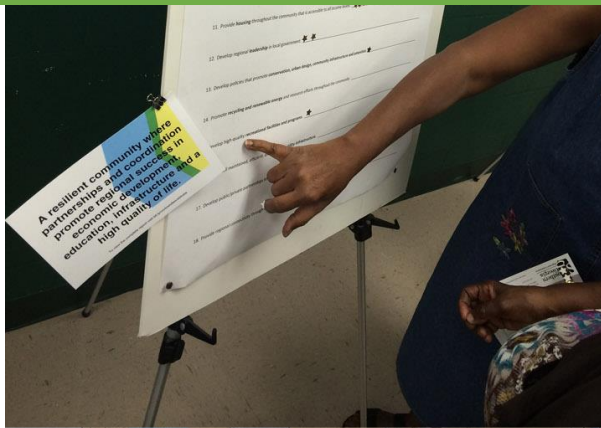


Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization

FY2015 Annual Report



FY2015 Annual Report

Includes FY2015 Quarter 4 Report

Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization



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www.sgrc.us/transportation

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
MPO Administration	2
Public Involvement.....	2
Title VI Annual Report	3
Limited-English Proficiency Plan	3
PPP Performance Measures.....	3
Transportation Systems	6
Transportation Plans and Studies	7
Project Status Report	10
Safety Trends	11
Financial Highlights	112
FY2014 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports.....	14
VLMPO Committees	24

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

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

Dear Citizens,

Looking back at the previous season of the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO one consistent accomplishment has been communication. The staff has used the MPO as a clearinghouse for analysis and information regarding important transportation issues facing the community. Through the leadership of staff, the MPO has forced communication on contentious but important issues related to transit, downtown truck traffic, and better serving and being aware of underserved populations. In addition to important communication the MPO, through staff initiative and leadership, has also forged innovative and helpful partnerships with local institutions such as Valdosta State University and the local chamber of commerce.

As a transition to the next season takes place the MPO is expected to continue improving and benefiting the community. Improvements are expected in the relationship with and the understanding of the existing rural transit provider. Improvements are expected with a new season of financial and budgeting related issues and constraints ushered in by changing local budget dynamics and helpful changes at the state level regarding carry over funding. The assumption and direction that the MPO will continue to improve and benefit the community is based on the fact that Corey Hull, the MPO Coordinator, is one of the best planners in the community and his solid and consistent work ethic and efforts have shown and I pray will continue to show.

Throughout the following report a snapshot of the recent activities of the MPO will be detailed. If you are a stakeholder or your efforts helped the MPO's successes, Thank you. If you are an interested citizen or organizational or business representative, thank you for your interest. And for both of those audiences if you would like to help further improve transportation related plans or infrastructure or know of someone who does please let us know (229) 333-5277 or visit www.sgrc.us.

Respectfully,
Jason Davenport
County Planner, Lowndes County
Valdosta-Lowndes MPO Chair, FY2015





Introduction

Fiscal Year 2015 was the culmination of nearly 24 months of work by the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization staff and local planning partners to create the 2040 Transportation Plan. The 2040 Transportation Vision Plan, an effort that began with the development of *A Common Community Vision for Greater Lowndes County*, nearly two years prior, was successfully completed by the VLMPO and adoption will occur in FY16.

The development of the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan was undertaken entirely by the VLMPO staff with assistance provided by consultants for the *2040 Socioeconomic Data Study* (Transport Studio), the Environmental Justice Report (Valdosta State University) and the Travel Demand Model, developed by the Georgia Department of Transportation. This document will be the guiding vision for transportation in Valdosta, Lowndes County and the surrounding areas for the next several years as more than \$1 billion is invested into local transportation infrastructure.

FY2015 marked another active year for transportation in the Georgia Legislature. The Georgia Transportation Funding Act of 2015 changed how motor fuel taxes are collected in Georgia and will raise a reported \$900 million in new revenue for transportation infrastructure. These changes in funding will impact transportation funding and planning in Valdosta and Lowndes County for years to come.

Public transit and concerns about truck traffic in downtown Valdosta have become discussion points about transportation for the VLMPO and the community over the past year. In preparation for the FY16 budget, the VLMPO developed RFPs to solicit firms to perform planning studies related to these two important transportation topics. The VLMPO Policy Committee voted to pursue studies for these issues in FY16, however the VLMPO continues to work with local governments to fund the required local match for both of these studies.

MPO Administration

FY2015 marked the first complete year the Common Community Vision, or CCV, was in place in the community. The VLMPO staff has begun to work with local planning partners to implement the goals of the CCV by making sure the stakeholder agencies and the public are aware of the CCV and highlighting steps local agencies are taking to achieve goals in the CCV. As part of the American Planning Association's National Community Planning Month, the VLMPO staff met with the Lowndes County Board of Health and the South Georgia Medical Center's Quality Improvement Committee to discuss the roles of these organizations in the CCV and as planning stakeholders.

The VLMPO staff continues to maintain an active role in several national and state organizations on behalf of the Valdosta and Lowndes County community. Staff participates in the Transportation Research Board's Metropolitan Policy, Planning and Processes Committee, its subcommittee on Transportation in Military Communities, and the Public Participation in Transportation Planning Committee. Staff are also active on the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Technical Committee, the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association, as well as the Georgia Association of MPOs Board of Directors. In FY2015, the Southern Georgia Regional Commission was recognized by the National Association of Development Organizations with an Excellence in Regional Transportation Award for the efforts of the SGRC and VLMPO to plan for and implement Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning programs throughout the 18-county region. Programs that have been implemented in Lowndes County include a Senior Resource Walking Map, Valdosta-Lowndes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the Southern Georgia Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, a Regional Bicycle Route Map and other efforts.



