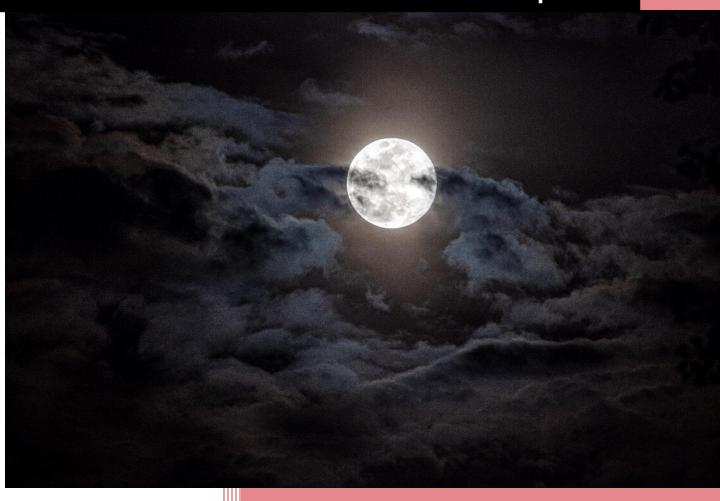
FY2020

Annual Report





Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Cover Photo Credit:

Nicholai Courtenay, *Heavenly Glow*2020 Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest Winner

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The Southern Georgia Regional Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider. Qualified persons are considered for employment or for receipt of services without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability.

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

The public involvement process for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is used to satisfy the Georgia Department of Transportation public participation process for the Program of Projects (POP).

SGRC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. SGRC's website (www.sgrc.us) may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats, if requested.

Chair's Introduction

Dear Citizen of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Area,

It is my honor to present to you the Annual Report that is produced each year by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Valdosta and Lowndes County area. The MPO provides professional staff to evaluate transportation projects and policies that are presented to citizens and elected officials for discussion and development into projects. The forum provided by the MPO provides opportunities for thoughtful decision-making and input to ensure the transportation needs of our community are addressed.

Through the development, this past year, of the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the communities of this region are poised to develop transportation infrastructure for the next 25 years. The MPO has provided citizens, local government staff, and elected officials information, alternatives, and ideas for future transportation investments to consider, and sought input from these stakeholder groups to prioritize projects. This planning process outlines a plan where the Valdosta and Lowndes County community is poised to take on new growth, address challenges faced by new technologies, and providing people with safe, efficient, and multi-modal transportation options.

New roadways infrastructure projects have recently been completed in our region and many more are being planned and will soon break ground to improve traffic flow throughout the region. Public transit and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure continue to be an important part of providing transportation options for the public and local governments are working to improve the delivery of these services in the future.

I want to personally thank all of the citizens, local and state government staff, elected officials, and the SGRC staff for the dedicated work they provide to improve transportation in the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Area through the countless hours that go into planning for transportation improvements that make our community better.

I continue to be honored to work with every member of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization, and look forward to developing new ideas for transportation and mobility in the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Area in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

L. Mark Barber City Manager, City of Valdosta MPO Policy Committee Chairman, FY2021

MPO Committees and Staff

Policy Committee

Mark Barber, Chair

City of Valdosta

Mayor Bruce Cain

City of Lake Park

Chairman Ronnie Gaskins

Berrien County

Chairman Alex Lee

Lanier County

Russell McMurray

Georgia Department of Transportation

Moises Marrero

Federal Highway Administration

Technical Advisory Committee

Mike Fletcher, Chair

Vivian Canizares

Andrew Edwards

Ricky Thomas

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advocate

Joe Pritchard, Vice Chair

Lowndes County

Lisa Cribb

Southern Georgia Regional Commission

Mayor G. R. Holton

City of Dasher

Mayor Scott James Matheson

City of Valdosta

Chairman Bill Slaughter

Lowndes County

Yvette Taylor, PhD

Federal Transit Administration

Lowndes County

Georgia Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

Valdosta Board of Education

Alan Worley

Pat Collins, Vice Chair

City of Valdosta

Van Mason

Georgia Department of Transportation

Jeff Hill

Lowndes County Board of Education

Danny Weeks

Lowndes County 911

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Ronald Skrine, Chair

Lowndes County

Myrna Ballard

Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of

Commerce

Dr. William Cason

Valdosta Board of Education

Vanessa Flucas

City of Valdosta

Chris Hamilton

Valdosta-Lowndes Conference Center

& Tourism Authority

Phil Hubbard

Lowndes County

Ray Sable

Valdosta State University

Vacant

City of Hahira

Clayton Milligan, Vice Chair

Lowndes County

Steven Barnes

Leadership Lowndes

Michael Cooper

Valdosta Downtown Development Authority

Jim Galloway

Valdosta Regional Airport

Debby Hobdy

Lowndes County

Shannon McConico

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Wes Taylor

Lowndes County Board of Education Vacant

City of Dasher

Mary Jane Yorke, Secretary

City of Lake Park William Branham

City of Valdosta

Stan Crance

Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority

Carroll Griffin

City of Remerton

Kathleen Hodges

City of Valdosta

Jim Parker

City of Valdosta

Gary Wisenbaker

Lowndes County

Transportation and Environment Department Staff

Corey Hull, AICP

Transportation and Environmental Director Amy Martin

Regional Planner

Megan Fowler Transit and Mobility Coordinator

Environmental Projects Manager

Megan Parker

Ariel Godwin, AICP Senior Planner

Common Community Vision

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, is a federally designated regional transportation planning agency responsible for ensuring that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3 -C) planning process. One of the primary responsibilities of an MPO is to develop, and periodically update, a long-range transportation plan for the metropolitan area covering a planning horizon of at least twenty years that fosters mobility and access for people and goods, efficient system performance and preservation, and good quality of life. For the past two years, the MPO has been working to develop the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for Valdosta and Lowndes County. Once again, the MPO utilized the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision to build the framework for the goals and objectives of the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

There are more than twenty plans that guide the growth and development of our communities, health organizations, schools, universities, economic development agencies, and many other institutions, but prior to the development of the Common Community Vision they did not follow any unified vision or goals. Staff and local officials felt that part of the update of the transportation plan should include the review of local plans and the development of a common vision that could be utilized to unite all local planning efforts.

