



Valdosta- Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization

Southern Georgia Regional Commission

A Handbook for Participating in the Transportation Planning Process

Table of Contents



Contents

Overview 3

Core Functions of the MPO..... 3

Organization..... 4

MPO Committees..... 4

Annual Activities of MPO 5

Maps 6

Glossary of Acronyms 8



*To keep up with the latest news happening within the VLMPO, visit
<http://www.sgrc.us/vlmpo-committees.html>,
Find us on Twitter: @VLMPO, or on Facebook: @ValdostaLowndesMPO*

This document is current as of June 2018.

Overview

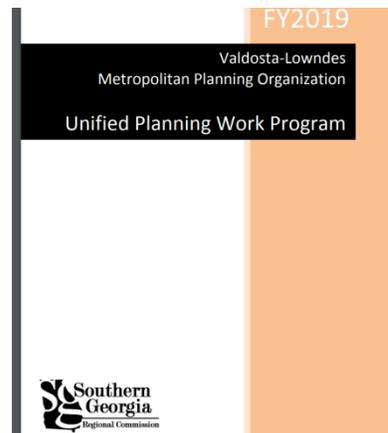
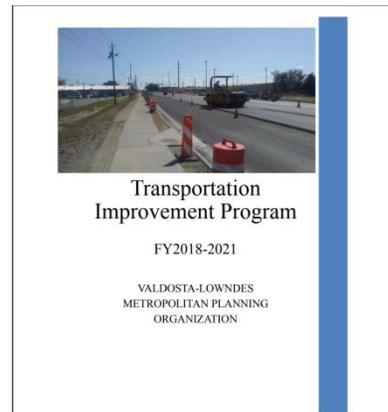
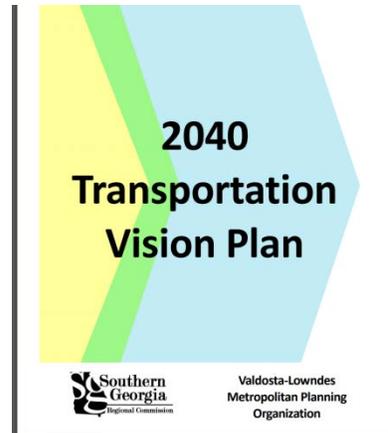
In April 2003, Governor Sonny Perdue officially designated the Southern Georgia Regional Commission as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Valdosta Urbanized Area. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) is responsible for carrying out transportation planning in the Metropolitan Planning Area using funding received from the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, administered by the Georgia Department of Transportation. The MPO works with these and other transportation planning partners to carry out a Comprehensive, Continuous, Cooperative transportation planning process (3-C process) and to fulfill the requirements of various federal, state and local transportation planning laws and plans.

Today the SGRC as the designated MPO for the Valdosta Urbanized Area continues to provide quality comprehensive, cooperative and continuous transportation planning in the greater Valdosta-Metropolitan Area.

