

FY2021

# Annual Report



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Cover Photo Credit:

Valdosta On-demand Public Transit Ribbon Cutting

Source: City of Valdosta

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

*The 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 MPO 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 requested.*

## Chair's Introduction

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Dear Citizen of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Area,

It is my honor to present to you the FY2021 Annual Report that is produced each year by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Valdosta and Lowndes County area. The Valdosta-Lowndes MPO provides professional staff to evaluate transportation projects and policies that are presented to citizens and elected officials for discussion and development into projects. The forum provided by the MPO provides opportunities for thoughtful decision-making and input to ensure the transportation needs of our community are addressed.

FY2021 has been an exciting year for transportation in Valdosta and Lowndes County. After years of numerous studies, countless meetings and discussions among stakeholders, the City of Valdosta launched the Valdosta On-demand Public Transit System. This unique transit system is breaking records as a public-private partnership that provides accessible, affordable mobility options to residents of the city. The VLMPO has been a leader in working with local governments to plan for and implement public transit options in the community and region.

As transportation planning moves in the direction of addressing new challenges in the areas of connected and autonomous vehicle technologies and extreme weather events, the VLMPO has taken the lead to undertake planning for new technologies and addressing the vulnerabilities of our transportation infrastructure. This year, MPO staff completed assessments that provide strategies and timelines for planning for connected and autonomous vehicles. MPO staff also led the creation of a report that examined the vulnerability of local transportation infrastructure to potential extreme weather events. These reports will allow the MPO, Georgia Department of Transportation, and local governments to better select projects and develop policies that will positively impact transportation in the community for years to come.

I want to personally thank all of the citizens, local and state government staff, elected officials, and the SGRC staff for the countless hours of dedicated work that go into planning for transportation improvements in the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Area with the goal of continuing to make our community better.

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

Paige Dukes  
County Manager, Lowndes County  
MPO Policy Committee Chairwoman, FY2022

# MPO Committees and Staff

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## Policy Committee

**Paige Dukes, Chair**

*Lowndes County*

**Mayor Bruce Cain**

*City of Hahira*

**Chairman Jimmy Parker**

*Berrien County*

**Chairman Patrick Folsom**

*Brooks County*

**Russell McMurray**

*Georgia Department of Transportation*

**Moises Marrero**

*Federal Highway Administration*

**Mayor Scott Matheson, Vice Chair**

*City of Valdosta*

**Lisa Cribb**

*Southern Georgia Regional Commission*

**Mayor Cornelius Holsendolph**

*City of Remerton*

**Mark Barber**

*City of Valdosta*

**Chairman Bill Slaughter**

*Lowndes County*

**Yvette Taylor, PhD**

*Federal Transit Administration*

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*Lowndes County*

**Vivian Canizares**

*Georgia Department of Transportation*

**Andrew Edwards**

*Federal Highway Administration*

**Ricky Thomas**

*Valdosta Board of Education*

**Alan Worley**

*Bicycle/Pedestrian Advocate*

**Pat Collins, Vice Chair**

*City of Valdosta*

**Van Mason**

*Georgia Department of Transportation*

**Jeff Hill**

*Lowndes County Board of Education*

**Danny Weeks**

*Lowndes County 911*

## Citizen's Advisory Committee

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*Lowndes County*

**Marshall Ingram**

*City of Hahira*

**Dr. William Cason**

*Valdosta Board of Education*

**Ronald Skrine**

*Lowndes County*

**Vacant**

*City of Dasher*

**Phil Hubbard**

*Lowndes County*

**Ray Sable**

*Valdosta State University*

**Jade Walton**

*Valdosta-Lowndes Conference Center  
& Tourism Authority*

**Vanessa Ross, Vice Chair**

*City of Valdosta*

**Steven Barnes**

*Leadership Lowndes*

**Brit McLane**

*Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of  
Commerce*

**Jim Galloway**

*Valdosta Regional Airport*

**Debby Hobdy**

*Lowndes County*

**Shannon McConico**

*Wiregrass Georgia Technical College*

**Wes Taylor**

*Lowndes County Board of Education*

**Michael Cooper**

*Valdosta Downtown Development  
Authority*

**William Branham, Secretary**

*City of Valdosta*

**Mary Jane Yorke**

*City of Lake Park*

**Stan Crance**

*Valdosta-Lowndes Development  
Authority*

**Carroll Griffin**

*City of Remerton*

**Kathleen Hodges**

*City of Valdosta*

**Vacant**

*City of Valdosta*

**Gary Wisenbaker**

*Lowndes County*

## Transportation and Environment Department Staff

**Corey A. Hull, AICP**

*Transportation and Environmental Director*

**Lu Danforth**

*Transportation Finance Analyst*

**Megan Fowler**

*Regional Transit Manager*

**Megan L. Parker**

*Environmental Projects Manager*

**Amy Martin**

*Senior Transportation Planner*

**James Horton**

*Senior Planner*

# FY2021 Financial Highlights

Elements	FY2021 Actual	FY2021 Budget	FY2020 Actual
Administration	\$ 75,084.03	\$ 75,137.69	\$ 60,800.97
UPWP	\$ 4,806.52	\$ 4,831.07	\$ 4,738.47
Staff Education	\$ 18,767.34	\$ 18,822.02	\$ 23,052.11
Computer Systems	\$ 3,696.51	\$ 3,831.07	\$ 669.60
Public Participation	\$ 9,816.25	\$ 9,860.37	\$ 15,836.59
GIS/TDM	\$ 4,294.46	\$ 4,316.32	\$ 11,078.56
Land Use Planning	\$ 16,079.68	\$ 16,103.59	\$ 3,147.31
Inter-/Multi-Modal	\$ 2,086.96	\$ 2,099.38	\$ 3,145.02
Systems Analysis	\$ 49,270.26	\$ 49,295.23	\$ 6,323.29
TIP	\$ 20,849.41	\$ 20,882.87	\$ 9,535.21
Metropolitan Plan	\$ 11,264.62	\$ 11,266.29	\$ 77,557.55
Transit Planning	\$ 9,975.12	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,965.82
Special Studies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 225,991.16</b>	<b>\$ 226,445.90</b>	<b>\$ 221,850.50</b>

