

# Valdosta-Lowndes MPO

## FY2026 Unified Planning Work Program



# Unified Planning Work Program for the Valdosta Urbanized Area

## FY2026

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026



REGIONAL SERVICES • COMMUNITY FOCUSED

### February 28, 2025

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*The Southern Georgia Regional Commission as designated VLMPO for the Valdosta Urbanized Area provides staff and programmatic support for the VLMPO and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider. Qualified persons are considered for employment or for receipt of services without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability.*

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

*The VLMPO public participation process for the development of the TIP meets the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) public participation requirements related to the development of the Section 5307 Program of Projects.*

*The Southern Georgia Regional Commission as the designated VLMPO for the Valdosta Urbanized Area ensures that all VLMPO products and programs fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. SGRC's website ([www.sgrc.us](http://www.sgrc.us)) may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats, if request*

**RESOLUTION FY2025-5**

**VALDOSTA-LOWNDES METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION TO Adopt the FY2026 Unified Planning Work Program**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the U.S. Bureau of the Census officially designated Urbanized Area Boundaries established May 1, 2002, and updated on November 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Georgia Regional Commission has been designated by the Governor of Georgia as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Valdosta-Lowndes Urbanized Area in accordance with Federal requirements of Title 23, Section 134 of the United States Code to have a Cooperative, Comprehensive and Continuous transportation planning process; and

**WHEREAS**, the MPO conducts federally required transportation planning activities that will improve the transportation system and help coordinate the area's future growth within the area bounded, at minimum, by the existing Urbanized Area plus the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within the next 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation, prior to the funding of any planning or capital grant project within an urban region, requires the preparation and adoption of a Unified Planning Work Program(UPWP) describing transportation planning activities to be accomplished during FY2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY2026 UPWP addresses the needs for Planning Administration/Management, Data, Data Development and Maintenance, Short range Planning, Long Range Planning, Special Studies, and other planning activities, identifying agency responsibilities by work task and anticipated funding requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the VLMPO has developed the UPWP and certifies its' compliance with federal planning requirements as outlined in the introduction of the FY2026 UPWP and in accordance with 23CFR§ 450.308.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization's Policy Committee adopts the FY2026 Unified Planning Work Program as required by Title 23 (USC 134 Section 450.308).

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee at a meeting held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

  
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Paige Dukes, County Manager, Lowndes County  
Chair, VLMPO Policy Committee

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## INTRODUCTION

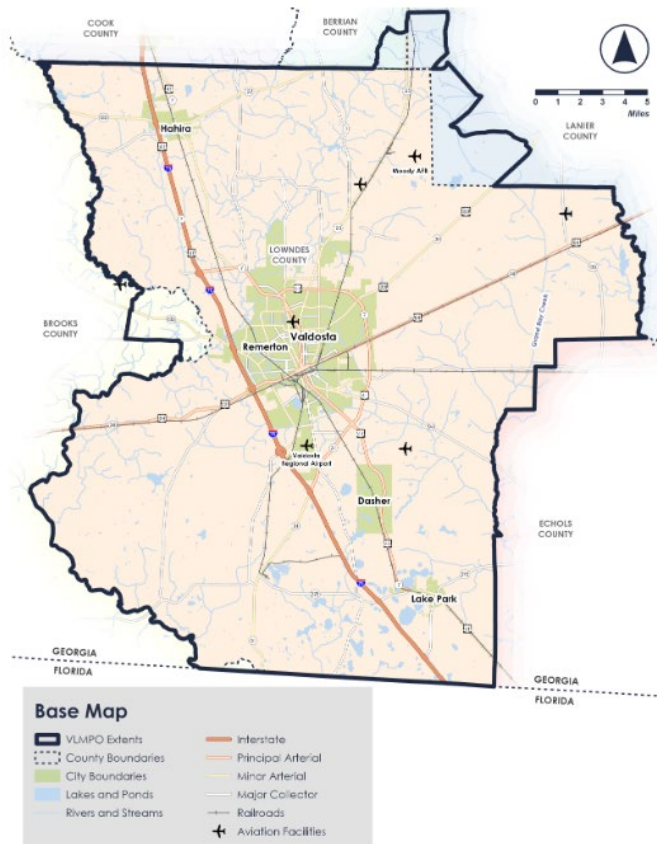
In 2003, the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization (VLMPO) was established in response to the 2000 Census. This organization, mandated by federal law, was tasked with addressing transportation planning within Lowndes County and the urbanized portions of Berrien, Brooks, and Lanier Counties. The VLMPO's jurisdiction includes the municipalities of Dasher, Hahira, Lake Park, Ray City, Remerton, and Valdosta.

Governor Sonny Perdue designated the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) to host the VLMPO and provide staff support for this planning initiative. The SGRC, an 18-county regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency, ensures the implementation of a "continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive" (3-C) planning process. This process involves federal, state, and local agencies, as well as citizens and other stakeholders, and is upheld through legislation and required agreements such as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The VLMPO's day-to-day operations are managed by the SGRC's Transportation Department, which performs essential transportation planning activities within the designated planning area. The organization's structure includes three key components: The Policy Committee (PC), the Technical Advisory Committee, and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

This collaborative structure ensures a comprehensive approach to transportation planning, incorporating professional expertise, community input, and governmental oversight to address the region's evolving transportation needs effectively.

Figure 1. Valdosta Urbanized Area (shown with pink line) and the Valdosta VLMPO Planning Area (shown in teal).



## VALDOSTA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (VLMPO)

The VLMPO comprises three distinct committees: the Policy Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Figure 2 illustrates the planning organizational structure. The VLMPO serves as a framework for developing transportation planning and decision-making processes, fostering collaboration among various governmental agencies and units to achieve consensus on transportation plans for the urbanized area.

The Policy Committee functions as a forum for cooperative decision-making by principal elected and appointed officials of local governments and intermodal transportation providers. This committee bears the responsibility of considering recommendations from both the CAC and TAC when adopting plans or setting policies. Ultimately, the Policy Committee holds final authority in matters of policy and plan adoption.

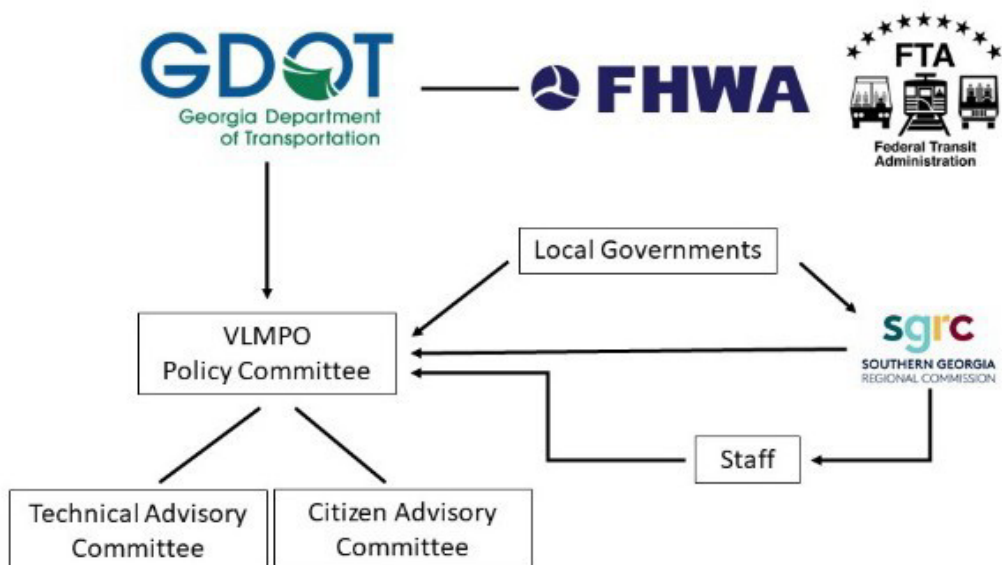
The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consists of staff members from various federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other associations with technical expertise in transportation or planning. The TAC ensures the involvement of all operational departments, advisory agencies, and multi-modal transportation providers in the planning process and subsequent implementation of plans. This committee evaluates transportation plans and projects based on their technical merit and financial feasibility.

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) comprises volunteers with a vested interest in transportation issues. The CAC's primary responsibilities include:

- Keeping the Policy Committee informed of the community's perspective on transportation matters
- Providing information to the community about transportation policies and issues
- Ensuring that the values and interests of the region's communities are considered in the planning process

Through this structured approach, the VLMPO effectively integrates technical expertise, policy-making, and community input to develop comprehensive and responsive transportation plans for the Valdosta-Lowndes metropolitan area.

Figure 2. VLMPO Organizational Chart



## PURPOSE OF THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

### FHWA/FTA PLANNING FACTORS AND PLANNING EMPHASIS AREAS

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) delineates the planning activities for the upcoming fiscal year, providing comprehensive financial information on fund allocation and staff responsibilities. Additionally, it outlines specific goals and objectives. These planning funds are appropriated under the authorization of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Under IIJA guidelines, the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization (VLMPO) is mandated to "provide consideration and implementation of projects, strategies and services that will address" ten critical planning factors. These factors are integral to VLMPO's development of transportation plans and programs. Below, each planning factor is accompanied by a concise narrative illustrating how planning activities and projects work to implement that factor in this UPWP.

Furthermore, the UPWP incorporates Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Common Community Vision (CCV) Objectives for each planning factor. It's important to note that these objectives often overlap, contributing to the achievement of multiple planning factors and work elements within this UPWP. While the objectives listed under each planning factor are not exhaustive, they represent key alignments. For a comprehensive view of all Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) planning factors and Vision2045 MTP/CCV objectives corresponding to each work element in this UPWP, please refer to the detailed work element tables provided in subsequent sections.

#### **1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;**

Projects outlined for staff to undertake in this UPWP work to promote the economic vitality of the metropolitan region, focusing on how transportation can positively impact economic output of businesses throughout the region.

##### **Vision2045 MTP Objectives:**

- a) Support Regional Economic Engines through Accessible, Multi-Modal Transportation Systems for the Movement of People and Goods.
- b) Improve Workforce Development Training Through Investments in Affordable, Accessible, Multi-Modal Transportation Systems for the Movement of People.

#### **2. Increase safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;**

Staff works to promote safety of the transportation system for all users. Staff evaluates crash data and promotes safety programs such as Safe Routes to School among other safety initiatives to help increase the safety of the transportation system.

##### **Vision2045 MTP Objective:**

- a) Implement Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Projects that Promote an Active, Healthy Lifestyle.

#### **3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;**

The VLMPO, works to increase the security of the transportation system through encouraging and programing funding for technology on transit vehicles and through ITS (Intelligent Transportation

Systems) technology applications and infrastructure.

**Vision2045 MTP Objective:**

- a) Develop Regional Leadership that Promotes Transparency, Citizen Engagement, and Coordinated Planning and Delivery of Transportation Projects.

**4. Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and for freight;**

Staff prepares reports that evaluate mobility options for people and freight and provides project recommendations that can be implemented through the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) and MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan, or locally the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan) processes.

**Vision2045 MTP Objective:**

- a) Encourage Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses through Affordable, Accessible, Multi-modal Transportation Investments.