The development of the Common Community Vision involved a thorough and comprehensive review, analysis, and public outreach effort to ensure the development of a current, comprehensive, and coordinated vision and set of goals for the community. By establishing a single set of goals that all local organizations may incorporate into their plans, the Common Community Vision provides a unified vision to the community. As a result, all those organizations are guided toward a common approach to local growth and development. Moving forward under these goals, all organizations work together toward the improvement of the community. These common goals also fulfill the requirements of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Rules for Comprehensive Planning.

The purpose of a Common Community Vision is for the local governments and agencies to implement their own mission as it relates to the Vision and aspirational goals identified here. Knowing that each organization has a different mission, it will be up to all to work both individually and collaboratively to reach the goals the community sets for itself. The Vision2045 Plan utilizes the Common Community Vision as objectives for achieving the national goals for transportation safety, reliability, and preservation. Ultimately, it will be the responsibility of community and organization leaders to take their part of the Common Community Vision and implement it. The MPO, as a regional decision-making body that provides a forum for regional discussion of various topics, encourages the use of this Common Community Vision as a guiding document for local organizations to endeavor to achieve success for the entire community.

FY2020 Financial Highlights

Elements	FY	2020 Actual	FY	2020 Budget	FY	2019 Actual
Administration	\$	60,800.97	\$	60,912.17	\$	61,211.15
UPWP	\$	4,738.47	\$	4,758.35	\$	4,335.90
Staff Education	\$	23,052.11	\$	23,119.55	\$	19,866.85
Computer Systems	\$	669.60	\$	1,344.48	\$	6,149.12
Public Participation	\$	15,836.59	\$	15,861.19	\$	9,294.70
GIS/TDM	\$	11,078.56	\$	11,102.83	\$	12,424.68
Land Use Planning	\$	3,147.31	\$	3,172.24	\$	3,099.12
Inter-/Multi-Modal	\$	3,145.02	\$	3,172.24	\$	3,107.40
Systems Analysis	\$	6,323.29	\$	6,344.47	\$	6,217.79
TIP	\$	9,535.21	\$	9,586.11	\$	9,304.17
Metropolitan Plan	\$	77,557.55	\$	77,616.98	\$	73,166.51
Transit Planning	\$	5,965.82	\$	6,000.00	\$	8,210.29
Special Studies	\$	-	\$	-	\$	10,610.00
Total	\$	221,850.50	\$	222,990.60	\$	226,997.68

Figure 1 FY2020 Actual Expenditures compared to FY2020 Budget and FY2019 Actual Expenditures

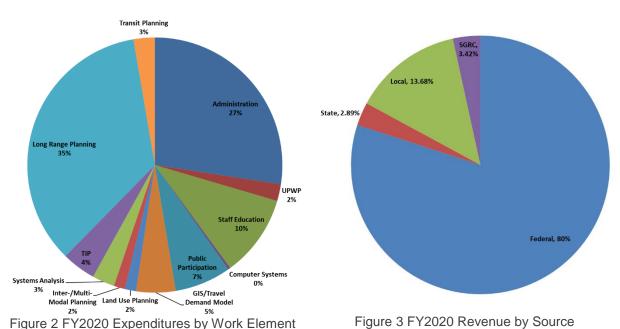


Figure 2 FY2020 Expenditures by Work Element

Project Updates

Exits 22 & 29 (PI# 0000762)

Construction on Exits 22 and 29 was substantially completed in the spring of 2020.



Exit 2 (PI# 0007386)

Construction started on improvements to Exit 2 in spring of 2020.

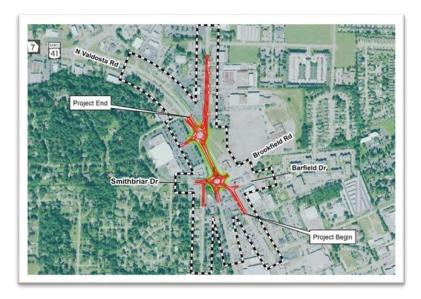


Exit 11 (PI# 0010297)

GDOT continues to refine the design for this project. It is anticipated this project will begin construction in FY2021.

Five Points Roundabouts (PI#0 015445)

GDOT held a virtual public information open house seeking comments for this project in the summer of 2020. GDOT will continue working on a design for this project.



Old Quitman Road Bridge (Pl# 0015614)

It is anticipated that GDOT will begin to acquire right-of-way in 2021 or later, and begin construction in 2023 or later. (image source: Michael Rivera)



Exit 18 (PI# 0010298)

Design for this interchange improvement project is expected to begin in 2021 leading to construction starting in 2024 or later.

Lake Park Bellville Road Widening (PI# 0013987)

GDOT continues to acquire right-of-way for this project. It is anticipated that this project will begin construction in 2022 or later. (Photo: public in attendance at open house for this project)



Jerry Jones (PI# 0014134)

GDOT and the City of Valdosta continue to acquire right-of-way for this project. It is anticipated that this project will begin construction in 2022 or later.

