

Valdosta-Lowndes
Metropolitan Planning Organization
FY2009 Annual Report

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Prepared in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration.



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Introduction

Fiscal Year 2009 brought many changes to the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization (VLMPO). A new staff started working for the South Georgia Regional Development Center that was focused on transportation planning and project development in Lowndes County and throughout the nine-county region.

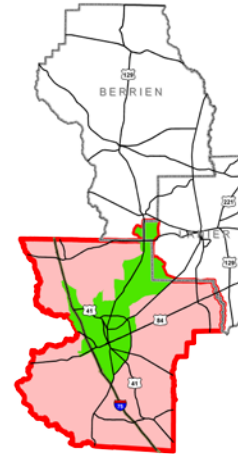


Figure 1 Valdosta Urbanized Area and Metropolitan Planning Area

Also new this year the South Georgia Regional Development Center merged with the Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center to become the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, effective July 1, 2009. This had no effect on the duties and responsibilities of the MPO.

In FY2009 the VLMPO began with a new staff of transportation focused planners at the South Georgia Regional Development Center. This staff included a new Planning Director, Julia Shewchuk; a new MPO Coordinator, Corey Hull; and a new GDOT planner, David Morgan. This professional staff has been able to respond to the transportation needs of the fast growing Valdosta Metropolitan Region.

In FY2009 the VLMPO has stepped forward on several new challenges including the preparation of a freight movement study and the implementation of a transit system for the Valdosta Urbanized Area. Work was also begun on the development of the region's second Metropolitan Long Range Transportation Plan which will guide future transportation improvements and policies out to 2035.

This year the MPO has undertaken a redesigned Annual Crash Report, a Freight Movement Study, and has begun to engage the public in new, different and exciting ways. The MPO is working with local land use planners to better coordinate transportation and land use planning.

The MPO is continuing its mission to carry out a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process. Next year is shaping up to be even more exciting with the implementation of public transit services, and the completion of a new regional transportation plan.

This Annual Report serves as the fourth quarter report for the VLMPO for billing and reimbursement purposes.

MPO Administration

The MPO Policy, Transportation Coordinating, and Citizen's Advisory Committees (CAC) have met throughout the past year to act on various matters and to discuss transportation projects and concerns for the region. The MPO Coordinator has also met with all of the members of the MPO Policy Committee and new members of the MPO CAC Committee to bring them up to speed about transportation planning and also to learn about the local interests and needs of the community. To aid in bringing all members of the MPO Committees on board a customized handbook was developed for each committee.



During FY2009 the staff has spent some time looking at national and state issues relating to transportation planning and funding. The Georgia Association of MPO's (GAMPO) was formed to provide a forum for MPO's to exchange information, enhance metropolitan planning, and discuss issues relative to local, state and federal policies.

In FY2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Economic Stimulus Package) provided a new source of funds for cash strapped states and local jurisdictions throughout the nation. The MPO has developed a new webpage to provide information to the public not only in the Valdosta Urbanized Area but throughout the planning area of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. To date communities in Southern

Georgia have received in excess of \$30 million in new road projects funded by ARRA.



The MPO staff attended several important conferences and meeting over the past year. These included the Georgia Highway Safety Conference, FHWA Talking Freight Webinars, The GAMPO Annual Conference, and the Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference. Corey Hull was a speaker at the GPA Spring Conference on a panel discussing the implementation of transit systems in South Georgia. Reports from each of these conferences were shared with committee members and new ideas have been implemented into the local planning process.



The MPO has taken advantage of new software purchased to better communicate with the public and local jurisdictions. Some new items the MPO has produced this year include a new updated webpage, a new quarterly newsletter, and a trade show booth to better show the work completed by the MPO.

In FY2009 the biggest project undertaken by the MPO was the implementation of an urban fixed-route transit system in the Valdosta Urbanized Area. The MPO and SGRC hired Grice and Associates and TranSystems to guide the implementation process and to develop and recommend service delivery options for the MPO, the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. More information about this project is presented later in this report.

Public Involvement

FY2009 was an exciting year for VLMPO based on the amount of public outreach that has been conducted for various projects. This year brought the development of a new website for the VLMPO (www.sgrc.us/transportation), a new quarterly newsletter, radio and television interviews, public meetings, and public speaking engagements.

The website for the VLMPO is designed to provide a wealth of information to the public on transportation issues in the VLMPO planning area as well as throughout the Southern Georgia Regional Commission planning area. While most of the website focuses on MPO related transportation plans and studies, space has been devoted to the rural transportation planning efforts the SGRC undertakes.

This year a new quarterly newsletter was developed to share information about key transportation topics in the Valdosta Urbanized Area with stakeholders and other interested parties. The mailing list has quickly grown to over 400 businesses, groups and individuals.

The implementation of a fixed route urban transit system in the Valdosta Urbanized Area this past year has resulted in an increased effort of public involvement and outreach just for this project. Along with our consultants, Grice and Associates the MPO has held nine public meetings where input was provided by more than 200 people. The MPO staff also attended various local civic group and church group meetings to inform residents of Lowndes County about the implementation of public transit. More than 400 people were in attendance at these group meetings where the MPO staff was a guest speaker.

As a part of the transit implementation process, the MPO staff has given several interviews to local radio and television stations informing a broad audience about the MPO and public transit.