**5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth, housing and economic development patterns;**

Staff works to implement strategies identified in the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan that enhance housing and development patterns, the environment, and improve energy conservation and quality of life.

**Vision2045 MTP Objective:**

- a) Promote Conservation and Renewable Energy through Alternative Transportation and Fuel Technologies.

**6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;**

Through various analysis, the staff works to identify projects that can be implemented through the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and TIPs to enhance the integration and connectivity of various transportation modes.

**Vision2045 MTP Objectives:**

- a) Provide Regional Connectivity through an Efficient, Safe, Accessible, and Affordable Multi-Modal Transportation System.
- b) Support local schools through affordable, accessible, and efficient multi-modal and public transit investments.

**7. Promote efficient system management and operation;**

Staff ensures that funding is programmed for maintenance and operations of the transportation system for various modes and not just for new capital expenditure items. The staff works with state and local partners to develop performance measures and data to ensure the system meets maintenance and operational targets.

**Vision2045 MTP Objectives:**

- a) Develop Regional Leadership that Promotes Transparency, Citizen Engagement, and Coordinated



## **8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;**

Staff ensures that consideration of preserving the existing system is emphasized when considering and in developing financial plans for transportation improvements. Staff also works with state and local partners to develop performance measures to ensure the existing system is preserved and maintained to meet targets. Vision2045 MTP Objective:

- a) Coordinate with Emergency Responders to Develop Resilient, Well Maintained Transportation Infrastructure.

## **9. Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate storm water impacts of surface transportation; and**

The VLMPO works with local and state partners to improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system (see Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan strategies). The VLMPO will work to make sure that all projects address stormwater impacts in the MTP and TIP as appropriate according to jurisdictional stormwater permits.

Vision2045 MTP Objective:

- a) Develop Basic Transportation and Utility Infrastructure that Promotes Resiliency and Reliability.

## **10. Enhance travel and tourism.**

Staff will improve outreach to interested parties to enhance travel and tourism participation in the planning process. The VLMPO will continue to promote bicycling as a form of recreation and tourism for the region.

Vision2045 MTP Objectives:

- a) Support Regional Economic Engines through Accessible, Multi-Modal Transportation Systems for the Movement of People and Goods.
- b) Implement Transportation and Land Use Policies that Support Cultural/Historic Resources and Promote Tourism.

On December 30, 2021, the FHWA Division and FTA Regional Administrators released updated Planning Emphasis Areas. These newly updated planning areas reflect the changes that have been made over the past few years to address various topics that interconnect with creating a sustainable, resilient transportation network. These planning emphasis areas are Tackling the Climate Crisis - Transition to a Clean Energy, Resilient Future; Equity and Justice40 in Transportation Planning; Complete Streets; Public Involvement; Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination; Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination; Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL); and Data in Transportation Planning. The VLMPO will incorporate these planning emphases in the transportation planning process and consideration of projects to help achieve the overall goals of these planning emphasis areas.

## **1. Tackling the Climate Crisis – Transition to a Clean Energy, Resilient Future**

Staff will research and implement best practices for the creation of a clean energy, resilient community through incorporating sustainable goals to include but not limited to alternative fuels, electric vehicles, and vulnerability identification within the network.

Work Program Objectives:

- a) Continue to Inform the VLMPO Committees of Legislative and Regulatory Actions Impacting Transportation Planning.
- b) Continuing Education and Training for VLMPO Staff and Committees that will Enable the VLMPO to

- Effectively carry out the Transportation Planning Process as it relates to a clean energy, resilient future.
- c) Use the Transportation Planning Process as an Opportunity to Identify and Analyze the Potential for a Sustainable Transportation Network to include Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Identifying Transportation System Vulnerabilities as it Relates to Land Uses and Environmental Linkages, etc.

## **2. Equity and Justice<sup>40</sup> in Transportation Planning**

Staff will continue to implement the Public Participation plan to garner the input of underserved and disadvantaged communities to create and improve strategies that create an equitable safe, reliable transportation network and public transit system for environmental justice populations.

### **Work Program Objectives:**

- a) Continue to Inform the VLMPO Committees of Legislative and Regulatory Actions Impacting Transportation Planning.
- b) 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 and an Opportunity to Participate in the Transportation Planning Process.
- c) Develop GIS-based Data Resources to Analyze and Evaluate Social and Environmental Burdens and/or Opportunities of Transportation Improvements.

## **3. Complete Streets**

Staff will review current plans to ensure the inclusion of Complete Streets considerations within the planning of transportation infrastructure projects. The VLMPO will continue to implement its' Complete Streets Policy during the transportation planning process.

### **Work Program Objectives:**

- a) Provide Technical Assistance to Local Engineers and Planners on Topics relating to transportation and land use including: access management, transit-oriented development, complete streets, redevelopment of neighborhoods to include affordable housing initiatives.
- b) In conjunction with other SGRC transportation planning programs, VLMPO staff will coordinate efforts on Safe Routes to School participation, regional bicycle and pedestrian planning activities (such as: complete streets workshops, health and transportation, etc.)
- c) Continue to promote the VLMPO Complete Streets policy and the prioritization of multi-modal projects within the planning process and project consideration.

## **4. Public Involvement**

Staff will continue to implement the Public Participation Plan as well as thoroughly review and update the PP to ensure it is compliant with updates to Federal, State, and Local regulations for public involvement.

### **Work Program Objectives:**

- a) Staff will engage the community through techniques as identified in its Participation Plan to include Virtual Public Involvement.
- b) Staff will work to develop a communications plan to outline the who, what, when, where, why, how, of MPO-related messaging we need to complete.

- c) 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 and an opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process.

## **5. Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination**

Staff will work to ensure that coordination with DOD officials as well as local DOD officials located at Moody AFB are a part of the transportation planning process.

- a) Coordinate with VLMPO jurisdictions, FHWA and DOD planning partners to cooperatively develop updates and implement local transportation and comprehensive (and regional) plans and planning efforts that assist in creating an efficient highway network around DOD land and Transportation uses.

## **6. Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination**

As coordination in the development and/or changes of the TIP and MTP begins, staff will continue to reach out to VLMPO Tribal Resource Agencies for input and coordination around access to FMLA's.

- a) Coordinate with GDOT and operators of local transit to update and amend the TIP, MTP, and System Performance Report to include but not limited to National and FTA performance targets/measures and projects.
- b) Monitor, amend, and implement the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as a performance-based planning document in partnership with GDOT and local partners in accordance with federal laws and regulations.

## **7. Planning and Environmental Linkages**

Staff will continue to use GIS databases, such as the TEAMap (Transportation Environmental Assessment Map) and data analysis to identify planning and environmental linkages.

- a) 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 Vision2045 MTP.
- b) Provide technical assistance to local engineers and planners on topics relating to transportation and land use including: access management, transit-oriented development, complete streets, environmental impacts, redevelopment of neighborhoods to include affordable housing initiatives.

## **8. Data in Transportation Planning**

Staff will continue to perform data analyses for transportation initiatives along with the use of various GIS related applications to improve transportation planning outcomes.

- a) 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.
- b) Continue to update data and perform analysis of how freight and goods movement impacts economic development in the region through the use of NPRMDS, disaggregated FAF5 data, and other data resources. Coordinate VLMPO planning efforts with other local transportation modes: railroads, airports, seaports, etc. to inform and influence the planning and implementation of transportation improvements.

## UPWP DEVELOPMENT & CONTENT

The UPWP delineates transportation studies and tasks to be executed by the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization (VLMPO) staff or member agencies utilizing federal metropolitan planning funds. As the UPWP reflects local issues and strategic priorities, its contents vary across metropolitan areas. Covering a one-year period, the UPWP encompasses several key elements:

- Planning tasks, including data collection and analysis, public outreach, and preparation of the plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), along with supporting studies and resulting products
- Identification of emphasized Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Planning Factors and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Activity Line-Item Codes (ALIs) for each work element
- All federally funded studies and relevant state and local planning activities conducted without federal funds
- Funding sources for each project
- Schedule of activities
- Agency responsible for each task or study
- A comprehensive business plan projecting future revenue and outlining planned or unfunded projects to facilitate local officials' planning for upcoming activities

The Policy Committee, with input from the Citizens Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee, annually revises and adopts the UPWP to ensure compliance with federal regulations. This Fiscal Year 2026 UPWP outlines: (1) VLMPO's planning goals and activities; (2) cost estimates for each activity; (3) funding sources; and (4) a work schedule for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The UPWP work elements are organized into six major sections:

- Program Administration
- Public Involvement
- Comprehensive Planning/Research
- Safe Accessible Transportation Options
- Transportation Systems Planning
- Business Plan

The first five sections of the UPWP detail the parties responsible for various planning activities. These activities primarily focus on the preparation and development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and lead to the implementation of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), currently the Vision2045 MTP, as well as the development and adoption of the next MTP. Public involvement is integral to this planning process and is a core feature of numerous activities throughout the UPWP.

The VLMPO receives funding from two U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) sources: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) planning (PL) funds for VLMPO planning, and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5303 funds for metropolitan planning. PL funds are distributed contractually through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) under an 80-20% split: 80% federal portion, 4% from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, and 16% shared between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. FTA 5303 funds receive a 10% match from GDOT, 2% from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, with the remaining 8% split between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County.

It is important to note that while the Southern Georgia Regional Commission encompasses the work of the VLMPO and other transportation and non-transportation programs, the PL funds programmed in this UPWP are specifically allocated for transportation planning purposes within the Metropolitan Planning Area, as mandated by federal statute and regulations.

To facilitate grant applications for FTA's 5303 funds, estimated FY2026 funds are presented for the appropriate work categories.

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## UPWP AMENDMENTS

From time to time, organizational budgets and work programs cannot be implemented as planned due to unforeseen circumstances. For this reason, the VLMPO is able to amend its UPWP and budget in two ways:

- An Administrative Modification can be completed by the staff without formal action from the VLMPO Policy Committee. An Administrative Amendment involves modifying the dollar amount in any work element, as long as the overall budget remains unchanged. Documentation of an Administrative Modification includes a letter describing the amendment sent to GDOT and the Policy Committee members.
- An UPWP Amendment requires the staff to present to the VLMPO Policy Committee significant changes to the work scope and/or changes to the overall budget amount for the UPWP. Amendments are presented at a meeting of the Policy Committee (and CAC/TAC if available in a timely manner) and require an affirmative vote by the members to become effective.

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## FY2026 UPWP HIGHLIGHTS/PRIORITIES

In FY2026, the VLMPO will continue the transportation planning process for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) while concurrently advancing the ongoing implementation of the current 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Vision2045). This involves the culmination of studies and reports conducted by either the staff or external consultants. The primary emphases during FY2026 will be on the 2050 MTP process and plan, the FY26 Unified Planning Work Program, and Planning Emphasis Areas. Studies completed in fiscal year 2024, along with additional plans and reports slated for completion in FY2025, will continue to play a role in establishing and maintaining a reliable transportation network. Furthermore, staff will persist in executing the Fiscal Year 2024 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and will diligently monitor project progress within this program. Staff will begin drafting the FY2027 - FY2030 TIP for review and adoption. Technical support will be extended to the City of Valdosta by analyzing public transit data and producing various reports to aid in the sustained implementation and monitoring of the Valdosta On-Demand public transit system. The VLMPO has successfully drafted a Transit-Oriented Development Plan and is currently working on the Regional Transit Development Plan, which will take a look at the Valdosta On-Demand system. Efforts in FY2026 will also focus on executing recommendations derived from both plans to further enhance transportation initiatives during the fiscal year.