Figure 1 FY2021 Actual Expenditures compared to FY2021 Budget and FY2020 Actual Expenditures

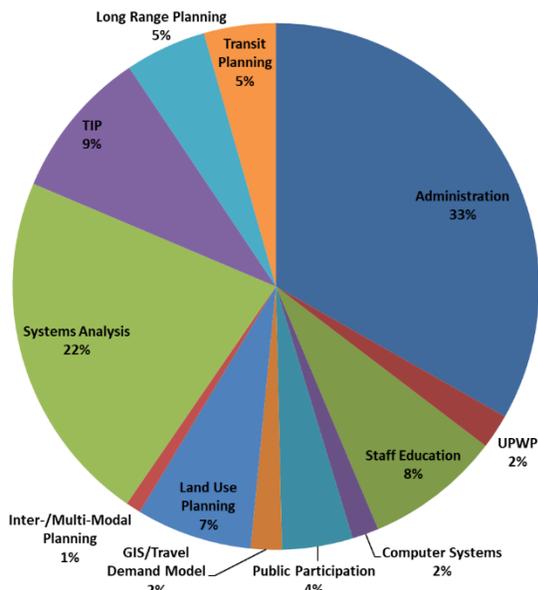


Figure 2 FY2021 Expenditures by Work Element

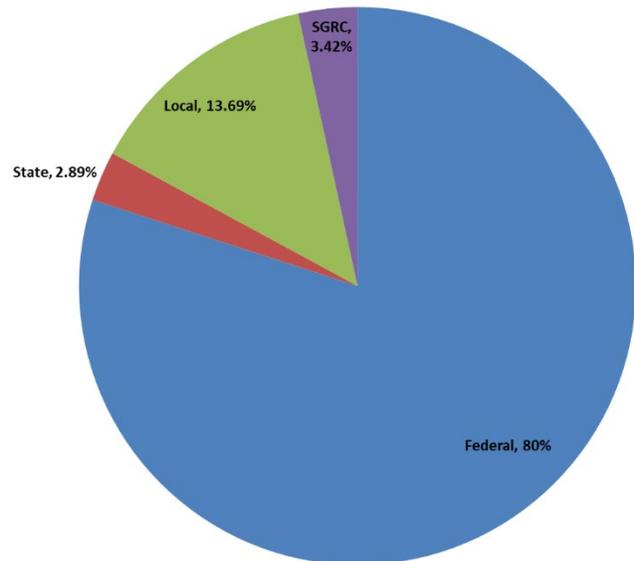


Figure 3 FY2021 Revenue by Source

## Project Updates

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### Exit 2 (PI# 0007386)

Construction continued on improvements to Exit 2 in summer of 2021.



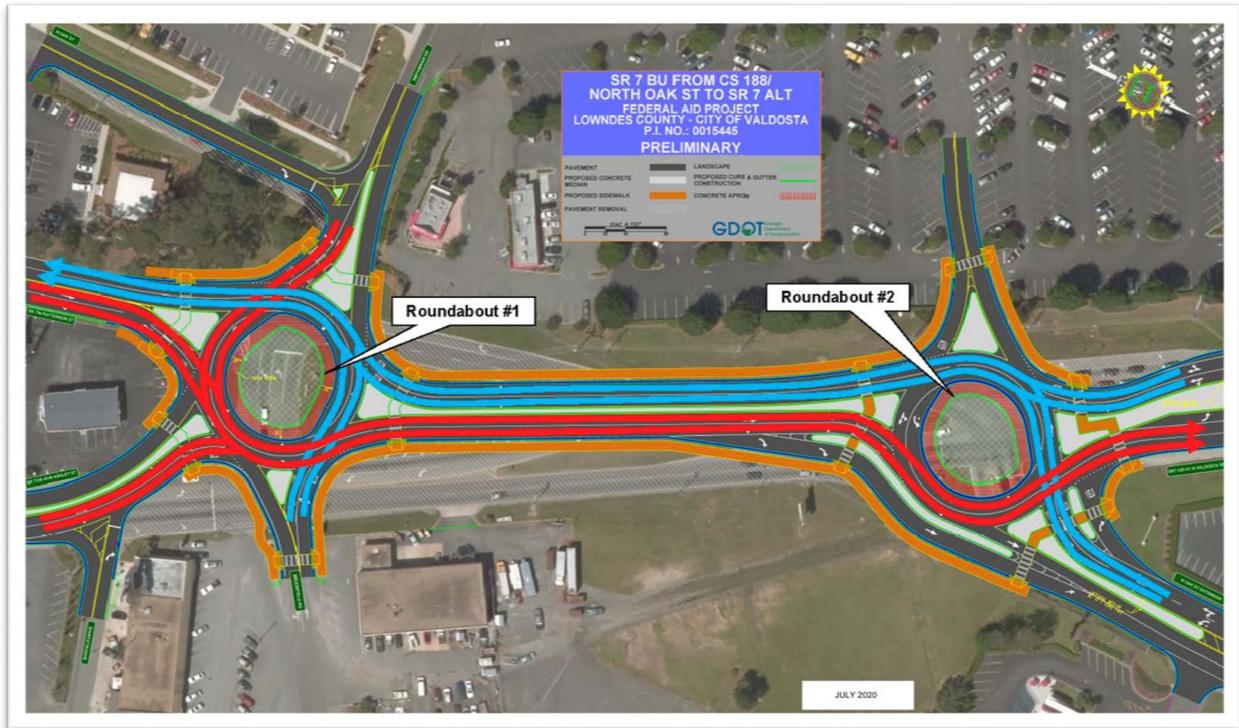
### Exit 11 (PI# 0010297)

This project has been let and construction will begin shortly.



## Five Points Roundabouts (PI#0 015445)

GDOT has continued to revise the design of this project based on comments received and based on the site characteristics. Authorization to begin purchasing right-of-way has been given. GDOT has released computer-generated driver-through videos of what it will look like to drive on this roadway when it is complete.



