



Unified Planning Work Program

FY 2026 FTA 5303 Application

Prepared By:
Augusta Planning & Development Department
Carla Delaney, Director



In Cooperation With:
Aiken County, Edgefield County, and Columbia County
Federal Transit Administration
Federal Highway Administration
Georgia Department of Transportation
South Carolina Department of Transportation
<https://www.augustaga.gov/680/ARTS-Metropolitan-Planning-Organization>

Adopted May 16, 2024



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FISCAL YEAR 2025

**UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
FOR THE
AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

PREPARED BY THE

AUGUSTA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

IN COOPERATION WITH:

AIKEN COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT.

AUGUSTA TRANSIT

LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SERVICING

CITY OF BLYTHE, GA | CITY OF HEPHZIBAH, GA |

RICHMOND COUNTY, GA | CITY OF GROVETOWN, GA |

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GA | FORT EISENHOWER, GA | AUGUSTA TRANSIT |

CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SC | CITY OF AIKEN, SC | AIKEN COUNTY, SC |

TOWN OF BURNETTOWN, SC | CITY OF NEW ELLENTON, SC | EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SC |

BEST FRIEND EXPRESS | LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Adopted May 16, 2024

Amended July 25, 2024

The contents of this report reflect the views of the persons preparing the document and those individuals are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Georgia Department of Transportation, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, or the Federal Transit Administration. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

WORK ELEMENT 8 FY 2026 – PUBLIC TRANSIT /PARATRANSIT

TASK 8.1 - Program Support and Administration (44.21.00)

Purpose: To provide planning and administrative assistance to Augusta Transit (AT) and LSCOG (Lower Savannah Council of Governments). Under this work element, the MPO staff will aid AT and Best Friend Express (BFE) in preparing financial and operation reports required by the MAP 21/ FAST Act/ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law legislation. Assistance in the preparation of the National Transit Database (NTD) reports will also continue.

Additional administrative assistance will include: Preparing required certifications; Updating annual Title VI assurances; Providing an opportunity for public hearings on grant applications and fare/service changes; Processing procurements involving Federal and State funds; Assisting in planning for transit system capital investments that will lead to increased security for the transit system; Monitoring requirements of the grant process (e.g. labor certifications, third party contracting, bidding, and award process); Developing the Georgia public transportation portion of the Unified Planning Work Program; and providing technical assistance on any transit-related issues facing AT.

LSCOG and their BFE staff will participate in the above-mentioned activities on behalf of their program and will also engage in employee training and education; participation in, and attendance at, ARTS committees; community outreach and marketing events; multiple grant(s) development, writing, and grant administration; grant reporting; Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) reporting; procurement; service provider contracting and oversight.

Previous Work

1. Grant submission for a three year application for FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for the Elderly and Disabled Persons for LSCOG.
2. Amendment written for FTA Grant SC-2019-002-01 for continued funding.
3. New grant written/approved for a Transit Improvement Study for the BFE.
4. Four (4) outreach events in Aiken County for public input on improved routing of the BFE.

FY 2026 Work Activities and Schedule

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE
1. Update the Annual Title VI Monitoring Report.	August 2025
2. Update socioeconomic demographic GIS data analysis for EJ.	July 202 - March 2026
3. Conduct public meetings for review and comment period for Program of Projects (POP) related to grant applications and fare increases/service reduction, MTP & and special studies.	As Needed
4. Assist in planning for transit system capital investments that will lead to increased security for the transit system.	As Needed
5. Develop UPWP and Georgia 5303 Grant Application.	September 30, 2025

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE
6. Provide technical transit planning and grant management assistance related to Coordinated Human Services Transportation, ADA accessibility, transit service operational improvements, land use and transportation, transit-oriented development, and other issues.	As Needed
7. FY 2026 FTA 5303 Quarterly Reports to GDOT and SCDOT.	Oct, Jan, Apr, Jun
8. Facilitate MPO committee meetings for transit planning tasks.	Quarterly
9. Prepare split grant funding tables and assist with grant submission for 5307 and 5339 split allocations for AT and LSCOG.	January 31, - April 1, 2026
10. FY 2026 Invoices for Section 5310 Program sent from the MPO to the GDHS contractor for processing.	Monthly by the 10 th
11. Assist with POP and transit funding tables in TIP for AT and LSCOG.	September 30, 2025
12. FTA Section 5307 Grant Application SC	November 2025
13. Semi-annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Reporting for Urban Transit Services SC	Dec. & June 2025/2026
14. FTA Required Milestone Progress Reports (MPR) and Federal Financial Reports (FFR) Reporting for Grants in TrAMS SC	Annually
15. Quarterly Reporting for 5303 Planning Services SC	Quarterly
16. State Application to SCDOT for State Mass Transit Funds (SMTF) funding SC	April 20, 2026
17. Attendance and report presentation to all ARTS Committees SC	Quarterly
18. Applications for Funding to be used as Local Match SC	Annually
19. SCDOT Public Transportation Workshop	September 2025
20. Transportation Association of South Carolina (TASC) conference	September 2025
21. Attendance Georgia Transportation Association (GTA) Conference	November 2025
22. Triennial National Database Sampling – onboard counting of bus riders	Summer 2025
23. Attendance Zero Emission Bus Conference	Summer 2025
24. South Carolina Annual MPO/COG Workshop	TBD
25. National Transit Institute (NTI) webinars	On-Going
26. Assist with Program of Projects (POP) and transit funding tables	On-Going
27. Perform Transit Service Provider Contract Oversight	On-Going
28. LSCOG administration of FTA 5310 funding. Monthly ridership report and invoices submitted to the ARTS MPO.	Monthly
29. Attendance at the Community Transportation Association of America Conference	Summer 2025

