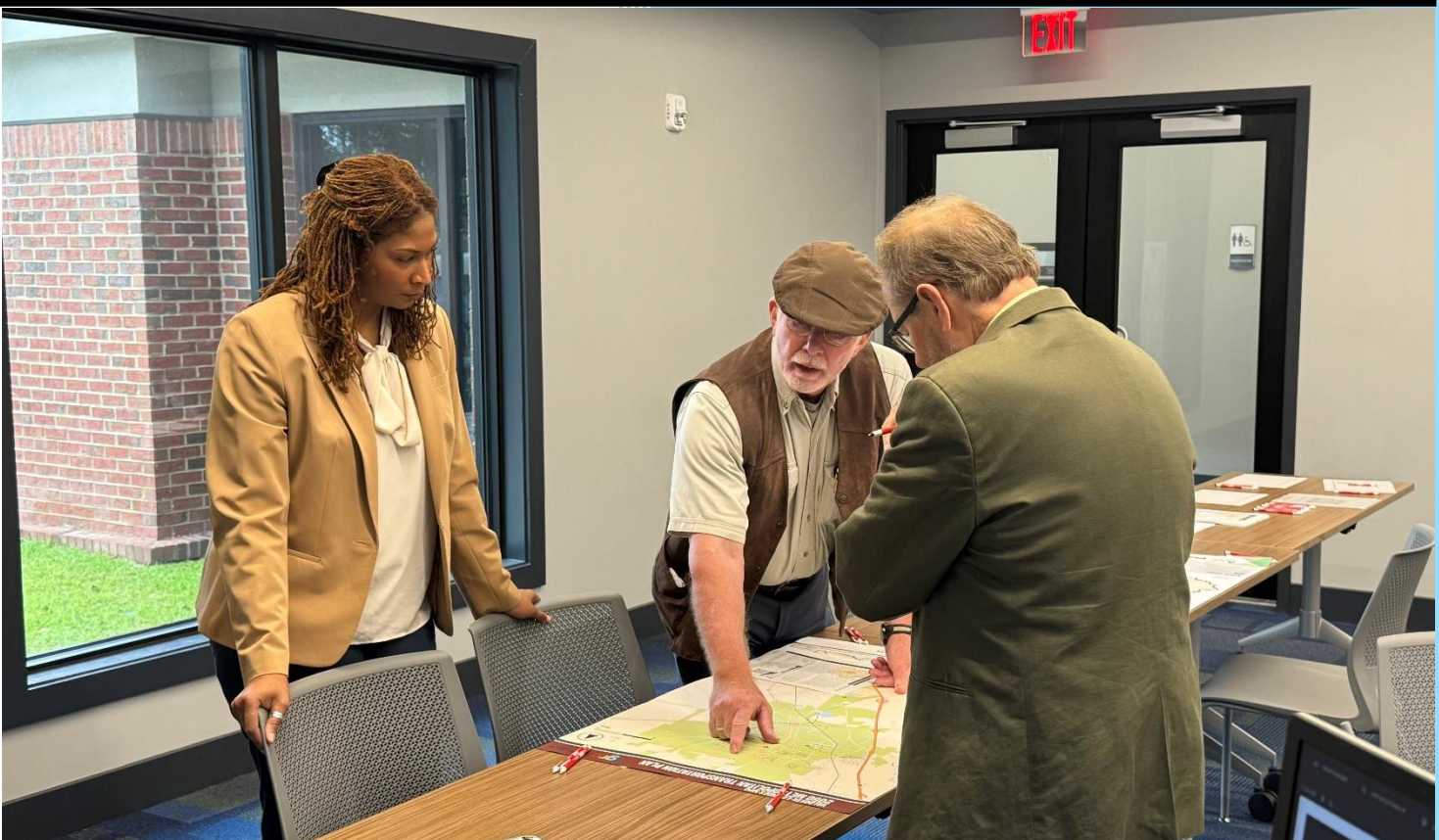


FY 2024

Annual Report



Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning
Organization

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Cover Photo Credit:

Figure 1. 2050 MTP Open House

Source: SGRC Staff

The contents in this publication reflect the views of the author(s), who is (are) responsible for the facts and accuracy of the data presented herein. The opinions, findings, and conclusions in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Transportation, State of Georgia, the Federal Highway Administration, or the Federal Transit Administration. This publication does not constitute a standard, specification or regulation.

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission as designated MPO 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 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) 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

Dear Citizen of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Area,

It is my honor to present to you the FY 2024 Annual Report that is produced each year by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC), the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Valdosta and Lowndes County area. The VLMPO provides professional staff to evaluate transportation projects and policies that are presented to citizens and elected officials for discussion and development into projects. The forum provided by the MPO provides opportunities for thoughtful decision-making and input to ensure the transportation needs of our community are addressed.

FY 2024 has been an exciting year for transportation in Valdosta and Lowndes County. The VLMPO has been a leader in working with local governments to plan for and implement public transit options in the community and region.

New roadway infrastructure projects are underway with more planned including the Five Points roundabouts. The VLMPO staff completed a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Guide, and continued work on the Vision2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, including the Historical Equity Action Lens (HEAL) Analysis. These reports will allow the VLMPO, 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 the citizens, local and state government staff, elected officials, and SGRC staff for their countless hours of dedicated work in planning transportation improvements for the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO Area. Your efforts continue to make our community better.

It is an honor 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 coming year.

