

Submitted By: Transportation & Public Works Department
Stephen Bailey, Director

Project Type: Streets/Roads/Bridges related projects - Transportation & Public Works Department

Previously submitted but not selected: No

Continuation Project: Yes - TSPLOST 2023; 32-Traffic Signage Replacement Program

Executive Summary: The Sign Replacement Program upgrades/replaces roadway signage overhead and ground mounted with new high-reflectivity signs compliant with the Federal requirements as outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). (This would be Traffic Signage Replacement Program as there would be multiple sub-projects and there is no pre-defined locations.)

Project Total Cost: \$ 4,476,000

Total Operating Cost: \$ 46,000

Does this Project require the acquisition of any land? No

Project/Program Description: The Sign Replacement Program upgrades/replaces roadway signage overhead and ground mounted with new high-reflectivity signs compliant with the Federal requirements as outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). These signs have an estimated lifespan of 10 years. ACCGov maintains a total of 33,000 signs, meaning that approximately 3,300 signs should be replaced annually on average. This TSPLOST proposal would achieve required life cycle funding, replacing 3,300 signs annually for 5 years, ultimately replacing 50% of ACCGov's sign infrastructure of the life of this program.

(This would be Traffic Signage Replacement Program as there would be multiple sub-projects and there is no pre-defined locations.)

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

How will the Project meet the stated Program Goals in the Mayor & Commission Strategic Plan to provide long-term, ongoing contributions to the Sustainable Transportation needs of the Athens-Clarke County?

Goal Area 1; Section D: Drive community transformation with a focus on creating spaces that are respectful and welcoming: Roadway signage can play a crucial role in transforming communities by fostering environments that are respectful, inclusive, and welcoming. When thoughtfully designed, aesthetically maintained, and strategically placed, signage can help set the tone for a neighborhood or city.

Goal Area 1; Section E: Support & promote healthy lifestyle: moving, eating, forming healthy relationships, physical and psychological care: Clear signage for pedestrians and cyclists promotes a welcoming atmosphere for people of all mobility levels. Examples include clear pedestrian crossing signs, bike lane indicators, and accessibility signs for people with disabilities.

Goal Area 5; Section A: Improve, expand, and maintain sidewalks, shared-use paths, and bike facilities to provide greater opportunities for residents to use active transportation safely: Roadway signage plays a vital role in promoting and supporting active transportation (walking, cycling, etc.) by providing the guidance, safety, and encouragement needed for residents to choose and use these modes of transport. Well-designed and strategically placed signage not only helps active transportation users navigate streets safely but also fosters a culture that prioritizes walking and cycling as viable, safe, and attractive options for daily travel.

Goal Area 5; Section B: Pursue inter-city travel options to connect Athens with other cities: Roadway signage plays a critical role in facilitating inter-city travel by providing clear guidance, ensuring safety, and promoting efficient connectivity between Athens and other cities. Effective signage helps drivers, cyclists, and even public transportation users navigate smoothly between cities, contributing to both the practical and cultural connections between Athens and neighboring regions or destinations. Specifically, wayfinding signage guides travelers into, through, and out of ACC.

Goal Area 5; Section C: Expand multi-modal Transit access to reduce auto dependency and provide greater mobility for Athens residents: Expanding multi-modal transit access through roadway signage is a powerful tool for reducing auto dependency and providing greater mobility for Athens residents. By encouraging the use of diverse transportation options--such as public transit, cycling, walking, and shared mobility solutions--roadway signage can help create a more sustainable, accessible, and efficient transportation system.

Goal Area 5; Section D: Create more usable and aesthetically pleasing corridor connections between residential and commercial areas: Roadway signage plays a vital role in making corridor

connections between residential and commercial areas more usable and aesthetically pleasing by improving navigation, safety, and visual cohesion.