Product(s)

1. Grant administration activities for FTA Urban Section 5310
2. Submission of a grant application for capital and operating assistance for public transit
3. Preparation of the GA / SC UPWP public transit elements.
4. Various Monthly, Quarterly, and Annual Reports.
5. Attendance and presentation to all three ARTS Committees (each held bi-monthly).
6. Semi-annual DBE Reporting to FTA

COST ESTIMATES AND PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES

Agencies responsible for task funding: Augusta Planning and Development Department (APDD), Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

FUNDING SOURCE	APDD	LSCOG	TOTAL
FTA (SEC 5303)	\$57,600.00	\$0.00	\$57,600.00
GA DOT (SEC 5303 Match)	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	\$7,200.00
APDD (SEC 5303 Match)	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	\$7,200.00
FTA (SC SEC 5303)	\$0.00	\$26,040.00	\$26,040.00
LSCOG (SEC 5303 Match)	\$0.00	\$6,510.00	\$6,510.00
TOTALS	\$72,000.00	\$32,550.00	\$104,550.00

TASK 8.2 – Metropolitan Transportation Planning (System Level) (44.23.01)

Purpose: Provide and/or create current data annually that is utilized in the MTP and Analysis. These data sets include Socioeconomic Data/Environmental Justice; Land Use Monitoring; Transportation Surveys, Models and Analysis; GIS Development and Application; long-range transit Planning; Performance-Based Planning; Congestion Management; Air Quality Issues; Public Administration; and Intermodal Planning. Community Outreach and Education are performed as part of this task to disseminate the new information. To successfully respond to public transit requirements for Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plans and Safety. To review the 5-year planning horizon for the BFE’s Transit Improvement Study (TIS) completed in 2024.

Previous Work

1. Developed framework for FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities which included service operation strategy, grant administration, and mobility management for travel training.
2. LSCOG assisted with the development and implementation of the FTA Section 5310 urban program for residents of Aiken County who are 60+ or a person with a disability.
3. Developed GIS mapping for address matching for transit service zones to schedule mobility trips and reservations for ADA complementary trips.

FY 2026 Work Activities and Schedule

ACTIVITIES	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATES
1. Continue assessing the financial capability of AT and BFE and continue to secure other funding sources to implement recommendations from previous planning studies.	On-Going
2. Staff tasks related to 2050 MTP Performance-Based Multimodal Plan Update – Socioeconomic data, GIS analysis, and mapping, community outreach, regional travel demand model for transit.	July 2025 – June 30, 2026
3. LSCOG Updates and Amendments to the MTP SC.	As needed
4. Participate in Performance-Based Planning for the Transit System.	On-Going
5. Enhancements to Public Transit	On-Going

Product(s):

1. ARTS will continue all task activities for FTA Section 5310 Enhance Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, service operation strategy, and regional Coordinated Human Services Transportation Framework.
2. 2050 MTP Performance-Based Multimodal Plan Update – socioeconomic data, land use development data collection and analysis, GIS analysis and mapping, community outreach, regional travel model for transit.
3. Corridor Plans – application of Land use and Access Management and Complete Streets policies to increase transit ridership and ADA safety
4. Performance Measures – Public Transit
5. GIS map and address matching for transit service zones to schedule mobility trips and reservations for ADA complementary trips.
6. To review, study, and assist August Transit in addressing transit-related issues. Issues include safety, bus shelter lighting, and ADA compliance.

COST ESTIMATES AND PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES

Agencies responsible for task funding: Augusta Planning and Development Department (APDD), Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

FUNDING SOURCE	APDD	LSCOG	TOTAL
FTA (GA SEC 5303)	\$76,684.00	\$0.00	\$76,684.00
GA DOT (SEC 5303 Match)	\$9,585.00	\$0.00	\$9,585.00
APDD (SEC 5303 Match)	\$9,586.00	\$0.00	\$9,586.00
FTA (SC SEC 5303)	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
LSCOG (SEC 5303 Match)	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
TOTALS	\$95,855.00	\$2,500.00	\$98,355.00

TASK 8.3 - Short-Range Transportation Planning (44.24.00)

Purpose: To perform tasks that are immediate and are reviewed for implementation within the next 3-5 years. LSCOG staff will undertake their required short-range transit planning activities on behalf of Best Friend Express and its paratransit programs. APDD will prepare short-range planning activities on behalf of Augusta Transit. This includes transit program staff preparing the necessary operations reports, periodically evaluating the level of transit service, monitoring requirements of the grant process, preparing the annual update to the Title VI assurances, and assisting in the following year's UPWP.