Paige Dukes
County Manager, Lowndes County
MPO Policy Committee Chairwoman, FY 2024

MPO Committees and Staff

Policy Committee

Paige Dukes, Chair

Lowndes County

Brenda Exum

Ray City

Chairman Ronnie Gaskins

Berrien County

Chairman Patrick Folsom

Brooks County

Jannine Miller

Georgia Department of Transportation

Sabrina David

Federal Highway Administration

Mayor Scott Matheson, Vice Chair

City of Valdosta

Kimberly Hobbs

Southern Georgia Regional Commission

Jena Sandlin

City of Lake Park

Richard Hardy

City of Valdosta

Chairman Bill Slaughter

Lowndes County

Yvette Taylor, PhD

Federal Transit Administration

Technical Advisory Committee

Benjamin O'Dowd, Chair

City of Valdosta

Vanda Lewis

Georgia Department of Transportation

Joseph Longo

Federal Highway Administration

Ricky Thomas

Valdosta City Schools, Trans. Director

Mike Fletcher, Vice Chair

Lowndes County

Scott Chambers

Georgia Department of Transportation

Jeff Hill

Lowndes County Board of Education

Ashley Tye

Lowndes County Emergency Mgmt. Dir.

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Clayton Milligan, Chair

Lowndes County

Marshall Ingram

City of Hahira

Vacant

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*

Stan Crance, Vice Chair

City of Valdosta

Steven Barnes

Leadership Lowndes

Brit McLane

Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce

Jim Galloway

Valdosta Regional Airport

Tyler Willett

Lowndes County

Shannon McConico

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Sandra Wilcher

Lowndes County Board of Education

Michael Cooper

*Valdosta Downtown Development
Authority*

Vacant, Secretary

City of Valdosta

Debbie White

City of Valdosta

Carroll Griffin

City of Remerton

Kathleen Hodges

City of Valdosta

Tanner Herrington

City of Valdosta

Gary Wisenbaker

Lowndes County

Transportation Department Staff (FY 2024)

Amy Martin

Transportation Director

Torrence Weaver

Transportation Planner

Lu Danforth

*Transportation/Transit Finance
Analyst*

FY 2024 Financial Highlights

Work Program Elements	FY2024 Actual	FY2024 Budget
Administration	\$49,571.23	\$51,960.98
UPWP	\$5,485.58	\$5,567.25
Staff Education	\$15,561.66	\$18,557.49
Computer Systems	\$4,676.23	\$5,567.28
Public Participation	\$4,554.07	\$7,423.00
GIS/Travel Demand Model	\$2,662.33	\$7,190.98
Land Use Planning	\$10,024.73	\$10,296.71
Inter-/Multi-Modal Planning	\$7,800.07	\$7,913.24
Systems Analysis	\$37,938.83	\$41,896.27
Increase Safe/Accessible Trans Options	\$3,160.19	\$3,897.86
TIP	\$17,977.62	\$21,778.75
Long Range Planning	\$6,770.38	\$7,423.00
5303 Transit Planning	\$26,916.57	\$65,406.00
Special Studies (Hahira Studies)	\$178,722.00	\$200,000.00

Figure 1. FY2023 Actual Expenditures compared to FY2023 Budget

Project Updates

Exit 11 (PI# 0010297)

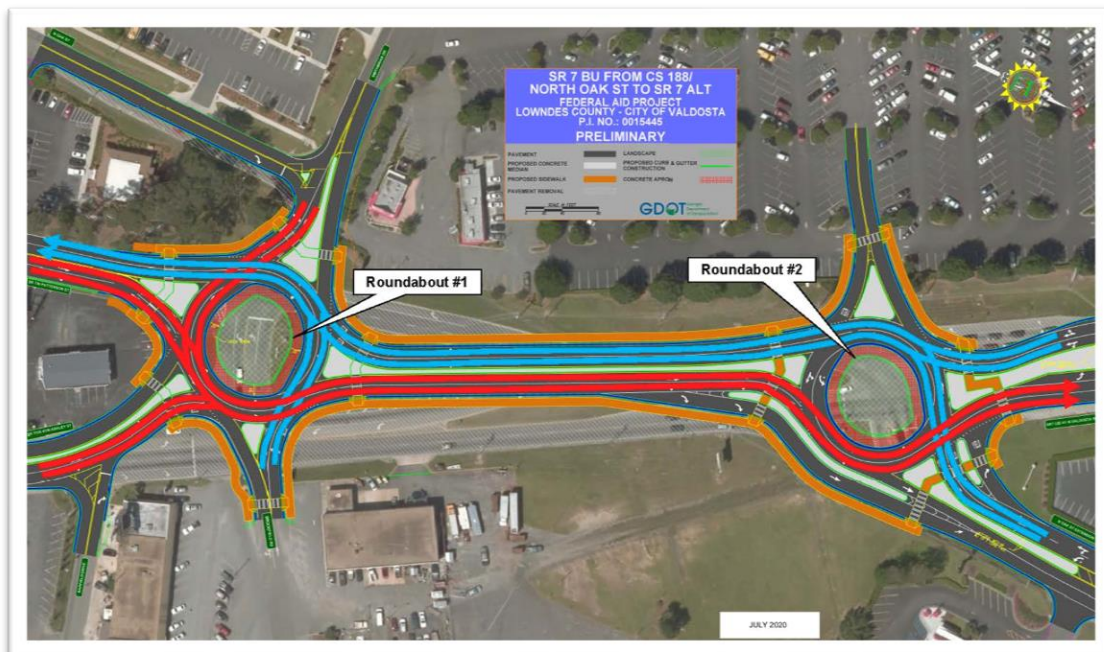
The project will consist of reconstructing the 1-75 diamond type interchange at SR 31. The project will include improvements to the safety and operations of the interchange by providing additional capacity on the bridge and approaches over 1-75 as well as additional capacity for the entrance and exit ramps to and from 1-75. Safety will be enhanced by providing roundabouts at the ramp terminal intersections. This project was let in October 2021 and is currently under construction. This project is anticipated to be completed in May of 2025.



Five Points Roundabouts (PI# 0015445)

This project proposes converting SR 7 BUS/Ashley St at SR 7 ALT/Patterson St/Smithbriar Dr/Brookfield Rd and SR 7 BUS/N Valdosta Rd at N. Oak St Extension intersections into two modern multilane roundabouts. The SR 7 BUS/Ashley St at SR 7 ALT/Patterson St/Smithbriar Dr/Brookfield Rd intersection has five legs, and utilizes a pair of coordinated traffic signals. The roundabouts are proposed to be 170 feet in diameter and will be constructed with curb & gutter and sidewalks. The proposed project is approximately 0.13 miles in length and is located in Lowndes County, in the city of Valdosta.

