

May 10, 2024

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*Director of Transportation  
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This board is supported by the staff of the  
Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan  
Planning Commission

The Honorable Wesley Corbitt  
Chairman  
Effingham County Commission  
804 South Laurel Street  
Springfield, GA 31329

**Re: Request to Execute the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization  
(CORE MPO) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by June 30, 2024**

Dear Chairman Corbitt:

Over the last year, the staff of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization has been working on the CORE MPO Reapportionment process, including updating the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). We held multiple Working Group meetings, workshops, and MPO Board and Advisory Committee meetings to assist in updating the relevant documents. We greatly appreciate the help of those who participated in the process, including those persons from Effingham County.

Attached is the MOU that was adopted by the CORE MPO Board on May 3, 2024. The CORE MPO Board also approved requesting your formal action to execute the MOU. On behalf of the CORE MPO Board, I am requesting that your governing body execute the MOU by June 30, 2024. The MOU includes a separate signature page for each member to sign. Once all of the member governing bodies and authorities execute the MOU, it will be forwarded to the Governor for his concurrence and signature.

By executing the MOU, Effingham County will continue as a member engaged in the collaborative decision-making process. The MOU sets forth the duties of the members, including those of the Georgia Department of Transportation, CORE MPO and the Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (staff to the CORE MPO). The items related to your jurisdiction are on pages five and six of the MOU, most of which are similar to the previous MOU, which speaks to collaboration to carry-out the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive planning responsibilities under federal law.

Since the federal funds allocated to the CORE MPO for planning purposes require local match, it is also necessary to revisit the local funding support for the MPO. Exhibit B in the MOU explains the cost sharing formula approved by the CORE MPO Board. A chart showing the approximate dues for each jurisdiction or authority for FY 2025 based upon the adopted Unified Planning Work Program is attached.

**Background**

The Reapportionment process is necessitated by the 2020 Census expansion of the Savannah Urbanized Area. Federal law requires that the CORE MPO's MPA boundary expand to include parts of Bryan County and Effingham County (See Exhibit A of the MOU).



It is also necessary to update the MPO and Advisory Committees' membership, the Bylaws and revise the MOU to reflect the current requirements and the expanded planning area membership.

The benefits of the CORE MPO program include but are not limited to:


1. Access to the CORE MPO staff for technical support, which is particularly a benefit for smaller jurisdictions that do not have a dedicated planning staff.
2. Access to CORE MPO funds to address your planning needs, which can address regional or localized mobility issues. If your planning project is programmed you will get a direct benefit on your contribution. (Your contribution is match for the federal funds, so for every two dollars of local funds provided, eight dollars of federal funds are available – a 300% return on investment).
3. Eligibility for federal funds for design, rights of way and construction projects. A project is required to be programmed in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program to be eligible for federal funding. Until the CORE MPO Board includes the project in these plans the funding will not be authorized.
4. Continued access to federal funds. Your contribution will support the CORE MPO planning program that is mandated by the Federal Highway/Federal Transit Planning Rules and must be satisfactorily accomplished or no federal funds will be authorized. Your participation is important.

Please review the enclosed information and contact me if you have any questions. Again, I respectfully request your governing body's action to authorize signing the MOU before June 30, 2024. I am available to make a presentation to your governing body at your request.

Please sign the signature page, then scan and email to [wilsonm@thempc.org](mailto:wilsonm@thempc.org). Also, please use the enclosed envelope to mail the original copy to the MPC office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 912.651.1446.

Sincerely,



Melanie Wilson  
Executive Director & CEO

MW/ww

cc: Tim Callanan, County Manager, Effingham County