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## VISION2045 MTP AND CCV TRANSPORTATION OBJECTIVES

In January 2014, the VLMPO Policy Committee adopted a Common Community Vision (CCV) for Greater Lowndes County. In the recently adopted MTP, the CCV goals and MTP objectives are integrated into a table with the national goals and FHWA planning factors. These transportation objectives are meant to guide implementation of various planning efforts including the VLMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs. The Vision2045 MTP/CCV transportation objectives contain goals for transportation projects and programs, local government transparency and other transportation related topics. The UPWP is the ideal place to carry out the objectives identified within these documents.

On the following work element pages, the Vision2045 MTP/CCV transportation objectives are identified by number as they relate to each work element. The integrated Vision2045 MTP/CCV objectives table can be found on page 28. More detailed information about these objectives, including the CCV Report and the Vision2045 MTP, can also be found on the SGRC website at [www.sgrc.us](http://www.sgrc.us). The Common Community Vision for Greater Lowndes County will be updated during the 2050 MTP process to include vision and goals based on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Infrastructure, Investment, Jobs Act, as both new policies and funding opportunities have been a major part of this legislation.

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The VLMPO maintains a Participation Plan encompassing an analysis of Environmental Justice areas, Title VI (Civil Rights Act) compliance, and other components guiding public involvement. This document undergoes annual review and adjustments, as necessary, to ensure the ongoing delivery of transportation planning activities and projects to the community. Encompassing all areas within the Metropolitan Planning Area and all populations within its jurisdiction, this UPWP outlines actions by staff to execute sincere efforts in involving all stakeholders in the transportation planning process.

This UPWP emphasizes the staff's commitment to ensuring genuine efforts are made to engage all interested parties in the transportation planning process. Initiatives will be undertaken to continue involvement in populations residing in identified Environmental Justice areas (refer to Vision2045 MTP). Additional and innovative strategies will be employed to engage organizations representing Environmental Justice populations. The Participation Plan work element delineates specific tasks that the VLMPO will undertake this year to connect with and involve individuals within specified Environmental Justice characteristic groups.

# 1. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

## 1.1 VLMPO Administration

<b>Objective</b>	To implement the VLMPO's overall transportation planning vision by administering the activities identified in the UPWP and managing the organization.	
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b>	
44.21.00	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	
<b>Previous Work</b>	VLMPO Committee Meetings and Contract Compliance, Records and Financial Management and Maintenance	
<b>FY26 Activities</b>		
<p>Adhere to Federal and State regulations by maintaining accurate records for contracts overseen by the VLMPO. Coordinate meetings for VLMPO committees and oversee transportation planning efforts within the VLMPO area. Revise the VLMPO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as needed to encompass all relevant parties and regulatory requirements. Update the VLMPO Committee orientation handbook as necessary to familiarize new committee members with the VLMPO transportation planning process.</p> <p>Collaborate with the Georgia Association of MPOs (GAMPO) and other state and national organizations on the role of VLMPOs in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning. Support GAMPO activities through active participation in meetings and events. The VLMPO will maintain its membership in AMPO (organizational dues estimated at \$500), and NADO (organizational dues covered by non-VLMPO related funding sources) while considering additional organizational memberships as deemed appropriate. It's important to note that these memberships are organizational, not personal.</p> <p>Continue to report on and execute the goals of the Common Community Vision, particularly those related to transportation and accessibility/improvements in economic and workforce development, education, housing, land use, and health. Implement recommendations from the VLMPO Strategic Plan, using it as a guide for developing the 2050 MTP, executing the Vision2045 MTP, and addressing future UPWP work elements. Implement any suggestions aimed at enhancing VLMPO processes identified during the FY21 GDOT Certification Review of the VLMPO transportation planning process.</p> <p>Keep VLMPO committees informed about legislative and regulatory actions impacting transportation planning and funding. This involves monitoring and implementing requirements from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Build Back Better Initiative Legislation (BIL) within VLMPO programs and projects.</p> <p>The SGRC will continue to assign staff to carry out VLMPO activities. This staff will serve as local experts in transportation, offering assistance to planning partners in transportation project development, fostering consensus, and adding value in alternatives analysis. They will also facilitate shared planning products and provide a platform for regional decision-making. Collaborating with GDOT and surrounding jurisdictions/agencies, staff will uphold a comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, regional, multi-modal transportation planning process. The VLMPO will maintain a planning document schedule for local officials to enhance their understanding of the planning process.</p>		
<b>Products</b>	Committee Agendas/Minutes, Annual Report, Contract and Financial Management, Personnel Management, Planning Document Schedule	
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)	
<b>Schedule:</b>	July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026	

1.1 MPO Administration						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 43,521.16	\$ -	\$ 2,176.06	\$ 8,704.23	\$ 54,401.45
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ 32,602.50	\$ 4,075.31	\$ 815.06	\$ 3,260.25	\$ 40,753.12
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 76,123.66</b>	<b>\$ 4,075.31</b>	<b>\$ 2,991.12</b>	<b>\$ 11,964.48</b>	<b>\$ 95,154.57</b>
FY27 FTA 5303 Estimated						
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ 41,700.70	\$ 5,213.00	\$ 1,042.00	\$ 4,170.00	\$ 52,125.70

### 1.2 Operations/Unified Planning Work Program

<b>Objective</b>	To identify work tasks to be undertaken by the VLMPO and ensure compliance with applicable federal, state and local requirements.	
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10		
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b>	
None	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	
<b>Previous Work</b>	FY25 UPWP, FY25 Quarterly Reports and Invoices for FHWA PL and FTA 5303/5307 funds, FY25 Annual Report	
<b>FY26 Activities</b>		
<p>Draft and, as necessary, revise the annual UPWP (draft due: November; final due: March), encompassing the creation of work tasks, cost estimates, and financial reports. Generate quarterly reports, invoices, and reimbursement requests for submission to GDOT and local partners. Compile an annual report scrutinizing the activities of the past fiscal year.</p> <p>Formulate applications/resolutions for the GAMPO PL Funds Review Committee to seek additional PL funds upon request from local governments (refer to Element 5.4). Craft scopes of work and/or purpose and need statements for each item in the five-year business plan that may necessitate future consultant involvement.</p> <p>Compose scopes of work and procurement items for projects outlined in Element 5.4 of this UPWP, as per requests from local governments. Renew and/or reissue the ongoing SGRC Planning and Transportation Department staff support consultant contract as deemed necessary and appropriate.</p>		
<b>Products</b>	FY25 Final Quarterly Report/Invoice, FY25 Annual Report, FY26 UPWP Amendments (if any), FY26 Quarterly Reports, Draft FY27 UPWP	
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)	
<b>Schedule:</b>	Quarterly Reports in July 2025, October 2025, January 2026 and April 2026, FY25 Annual Report in July 2025; FY27 UPWP Draft for Review in December 2025, FY26 UPWP Approval in March 2026.	

1.2 UPWP						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 4,835.68	\$ -	\$ 241.78	\$ 967.14	\$ 6,044.61
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 4,835.68</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 241.78</b>	<b>\$ 967.14</b>	<b>\$ 6,044.61</b>



### 1.3 Training/Professional Development

<b>Objective</b>	To develop staff professional and technical knowledge of transportation planning through relevant conferences, workshops, and webinars.	
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b>	
44.22.00	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	
<b>Previous Work</b>	Attendance at various FHWA, TRB, GPA, APA, GAMPO, and GDOT events.	
<b>FY26 Activities:</b>		
<p>Deliver ongoing education and training for VLMPO staff and committees, ensuring their proficiency in executing the transportation planning process. This encompasses various areas such as staff development, performance measures, Environmental Justice/ADA/Title VI compliance, transportation planning, GIS and visualization techniques, and other emerging innovations.</p> <p>Potential conferences for attendance by staff and committee members may include, but are not limited to (cost estimates in parentheses indicate registration/travel/salary): GA Planning Association (\$2200 x2), GA Transit Association (\$2200 x2), American Planning Association (\$5000), National Planning Conference (\$5000), Transportation Research Board (\$5000), GA Association of VLMPOs, National Association of VLMPOs (\$4000), GA Highway Safety Conference (\$2200), National Association of Development Organizations (\$4000), and Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (2200 x2) along with other training sessions offered by FHWA, FTA, GDOT, NTI, or NHI. Travel expenses will adhere to SGRC Travel Policies, based on Federal per diem rates. Costs unrelated to training and education events are accounted for in other work elements of this UPWP.</p> <p>Staff will maintain a training tracker to document training hours in accordance with SGRC policy and for other reporting purposes.</p>		
<b>Products</b>	Attendance at various meetings and conferences (identified above), oftentimes to hold a session or present information.	
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)	
<b>Schedule:</b>	Varies depending on events; July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026	

1.3 Staff Education						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 9,671.37	\$ -	\$ 483.57	\$ 1,934.27	\$ 12,089.21
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 9,671.37</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 483.57</b>	<b>\$ 1,934.27</b>	<b>\$ 12,089.21</b>
FY27 FTA 5303 Estimated						
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

### 1.4 Computer Supplies/Technical Assistance

<b>Objective</b>	To maintain computer systems and office supplies used for relevant transportation planning activities.	
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>	
	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b>	
None	2	
<b>Previous Work</b>	Annual ArcGIS licenses, other software maintenance fees, SGRC IT Dept. Technical Assistance (ongoing)	
<b>FY26 Activities:</b>		
<p>The VLMPO will procure and sustain essential computer resources (hardware, software), as well as mobile communication tools (including service fees), to adequately support staff in effectively executing the VLMPO transportation planning process in accordance with the SGRC Procurement Policy. Estimated costs for computer supplies (computer, monitors, keyboard, mouse, etc.) and software (MS Office Suite, Adobe Reader Pro, ArcGIS, etc.) are projected to be \$3,000 per user.</p> <p>VLMPO staff will continue to maintain the computer supplies and software it utilizes through the technical support provided by the SGRC IT department. This support includes tasks such as regular updates, maintenance, and troubleshooting, specifically to ensure correspondence and presentations to VLMPO committees and partners can be achieved with little to no technological interference or difficulty.</p>		
<b>Products</b>	Software purchases and updates; purchase of computer supplies necessary to complete transportation planning activities, IT technical assistance.	
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)	
<b>Schedule:</b>	Varies, depending on needs; July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026	

1.4 Computer Systems						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 6,447.58	\$ -	\$ 322.38	\$ 1,289.52	\$ 8,059.47
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		\$ 6,447.58	\$ -	\$ 322.38	\$ 1,289.52	\$ 8,059.47