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 simulation videos of what it will look like to drive on this roadway when it is complete. The let date for the project is in March of 2025.





Old Quitman Road Bridge (PI# 0015614)

Authorization to begin purchasing right-of-way has been given. This project was anticipated to begin construction in 2023; however, the project got behind schedule due to utilities coordination. This project is now anticipated to begin construction in 2025. Th

Exit 18 (PI# 0010298)

This interchange improvement project has been moved into Long Range status.

Lake Park Bellville Road Widening (PI# 0013987)

This project will widen Lake Park Belville Road from SR 7 to I-75. The project is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025.



Jerry Jones Road Widening (PI# 0014134)

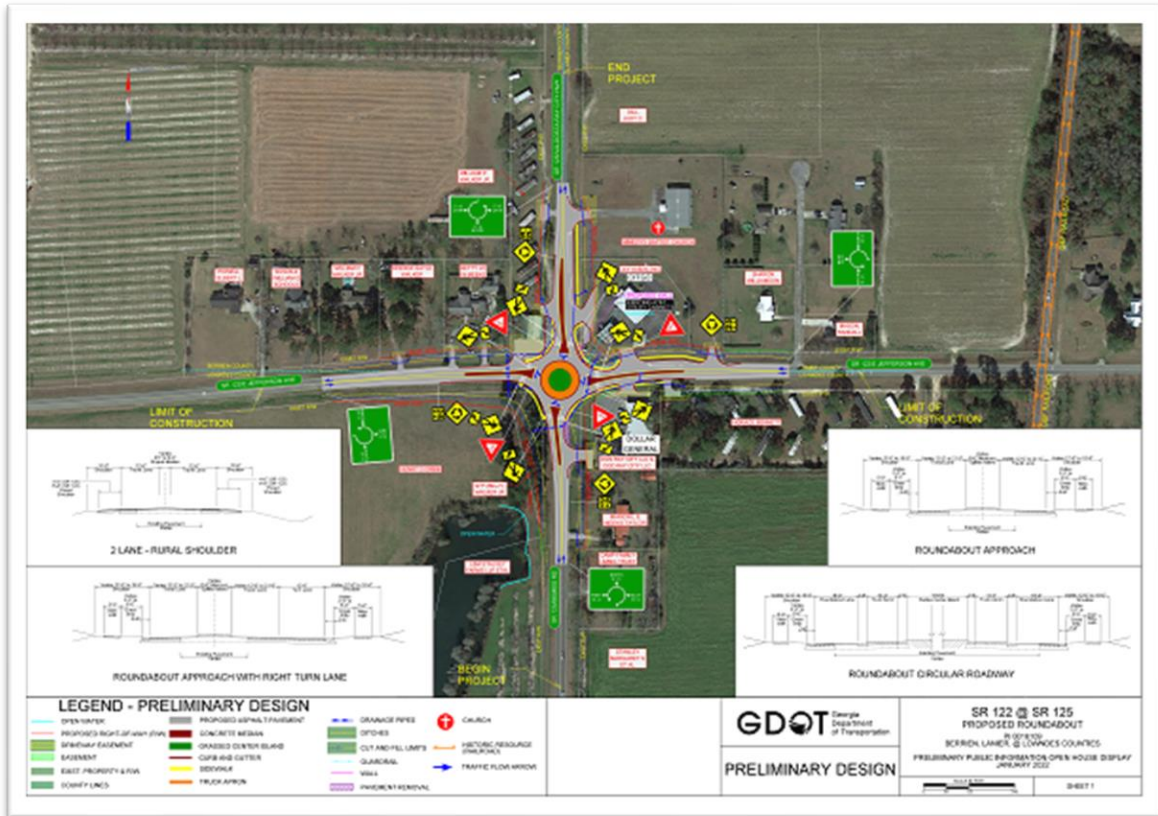
Authorization to begin purchasing right-of-way has been given and construction is authorized. This project will add additional turn lanes and minor widening. The project had to undergo utility redesign and is scheduled to let in September of 2024.

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. The schedule for this project has been revised to add concept activities.

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

GDOT continues to design a roundabout as the proposed improvement for this intersection. It is anticipated that GDOT will begin to acquire right-of-way in 2023 and begin construction in 2024 or later.



SR 31 Passing Lanes (PI# 0014485)

The project consists of adding passing lanes at four sites along SR 31 / US 221 northeast of Valdosta, Georgia in Lowndes and Lanier Counties. The passing lanes will be added through a symmetrical 6 foot widening on both sides of the existing pavement. The typical section of all sites will feature a 12-foot travel lane in both directions, with a 12 foot passing lane on the inside lane traveling in either direction dependent on the site with three lanes and 10 foot outside shoulders of which 2 feet is paved. Sites 1 and 2 are located in Lowndes County. Sites 1 and 2 are just south of Knight Academy Road. Site 1 is a northbound passing lane and Site 2 is a southbound passing lane. Sites 3 and 4 are located in Lanier County. Site 3 is a southbound passing lane that begins just south of Shiner Pond Road. Site 4 is a northbound passing lane that begins north side of the same Shiner Pond Road Intersection.