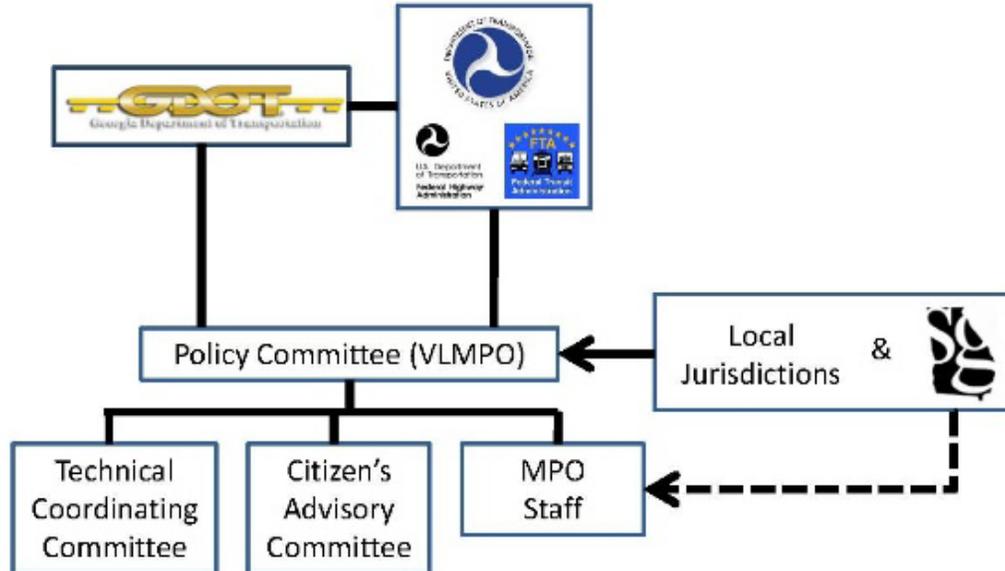
Core Functions of the MPO

It is in the national and local interest to encourage and promote the safe and efficient management, operation, and development of surface transportation systems that will serve the mobility needs of people and freight, and that will foster economic growth and development. The VLMPO carries out these functions through the following:

- Being a forum for regional decision-making
- Evaluating alternatives for transportation improvements
- Prepare/Maintain a Transportation Plan
- Develop a Transportation Improvement Program
- Involve Stakeholders and the Public



Organization



MPO Committees

Policy Committee

- **Elected/Appointed Officials**
- Vision and Policy for Transportation
- Goals and Solutions
- Prioritize Projects