## Old Quitman Road Bridge (PI# 0015614)

It is anticipated that GDOT will begin to acquire right-of-way in 2021 or later, and begin construction in 2023 or later. (image source: Michael Rivera)

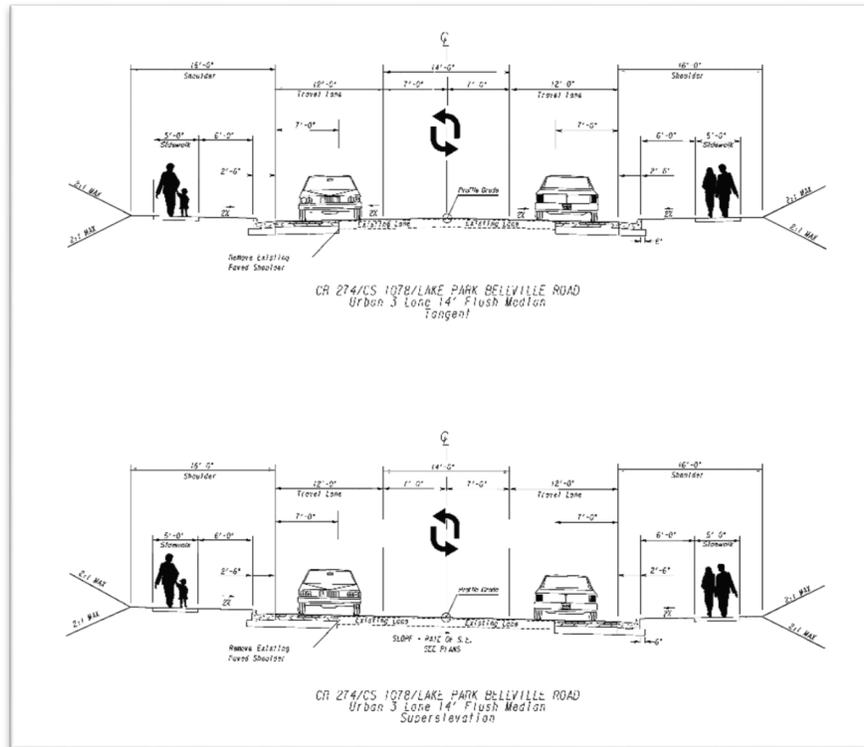


### Exit 18 (PI# 0010298)

Design for this interchange improvement project is expected to begin in 2021 leading to construction starting sometime after 2024.

### Lake Park Bellville Road Widening (PI# 0013987)

This project has been let and construction will begin shortly. The image shows what the typical 3-lane section may look like based on the approved concept report.



### Jerry Jones (PI# 0014134)

GDOT and the City of Valdosta continue to acquire right-of-way for this project. It is anticipated that this project will begin construction in 2022 or later.

### South Valdosta Truck Bypass (PI# 0016898)

GDOT continues to work on the scoping phase for this project to aid in the selection of a preferred alternative.

### SR 122/SR 125, Walker's Crossing Intersection Improvement (PI# 0016109)

GDOT continues to design a roundabout as the proposed improvement for this intersection.

### SR 31 Passing Lanes (PI# 0014485)

It is anticipated that GDOT will begin to acquire right-of-way in 2021 or later, and begin construction in 2023 or later.

## Programs and Activities

### Valdosta On-demand Public Transit

On April 27, 2021 the City of Valdosta launched the Valdosta On-demand public transit service to great anticipation, fanfare and success. Since 2007 the VLMPO had completed three feasibility and implementation studies for transit in the City and surrounding areas. The SGRC was also able to complete a pilot shuttle program that showed how successful and



Figure 4 Valdosta On-demand transit vehicle. Source: WALB

needed a public transit system could be in the City. Within the first two months of operation more than 10,000 rides had been given, averaging more than 300 rides per day, exceeding the amount estimated in the most recent implementation study by 45%. The success of the Valdosta On-demand transit service has been recognized by the City of Valdosta's transit operations partner Via and U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff for its quick success and innovative approach to transit service delivery.

### Transportation Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment

Lowndes County is vulnerable to a broad range of natural hazards, including extreme heat and inland flooding associated with thunderstorms, tropical storms, and hurricanes. The purpose of the Lowndes County Transportation Infrastructure Vulnerability

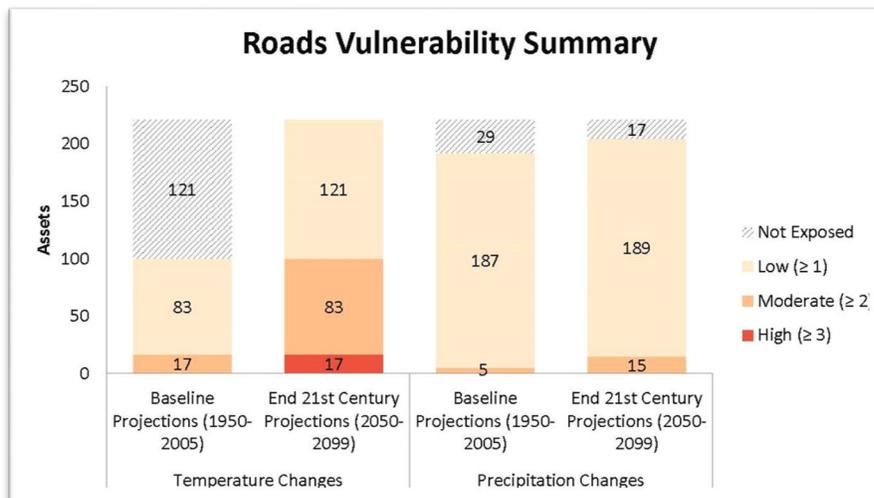


Figure 5 Roads Vulnerability Summary from Transportation Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment

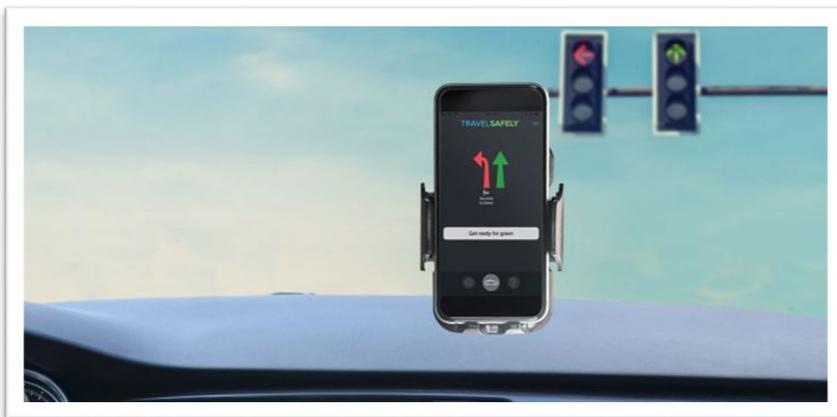
Assessment is to identify transportation infrastructure within Lowndes County that may be susceptible to extreme weather events and develop high-level strategies, policies, and measures for the VLMPO to address vulnerabilities. The assessment found several roadway and bridge segments that

are most vulnerable to extreme weather events and provided recommendations to improve those specific roadways as well as planning strategies to address other transportation infrastructure. This study was completed on behalf of the VLMPO by Transport Studio and Gresham Smith.

### Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAVs) Assessment

Technology continues to drive changes in everything from coffee makers to cell phones and transportation is no different. As auto manufacturers work to build these technologies into their vehicles, transportation planners are also thinking about how they will impact mobility in our communities. In FY2021, the VLMPO completed an assessment (compiled by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations) of the Valdosta and Lowndes County community as it relates to CAVs. This assessment will help guide transportation planning staff and local officials over the coming years to change local policies related to CAVs, develop infrastructure that communicates with individual vehicles and plan for how to equitably deploy these technologies throughout the community.

The City of Valdosta kick-started the effort to connect their traffic signal infrastructure to individual vehicles through a grant they received and the deployment of the TravelSafely App. This app (and certain automobile models) allows users to know ahead of time when a traffic signal will change, if a pedestrian or bicyclist is nearby, and allow for emergency vehicles to pre-empt the traffic signal to allow for quicker response times.



*Figure 6 The TravelSafely App recently launched by the City of Valdosta. Source: City of Valdosta*

### MPO Strategic Plan

In 2020 the VLMPO launched its first Strategic Planning effort and the past fiscal year was the first opportunity to begin to put some of the identified strategies into action. The COVID-19 pandemic did impact some of the efforts to implement items but overall, the staff and MPO committees are well underway to implementing strategies that improve transportation planning throughout the metropolitan planning area. A full update is available on the SGRC website.

The VLMPO also completed a GDOT and FHWA-led Certification Review in FY2021. This process involved the staff outlining how the VLMPO meets the federal requirements for metropolitan transportation planning related to project selection, public involvement, and

procurement and employment practices. The VLMPO received a positive certification of our efforts. The VLMPO will repeat this process in five years.

### Participation Plan Report

The MPO strives to be an organization that proactively engages the public for input about transportation and to inform the public about various transportation planning efforts throughout the community. To assist in this effort, the MPO utilizes its Participation Plan Policies, Strategies, and Techniques to engage and inform the public throughout the year. The SGRC updated its Participation Plan in FY2021 to address virtual public participation and other items.

#### Title VI (Civil Rights) Annual Report

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

The MPO has not had any Title VI complaints, and the plan was updated to include the Title VI public notices and complaint procedures in additional languages as identified in the LEP analysis.

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

#### Limited-English Proficiency (LEP) Analysis

As a recipient of federal funds, the SGRC, as the MPO, is required to evaluate what services and products we provide for use by individuals who may speak English less proficiently. The SGRC reviews data annually to measure this population in Lowndes County (the primary service area for the MPO). The Participation Plan includes data from the US Census Bureau 2015-2019 American Community Survey.

	2015-2019 ACS (S1601)
Estimate	6,189
Margin of Error	+/- 605
Lowndes County %	5.8%
United States %	21.6

*Figure 7 Language Other than English Spoken at Home in Lowndes County.*

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

#### Participation Plan Performance Measures

When the MPO Participation Plan was originally adopted in 2011, it included performance measures that would be reviewed annually to evaluate how effective the MPO is at engaging the public. Included here are the performance measures, as well as an indication of whether this measure has increased, held steady, or decreased in the last

year; a sign of the effectiveness of our public participation efforts. It should be noted that COVID-19 shelter-in-place restrictions did have an impact on the number of events held in all of FY2021.

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

*In order to raise awareness of the MPO and the transportation planning process the staff hosted open houses, sent newsletters to interested parties and represented the interests of the MPO at various community events throughout the year. Overall participation in these activities was **steady or increased** from previous years.*

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

*The MPO staff makes sure that they are accessible to the public in a variety of formats. The MPO maintains and active social media presence with Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Our website is updated in a regular basis. The staff ensures that all MPO-hosted events are open to the public and there is an opportunity for public comments at those events. The MPO has also started to include live, virtual participation options for our meetings. Staff is also available during regular business hours at the SGRC office in-person or by phone. Overall public access to staff and opportunities for involvement has **increased**.*

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

*Staff continues to engage resource agencies and maintains a listing of interested parties to include in planning consultation. The MPO responds to all comments received during public comment periods and many of those on social media sites as well. The MPO was able to develop a new Transportation Environmental Assessment Mapping (TEAMap) application this past year to aid stakeholders in reviewing projects included in the Vision2045 Plan. Staff has worked with GDOT to present project updates at quarterly MPO meetings. Overall stakeholder outreach and engagement has remained **steady**.*

**Strategy 4: Identify, involve, and mitigate impacts on traditionally underserved communities (those communities with high concentrations of minority, low-income, elderly, or disabled populations) in the transportation planning process.**

*The MPO has worked to increase outreach to traditionally underserved communities in FY2021. Some accomplishments include the printing or vital portions of the Participation Plan and Title VI Complaint Procedures in multiple languages as identified by the LEP analysis. Overall outreach to traditionally underserved communities remained **steady** in FY2021.*

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

*The SGRC, as the MPO, as produced several documents this year including an Annual Crash Report, Annual Work Program, TIP Amendments, Infrastructure Vulnerability Study, CAV Assessment, and Pinevale Neighborhood Infrastructure Study. In order to inform the public and stakeholders of these documents and to gain input from the MPO continues to use media outreach, open houses, newsletters, social media, websites, and speaking engagement outreach techniques. Overall outreach and document production has remained **steady** for the MPO.*

**Strategy 6: Implement goals of the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision that promote open, transparent, and engaging public participation.**

*The MPO staff regularly participates in regional and cross-jurisdictional meetings representing the interests of transportation planning in the community; this activity has remained **steady** over the past year.*

## Outlook for FY2022 and Beyond

In FY2022, the VLMPO looks to continue the implementation of the Vision2045 Transportation Plan, which includes highway, transit, and other multi-modal projects throughout the region. The City of Hahira plans to work with the VLMPO to initiate a study of transportation issues related to a new regional soccer and softball complex as well as growing traffic related to schools and residential growth in the community.