## 2. PARTICIPATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1 Outreach/Education/EJ/Title VI/LEP

<b>Objective</b>	To implement the strategies and policies of the VLMPO Participation Plan including: Title VI Compliance, Environmental Justice, and LEP.
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2, 4
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	<b>CCV and Vision2045 Goals/Objectives</b>
44.22.00	2,5,10
<b>Previous Work</b>	FY25 Annual Report including Title VI, EJ and LEP sections, 508 website and document compliance, Update of Participation Plan, Regular social media and website updates
<b>FY26 Activities</b>	
<p>Outreach and Education: Staff will persist in conveying, educating, disseminating information, fostering transparency, and visually illustrating how the transportation planning process impacts all FHWA planning factors and FTA and FHWA Planning Emphasis Areas. This will be accomplished through regularly inclusive public involvement opportunities associated with key documents such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Participation Plan (PP), and others, targeting both the general public and elected officials.</p> <p>Non-traditional community planning partners will be engaged and informed through the Citizen’s Advisory Committee about the transportation planning process, with an emphasis on promoting the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision as a strategic framework for the community. Leveraging techniques outlined in the Participation Plan, including Virtual Public Involvement, staff will work on developing a communications plan that delineates the key aspects of MPO-related messaging—answering the who, what, when, where, why, and how.</p> <p>The creation and maintenance of websites and social media platforms will be continued to provide the public and local government decision-makers with the latest and most relevant data and information about the VLMPO transportation planning process. The Participation Plan will be updated to explicitly outline how these mediums will be utilized for engaging the public. Additionally, staff will enhance graphical, marketing, and visualization skills to better communicate transportation data and concepts. Public involvement strategies, as outlined in the PP, will be implemented as needed for the development and updating of various documents, including, but not limited to, defining/updating participation objectives in the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and other transportation planning initiatives.</p> <p>Participation Plan (EJ/Title VI/LEP) Implementation/Maintenance: Regularly review, update, and annually report on the status of the Participation Plan, Title VI compliance, Environmental Justice (EJ) outreach, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) analysis. Staff will attend annual training events and continuously analyze EJ, LEP, and Title VI populations to ensure that all communities have access to essential services and opportunities to participate in the transportation planning process. Ongoing implementation of the PP will be coupled with reporting on the performance measures outlined in the document. The development of GIS-based data resources will aid in analyzing and evaluating the social and environmental impacts or opportunities associated with transportation improvements.</p>	
<b>Products</b>	FY25 Annual Report PP Section, Updated PPP and any additional updates, Website/Social Media updates, PP Update and Implementation, Transportation Equity and Environmental Justice Study
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)
<b>Schedule:</b>	Varies based on technique used from daily social media posts, weekly website updates, public comment periods as needed and other community events; July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

2.1 Public Participation						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 6,447.58	\$ -	\$ 322.38	\$ 1,289.52	\$ 8,059.47
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 6,447.58</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 322.38</b>	<b>\$ 1,289.52</b>	<b>\$ 8,059.47</b>

### 3. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING/RESEARCH

#### 3.1 GIS/Travel Demand Model (TDM) Development

<b>Objective</b>	To develop and maintain GIS layers needed for the transportation planning process and to ensure effective use of the Travel Demand Model.	
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>		<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>
2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9		3, 4, 10, 11
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>		<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b>
None		1,5,7,13
<b>Previous Work</b>	Various GIS layers developed and updates (roads, bridges, etc.) for studies/plans and analyses, GIS web apps for 2045 MTP, 2050 MTP, TOS Guidebook, the FY24-27 TIP, and the FY27-30 TIP.	
<b>FY26 Activities</b>		
<p>Collaborate with the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional GIS Department (VALOR) at the SGRC to establish and maintain GIS data, along with a dedicated project website showcasing descriptions, cost/phase details of transportation projects outlined in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Develop a schedule for updating key layers crucial for staff operations. Support the SGRC Regional Plan's Goal ED-1 by creating GIS layers for infrastructure, such as stormwater and transportation infrastructure. Continuously educate local officials on the significance of the travel demand model and its application in transportation planning decision-making. Generate GIS-based data resources to monitor performance measures and targets (when data is available) on roadways before and after improvements. Review GIS resources alongside local Hazard Mitigation Plans, the Electric Vehicle Implementation Strategy Plan, and the Lowndes County Vulnerability Assessment to identify and address potential impacts to transportation infrastructure susceptible to extreme weather events.</p> <p>Devise GIS-based data applications to monitor existing multimodal facilities and explore new facilities, aiming to establish a safe and accessible network for all users.</p> <p>Utilize GIS for data analysis and visualization to illustrate regional transportation patterns, particularly those affecting travel from surrounding communities into the VLMPO Planning Area.</p> <p>Leverage GIS tools to analyze performance measure data, enabling the VLMPO to inform local officials about trends and set target areas, as well as to assess projects for potential inclusion in the MTP and TIP. The outputs of GIS data analysis and other visualization techniques will be utilized to convey information about how transportation improvements can positively impact planning factors.</p>		
<b>Products</b>	Various GIS layers, databases and websites and commute pattern maps to help with research and analyses; website updates	
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)	
<b>Schedule:</b>	Varies based on needs of the projects and available data; July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026	

3.1 GIS/Travel Demand Model						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 9,671.37	\$ -	\$ 483.57	\$ 1,934.27	\$ 12,089.21
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 9,671.37</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 483.57</b>	<b>\$ 1,934.27</b>	<b>\$ 12,089.21</b>

### 3.2 Land Use Planning

<b>Objective</b>	To analyze the impacts of land use and transportation improvements to ensure consistency with the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the 2050 MTP, and transportation and land use planning best practices.	
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>		<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>
2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10		1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>		<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b>
None		1,5,6,9,14
<b>Previous Work</b>	Weekly review of local land use changes/requests from local governments via email and Technical Review meetings, Valdosta Neighborhood Plans	
<b>FY26 Activities</b>		
<p>Collaborate with local land use planning staff to assess various land use developments such as zoning requests, subdivision plats, and commercial developments, considering their impact on local transportation infrastructure and alignment with the goals outlined in the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Offer technical assistance to local engineers and planners on transportation and land use topics, encompassing access management, transit-oriented development, complete streets, environmental impacts, and the revitalization of neighborhoods, including initiatives for affordable housing.</p> <p>Utilize the transportation planning process as an opportunity to identify and analyze the potential for a sustainable transportation network, incorporating features like electric vehicle charging stations, and evaluating transportation system vulnerabilities in relation to land uses and environmental linkages.</p> <p>Collaborate with VLMPO jurisdictions, FHWA, and DOD planning partners to collectively update and implement local transportation and comprehensive (and regional) plans. This collaborative effort aims to facilitate the creation of an efficient highway network around DOD land and transportation uses. Coordinate to establish optimal land use and transportation practices within comprehensive plans, aligning with the requirements of the GA Department of Community Affairs, which emphasizes transportation planning requirements and transportation-land use relationships. Continue to inform the public and stakeholders about the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision and advocate for its adoption as a strategic vision for the community.</p> <p>The VLMPO will continue offering direction for the expansion and revitalization of the VLMPO area in alignment with the Vision2045 MTP, the local Comprehensive Plan, Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, transit plans, and other pertinent local/regional plans and studies. Highlight the significance of investing in public transportation infrastructure to foster neighborhood redevelopment, bolster initiatives for affordable housing, and advance equity objectives.</p> <p>Encourage the creation of gateways into the community that enhance visual appearance and mitigate natural/human environmental impacts of transportation. Review, share, and update the 2045 Socioeconomic Data Study as needed, making it accessible for use by other organizations.</p> <p>The VLMPO staff will lead the development of a comprehensive Carbon Reduction Program Plan to strategically address greenhouse gas emissions from transportation activities within the VLMPO area. The plan will serve as a blueprint for integrating sustainable practices into the region’s transportation systems while simultaneously enhancing infrastructure, promoting mobility, and ensuring safety. By aligning with state and federal carbon reduction goals, the plan will outline actionable strategies, innovative solutions, and collaborative initiatives to foster a cleaner, more efficient, and resilient transportation network.</p> <p>Develop a plan for increasing the resilience of the regional transportation network to flooding and extreme weather events. Recommendations will include updates to stormwater drainage systems on critical transportation routes to reduce vulnerabilities and improve system reliability. Resilience goals will be integrated into project designs, including the construction of elevated roads and infrastructure improvements to flood-prone areas. The development of</p>		

emergency evacuation routes with clear signage and routine maintenance will enhance preparedness and ensure safe mobility during extreme weather events. These efforts will safeguard the region’s infrastructure, support community safety, and promote long-term sustainability.

<b>Products</b>	Participation in local Comprehensive Plan Updates, technical assistance provided to local jurisdictions, neighborhood plans, Carbon Reduction Program Plan, Resilient Transportation Infrastructure.
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)
<b>Schedule:</b>	Varies based on local needs; July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

<b>3.2 Land Use Planning</b>						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 14,507.05	\$ -	\$ 725.35	\$ 2,901.41	\$ 18,133.82
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		\$ 14,507.05	\$ -	\$ 725.35	\$ 2,901.41	\$ 18,133.82

### 3.3 Inter-/Multi-Modal Transportation Planning

<b>Objective</b>	To improve the movement of goods and people through planning for freight, and bicycle and pedestrian modes.	
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	None	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,9,11,12
<b>Previous Work</b>	GIS mapping of school zones and bike/ped infrastructure, Complete Streets Policy Implementation, Vision2050 MTP robust section that highlights bike/ped and freight in the VLMPA	
<b>FY26 Activities</b>		
<p>Sustain collaboration with local and state jurisdictions to execute the Bike/Ped Master Plan and provide regular updates on the progress of its implementation. Evaluate the potential development of Complete Streets Policies for the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County, responding to requests from local governments. Actively advocate for the VLMPO Complete Streets policy and prioritize multi-modal projects within the planning process and project considerations. Explore avenues for enhancing data on bicycle and pedestrian usage in the region, such as utilizing traffic video analysis, fitness apps, etc. Investigate funding options for bicycle and pedestrian projects, including the exploration of social impact bonds. Work towards improving transportation planning to contribute to the overall health of the local population.</p> <p>Collaborate with other SGRC transportation planning programs to coordinate efforts on Safe Routes to School participation, regional bicycle and pedestrian planning activities (such as complete streets workshops, health and transportation initiatives, etc.) within the VLMPO Planning Area. Solicit and consider feedback from bicycle and pedestrian advocates regarding safety and infrastructure concerns in the community.</p> <p>Implement recommendations from the Transportation Demand Management Report within the VLMPO Planning Area. Integrate transit-oriented development planning where applicable and consider the potential need for micro-mobility. Develop ordinances supporting the installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations for new or renovated buildings and actively promote alternative fuels in the community.</p> <p>In the realm of Freight and Intermodal Activities, persist in integrating freight and goods movement planning and analysis into both long- and short-range planning endeavors. Regularly update data and conduct analyses to understand how freight and goods movement impact economic development in the region, utilizing resources such as NPRMDS, disaggregated FAF5 data, and other relevant data sources. Coordinate VLMPO planning efforts with other local transportation modes, including railroads, airports, seaports, to inform and influence the planning and implementation of transportation improvements.</p> <p>Enhance last-mile connectivity and promote sustainable transportation through the integration of micro-mobility solutions, especially in the areas of downtown Valdosta and near Valdosta State University. Develop a plan for a pilot program for shared bikes and e-scooters that offer convenient, eco-friendly travel options for short trips. Partnerships with private companies will support the management and maintenance of micro-mobility fleets, ensuring operational efficiency and reliability.</p>		
<b>Products</b>	Freight Research and Analysis, Bike/Ped Safety Information/ Reports	
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)	
<b>Schedule:</b>	other items vary based on local needs - July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026	