South Valdosta Truck Bypass (PI# 0016898)

GDOT plans to complete a scoping phase for this project to aid in the selection of a preferred alternative beginning in 2021.

SR 122/SR 125, Walker's Crossing Intersection Improvement (PI# 0016109)

GDOT continues to design a roundabout as the proposed improvement for this intersection.

SR 31 Passing Lanes (PI# 0014485)

It is anticipated that GDOT will begin to acquire right-of-way in 2021 or later, and begin construction in 2023 or later.

Programs and Activities

Vision2045 Plan Development

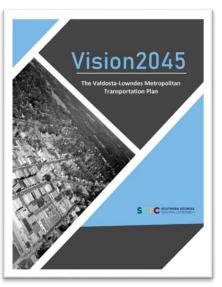
FY2020 was a year that was devoted developing the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for Valdosta and Lowndes County. The development of the Vision2045 Plan public included series of а engagement opportunities to gather input on projects. For the first time staff handed out surveys at the annual 2019 Winnersville Classic football game. The survey asked respondents to vote on projects that had been previously submitted. These votes helped prioritize projects to include in the Plan.



Figure 4 Staff at the Winnersville Football Game discussing Transportation with Attendees

Staff also worked with the Technical Advisory Committee to prioritize and select roadway projects for inclusion in the Plan. This process involved review of data about each project and the evaluation of the Travel Demand Model (analysis provided by Georgia Department of Transportation).

Not only does the Vision2045 Plan contain new highway projects, but it also lays out investments in public transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and provides strategies for future transportation funding and addressing changing transportation technologies (like automated vehicles) and other topics that need more planning study and research.



The MPO Policy Committee is expected to formally adopt the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan on September 2, 2020.

Complete Streets Policy

In FY2020, the MPO Policy Committee adopted the first Complete Streets Policy in this region influencing the planning and project development process for roadway improvements funded through the MPO Vision2045 Plan and Transportation Improvement Programs. This Policy allows for more input from staff and stakeholders on the inclusion of roadway infrastructure for all users (like sidewalks and bike lanes) as

projects are developed. It also encourages more education of Complete Streets principles to the public and local officials throughout the year.

MPO Strategic Plan

In FY2020, the MPO Policy Committee adopted its first-ever Strategic Plan. This document helps the staff develop plans, studies, projects, and policies that are of importance to the MPO and the community. Several efforts will begin in FY2021 to improve the MPO outreach and provide further information to local decision makers about transportation investments in the community.

Urban Transit in Valdosta

For several years, the local governments and the MPO have been studying and planning for the implementation of urban transit in the Valdosta Urbanized Area. Due to various factors the City of Valdosta decided to move forward with plans to issue an Request for Qualifications and Proposals in FY2020 to implement a turnkey, urban transit system following the rideshare (app-based, demand response similar to companies like Uber, Lyft, and other taxi-like services) delivery model. The MPO staff has assisted the City in writing an application for federal funds as well as developing the scope of work for potential vendors. The City of Valdosta anticipates awarding a contract for transit services in Fall 2020 with service to begin shortly after.

Participation Plan Report

The MPO strives to be an organization that proactively engages the public for input about transportation and to inform the public about various transportation planning efforts throughout the community. To assist in this effort, the MPO utilizes its Participation Plan Policies, Strategies, and Techniques to engage and inform the public throughout the year.

Title VI (Civil Rights) Annual Report

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

The MPO has not had any Title VI complaints, and the plan was updated to include the Title VI public notices and complaint procedures in additional languages as identified in the LEP analysis.

The MPO staff attended in-person trainings on topics like public participation, Title VI, and Environmental Justice in transportation planning.

Limited-English Proficiency (LEP) Analysis

As a recipient of federal funds, the SGRC, as the MPO, is required to evaluate what services and products we provide for use by individuals who may speak English less proficiently. The SGRC reviews data annually to measure this population in Lowndes County (the primary service area for the MPO). The Participation Plan includes data from the US Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey, which is examined in the table below with data form the 2014-2018 ACS.

Residents with Limited-English Proficiency					
	05-09 ACS	13-17 ACS			
Estimate	5,571	6,611			
Margin of Error	+/- 567	+/- 610			
Lowndes County %	5.9%	6.2%			
United States %	19.6%	21.5			
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Table S1601					

Based on the increase of residents with Limited-English Proficiency and further examination of the specific languages, the MPO is required to publish our vital documents in new languages as noted previously. The SGRC will continue to use the MPO LEP Plan to address the needs of these populations in our region.

Participation Plan Performance Measures

When the MPO Participation Plan was adopted in 2011, it included performance measures that would be reviewed annually to evaluate how effective the MPO is at engaging the public. Included here are the performance measures, as well as an indication of whether this measure has increased, held steady, or decreased in the last year; a sign of the effectiveness of our public participation efforts. It should be noted that COVID-19 shelter-in-place restrictions did have an impact on the number of events held from March thru June 2020.

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.

In order to raise awareness of the MPO and the transportation planning process the staff hosted two open houses, sent newsletters to interested parties and represented the interests of the MPO at various community events throughout the year. Overall participation in these activities was **down** from previous years.

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

The MPO staff makes sure that they are accessible to the public in a variety of formats. The MPO maintains and active social media presence with Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Our website is updated in a regular basis. The staff ensures that all MPO-hosted events are open to the public and there is an opportunity for public comments at those events. Staff is also available during regular business hours at the SGRC office in-person or by phone. Overall public access to staff and opportunities for involvement has remained **steady**.