The MPO will be working with the City of Lake Park to understand available right-of-way limits for future infrastructure improvements.

The SGRC staff hopes to use this case study as an example for developing similar analysis for other communities throughout the metropolitan planning area and larger region.

The MPO will be working with the City of Valdosta to plan for improvements to the Valdosta On-demand public transit service including the development of public participation plans and service improvements.

Based on the past successes of developing neighborhood infrastructure reports in the Tom Town and Pinevale Neighborhoods, the VLMPO looks to work with the City of Valdosta to select another neighborhood for analysis.

As electric vehicles continue to grow in popularity, the VLMPO is looking to develop a strategy for local governments to follow to respond to policy changes that will need to occur to make electric vehicle charging as easy as pulling into a gas station for conventional gasoline vehicles.

The VLMPO will also seek to be a leader in South Georgia to identify appropriate green infrastructure strategies to implement as it relates to stormwater runoff and mitigating extreme weather events. The VLMPO will seek to develop policies and strategies for local governments that are cost effective and sufficiently address green infrastructure principles.



*Figure 8 North Lowndes Soccer Complex under construction in Hahira. Source: Google Earth*

# FY2021 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports

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## FY2021 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports

### 2021-1.1 MPO Administration

#### **Objective:**

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

#### **Project Description:**

Maintain proper records as required under Federal and State regulations for contracts administered by the MPO. Coordinate MPO Committee meetings and overall transportation planning efforts in the Region. Update the MPO MOU as necessary to include all parties and regulatory requirements. Update the MPO Committee orientation handbook as appropriate to introduce new committee members to the MPO transportation planning process.

Continue to work with Georgia Assoc. of MPOs (GAMPO) and other state and national organizations on the role of MPOs in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning. Support GAMPO activities through participation in meetings and events.

Continue to report on and implement the goals of the Common Community Vision, especially as they relate to transportation and accessibility/improvements to: economic and workforce development, education, housing, land use, and health. Implement the VLMPO Strategic Plan recommendations. This plan will be used to guide the development of the 2045 Transportation Vision Plan goals and future UPWP work elements. Implement any recommendations to improve the processes of the SGRC as the MPO identified during the FY20 GDOT Certification Review of the MPO transportation planning process.

Staff will continue to inform the MPO committees of legislative and regulatory actions impacting transportation planning and funding.

SGRC will continue membership in AMPO (organizations dues estimated to be \$500) and NADO (organization dues are paid by other non-MPO related funding sources), and will consider other organization memberships as appropriate. Please note the above are organizational memberships not personal.

The SGRC will continue to provide staff that will be the local expert in transportation areas, assisting planning partners in transportation project development, building consensus and value in alternatives analysis, shared planning products, and providing a forum for regional decision making. Continue to work with GDOT and surrounding jurisdictions/agencies to maintain a comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, regional, multi-modal transportation planning process. The SGRC will continue to maintain a planning document schedule for local officials to understand the planning process better.

#### **Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff prepared agendas and minutes for the September 2020 VLMPO Committee Meetings. Staff participated in the 9/20 GAMPO meeting. Staff met with new VLMPO Committee members for orientation.

#### **Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff prepared agendas and minutes for the December 2020 VLMPO Committee Meetings. Staff participated in the FHWA/GDOT-led MPO Certification Review meeting. Staff began to prepare an RFQ/P for staff augmentation services due to the loss of key staff.

#### **Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff prepared agendas and minutes for the March 2021 VLMPO Committee Meetings. Staff solicited an RFQ/P for staff augmentation services and selected Transport Studio, LLC to perform those services. Staff completed quarterly reports for MPO funding.

#### **Quarter 4 Report:**

Staff prepared agendas and minutes for the June 2021 VLMPO Committee meetings. Staff entered into a contract with Transport Studio for staff augmentation services. Staff completed quarterly reports for MPO funding.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$40,977.69

**Expenditures to Date:** \$40,947.02

**Percent Expended:** 99.93%

**Project Complete:** 100%

**Approved planning program revisions:** Yes, an administrative budget modification was completed in Q4.

2021-1.2 Operations/UPWP

**Objective:**

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

**Project Description:**

Prepare and amend (as needed) an annual UPWP (draft due: November; final due: March), including the preparation of work tasks, cost estimates and financial reports.

Prepare quarterly reports, invoices and reimbursement requests to submit to GDOT and local partners.

Prepare annual report reviewing activities of the past fiscal year.

Prepare applications/resolutions for the GAMPO PL Funds Review Committee to apply for additional PL funds as requested by local governments (see Element 4.4).

Develop scopes of work and/or purpose and need statements for each item in the five-year business plan that may require future consultant work.

Prepare scopes of work and procurement items for projects listed in Element 4.4 of this UPWP as requested by local governments.

**Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff completed the FY2020 quarterly reports and Annual Report for the VLMPO. Staff divided FY21 tasks among themselves with target dates of completion throughout the year. Staff did not execute FY21 contract in this quarter due to external delays.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff executed FY21 contract in this quarter due to previous external delays. Staff began to prepare the FY2022 UPWP and budget and presented it for committee review.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff revised the FY2022 UPWP based on feedback from GDOT, FHWA and local partners. The FY2022 UPWP and amended FY2021 UPWP were presented and approved by the VLMPO Committees in March 2021. Interviewed candidates for vacant staff positions.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

No work completed in this quarter.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$4,831.07

**Expenditures to Date:** \$4,806.52

**Percent Expended:** 99.49%

**Project Complete:** 100%

**Approved planning program revisions:** None at this time.

2021-1.3 Training/Professional Development

**Objective:**

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

**Project Description:**

Provide continuing education and training for MPO staff and committees that will enable the MPO to effectively carry out the transportation planning process, including but not limited to: performance measures, Environmental Justice/ADA/Title VI, transportation planning, GIS and visualization techniques, and other innovations as they are available.