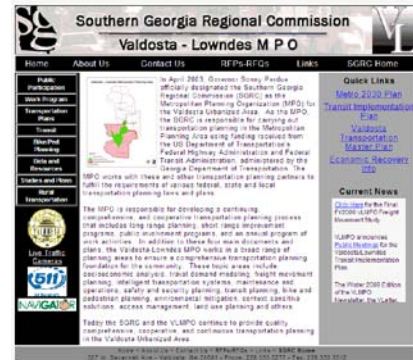


Figure 2 VLMPO and SGRC Transportation Webpage



Figure 3 VLMPO Quarterly Newsletter, the VLetter



Figure 4 Transit Implementation Kickoff Meeting

Systems Management

Each year the MPO creates a vehicle crash report for use by local jurisdictions to improve the safety of the region's roadways. This year the MPO staff developed a new Crash Analysis method and Report. The MPO utilized the University of Alabama's CARE 8 software to analyze crash data provided by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Some of the basic information from this year's Crash Report is available later in this report.

The FY2009 Crash Report changed the presentation of crash statistics from the past. Some of the major changes including starting a three-year rolling average of crash statistics beginning with 2005-2007 (the FY2010 report will cover 2006-2008) and aligning the crash report with the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety State Highway Safety Plan.

Bike and pedestrian planning has been a priority of the VLMPO and SGRC for several years. During FY2009 the MPO has worked to begin the implementation of the Valdosta-Lowndes Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, and local components of the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan.

The MPO staff has worked closely with the rural transportation planning staff at the SGRC to develop Safe Routes to School plans and applications for schools in the community. This year the SGRC also assisted GDOT in the mapping of all rumble strips along state roadways so that future bike lane planning can take place.

The MPO staff has worked with the Cities of Remerton and Valdosta in an advisory role for a Signature Communities grant these communities received from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Part of this

grant was to begin the implementation of bike and pedestrian recommendations from the Valdosta-Lowndes Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, which was produced by the MPO in 2007.

The SGRC Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department has worked throughout the year on developing maps and analyzing data to be used in the various reports and maps produced for use by the VLMPO. This has included crash density analysis and the creation of new maps for the transit system as well as for all of the documents produced by VLMPO.

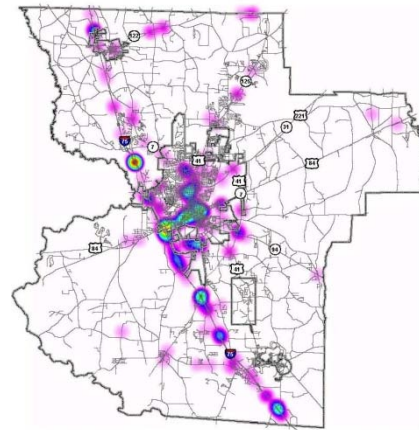


Figure 5 Crash Density Map Example



Figure 6 Kids enjoying the Azalea City Trail (Source: VLPRA)

Transportation Plans and Studies

The VLMPO produces many small and large plans and studies as a part of carrying out a comprehensive, continuous and cooperative planning process. In FY2009 the VLMPO undertook two such studies and began a third.

Most of the time spent in FY2009 on planning was done on the implementation of a public transit system in the Valdosta Urbanized Area. This plan is discussed later in this report.

This year the VLMPO staff undertook a smaller study to look at freight transportation in Lowndes County. First, a study committee was formed of local business leaders to guide the freight movement study. The Freight Movement Study evaluated general freight movement in the greater Lowndes County area and outlined some of the impacts freight movement has on the community. A survey was conducted of businesses and freight companies in the community which resulted in the MPO staff and committee members learning more about the impact of freight movement on the community. The Freight Movement Study will continue to be updated and expanded upon in the coming years as several new topics and areas of concern were generated from this study.

The VLMPO has made an increased effort to be more actively involved in local land use planning. In FY2009 the MPO staff presented information to the Greater Lowndes County Planning Commission on the benefits of Access Management. This presentation has led to the development of an Access Management Plan for the Inner Perimeter Road around the eastside of Valdosta. The MPO has lead a group of stakeholders including the GDOT District 4 staff on developing this plan that will be

presented to local officials in the coming months.

The MPO staff has become an active participant in the Greater Lowndes Growth Advisory Committee which guides the development of the Lowndes County 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

The VLMPO Metro 2030 Transportation Plan expires in September 2010, and in FY2009 the MPO, in cooperation with GDOT, began the update process for the Long Range Transportation Plan to 2035. The MPO staff met with GDOT representatives early on to revise the Traffic Analysis Zones, or TAZ's, that drive the socioeconomic data in the travel demand forecasting model. The MPO also has hired the Center for Business and Economic Research at Valdosta State University to develop base year and future year growth projections for various socioeconomic factors.

Freight Movement Study Survey Results

- 87% of respondents ship products to somewhere other than South Georgia
- 65% of respondents said they ship and receive products that are time sensitive
- Delays at railroad crossings was the biggest problem for truck drivers
- 70% of respondents said that the role of international trade through nearby ports is significant
- Valdosta is located within a one-days drive of 10 international seaports
- Of the 42,000 employees in Lowndes County 30% are considered to work in freight intensive industries

Transit Implementation

In FY2009 the VLMPO in partnership with the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County undertook the implementation of a public transit system for the Valdosta Urbanized Area.

Early in FY2009 the VLMPO solicited bids from consultants to aid in the implementation of a transit system. Grice and Associates and TranSystems were selected to develop a service plan, service delivery options, and to implement the transit system once planning was completed.

To start, the consultants and MPO staff met with various local stakeholders to learn about the needs of the community. A series of community meetings were set up at various locations to learn more about the needs of the general public and to gather information about ridership and route locations. During this same time MPO staff visited various community civic and church groups to inform people and get feedback about the transit system implementation. Over 600 people provided input into the transit system implementation through this process.

After this information was gathered the consultants presented the recommendation of the implementation of five fixed routes centered on a central transfer station located in north central Valdosta. It was recommended that the transit system be managed and administered by the MPO and the SGRC but that a third-party contractor be hired to operate the system for a period of at least three years during which the creation of a transit authority is to be explored.

At the end of FY2009 the MPO and local governments were working to finalize local

funding sources hoping to have the system in operation by August 2010.