- Decision makers

- Develop Reports, Documents and Plans
 - Follow 3-C Process
- Public Involvement
- Educate Decision makers

Technical Advisory Committee

- **Local Engineers, Planners, etc.**
- Technical =
 - Data Driven
 - Expert Opinion
- Carryout Transportation Plans and Projects

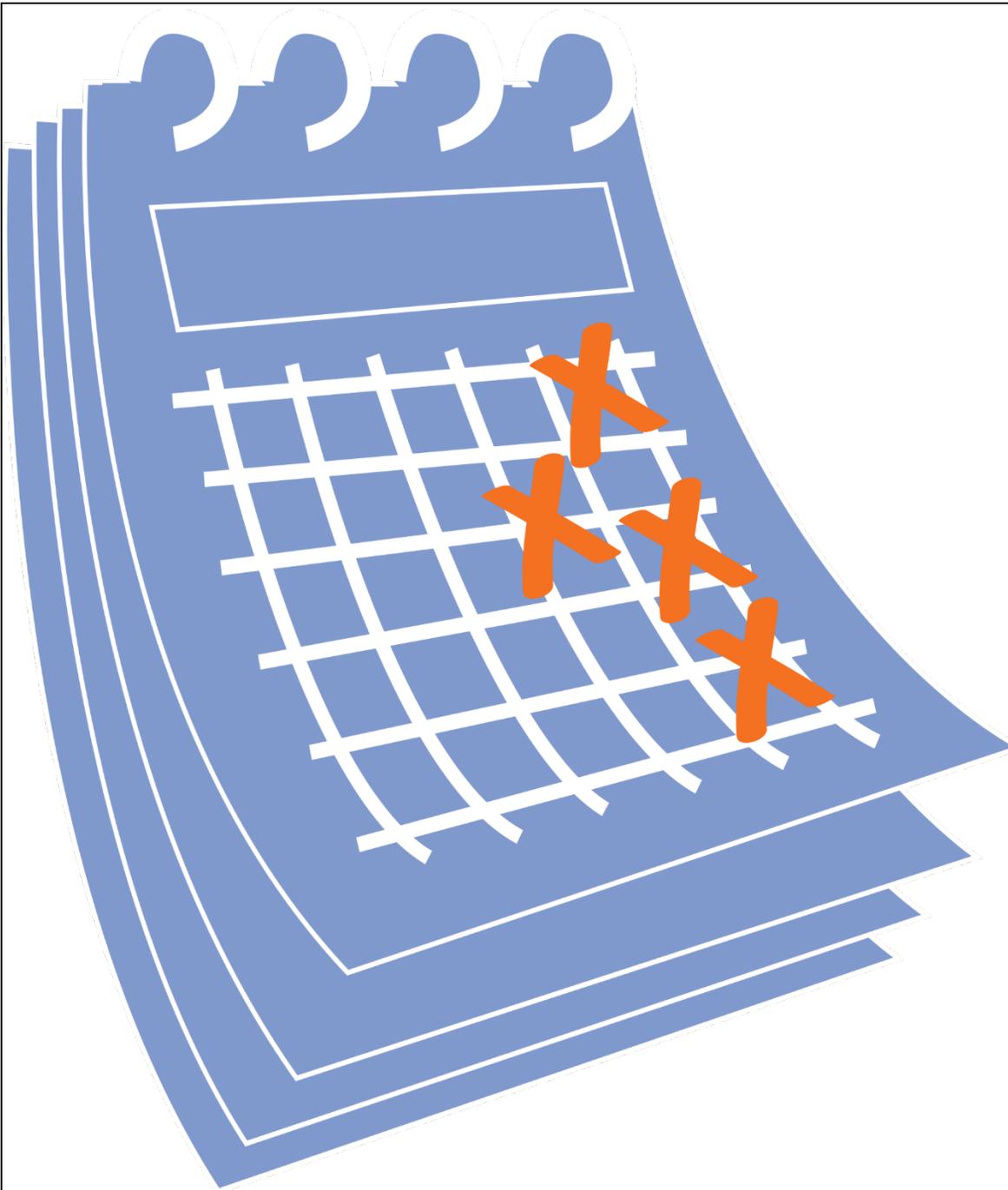
MPO staff members are tasked with creating, organizing, and carrying out technicalities of each committee organization. MPO staff actively engages in transportation studies and produce data studies such as socioeconomic analysis, Travel Demand Modeling, Land Use Planning, Freight Planning, Access Management, Safety/Security Planning, Transit Planning, and Bike/Pedestrian. Other studies include: Environmental Mitigation, Context Sensitive Solutions, and Operations/ITS.