Some conferences the staff and committee members may attend include but are not limited to (parentheses indicate registration/travel/salary cost estimate): GA Planning Assoc. (\$2200 x2), GA Transit Assoc. (\$2200 x2), American Planning Assoc. (\$5000), Transportation Research Board (\$5000), GA Assoc. of MPOs, national Assoc. of MPOs (\$4000), GA Highway Safety Conference (\$2200), National Assoc. of Development Orgs. (\$4000), and other training provided by FHWA, FTA, GDOT, NTI or NHI. Travel will be subject to the SGRC Travel Policies, based on Federal per diem rates. Travel costs not associated with training and education events are included in other work elements of this UPWP.

Staff will maintain a training tracker to report training hours and content to the GA Department of Community Affairs and for other purposes.

**Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff attended several webinars related to the following topics: environmental justice, road diets, data planning, MPO basics, virtual public involvement, complete streets. Staff attended the following virtual conferences: GA Planning Assoc., GA Bike Summit.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff attended several webinars related to the following topics: equity in transportation, federal fund braiding for transit.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff attended several virtual training events on topics including: social equity, freight research, sustainability, transit development plans, GIS and transportation ROW, planning post-pandemic, automated vehicles.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

Staff attended the GA Planning Assoc. Spring conference. Staff attended several virtual training events with topics including: social media communications, complete streets, resiliency, autonomous vehicles, crash data analysis.

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

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

**Approved Budget: \$13,822.02**

**Expenditures to Date: \$13,793.73**

**Percent Expended: 99.80%**

**Project Complete: 100%**

**Approved planning program revisions:** Yes, an administrative budget modification was completed in Q4.

2021-1.4 Equipment/Supplies/Technical Assistance

**Objective:**

To maintain computer systems and office supplies used for relevant transportation planning activities.

**Project Description:**

The SGRC as the MPO will purchase and maintain relevant computer supplies (hardware, software), mobile communications (including service fees) to meet the needs of the staff to effectively carry out the MPO transportation planning process pursuant to the SGRC Procurement Policy. Computer supplies (computer, monitors, keyboard, mouse, etc.) and software (MS Office Suite, Adobe Reader Pro, ArcGIS, etc.) costs estimated to be \$2,200 per user.

The SGRC IT Department will continue to provide technical assistance to staff to maintain computer supplies and software (regular updates, maintenance, troubleshooting).The SGRC as the MPO will also coordinate the purchase of supplies, computer systems, software and training with local governments for local traffic counting programs as requested.

**Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff maintained computer systems and software, including technical support from IT staff.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff maintained computer systems and software, including technical support from IT staff.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff maintained computer systems and software, including technical support from IT staff.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

Staff maintained computer systems and software, including technical support from IT staff.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$3,831.07

**Expenditures to Date:** \$3,696.51

**Percent Expended:** 96.49%

**Project Complete:** 100%

**Approved planning program revisions:** Yes, an administrative budget modification was completed in Q4.

## 2021-2.1 Participation Plan Implementation

### **Objective:**

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

### **Project Description:**

Outreach and Education: Staff will continue to communicate, educate, inform, make transparent, and visualize how the transportation planning process impacts all of the FHWA planning factors through regular inclusionary public involvement opportunities associated with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Participation Plan (PP) and other documents for the public and elected officials.

Engage and inform non-traditional community planning partners through the Citizen's Advisory Committee about the transportation planning process and promote the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision as a strategic vision for the community. Staff will engage the community through techniques as identified in its Participation Plan.

Develop and maintain websites and social media, with the most recent and relevant data and information about the MPO transportation planning process for the public and local government decision makers. Develop graphical, marketing and visualization skills and products to better communicate transportation data and concepts. Conduct public involvement strategies as outlined in the PP as needed for development of various documents, including but not limited to outlining participation objectives for the development of the 2045 Transportation Vision Plan.

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

### **Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff completed the public comment period for the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Staff continued to make website and social media updates on a regular basis.

### **Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff began to prepare an update of the Participation Plan that included a review of the draft changes by the VLMPO committees.

### **Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff hosted public participation events and presented an updated Participation Plan that was approved by the VLMPO Committees in March 2021. Staff made regular website and social media updates.

### **Quarter 4 Report:**

No work completed in this quarter.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$1,610.37

**Expenditures to Date:** \$1,587.74

**Percent Expended:** 98.59%

**Project Complete:** 100%

**Approved planning program revisions:** None at this time.

2021-3.1 GIS/Travel Demand Model Development

**Objective:**

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

**Project Description:**

The staff will work with the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional GIS Department (VALOR) at the SGRC to develop and maintain GIS data, and a website that shows transportation projects from the TIP and MTP. Develop a data update schedule for key layers used by the staff. Support the SGRC Regional Plan implementation of Goal ED-1 to develop GIS layers of infrastructure like stormwater and transportation infrastructure. Continue to educate local officials of the importance of the travel demand model and how it can be used for transportation planning decision making purposes. Develop GIS-based data resources to analyze and evaluate social and environmental impacts of transportation improvements that will be used to inform the prioritization of projects to be included in the 2045 TVP. Review GIS resources and the local Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify transportation infrastructure that might be susceptible to extreme weather events.

Develop regional commuting maps (when Census data is available) to illustrate regional travel patterns that impact travel from surrounding communities on the MPO Planning Area.

The SGRC as the MPO will use GIS to analyze data collected for performance measures to inform local officials of trends in data to set target areas and to analyze projects for inclusion in the LRTP and TIP. Staff will use GIS data analysis outputs and other visualization techniques to convey information about how transportation improvements can positively impact planning factors.