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

During the development of the Vision2045 Transportation Plan in FY2020, the MPO hosted more stakeholder meetings with local government staff, staff from the

Georgia Department of Transportation and others to assist in the development of this important document. Staff continues to engage resource agencies and maintains a listing of interested parties to include in planning consultation. The MPO responds to all comments received during public comment periods and many of those on social media sites as well. The MPO was able to develop a new Transportation Environmental Assessment Mapping (TEAMap) application this past year to aid stakeholders in reviewing projects included in the Vision2045 Plan. Overall stakeholder outreach and engagement has remained **steady**.

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 MPO has worked to increase outreach to traditionally underserved communities in FY2020. Some accomplishments include the printing or vital portions of the Participation Plan and Title VI Complaint Procedures in multiple languages as identified by the LEP analysis. To help spread the word about the public comment opportunities for the Vision2045 Plan random addresses were selected in census tracts where analysis has indicated traditionally underserved population are concentrated. Overall outreach to traditionally underserved communities **increased** in FY2020.

Strategy 5: Employ visualization and outreach techniques to better describe and communicate metropolitan transportation plans and processes to the public.

The SGRC, as the MPO, as produced several documents this year including a Complete Streets Policy, Annual Crash Report, Common Community Vision Annual Report, Lowndes County School Area Crash Trends, Annual Work Program, and Vision2045 Transportation Plan. In order to inform the public and stakeholders of these documents and to gain input from the MPO continues to use media outreach, open houses, newsletters, social media, websites, and speaking engagement outreach techniques. Overall outreach and document production has remained **steady** for the MPO.

Strategy 6: Implement goals of the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision that promote open, transparent, and engaging public participation.

The MPO staff regularly participates in regional and cross-jurisdictional meetings representing the interests of transportation planning in the community; this activity has remained **steady** over the past year.

Outlook for FY2021 and Beyond

In FY2021, the SGRC, as the MPO, looks to begin the implementation of the Vision2045 Transportation Plan, which includes highway, transit, and other multi-modal projects throughout the region. The MPO Strategic Plan and the Vision2045 Plan layout several planning level studies that local governments and community stakeholders would like to see completed in the coming years. The MPO staff will begin FY2021 be developing draft scopes of work for these studies as well as working with the MPO Technical Advisory Committee to prioritize this work, seek input on the scopes of work, and identify possible funding sources for these planning studies.

The MPO staff will start FY2021 off with an analytical report looking at Transportation Infrastructure Vulnerability and Resiliency Study that will aid state and local governments on future investments in transportation to be more resilient to extreme weather events. This report will be completed in coordination with the Lowndes County Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Plan update that takes into consideration many of the same impacts from extreme weather.

The staff will also start work in FY2021 completing an assessment of local government readiness for future transportation technologies like Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs). This report will utilize a national assessment framework to review and make recommendations to improve and make local policies, ordinances, and infrastructure more responsive to future transportation technologies that make CAVs possible.

As outlined in the Vision2045 Transportation Plan the MPO has outlined future funding strategies of using local and/or regional sales taxes to fund future investments in transportation infrastructure. The MPO will begin to work with local county governments to determine how to best implement these strategies to maximize the benefit for ensuring future financial stability for transportation investments in the metropolitan area.



Figure 5 Amy Martin, SGRC Regional Planner speaking on techniques the MPO uses to measure public participation at the Association of MPOs National Conference in Baltimore, MD, October 2019.

FY2020 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports

2020-1.1 MPO Administration

Objective:

To implement the MPO's overall transportation planning vision by administering the activities identified in the UPWP and managing the organization.

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. Update the VLMPO MOU as necessary to include all parties and regulatory requirements. Update the VLMPO Committee orientation handbook as appropriate to introduce new committee members to the VLMPO transportation planning process. Continue to work with Georgia Assoc. of MPOs (GAMPO) and other state and national organizations on the role of MPOs in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning. Support GAMPO activities through participation in meetings and events. Continue to report on and implement the goals of the Common Community Vision, especially as they relate to transportation and accessibility/improvements to: economic and workforce development, education, housing, land use, and health. The VLMPO will use staff resources to develop a strategic plan for the VLMPO, its committees and staff. The strategic plan will identify areas of priority for the VLMPO to further study transportation impacts and investments in the community. This plan will be used to guide the development of the 2045 Transportation Vision Plan goals and future UPWP work elements. Prepare for and participate in the GDOT certification review of the VLMPO transportation planning process. Staff will continue to inform the MPO committees of legislative and regulatory actions impacting transportation planning and funding. The VLMPO will continue to provide staff that will be the local expert in transportation areas, assisting planning partners in transportation project development, building consensus and value in alternatives analysis, shared planning products, and providing a

forum for regional decision making. Continue to work with GDOT and surrounding jurisdictions/agencies to maintain a comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, regional, multi-modal transportation planning process. The VLMPO will continue to maintain a planning document schedule for local officials to understand the planning process better.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared minutes and agendas for the VLMPO committee meetings in September. Staff attended a GAMPO meeting in Atlanta. Staff participated in SGRC leadership meetings and monthly staff meetings.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff prepared minutes and agendas for the VLMPO committee meetings in December. Staff participated in SGRC leadership meetings and monthly staff meetings.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff prepared minutes and agendas for the VLMPO committee meetings in March. Staff participated in SGRC leadership meetings and daily staff meetings (switched to daily after COVID-19 emergency and shelter in place orders). Staff conducted orientation meetings with new MPO committee members.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared minutes and agendas for the VLMPO committee meetings in June (held virtually). Staff conducted daily calls with employees during remote work period. Staff conducted new employee orientation.