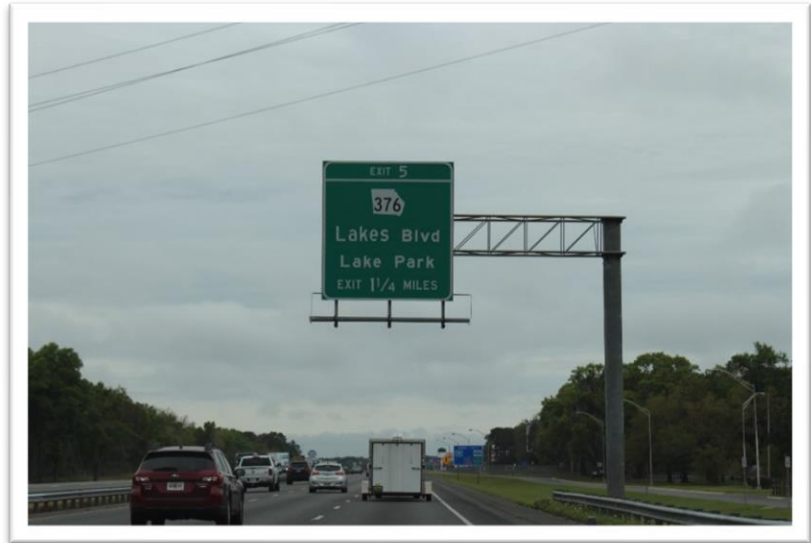
Authorization to begin purchasing right-of-way has been given and the project is currently under construction.

Exit 5 (PI# 0010295)

Authorization to begin purchasing right-of-way and for construction has been given for this interchange reconstruction project (Phase II, @ SR 376). This project has moved into Long Range Status.

Exit 5 (PI# 0010296)

Project has moved into Long Range status.



SR 7/SR 122, Union Road Sidewalks in Hahira (PI# 0016636)

This sidewalk project is in the process of concept report approval. The survey database is in progress, pending GDOT approval. ROW is programmed to be authorized in 2024, with a project completion date in 2025.



Programs and Activities

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Guide

The Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) guidelines developed by the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) aim to enhance transit accessibility, economic development, and community livability in the Valdosta-Lowndes region. TOD is defined in the document as a high-density, mixed-use development approach characterized by superior walkability and direct access to transit facilities. The guidelines address existing transit inefficiencies, poor public awareness, and limited employer engagement. They set community goals to improve mobility for human service needs, enhance job access, promote economic development, reduce congestion, and manage parking demand.

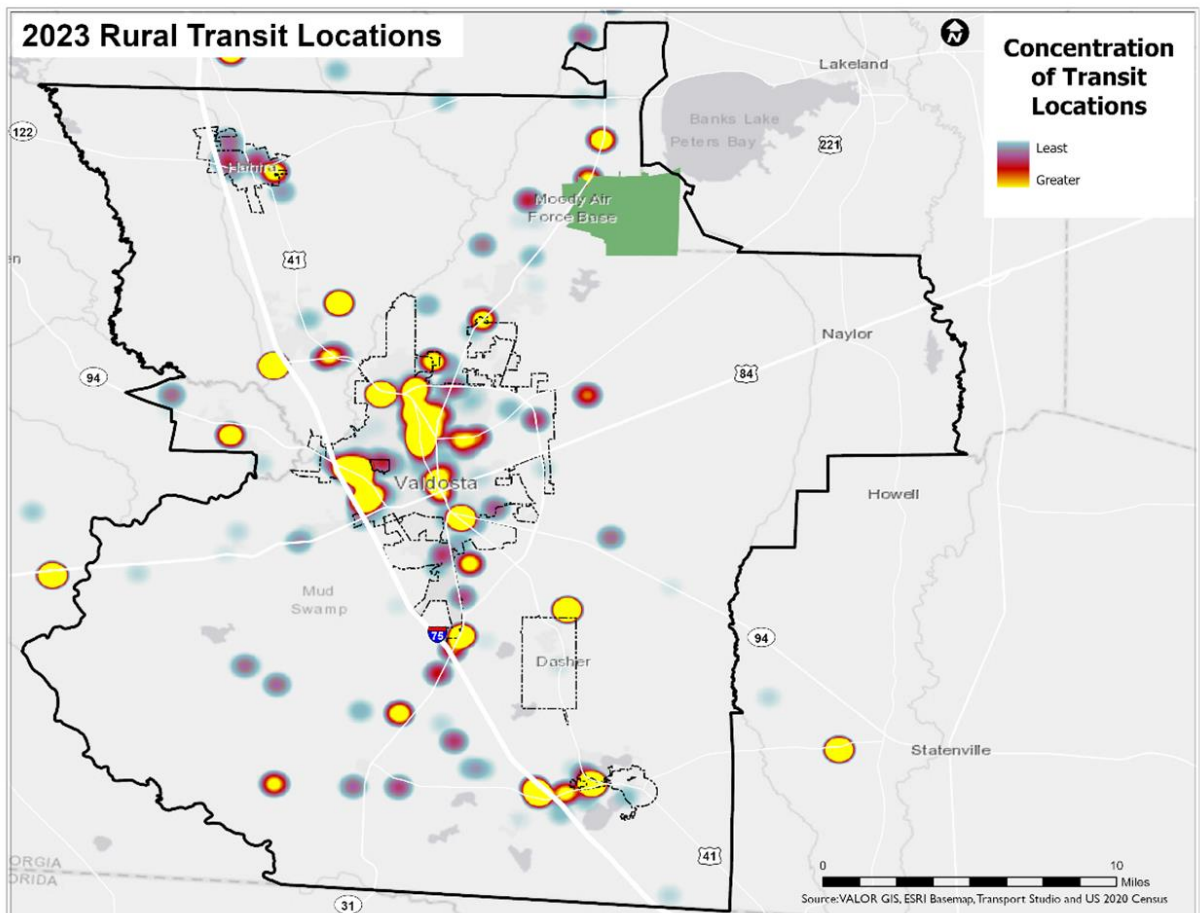
Key benefits of TOD outlined in the document include the creation of walkable communities, placemaking, reduced traffic congestion, economic development, improved public health, and the promotion of equity and environmental justice. The guidelines emphasize the importance of higher density to support transit services and walkable communities, suggesting specific density requirements for urban, suburban, and rural areas. Additionally, they advocate for a diversity of land uses within TODs, including office, retail, residential, and public spaces, to reduce automobile trips and meet community needs.

Walkability and network connectivity are essential components of TOD, as highlighted in the guidelines. A well-connected street network with small blocks and pedestrian traffic management is crucial for promoting walkability and overall mobility. The document also addresses site design and parking, recommending sensible parking requirements and multimodal mobility options to encourage walking and biking. Access management strategies are proposed to ensure safe and efficient travel for all modes of transport on major thoroughfares.