Citizen's Advisory Committee

- **Citizen Stakeholders**
- Ensure values and interests of the community are included
- Assist in Public Participation

MPO Staff

- Carryout UPWP



Fiscal Year (FY): July 1 through June 30

July

- Execute MPO Planning Contracts(PL & 5303 with GDOT)
- Submit Prior Year Quarterly Reports (4th Quarter)
- Prepare & Submit Prior Year Annual Report

August

September

- Quarterly VLMPO Committee meetings
- Apply for PL Discretionary Funds

October

- Begin to prepare 5303 Application for next FY
- Submit Quarterly Reports (1st Quarter)

November

- Submit Draft UPWP to planning partners for review/comment

December

- Quarterly VLMPO Committee Meetings
- Present 5303 Resolution (also at SGRC Council)

January

- Review Participation Plan for any required updates
- Submit Quarterly Reports (2nd Quarter)

February

March

- Quarterly VLMPO Committee Meetings
- Adopt next FY UPWP
- Apply for Discretionary Funds

April

- Begin TIP Update/ Amendment Process
- Submit Quarterly Reports (3rd Quarter)

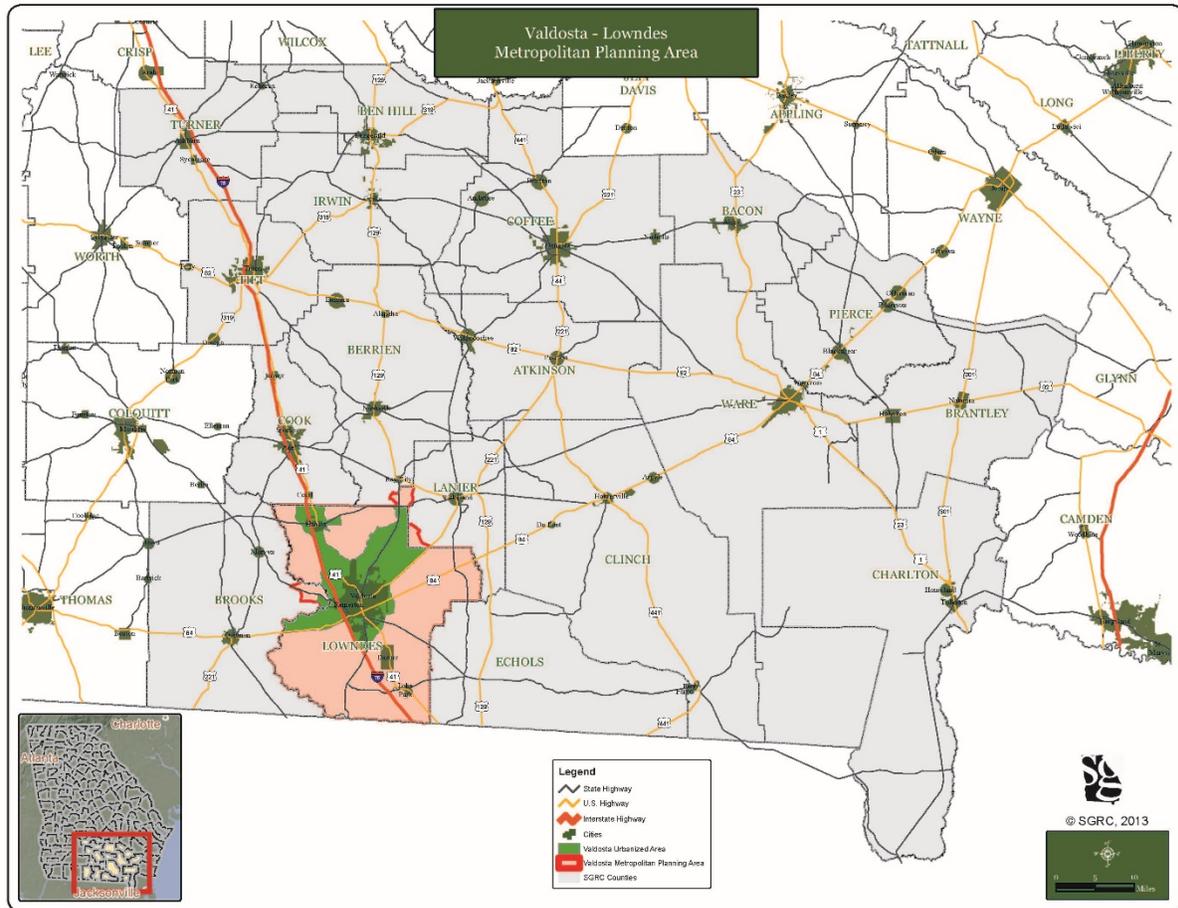
May

June

- Quarterly VLMPO Committee Meetings
- Committee Election of Officers
- Adopt/Amend TIP via resolution

Maps

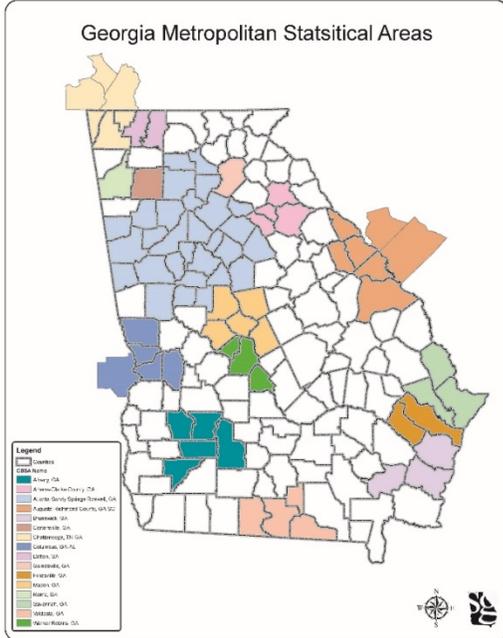
Southern Georgia Regional Commission



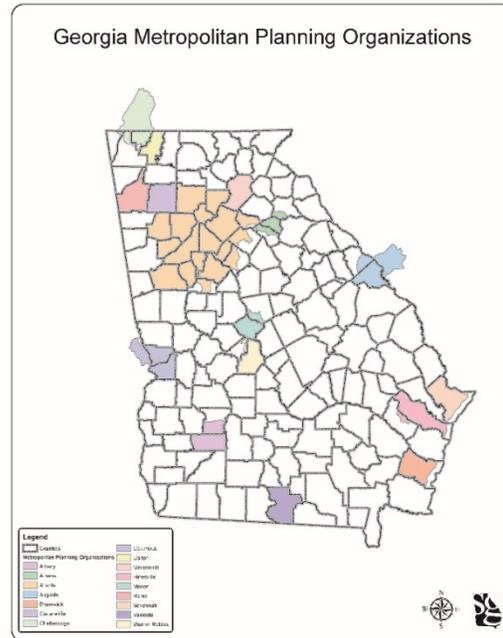
The Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) is a regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency which serves 45 municipalities and 18 counties in South Georgia, including Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware.