The VLMPO staff have participated in numerous training opportunities, conferences and webinars over the past year. The staff were able to learn about topics ranging from performance measurement, Title VI and Civil Rights, freight, transit, bicycle and pedestrian planning among other topics.

2015 saw the change of several VLMPO Committee members, some having served since the founding of the MPO in 2003, others who had been involved more recently, but all had a significant impact on transportation planning in Valdosta and Lowndes County. All VLMPO Policy, Technical and Citizen's Advisory Committee members are thanked for their service, involvement and participation in transportation planning in Valdosta and Lowndes County.

In 2015 the VLMPO completed its first Certification Review led by officials from the Georgia Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration. The VLMPO's planning process was certified after the written and in-person interviews were completed.

Public Involvement

In FY2015 the VLMPO public participation and involvement efforts focused around the adoption of the FY15-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), seeking involvement from the public on the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan, and updating the VLMPO Participation Plan. The most recognizable difference in our participation efforts was the development of a new website for the SGRC, including the transportation planning efforts of the VLMPO. This new website better integrates the various transportation aspects of the SGRC into one seamless website for the public to more easily find the information they need.

Updates to the Participation Plan included making the document compliant with the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and adding language about promoting the CCV in our outreach efforts.

Title VI Annual Report

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

The VLMPO has not had any Title VI complaints and there has been one change to the Title VI Plan in FY2015. This change clarified the role of the VLMPO staff in the event of a Title VI Complaint. During the VLMPO Certification Review this past year, several recommendations were suggested for the Title VI and Participation Plans, that the VLMPO will work over the next year to implement these recommendations.

The VLMPO staff attended a Title VI training in FY2015 to learn about best practices for engaging the public and ensuring compliance with various federal and state laws.

Limited-English Proficiency Plan

As a recipient of federal funds the VLMPO is required to evaluate the services and products we provide for use by individuals that may speak English less proficiently. Annually the VLMPO reviews data to measure this population in Lowndes County. Included in the Participation Plan is data from the US Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey (ACS), this is reviewed here with data from the 2009-2013 ACS.

	05-09 ACS	08-12 ACS	09-13 ACS
Estimate	5,571	5,915	5869
Margin of Error	+/-567	+/-275	+/-35
Lowndes County %	5.9%	5.8%	5.7%
United States %	19.6%	20.5%	20.7%

PPP Performance Measures

When the VLMPO Participation Plan was adopted in 2011 (updated as recently as 2015), included were performance measures that would be reviewed annually to evaluate how effective the VLMPO is at engaging the public. Included here are the performance measures, as well as an indication of whether this measure has increased or decreased in the last year, an indication of the effectiveness of our public participation efforts.

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

- Hosted 5 open houses for the FY15-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Participation Plan and 2040

Transportation Vision Plan. A total of 57 individuals attended the events. **Increase**

- Delivered more than 2,000 quarterly newsletters. Distributed all MPO products electronically via website for easy access.

Decrease

- VLMPO staff was the featured speaker at more than 13 events. **Decrease**
- Staff attended more than 15 events/meetings to represent the VLMPO. **Increase**
- Local media reported or featured VLMPO activities at least 5 times. **Increase**



Figure 1 Participants at a 2040 Transportation Vision Open House

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

- Over the past year the VLMPO has made at least daily updates to our social media websites and regular updates to our main website. **Steady**
- The VLMPO formally responds to all comments received during a public comment period and responds to other comments throughout the year. **Steady**
- The VLMPO staff is available to the public during regular business hours, during open houses, at other public events and on social media websites where staff can respond outside of regular business hours. **Steady**

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

- The VLMPO held at least 5 stakeholder meetings in FY2015, as part of the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan process. **Decrease**
- The VLMPO hosted 19 public committee meetings and/or open houses in FY2015. **Steady**
- The VLMPO has continued to develop new tools in FY2015 to allow key stakeholders more access to transportation project data through our project database and websites. This will continue to be an important resource as we develop the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan. **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 VLMPO continues to provide information about DBE training offered by GDOT and other planning partners throughout the state. **Steady**
- The VLMPO continues to update our mailing list to ensure all interested parties are included. **Increase**
- The VLMPO has met regularly in the past year with representatives of minority communities to address transportation issues and concerns. **Steady**

Strategy 5:

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

- The VLMPO published 3 documents in FY2015. **Steady**
- The VLMPO employed a number of different outreach techniques in FY2015 including: stakeholder groups, interviews, media outreach, open houses, newsletters, social media and websites, presentations, etc. **Steady**

Strategy 6:

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

- The VLMPO participated in at least 7 regional and cross jurisdictional meetings in FY2015. **Increase**
- No formal transportation partnerships have been started at this time.
- The VLMPO has not produced any documents yet that document the connection between transportation and economic development. This is anticipated to start in FY2016.

As noted previously, the www.sgrc.us website underwent a full redesign this year to better integrate all of the various aspects of the Regional Commission into one public website. The transportation section of the website is now more user friendly and easy to navigate for planning partners and members of the public. The VLMPO also became a Verified Twitter organization in FY15, increasing our following substantially. The various audiences we attract to Facebook, Twitter, public meetings, etc. are all unique and provide a broad variety of input opportunities for staff and decision makers to consider in the transportation planning process.

Facebook Highlights:

- Total Likes: +7
- Page Visits: -3 (average)

Twitter Highlights:

- Total Followers: 471 (79% increase)
- Tweet Impressions: 2,589 (annualized monthly average)



Transportation Systems

Public transit continues to be an ongoing discussion topic in Valdosta and Lowndes County. The VLMPO staff has presented to several groups in FY2015 about this topic and continues to inform the public about the current options for public transportation in Lowndes County and surrounding areas.

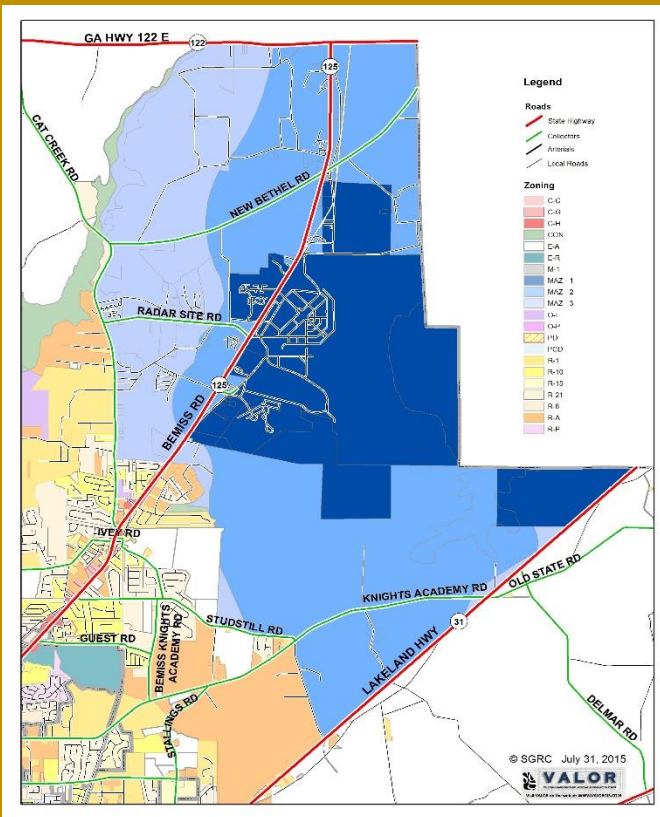


Figure 2 Moody Activity Zone in Lowndes County with Transportation Infrastructure.

Moody Air Force Base is one of the most important institutions to the economic well-being of the Valdosta Metropolitan Area and the VLMPO has supported the mission of Moody from the beginning. In FY2015, the VLMPO continued to be active with local governments in Berrien, Lanier and Lowndes Counties, and Moody AFB in planning for land use changes coming to the surrounding counties. In June 2015, a new Air Installation Compatible Use Zone Study (AICUZ) was released that showed the impact of airport operations on the surrounding land uses, including noise and ordnance drop zones. This impacts the growth of these communities and the transportation systems that provide access to houses and businesses in these growing areas. The VLMPO continues to play an active role in working with local governments to implement land use policies that are compatible with the mission of Moody AFB.

Roadways are classified by their usage by the Federal Highway Administration and State Departments of Transportation. In FY2015 the VLMPO worked with local governments and GDOT to update the functional classification maps for many local roadways. This effort will lead to better planning for transportation and land use purposes because roadway classifications are now more realistic to the actual traffic flows and land uses adjacent to them.

The VLMPO continued to update its project database for transportation projects to make it more user friendly. Future improvements will include making it accessible via the internet so other users can access the information and so that it can be integrated with GIS platforms to provide more information to the public about transportation projects in their neighborhoods.

Transportation Plans and Studies

The 2035 Transportation Plan includes several evaluation measures the VLMPO annually reports on to examine how implementation of the plan is developing. These evaluation measures are a precursor to more intensive performance measures that will be implemented in the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan. In the future, the evaluation of performance measures from the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan will be included in a separate System Performance Report as directed in Federal regulations.

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

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

The level of service (LOS) of a roadway is a rather static measure of the overall transportation system. It slowly changes over time, unless there is a major capital investment that either improves or deteriorates the LOS. No new projects have opened in the past year that will have a significant impact on the level of service in the region.

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

Using data from the US Census Bureau American Community Survey¹, a baseline number was developed in 2009 and continues through 2012.

Industry	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Forestry/Ag.	447	553	562	556	512
Construction	3,035	3,113	2,936	2,501	2,190
Manufacturing	4,301	3,814	3,823	3,549	3,380
Wholesale	1,193	1,040	976	1,068	1,047
Retail Trade	7,415	7,565	7,383	7,595	7,348
Transportation	2,369	2,218	2,269	2,070	1,968
Total	18,760	18,303	17,949	17,339	16,445

This historical trend shows that the region is losing jobs in the freight intensive industries that rely on a strong regional transportation system. Further analysis of employment shows that these industries account for about 36% of total employment in Lowndes County. For wages, the median earnings estimate for all employees is \$24,068, for these transportation intensive industries it is \$27,631, for all other industries it is \$24,271. The decrease in jobs in freight intensive industries needs to be taken seriously by local officials and economic development professionals for the community to continue to be resilient to outside economic impacts. Three of the top five earning industries (median over \$30,000) are in the transportation intensive industries.

In 2013 the Federal Highway Administration made available a new data set that allows users to conduct analysis on near real-time travel

¹ County Business Pattern data was used previously, however this data is no longer updated, all data has been updated to consistently reflect American Community Survey data from the US Census Bureau.

time data on certain roadways. The VLMPO is continuing to research how this data can be used in our transportation planning efforts.

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

In FY2015, the VLMPO Policy Committee included in its FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program a transit implementation study to focus on the innovative delivery methods that are efficient and cost effective. After months of discussion, local match support is still being identified to complete this study.

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

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

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

In FY2015, the City of Valdosta had over 100 miles of sidewalks, 3.6 miles of bike lanes, and 3.5 miles of multi-use trails. The City continues to expand their sidewalk network annually through road construction projects and as required for new developments. The City added approximately 3.5 miles of sidewalk in FY2015. The City also has a sidewalk repair program where in FY2015 nearly 524 linear feet of sidewalk was repaired. The City of Remerton installed about 0.32 miles of sidewalk and bike lanes in FY2015.

1.6 Evaluate net number of jobs gained near transportation improvements.

Beginning in FY2014 the VLMPO no longer has access to accurate data for the number of jobs located near our transportation improvements. Historical data is available on our website. The VLMPO will continue to review new sources of data for this evaluation measure and other proposed performance measures that will be implemented as part of the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan.

Priority 2: Encourage the MPO, SGRC and their member communities to cooperatively consider land use decisions by encouraging public participation and involvement in the transportation planning process.

2.1 Annually evaluate public involvement effectiveness through number of persons contacted and events held.

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

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

The VLMPO annually produces a Crash Report that highlights crash statistics and trends in Lowndes County. This year the VLMPO followed-up on a Road Safety Audit near Valdosta State University identifying many ways in which to improve safety along the corridor. The VLMPO is continuing to



partner with GDOT to implement their “Drive Alert Arrive Alive” campaign to reduce traffic fatalities in 2015.

2.3 Develop criteria for implementing transportation investments.

A project selection criterion was developed for the 2035 TP and updated for the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan. The new project evaluation criteria include data that supports national performance goals and may be used later for a System Performance Report.

2.4 Evaluate number of public/private partnerships accomplished.

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

2.5 Evaluate land development outside of urban service areas.

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

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

Local and state partners continue to develop plans for multi-jurisdictional projects on Forrest Street and Oak Street Extension. A full update on these and other projects is included in the FY2015-2018 TIP.

Priority 3: Promote an aesthetically pleasing, sustainable transportation system that respects the needs of, and mitigates and/or enhances the impacts on disadvantaged populations and the context of the nearby built and natural environments.

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

The VLMPO regularly works with local and state jurisdictions and project managers to ensure that transportation projects and policies mitigate their impacts on surrounding communities and the environment. The 2040 Transportation Vision Plan includes a Complete Streets Policy to help design projects that are sensitive to the context in which they are built.

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

There are at least five publically available alternative fuel stations in Valdosta and Lowndes County, these various locations provide compressed natural gas (CNG), Ethanol, Electric, liquid natural gas (LNG), and propane fuels. Moody Air Force Base has developed several electric vehicle charging stations as well.

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

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

2035 Transportation Plan Project Status Report

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

Project ID	Project Description	Engineering/Design	Right-of-Way	Utilities	Construction
0000762	I-75 FM N of SR 133 to Cook County Line - Phase II (Exits 22 & 29)	Complete	Underway	2016	2016
0007386	I-75 @ CR274/Lake Park Bellville Road - Phase II (Exit 2)	Complete	2016	2017	2017
0010297	I-75 @ SR 31 - Phase II (Exit 11)	Complete	2016	2017	2017
422710	US 84/W Hill Ave Grade Separation	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
	Cat Creek Road Bridge at Beatty Creek	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
	Gornto Road Extension, Oak Street to Patterson Street	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
432100	SR 31 Bridge over Withlacoochee River at Florida State Line	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
000684	Tucker Road Bridge over Dukes Bay Canal	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
0008437	Davidson Road at Bemiss Road/Moody AFB	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
	I-75 at Exit 18 Southbound Ramp Improvements	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
	St. Augustine Road at Twin Street	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
	Oak Street, Five Points to Breckenridge Drive	Continuing	Long Range	Long Range	Long Range
	CR 784/Jerry Jones Rd FM Gornto Rd to Country Club Drive	Long Range	Long Range	Long Range	Long Range
452200	CR 138/NORTH FORREST STREET FROM CS 1428/PARK AVE TO SR 125	Continuing	2016	Long Range	Long Range

Safety Trends

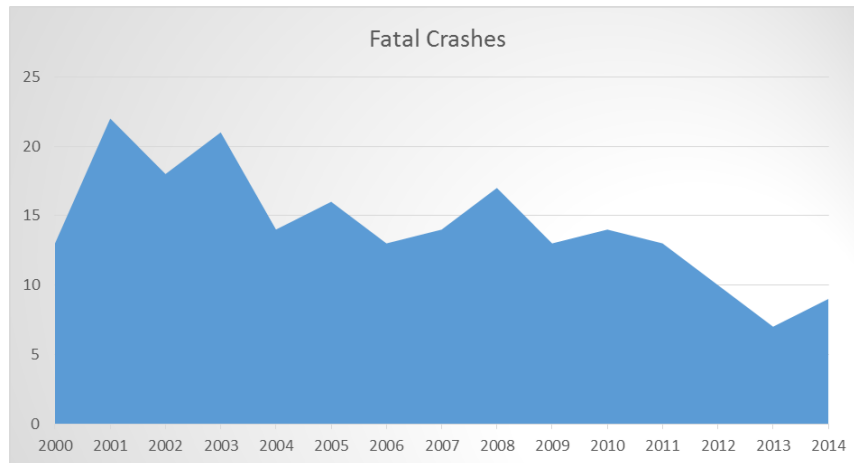


Figure 3 Fatal Crashes in Lowndes County have decreased since 2010.

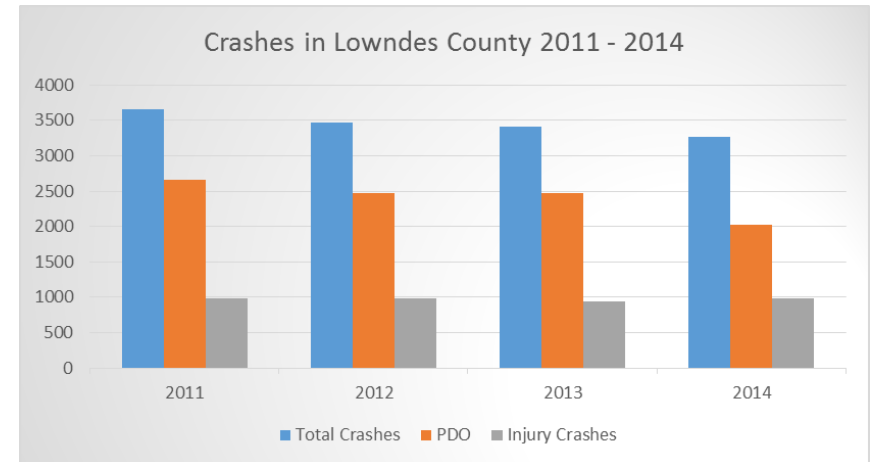


Figure 5 Crashes in Lowndes County have been on slight decrease since 2011.

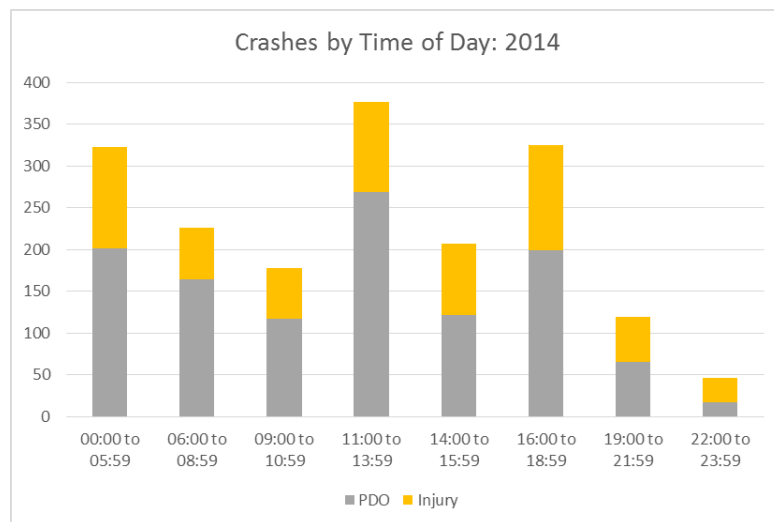


Figure 4 Crashes by Time of Day, Lunch and Evening Peak Hours have the most crashes.

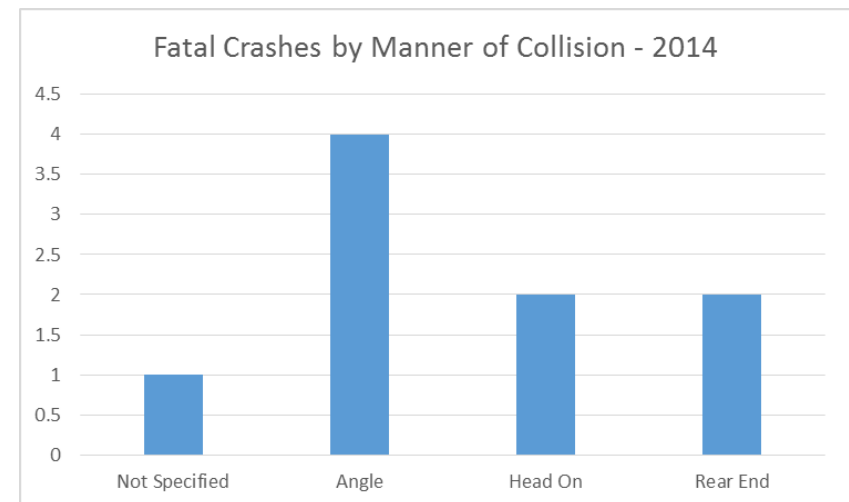
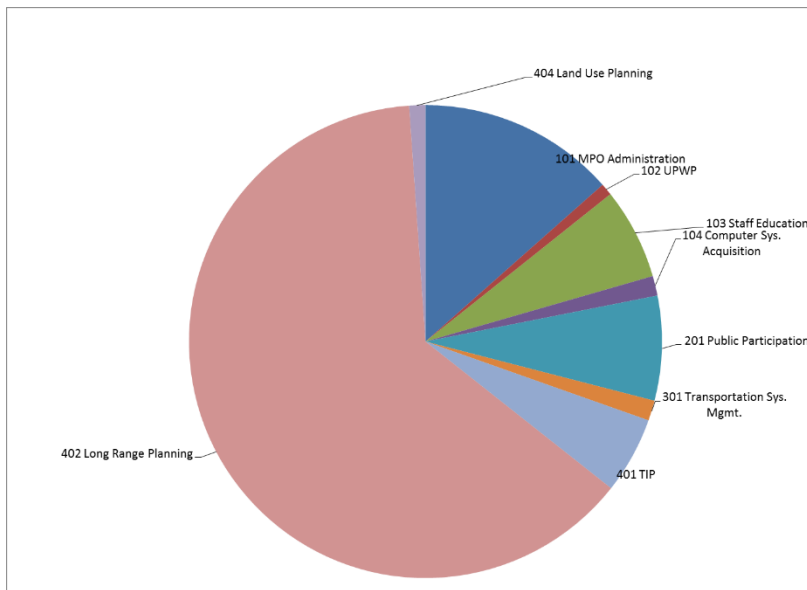


Figure 6 Fatal Crashes occur in a manner of ways in Lowndes County.

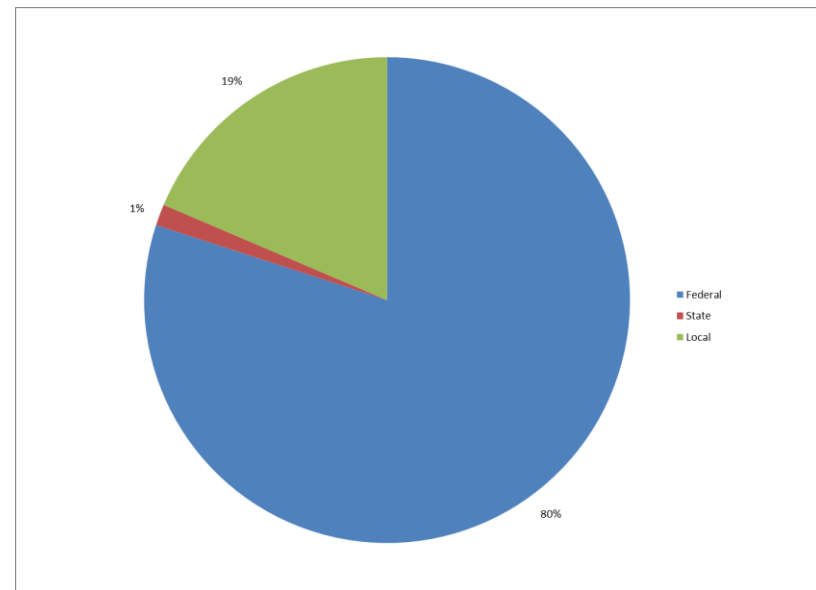
Financial Highlights

The VLMPO expends funds through projects that are identified in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP identifies and outlines the planning activities which the MPO plans to undertake for the following year. The VLMPO received its funds through federal and state grants and local matching funds in FY2015. Federal funds make up a majority of the revenues at 80%, with state funding at 1%, and the local matching funds at 19%.

FY2015 UPWP Expenditures



FY2015 VLMPO Revenue



FY2015 FHWA PL and FTA 5303 Funds

This chart is a breakdown of the Revenue and Expenditures of FHWA PL and FTA 5303 Funds utilized by the VLMPO in FY2015.

FY2015 Revenue and Expenditures					
Work Element	Budgeted Total	Expended Total	Expended Federal	Expended State	Expended Local
101 MPO Administration	\$ 44,746.06	\$ 29,764.61	\$ 23,811.69	\$ -	\$ 5,952.92
102 UPWP	\$ 8,949.21	\$ 1,815.21	\$ 1,452.17	\$ -	\$ 363.04
103 Staff Education	\$ 23,864.57	\$ 13,801.58	\$ 11,041.26	\$ -	\$ 2,760.32
104 Computer Sys. Acquisition	\$ 2,983.07	\$ 2,980.85	\$ 2,384.68	\$ -	\$ 596.17
201 Public Participation	\$ 29,830.71	\$ 15,793.94	\$ 12,635.15	\$ -	\$ 3,158.79
301 Transportation Sys. Mgmt.	\$ 35,796.85	\$ 3,043.93	\$ 2,435.14	\$ -	\$ 608.79
401 TIP	\$ 11,932.28	\$ 11,581.52	\$ 9,265.22	\$ -	\$ 2,316.30
402 Long Range Planning	\$ 150,572.83	\$139,801.51	\$111,841.21	\$ 3,122.40	\$24,837.90
403.2 Transit Implementation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
404 Land Use Planning	\$ 20,881.49	\$ 2,436.50	\$ 1,949.20	\$ -	\$ 487.30
Total	\$ 329,557.07	\$221,019.65	\$176,815.72	\$ 3,122.40	\$41,081.53

FY2015 FHWA PL Funds by Quarter

This chart is a breakdown of the expenditures of FHWA PL funds by Quarter utilized by the VLMPO in FY2015.

FY2015 FHWA PL Expenditures by Quarter							
Work Element	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Total Year End	Contract Total	Contract Balance
101 MPO Administration	\$ 8,451.76	\$ 5,916.37	\$ 8,534.91	\$ 6,861.57	\$ 29,764.61	\$ 44,746.06	\$ 14,981.45
102 UPWP	\$ 156.60	\$ 654.43	\$ 755.63	\$ 248.55	\$ 1,815.21	\$ 8,949.21	\$ 7,134.00
103 Staff Education	\$ 2,315.04	\$ 8,512.94	\$ 551.16	\$ 2,422.44	\$ 13,801.58	\$ 23,864.57	\$ 10,062.99
104 Computer Sys. Acquisition	\$ 197.25	\$ 1,176.80	\$ 1,607.00	\$ (0.20)	\$ 2,980.85	\$ 2,983.07	\$ 2.22
201 Public Participation	\$ 6,879.18	\$ 581.02	\$ 3,162.66	\$ 5,171.08	\$ 15,793.94	\$ 29,830.71	\$ 14,036.77
301 Transportation Sys. Mgmt.	\$ 239.50	\$ 1,887.74	\$ 199.23	\$ 717.46	\$ 3,043.93	\$ 35,796.85	\$ 32,752.92
401 TIP	\$ 203.80	\$ 9,397.26	\$ 612.65	\$ 1,367.81	\$ 11,581.52	\$ 11,932.28	\$ 350.76
402 Long Range Planning	\$ 37,569.90	\$ 38,799.49	\$ 14,738.14	\$ 17,469.96	\$ 108,577.49	\$ 119,322.83	\$ 10,745.34
404 Land Use Planning	\$ 592.23	\$ 204.70	\$ 440.09	\$ 1,199.48	\$ 2,436.50	\$ 20,881.49	\$ 18,444.99
Totals	\$ 56,605.26	\$ 67,130.75	\$ 30,601.47	\$ 35,458.15	\$ 189,795.63	\$ 298,307.07	\$ 108,511.44

FY2015 FTA 5303 Funds by Quarter

This chart is a breakdown of the expenditures of FTA 5303 funds by Quarter utilized by the VLMPO in FY2015.

FY2015 FTA 5303 Expenditures by Quarter							
Work Element	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Total Year End	Contract Total	Contract Balance
101 MPO Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
102 UPWP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
103 Staff Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
104 Computer Sys. Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
201 Public Participation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
301 Transportation Sys. Mgmt.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
401 TIP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
402 Long Range Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,698.25	\$ 8,525.77	\$ 31,224.02	\$ 31,250.00	\$ 25.98
404 Land Use Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,698.25	\$ 8,525.77	\$ 31,224.02	\$ 31,250.00	\$ 25.98

FY2015 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports

2015-101 / MPO Administration

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared meeting agendas and minutes for PC/TAC/CAC meetings. Staff met with new CAC members for orientation. Staff attended the Legislative Committee hearing on transportation funding.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff prepared meeting agendas and minutes for PC/TAC/CAC meetings. Staff met with new CAC members for orientation.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff prepared meeting agendas and minutes for PC/TAC/CAC meetings. Staff met with new CAC members for orientation. Staff attended GDOT Board meetings and regional events in Atlanta during the legislative session. Staff continued to prepare for the GAMPO Annual Meeting in October 2015 where Georgia transportation issues will be discussed.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared meeting agendas and minutes for the PC/TAC/CAC meetings in April, May and June. Staff attended the GAMPO summer work session. Staff maintained computer software and performed routine maintenance of computer hardware, software and websites functionalities.

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: \$44,746.06

Expenditures to Date: \$29,764.61

Percent Expended: 66.5%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, VLMPO Policy Committee approved budget amendment to include prior year carryover funds.

2015-102.1 UPWP

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared the FY2014 Annual Report and 4th quarter report. Staff executed contracts with GDOT on the 5303 and FHWA PL funding sources.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff prepared the FY2015 1st quarter report. Staff executed contracts with GDOT on the 5303 and FHWA PL funding sources.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff prepared the FY2015 2nd quarter report. Staff executed contracts with GDOT on the 5303 and FHWA PL funding sources. Staff finalized a draft UPWP that was presented to MPO committees for review and a vote for approval, it was tabled by PC until June.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared the FY2015 3rd quarter report. Staff continued to execute contract with GDOT for 5303 funds, and prepared contracts and applications for the following FY. Staff prepared and finalized the FY16 UPWP, where it was presented and approved 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: \$8,949.21

Expenditures to Date: \$1,815.21

Percent Expended: 20.3%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, VLMPO Policy Committee approved budget amendment to include prior year carryover funds.

2015-103.1 Staff Professional Development

Objective:

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

Project Description:

To provide continuing education and training for MPO staff that will enable the MPO to effectively carry out the planning process in the Metropolitan Planning Area. Some of the conferences the staff may attend include but are not limited to, includes rough cost estimate: GA Planning Assoc.(500/700), GA Transit Assoc.(500), American Planning Assoc.(2000), Transportation Research Board (2000), GA Assoc. of MPOs (500), Assoc. of MPOs (1500), GA Highway Safety Conference (500), National Assoc. of Development Organizations (1500), and training provided by FHWA, FTA, GDOT, or NHI. VLMPO will continue membership in AMPO and NADO (through SGRC), and will consider other association memberships as needed.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended various webinars on topics like: performance measures, and INVEST. Staff attended the GA Transportation Summit in Macon. VLMPO hosted a Complete Streets Workshop in partnership with Georgia Bikes.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff attended webinars on the topics of: performance measures and INVEST. Staff attended the Georgia Transit Conference, the GA Transportation Summit in Athens, the Association of MPOs national conference in Atlanta, the GA Bike Summit in Columbus and the GA Planning Assoc. Conference in Athens.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff attended webinars on performance measures.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff attended the GPA Spring Conference in Atlanta. Staff attended webinars on performance measures.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$23,864.57

Expenditures to Date: \$13,801.58

Percent Expended: 57.8%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, VLMPO Policy Committee approved budget amendment to include prior year carryover funds.

2015-104.1 Computer System Acquisition

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff 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, software and websites functionalities.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff maintained computer software and performed routine maintenance of computer hardware, software and websites functionalities.

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: \$2,983.07

Expenditures to Date: \$2,980.85

Percent Expended: 99.9%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, VLMPO Policy Committee approved budget amendment to include prior year carryover funds.

2015-201.1 Public Involvement Program

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff hosted 3 open houses for 2040 LRTP and spoke at more than 6 events on same topic. Staff attended GDOT Rail meeting, GDOT public meeting, and the VSU "The Happening". Staff was the featured speaker at the Chamber Economic Summit and participated in several other community events representing the VLMPO.

Quarter 2 Report:

With the City of Valdosta, the VLMPO celebrated National Community Planning Month with presentation on transportation and health to the local Board of Health and regional Medical Center board. Staff also appeared on the radio to promote these events. Staff presented to a class at Valdosta State regarding transportation planning.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to make updates to a new SGRC website (www.sgrc.us). Staff continued to make daily (average) social media posts and updates.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared items for the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan and FY15-18 TIP amendment public comment period which will occur in FY16. Staff made updates to the website and social media posts. Staff participated in television interviews related to the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$29,830.71

Expenditures to Date: \$15,793.94

Percent Expended: 52.9%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, VLMPO Policy Committee approved budget amendment to include prior year carryover funds.

2015-301.1 Transportation Systems Management

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared GIS maps that updated sidewalk and roadway information databases.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to prepare GIS data for the LRTP update.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to prepare GIS data for the LRTP update.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to prepare GIS data for the LRTP update.

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: \$35,796.85

Expenditures to Date: \$3,043.93

Percent Expended: 8.5%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, VLMPO Policy Committee approved budget amendment to include prior year carryover funds.

2015-401.1 Transportation Improvement Program

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared and presented the FY15-18 TIP for adoption at the July PC meeting. Staff attended the GDOT semi-annual project briefing meeting in Tifton.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to follow updated on projects in the region. Staff developed GIS data and maps for the projects to include in the TIP and LRTP.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to follow updated on projects in the region. Staff developed GIS data and maps for the projects to include in the TIP and LRTP. Staff attended the semi-annual GDOT District Status meeting in Tifton.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared an amendment for the FY15-18 TIP triggered by cost updates in the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$11,932.28

Expenditures to Date: \$11,581.52

Percent Expended: 97.1%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, VLMPO Policy Committee approved budget amendment to include prior year carryover funds.

2015-402.1 Long Range Transportation Plan

Objective:

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

Project Description:

Work with USDOT and GDOT to develop and analyze new socioeconomic information as needed in the development/modification of the Travel Demand Model (TDM), including but not limited to updating functional classification maps and/or National Highway System maps. Provide technical support for projects within the TIP and LRTP. Develop GIS layers and models needed for development of land use patterns for travel demand model. Continue to develop reports and information to fund transportation and transit improvements throughout the region. Continue to work with various stakeholders to implement land use policy recommendations from the JLUS study for Moody AFB and surrounding areas. Continue to work with GDOT and local partners in prioritizing and implementing projects in the LRTP, this includes attending meetings and conducting analysis where needed for a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous regional Long Range Transportation Plan. Conduct special transportation studies (ex. traffic studies, concept reports, etc.) as requested by local planning partners, which may include the solicitation of consultants.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff hosted a series of public open houses to gather input on the 2040 LRTP goals, financing and projects. Staff continued to research performance measures and began preparing the 2040 LRTP document.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to develop the LRTP documents. Staff began preparing cost estimates and benefit cost analysis for potential projects in the LRTP. Staff met with GDOT to review the LRTP Travel Demand Model outputs. Staff prepared and communicated with GDOT and local officials regarding the TDM outputs and required project lists.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to develop the LRTP document and project lists. Staff prepared project lists for MPO committees to review and comment on at various times. Staff conversed with GDOT regarding the various TDM networks and socioeconomic data inputs.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff finalized the LRTP document and sent it for review by federal, state and local planning partners. Staff addressed comments and presented the plan to the Policy Committee who approved it for a public comment period.

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: \$119,322.83

Expenditures to Date: \$108,577.49

Percent Expended: 91.0%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, VLMPO Policy Committee approved budget amendment to include prior year carryover funds.

2015-404.1 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. . Coordinate with Lowndes County, Valdosta, Hahira, Lake Park, Dasher, and Remerton to cooperatively develop a local Comprehensive Plan. Continue previous efforts of SGRC and local governments to engage the business and citizen stakeholders as a resource for community input for the VLMPO. Provide technical assistance to local land use planners and engineers on planning topics related to the integration of transportation and land use, including: access management, transit oriented development, complete streets, etc. Continue to work with GDOT, FHWA and surrounding jurisdictions to continue to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous regional transportation plan.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended the Valdosta First Step meeting to learn about a new charter school being built in the community.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to monitor local land use and zoning requests.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to monitor local land use and zoning requests.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to monitor local land use and zoning requests. Staff participated in a meeting with Moody AFB regarding GIS and land use development needs of the region. Staff continued to work with local

communities to adopt land use regulations to support the mission of the Air Force Base.

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: \$20,881.49

Expenditures to Date: \$2,436.50

Percent Expended: 11.67%

Project Complete %: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: Yes, VLMPO Policy Committee approved budget amendment to include prior year carryover funds.

VLMPO Committees

Policy Committee		Citizen's Advisory Committee	
Name	Agency	Name	Agency
John Leonard	Southern Georgia RC	Todd Smoot	Lowndes County
Joe Pritchard	Lowndes County	Stacy Bush	City of Valdosta
Larry Hanson	City of Valdosta	Keith Sandlin	City of Lake Park
John Gayle+	City of Valdosta		VL Chamber
Bill Slaughter	Lowndes County	Wes Taylor	Lowndes Co. BoE
Keith Golden	GDOT	Stephanie Joachim	Valdosta City BoE
Eric Schindler	City of Lake Park*	Ray Sable	Valdosta State Univ.
Jimmy Parker	Berrien County*	Angela Crance	Wiregrass Tech. Coll.
Rodney Barry	FHWA-GA	Bill Branham	City of Valdosta
Yvette Taylor	FTA Region IV	Edward Rawls	Lowndes County
Carroll Griffin+	CAC Chair		Lowndes County
		Harriet Crum	City of Hahira
Technical Coordinating Committee		Debbie Hobdy	Lowndes County
Name	Agency		City of Dasher
Patrick Collins	City of Valdosta	Carroll Griffin+	City of Remerton
Mike Fletcher+	Lowndes County	Tim Riddle	Convention Center
Aries Little	GDOT Planning	Mike Cooper	Cntrl. Val. Dev. Auth.
Brent Thomas	GDOT District 4	Stan Crance	VL Industrial Auth.
Jeff Hill	Lowndes Co. Schools	Col. Clarence Parker	VL Airport Auth.
Edward Collins	Valdosta City Schools	Steven Barnes	Leadership Lowndes
Mike Meeks	Bike/Ped Advocate	Bill Tucker	City of Valdosta
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA-GA	Dr. Richard Saeger	City of Valdosta
Danny Weeks	Lowndes Co. EMA	Charlie Clark	Lowndes County
* Members of small counties(Berrien, Brooks, Lanier)/cities (Dasher, Hahira, Lake Park, Remerton) rotate annually			
+ Indicates Chair of Committee			