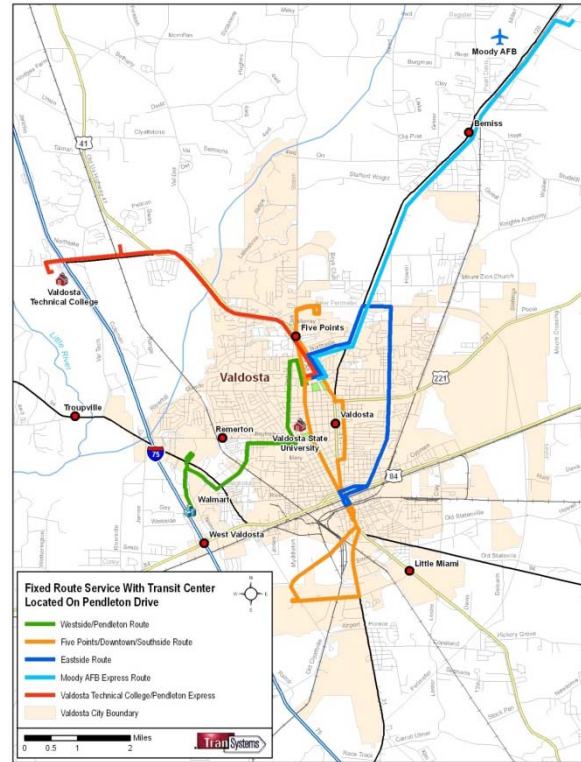


Figure 7 Selected Transit Service Plan Option

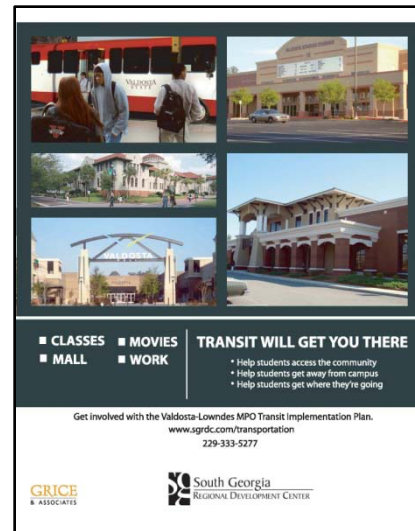
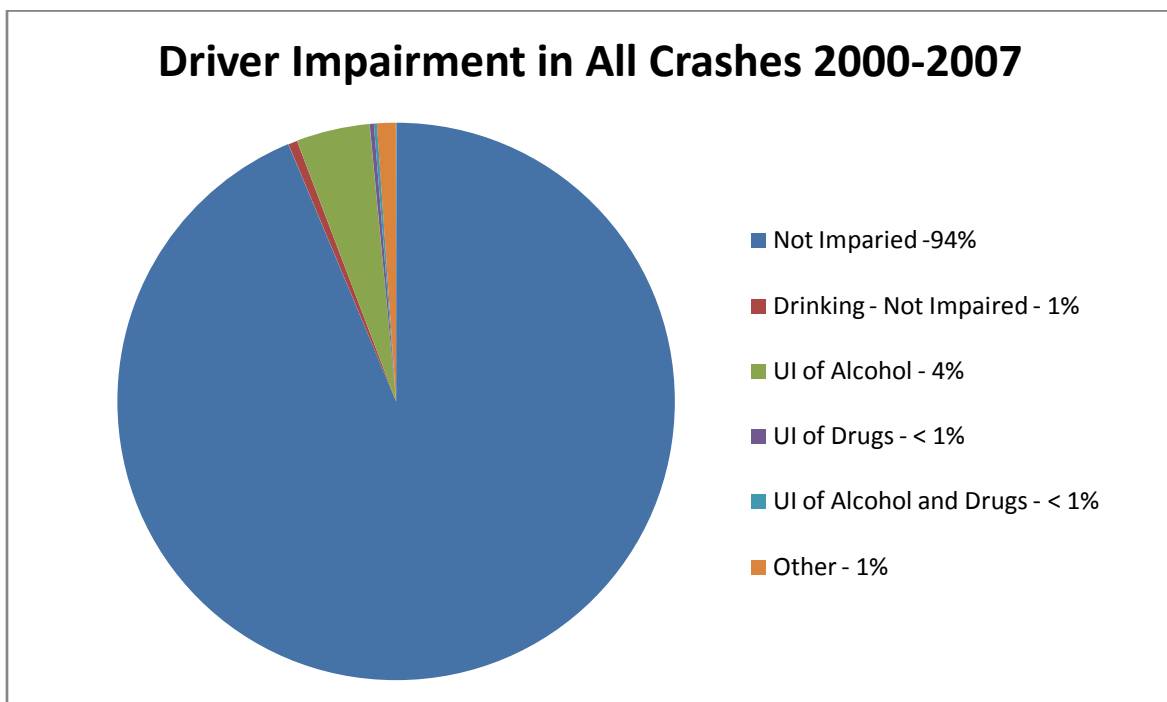
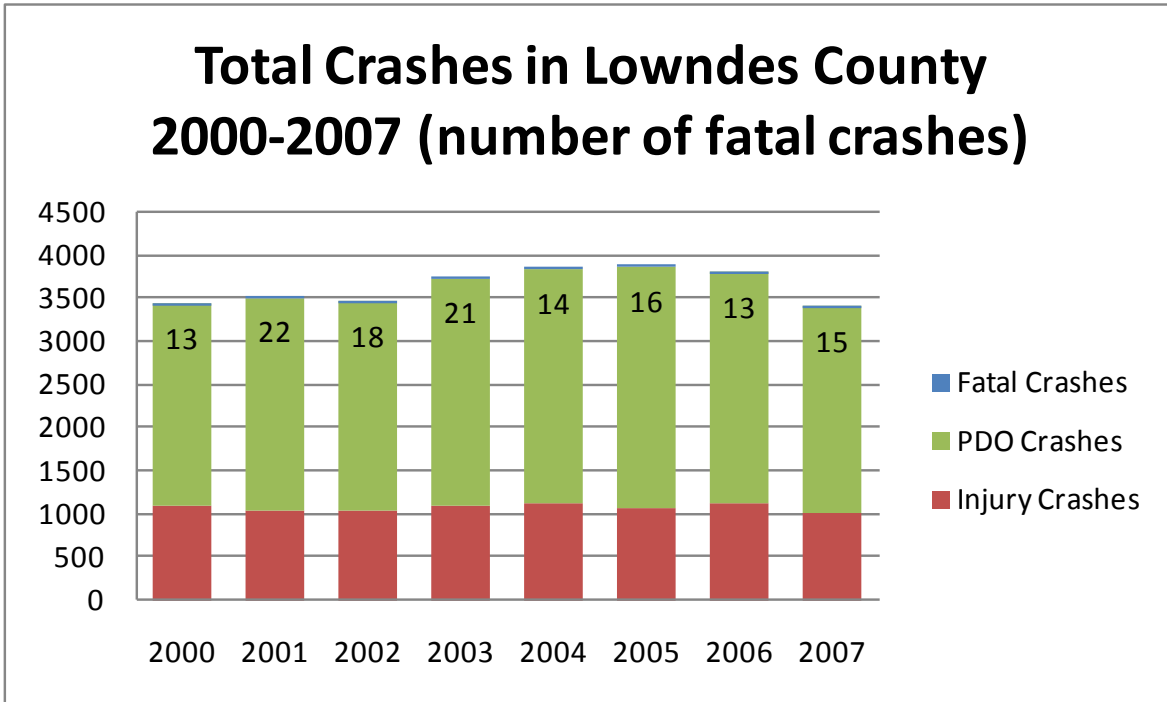