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: \$19,033.42 Expenditures to Date: \$18,959.30 Percent Expended: 99.6% Project Complete: 100%

2020-1.2 Operations/UPWP

Objective:

To identify work tasks to be undertaken by the VLMPO and ensure compliance with applicable federal, state and local requirements.

Project Description:

Prepare and amend (as needed) an annual UPWP (draft due: November; final due: March), including the preparation of work tasks, cost estimates and financial reports. Prepare quarterly reports, invoices and reimbursement requests to submit to GDOT and local partners. Prepare annual report reviewing activities of the past fiscal year. Prepare applications/resolutions for the GAMPO PL Funds Review Committee to apply for additional PL funds as requested by local governments (see Element 4.4). Develop scopes of work and/or purpose and need statements for each item in the five-year business plan that may require future consultant work. Prepare scopes of work and procurement items for projects listed in Element 4.4 of this UPWP as requested by local governments.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared and completed the FY19 VLMPO Annual Report and 4th quarter reimbursement invoice. Staff prepared and executed contracts with GDOT.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff prepared the 1st quarter report and reimbursement invoice for FY20. Staff prepared the draft FY21 UPWP and budget and sent to MPO committees for comment and review.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff prepared the 2nd quarter report and reimbursement invoice for FY20. Staff prepared the final version of the FY21 UPWP and budget, which was approved by the MPO Committees in March.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared the 3rd quarter report and reimbursement invoice for FY20. Staff prepared a UPWP amendment for transit planning funds which was approved by the MPO committees in June.

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: \$4,758.35

Expenditures to Date: \$4,738.47

Percent Expended: 99.6%

Project Complete: 100%

2020-1.3 Training/Professional Development

Objective:

Develop staff professional and technical knowledge of transportation planning through relevant conferences, workshops, and webinars.

Project Description:

Provide continuing education and training for MPO staff and committees that will enable the MPO to effectively carry out the transportation planning process, including but not limited to: performance measures, Environmental Justice/ADA/Title VI, transportation planning, GIS and visualization techniques, and other innovations as they are available. Some conferences the staff and committee members may attend include but are not limited to (parentheses indicate registration/travel cost estimate): GA Planning Assoc. (\$500/\$700), GA Transit Assoc. (\$500), American Planning Assoc. (\$2000), Transportation Research Board (\$3500), GA Assoc. of MPOs (\$300), National Assoc. of MPOs (\$2500), GA Highway Safety Conference (\$500), National Assoc. of Development Orgs. (\$1500), and other training provided by FHWA, FTA, GDOT, NTI or NHI. Travel will be subject to the SGRC Travel Policies, based on Federal per diem rates. Travel costs not associated with training and education events are included in other work elements of this UPWP. Staff will maintain a training tracker to report training hours and content to the GA Department of Community Affairs and for other purposes. SGRC/VLMPO will continue membership in AMPO (organizations dues estimated to be \$500) and NADO (organization dues are paid by other non-MPO related funding sources), and will consider other organization memberships as appropriate. Please note the above are organizational memberships and not personal.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended the following meetings: TRB Performance Data Conference, CTPP training, and various webinars on topics like transportation and economic development, project prioritization, LRTP development, aging in place, and transit partnerships.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff attended the following training events: AMPO Annual Conference (Baltimore, MD) and GDOT Title VI training (transit focus). Staff attended webinars on public engagement, bicycle safety, social equity in walkable communities.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff attended the following training events: TRB Annual Meeting (Washington, DC). Staff attended the following webinars: Transit and Google Maps; Equity and Transportation Tech; Cost Allocation.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff attended web-based training events on the following topics: GTFS Flex, online public engagement.

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: \$20,619.55

Expenditures to Date: \$20,616.72

Percent Expended: 99.99%

Project Complete: 100%

2020-1.4 Equipment/Supplies/Technical Assistance

Objective:

To maintain computer systems and office equipment use by the VLMPO for relevant transportation planning activities.

Project Description:

The SGRC/VLMPO will purchase and maintain relevant computer hardware, software and other equipment to meet the needs of the staff to effectively carry out the MPO transportation planning process pursuant to the VLMPO Procurement Policy. The SGRC IT Department will continue to provide technical assistance to maintain computer equipment and software (regular updates, maintenance, troubleshooting, also Transportation Project Database). The VLMPO will also coordinate the purchase of equipment, supplies, computer systems, software and training with local governments for local traffic counting programs as requested.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff maintained computer software and performed routine maintenance of computer hardware.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff maintained computer software and performed routine maintenance of computer hardware.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff maintained computer software and performed routine maintenance of computer hardware.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff maintained computer software and performed routine maintenance of computer hardware.

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: 1,344.47

Expenditures to Date: \$669.60

Percent Expended: 49.8%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, \$5,000 removed from this element to Long Range Planning.

2020-2.1 Participation Plan Implementation

Objective:

To implement the strategies and policies of the VLMPO Participation Plan including: Title VI Compliance, Environmental Justice, and LEP.

Project Description:

Outreach and Education:

Staff will continue to communicate, educate, inform, make transparent, and visualize how the transportation planning process impacts all of the FHWA planning factors through regular inclusionary public involvement opportunities associated with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Participation Plan (PP) and other documents for the public and elected officials. Engage and inform non-traditional community planning partners through the Citizen's Advisory Committee about the transportation planning process and promote the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision as a strategic vision for the community. VLMPO staff will engage the community through partnerships with community organization events (job fairs, school events, open houses, etc.). Develop and maintain websites and social media, with the most recent and relevant data and information about the MPO transportation planning process for the public and local government decision makers. Develop graphical, marketing and visualization skills and products to better communicate transportation data and concepts. Conduct public involvement strategies as outlined in the PP as needed for development of various VLMPO documents, including but not limited to outlining participation objectives for the development of the 2045 Transportation Vision Plan.