FY 2026 Work Activities and Schedule

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE
1. Monitor, update, and program grant funds for buses and/or vans for ADA complementary services including the purchase or lease of new transit vehicles accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs.	On-Going
2. Participate with ARTS/MPO in a review and update, if needed, of any Regional Human Services Coordination Plan	On-going or as requested by the MPO
3. Marketing of any New or Revised Service	On-Going
4. Respond to Requests for Presentations to the Public or Agencies	On-Going

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE
5. LSCOG Attorney and Executive Director Signatures on Annual Certification & Assurances for FTA	February 2026
6. Capital Vehicle Acquisition Planning	February 2026
7. Updates to Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan	October 2026
8. Safety and Planning Mandate Updates	July – December 2026
9. Review the Planning Studies for Possible Implementation of Previous Recommendations	On-Going
10. Submit transit system performance data reported to NTD.	October 2025
11. Annual NTD Report and Validation Response	January – February 2026

Product(s):

1. Annual Certifications and Assurances
2. TAM Plan Updates
3. Transit section of UPWP Completed
4. Continued Implementation of the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)
5. Annual NTD Report

COST ESTIMATES AND PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES

Agencies responsible for task funding: Augusta Planning and Development Department (APDD), Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

FUNDING SOURCE	APDD	LSCOG	TOTALS
FTA (GA SEC 5303)	\$42,400.00	\$0.00	\$42,400.00
GA DOT (SEC 5303 Match)	\$5,300.00	\$0.00	\$5,300.00
APDD (GA PL Match)	\$5,300.00	\$0.00	\$5,300.00
FTA (SC SEC 5303)	\$0.00	\$15,960.00	\$15,960.00
LSCOG (SEC 5303 Match)	\$0.00	\$3,990.00	\$3,990.00
TOTAL	\$53,000.00	\$19,950.00	\$72,950.00

TASK 8.4 - Transportation Improvement Program (44.25.00)

Purpose: LSCOG will participate with the ARTS MPO in the completion of the TIP and its updates; coordinate with the MPO for the split allocation letters for Section 5307 funding; assist with the additional programming of FTA Section 5339 and 5310.

Previous Work

1. Continued assessment of the financial capability of AT and secure other possible funding sources to implement recommendations from the COA.

FY 2026 Work Activities and Schedule

ACTIVITIES	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATES
1. Prepare and submit to the ARTS MPO the annual updates to the TIP.	As Needed
2. Review SC STIP and follow up with APDD to make sure LSCOG programming has made it to SCDOT. Programming may include but is not limited to sections 5307, 5339, and 5310.	November 2025
3. Update the text in the TIP regarding the Program of Projects and Financial Plan for the BFE transit system.	On-going

Product(s):

1. Completed TIP document reviewed and adopted by the ARTS Committees.
2. SCDOT STIP reflecting accurate programming information for Aiken County Transit.

COST ESTIMATES AND PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES

Agencies responsible for task funding: Augusta Planning and Development Department (APDD), Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

FUNDING SOURCE	APDD	LSCOG	TOTALS
FTA (GA SEC 5303)	\$32,000.00	\$0.00	\$32,000.00
GA DOT (SEC 5303 Match)	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
APDD (SEC 5303 Match)	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
FTA (SC SEC 5303)	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
LSCOG (SEC 5303 Match)	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$40,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$45,000.00

FY 2026 UPWP BUDGET

Figure 3 - FY 2025 UPWP Budget

UPWP FY 2026 SECTION 5303 GA & SC ARTS FTA SUMMARY WORK ELEMENT		APDD			
		FTA SEC 5303	GA DOT Match	APDD Match	Total GA SEC 5303
8.1	Program Support and Administration (44.21.00)	\$57,600.00	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$72,000.00
8.2	Long-Range Transportation Planning (44.23.01)	\$76,684.00	\$9,585.00	\$9,586.00	\$95,855.00
8.3	Short-Range Transportation Planning (44.24.00)	\$42,400.00	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00	\$53,000.00
8.4	Transportation Improvement Program (44.25.00)	\$32,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$40,000.00
Total		\$208,684.00	\$26,085.00	\$26,086.00	\$260,855.00

UPWP FY 2026 SECTION 5303 GA & SC ARTS FTA SUMMARY WORK ELEMENT		LSCOG		
		FTA SEC 5303	LSCOG Match	Total SC SEC 5303
8.1	Program Support and Administration (44.21.00)	\$26,040.00	\$6,510.00	\$32,550.00
8.2	Long-Range Transportation Planning (44.23.01)	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$2,500.00
8.3	Short-Range Transportation Planning (44.24.00)	\$15,960.00	\$3,990.00	\$19,950.00
8.4	Transportation Improvement Program (44.25.00)	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00
Total		\$48,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$60,000.00