Figure 8 Transit Advertisement Focused on Students

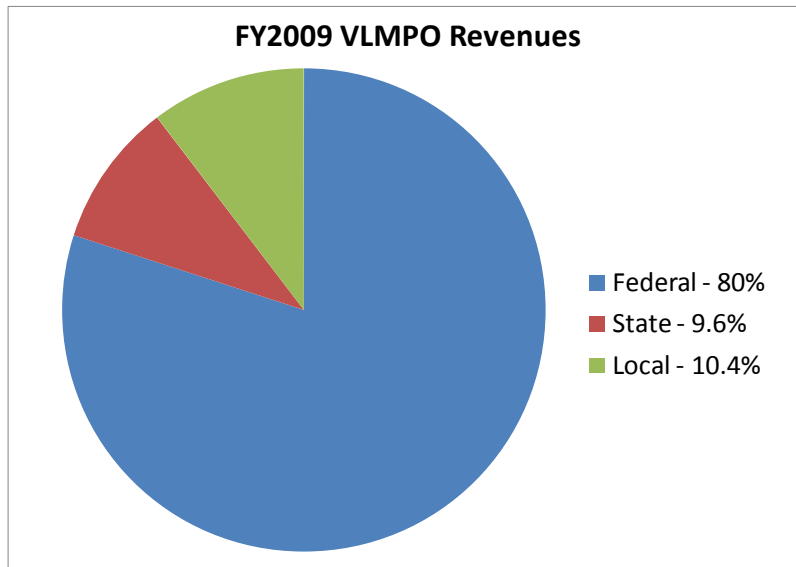
Safety Trends

Below are examples of some of the crash data available to the MPO. This data shows general characteristic of crashes in Lowndes County. Source: GDOT and CARE 8.

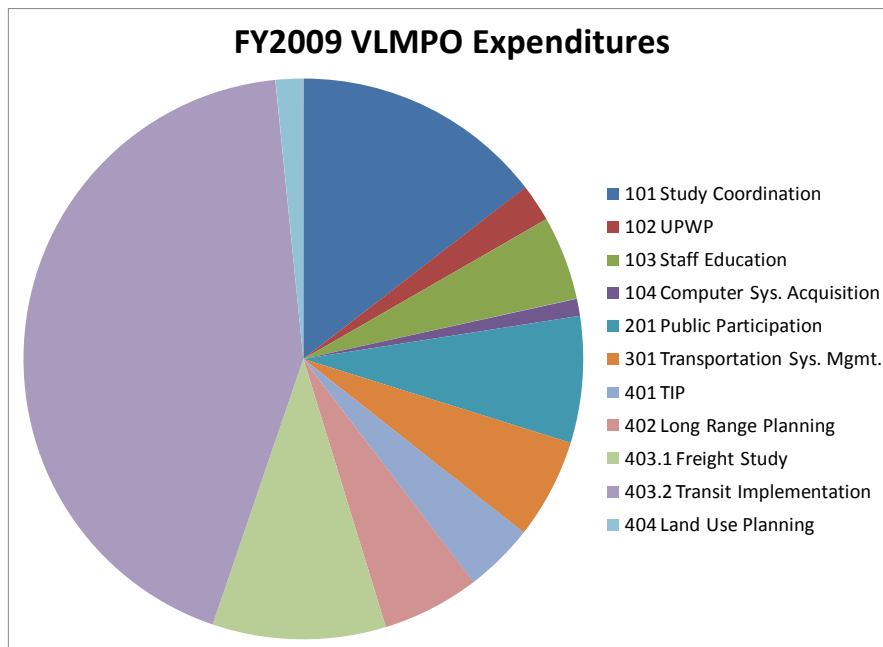


Financials

The Valdosta-Lowndes MPO receives its funds through Federal and State grants and Local matching funds. Federal funds make up the majority of the revenues at 80%, with State funding at 9.6%, and the Local matching funds at 10.4%. The accompanying Revenue Chart shows revenues by funding source.