The guidelines also explore the concept of placemaking within TOD, advocating for the creation of mobility hubs, micromobility options, and gathering places like plazas and parks to foster a sense of community. Specific strategies for small urban, suburban, and rural areas are provided to enhance transit accessibility and promote walkable neighborhoods. The document acknowledges community concerns about changes in density and character, especially in car-dependent regions, and suggests strategies to support market conditions for TOD and manage transitions in established communities.

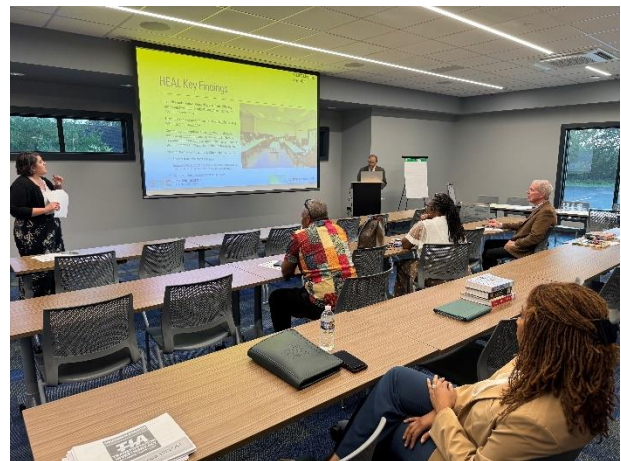
Infrastructure improvements necessary to support TOD are detailed, including enhanced sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit facilities. The guidelines identify potential TOD areas and propose tailored strategies for each, along with next steps and future transit plans for the region. The document is supplemented by case studies, screening maps, and demographic maps to aid in planning and implementation. Overall, the TOD guidelines aim to create vibrant, accessible, and economically robust communities centered around

transit, providing a comprehensive framework for promoting and implementing TOD in the Valdosta-Lowndes region.



2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Historical Equity Action Lens (HEAL) Analysis

The StoryMap by the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization (VLMPO) details the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), focusing on enhancing transportation infrastructure in the region. It addresses current transportation challenges and aims to improve connectivity, safety, and sustainability. The plan emphasizes the development of a multimodal transportation system, including roadways, public transit, bike paths, and pedestrian facilities. Key goals include reducing traffic congestion, promoting economic development, and improving the overall quality of life for residents. The interactive format uses maps, charts, and narratives to engage the community and stakeholders in the planning process.



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 VLMPO updated its Participation Plan in FY2021 to address virtual public participation and other items. The VLMPO is looking forward to reviewing and updating the Participation Plan in FY2024.

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.

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.

*To raise awareness about the MPO and the transportation planning process, staff hosted open houses, sent newsletters to interested parties, and represented MPO interests at various community events throughout the year. Participation in these activities remained **consistent** with 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 ensures public accessibility through various formats by maintaining active social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and regularly updating their website. All MPO-hosted events are open to the public, offering opportunities for public comments. The MPO has also introduced live virtual participation options for meetings. Staff are available in person or by phone during regular business hours at the SGRC office. Overall, public access to staff and opportunities for involvement have **increased**.*

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

*Staff continues to engage with resource agencies and maintains a list of interested parties for planning consultations. The MPO responds to all comments received during public comment periods and many on social media. Staff collaborates with GDOT to present project updates at quarterly MPO meetings. Overall, stakeholder outreach and engagement have remained **consistent**.*

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 FY 2024. Some accomplishments include completing the Historical Equity Action Lens (HEAL) Analysis and meeting with local community leaders to discuss issues and brainstorm solutions for solving such issues. Overall outreach to traditionally underserved communities remained **steady** in FY 2024.*

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

*The MPO has produced several documents this year including an Annual Crash Report, Annual Work Program, TIP Amendments, and the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Guide. In order to inform the public and stakeholders of these documents and to gain input from the MPO, staff 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 FY 2025 and Beyond

In FY 2025, the VLMPO looks to continue the implementation of the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and continue working on the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan both of which includes highway, transit, and other multi-modal projects throughout the region.

The MPO will still pursue working with the City of Lake Park to understand available right-of-way limits for future infrastructure improvements. MPO staff hope to use this case study as an example for developing similar analyses 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 transit-oriented development service improvements.

As electric vehicles continue to grow in popularity, staff will continue to 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 they relate to land use and environmental linkages.

The VLMPO will also seek to be a leader in South Georgia in identifying appropriate green infrastructure strategies to implement as they relate to stormwater runoff and mitigation of extreme weather events using the VLMPO Low Impact Development Policy to put forth strategies for local governments that are cost effective and sufficiently address green infrastructure principles.

The VLMPO will continue work with Valdosta-Lowndes County to complete, incorporate, and implement various transportation initiatives identified in previous, current and upcoming plans in FY 2025.

FY 2024 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports

FY2024 UPWP Work Element Summary Reports

2024-1.1 MPO Administration

Objective :

To implement the VLMPO’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 VLMPO. Coordinate VLMPO Committee meetings and overall transportation planning efforts in the Region. Update the VLMPO MOU as necessary to include all parties and regulatory requirements. Update the VLMPO Committee orientation handbook as appropriate to introduce new committee members to the VLMPO transportation planning process.

Continue to work with Georgia Assoc. of MPOs (GAMPO) and other state and national organizations on the role of VLMPOs in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning. Support GAMPO activities through participation in meetings and events. The VLMPO will continue membership in AMPO (organizations dues estimated to be \$500) and NADO (organization dues are paid by other non-VLMPO related funding sources), and will consider other organizational memberships as appropriate. Please note the above are organizational memberships not personal.

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 implementation of the Vision2045 MTP and future UPWP work elements. Implement any recommendations to improve the processes of the VLMPO identified during the FY21 GDOT Certification Review of the VLMPO transportation planning process.

