO will continue to work with GDOT and local planning partners in prioritizing, developing and implementing projects in the TIP, this includes attending meetings and conducting analysis where needed to select and prioritize projects. Continue to process TIP amendments in coordination with GDOT and local jurisdictions. Continue to provide technical support for projects in the TIP and LRTP. Continue to maintain a project tracking tool and GIS database to provide the public and planning partner's information about project development and timelines. Provide technical support for projects within the TIP and LRTP. Continue to work with the City of Valdosta in the prioritization and

Implementation of projects, plans and policies identified in the City of Valdosta Transportation Master Plan

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended the quarterly district project update meeting in Tifton. Staff prepared the FY14-17 TIP for public comment and adoption.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff held an open house for a TIP amendment approved by the Policy Committee in October. Staff worked with GDOT to prepare for a PIOH for the I-75 Interchange projects and attended the PIOH sponsored by GDOT.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff updated semi-annual project tracking information and shared it with the VLMPO committees. Staff attended the semi-annual project tracking meeting in Tifton with GDOT.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared the FY15-18 TIP for review and public comment period. Staff hosted an open house to receive public comments on the TIP. Staff met with GDOT and local governments regarding local projects in the TIP and moving

the projects forward, among other issues. Staff met by phone with GDOT and FHWA to review comments and discuss the FY15-18 TIP.

Comparisons of Actual to Date performance to stated goals: Actual to Date performance matches stated goals.

Progress in meeting schedules: All schedules met during this quarter.

Approved Budget: \$14,787.79

Expenditures to Date: \$7,632.47

Percent Expended: 52%

Project Complete %: 100%

2014-402.1 Long Range Transportation Plan

Objective:

Develop and maintain a 20-year horizon fiscally responsible long range transportation plan. Develop data for ongoing long range planning efforts.

Project Description:

Work with USDOT and GDOT to develop and analyze new socioeconomic information as needed in the development/modification of the Travel Demand Model (TDM). Provide technical support for projects within the TIP and LRTP. Continue to analyze and develop (may include consultant) data resources based on 2010 Census data for use in the TDM and other planning efforts. Develop TAZs and associated socioeconomic data for the 2040 LRTP update in coordination with GDOT and local planning partners within the Valdosta UZA and Metropolitan Planning

Area. Develop GIS layers and models needed for development of land use patterns for travel demand model. Consider partnering with Lowndes County, Valdosta, Hahira, Lake Park, Dasher, and Remerton to cooperatively develop a local Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan (may include consultant for some aspects). Continue to work with various stakeholders to implement land use policy recommendations from the JLUS study for Moody AFB and surrounding areas. Continue to work with GDOT and local partners in prioritizing and implementing projects in the LRTP, this includes attending meetings and conducting analysis where needed for a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous regional Long Range Transportation Plan.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff continued preparations for the 2040 LRTP development. Staff kicked off in cooperation with Valdosta and Lowndes County a Common Community Vision effort to develop the goals and objectives for the 2040 Transportation Plan, local Comprehensive Plan, local Housing Plan and other local planning efforts. Staff hosted several meetings, developed websites and surveys for public input and engaged stakeholders at several events. Staff attended webinars and other sessions related to MAP-21 implementation and performance measures.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to implement the Common Community Vision Initiative in Lowndes County, hosting several public meetings and speaking at several civic groups. Staff began preparations for developing a financial plan for the 2040 Transportation Plan by reviewing local and state revenues and expenditures. Staff and consultants presented the 2040 Socioeconomic Data Study results to local leaders and committee members.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to develop goal, objectives and performance measures for the 2040 LRTP. Staff began to prepare a rough draft of the 2040 LRTP as well as to begin to develop a project listing. Staff worked to develop a financial plan for the 2040 LRTP seeking data from local governments.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to develop and prepare for the 2040 LRTP. Staff prepared maps and items for public outreach meetings (in FY15). Staff prepared project lists, and reviewed/updated the 2040 LRTP Financial Plan.

Comparisons of Actual to Date performance to stated goals: Actual to Date performance matches stated goals.