The Valdosta-Lowndes MPO 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 accompanying Expenditure Chart shows expenditures by group tasks as identified in the UPWP.



FY2009 FHWA PL Funds

This chart is a breakdown of the expenditure of FHWA PL funds utilized by the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO in FY2009.

FY2009 Revenue and Expenditures					
Work Element	Budgeted Total PL	Expended Total PL	Expended Federal PL	Expended State PL	Expended Local PL
101 Study Coordination	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 22,047.92	\$ 17,638.34	\$ 2,204.79	\$ 2,204.79
102 UPWP	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 4,678.60	\$ 3,742.88	\$ 467.86	\$ 467.86
103 Staff Education	\$ 13,750.00	\$ 10,545.76	\$ 8,436.61	\$ 1,054.58	\$ 1,054.58
104 Computer Sys. Acquisition	\$ 4,375.00	\$ 2,143.75	\$ 1,715.00	\$ 214.38	\$ 214.38
201 Public Participation	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 15,884.83	\$ 12,707.86	\$ 1,588.48	\$ 1,588.48
301 Transportation Sys. Mgmt.	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 12,546.13	\$ 10,036.90	\$ 1,254.61	\$ 1,254.61
401 TIP	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 8,748.62	\$ 6,998.90	\$ 874.86	\$ 874.86
402 Long Range Planning	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,256.91	\$ 9,805.53	\$ 1,225.69	\$ 1,225.69
403.1 Freight Study	\$ 24,476.25	\$ 21,738.26	\$ 17,390.61	\$ 2,173.83	\$ 2,173.83
403.2 Transit Implementation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
404 Land Use Planning	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 3,472.24	\$ 2,777.79	\$ 347.22	\$ 347.22
Total	\$ 141,851.25	\$ 114,063.02	\$ 91,250.42	\$ 11,406.30	\$ 11,406.30

FY2009 FHWA PL Funds by Quarter

This chart is a breakdown of the expenditure of FHWA PL funds by quarter utilized by the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO in FY2009.

FY 2009 Expenditures by Quarter							
Work Element	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Total Year End	Contract Total	Contract Balance
101 Study Coordination	\$ 6,085.81	\$ 6,146.18	\$ 6,679.42	\$ 3,136.51	\$ 22,047.92	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 452.08
102 UPWP	\$ 1,020.10	\$ 2,199.74	\$ 728.46	\$ 730.30	\$ 4,678.60	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 1,571.40
103 Staff Education	\$ 5,792.12	\$ 2,638.58	\$ 1,053.03	\$ 1,062.03	\$ 10,545.76	\$ 13,750.00	\$ 3,204.24
104 Computer Sys. Acquisition	\$ 1,743.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,143.75	\$ 4,375.00	\$ 2,231.25
201 Public Participation	\$ 2,604.81	\$ 3,353.59	\$ 6,851.87	\$ 3,074.56	\$ 15,884.83	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 365.17
301 Transportation Sys. Mgmt.	\$ 1,976.28	\$ 5,959.08	\$ 4,554.68	\$ 56.09	\$ 12,546.13	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 3,703.87
401 TIP	\$ 3,133.83	\$ 1,794.54	\$ 3,216.91	\$ 603.34	\$ 8,748.62	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 6,751.38
402 Long Range Planning	\$ 2,043.18	\$ 2,455.25	\$ 5,412.31	\$ 2,346.17	\$ 12,256.91	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 2,743.09
403.1 Freight Study	\$ 7,978.25	\$ 4,422.89	\$ 3,485.06	\$ 5,852.06	\$ 21,738.26	\$ 24,476.25	\$ 2,737.99
404 Land Use Planning	\$ 1,145.88	\$ 1,438.66	\$ 180.49	\$ 707.21	\$ 3,472.24	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 4,027.76
Totals	\$ 33,524.01	\$ 30,408.51	\$ 32,162.23	\$ 17,968.27	\$ 114,063.02	\$ 141,851.25	\$ 27,788.23

FY2009 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports

101.1 – Fiscal Management

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:

Quarterly Reports (Due Oct. 30th; Jan. 30th; April 30th; and July 30th) that include invoices and written status reports for submission to GDOT. An updated Annual Performance Report (Due August 31st) will be reviewed by all MPO Committees (CAC, TCC, and Policy) and submitted to GDOT.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff held meetings for the Policy, Technical, and Citizen’s Advisory Committees. New staff met with all board and most committee members to develop understanding of local issues. Staff completed conference call with AMPO regarding National Policy matters. Staff worked on contract negotiations with a selected consultant for the Transit Implementation Plan.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff held meetings for the Policy, and Technical Committees. Staff worked on contract negotiations with a selected consultant for the Transit Implementation Plan. Staff attended a work session of the Remerton City Council to give an informal report of the activities of the MPO. Staff held a special Transportation Coordinating Comm. meeting to discuss the development of the Annual Crash Report, included special representatives from GDOT, local law enforcement, and Governor’s Office of Highway Safety. Staff met with newly elected Citizen’s Advisory Comm. chairman to discuss the leadership of this committee. Staff attended several meetings for the Transit Implementation Plan throughout the month of December.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff held meetings for the Policy, and Technical Committees. Staff worked on contract implementation with a selected consultant for the Transit Implementation Plan. Staff met with newly appointed/elected Policy Committee and Citizen’s Advisory Comm. members. Staff attended several meetings for the Transit Implementation Plan throughout the quarter.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff held meetings for the Policy, Technical and Citizen’s Committees. Staff worked with the selected consultant for the implementation of a transit system. Staff attended several meetings for the Transit Implementation Plan throughout the quarter. Staff attended May GDOT Board meeting in Douglas, GA.