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

The SGRC will continue to provide staff to carry out VLMPO activities. Staff will serve as the local experts in transportation areas, capable of 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. Staff will continue to work with GDOT and surrounding jurisdictions/agencies to maintain a comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, regional, multi-modal transportation planning process. The VLMPO will continue to maintain a planning document schedule for local officials to better understand the planning process.

Quarter 1 Report: Staff prepared agendas and minutes for the September 2023 VLMPO Committee Meetings. Staff continued to perform website accuracy checks. Staff attended a planning finding meeting with FHWA. Staff held a called Policy Committee meeting. Staff attended VLMPO,GDOT, FHWA Coordination meetings.

Quarter 2 Report: Staff attended the November 6, 2023 GAMPO meeting and presented updates for PL funded projects. Staff prepared agendas and minutes for the December 2023 VLMPO meetings. Staff attended VLMPO,GDOT, FHWA Coordination meetings.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff attended the March 25, 2023 GAMPO meeting and presented updates for 2050 MTP PL funded project. Staff prepared agendas and minutes for the March 5th and 6th VLMPO meetings. Staff attended the VLMPO,GDOT, and FHWA Coordination meetings.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff prepared agenda and minutes for the VLMPO Committee Meetings. Staff represented the VLMPO at various meetings around transportation infrastructure and initiatives. StaffStaff attended the VLMPO, GDOT, and FHWA Coordination meetings. Staff completed selection of On-call Transportation Planning consultants.

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: \$52,259.40

Expenditures to Date: \$52,238.08

Percent Expended: 99.96%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time

Objective :

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

Project Description:

Prepare and amend (as needed) the 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 5.4).

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 5.4 of this UPWP as requested by local governments.

Renew and/or reissue the ongoing SGRC Transportation Department staff support consultant contract as needed and appropriate.

Quarter 1 Report: Staff completed FY2023 Q4 reports and the FY23 Annual Report for the VLMPO. Staff divided FY24 tasks among themselves with target dates of completion throughout the year.

Quarter 2 Report: Staff completed FY2024 Q1 reports. Staff drafted the FY25 UPWP and budget. Staff divided FY25 tasks with target dates of completion throughout the year.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff completed FY2024 Q2 reports. Staff presented the FY25 UPWP and budget to the VLMPO Committees for adoption.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff completed FY2024 Q3 reports. Staff held an On-call Proposers Conference. Staff reissued the ongoing SGRC Transportation Department staff support consultant contract.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$9,332.04

Expenditures to Date: \$8,055.80

Percent Expended: 86.32%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2024-1.3 Training/Professional Development

Objective :

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

Project Description:

Provide continuing education and training for VLMPO staff and committees that will enable the VLMPO to effectively carry out the transportation planning process, including but not limited to: staff development, 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 VLMPOs, national Assoc. of VLMPOs (\$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 according to SGRC policy and for other purposes.

Quarter 1 Report: Staff attended the 2023 AMPO Conference. Staff completed various MPO and Transportation related trainings through FHWA and NHI.

Quarter 2 Report: Staff attended the FHWA/GDOT 2023 Discretionary Grant Symposium. Staff completed various MPO and Transportation related trainings through FHWA and NHI.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff attended various training's: Georgia GHG MPO Coordination, Alternative Services for ADA Paratransit Riders, Transportation for People with Disabilities and Older Adults in COVID-19,

Integrating GHG Emissions into Planning Webinar Series Kick-Off, UUSDOT Climate and Transportation Webinar 101, etc.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff attended the Fanning Institute Training for public egagement. Staff attended the 2024 CTAA Expo and Annual Membership Meeting.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$18,664.07

Expenditures to Date: \$15,479.95

Percent Expended: 82.94%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2024-1.4 Equipment/Supplies/Technical Assistance

Objective :

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

Project Description:

The VLMPO 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 VLMPO 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 \$2,500 per user.

The SGRC IT Department will continue to provide technical assistance in order to maintain VLMPO staff computer supplies and software (regular updates, maintenance, troubleshooting).

The VLMPO 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 recieved technical assistance from the SGRC IT Department for VLMPO meeting setup.

Quarter 2 Report: Staff recieved technical assistance from the SGRC IT Department for VLMPO meeting setup.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff recieved technical assistance from the SGRC IT Department for VLMPO meeting setup and computer maintainence.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff purchased necessary additional items for the Microsoft Surface Pro. Staff recieved technical assistance from the SGRC IT Department for VLMPO meeting setup

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: \$7,465.63

Expenditures to Date: \$4,515.55

Percent Expended: 60.48%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2024-2.1 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 and FTA and FHWA Planning Emphasis Areas 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 to include Virtual Public Involvement. 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.

Develop and maintain websites and social media, with the most recent and relevant data and information about the VLMPO transportation planning process for the public and local government decision makers. Update the Participation Plan to reflect more specifically how these mediums will be used to engage the public. 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 and updating of various documents, including but not limited to outlining/updating participation objectives in the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as well as other transportation planning documents and initiatives.

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 and an opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process. 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 burdens and/or opportunities of transportation improvements.

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 and an opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process. 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 burdens and/or opportunities of transportation improvements.

Quarter 1 Report: Website request to publish TIP amendment notice.

Quarter 2 Report: Staff held public open house meetings for TIP / 2045 MTP amendments. Staff sent emails and letters to the VLMPO Resource Agency lists and the newsletter list concerning updates to plans.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff held 2050 MTP Stakeholder meeting, staff shared multiple posts on social media about the stakeholder meeting. Staff wrote a newsletter about the 2050 MTP for the SGRC Council.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff held a VLMPO Public Open House to discuss the 2050 MTP. Staff held a meeting with a community organization to discuss transportation initiatives and issues.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$9,332.04

Expenditures to Date: \$4,157.86

Percent Expended: 44.55%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2024-3.1 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 project specific website that displays the description, cost/phase information of 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 monitor performance measures and targets (where data is available) on roadways before and after improvement. Review GIS resources, the local Hazard Mitigation Plans, and the Lowndes County Vulnerability Assessment to identify and mitigate impacts to transportation infrastructure that might be susceptible to extreme weather events.