3.3 Inter-/Multi-Modal Planning						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 11,283.26	\$ -	\$ 564.16	\$ 2,256.65	\$ 14,104.08
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

### 3.4 Systems Data Analysis and Research

<b>Objective</b>	To develop and maintain on-going data collection programs to monitor current and historic operational characteristics of the transportation network.
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	1,3,4,5,7,11
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b>
None	7,8,13,14
<b>Previous Work</b>	FY24 Annual Crash Report, GIS data analysis and web app development
<b>FY26 Activities</b>	
<p>Continue the development of an Annual Crash Report, analyzing crash data for local governments to identify safety improvements achievable through new projects or educational programs. Facilitate Road Safety Audits (RSAs) with local jurisdictions upon request to pinpoint solutions for safety and operational concerns.</p> <p>Advocate for and provide guidance to local governments in creating transportation asset management plans, taking a leadership role in developing a regional transportation improvement plan.</p> <p>Maintain collaboration with GDOT and local jurisdictions, as requested, in the implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems and architectures within the Metropolitan Planning Area. Regularly review, update, and act on recommendations from the VLMPO Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) Assessment. Implement recommendations from the VLMPO Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy report in collaboration with local jurisdictions, including the preparation of ordinances mandating EV charging stations for new or renovated buildings. Staff will assist local governments in preparing model ordinances.</p> <p>Coordinate the development and analysis of data with GIS resources to enhance visualization for local decision-makers in various VLMPO plans and projects. Develop GIS-based data resources to monitor performance measures and targets (where data is available) on roadways before and after improvements. Utilize GIS data analysis outputs and other visualization techniques to convey information about how transportation improvements positively impact planning factors.</p> <p>Identify data needs for the implementation of MAP-21, the FAST Act Performance Measures, IJJA, and the Vision2045 MTP, as required and in consultation with GDOT and local partners. Procure necessary and relevant data for performance measurement and analysis of the transportation system and its impact on regional economic development. Collect and analyze data, developing trends and targets for project selection and prioritization. Continuously report on various data trends influencing transportation planning in the region. Educate local officials on the importance and necessity of additional data and analyses to complete performance measure trend analyses and target setting.</p>	
<b>Products</b>	Annual Crash Report, RSAs as requested, other transportation data reports
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)
<b>Schedule:</b>	Crash Report - June 2024; other items vary based on local needs - July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

3.4 Systems Data Analysis						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 12,895.16	\$ -	\$ 644.76	\$ 2,579.03	\$ 16,118.95
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 12,895.16</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 644.76</b>	<b>\$ 2,579.03</b>	<b>\$ 16,118.95</b>



## 4. SAFE ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

### 4.1 Increase Safe Accessible Transportation Options

<b>Objective</b>	To improve the movement of goods and people through planning for freight, transit and bicycle and pedestrian modes.	
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b> 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	None	<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b> 1,2,3,4,5,9,11,12
<b>Previous Work</b>	School-based crash reports, GIS mapping of school zones and bike/ped infrastructure, Complete Streets Policy, 2050 MTP robust section that highlights bike/ped and freight in the VLMPA	
<b>FY26 Activities</b>		
<p><b>Increase Safe and Accessible Transportation Options</b></p> <p>The MPO is committed to allocating a minimum budget towards initiatives such as the adoption of complete streets standards and policies, the formulation of a complete streets prioritization plan, active and mass transportation planning, crash analyses, and regional/megaregional planning aimed at addressing travel demand through alternatives to highway travel per federal guidelines under the Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options. This new category will be implemented through activities aligning with the VLMPO Complete Streets Policy, including the annual Crash Report and the creation of a complete streets prioritization plan. Concurrently, ongoing planning efforts related to transit-oriented development will be continued to broaden access to public transit.</p> <p>Maintain collaboration with local and state jurisdictions to execute the Bike/Ped Master Plan, regularly reporting on the status of its implementation. Consider developing Complete Streets Policies for the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County as needed, responding to requests from local governments. Continue to advocate for the VLMPO Complete Streets policy and prioritize multi-modal projects within the planning process and project considerations. Explore diverse options, including enhanced data on bicycle and pedestrian usage in the region (utilizing traffic video analysis, fitness apps, etc.), securing funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects (including social impact bonds), and refining transportation planning to contribute to the improved health of the local population.</p> <p>Collaborate with other SGRC transportation planning programs, coordinating efforts on Safe Routes to School participation and regional bicycle and pedestrian planning activities within the VLMPO Planning Area. Gather and consider feedback from bicycle and pedestrian advocates concerning safety and infrastructure in the community. Continue to update data and conduct analyses to understand the impact of freight and goods movement on economic development in the region. Utilize resources such as NPRMDS, disaggregated FAF5 data, and other relevant data sources for this purpose. Coordinate VLMPO planning initiatives with other local transportation modes, including railroads, airports, seaports, to contribute insights that inform and influence the planning and implementation of transportation improvements.</p>		
<b>Products</b>	Transit, Bike/Ped Safety, and Freight Information/ Reports/ Public Participation	
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)	
<b>Schedule:</b>	other items vary based on local needs - July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026	

4.1 Safe Accessible Transportation Options						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PL Safe / Access	FHWA	\$ 4,133.06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,133.06
5303/7 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 4,133.06</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,133.06</b>

## 5. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS PLANNING

### 5.1 Transportation Improvement Program

<b>Objective</b>	To develop, maintain and implement a fiscally constrained Transportation Improvement Program in cooperation with local and state planning partners.
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b>
1, 6, 7, 8, 9	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b>
44.25.00	1,5,7,14
<b>Previous Work</b>	FY2024-27 TIP Amendments and modifications, Drafting of the FY27-30 TIP
<b>FY26 Activities</b>	
<p>The VLMPO will persist in collaborating with GDOT and local planning partners to prioritize, develop, and execute projects within the current FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This involves active participation in meetings and conducting necessary analyses to select and prioritize projects. The implementation of national goals and performance measures in the TIP will be coordinated with local and state partners. The processing of TIP amendments and administrative modifications will be continued in adherence to adopted policies, including those specified in the Participation Plan (PP), in coordination with GDOT and local jurisdictions. Technical support for projects within the TIP will be consistently provided.</p> <p>Sustain coordination with GDOT and local transit providers to update and report on performance targets/measures in the TIP and System Performance Report.</p> <p>Maintain a project tracking tool and GIS database to furnish the public and planning partners with information on project development and timelines.</p> <p>Continue collaborative efforts with the City of Valdosta to prioritize and implement projects, plans, and policies.</p> <p>Persist in exploring novel and innovative funding opportunities, such as unique grants and social impact bonds to facilitate transportation improvements.</p>	
<b>Products</b>	FY2024-2027 TIP amendments and/or administrative modifications as needed, Draft FY2027-FY2030 TIP
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)
<b>Schedule:</b>	Items vary based on local needs - July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; Draft FY2027-FY2030 TIP and adopt by September 2026.

5.1 TIP						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 14,507.05	\$ -	\$ 725.35	\$ 2,901.41	\$ 18,133.82
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ 3,260.25	\$ 407.53	\$ 81.51	\$ 326.03	\$ 4,075.31
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 17,767.30</b>	<b>\$ 407.53</b>	<b>\$ 806.86</b>	<b>\$ 3,227.44</b>	<b>\$ 22,209.13</b>
FY27 FTA 5303 Estimated						
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ 3,790.97	\$ 474.00	\$ 94.77	\$ 379.00	\$ 4,738.75

## 5.2 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

<b>Objective</b>	To maintain, amend, and monitor a 25-year fiscally responsible metropolitan transportation plan.	
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b>	None	<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
<b>Previous Work</b>	Maintained/Updated the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as needed through amendments and modifications, Report on implementation of Vision2045 MTP initiatives in the FY25 Annual Report	
<b>FY26 Activities</b>		
<p>Oversee, modify, and implement the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as a performance-based planning document in collaboration with GDOT and local partners, aligning with federal laws and regulations (in support of Lowndes Comp Plan Item 7). Continuously maintain (amend), update, and implement the Vision2045 MTP as necessary, following amendment procedures and public involvement protocols outlined in the Participation Plan (PP). Collaborate with GDOT and local transit operators to report and implement performance targets/measures in the MTP and System Performance Report. Monitor the Vision2045 MTP implementation through the VLMPO annual report and other reporting methods, and uphold the Vision2045 MTP project-specific website.</p> <p>Continue collaborating with GDOT and local partners to prioritize and execute projects outlined in the MTP and TIP, attending meetings and conducting analyses for a comprehensive, coordinated, and continuous MTP. Actively inform the public and stakeholders about the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision and advocate for its adoption as a strategic vision for the community. The MTP development process and content will continue to prioritize equity, economy, climate change/resiliency, and COVID relief efforts.</p> <p>Initiate the drafting of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan through consulting services, leveraging PL funding to engage a consultant for comprehensive assistance. Recognizing its significance, the 2050 MTP stands as one of the core documents of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization. Its development will encompass changes in the Metropolitan Planning Area over the past five years, requiring detailed analyses of transportation improvements/infrastructure, land use scenarios, public transit, environmental mitigation, Environmental Justice populations, equity, freight, and other factors influencing the VLMPO area. The 2050 MTP will include a 2050 Socioeconomic Data Study Report to inform transportation models and analysis, offering insights into infrastructure needs based on population and growth area projections. Building upon planning documents from the past five years, the 2050 MTP will guide and implement future infrastructure plans.</p>		
<b>Products</b>	Maintain the current Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as needed, Continue to draft the 2050 MTP, Report on implementation of Vision2045 MTP in the FY25 Annual Report	
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)	
<b>Schedule:</b>	Vision2045 MTP Annual Report July 2025, other items vary based on local needs - July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026	

5.2 Metropolitan Transportation Plan / Long-Range Planning						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ 25,790.32	\$ -	\$ 1,289.52	\$ 5,158.06	\$ 32,237.89
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ 26,082.00	\$ 3,260.25	\$ 652.05	\$ 2,608.20	\$ 32,602.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 51,872.32</b>	<b>\$ 3,260.25</b>	<b>\$ 1,941.57</b>	<b>\$ 7,766.26</b>	<b>\$ 64,840.39</b>
FY27 FTA 5303 Estimated						
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