Budget	\$22,500	Actual	\$22,047.92	Percent Expended	98%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: None

102.1 UPWP

Objective:

The UPWP is an annual document that includes a brief description of tasks, work products, responsible agencies, and identifies the funding sources to accomplish planning efforts.

Project Description:

The draft 2010 UPWP is due by December 2008 for review by GDOT/FHWA. The Final UPWP gets reviewed by the TCC and CAC which then recommends it to the Policy Committee for adoption (by June 2009). The Final UPWP is forwarded to GDOT by May 15th for their subsequent review and approval.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff completed monthly board reports and other quarterly reports for FY2009 and FY2008. Staff completed FY2008 Annual Completion Report.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff completed monthly SGRDC Board of Directors staff reports and other quarterly reports for FY2009. Staff completed FY2008 Annual Completion Report. Staff developed FY2010 UPWP draft and presented it to GDOT, FHWA and FTA.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff completed monthly SGRDC Board of Directors staff reports and other quarterly reports for FY2009. Staff developed FY2010 UPWP draft and presented it to GDOT, FHWA and FTA. Staff presented DRAFT UPWP to CAC, TCC and Policy Committee for endorsement and adoption. Policy Committee adopted FY2010 UPWP at March, 2009 meeting.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff completed quarterly reports for third quarter for GDOT.

Budget	\$6,250	Actual	\$4,678.60	Percent Expended	75%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: Yes, removed \$5,000 to Work Element 103.

103.1 Staff Education

Objective:

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

Project Description:

To provide continued education and training for MPO staff that will enable the MPO to effectively carry out the planning process in the Greater Valdosta - Lowndes Urbanized Area, included will be attending several program workshops in June 2008 in Atlanta. Concurrence from GDOT prior to any functions of this kind will be necessary.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended the TRB Metropolitan and Statewide Planning Conference in Atlanta. Staff attended the GA Highway Safety Conference in Savannah. Staff attended several Talking Freight Webinars. Staff attended GA MPO Summer Conference. Staff attended the Valdosta Young Professionals Seminar, a workshop on Critical Workplace Competencies sponsored by the Chamber. The session's staff attended included: Working in a Multi-Generational Workforce - Rather than focusing on the workplace they focused on the characteristics of the different generations and how each interact with one another. I found it very helpful because it described how to reach out to different generations when doing public involvement programs. Dealing with Difficult Employees – focused on personalities in the workplace and how to meet difficult people in the middle. Again I found this helpful for public involvement programs.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff attended the Georgia Planning Association Conference in Augusta in early October. This conference was attended learn about land use and transportation issues affecting Georgia. Staff attended Title VI training in Atlanta as requested by GDOT. Staff attended the GAMPO Annual meeting in Rome, GA.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff attended the Georgia Planning Association Annual Spring Conference and spoke with others on a panel about the start-up of public transit systems in South Georgia. Staff attended JARC and New Freedoms training in Macon. Staff attended FHWA Performance Measures training in Macon. Staff attended GDOT/FHWA/FTA/GAMPO meeting in Macon to discuss ARRA funding, and FY2010 UPWP budgets among other items.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff attended the GA Logistics Summit in Atlanta. Staff attended various GDOT and FHWA meetings and webinars regarding PL funds, new urban area definitions and ARRA program implementation.

Budget	\$13,750	Actual	\$10,545.76	Percent Expended	77%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: Yes, added \$5,000 from work element 102.

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 SGRDC to purchase computer systems and software comparable to Intelligent Transportation Systems (FHWA rule 940 regarding ITS) and GIS activities specifically relative to the MPO planning process.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff acquired Adobe Creative Suite 3 software for aiding in visualization purposes. The Adobe Creative Suite 3 includes software such as Photoshop, adobe acrobat (pdf creation and editing), InDesign (print layouts), Connect (potential use for video conferencing), Illustrator (vector image editing), Dreamweaver (web design) and a couple of others. I have already used this software package to edit images for use in presentations, it can also be used for visual preference surveys, creating before and after comparisons of a site or project, producing web ready documents, producing and delivering presentations and teleconferences to reduce travel expenses, and to produce a new quarterly newsletter.

Quarter 2 Report:

No activities occurred during this quarter.

Quarter 3 Report:

No activities occurred during this quarter.

Quarter 4 Report:

A maintenance renewal was purchased for a license of ArcView from ESRI.

Budget	\$4,375	Actual	\$2,143.75	Percent Expended	49%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: None

201.1 Participation Plan and Community Outreach

Objective:

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

Project Description: To effectively obtain input concerning the MPO planning process through a framework encouraging public participation. MPO plans will be developed in consultation with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure intergovernmental coordination.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended several GDOT public meetings and training sessions. Staff began work on new quarterly newsletter. Staff completed handbooks for each committee member. Staff began working on the development of an SGRDC transportation website.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued work and mailed out first quarterly newsletter for the VLMPO. Staff completed work on the development of an SGRDC transportation website at www.sgrdc.com/transportation. Staff continued ongoing improvements to the website and materials posted to it.

Staff attended a board meeting of Valdosta Technical College to give an informal report of the activities of the MPO and to discuss the development of public transit services in the urbanized area.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff mailed out quarterly newsletter for the VLMPO. Staff completed work on the development of an SGRDC transportation website at www.sgrdc.com/transportation. Staff continued ongoing improvements to the website and materials posted to it. Staff developed special ARRA funding webpage. Staff held several public meetings and spoke with several civic groups (ex: Rotary, Kiwanis, various churches, etc.) about the implementation of transit services in Valdosta. Staff completed several interviews with local media about the transit service implementation. Staff hosted several public meetings for the implementation of transit services in the Valdosta as well.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to update VLMPO and SGRDC transportation website. Staff continued to hold public meetings and speaking engagements regarding the implementation of public transit services in the Valdosta Urbanized Area. Staff met with the Chamber of Commerce to report on the implementation of transit services.

Budget	\$16,250	Actual	\$15,884.83	Percent Expended	98%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: None

301.1 System Performance and Safety Planning

Objective:

Collect traffic data and develop strategies to increase the efficiency and safety of the transportation infrastructure.

Project Description:

To enhance transportation planning techniques that will enable the MPO to effectively carry out the planning process in the Valdosta – Lowndes Urbanized Area. This will provide technical support for projects within the TIP and LRTP. To incorporate traffic management and other strategies to improve system efficiency into MPO plans.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff began reviewing traffic count and accident data in preparation for the development an annual crash report and freight movement study.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff attended a meeting with the City of Valdosta on its Signature Communities (three point initiative of GA Department of Comm. Affairs, which includes brown field redevelopment, extension of multipurpose trail (Azalea City Trail), and implementation of bike and pedestrian facilities (including a safe routes to school plan)) project, related to bike and pedestrian facility installation and Safe Routes to School plans. Staff attended meetings with the City of Valdosta and the City of Hahira regarding the application of Safe Routes to School funds. Staff continued to develop an annual crash report document to be completed by the end of this FY (an uncompleted draft is available upon request).

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to develop an annual crash report document to be completed by the end of this FY (an uncompleted draft is available upon request). Staff worked on several GIS maps used at public meetings for the transit implementation system.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff completed the annual crash report, this report will be distributed after an internal staff review in July 2009. Staff produced several GIS maps used at public meetings for the transit implementation project. Staff continued to work with the City of Valdosta on the implementation of their Signature Communities program as an advisor.

Budget	\$16,250	Actual	\$12,546.13	Percent Expended	77%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: None

401.1 FY2010-2013 TIP

Objective:

To develop a TIP in FY 2009 covering the period of 2010 through 2013

Project Description:

Update the existing TIP to include new projects and delete projects that have been completed.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended meeting with GDOT on the SWTP and PrPP. Staff completed several GIS maps for internal use as well as for committee handbooks. Staff spent time attending a GDOT State-Aid Grant meeting in Thomasville where the new GDOT Gateway Grant program was introduced as well. Staff prepared a presentation for local community leaders, presenting the program in a special meeting that included representatives of the City of Valdosta, Lowndes County, the Chamber of Commerce, Keep Valdosta/Lowndes Beautiful, and other local organizations where the Gateway Grant program was discussed and explained. Follow-up meetings were held with the representatives from the COC and Keep/Valdosta Lowndes Beautiful, as well as conversations with City and County Planners about applying for the grant.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff attended a concept meeting with GDOT regarding project #008437 Davidson Road/SR 125 Intersection Improvements. Staff presented information to Policy Committee to remove Old Highway 41 North Project from TIP and Long Range Transportation Plan during next update cycles. Staff began the development of the FY2010-2013 TIP draft documentation.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued the development of the FY2010-2013 TIP, including narrative and project list sections. Staff attended several bi-weekly conference calls regarding ARRA funding and project development related to this new funding source. Staff processed one administrative TIP amendment for transit projects related to ARRA funding. Staff worked with local rural transit providers, Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center staff, and GDOT District 4 staff to make sure that local rural transit program projects were included in current and future TIPs.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to work with GDOT on the development of the FY2010-2013 TIP. Staff continued to update website with ARRA information and projects for the region.

Budget	\$15,500	Actual	\$8,748.62	Percent Expended	56%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: Yes, removed \$7,000 to work element 403.

402.1 Long Range Transportation Plan

Objective:

Start compiling TAZ data and associated model update information for a mini update to establish the validity of existing information prior to release of the new census data.

Project Description:

To work with GDOT and consultants, Department of Labor, and the Census Bureau to develop socioeconomic data for the plan update. To work with respective agencies to identify needs to modify travel demand model boundaries, TAZ revisions, mapping, and coding of attribute data in advance of the 2010 Census relative to the development the base year model.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff reviewed VLMPO LRTP. Staff reviewed existing land use plans with local planners and formed a new relationship to make sure the MPO and local planners are communicating better.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to review VLMPO Long Range Transportation Plan and needs for updating the document in FY2010. Staff reviewed existing land use plans with local planners and formed a new relationship to make sure the MPO and local planners are communicating better. Staff continued to work with local partners in the development of long range plans for public transit services in the urbanized area. Staff hosted a regional site for FHWA US Census Bureau training for the American Community Survey. There were a total of 8 people present at this session from other divisions (GIS, Community/Economic Development and Planning) of the RDC and from other jurisdictions (City of Valdosta).

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to review VLMPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and needs for updating the document in FY2010. Staff reviewed existing land use plans with local planners and formed a new relationship to make sure the MPO and local planners are communicating better. Staff continued to work with local partners in the development of long range plans for public transit services in the urbanized area. Staff met with GDOT travel demand modelers and planners to review TAZs for the LRTP update. Staff completed these updates and received schedule for LRTP update over the next year.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to work with GDOT to review and update the TAZs for the LRTP update. Staff received and reviewed the Dept. of Labor employment data to use for the development of socioeconomic forecasts for the LRTP. VLMPO hired the Center for Economic and Business Research at Valdosta State University. Staff began meeting with local governments to develop future growth maps to be used for the allocation of future population and business growth in the LRTP.