Goal Area 5; Section E: Enhance safety for all modes of transportation: Many regulatory and street name signs are beyond the useful lifespan. Older signs lack sufficient reflectivity which degrades the safety of the roadways and impedes the wayfinding of emergency response vehicles. Furthermore, these older signs are out of compliance with Federal regulations as outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which creates a liability risk. Roadway signage enhances safety for all modes of transportation by providing clear, consistent information th

Goal Area 6; Section B: Ensure equitable access to infrastructure to enhance safety and identity: As part of the 2023 TSPLOST Project 32 Traffic Signage Replacement Program, ACCGov inventoried and rated the physical condition of each roadway sign within Athens-Clarke County. The project concept for the 2023 TSPLOST stated that the signage would be replaced on physical condition factors and sign classification first. This TSPLOST 2026 project would continue with that project concept of data driven replacement, ensuring that equitable prioritization based on safety needs.

Goal Area 6; Section C: Provide adequate funding for maintenance of existing and newly constructed infrastructure: Older signs lack sufficient reflectivity which degrades the safety of the roadways and impedes the wayfinding of emergency response vehicles. Furthermore, these older signs are out of compliance with Federal regulations as outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which creates a liability risk. There are approximately 33,000 signs maintained by ACCGOV. Current funding is providing a lifespan of 165 years for ACCGOV signs, 16.5 times the industry standard recommended life.

Project Costs

Detailed project capital budget costs (to be funded from TSPLOST 2026 only):

Project Costs (round to thousand)	Amount
1. Land Acquisition / ROW / Easement:	\$
2. Design Fees: (Min.12% of New Const.; 14% of reno,; 16% for LEED proj.)	\$ 360,000
3. Miscellaneous Fees: (Min. Minimum of 3% of Construction Costs – used for permitting, etc. Utilize minimum of 10% if land acquisition if necessary.	\$ 150,000
4. Construction:	\$ 3,000,000
5. Construction Contingency: (10% of the Construction line item)	\$ 300,000
6. Testing:	\$
7. Project Management: (4% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 152,000
8. Project Contingency: (10% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 396,000
9. Public Art: Calculated at 1% of the Construction line item.	\$ 30,000
10. Other 1:	\$
11. Other 2:	\$
Project Subtotal:	\$ 4,388,000
14. Program Management (2% of Project Subtotal):	\$ 88,000
TSPLOST 2026 Project Total:	\$ 4,476,000

Operating Cost

Total Annual Net Operating Costs when Project is complete:

Only identify additional or net operating costs to be paid by ACCGov as a result of this Project. Identify the additional or net costs needed, above ACCGov's current operating budget, to operate the requested project; as well as any additional Project related revenues that would be generated. Provide budget costs for each identified category below.

Operating Costs (round to thousand)	Estimated Impact for Annual Operating Expenditures
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES FROM PROJECT	
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	
1. Personnel Costs: from Appendix A	
2. Annual Utilities:	
• Natural Gas:	
• Electrical:	
• Water:	
• Sewer:	
• Phone:	
• Solid Waste Collection:	
• Other:	
3. Operating Supplies:	
4. Equipment Maintenance:	
5. Facility Maintenance:	
6. Other: Public Art Maintenance	1,000
7. Other: Annual Maintenance	14,000
8. Other: Life Cycle Replacement	31,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
NET OPERATING COSTS OF PROJECT:	\$ 46,000

Project Financing

Is the proposed Project to receive funding from source(s) other than TSPLOST 2026? Yes

Total Capital Financing for Project:

If the proposed Project is to receive funding other than TSPLOST 2026, provide a listing of amounts from each of the categories listed below. Please round all dollar amounts to the nearest \$1,000.

Project Sources (round to thousand)	Amount
1. TSPLOST 2026 ¹ :	\$ 4,476,000
OTHER SOURCES	
2. ACCGov General Fund:	\$ 750,000
3. ACCGov Enterprise Fund:	\$
4. State Grant:	\$
5. Federal Grant:	\$
6. Previous SPLOST:	\$
7. Other (describe):	\$
8. Other (describe):	\$
TOTAL SOURCES:	\$ 5,226,000

¹ If any additional sources of funding other than TSPLOST 2026 are indicated above, please provide information related to the source here. Be specific and be prepared to provide all necessary written approvals. (For example: Roadway projects that have approval for Federal Aid and will utilize TSPLOST 2026 funding for matching funds, you would need to provide specific written approval by GDOT)

Describe the current commitments for the other sources funding this project: Assuming a continued general capital funding amount of \$150k/annually over the next five years for this program.