### 5.3 Transit Planning

<b>Objective</b>	To plan for effective, affordable and accessible public transportation options and alternatives in the Metropolitan Planning Area.
<b>FHWA Planning Factors</b> 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	<b>FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas</b> 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11
<b>FTA Activity Line Items</b> 44.22.00	<b>CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives</b> 1,2,3,4,5,7
<b>Previous Work</b>	Transit-Oriented Development Guidelines for Rural and Urban Areas, Research and technical assistance to the City of Valdosta for the Valdosta On-Demand Public Transit System, reports/analysis as requested by planning partners
<b>FY26 Activities</b>	
<p>VLMPO staff will consistently offer ongoing administration and assistance in transit planning to the transit systems of Lowndes, Brooks, Berrien Counties (all 5311 rural systems), and the City of Valdosta's urban public transit system, including any prospective rural regional transit initiatives within the Metropolitan Planning Area.</p> <p>Offer guidance in implementing recommendations, as appropriate, from the FY2016 Transit Implementation Study and other previous studies to steer the development of the City of Valdosta's Urban Public Transit System. Collaborate with the City of Valdosta Public Transit System department to sustain a Public Transportation Plan. FTA 5307 funds may be utilized to engage a consultant for future planning of the urban public transit system in the City of Valdosta, based on the data collected and analyzed from the public transit system. The City of Valdosta will provide local match funds for this project.</p> <p>Formulate a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan to foster partnerships, employ GIS mapping to identify underserved populations (Title VI/EJ), enhance trip generation, address short-term goals, ensure access to mobility, and improve the accessibility and mobility of regional activity centers, aligning with long-term core goals and changing needs and demands related to the City of Valdosta's urban public transit system, as directed by local governments through a Transit-Oriented Development Guide.</p> <p>Coordinate with GDOT and local transit operators to update and amend the TIP, MTP, and System Performance Report, encompassing National and FTA performance targets/measures and projects. Sustain coordination in transit planning with rural and human service providers, collaborating with GDOT, SGRC Coordinated Transportation Program, Department of Human Services, SGRC Area Agency on Aging, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Participate and present information related to transit activities before municipalities and/or relevant committees. Provide data analysis and reports upon request by local or state officials concerning current or future transit operations. Continuously assess the accessibility and mobility of Environmental Justice (EJ) populations to reach regional activity centers across the VLMPO region, considering the impact of various transportation modes on the accessibility and mobility of these populations.</p>	
<b>Products</b>	Transit-Oriented Development Guidebook, Research and technical assistance to the City of Valdosta for the Valdosta On-Demand Public Transit System, Reports/analysis as requested by planning partners
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)
<b>Schedule:</b>	Varies, depending on needs; July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

5.3 Transit Planning						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ 3,260.25	\$ 407.53	\$ 81.51	\$ 326.03	\$ 4,075.31
5307 Planning	FTA	\$ 96,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$120,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 99,260.25</b>	<b>\$12,407.53</b>	<b>\$ 81.51</b>	<b>\$ 12,326.03</b>	<b>\$124,075.31</b>
FY26 FTA 5303/7 Estimated						
5303 Planning	FTA	\$ 13,900.23	\$ 1,738.00	\$ 347.51	\$ 1,390.00	\$ 17,375.74
5307 Planning	FTA	\$ 96,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$120,000.00

## 5.4 Special Transportation Studies

Objective	To conduct planning level analysis of alternatives for transportation projects identified in the Vision2045 MTP or by the transportation planning process.	
FHWA Planning Factors		FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
FTA Activity Line Items		CCV and Vision2045 MTP Goals/Objectives
		1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Previous Work	Transit-Oriented Development Guidelines for Rural and Urban Areas	
FY26 Activities		

The projects contained in this section are for discretionary funds that have been applied for or will be applied for by the VLMPO. Projects included below have been prioritized by VLMPO staff and either are both funded and unfunded initiatives where funding is subject to additional approval by the VLMPO committees, GDOT and FHWA.

### FUNDED PROJECTS:

**The 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan** is one of the most important core documents of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization. The development of a new 2050 MTP will include the various changes that the Metropolitan Planning Area has experienced over the last five years. Due to the expedited growth and the implementation of the Transportation Investment Act that was implemented in the region, more detailed analyses need to be conducted concerning transportation improvements/infrastructure and land use scenarios, public transit, environmental mitigation, Environmental Justice populations and equity, freight, and other areas that impact the VLMPO area. The 2050 MTP will also include a 2050 Socioeconomic Data Study Report to guide both the transportation models and analysis. This study will help to inform the 2050 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan. This study will provide the basis for future infrastructure needs based on population and growth areas projections. The 2050 MTP will build upon and help to implement other planning documents that have been conducted over the past five years.

#### 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Funded)

Total \$300,000 (\$240,000 Federal; \$60,000 Local)

**Project start date is October 1, 2023. Project end date is September 1, 2025.**

Products	2050 MTP Process - Cost \$300,000
Agency	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)
Schedule:	July 1, 2025 through September 1, 2026

### UNFUNDED Projects:

#### The Park Avenue Corridor Study

The Park Avenue Corridor Study will analyze the entire Park Avenue corridor and provide best transportation planning solutions for operational, physical, and resilient transportation infrastructure improvements. There are five schools located in very close proximity to one another along this corridor and general operation vs. capacity improvements should be considered along this corridor. A large portion of this corridor is located within a flood zone as well as the flood way. This study will also analyze hazards, such as flooding, and provide resiliency and mitigation strategies as well as best transportation, land use/zoning practices to be implemented along this corridor. This study has an estimated cost of <\$150,000.

<b>Product/ Est. Cost</b>	Park Avenue Corridor Study - Estimated Cost - <\$150,000
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed)
<b>Schedule:</b>	TBD

**City of Valdosta Analysis of the Capabilities and Preparedness of the Transportation Network for Smart Infrastructure and Connected Autonomous Vehicles**

This analysis will examine the current transportation network and intelligent traffic signal system already in place and identify gaps that will need to be filled to integrate the existing environment with new smart infrastructure. This analysis will also provide strategies to help create a short, mid, long-term range of potential policies and infrastructure projects to be undertaken using various VLMPO transportation planning documents such as the Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Implementation Matrix. This analysis has an estimated cost of <\$150,000.

<b>Product/ Est. Cost</b>	Smart Infrastructure Preparedness - Est. Cost - < \$150,000
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed).
<b>Schedule:</b>	TBD

**Development of a Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Study**

This study will analyze the public transit data trends and consider the placement of potential transit hubs to increase accessibility, mobility, economic opportunities and other areas of improvement within the VLMPO area. It will highlight specific transit improvements to disadvantaged neighborhoods based on a list of characteristics such as age, disability, minority, etc. The estimated cost of this study is\$200,000.

**Local Road Safety Action Plan**

<b>Product/ Est. Cost</b>	Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Study - Est. Cost - >=\$200,000
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed).
<b>Schedule:</b>	TBD

This plan will assess the vulnerabilities that exist in the transportation network for bicyclist and pedestrians. This plan is required to have access to federal funding under IJJA for transportation infrastructure improvements. The estimated cost of this study is >\$100,000.

**Regional Workforce Transportation Needs Study**

Develop a Regional Workforce Transportation Plan to address mobility challenges and improve access to jobs. The plan will expand public transit to major employment hubs, partner with employers to offer transit subsidies and shared shuttles, and establish park-and-ride facilities with modern amenities like bike storage and EV charging stations. By collaborating with stakeholders and addressing underserved populations, the plan will enhance connectivity, foster economic growth, and ensure equitable access to employment opportunities.

**Transportation Equity and Environmental Justice Study**

The development of a study committed to ensuring that transportation planning benefits all communities equitably, with a focus on addressing unique needs of underserved and disadvantaged populations. VLMPO staff will conducted targeted outreach to these communities to better understand their transportation challenges and preferences. GIS tools could be utilized to analyze the equity impacts of planned projects, ensuring that decision-making considers the social and environmental implications for vulnerable populations. Improvements will be prioritized in areas with limited access

to safe and reliable transportation options, addressing gaps in mobility and fostering a more inclusive transportation network.

**Coordinated Human Services Plan**

The Coordinated Human Services plan will address the transportation needs of vulnerable populations, including individuals with disabilities, seniors, low-income residents, and those without access to personal vehicles. The plan will focus on enhancing mobility and accessibility by fostering collaboration among local transit providers, human services agencies, and community stakeholders. GIS mapping will identify underserved areas and gaps in services, enabling targeted improvements. Key components of the plan include integrating trip generation programs, expanding access to regional activity centers, and aligning transit services with changing demands. Through promoting partnerships, reducing barriers to transportation, and prioritizing equity, this plan will ensure that all community members have reliable and affordable access to essential services and opportunities.

VLMPPO staff will apply for FHWA discretionary funds, which are not formula funds to complete these transportation initiatives. The total estimated cost of these unfunded projects is \$650,000.

<b>Product/ Est. Cost</b>	Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Study - Est. Cost - >=\$200,000
<b>Agency</b>	SGRC Planning and Transportation Staff (VLMPPO), Staff Support Consultant (as needed).
<b>Schedule:</b>	TBD

5.4 Special Studies						
Funding Source	Agency	Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$	Total \$
MPO PL	FHWA	\$240,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$300,000.00
5303/7 Planning	FTA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$240,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>

## 6. VLMPO BUSINESS PLAN

<b>Objective</b>	To provide VLMPO planning partners information on currently unfunded projects and future required planning activities that are part of carrying out the core functions of the VLMPO.		
	<b>Product</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
	Replace Computer Hardware/Software for at least 1 employee	\$2,200	FY2025
	Economic Impact of Local Transportation Programs/Projects Study (consultant led) (see Vision2045 MTP) - further discuss with GDOT and other VLMPOs	< \$50,000	FY2026
	Replace Computer Hardware/Software for at least 1 employee	\$2,200	FY2027
	Lowndes County Gateway Improvement and Implementation Plan	< \$50,000	TBD
	Inland Port/Intermodal Facility Feasibility Study	\$50,000	TBD
	Gateway Improvement Plan for Ashely Street Norman Drive/SR 133- St. Augustine Road - planted medians, transition to underground utilities, complete streets infrastructure	<\$50,000	TBD
	Wayfinding Implementation Study	<\$25,000	TBD
	Feasibility of Railroad Quiet Zones	<\$25,000	TBD
	Prioritization and development of multi-purpose trails	>=\$10,000	TBD
	School Traffic and Sidewalk Safety Audits (<\$5,000 each)	<\$130,000	TBD
	Traditional Intersection to Roundabout Conversion Study and Recommendations	<\$100,000	TBD