The staff and TAC will review model outputs from the 2045 TDM that is produced by GDOT, and staff will use the officially maintained GDOT model to perform model runs as requested by local governments. Maintain the MPO 2035 Joint Land Use Study Travel Demand Model for analysis requests from local stakeholders as it relates to the mission of Moody Air Force Base

and its impact on land use and transportation relationships in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

**Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff continued to maintain GIS websites related to the Vision2045 MTP.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff continued to maintain GIS layers and transportation project databases.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff continued to maintain GIS layers and transportation project databases. Staff began to develop an interactive TIP project dashboard for quick reference and access to these projects in the transportation project database.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

Staff continued to maintain GIS layers. Staff developed a dashboard for TIP projects that will continue to be developed in FY22. Staff shared GIS data with consultants to prepare the vulnerability study.

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

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

**Approved Budget: \$4,316.32**

**Expenditures to Date: \$4,294.46**

**Percent Expended: 99.49%**

**Project Complete: 100%**

**Approved planning program revisions:** Yes, an administrative budget modification was completed in Q4.

2021-3.2 Land Use Planning

**Objective:**

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

**Project Description:**

Coordinate with local land use planning staff to review local land use developments (zoning requests, subdivision plats, commercial developments, etc.) as to their effects on the local transportation infrastructure and consistency with the goals of the 2045 MTP. Provide technical assistance to local engineers and planners on topics relating to transportation and land use including: access management, transit oriented development, complete streets, etc.

Coordinate with MPO jurisdictions to cooperatively develop updates and implement local comprehensive (and regional) plans and planning efforts as required by the GA Department of Community Affairs (transportation planning requirements and transportation-land use relationships). Continue to inform the public and stakeholders of the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision and promote its use as a strategic vision for the community.

Continue to work with the SGRC and local land use planners to implement the Moody Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study recommendations that impact the transportation-land use relationship in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Develop at least one (1) neighborhood plan for the City of Valdosta that provides guidance for the growth and redevelopment of a neighborhood based on the 2040 TVP and 2045 MTP, local Comprehensive Plan, Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, transit plans, and other local/regional plans/studies focusing on how public transportation infrastructure investment will benefit the redevelopment of neighborhoods.

The MPO will continue to encourage the development of gateways into the community that improve visual appearance and mitigate natural/human environmental impacts of transportation.

Staff will review, share and update as needed the 2045 Socioeconomic Data Study for use by other organizations.

**Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff reviewed development proposals in Valdosta and Lowndes County for transportation impacts. Staff shared the 2045 Socioeconomic Data Study with other organizations for planning purposes.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff reviewed development proposals in Valdosta and Lowndes County for transportation impacts. Staff began to speak with Valdosta to develop transportation infrastructure-based neighborhood plans in the second half of the year.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff completed the Pinevale Neighborhood report for Valdosta that focused on improvements to make to transportation infrastructure to make the neighborhood more livable and multi-modal.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

No work completed this quarter.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$16,103.59

**Expenditures to Date:** \$16,079.68

**Percent Expended:** 99.85%

**Project Complete:** 100%

**Approved planning program revisions:** Yes, an administrative budget modification was completed in Q4.

2021-3.3 Inter-/Multi-Modal Transportation Planning

**Objective:**

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

**Project Description:**

Continue to work with local and state jurisdictions to implement the Bike/Ped Master Plan. Report on the status of this implementation. Consider the development of Complete Streets Policies for the City of Valdosta, and Lowndes County when they might be requested by local governments. Explore options for: improved data on bicycle and pedestrian usage in the region (traffic video analysis, fitness apps, etc.); funding bicycle and pedestrian projects (social impact bonds, etc.); improving transportation planning so that it can be used to improve health of the local population.

With other SGRC transportation planning programs, coordinate efforts on Safe Routes to School participation, regional bicycle and pedestrian planning activities (like: complete streets workshops, health and transportation, etc.) within the MPO Planning Area (SGRC receives other funding for these programs outside the MPO, but the products may be coordinated where appropriate). Develop crash reports for each K-12 school to identify any problems associated with transportation safety in/around school zones (see SGRC Regional Plan Goal EDU-10).

Implement ideas from the Transportation Demand Management Report in the VLMPO Planning Area.

Freight and Intermodal Activities: Continue to integrate freight and goods movement planning and analysis into long and short range planning efforts.

Continue to update data and perform analysis of how freight and goods movement impacts economic development in the region. Coordinate MPO planning efforts with other local transportation modes: railroads, airports, seaports, etc. to inform and influence the 2045 TVP update process.

**Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff wrote complete streets assessments for projects (SCP or PE phases only) to be included in the draft 21-24 TIP.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff participated in the US Army Power Projection Platform Studies meeting for freight-related deployment planning for Ft. Campbell and Ft. Benning via the Port of Jacksonville, FL using I-75.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff completed the Pinevale Neighborhood Infrastructure Report for the City of Valdosta.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

No work completed this quarter.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$2,099.38

**Expenditures to Date:** \$2,086.96

**Percent Expended:** 99.41%

**Project Complete:** 100%

**Approved planning program revisions:** Yes, an administrative budget modification was completed in Q4.

## 2021-3.4 Systems Data Analysis and Research

### **Objective:**

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

### **Project Description:**

Continue to develop an Annual Crash Report that analyzes crash data for local governments to identify safety improvements that can be implemented through new projects or educational programs. Conduct Road Safety Audits (RSAs) with local jurisdictions as requested to identify solutions to safety and operational concerns.

Encourage and advise local governments to develop transportation asset management plans. Report on age and structural integrity of bridges in the region to highlight need for replacement, ongoing maintenance, future financial needs for repair/maintenance, etc.

Continue to work with GDOT and local jurisdictions, as requested on the implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems and architectures in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Coordinate data development and analysis with GIS resources to better visualize data for local decision makers for various MPO plans and projects.

Identify data needs to implement MAP-21 and FAST Act Performance Measures and the 2045 MTP as required and in consultation with GDOT and local partners. Procure as needed and appropriate data needed for performance measurement and analysis of the transportation system and its impacts on regional economic development. Collect and analyze data as it is identified to develop data trends and targets for project selection and prioritization. Continue to report on various data trends that impact transportation planning in the region. Educate local officials on the importance and need for additional data and analysis to complete performance measure trend analysis and target setting.