Metropolitan Areas

The Georgia Association of MPOs (GAMPO) is comprised of the 15 MPOs in the State of Georgia whom all work together to perform state and federal transportation agencies.

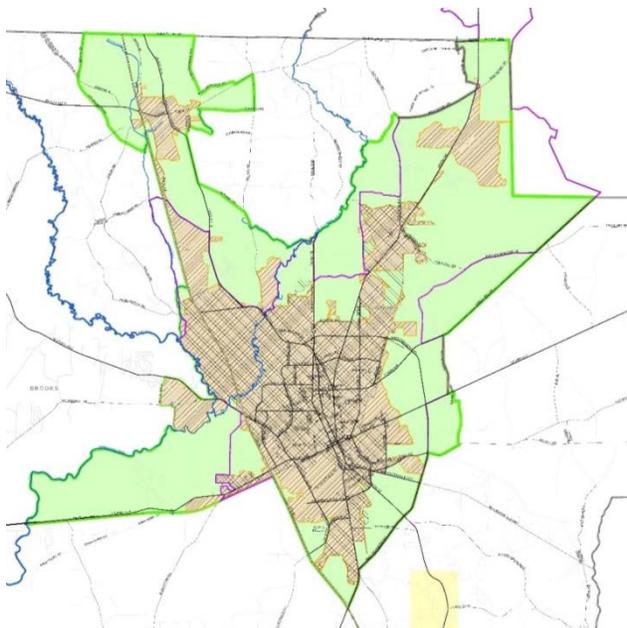


Metropolitan Statistical Areas

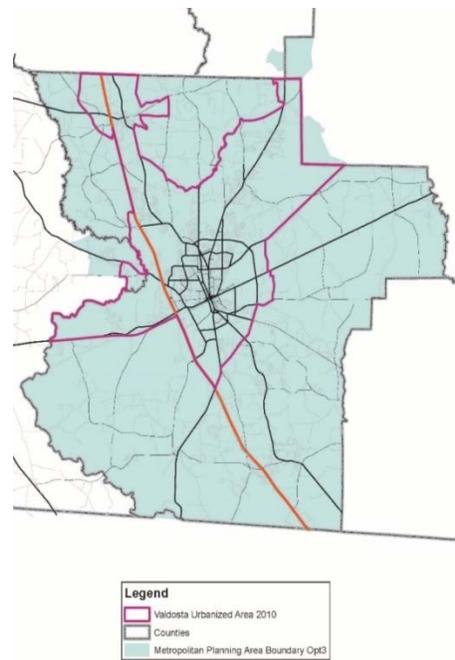


Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Valdosta Urbanized Area



Valdosta Planning Area



Legend
 Valdosta Urbanized Area 2010
 Counties
 Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Opt3

Glossary of Acronyms

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| ADA | Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 |
| CAC | Citizens Advisory Committee |
| CST | Construction Phase |
| EJ | Environmental Justice |
| Fast Act | Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (2015) |
| FHWA | Federal Highway Administration |
| FTA | Federal Transit Administration |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| GAMPO | Georgia Association of Metropolitan Organizations |
| GDOT | Georgia Department of Transportation |
| GEARS | Georgia Electronic Accident reporting System |
| GIS | Geographic Information Systems |
| ITS | Intelligent Transportation System |
| LEP | Limited English Proficiency |
| LOS | Level of Service |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MPA | Metropolitan Planning Area |
| MPO | Metropolitan Planning Organization |
| MTP | Metropolitan Transportation Plan or Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) |
| PC | Policy Committee |
| PE | Preliminary Engineering |
| PEA | Planning Emphasis Area |
| PL | Planning |
| PM | Performance Measures |
| PP | Participation Plan |
| RFP | Request for Proposal |
| RFQ | Request for Qualifications |
| ROW | Right-of-Way Phase |
| SGRC | Southern Georgia Regional Commission |
| STIP | State Transportation Improvement Plan |
| TAC | Technical Advisory Committee |
| TIP | Transportation Improvement Program |
| Title VI | Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 |
| UPWP | Unified Planning Work Program |
| USDOT | U.S. Department of Transportation |
| UTIL | Utilities Phase |
| UZA | Urbanized Area |
| VLMPO | Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization |