

FY2019 Annual Report

Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization

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County Canopy by Stella Cofield
Winner 2019 Valdosta People’s Choice Photo Contest, Youth Category

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

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

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.



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Chair's Introduction

Dear Citizen of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Area,

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

Through studies this past year like the 2045 Socioeconomic Data Study and various bicycle and pedestrian reports and studies, the VLMPO has provided citizens, local government staff, and elected officials information, alternatives, and ideas for future transportation investments to consider. The ongoing development of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan will give the community more opportunities to share their input on future transportation needs.

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission provides the VLMPO with a professional staff that actively participates in local, state, and national organizations that share ideas and allows the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Area to be on the forefront of discussions fostering new and innovative ideas for projects, policies, and funding. Valdosta Mayor John Gayle is an example of this leadership in action. This past year, Mayor Gayle was honored by the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations with the Outstanding Elected Official Leadership Award for his role as Chair of the Executive Committee for the recently passed regional transportation sales tax initiative and his role in educating the public about the sales tax and the impact it will have on transportation funding in the region for years to come.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Barber,
City Manager, City of Valdosta
Valdosta-Lowndes MPO Chairman, FY2020



Figure 1 SGRC Transportation Interns with Valdosta State University Langlade College of Business Dean Dr. L. Wayne Plumly after presentation on working in the Transportation Department.



Figure 2 SGRC staff participating in a career fair at Valdosta State University.



Figure 3 SGRC Intern Andrew Smith presenting his work on Complete Streets Suitability Analysis at a conference.

VLMPO Committees and Staff

Policy Committee

Mark Barber, Chair

City of Valdosta

Lisa Cribb

Southern Georgia Regional Commission

Mayor John Gayle

City of Valdosta

Chairman Alex Lee

Lanier County

Mayor Keith Sandlin

City of Lake Park

Moises Marrero

Federal Highway Administration

Joe Pritchard, Vice Chair

Lowndes County

Mayor Brenda Exum

City of Ray City

Chairman David Herrod

Berrien County

Russell McMurray

Georgia Department of Transportation

Chairman Bill Slaughter

Lowndes County

Yvette Taylor, PhD

Federal Transit Administration

Technical Advisory Committee

Mike Fletcher, Chair

Lowndes County

Van Mason

Georgia Department of Transportation

Andrew Edwards

Federal Highway Administration

Mike Meeks

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advocate

Danny Weeks

Lowndes County 911

Pat Collins, Vice Chair

City of Valdosta

Matthew Risher

Georgia Department of Transportation

Jeff Hill

Lowndes County Board of Education

Ricky Thomas

Valdosta Board of Education

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Ronald Skrine, Chair

Lowndes County

Myrna Ballad

Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce

Tessa Carder

City of Dasher

Stan Crance

Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority

Jim Galloway

Valdosta Regional Airport

Debby Hobdy

Lowndes County

Jim Parker

City of Valdosta

Wes Taylor

Lowndes County Board of Education

Clayton Milligan, Vice Chair

Lowndes County

Steven Barnes

Leadership Lowndes

Dr. William Cason

Valdosta Board of Education

Harriet Crum

City of Hahira

Carroll Griffin

City of Remerton

Phil Hubbard

Lowndes County

Ray Sable

Valdosta State University

Gary Wisenbaker

Lowndes County

Mary Jane Yorke, Secretary

City of Lake Park

William Branham

City of Valdosta

Michael Cooper

Valdosta Downtown Development Authority

Vanessa Flucas

City of Valdosta

Chris Hamilton

James H. Rainwater Conference Center

Shannon McConico

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Dr. Richard Saeger

City of Valdosta

Transportation and Environment Department Staff

Corey Hull, AICP

Transportation and Environmental Director

Amy Martin

Regional Planner

JD Dillard

Transit and Mobility Coordinator

Erica McLelland

Environmental Projects Manager

Ariel Godwin, AICP

Senior Planner

Common Community Vision

The Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization is a federally designated regional transportation planning agency responsible for ensuring that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) planning process.

One of the primary responsibilities of an MPO is to develop, and periodically update, a long-range transportation plan for the metropolitan area covering a planning horizon of at least twenty years that fosters mobility and access for people and goods, efficient system performance and preservation, and good quality of life. The VLMPO completed the required update of its long-range transportation plan (LRTP), titled, The 2040 Transportation Vision Plan, on September 2, 2015. The initial phases of this update process began in early 2013 with the Common Community Vision. In 2018 the VLMPO kicked off the development of the 2045 Transportation Vision Plan which continues to build on the successes of the Common Community Vision.

There are more than twenty plans that guide the growth and development of our communities, health organizations, schools, universities, economic development agencies, and many other institutions, but prior to the development of the Common Community Vision they did not follow any unified vision or goals. Staff and local officials felt that part of the update of the LRTP should include the review of local plans and the development of a common vision that could be utilized to unite all local planning efforts. This common vision became known as the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision. It involved a thorough and comprehensive review, analysis, and public outreach effort to ensure the development of a current, comprehensive, and coordinated vision and set of goals for the community.

By establishing a single set of goals that all local organizations may incorporate into their plans, the Common Community Vision provides a unified vision to the community. As a result, all those organizations are guided toward a common approach to local growth and development. Moving forward under these goals, all organizations work together toward the improvement of the community. These common

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

Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision

goals also fulfill the requirements of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Rules for Comprehensive Planning.

The purpose of a Common Community Vision is for the local governments and agencies to implement their own mission as it relates to the Vision and aspirational goals identified here. Knowing that each organization has a different mission, it will be up to all to work both individually and collaboratively to reach the goals the community sets for itself. For instance, the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO is a transportation planning organization that can have little impact on housing policy or cultural resources. However, transportation planning can greatly influence economic development, land use, and safety. Ultimately, it will be the responsibility of community and organization leaders to take their part of the Common Community Vision and implement it. The Valdosta-Lowndes MPO, as a regional decision-making body that provides a forum for regional discussion of various topics, encourages the use of this Common Community Vision as a guiding document for local organizations to endeavor to achieve success for the entire community.

FY2019 Financial Highlights

FY2019 Budget vs. Actual

Elements	FY2019 Actual	FY2019 Budget	FY2018 Actual
Administration	\$61,211.15	\$61,343.66	\$88,974.21
UPWP	\$4,335.90	\$4,361.52	
Staff Education	\$19,866.85	\$19,969.14	
Computer Systems	\$6,149.12	\$6,223.05	
Public Participation	\$9,294.70	\$9,334.57	
GIS/TDM	\$12,424.68	\$12,446.09	
Land Use Planning	\$3,099.12	\$3,111.52	
Inter-/Multi-Modal	\$3,107.40	\$3,111.52	
Systems Analysis	\$6,217.79	\$6,223.05	
TIP	\$9,304.17	\$9,361.52	
Metropolitan Plan	\$73,166.51	\$73,333.02	
Transit Planning	\$8,210.29	\$9,707.50	
Special Studies	\$10,610.00	\$11,570.00	\$8,430.00
Total	\$226,997.68	\$230,096.17	\$193,952.54

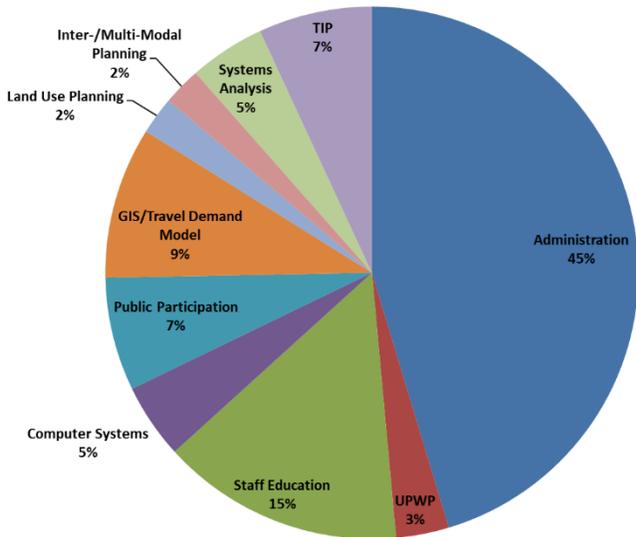


Figure 4 FY2019 Actual Expenditures by Element, %

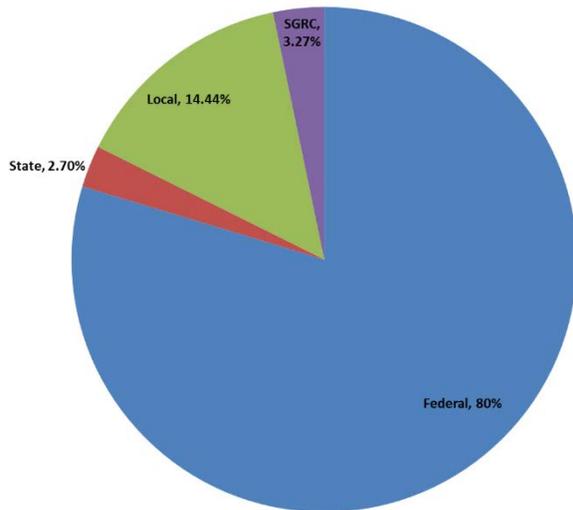


Figure 5 FY2019 Actual Revenue Sources, %

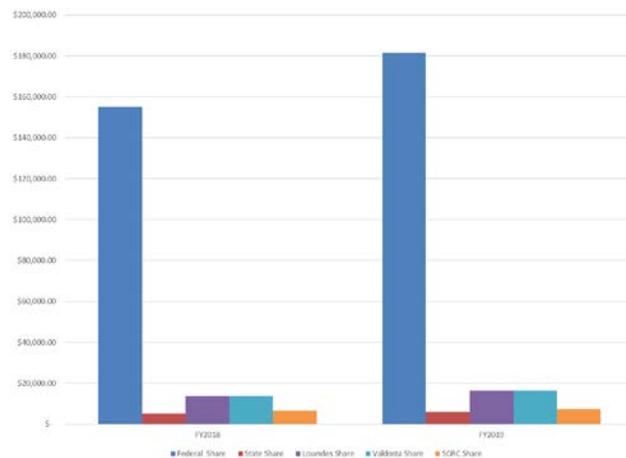


Figure 6 FY2018 & 2019 Revenue Sources, \$

Project Update

Exits 22/29 (PI# 0000762)

This project continued construction in FY2019. Construction of the second set of bridges over Interstate 75 at both interchange locations has begun. Construction will continue for several more months.



Figure 7 Exit 22 bridge beam being set in June 2019 (Photo: Edward Erb, CDM Smith)



Figure 8 Exit 29 Under construction on in July 2019 (Photo: Edward Erb, CDM Smith)

Exits 2 and 11 (PI# 0007386 & PI# 0010297)

These projects continued in their right-of-way acquisition phases. These projects include adding roundabouts at the interchange ramps to improve traffic flow and safety. The projects are on target to be let for construction in 2020.



Figure 9 Exit 2 Proposed Layout on February 15, 2018

Jerry Jones (PI# 0014134)

This project continued its design and right-of-way acquisition phases, led by GDOT and the City of Valdosta, respectively. This project is on target to be let for construction beyond Fiscal Year 2021. The project will widen Jerry Jones Drive and Eager Road between Baytree Road and Oak Street to three-lanes (adding a center turn lane) with bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Five Points (PI# 0015445)

This dual-roundabout project continued its design and engineering phase, led by the Georgia Department of Transportation. This project is on target to be let for construction beyond Fiscal Year 2021.



Figure 10 Proposed Layout of Roundabouts at Five Points Area in 2017 (Photo: Valdosta Daily Times)

South Valdosta Truck Bypass (PI# 0016898)

The Georgia Department of Transportation released a research report about this project. The next phase in this project is to program a scoping phase which will include data gathering, public involvement, environmental surveys, and preliminary engineering to help determine the final alternative.

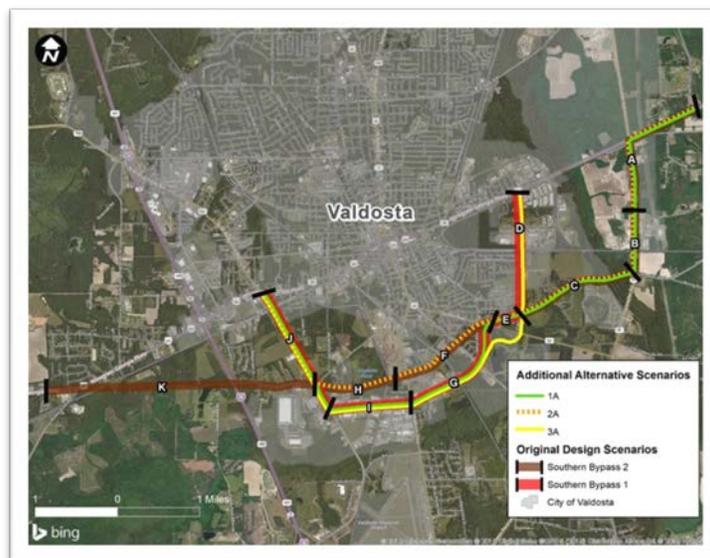


Figure 11 Alternatives for South Valdosta Truck Bypass identified by GDOT

Programs and Activities

Annually, the VLMPO adopts a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that outlines the general tasks that staff will carry out over the coming year. This section highlights the results of the work completed by staff and the VLMPO stakeholders in delivering this work program each year.

Sharing Best Practices and Involvement

The SGRC/VLMPO staff participates in numerous local, state, and national committees, boards, associations, and organizations that encourage community and staff development and the sharing of best practices. The staff maintains memberships in the following organizations:

- Chair of the Joint Subcommittee on Transportation in Military Communities and member of the Metropolitan Policy, Planning, and Process Committee of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Science
- Member of the Policy Committee of the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Chair of the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- American Planning Association (and Georgia Chapter)
- Professional Development Officer of the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association
- Member of the Valdosta Civic Roundtable
- Vice President of Community Service of Leadership Lowndes
- Member of the Rotary Club of Valdosta

A part of staff development includes the sharing of best practices with others around the state and nation. In FY2019, VLMPO staff was invited to participate as a presenter for the national Association of Development Organizations

Virtual Peer Exchange on Developing Shared Transportation and Economic Development Visions, Goals, and Strategies. Corey Hull, AICP, the SGRC Transportation Director shared the best practices and successes of developing the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision document, the foundation for the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan and other economic development efforts in the community.

Andrew Smith, a former intern with the SGRC, was invited by the Transportation Research Board Tools of the Trade Conference on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium Sized Communities to speak on the multi-award winning (see FY2018 Annual Report) Valdosta-Lowndes Complete Streets Suitability Report he developed during his time with the SGRC. Andrew also went on to further develop the ideas of this report into his final paper for his Master's degree in planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Figure 12 Valdosta Mayor John Gayle receiving the Outstanding Elected Official Leadership Award.

A highlight of the year included Valdosta Mayor John Gayle receiving the Outstanding Elected Official Leadership Award from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations for his leadership in communicating the need for the regional transportation sales tax that was enacted by voters in May 2018.

[Studies to Inform and Educate](#)

The talented, professional staff of the SGRC's Transportation Department worked hard in FY2019 to produce high-quality reports, studies, and plans to inform and educate the public and local officials about issues affecting transportation projects and policies. The many projects completed are highlighted below.

The [Cost of Traffic Comparison Report](#) uses newly available data to look at traffic congestion in the Valdosta and Lowndes County area. Using data provided through the National Performance Measure Research Data Set, the traffic on typical days was compared with traffic on several non-typical days (holidays, spring break). This data provides local engineers and planners with data and information to make better-informed decisions about future transportation improvements.

The 2040 Transportation Vision Plan called for staff to research parking in the Valdosta Urbanized Area, because of the large scope of this study it was broken into three phases. The first phase was a survey of [Best Practices for Parking](#) in communities like Valdosta from around the country. The second phases of this report will include a parking inventory and then recommendations on optimizing parking as it relates to mobility demand management in the urbanized area.

A [Report on Bicycle Crashes and Environmental Justice](#) examined the residency location of bicycle riders who were involved in crashes in relation to vehicular access in those census tracts. The data found that bicyclists living in areas with low vehicle access were involved in more crashes. The findings from this report can be useful in developing future bicycle lanes and infrastructure as well as public transit options for the community.

The [Crashes near Schools in Lowndes County Report](#) examined crash data near all public and private schools in Lowndes County. The purpose was to reveal any trends such as school traffic during pick-up and drop-off times, prevalence of young drivers, etc. Interestingly, very few crashes were identified as being specifically related to school traffic.

In FY 2016 the VLMPO completed the Downtown Truck Traffic Study that recommended several alternatives for re-routing truck traffic in Downtown Valdosta. With the support of local stakeholders, in FY2019, the Georgia Department of Transportation completed the [Valdosta Truck Bypass Research Project](#), which refined the previously presented alternatives and identified new alternatives. This project will now be programmed by the VLMPO in our 2040 Transportation Vision Plan, allowing for further study before a final alternative is selected.

[Public transit](#) continues to be an ongoing discussion in the Valdosta Urbanized Area. The VLMPO staff worked to help educate the public and local officials about various options to implement an urban public transit system, how that system might be funded, and what that system might look like.

In FY2019 the VLMPO Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the [Complete Streets Policy](#) drafted by VLMPO staff. The proposed policy outlines how projects should be developed to provide for the safe accommodation of all roadway users and modes, of all ages and abilities. The policy includes implementation measures like identifying key sidewalk gaps, education about Complete Streets principles and practices, and the identification of funding sources for project implementation. The VLMPO Policy Committee will be able to review and adopt this proposed policy in FY2020.

The [2045 Socioeconomic Data Study](#) was completed in FY2019 by Transport Studio, LLC to begin the process of the development of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Valdosta and Lowndes County region. This report includes a tremendous amount of information about the social, economic, and demographic characteristics of the community and has been shared with numerous planning partner agencies for their use as well.

The [City of Dasher Trails Report](#) was presented to the Dasher City Council in the spring of 2019. This report focused on the options for developing a bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure network around the small City of Dasher. Additional work requested by the City of Dasher included a planning-level analysis of the amount of existing public right-of-way available to minimize land acquisition costs for future construction of this network.



Figure 13 SGRC Senior Planner Ariel Godwin working with officials from the City of Dasher on proposed bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure alternatives.

The [Annual Crash Report](#) included more information this year on the ranking of the highest crash location intersection in Valdosta and Lowndes County. This additional information can help local and state engineers better prioritize future improvements that might

help reduce crashes at various locations in the community.

[Public Participation Plan Report](#)

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

In FY2019, the SGRC under the leadership of the VLMPO staff implemented several measures to improve public participation, including the following:

- A newly redesigned www.sgrc.us website was released in early 2019. Along with the new website came a new logo and other branding materials that will be phased in over the next year
- The VLMPO Participation Plan was updated to include new Limited English Proficiency populations. The VLMPO now translates its vital documents into four languages: Spanish, Gujarati, Chinese (simplified), and Korean.
- The VLMPO continued the implementation of its new Public Participation Matrix, which better tracks the actual engagement that various types of techniques give us so we can better target specific audiences.

[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 VMLPO has not had any Title VI complaints, and there have been no changes to the Title VI Plan in FY2019.

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

Limited-English Proficiency Plan

As a recipient of federal funds, the SGRC and VLMPO is required to evaluate what services and products we provide for use by individuals who may speak English less proficiently. The SGRC reviews data annually to measure this population in Lowndes County (the primary service area for the VLMPO). The Participation Plan includes data from the US Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey, which is examined in the table below with data from the 2013-2017 ACS.

Residents with Limited-English Proficiency		
	05-09 ACS	13-17 ACS
Estimate	5,571	6,693
Margin of Error	+/- 567	+/- 614
Lowndes County %	5.9%	6.3%
United States %	19.6%	21.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Table S1601

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

Participation Plan Performance Measures

When the VLMPO Participation Plan was adopted in 2011, it included 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, held steady, or decreased in the last year; a sign 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.

- *Number of public meetings.* Hosted 2 open houses for the FY18-21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2040 Transportation Vision. At least 3 individuals attended the events. **Decrease**
- *Number of newsletters/publications.* Delivered more than 800 newsletters. Distributed all MPO products electronically via website for easy access. **Decrease**
- *Number of staff speaking engagements.* VLMPO staff was the featured speaker at more than 3 events. **Decrease**
- *Attendance at public meetings.* Staff attended more than 10 events/meetings to represent the VLMPO. **Decrease**
- *Number of media engagements.* Local media reported or featured VLMPO activities at least 17 times. **Increase**



Figure 14 The SGRC staff regularly speaks with citizen groups. Here Transportation Director Corey Hull spoke with the Nashville-Berrien Rotary Club about transportation issues and funding.

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

- *Frequency of contact with the public.* Over the past year, the VLMPO has made at least weekly updates to our social media websites and regular updates to our main website. **Steady**
- *Response to public comments.* The VLMPO formally responds to all comments received during a public comment period and responds to other comments throughout the year. **Steady**
- *Accessibility of staff to public.* 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**



Figure 15 SGRC staff and our partners use various outreach methods to education and inform the public. Here Lowndes County representatives speak on a local radio show about their relationship with the SGRC and VLMPO in transportation planning.

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

- *Number of stakeholder meetings.* The VLMPO held no stakeholder meetings in FY2019. **Decrease**
- *Number of public meetings/events.* The VLMPO hosted 14 public committee meetings in FY2019. **Increase**
- *Number of notices sent to resource and partner agencies.* The VLMPO sent about 200 notices to resource and partner agencies. **Steady**
- *How stakeholder issues were addressed in planning documents.* The VLMPO responded to all formal comments received during public comment periods. **Steady**
- *Accessibility of technical information.* The VLMPO has continued to develop new tools in FY2019 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 implement the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. **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.

- *Frequency of outreach to traditionally underserved populations.* 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 or removed at their request. **Decrease**
 - The VLMPO has met regularly in the past year with

representatives of minority communities to address transportation issues and concerns. **Steady**

- *Number of public meetings; accessible location of public meetings.* The VLMPO hosted at least 23 hours of public meetings, all at accessible locations. **Decrease**

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

- *Number of published documents.* The VLMPO published 5 documents in FY2019. **Increase**
- *Number of different outreach techniques.* The VLMPO employed a number of different outreach techniques in FY2019 including: 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.

- *Participation in regional, cross-jurisdictional meetings.* The VLMPO participated in at least 6 regional and cross jurisdictional meetings in FY2019. **Decrease**
- *Number of active transportation-related partnerships with the VLMPO and local governments.* No formal transportation partnerships have been established at this time.
- *Number of documents/reports promoting transportation and economic development.* No documents were produced in FY2019 relating to

economic development and transportation. **Steady**

Outlook for FY2020 and Beyond

Annually the VLMPO adopts a Unified Planning Work Program, or UPWP, that broadly outlines the work the VLMPO staff will undertake in the current fiscal year, as well as outlining some future projects that will require work over multiple years.

The focus of the FY2020 UPWP is the development of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, as required by federal law. This planning effort will require the VLMPO staff and the local and state planning partners to work together to identify and prioritize future transportation projects within available funding constraints. The VLMPO is working to develop alternative analysis techniques using GIS technology to overlay dozens of data layers, which will help prioritize projects and develop environmental mitigation measures to assist in the project design process.

In FY2020, the VLMPO will undertake its first strategic planning effort to work with the committee members to identify ways to improve communication, participation, and identify new studies or polices to research and present for future discussion.

FY2020 looks to be another exciting year in which we will work to plan for the future of transportation in the year 2045 and consider changes to technology like automated vehicles, changes in growth and land use, and the development of new policies to efficiently build, operate, and maintain the transportation and mobility systems of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Area for generations.

Thank You

Thank you to all of our federal, state, and local partner agencies. The staff of the SGRC looks forward to working with you and your communities to plan for improved transportation and mobility through the region.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**



Planning Division | Transit Programs | Traffic Operations | District 4: Tifton



Berrien County, Georgia



FY2019 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports

2019-1.1 MPO Administration

Objective:

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

Project Description:

Maintain proper records as required under Federal and State regulations for contracts administered by the MPO. Coordinate MPO Committee meetings and overall transportation planning efforts in the Region. Update the VLMPO MOU as necessary to include all parties and regulatory requirements. Continue to work with Georgia Assoc. of MPOs (GAMPO) and other state and national organizations on the role of MPOs in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning. Support GAMPO activities through participation in meetings and events. Continue to participate in the GA House Commission on Transit Governance and Funding. Continue to report on and implement the goals of the Common Community Vision, especially as they relate to transportation and accessibility/improvements to: economic and workforce development, education, housing, land use, and health. Staff will continue to inform the MPO committees of legislative and regulatory actions impacting transportation planning and funding. The VLMPO will continue to provide staff that will be the local expert in transportation areas, assisting planning partners in transportation project development, building consensus and value in alternatives analysis, shared planning products, and providing a forum for regional decision making. Continue to work with GDOT and surrounding jurisdictions/agencies to maintain a comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, regional, multi-modal transportation planning process. The VLMPO will continue to maintain a planning document schedule for local officials to understand the planning process better.

Quarter 1 Report:

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

meetings of the GA House Transit Funding and Governance Commission. Staff participated in interviews to hire new staff.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff prepared agendas and minutes for VLMPO committee meetings in December. Staff participated in monthly SGRC leadership meeting and staff meetings. Staff attended meetings of the GA House Transit Funding and Governance Commission.

Quarter 3 Report:

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

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared agendas and minutes for VLMPO committee meetings in June. Staff participated in monthly SGRC leadership and staff meetings. Staff work with other GAMPO members to produce the GAMPO PL Invoice Template and Guidance documents. Staff attended the AMPO Policy Committee meetings.

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: \$54,451.66

Expenditures to Date: \$54,347.13

Percent Expended: 99.81%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-1.2 Operations/UPWP

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared and completed the FY18 VLMPO Annual Report and 4th quarter reimbursement invoice. Staff prepared and executed contracts with GDOT. Staff posted an RFP, interviewed candidate firms, and prepared contracts for a Regional Connectivity Study.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff prepared and completed the FY19 1st quarter report and invoice. Staff worked the GDOT and FHWA to ensure compliance with procurement procedures and contracts.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff prepared and completed the FY19 2nd quarter report and invoice. Staff prepared the final draft of the FY20 UPWP that was approved in March.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared and completed the FY19 3rd quarter report and invoice.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$3,111.52

Expenditures to Date: \$3,096.48

Percent Expended: 99.52%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-1.3 Training/Professional Development

Objective:

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

Project Description:

Provide continuing education and training for MPO staff and committees that will enable the MPO to effectively carry out the transportation planning process, including but not limited to: performance measures, Environmental Justice/ADA/Title VI, transportation planning, GIS and visualization techniques, and other innovations as they are available. Some conferences the staff and committee members may attend include but are not limited to (parentheses indicate registration/travel cost estimate): GA Planning Assoc. (\$500/\$700), GA Transit Assoc. (\$500), American Planning Assoc. (\$2000), Transportation Research Board (\$3500), GA Assoc. of MPOs (\$300), National Assoc. of MPOs (\$2500), GA Highway Safety Conference (\$500), National Assoc. of Development Orgs. (\$1500), and other training provided by FHWA, FTA, GDOT, NTI or NHI. Travel will be subject to the SGRC Travel Policies, based on Federal per diem rates. Travel costs not associated with training and education events are included in other work elements of this UPWP.

Staff will maintain a training tracker to report training hours and content to the GA Department of Community Affairs and for other purposes. SGRC/VLMPO will continue membership in AMPO (organizations dues estimated to be \$500) and NADO (organization dues are paid by other non-MPO related funding sources), and will consider other organization memberships as appropriate. Please note the above are organizational memberships and not personal.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff attended the following meetings: Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference, Assoc. of MPOs. National Conference, TRB Tools of The Trade Conference, and various webinars on topics like transportation and economic development, environmental justice, complete streets, and bicycle safety planning.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff attended the following meetings: Georgia Assoc. of Regional Commissions, the GA Freight Partnership, and Georgia Transit Association. Staff attended webinars on the topics like: mobility management and transit demographics, active transportation and health, transportation and economic development planning.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff attended the Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington, DC. Staff also attended various webinars on topics including: bikeshare, equity analysis, infrastructure finance, disability mobility partnerships, TPM congestion measures, and inclusive planning.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff attended the InfraDay Conference in New York City. Staff attended the FHWA/GDOT Data Workshop 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: \$18,669.14

Expenditures to Date: \$18,612.62

Percent Expended: 99.70%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-1.4 Equipment/Supplies/Technical Assistance

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

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

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff maintained computer software and performed routine maintenance of computer hardware. Staff started the process to purchase new computers for two staff members.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff maintained computer software and performed routine maintenance of computer hardware. Two new computers for staff were purchased.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff maintained computer software and performed routine maintenance of computer hardware. A new computer for staff was purchased (originally scheduled for replacement in FY20).

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

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

Approved Budget: \$6,223.05

Expenditures to Date: \$6,149.12

Percent Expended: 98.81%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-2.1 Participation Plan Implementation

Objective:

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

Project Description:

Outreach and Education:

Staff will continue to communicate, educate, inform, make transparent, and visualize how the transportation planning process impacts all of the FHWA planning factors through regular inclusionary public involvement opportunities associated with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Participation Plan (PP) and other documents for the public and elected officials. Engage and inform non-traditional community planning partners through the Citizen's Advisory Committee about the transportation planning process and promote the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision as a strategic vision for the community. VLMPO staff will engage the community through partnerships with community organization events (job fairs, school events, open houses, etc.). Develop and maintain websites and social media, with the most recent and relevant data and information about the MPO transportation planning process for the public and local government decision makers. Develop graphical, marketing and visualization skills and products to better communicate transportation data and concepts. Conduct public involvement strategies as outlined in the PP as needed for development of various VLMPO documents.

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

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff held public comment period and open house for an amendment to the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan and FY18-21 TIP. Staff began using a new

participation matrix to better track participation techniques internally. Staff continued website updates. Staff continued to make regular social media posts.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to make regular social media posts and website updates. Staff developed the public participation timeline for the 2045 MTP update to be completed over the next several months.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to make regular social media posts and website updates. A new website and logo were unveiled for the SGRC in February. Staff prepared a survey for the 2045 MTP update.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to work with the GDOT Transit office to update our Participation Plan to meet their requirements. The update included the identification of new LEP populations. Staff procured the translation of our critical participation plan documents into 4 new languages (Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Gujarati). The PP update will be completed by December 2019. Staff continued to move email communications lists to Constant Contact for better tracking and measuring performance of emails sent. Staff completed a public comment period for a TIP and MTP amendment.

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: \$9,334.57

Expenditures to Date: \$9,294.70

Percent Expended: 99.57%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-3.1 GIS/Travel Demand Model Development

Objective:

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

Project Description:

The VLMPO will work with the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional GIS Department (VALOR) at the SGRC to develop and maintain GIS data, and a website that shows transportation projects from the TIP and MTP. Continue to educate local officials of the importance of the travel demand model and how it can be used for transportation planning decision making purposes. Develop GIS-based data resources to analyze and evaluate social and environmental impacts of transportation improvements. Develop MPO regional commuting maps (when Census data is available) to illustrate regional travel patterns. The VLMPO will use GIS to analyze data collected for performance measures to inform local officials of trends in data to set target areas and to analyze projects for inclusion in the LRTP and TIP. Staff will use GIS data analysis outputs and other visualization techniques to convey information about how transportation improvements can positively impact planning factors. The VLMPO will continue to develop and maintain the VLMPO Travel Demand Model and perform model runs as requested by GDOT and/or local governments. Maintain the VLMPO 2035 Joint Land Use Study Travel Demand Model for analysis requests from local stakeholders as it relates to the mission of Moody Air Force Base and its impact on land use and transportation relationships in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff continued to develop and maintain GIS layers for transportation purposes. Staff continued to develop a GIS Story Map for the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan Projects. Staff began to develop an environmental assessment tool using GIS.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to develop and maintain GIS layers for transportation purposes.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to develop and maintain GIS layers for transportation purposes.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to develop and maintain GIS layers for transportation purposes. Staff completed the development of a 2045 MTP project layer that will be used to track projects through the MTP development process.

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: \$12,446.09

Expenditures to Date: \$12,424.68

Percent Expended: 99.83%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-3.2 Land Use Planning

Objective:

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

Project Description:

Coordinate with local land use planning staff to review local land use developments (zoning requests, subdivision plats, commercial developments, etc.) as to their effects on the local transportation infrastructure and consistency with the goals of the Transportation Plan. Provide technical assistance to local engineers and planners on topics relating to transportation and land use including: access management, transit oriented development, complete streets, etc. Coordinate with local jurisdictions to cooperatively develop local comprehensive plan updates as required by the GA Department of Community Affairs (transportation planning requirements and transportation-land use relationships). Continue to inform the public and stakeholders of the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision and promote its use as a strategic vision for the community. Continue to work with the SGRC and local land use planners to implement the Moody Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study recommendations that impact the transportation-land use relationship in the Metropolitan Planning Area. Continue to work with other regional planners to better implement regional planning efforts throughout the SGRC area. The VLMPO will continue to encourage the development of gateways into the community that improve visual appearance and mitigate natural/human environmental impacts of transportation. Staff will review, share and update as needed the 2040 Socioeconomic Data Study for use by other organizations.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff continued to review weekly development proposals from local governments. Staff prepared a draft report for the City of Valdosta highlighting a neighborhood analysis of existing economic development, land use, housing, and infrastructure resources.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to review weekly development proposals from local governments.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to review weekly development proposals from local governments.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to review weekly development proposal from local governments.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$3,111.52

Expenditures to Date: \$3,099.12

Percent Expended: 99.60%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-3.3 Inter-/Multi-Modal Transportation Planning

Objective:

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

Project Description:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Activities: Continue to work with local and state jurisdictions to implement the Bike/Ped Master Plan. Report on the status of this implementation. Consider the development of Complete Streets Policies for the VLMPO, the City of Valdosta, and Lowndes County at the request of local governments. Explore options for: improved data on bicycle and pedestrian usage in the region (traffic video analysis, fitness apps, etc.); funding bicycle and pedestrian projects (social impact bonds, etc.); improving transportation planning so that it can be used to improve health of the local population. Report on local jurisdiction compliance with 2040 TVP Active, Healthy Lifestyles Strategy Implementation. With other SGRC transportation planning programs, coordinate efforts on Safe Routes to School participation, regional bicycle and pedestrian planning activities (like: complete streets workshops, health and transportation, etc.) throughout an 18-county region.

Freight and Intermodal Activities: Continue to integrate freight and goods movement planning and analysis into long and short range planning efforts. Continue to evaluate and study alternatives to recommend a project for Downtown Truck Traffic Mitigation. Continue to update data and perform analysis of how freight and goods movement impacts economic development in the region. Coordinate MPO planning efforts with other local transportation modes: railroads, airports, seaports, etc. to inform and influence the MTP process.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff participated in the GDOT bicycle and pedestrian safety task team conference calls. Staff reviewed a portion of a draft report from GDOT on solutions to mitigating truck traffic in downtown Valdosta. Staff worked to draft a Complete Streets Policy for the MPO area.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff participated in the GDOT bicycle and pedestrian safety task team conference calls. Staff presented a draft Complete Streets Policy to the VLMPO committees.

Quarter 3 Report:

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

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff participated in the GDOT bicycle and pedestrian safety task team conference calls. Staff also spoke with the local SRTS coordinator to talk about school outreach and new ideas for FY20.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$3,111.52

Expenditures to Date: \$3,107.40

Percent Expended: 99.87%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-3.4 Systems Data Analysis and Research

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff analyzed data for the 2040 TVP Performance Measures and prepared amendments for the PM2 and PM3 performance measure targets.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff analyzed data for the updated safety performance measure administrative modification.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff reviewed bicycle and pedestrian crash data relating to implementation of the GDOT Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Action Plans.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared a draft report on the socioeconomics of bicycle crash victims to better identify where bicycle infrastructure should be built. Staff prepared a draft analysis of RITIS and NPMRDS data to look at the cost of congestion in the MPO area. Staff prepared a draft analysis of crashes near schools to help identify any mitigation factors for future SRTS implementation projects.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$6,223.05

Expenditures to Date: \$6,217.79

Percent Expended: 99.92%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-4.1 Transportation Improvement Program

Objective:

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

Project Description:

The VLMPO will continue to work with GDOT and local planning partners in prioritizing, developing and implementing projects in the TIP, including attending meetings and conducting analysis where needed to select and prioritize projects. Implement national goals and performance measures in the TIP in coordination with local and state partners. Continue to process TIP amendments and administrative modifications according to adopted policies (including those in the PP) in coordination with GDOT and local jurisdictions. Continue to provide technical support for projects in the TIP. Continue to maintain a project tracking tool and GIS database to provide the public and planning partner's information about project development and timelines. Continue to work with the City of Valdosta in the prioritization and implementation of projects, plans and policies identified in the City of Valdosta Transportation Master Plan. Continue to explore new and innovative funding opportunities (unique grants, social impact bonds, etc.) for transportation improvements. Consider using FHWA's PlanWorks tool to help guide and improve the next TIP update.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared amendments to the FY18-21 TIP for PM2 and PM3 performance measure targets, the TIP was amended at the September Policy Committee meeting. Staff attended project meetings hosted by GDOT for TIP projects.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff attended project meetings hosted by GDOT for TIP projects.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff prepared an administrative modification to the TIP for updated Safety PM targets. Staff responded to questions from local jurisdictions about TIP projects.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff prepared an amendment (including comment period) for the TIP and MTP that included year, cost, funding category changes.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$3,111.52

Expenditures to Date: \$3,073.39

Percent Expended: 98.77%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-4.2 Long Range Transportation Plan

Objective:

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

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), see also Element 4.4. Continue to maintain (amend), update and implement the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan as needed in accordance with amendment procedures and public involvement procedures as outlined in the PP). Identify data sources needed to implement performance measures as identified in MAP-21 and FAST Act regulations in consultation with GDOT. Monitor the implementation of the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan through the MPO annual report and other reporting methods. Evaluate and Report of parking requirements to better promote complete streets, safety and public transit use (see 2040 TVP). Report on ways to implement Transportation Demand Management Strategies in VLMPO area (see 2040 TVP). Develop the 2045 Transportation Vision Plan document in partnership with GDOT and local partners in accordance with federal laws and regulations. See 2045 Socioeconomic Data Report in Element 4.4. Develop GIS layers and models needed for development of land use patterns for travel demand model. Continue to work with various stakeholders to implement land use policy recommendations from the JLUS study for Moody AFB and surrounding areas. Continue to develop reports and information to fund transportation and transit improvements throughout the region. Continue to work with GDOT and local partners in prioritizing and implementing projects in the MTP and TIP, this includes attending meetings and conducting analysis where needed for a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous MTP. Continue to inform the public and stakeholders of the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision and promote its use as a strategic vision for the community.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff prepared an amendment to the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan for PM2 and PM3 performance measure targets, the amendment was adopted

at the September Policy Committee meeting. Staff reviewed the deliverables of the 2045 Socioeconomic Data Study from Transport Studio. Staff began working on a parking study as outlined in the 2040 TVP to better explain how parking best practices can promote safety and economic development.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff continued to work on the first phase of a parking study for the VLMPO area. Staff continued to develop an outline for the 2040 MTP update and divide the tasks among various staff.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff continued to develop the 2045 MTP including the development of a list of project ideas from prior studies as well as sending to GDOT the projects to include in the base-year TDM.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to develop the 2045 MTP including meeting with local jurisdictions to determine their project needs. Staff completed a TIP and MTP amendment for cost, year, funding category changes.

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: \$35,782.52

Expenditures to Date: \$35,770.41

Percent Expended: 99.97%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2019-4.3 Transit Planning

Objective:

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

Project Description:

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

Quarter 1 Report:

No work at this time. 5303 contract not executed.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff executed contract with GDOT.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff met with local government partners to discuss transit options and funding challenges in the Valdosta Urbanized Area. Staff met with private vendors who are interested in doing a public-private partnership to implement public transit in Valdosta.

Quarter 4 Report:

Staff continued to work on the development of the 2045 MTP.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$0 (includes only FTA 5303 funds)

Expenditures to Date: \$0

Percent Expended: 0%

Project Complete %: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time

2019-4.4 Special Transportation Studies

Objective:

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

Project Description:

(PI 0015851): 2045 Socioeconomic Data Study: Contract with consultant to complete socioeconomic data update for the development of the 2045 Transportation Vision Plan. Socioeconomic data will be collected for the Travel Demand Model, Environmental Justice analysis, and other land use and economic development needs of the planning partners in the community. The estimated cost of this study is \$20,000 total. 1/1/18-12/31/18. Note: Some of the funds for this project were expended in FY2018

Regional Roadway Connectivity Study (PI 0016088): Major transportation corridors are the primary routes that fed and funnel traffic from surrounding counties into Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta. This Study will evaluate existing roadways and propose new roadways that will improve efficiency of regional roadway network. The estimated cost of this study is \$150,000, the estimated timeframe for completion is 9/1/18 – 12/31/19.

Quarter 1 Report:

Staff reviewed the work of the SE data consultant including the base and future year data tables, environmental justice memo and draft final report. Staff executed a no-cost time extension for the contract with the consultant.

Staff solicited and RFP, interviewed firms and prepared a contract with a consultant for the Regional Connectivity Study. Contract is currently under review by VLMPO TAC before final execution.

Quarter 2 Report:

Staff reviewed the work of the SE data consultant and responded to questions and comments from GDOT. Staff completed the project in December 2018.

After meeting with FHWA and GDOT staff closed the contract with GDOT regarding the Regional Connectivity Study over concerns about procurement and study scope.

Quarter 3 Report:

Staff sent to GDOT the final reimbursement request for the 2045 Socioeconomic Study.

Quarter 4 Report:

Not Applicable.

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: \$20,000.00

Expenditures to Date: \$19,040.00

Percent Expended: 95.20%

Project Complete %: SE Data Study: 100%, Reg. Conn. Study: NA%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time