Budget	\$15,000	Actual	\$12,256.91	Percent Expended	82%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: None

403.1 Valdosta-Lowndes Truck/Freight Movement Study

Objective:

To review, determine and project existing and future truck movement in and around the City of Valdosta and adjacent unincorporated areas of Lowndes County

Project Description:

To develop the scope of a study which will examine the existing truck movement in the MPO area and project future truck traffic and routes for the area including recommendations on how to accommodate the existing and future truck traffic via routing and scheduling recommendations.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff researched freight movement and previous freight studies to help in the planning process. Staff completed accident analysis and overview of commodity and flow data for freight in South Georgia. Staff held kick-off meeting for newly formed freight study committee to guide the freight movement study process. Staff attended several talking freight webinars.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff researched freight movement and previous freight studies to help in the planning process. Staff completed accident analysis and overview of commodity and flow data for freight in South Georgia. Staff held second meeting for newly formed freight study committee to guide the freight movement study process. Staff attended several talking freight webinars. Staff attended the South Georgia Region Logistics Summit in Tifton. Staff attended the local Chamber of Commerce's Plant Manager's Network meeting to get input on freight movement in South Georgia. Staff worked with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a freight movement survey to be sent to 1500+ businesses in early January. Staff met with Lowndes County regarding classification traffic counts in order to obtain a database for use in mapping truck traffic.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to review of commodity flow data for freight in South Georgia. Staff worked with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a freight movement survey to be sent to 1500+ businesses in early January. Staff received completed survey and developed database to analyze respondent answers. Staff continued to with Lowndes County regarding classification traffic counts in order to obtain a database for use in mapping truck traffic. Staff has determined that analyzing all of the results of the survey will not be completed in time for the end of FY2009. It has been determined that the Freight Movement Study will be slightly scaled back to include an overview of the survey results. A more in-depth analysis of the survey data will take place over the next year.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff completed the Freight Movement Study for the MPO region. This report will be released in July 2009 after an internal staff review.

Budget	\$24,476.25	Actual	\$21,738.26	Percent Expended	89%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: Yes, moved \$7,000 from work element 401.

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.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff worked with local land use planners for form new communications relationship between MPO and local land use agencies. Staff attended the Greater Lowndes Growth Advisory Committee Meeting.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to work with local land use planners for form new communications relationship between MPO and local land use agencies. Staff attended the Greater Lowndes Growth Advisory Committee Meeting. Staff worked with GDOT, the City of Valdosta, Lowndes County and Greater Lowndes Planning Commission (GLPC) to begin to develop local access management plan for Inner Perimeter Road (a local key growth corridor). Staff presented access management principles to the GLPC. Staff coordinated meeting with GDOT and local governments regarding the development of access management plan. Staff attended meeting and distributed materials regarding access management to land owners along and near the Inner Perimeter Road Corridor.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to work with local land use planners for form new communications relationship between MPO and local land use agencies. Staff attended the Greater Lowndes Growth Advisory Committee Meeting. Staff continued worked with GDOT, the City of Valdosta, Lowndes County and Greater Lowndes Planning Commission (GLPC) to begin to develop local access management plan for Inner Perimeter Road (a local key growth corridor). Staff coordinated mapping of urban and rural portions of new median crossings on Inner Perimeter Road for meetings to be held in fourth quarter.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to work on the Inner Perimeter Road Access Management Plan, developing maps and reviewing implementation options. Staff attended the bi-monthly Greater Lowndes Growth Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the updates to the Lowndes County Comprehensive Plan.

Budget	\$7,500	Actual	\$3,472.24	Percent Expended	46%
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Percent of Project Complete: 100%

Budget Revisions: None

VLMPPO Committees

Citizen's Advisory Committee Membership

Name	Appointed By	Position
Jim Langdale	Lowndes County	Chairman
Bryan Almand	City of Valdosta	Vice-Chairman
Kenneth Sherrill	City of Lake Park	Secretary
Greg Hall	Lowndes County	Member
Robert Jefferson	Lowndes County	Member
Debbie Hobdy	Lowndes County	Member
Brian Childress	City of Valdosta	Member
Earl Wetherington	City of Valdosta	Member
Brian Geary	City of Valdosta	Member
W.G. Walker	City of Dasher	Member
Caroll Griffin	City of Remerton	Member
Steve Coleman	Lowndes Board of Education	Member
Sam Allen	Valdosta Board of Education	Member
Ray Sable	Valdosta State University	Member
Mary Culbreth	Convention and Visitors' Bureau	Member
Ellen Hill	Downtown Development Authority	Member
Leggett Lovan	VL Chamber of Commerce	Member
Brad Lofton	V-L Industrial Authority	Member
Col. Clarence Parker	VL Airport Authority	Member
Steven Barnes	Leadership Lowndes	Member
Vacant	Lowndes County	Member
Vacant	City of Hahira	Member
Vacant	Valdosta Technical College	Member

Transportation Coordinating Committee Membership

Voting Members:

Von Shipman	City of Valdosta, Engineer	Chairman
Mike Fletcher	Lowndes County, Engineer	Vice Chairman
Jabari Parker	GDOT, Transportation Planner	Member
Brent Thomas	GDOT District 4, Engineer	Member

Non-Voting Members:

Roger Christie	Lowndes County Schools, Trans. Director
Martin Roesch	Valdosta City Schools, Asst. Supt. for Finance
Patrick Paige	Bicycle/Pedestrian Advocate
Andrew Edwards	FHWA – GA Division
Danny Weeks	Lowndes County 911 Director

Policy Committee Membership

Voting Members:

John Leonard	SGRC, Executive Director	Chairman
Joe Pritchard	Lowndes County, Manager	Vice-Chairman
Larry Hanson	City of Valdosta, Manager	Member
John Fretti	City of Valdosta, Mayor	Member
Vance Smith	GDOT, Commissioner	Member
Ashley Paulk	Lowndes County, Commissioner	Member
Kenny Allen	City of Dasher, Mayor	Member

Non-Voting Members:

Rodney Barry	FHWA – GA Division, Administrator
Yvette Taylor	FTA Region IV, Administrator