# FY2026 UPWP BUDGET SUMMARY REPORTS

FY2026 Valdosta-Lowndes MPO UPWP Budget Summary Report

Work Element	Federal Highway Administration Funds						FHWA Total	FTA Work Element	Federal Transit Administration Funds				FTA Total	Grand Total
	Federal \$	%	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$				Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$		
1.1 Administration	\$ 43,521.16	27%	\$ -	\$ 2,176.06	\$ 8,704.23	\$ 54,401.45	442100 - Program Administration	\$ 32,602.50	\$ 4,075.31	\$ 815.06	\$ 3,260.25	\$ 40,753.12	\$ 95,154.57	
1.2 UPWP	\$ 4,835.68	3%	\$ -	\$ 241.78	\$ 967.14	\$ 6,044.61		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,044.61	
1.3 Staff Education	\$ 9,671.37	6%	\$ -	\$ 483.57	\$ 1,934.27	\$ 12,089.21		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,089.21	
1.4 Computer Systems	\$ 6,447.58	4%	\$ -	\$ 322.38	\$ 1,289.52	\$ 8,059.47		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,059.47	
2.1 Public Participation	\$ 6,447.58	4%	\$ -	\$ 322.38	\$ 1,289.52	\$ 8,059.47		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,059.47	
3.1 GIS/Travel Demand Model	\$ 9,671.37	6%	\$ -	\$ 483.57	\$ 1,934.27	\$ 12,089.21		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,089.21	
3.2 Land Use Planning	\$ 14,507.05	9%	\$ -	\$ 725.35	\$ 2,901.41	\$ 18,133.82		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,133.82	
3.3 Inter-/Multi-Modal Planning	\$ 11,283.26	7%	\$ -	\$ 564.16	\$ 2,256.65	\$ 14,104.08		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,104.08	
3.4 Systems Analysis	\$ 12,895.16	8%	\$ -	\$ 644.76	\$ 2,579.03	\$ 16,118.95		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,118.95	
4.1 Increase Safe/Accessible Trans Options	\$ 4,133.06	0%	\$ -			\$ 4,133.06		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,133.06	
5.1 TIP	\$ 14,507.05	9%	\$ -	\$ 725.35	\$ 2,901.41	\$ 18,133.82	442500 - FTA TIP	\$ 3,260.25	\$ 407.53	\$ 81.51	\$ 326.03	\$ 4,075.31	\$ 22,209.13	
5.2 Long Range Planning	\$ 27,402.21	17%	\$ -	\$ 1,370.11	\$ 5,480.44	\$ 34,252.76	442200 - Gen. Del / Comp Planning	\$ 26,082.00	\$ 3,260.25	\$ 652.05	\$ 2,608.20	\$ 32,602.50	\$ 66,855.26	
5.3 5303 Transit Planning	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	442400 - Short Range Transit Planning	\$ 3,260.25	\$ 407.53	\$ 81.51	\$ 326.03	\$ 4,075.31	\$ 4,075.31	
<b>Subtotal: MPO PL and Local Match</b>	\$ 161,189.47	100%	\$ -	\$ 8,059.47	\$ 32,237.89	\$ 201,486.84		\$ 65,205.00	\$ 8,150.63	\$ 1,630.13	\$ 6,520.50	\$ 81,506.26	\$ 282,993.09	
5.3 City of Valdosta 5307 Transit			\$ -			\$ -		\$ 96,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	
<b>Grand Total Final ( PL allocation and Y410)</b>	\$ 165,322.53	0%	\$ -	\$ 8,059.47	\$ 32,237.89	\$ 205,619.90		\$ 161,205.00	\$ 20,150.63	\$ 1,630.13	\$ 18,520.50	\$ 201,506.26	\$ 407,126.15	
FY26 PL Allocation (final)	\$ 161,189.47		\$ -	\$ 8,059.47	\$ 32,237.89	\$ 201,486.84		\$ 161,205.00	\$ 20,150.63	\$ 1,308.20	\$ 18,842.43	\$ 201,506.25	\$ 402,993.09	
5.4 Special Studies (2050 VLMPO MTP)	\$ 240,000.00	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 300,000.00							\$ 300,000.00	
Special Available	\$ 117,273.32		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,454.66	\$ 300,000.00							\$ 300,000.00	
Available	\$ 282,595.85		\$ -	\$ 8,059.47	\$ 55,692.55	\$ 346,347.88		\$ 161,205.00	\$ 20,150.63	\$ 1,308.20	\$ 18,842.43	\$ 201,506.25	\$ 547,854.13	
Programmed	\$ 282,595.85		\$ -	\$ 8,059.47	\$ 55,692.55	\$ 346,347.88		\$ 161,205.00	\$ 20,150.63	\$ 1,308.20	\$ 18,842.43	\$ 201,506.25	\$ 547,854.13	
Difference	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	

FY2027 Valdosta-Lowndes MPO UPWP Budget Summary Report (FTA Only)

Work Element	FTA Work Element	Federal Transit Administration Funds				FTA Total	Grand Total
		Federal \$	State \$	SGRC \$	Local \$		
1.1 Administration	442100 - Program Administration	\$ 41,700.70	\$ 5,213.00	\$ 1,042.00	\$ 4,170.00	\$ 52,125.70	\$ 52,125.70
1.2 UPWP		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
1.3 Staff Education		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
1.4 Computer Systems		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2.1 Public Participation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3.1 GIS/Travel Demand Model		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3.2 Land Use Planning		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3.3 Inter-/Multi-Modal Planning		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3.4 Systems Analysis		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4.1 Increase Safe/Accessible Trans Options		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5.1 TIP	442500 - FTA TIP	\$ 3,790.97	\$ 474.00	\$ 94.77	\$ 379.00	\$ 4,738.75	\$ 4,738.75
5.2 Long Range Planning	442200 - Gen. Del / Comp Planning	\$ 3,790.97	\$ 474.00	\$ 94.77	\$ 379.00	\$ 4,738.75	\$ 4,738.75
5.3 5303 Transit Planning	442400 - Short Range Transit Planning	\$ 13,900.23	\$ 1,738.00	\$ 347.51	\$ 1,390.00	\$ 17,375.74	\$ 17,375.74
<b>Subtotal: MPO PL and Local Match</b>		\$ 63,182.88	\$ 7,897.86	\$ 1,579.57	\$ 6,318.29	\$ 78,978.93	\$ 78,978.93
5.3 City of Valdosta 5307 Transit		\$ 96,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		\$ 159,182.88	\$ 19,897.86	\$ 1,579.57	\$ 18,318.29	\$ 198,978.93	\$ 198,978.93
<b>FY25 Allocation (final)</b>		\$ 159,182.88	\$ 19,897.86	\$ 1,579.57	\$ 18,318.29	\$ 198,978.60	\$ 198,978.60
5.4 Special Studies (2050 VLMPO MTP)							
Special Available							
Available		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Programmed		\$ 159,182.88	\$ 19,897.86	\$ 1,579.57	\$ 18,318.29	\$ 198,978.60	\$ 198,978.60
Difference		\$ 159,182.88	\$ 19,897.86	\$ 1,579.57	\$ 18,318.29	\$ 198,978.60	\$ 198,978.60
		\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$0.00)	\$0.00	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)

SGRC total \$0.00  
\$1,579.57

\$9,159.14 \$9,159.14 Local Each

## FY2026 UPWP TASK SCHEDULE

Work Schedule for VLMPO FY2024 UPWP													
Work Element		July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
1.1	Administration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.2	UPWP				X	X		X	X	X	X		
1.3	Staff Education	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.4	Computer Systems	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.1	Public Participation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.1	GIS/Travel Demand Model	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.2	Land Use Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.3	Inter-/Multi-Modal Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.4	Systems Analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.1	Increase Safe Accessible Trans Options	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5.1	TIP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5.2	Long Range Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5.3	Transit Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5.4	Special Studies (Optional)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**VLMPPO Committee Rosters, Maps, Vision2045/  
CCV Integrated Objectives, FY2027 - 2030 TIP  
Schedule**

## FY25 VLMPO Citizen’s Advisory Committee Membership

Name	Appointed By	Position
1. Clayton Milligan	Lowndes County	Chair
2. Vacant	Lowndes County	Vice-Chair
3. Vacant	City of Valdosta	Secretary
4. Vacant	City of Lake Park	Member
5. Ronald Skrine	Lowndes County	Member
6. Carroll Griffin	City of Remerton	Member
7. Debbie White	City of Valdosta	Member
8. Michael Cooper	Downtown Development Authority	Member
9. Brit McLane	VL Chamber of Commerce	Member
10. Jim Galloway	VL Airport Authority	Member
11. Ray Sable	Valdosta State University	Member
12. Steven Barnes	Leadership Lowndes	Member
13. Craig Lockhart	Valdosta Board of Education	Member
14. Shannon McConico	Wiregrass Technical College	Member
15. Sandra Wilcher	Lowndes Board of Education	Member
16. Phil Hubbard	Lowndes County	Member
17. Gary Wisenbaker	Lowndes County	Member
18. Tyler Willett	Lowndes County	Member
19. Kathleen Hodges	City of Valdosta	Member
20. Marshall Ingram	City of Hahira	Member
21. Jade Walton	VLCCTA	Member
22. Tanner Herrington	City of Valdosta	Member
23. Vacant	City of Dasher	Member

The CAC serves as a public information and involvement committee that represents a cross section of the community in diversity and interests.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 3:00pm the last month of each quarter (March, June, September, and December).

For more information, please contact Amy Martin, Senior Transportation Planner at 229-333-5277 or at [amartin@sgr.us](mailto:amartin@sgr.us).

## **FY25 VLMPO Transportation Advisory Committee Membership**

### **Voting Members:**

Benjamin O’Dowd	City of Valdosta, Engineer	Chairman
Mike Fletcher	Lowndes County, Engineer	Vice-Chairman
Scott Chambers	GDOT District 4, Engineer	Member
Cheyenne Thompson	GDOT, Transportation Planner	Member

### **Non-Voting Members:**

Jeff Hill	Lowndes County Schools
Ricky Thomas	Valdosta City Schools, Trans. Director
Vacant	Bicycle/Pedestrian Advocate
Joseph Longo	FHWA – GA Division
Ashley Tye	Lowndes County Emergency Mgmt. Dir.

The TAC is a technical committee of professionals advising the policy committee on technical matters relating to transportation plans and programs. The TAC is made up of city and county engineers, GDOT District engineers, GDOT planners, local school board representatives, bike and pedestrian advocates, and emergency response officials.

The Technical Committee meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 9:00am each quarter (March, June, September, and December).

For more information, please contact Amy Martin, Transportation Director, at 229-333-5277 or at [amartin@sgrc.us](mailto:amartin@sgrc.us).

2/16/2024

**FY25 VLMPO Policy Committee Membership**

**Voting Members:**

Paige Dukes	Lowndes County, Manager	Chair
Scott Matheson	City of Valdosta, Mayor	Vice-Chair
Bill Slaughter	Lowndes County, Chairman	Member - Lowndes
Cornelius Hosendolph	Remerton, Mayor	Member – Annual Small Cities
Bruce Cain	City of Hahira, Mayor	Member – Bi-Annual Small Cities
Richard Hardy	City of Valdosta, Manager	Member - Valdosta
Kimberly Hobbs	SGRC, Executive Director	Member - SGRC
Jannine Miller*	GDOT, Director of Planning	Member - GDOT
Patrick Folsom	Brooks County, Chairman	Member – Bi-Ann. Small County
Alex Lee	Lanier County, Chairman	Member – Annual Small Counties

**Non-Voting Members:**

Sabrina David	FHWA – GA Division, Administrator
Yvette Taylor	FTA Region IV, Administrator

All members are permitted to send a temporary or permanent proxy representative

\*Vivian Delgadillo-Canizares is representative for Jannine Miller.

The Policy Committee is the regional forum for cooperative decision-making by principal local elected officials, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and other planning partners.

The Policy Committee meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:30am each quarter (March, June, September, and December).

For more information, please contact Amy Martin, Transportation Director, at 229-333-5277 or at [amartin@sgrc.us](mailto:amartin@sgrc.us).