Develop GIS-based data applications to monitor existing multimodal facilities and consider new multimodal facilities to create a safe, accessible network for all users.

Use GIS to analyze data and illustrate transportation data in the region such as regional travel patterns that impact travel from surrounding communities on the VLMPO Planning Area.

The VLMPO will use GIS to analyze data collected for performance measures to inform local officials of trends in data to set target areas and to analyze projects for inclusion in the MTP 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.

Quarter 1 Report: N/A

Quarter 2 Report: Staff held a meeting with GIS staff to review the VLMPO's UZA with GIS staff and sent findings to GDOT. Staff reviewed and shared the GIS urban transit OD data with Metro Analytics for incorporation into the 2050 MTP.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff worked with GIS to gather population data, changing the format of specific data for the 2050 MTP.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff provided TAZ data to Metro Analytics for the 2050 MTP. Staff worked with GIS to correct errors in TAZ data.

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: \$13,064.85

Expenditures to Date: \$11,316.18

Percent Expended: 86.62%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2024-3.2 Land Use Planning

Objective :

To analyze the impacts of land use and transportation improvements to ensure consistency with the Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and transportation and land use planning best practices.

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 VLMPD 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.

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 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 and enhance equity outcomes.

The VLMPD 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: N/A

Quarter 2 Report: Staff worked with Metro Analytics and GDOT partners to review and enhance the TAZ's. Staff provided contacts and data for the 2050 Socioeconomic data projections.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff continued conversations with the 2050 MTP consultant firm Metro Analytics around land use and scenario planning.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff completed the Transit-Oriented Development Plan for Urban and Rural Areas.

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: \$13,064.85

Expenditures to Date: \$889.51

Percent Expended: 6.81%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

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.

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 (like: complete streets workshops, health and transportation, etc.) within the VLMPO Planning Area (SGRC receives other funding for these programs outside the VLMPO, but the products may be coordinated where appropriate). Gather and consider feedback from bicycle and pedestrian advocates about safety and infrastructure in the community.

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 through the use of NPRMDS 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.

Quarter 1 Report: N/A

Quarter 2 Report: Staff attended a meeting with Metro Analytics and Teralytics staff.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff began pulling pedestrian crash data and analyzing it for the crash report.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff completed the FY24 Crash Report and the Transit-Oriented Development 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: \$11,198.44

Expenditures to Date: \$6,040.38

Percent Expended: 53.94%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time

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 through taking a leading role in developing a regional transportation improvement plan.

Continue to work with GDOT and local jurisdictions, as requested on the implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems and architectures in the Metropolitan Planning Area. Continue to review, update, and implement recommendations from the VLMPO Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) Assessment. Implement with local jurisdictions recommendations from the VLMPO Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy report to include preparing ordinances to require EV charging stations for new/renovated buildings; staff will work with local governments to prepare model ordinances

Coordinate data development and analysis with GIS resources to better visualize data for local decision makers for 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 improvement. Staff will use GIS data analysis outputs and other visualization techniques to convey information about how transportation improvements can positively impact planning factors.

Identify data needs to implement MAP-21, the FAST Act Performance Measures, IIJA and the Vision2045 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: N/A

Quarter 2 Report: Staff pulled crash data for analysis for the 2050 MTP.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff pulled pavement condition data for the 2050 MTP.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff corrected errors in TAZ data. Staff completed the Crash Report. Staff completed the Base Year and Second Year network data spreadsheets to be used in the 2050 MTP.

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

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

3w2Approved Budget: \$13,064.85

Expenditures to Date: \$9,354.11

Percent Expended: 71.60%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2024-4.1 Increase Safe Accessible Transportation Options

Objective :

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

Project Description:

The MPO is to spend a minimum amount of funding for either the adoption of complete streets standards and policies, development of a complete streets prioritization plan, active and mass transportation planning, regional and megaregional planning to address travel demand through alternatives to highway travel, or transit-oriented development planning. The VLMPO will implement this new category through activities for the VLMPO Complete Streets Policy, i.e. (complete streets prioritization plan) as well as continued planning around transit-oriented development to help increase access to public transit.

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. Continue to promote the VLMPO Complete Streets policy and the prioritization of multi-modal projects within the planning process and project consideration. 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. 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 (like: complete streets workshops, health and transportation, etc.) within the VLMPO Planning Area (SGRC receives other funding for these programs outside the VLMPO, but the products may be coordinated where appropriate). Gather and consider feedback from bicycle and pedestrian advocates about safety and infrastructure in the community.

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.

Quarter 1 Report: N/a

Quarter 2 Report: Staff attended the 2023 GA Bike, Walk, Live Summit.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff continued analyzing crash data for the FY24 Crash Report.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff completed the FY24 Crash 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 Y410 Quarterly Report

Expenditures to Date: \$ NA – See Y410 Quarterly Report

Percent Expended: % NA – See Y410 Quarterly Report

Project Complete: % NA – See Y410 Quarterly Report

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2024-5.1 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 VLMPO will continue to work with GDOT and local planning partners in prioritizing, developing and implementing projects in the current FY21-24 TIP as well as draft the FY24-27 TIP. This will include 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 drafted the FY24-27 TIP, which was adopted in October. Staff sent out a public notice about the FY24-27 TIP. Staff held a public open house for the FY24-27 TIP.

Quarter 2 Report: Staff prepared FY21-24 and FY24-27 TIP Amendments, which were approved in December. Staff held a public open house for these TIP amendments.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff began preparing a TIP amendment.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff completed multiple amendments and an administrative modification to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement

Program. Staff held a called Policy Committee meeting for the adoption of the amendments.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$9,332.04

Expenditures to Date: \$8,663.63

Percent Expended: 92.84%

Project Complete: 100%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2024-5.2 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Objective :

To maintain, amend, and monitor a 25-year fiscally responsible metropolitan transportation plan.

Project Description:

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 (in support of Lowndes Comp Plan Item 7). Continue to maintain (amend), update, and implement the Vision2045 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 Vision2045 MTP through the VLMPO annual report and other reporting methods. Maintain the Vision2045 MTP project and document specific website.

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. The MTP development process and content will continue to prioritize equity, economy, climate change/resiliency, and COVID relief efforts.

Begin drafting the 2050 MTP through consulting services. The VLMPO was awarded PL funding to solicit a consultant to assist the VLMPO in completing a robust MTP.

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. The cost of this study is \$300,00 and has been awarded PL Grant funds.

Quarter 1 Report: Staff reviewed the PL funds contract and drafted the 2050 MTP agreement with Metro Analytics. Staff prepared amendments for the 2045 MTP.

Quarter 2 Report: Staff held the 2050 MTP kick-off meeting with the consultant, Metro Analytics, FHWA, and GDOT partners. Staff assisted Metro Analytics with various data sets and coordination efforts. Staff held monthly meetings with MetroAnalytics (one in-person meeting and 3 virtual). Staff prepared amendments for the 2045 MTP.

Quarter 3 Report: Staff held coordination meetings with the consultant, Metro Analytics. Staff held a 2050 MTP Stakeholder meeting. Staff continued to assist Metro Analytics with data requests and scheduling of public participation events.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff held coordination meetings with Metro Analytics. Staff assisted Metro Analytics with data joining and data analysis. Staff reviewed the 2020 base year data. Staff assisted with the 2050 MTP Public Open House.

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

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

Approved Budget: \$29,862.51

Expenditures to Date: \$27,694.94

Percent Expended: 92.74%

Project Complete: 50%

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.

2024-5.3 Transit Planning

Objective :

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

Project Description:

VLMPO staff will provide ongoing transit planning administration and assistance to Lowndes, Brooks, Berrien Counties' Transit Systems (all 5311 rural systems) and the City of Valdosta for the urban public transit system as well as any future rural regional transit initiatives in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Provide guidance on implementing recommendations (where appropriate) from the FY2016 Transit Implementation Study and other past studies to help guide the City of Valdosta's Urban Public Transit System. Coordinate with the City of Valdosta Public Transit System department to maintain a Public Transportation Plan. FTA 5307 funds may be used to hire a consultant to assist in the implementation and future planning of an urban public transit system in the City of Valdosta, based on the data collected and analyzed from initial implementation steps. The local funds for this project will be provided by the City of Valdosta.

Develop a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan that will help encourage partnerships, use GIS mapping to locate underserved populations (Title VI/EJ), improve trip generation, address goals short-term goals, access to mobility, accessibility and mobility of regional activity centers long term core goals, and the changing need and demand in relation to the City of Valdosta's urban public transit system based on the direction of the local governments.

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. 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.

Participate and present transit related information and activities before municipalities and/or appropriate committees. Provide data analysis and reports as requested by local or state officials regarding current or future transit operations.

Continue to evaluate the accessibility and mobility of EJ populations to access regional activity centers throughout the VLMPO region and the

opportunities or burdens that various transportation modes might have on accessibility and mobility of these populations.

Quarter 1 Report:

See 5303 Quarterly Milestone Report.

Quarter 2 Report:

See 5303 Quarterly Milestone Report.

Quarter 3 Report:

See 5303 Quarterly Milestone Report.

Quarter 4 Report:

See 5303 Quarterly Milestone 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.

2024-5.4 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.

Project Description:

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, not all projects have been awarded funding and are subject to additional approval by the VLMPO committees, GDOT and FHWA.

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. The 2050 MTP will build upon and help to implement other planning documents that have been conducted over the past five years. The cost of this study is \$300,000. This project has been awarded funding. The project information is as follows:

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

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

Project start date is April 1, 2023. Project end date is September 30, 2025.

The Val Del Road Corridor Study. The Val Del Road Corridor Study will analyze the Val Del Road corridor from North Valdosta Road to State Route 122. This study will provide best transportation planning solutions for operational, physical, and resilient transportation infrastructure improvements. There are multiple subdivisions located along this corridor as well as continued and future planned development of subdivisions and commercial development. Development along this corridor has already increased thru traffic, specifically along connecting rural roads for travel to Moody AFB. 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. The estimated cost of this study is <\$150,000.

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.

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.

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.

The 2050 Socioeconomic Data Study. 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 estimated cost of this study is \$30,000.

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 \$680,000.

Quarter 1 Report: Staff reviewed the PL funds contract and drafted the 2050 MTP agreement with Metro Analytics. Staff prepared amendments for the 2045 MTP.

Quarter 2 Report: Staff held the 2050 MTP kick-off meeting with the consultant, Metro Analytics, FHWA, and GDOT partners. Staff assisted Metro Analytics with various data sets and coordination efforts. Staff held montly meetings with MetroAnalytics (one in-person meeting and 3 virtual).

Quarter 3 Report: Staff held coordination meetings with the consultant, Metro Analytics. Staff held a 2050 MTP Stakeholder meeting. Staff continued to assist Metro Analytics with data requests and scheduling of public participation events.

Quarter 4 Report: Staff held coordination meetings with the consultant, Metro Analytics. Staff held a 2050 MTP Stakeholder meeting. Staff continued to assist Metro Analytics with data requests and scheduling of public participation events. Staff ar working to present further potential projects/initiatives to the VLMPPO committees.

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 2050 MTP Quarterly Report)

Expenditures to Date: \$NA (See 2050 MTP Quarterly Report)

Products	2050 MTP, Ongoing Urban Transit Implementation and Future Transit Planning, various other studies TBD
Agency	SGRC Transportation and Environmental (VLMPPO) Staff Support Consultant (as needed)
Schedule:	July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Percent Expended: NA% (See 2050 MTP Quarterly Report)

Project Complete: NA% (See 2050 MTP Quarterly Report)

Approved planning program revisions: None at this time.