### **Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff began to prepare a transportation infrastructure vulnerability report.

### **Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff continued to prepare a transportation infrastructure vulnerability report, however progress has paused due to the loss of key staff, work should resume in late Q3.

### **Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff completed RFQ/P process to hire Transport Studio, LLC to provide staff support services to complete the transportation infrastructure vulnerability report.

### **Quarter 4 Report:**

Consultants completed the Lowndes County Transportation Infrastructure Vulnerability Report. This included a virtual stakeholder meeting; staff review of the analysis and presentation to VLMPO committees in June.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$49,295.23

**Expenditures to Date:** \$49,270.26

**Percent Expended:** 99.95%

**Project Complete:** 100%

**Approved planning program revisions:** Yes, an administrative budget modification was completed in Q4.

2021-4.1 Transportation Improvement Program

**Objective:**

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

**Project Description:**

The SGRC as the MPO will continue to work with GDOT and local planning partners in prioritizing, developing and implementing projects in the TIP, including attending meetings and conducting analysis where needed to select and prioritize projects. Implement national goals and performance measures in the TIP in coordination with local and state partners. Continue to process TIP amendments and administrative modifications according to adopted policies (including those in the PP) in coordination with GDOT and local jurisdictions. Continue to provide technical support for projects in the TIP.

Continue to coordinate with GDOT and local transit providers to update and report on performance targets/measures in the TIP and System Performance Report.

Continue to maintain a project tracking tool and GIS database to provide the public and planning partner’s information about project development and timelines.

Continue to work with the City of Valdosta in the prioritization and implementation of projects, plans and policies identified in the City of Valdosta Transportation Master Plan.

Continue to explore new and innovative funding opportunities (unique grants, social impact bonds, etc.) for transportation improvements.

**Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff received from GDOT a project list to be included in a new FY21-24 TIP. Staff prepared the TIP document for review by MPO Committees.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff presented the FY21-24 TIP for approval to the VLMPO Committees. Staff completed amendments to the FY18-21 TIP as requested.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff completed administrative modifications to the 18-21 and 21-24 TIPs as requested by GDOT. Staff participated in GDOT project manager meetings.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

Staff prepared a GIS-based TIP project dashboard that will complete development in FY22.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$12,882.87

**Expenditures to Date:** \$12,865.44

**Percent Expended:** 99.86%

**Project Complete:** 100%

**Approved planning program revisions:** Yes, an administrative budget modification was completed in Q4.

2021-4.2 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

**Objective:**

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

**Project Description:**

Finalize the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as a performance-based planning document in partnership with GDOT and local partners in accordance with federal laws and regulations (in support of Lowndes Comp Plan Item 7). Continue to maintain (amend), update, and implement the 2045 MTP as needed in accordance with amendment procedures and public involvement procedures as outlined in the PP). Coordinate with GDOT and local transit operators to report and implement performance targets/measures in the MTP and System Performance Report. Monitor the implementation of the 2045 MTP through the MPO annual report and other reporting methods.

Continue to work with GDOT and local partners in prioritizing and implementing projects in the MTP and TIP, this includes attending meetings and conducting analysis where needed for a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous MTP. Continue to inform the public and stakeholders of the Greater Lowndes County Common Community Vision and promote its use as a strategic vision for the community.

**Quarter 1 Report:**

Staff completed the public comment period for the Vision2045 MTP. Staff made necessary updates to the MTP based on comments received. VLMPO Committees approved the MTP at September 2020 meetings.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

Staff completed amendments to the Vision2045 MTP based on updates to the TIPs.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

Staff completed administrative modifications to the Vision2045 MTP based on updates to the TIPs.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

Staff completed amendments to the Vision2045 MTP based on updates to the TIPs.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$11,266.29

**Expenditures to Date:** \$11,264.62

**Percent Expended:** 99.99%

**Project Complete:** 100%

**Approved planning program revisions:** Yes, an administrative budget modification was completed in Q4.

2021-4.3 Transit Planning

**Objective:**

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

**Project Description:**

Provide transit planning administration and assistance to Lowndes, Brooks and Berrien Counties’ Transit Systems (all 5311 rural systems) and any future rural regional and/or urban transit systems in the Metropolitan Planning Area and Valdosta Urbanized Area, respectively.

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 performance targets/measures and projects.

Provide data analysis and reports as requested by local or state officials regarding current or future transit operations.

Continue to coordinate transit planning with rural and human service providers. Includes coordination with GDOT, SGRC Coordinated Transportation Program, Department of Human Services, SGRC Area Agency on Aging, and other stakeholders.

Continue to explore options to implement recommendations (if any) of the FY2016 Transit Implementation Study and other past studies Mitigation (see Lowndes County Comp Plan Valdosta Item 18). Consider developing a consultant-led survey/study to determine from the public in the Valdosta Urbanized Area the preferred way to locally fund public transit implementation. Continue to evaluate the accessibility and mobility of regional activity centers and the various population groups (focus on EJ areas) throughout the region and the impact various transportation modes might have accessibility and mobility.

**Quarter 1 Report:**

See 5303 Quarterly Report.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

See 5303 Quarterly Report.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

See 5303 Quarterly Report.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

See 5303 Quarterly Report.

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

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

**Approved Budget:** \$NA – See 5303 Quarterly Report

**Expenditures to Date:** \$ NA – See 5303 Quarterly Report

**Percent Expended:** % NA – See 5303 Quarterly Report

**Project Complete:** % NA – See 5303 Quarterly Report

**Approved planning program revisions:** None at this time.

2021-4.4 Special Transportation Studies

**Objective:**

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

**Project Description:**

**Quarter 1 Report:**

There are no projects anticipated for FY2021.

**Quarter 2 Report:**

There are no projects anticipated for FY2021.

**Quarter 3 Report:**

There are no projects anticipated for FY2021.

**Quarter 4 Report:**

There are no projects anticipated for FY2021.

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

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

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**Approved Budget:** \$NA

**Expenditures to Date:** \$NA

**Percent Expended:** %NA

**Project Complete:** %NA

**Approved planning program revisions:** None at this time.