

ATTACHMENT 1

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

Resolution authorized the execution of contracts between the Department of Transportation, United States of America, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, for a grant under the title 49 U.S.C., Section 5303, for FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027)

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Transportation and the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants for mass transportation projects;

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the applicant, including the provision by it of the local project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Federal Transit Act, the applicant gives an assurance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Applicant that minority Business Enterprise, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Women Business Enterprise be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this project, and that definitive procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority businesses shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts and purchase orders when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment contracts, or consultant and other services; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government and the State of Georgia will provide at least \$98,919 of the funding for the Transit Planning (Section 5303) contract expenses incurred by the Unified Government subject to a maximum local match of \$24,730.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County:

That the Mayor is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County with the Georgia Department of Transportation to aid in the financing of a technical study grant pursuant to Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act to implement specific items of the FY 2027 Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) Unified Planning Work Program.

That the Mayor is authorized to execute and file with such application an assurance or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and Georgia Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

That the Planning Director of Athens-Clarke County is authorized to furnish such additional information as the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation may require in connection with the application or the project;

That the Mayor is authorized to set forth and execute Minority Business Enterprise, DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise,) and WBE (Women Business Enterprise) policies and procedures in connection with the projects procurement needs.

That the Mayor and appropriate staff is authorized to apply for a grant, accept such grant, if awarded, and execute these grant agreements on behalf of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County with the Georgia Department of Transportation to aid in the financing of a technical study grant to implement specific items of the MACORTS Unified Planning Work Program.

That the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke government while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration will comply with FTA Circular 8100.1D, FTA Certifications and Assurances for Federal Assistance 2021 as listed in this grant application and General Operating Guidelines as illustrated in the Georgia State Management Plan.

That the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke government has or will have available in the General Fund the required non-federal funds to meet local share requirements for this grant application.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified Clerk of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Mayor & Commission held on January 6, 2026.

Adopted the _____ day of

_____, 20__

Clerk of Commission

Approved the _____ day of

_____, 20__

Mayor

THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Application and Acceptance of the Annual Transit Planning Assistance Grant for FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027)

DATE: November 18, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This is an annual renewal of transit planning grant funding to support Athens-Clarke County Transit system activity.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

REVENUES:	\$ 98,919	Estimated Maximum Federal Share (80%)
	<u>\$ 24,730</u>	Estimated Maximum Local Share (20%)
	\$ 123,649	TOTAL

EXPENSES:

ANNUAL: \$123,649 Maximum Total Grant Amount

CAPITAL:

OTHER:

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund FY 2027 Planning Department Budget

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: January 6, 2026

PURPOSE:

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

- a) Adopt a Resolution (**Attachment #1**) authorizing the submission of an application for and the acceptance of the annual Transit Planning Assistance Grant (Title 49 USC Section 5303) for FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027) if awarded, in the estimated maximum amount of \$123,649 in federal funding; and
- b) Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute the resulting contract between the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

HISTORY:

1. In August 1973, as part of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1973, Congress authorized the Title 49 USC Section 5303 program to provide financial assistance to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) for transit planning studies and activities in urban areas. This continues to be the primary source of federal assistance to help urban areas plan, develop, and improve comprehensive public transportation systems.

2. On October 6, 2024, the Mayor and Commission approved the FY 2026 Section 5303 Transit Planning Assistance Grant in the amount of \$115,000 (Federal: \$92,000; State: \$11,500; Local: \$11,500). This amount was included in the Planning Department's FY 2026 operating budget.

FACTS & ISSUES:

1. ACCGov receives federal and state funds (when available) to perform transit planning activities with the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACCTD). This includes funding the salary offset of the Transit Planning staff, whose duties include, but are not limited to, grant reporting and administration, federal and state system performance reporting for the ACCTD, preparing the transit section of the Transportation Improvement Program, and other transit planning activities. The Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) staff administers the Section 5303 Transit Planning Assistance Grant.
 2. Exact funding amount for the Section 5303 Transit Planning Assistance Grant is not typically known until after GDOT has reviewed the applications statewide; therefore, the total maximum amount of the federal grant shown in the "Budget" section of this agenda report has been estimated. It is anticipated that the actual grant amount will be slightly less than the amount shown.
 3. It is uncertain at this time whether the customary State match of 10% will be available for FY2026. Therefore, this agenda item does not include any matching state funds. If no state matching funds are available, the maximum local match will be 20% of the FY 2026 MACORTS Transit Planning cost or approximately \$19,783 as outlined above in the "Budget" section.
 4. The Section 5303 Transit Planning Assistance Grant is included annually in the budgeting process as an ongoing grant program. The total funding anticipated for transit planning studies and activities in FY 2027 is estimated not to exceed **\$123,649**. ACCGov's 20% share of transit planning costs during FY 2027 is estimated not to exceed **\$24,730**. This funding will be proposed in the Planning Department's requested FY 2027 Operating Budget.
 5. The grant funding will pay for transit planning-related expenses as identified in the MACORTS Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which was adopted by the MACORTS Policy Committee in Spring 2025.
 6. This recommendation is consistent with the Mayor and Commission FY26-28 Strategic Plan: Goals and Strategies:
 - Safely Move Around Athens Goal, Strategy A: *Expand multi-modal Transit access to reduce auto dependency and provide greater mobility for Athens residents.*
 - Safely Move Around Athens Goal, Strategy B: *Enhance safety for all modes of transportation.*
 - Built and Natural Infrastructure Goal, Strategy A: *Adequately plan infrastructure to support our community in the future.*
 - Built and Natural Infrastructure Goal, Strategy B: *Follow through on the commitment to 100% Clean and Renewable Energy resolution.*
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OPTIONS:

1. Mayor and Commission:

- a. Adopt a Resolution (**Attachment #1**) authorizing the submission of an application for and the acceptance of the annual Transit Planning Assistance Grant (Title 49 USC Section 5303) for FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027), if awarded, in the estimated maximum amount of \$98,919 in federal funding; and
- b. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute the resulting contract between the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

2. Mayor and Commission decline to authorize actions necessary to apply for and accept the subject grant.

3. Mayor and Commission Defined Option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option #1 a & b

DEPARTMENT: Planning Department

Prepared by: Robert Walker



Bruce Lonnee, DirectorNovember 18, 2025

Date:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option #1 a & b

Bob Cowell, ManagerDecember 10, 2025

Date:

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 - Authorizing Resolution for Application and Acceptance of the Annual Transit Planning Assistance Grant for FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027)