Updated 12/20/2025

Figure 3. Valdosta Urbanized Area (shown in green) and the Valdosta VLMPO Planning Area (shown in black outline).

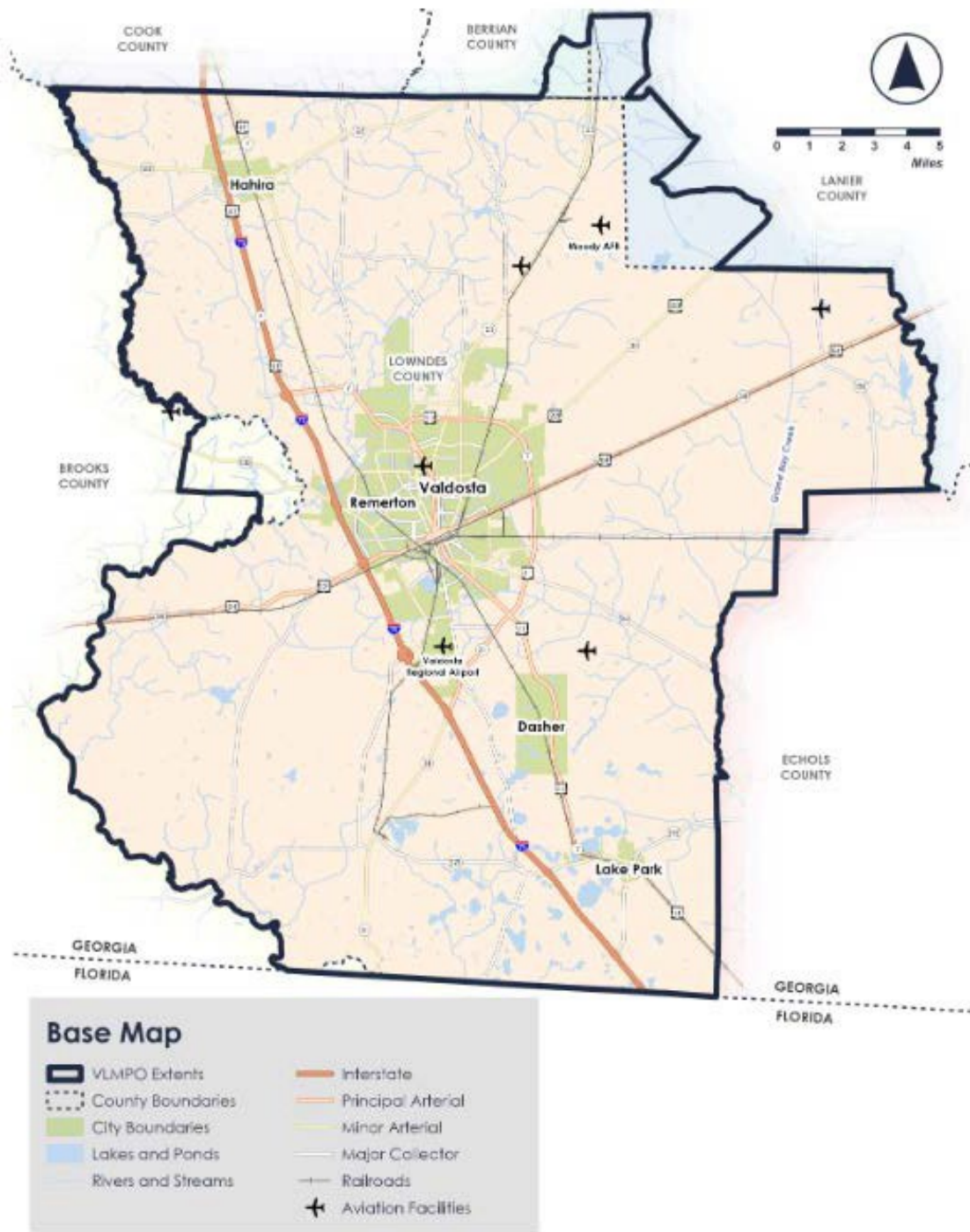




Figure 4. VLMP0 Planning Area and Valdosta Urbanized Area within the SGRC Region.

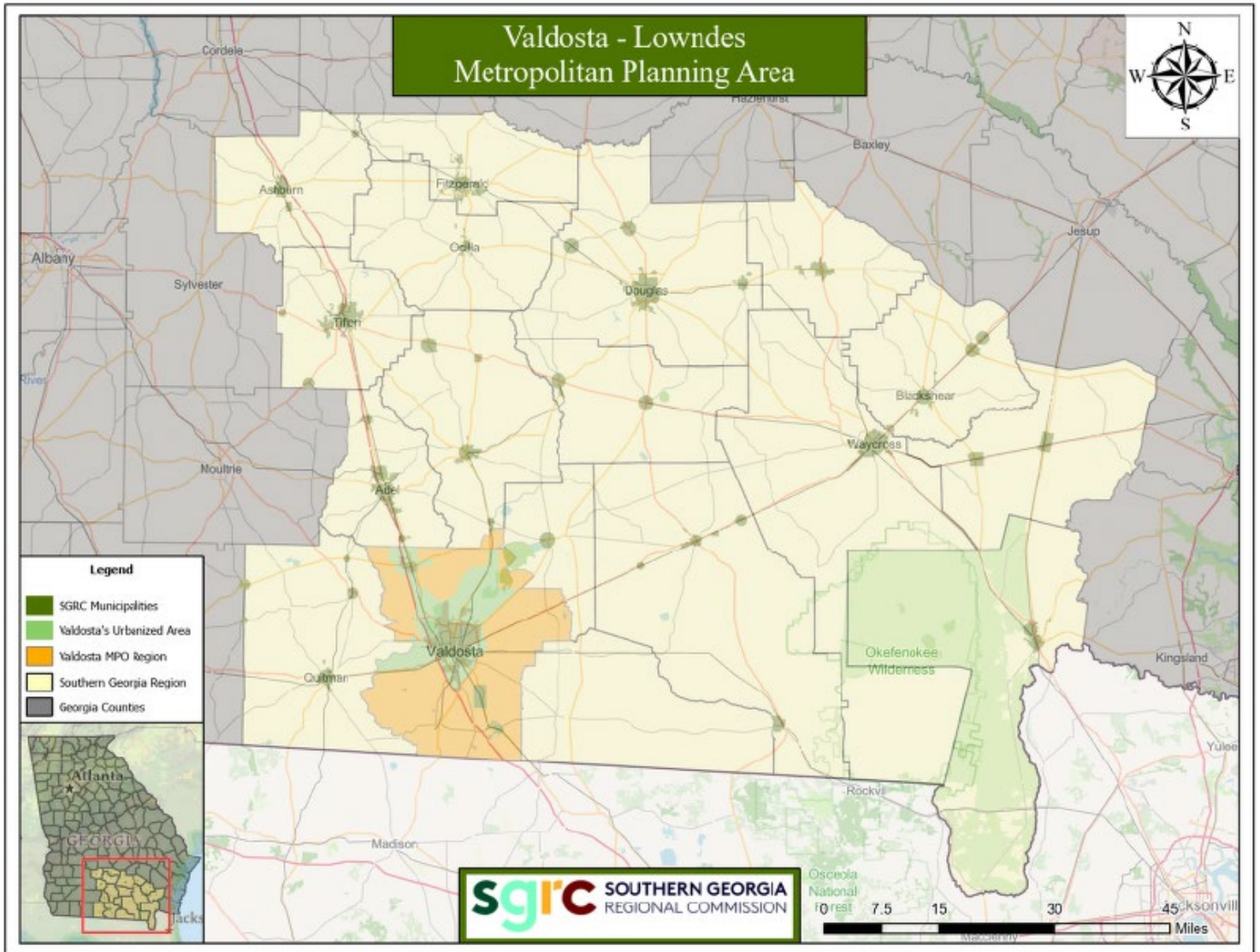


Table 1. Integrated Local Goals/Objectives, National Goals and Planning Factors

National Goals	Planning Factors	CCV Transportation Objectives
<p><i>Freight Movement and Economic Vitality</i></p>	<p>Support Economic Vitality Enhance travel and tourism</p>	<p>1. Support Regional Economic Engines through Accessible, Multi-Modal Transportation Systems for the Movement of People and Goods.</p>
		<p>2. Improve Workforce Development Training Through Investments in Affordable, Accessible, Multi-Modal Transportation Systems for the Movement of People.</p>
	<p>Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight</p>	<p>3. Encourage Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses through Affordable, Accessible, Multi-modal Transportation Investments.</p>
	<p>Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system</p>	<p>4. Support local schools through affordable, accessible, and efficient multi-modal and public transit investments.</p>
	<p>Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users</p>	<p>5. Provide Regional Connectivity through an Efficient, Safe, Accessible, and Affordable Multi-Modal Transportation System</p>
<p>6. Implement Transportation and Land Use Policies that Support Cultural/Historic Resources and Promote Tourism.</p>		
<p><i>Environmental Sustainability</i></p>	<p>Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system</p>	<p>7. Develop Basic Transportation and Utility Infrastructure that Promotes Resiliency and Reliability.</p>
	<p>Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation</p>	<p>8. Promote Conservation and Renewable Energy through Alternative Transportation and Fuel Technologies.</p>
<p><i>Congestion Reduction</i></p>	<p>Promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns</p>	<p>9. Develop Land Use Policies that Promote to Community Infrastructure and Amenities through Multi-Modal Transportation Investments</p>
		<p>10. Provide Housing that is Safe, Affordable and Accessible to All Income Levels and has Multi-Modal Transportation Investments that are Context Sensitive.</p>
<p><i>Safety – Reduce Fatalities and Serious Injuries</i></p>	<p>Improve the quality of life</p>	<p>11. Promote Healthy Eating and Active Lifestyles by Implementing Active, Healthy Lifestyle Transportation Strategies</p>
	<p>Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users</p>	<p>12. Implement Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Projects that Promote an Active, Healthy Lifestyle</p>
<p><i>System Reliability</i></p>	<p>Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system</p>	<p>13. Coordinate with Emergency Responders to Develop Resilient, Well Maintained Transportation Infrastructure.</p>
<p><i>Reduced Project Delivery Delays</i></p>	<p>Promote efficient system management and operation</p>	<p>14. Develop Regional Leadership that Promotes Transparency, Citizen Engagement, and Coordinated Planning and Delivery of Transportation Projects.</p>

## **FY2027 – 2030 Transportation Improvement Program Schedule (Schedule could change based on STIP Schedule)**

### **1. October 2025 – December 2025**

- **Activity:** Gather project and cost information from GDOT, FHWA, and FTA.
- **Objective:** Collect necessary data from key partners to inform the TIP process.

### **2. January 2026 – March 2026**

- **Activity:** Draft Updated TIP document.
- **Objective:** Prepare a preliminary draft of the TIP document, incorporating the gathered information.

### **3. April 2026 – May 2026**

- **Activity:** Send TIP out for partner and public review and update with comments received.
- **Objective:** Share the draft TIP with partners and the public for feedback and make revisions based on received comments.

### **4. June 2026**

- **Activity:** Present FY2027 – 2030 TIP for adoption.
- **Objective:** Final presentation of the TIP document for formal adoption.