Participation Plan (EJ/Title VI/LEP) Implementation/Maintenance: Review, update and annually report on the status of the Participation Plan, Title VI compliance, EJ outreach, and LEP analysis. Staff will annually attend training events and continue to analyze EJ, LEP and Title VI populations to ensure that all populations have access to essential services. Continue to implement the PP and report on the performance measures in that document. Develop GIS-based data resources to analyze and evaluate social and environmental impacts of transportation improvements.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff held public comment period and open house for an amendment to the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan and FY18-21 TIP. Staff continued website updates. Staff continued to make regular social media posts. Staff attended meetings of the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee. Staff handed out materials for an online survey (re: LRTP update) at a local football game.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff held a public comment period and open house for an update to the Participation Plan. The PP update was approved at the December MPO meetings. Staff attended meetings of the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee. Staff handed out materials for an online survey (re: LRTP update) at several local events. Staff met with potential vendors to learn about online methods for public engagement.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff attended meetings of the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee, staff attended meetings of the Valdosta Civic Roundtable, staff attended the Okefenokee Occasion and Lowndes Bird Supper events in Atlanta. Staff prepared regular social media and website updates.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared materials for the public comment period for the Vision2045 MTP. Staff prepared regular social media and website updates.

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: \$15,861.19
Expenditures to Date: \$15,836.59
Percent Expended: 99.8%
Project Complete: 100%

2020-3.1 GIS/Travel Demand Model Development

Objective:

Maintain GIS layers needed for the transportation planning process and to ensure effective use of the Travel Demand Model.

Project Description:

The VLMPO will work with the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional GIS Department (VALOR) at the SGRC to develop and maintain GIS data, and a website that shows transportation projects from the TIP and MTP. Develop a data update schedule for key layers used by the VLMPO. Support the SGRC Regional Plan implementation of Goal ED-1 to develop GIS layers of infrastructure like stormwater and transportation infrastructure. Continue to educate local officials of the importance of the travel demand model and how it can be used for transportation planning decision making purposes. Develop GISbased data resources to analyze and evaluate social and environmental impacts of transportation improvements that will be used to inform the prioritization of projects to be included in the 2045 TVP. Review GIS resources and the local Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify transportation infrastructure that might be susceptible to extreme weather events. Develop regional commuting maps (when Census data is available) to illustrate regional travel patterns that impact travel from surrounding communities on the VLMPO Planning Area. The VLMPO will use GIS to analyze data collected for performance measures to inform local officials of trends in data to set target areas and to analyze projects for inclusion in the LRTP and TIP. Staff will use GIS data analysis outputs and other visualization techniques to convey information about how transportation improvements can positively impact planning factors. The VLMPO staff and TAC will review model outputs from the 2045 TDM that is produced by GDOT, and staff will use the officially maintained GDOT model to perform model runs as requested by local governments. The VLMPO staff and TAC will review model outputs from the 2045 TDM that is produced by GDOT. Maintain the VLMPO 2035 Joint Land Use Study Travel Demand Model for analysis requests from local stakeholders as it relates to the mission of Moody Air Force Base and its impact on land use and transportation relationships in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff continued to develop and maintain GIS layers for transportation purposes. Staff continued to develop a GIS Story Map for the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan Projects. Staff began to develop an environmental assessment tool using GIS. Staff prepared a GIS-based survey for the public to provide input on the projects for the 2045 Transportation Plan Update.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff finalized the development of a transportation project environmental assessment tool using GIS (this will be used to evaluate project in the 2045 MTP update). Staff continued to develop a new GIS-based transportation project database tool to replace the old database whose server was retired.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff completed and began using the Transportation Environmental Assessment Map Tool (TEAMap) for 2045 MTP project evaluations. Staff finished the GIS-based transportation project database that will produce project data sheets and be a repository for all documents related to each project.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff updated project information in the GIS-based project database. Staff created a Story Map for the Vision2045 MTP.

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: \$11,102.83

Expenditures to Date: \$11,078.56

Percent Expended: 99.8%

Project Complete: 100

2020-3.2 Land Use Planning

Objective:

To analyze the impacts of land use and transportation improvements to ensure consistency with the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan.

Project Description:

Coordinate with local land use planning staff to review local land use developments (zoning requests, subdivision plats, commercial developments, etc.) as to their effects on the local transportation infrastructure and consistency with the goals of the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan. Provide technical assistance to local engineers and planners on topics relating to transportation and land use including: access management, transit oriented development, complete streets, etc. Coordinate with MPO jurisdictions to cooperatively develop updates and implement local comprehensive (and regional) plans and planning efforts as required by the GA Department of Community Affairs (transportation planning requirements and transportation-land use relationships). Continue to inform the public and stakeholders of the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision and promote its use as a strategic vision for the community. Continue to work with the SGRC and local land use planners to implement the Moody Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study recommendations that impact the transportation-land use relationship in the Metropolitan Planning Area. Develop at least one (1) neighborhood plan for the City of Valdosta that provides guidance for the growth and redevelopment of a neighborhood based on the 2040 TVP, local Comprehensive Plan, Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, transit plans, and other local/regional plans/studies focusing on how public transportation infrastructure investment will benefit the redevelopment of neighborhoods. The VLMPO will continue to encourage the development of gateways into the community that improve visual appearance and mitigate natural/human environmental impacts of transportation. Staff will review, share and update as needed the 2040 (and 2045 when available) Socioeconomic Data Study for use by other organizations.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff continued to review weekly development proposals from local governments.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to review weekly development proposals from local governments. Staff discussed writing neighborhood infrastructure plans with the City of Valdosta.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to review weekly development proposals from local governments.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to review weekly development proposals from local governments.

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: \$3,172.24

Expenditures to Date: \$3,147.31

Percent Expended: 99.2%

Project Complete: 100%

2020-3.3 Inter-/Multi-Modal Transportation Planning

Objective:

To improve the movement of goods and people through planning for freight, and bicycle and pedestrian modes.

Project Description:

Bike/Ped Activities: Continue to work with local and state jurisdictions to implement the Bike/Ped Master Plan. Report on the status of this implementation. Consider the development of Complete Streets Policies for the VLMPO, the City of Valdosta, and Lowndes County when they might be requested by local governments. Explore options for: improved data on bicycle and pedestrian usage in the region (traffic video analysis, fitness apps, etc.); funding bicycle and pedestrian projects (social impact bonds, etc.); improving transportation planning so that it can be used to improve health of the local population. Report on local jurisdiction compliance with 2040 TVP Active, Healthy Lifestyles Strategy Implementation. Update the 2045 TVP bicycle and pedestrian project list with new projects identified by local governments and other planning partners. With other SGRC transportation planning programs, coordinate efforts on Safe Routes to School participation, regional bicycle and pedestrian planning activities (like: complete streets workshops, health and transportation, etc.) within the VLMPO Metropolitan Planning Area (SGRC receives other funding for these programs outside the MPO, but the products may be coordinated where appropriate). Develop crash reports for each K-12 school to identify any problems associated with transportation safety in/around school zones (see SGRC Regional Plan Goal EDU-10). Implement ideas from the Transportation Demand Management Report in the VLMPO Planning Area.

Freight and Intermodal Activities: Continue to integrate freight and goods movement planning and analysis into long and short range planning efforts. Continue to evaluate and study alternatives to recommend a project to mitigate (lessen impacts, divert truck traffic, reroute, develop new alignment, etc.) Downtown Truck Traffic (see Lowndes County Comp Plan Valdosta Item 17) as recommended in previous MPO and GDOT studies. Continue to update data and perform analysis of how freight and goods movement impacts economic development in the region. Coordinate MPO

planning efforts with other local transportation modes: railroads, airports, seaports, etc. to inform and influence the 2045 TVP update process.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff participated in the GDOT bicycle and pedestrian safety task team conference calls. Staff completed a Complete Streets Policy for the MPO area, this was approved by the Policy Committee in September.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff participated in the GDOT bicycle and pedestrian safety task team conference calls.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff participated in the GDOT bicycle and pedestrian safety task team conference calls. Staff met with a citizen to talk about ideas for improving bike/ped safety and infrastructure in the urban area.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff participated in the GDOT bicycle and pedestrian safety task team conference calls. Staff prepared Bike/Ped sections of the Vision 2045 MTP.

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: \$3,172.24

Expenditures to Date: \$3,145.02

Percent Expended: 99.1%

Project Complete: 100%

2020-3.4 Systems Data Analysis and Research

Objective:

To develop and maintain on-going data collection programs to monitor current and historic operational characteristics of the transportation network.

Project Description:

Continue to develop an Annual Crash Report that analyzes crash data for local governments to identify safety improvements that can be implemented through new projects or educational programs. Conduct Road Safety Audits (RSAs) with local jurisdictions as requested to identify solutions to safety and operational concerns. Encourage and advise local governments to develop transportation asset management plans. Report on age and structural integrity of bridges in the region to highlight need for replacement, ongoing maintenance, future financial needs for repair/maintenance, etc. Continue to work with GDOT and local jurisdictions, as requested on the implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems and architectures in the Metropolitan Planning Area. Coordinate data development and analysis with GIS resources to better visualize data for local decision makers for various MPO plans and projects. Identify data needs to implement MAP-21 and FAST Act Performance Measures and the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan as required and in consultation with GDOT and local partners. Procure as needed and appropriate data needed for performance measurement and analysis of the transportation system and its impacts on regional economic development. Collect and analyze data as it is identified to develop data trends and targets for project selection and prioritization. Continue to report on various data trends that impact transportation planning in the region. Educate local officials on the importance and need for additional data and analysis to complete performance measure trend analysis and target setting.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff identified and collected data sources for the prioritization of projects for the 2045 transportation plan update. Staff prepared a GIS website tool for analyzing environmental impacts from transportation impacts that will be used to better visualize various impacts transportation might have on environmental factors.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to collect data for the prioritization of projects for the 2045 MTP update.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to collect data for the prioritization of projects for the 2045 MTP update including the development of cost estimates and data related to the performance measures and targets.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff completed the FY2020 Crash Report.

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: \$6,344.47

Expenditures to Date: \$6,323.29

Percent Expended: 99.7%

Project Complete: 100%

2020-4.1 Transportation Improvement Program

Objective:

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

Project Description:

The VLMPO will continue to work with GDOT and local planning partners in prioritizing, developing and implementing projects in the TIP, including attending meetings and conducting analysis where needed to select and prioritize projects. Implement national goals and performance measures in the TIP in coordination with local and state partners. Continue to process TIP amendments and administrative modifications according to adopted policies (including those in the PP) in coordination with GDOT and local jurisdictions. Continue to provide technical support for projects in the TIP. Continue to coordinate with GDOT and local transit providers to update and report on performance targets/meaures in the TIP and System Performance Report. Continue to maintain a project tracking tool and GIS database to provide the public and planning partner's information about project development and timelines. 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. Continue to explore new and innovative funding opportunities (unique grants, social impact bonds, etc.) for transportation improvements.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared amendments to the FY18-21 TIP for project amendments; the TIP was amended at the September Policy Committee meeting. Staff attended project meetings hosted by GDOT for TIP projects.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff discussed TIP project issues and concerns with local residents and GDOT project managers.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff prepared administrative modifications to the TIP and MTP for projects and for the safety performance measures. Staff met with GDOT project managers regarding the status of various projects in the MPO area.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff updated project information in the transportation project database.

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: \$1,586.11

Expenditures to Date: \$1,562.79

Percent Expended: 98.5%

Project Complete: 100%

2020-4.2 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Objective:

To develop, maintain and implement a 20-year fiscally responsible long range transportation plan.

Project Description:

Continue to maintain (amend), update, and implement the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan as needed in accordance with amendment procedures and public involvement procedures as outlined in the PP). Coordinate with GDOT and local transit operators to report and implement performance targets/measures in the MTP and System Performance Report. Monitor the implementation of the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan through the MPO annual report and other reporting methods. Develop the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as a performance-based planning document in partnership with GDOT and local partners in accordance with federal laws and regulations (in support of Lowndes Comp Plan Item 7). Develop GIS layers and models needed for development of land use patterns for travel demand model. Work with the TAC as the steering committee for the 2045 TVP update to refine goals, and performance measures. Work with the CAC to identify public participation opportunities for the 2045 TVP. Work with the TAC and GDOT to develop transportation improvement projects scenarios to model and consider their outputs to develop a final financially constrained project list. Continue to work with GDOT and local partners in prioritizing and implementing projects in the MTP and TIP, this includes attending meetings and conducting analysis where needed for a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous MTP. Continue to inform the public and stakeholders of the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision and promote its use as a strategic vision for the community.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared an amendment to the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan for projects; the amendment was adopted at the September Policy Committee meeting. Staff continued to develop various sections of the 2045 Transportation Plan update. Staff prepared a survey for the public to vote on transportation projects to be implemented in the 2045 update.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to develop various sections of the 2045 MTP update document. Staff developed a financial plan for the 2045 MTP.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff completed the first draft of the 2045 MTP and sent it for internal staff review. Staff continued to develop projects including data needed for project prioritization and cost estimates. Staff met via phone with GDOT staff to discuss Travel Demand Model outputs and project details.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff completed the partner review period for the Vision2045 MTP. Staff revised MTP document to address all comments received. Staff prepared document for public comment. Staff met with GDOT via phone to discuss travel demand model and project details. Staff met with Technical Advisory Committee to discuss projects in the MTP.

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: \$71,616.98

Expenditures to Date: \$71,564.49

Percent Expended: 99.9%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, \$5,000 moved to this element from Equipment.

2020-4.3 Transit Planning

Objective:

To plan for effective, affordable and accessible public transportation options and alternatives in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Project Description:

Provide transit planning administration and assistance to Lowndes, Brooks and Berrien Counties Transit Systems (all 5311 rural systems) and any future urban transit system in the Valdosta Urbanized Area. Provide data analysis and reports as requested by local or state officials regarding current or future transit operations. Continue to coordinate transit planning with rural and human service providers. Includes coordination with GDOT, SGRC Coordinated Transportation Program, Department of Human Services, and other stakeholders. Continue to explore options to implement recommendations (if any) of the FY2016 Transit Implementation Study and other past studies. Consider developing a consultant-led survey/study to determine from the public in the Valdosta Urbanized Area the preferred way to locally fund public transit implementation. Continue to evaluate the accessibility and mobility of regional activity centers and the various population groups (focus on EJ areas) throughout the region and the impact various transportation modes might have accessibility and mobility.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended meetings required by GDOT in Forsyth, GA. Staff continued to discuss urban transit implementation with local officials. Staff attended the SUN conference in Athens, GA.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to discuss urban transit implementation with local officials. Staff attended various trainings for urban transit implementation. Staff began to work with the City of Valdosta to apply for 5307 urban public transit funds.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to discuss urban transit implementation with officials from the City of Valdosta. Staff began to prepare an RFQ for the City of use to procure transit services. Staff assisted the City in completing an application for 5307 funds for transit capital and operations.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff assisted the City of Valdosta in preparing an RFQ for transit services in the City.

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: \$NA (includes only FTA 5303 funds)

Expenditures to Date: \$NA (includes only FTA 5303 funds)

Percent Expended: NA% (includes only FTA 5303 funds)

Project Complete %: 100%

2020-4.4 Special Transportation Studies

Objective:

To conduct planning level analysis of alternatives for transportation projects identified in the LRTP or by the transportation planning process.

Project Description:

The projects contained in this section are for discretionary funds that have been applied for by the VLMPO. Projects included below remain approved as a part of the UPWP, but are unfunded (unless otherwise noted) until the funds are applied for through the GA MPO PL Review Committee.

Quarter 1 Report:

No projects at this time.

Quarter 2 Report:

No projects at this time.

Quarter 3 Report:

No projects at this time.

Quarter 4 Report:

No projects at this time.

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: \$NA

Expenditures to Date: \$NA

Percent Expended: NA

Project Complete %: NA