Progress in meeting schedules: All schedules met during this quarter.

Approved Budget: \$115,344.75

Expenditures to Date: \$53,088.09

Percent Expended: 46%

Project Complete %: 100%

2014-404.1 Land Use Planning

Objective:

Development and review of local transportation plans and comprehensive plan elements and review/development of traffic impact analyses that are associated with land-use and zoning and directly affect or are affected by transportation plans of the MPO.

Project Description:

Coordinate with local planning staff to review local land-use developments (e.g. zoning requests, subdivision plats, and commercial development) and affects to the transportation infrastructure. Review plans' compatibility with transportation plans. Continue previous efforts of SGRC and local governments to engage the business and citizen stakeholders as a resource for community input for the VLMPO Provide technical assistance to local land use planners and engineers on planning topics related to the integration of transportation and land use, including: access management, transit oriented development, complete streets, etc. Continue to work with GDOT, FHWA and surrounding jurisdictions to continue to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous regional transportation plan.

Quarter 1 Report:

Jointly, with Valdosta and Lowndes County the VLMPO staff began to develop the Lowndes County Common Community Vision to develop the goals and objectives for use in local transportation, land use and other planning efforts.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to implement the Common Community Vision Initiative that will be used to develop the local comprehensive land use plan next year. Staff attended the local planning commission meetings to present information about the CCV and 2040 Socioeconomic Data.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff attended multiple meetings of the Lowndes County Technical Review Committee to review proposed development plans that may be impacted by planned transportation improvements. Staff met with a developer who plans a Development of Regional Impact to gather information about

potential transportation improvements needed as a result of growth related to the development.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff reviewed land development proposals presented to the local Technical Review Committee (Lowndes County) and First Step (Valdosta) groups.

Comparisons of Actual to Date performance to stated goals: Actual to Date performance matches stated goals.

Progress in meeting schedules: All schedules met during this quarter.

Approved Budget: \$20,702.90

Expenditures to Date: \$3,152.62

Percent Expended: 15%

Project Complete %: 100%

Policy Committee								
Name	Agency							
John Leonard	Southern Georgia RC							
Joe Pritchard	Lowndes County							
Larry Hanson	City of Valdosta							
John Gayle	City of Valdosta							
Bill Slaughter+	Lowndes County							
Keith Golden	GDOT							
Bruce Cain	City of Hahira*							
Alex Lee	Lanier County*							
Rodney Barry	FHWA-GA							
Yvette Taylor	FTA Region IV							
Angela Crance	Citizen's Advisory Comm.							

Technical Coordinating Committee							
Agency							
City of Valdosta							
Lowndes County							
GDOT Planning							
GDOT District 4							
Lowndes Co. Schools							
Valdosta City Schools							
Bike/Ped Advocate							
FHWA-GA							
Lowndes Co. EMA							

^{*} Members of small counties/cities rotate annually

Citizen's Advi	Citizen's Advisory Committee						
Name	Agency						
Todd Smoot	Lowndes County						
Bryan Almand	City of Valdosta						
Kenneth Sherrill	City of Lake Park						
Leggett Lova n	VL Ch amber						
	Lowndes Co. BoE						
Stephanie Joachim	Valdosta City BoE						
Ray Sable	Valdosta State Univ.						
Angela Crance+	Wiregrass Tech. Coll.						
Bill Branham	City of Valdosta						
Edward Rawls	Lowndes County						
Michael Frost	Lowndes County						
Harriet Crum	City of Hahira						
Debbie Hobdy	Lowndes County						
	City of Dasher						
Carroll Griffin	City of Remerton						
Tim Riddle	Convention Center						
Mike Cooper	Cntrl. Val. Dev. Auth.						
Allan Ricketts	VL Industrial Auth.						
Col. Clarence Parker	VL Airport Auth.						
Steven Barnes	Leadership Lowndes						
Bill Tucker	City of Valdosta						
Dr. Richard Saeger	City of Valdosta						
Charlie Clark	Lowndes County						



⁺ Indicates Chair of Committee