

Submitted By: ACC Transit Department
Vic Pope, Director

Project Type: Public Transit related projects - Athens Transit System

Previously submitted but not selected: No

Continuation Project: Yes - TSPLOST 2018; 03-Bus Stop & Transfer Facilities Improvement Project

Executive Summary: The purpose of this proposed project is to fund critical public transportation infrastructure for the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department. Infrastructure requested includes an Operations Maintenance facility to house the Transit Department's Operations and Maintenance functions, including Department revenue service and support fleet, and Traffic Signal Prioritization. Funding will also support the redesign and construction of Transit Transfer Centers and associated bus stop amenities.

Project Total Cost: \$ 109,475,000

Total Operating Cost: \$ 0

Does this Project require the acquisition of any land? Yes

What means of land acquisition will be required? Rights of Way, Easement

Project/Program Description: Athens-Clarke County Transit Department has an approved Transportation Development Plan (TDP) which includes provisioning of three additional transfer centers (DTCs) to support the enhancement and expansion of Athens-Clarke County public transportation services. Preliminary planning for DTCs places them strategically county-wide to allow for expansion of public transportation service in areas currently unserved but having moderate to high public transportation propensity.

Associated with the expansion of public transportation services is the need for additional related facilities and equipment. At a minimum, the Transit Department requires additional space to house Operations-Maintenance functions and the revenue service fleet. The existing facility located in the Boulevard neighborhood was built in 1976 and sized for a fleet of 16 buses. As of project submission, the Transit fleet includes 32 buses, 6 - paratransit vehicles, and 12 support vehicles. Per ACC Mayor and Commission mandate, the Transit Department is transitioning to a renewable fuel fleet. Currently, the existing facility will not be able to support this transition without major infrastructure upgrades to include expansion of the land-space requirements of the current facility. Additional maintenance requirements to service the renewable fuel Transit fleet will require renovation and reconfiguration of the existing maintenance bays to support service requirements and additional tooling to operate and store required equipment.

Expansion of public transportation services will require additional passenger amenities to include transit bus shelters, seating, wayfinding signage, and sidewalk connectivity with ADA access.

A portion of the funding would go to charging infrastructure that may include in-route chargers and clean energy sources that may include solar and storage (to provide clean energy charging and offset cost of energy needed in building. Include an additional \$75,000 in operating cost

How is this Project recommended/included in any approved ACCGOV Land Use Plan, Master Plan, Corridor Study, or Service Delivery Plan? 2018 Transportation Development Plan and 2024 Transportation Development Plan

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: Expanding public transportation in the Athens-Clarke County community allows for opportunities to access amenities offered by ACCGov in addition to employment, healthcare, and education hubs.

Goal Area 1; Section E: Support & promote healthy lifestyle: moving, eating, forming healthy relationships, physical and psychological care: Expanding public transportation in the Athens-Clarke County community allows for opportunities to access recreational opportunities, reduces the need for personal vehicle transportation which reduces the chances of vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, and emissions related to the operation of combustion vehicles.

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: Expanding public transportation in the Athens-Clarke County community allows for opportunities to expand the sidewalk and shared-use pathway network to allow for completion of first/last-mile commute of residents.

Goal Area 5; Section B: Pursue inter-city travel options to connect Athens with other cities: The proposal for the new Transit Department Operations-Maintenance facility will allow the Department to provide training for additional Transit employees, house additional revenue service vehicles, and support equipment needed to support the expansion of public transportation services in the region surrounding Athens-Clarke County, and support the community's desired connectivity to the Atlanta region.

Goal Area 5; Section C: Expand multi-modal Transit access to reduce auto dependency and provide greater mobility for Athens residents: This project directly enables the expansion of multi-modal Transit connectivity utilizing Transfer Centers with multimodal access, bus stops with amenities to allowing for multi-modal access including personal vehicle parking, bicycles storage, and connectivity with sidewalks and shared use pathways. Requested funding for Traffic Signal Prioritization equipment will assist improved efficiencies in Transit operations, in turn resulting in lower operating costs.

Goal Area 5; Section D: Create more usable and aesthetically pleasing corridor connections between residential and commercial areas: Rehabilitation of bus stop equipment will assist in keeping established ACCGov Design and Maintenance standards.

Goal Area 5; Section E: Enhance safety for all modes of transportation: Reduced vehicle traffic directly promotes the safety of all Athens-Clarke County residents. Public Transportation directly promotes the expansion and use of sidewalks which encourages residents not to walk alongside roadways which may be hazardous.

Traffic Signal Prioritization equipment will aid for enhanced signaling to allow public transportation vehicles to maintain published schedules, and may be utilized by ACCGov Police and Fire services.

Goal Area 6; Section A: Develop well-planned new infrastructure according to future land use values and framework: Expanding public transportation in the Athens-Clarke County community is in direct alignment with the Mayor and Commission adopted 2018 Transportation Development Plan and the upcoming 2024 Transportation Development Plan.

Relocating the Transit Department Operations-Maintenance facility to the Olympic Way site intended for this purpose will allow removal and restoration of an industrial facility located in the Boulevard neighborhood, which promotes a healthier living environment for current re

Goal Area 6; Section B: Ensure equitable access to infrastructure to enhance safety and identity: Expanding public transportation in the Athens-Clarke County community allows access to opportunities which otherwise may be denied due to lack of accessibility to ACC residents who do not have access to a vehicle.

Goal Area 6; Section C: Provide adequate funding for maintenance of existing and newly constructed infrastructure: The requested Transit Department Operations-Maintenance facility will assist with maintenance of ACCGov Transit Department infrastructure and public transportation fleet.

Goal Area 6; Section D: Follow through on commitment to 100% Clean and Renewable Energy resolution: The project proposal for the ACCGov Transit Department Operation-Maintenance facility directly supports the Department's ability to procure and operate renewable-fueled vehicles, including clean and renewable-fueled buses and para-transit vans. The ability to appropriately transition the existing facility to support renewable-fueled vehicles is largely due to space constraints associated with the existing facility and surrounding residential neighborhood.

Goal Area 6; Section E: Address ecosystem health, infrastructure sustainability, and resilience: Expanding public transportation services reduces community (and regional) dependency on personal vehicle transportation modes, in turn reducing congestion and emissions related to the operations of low-occupancy vehicles.

Relocating the Transit Department Operations-Maintenance facility will allow for the transition of Department vehicles to 100% clean and renewable fuels, which will in turn eliminate the need for the existing diesel and unleaded fuel storage tanks located at Pound Street.

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.)	\$ 7,800,000
3. Miscellaneous Fees: (Minimum of 3% of Construction Costs – used for permitting, etc. Utilize minimum of 10% if land acquisition if necessary.)	\$ 1,950,000
4. Construction:	\$ 65,000,000
5. Construction Contingency: (10% of the Construction line item)	\$ 6,500,000
6. Acquisition of Capital Equipment:	\$ 11,000,000
7. Testing:	\$ 1,000,000
8. Project Management: (4% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 3,730,000
9. Project Contingency: (10% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 9,698,000
10. Public Art: Calculated at 1% of the Construction line item.	\$ 650,000
11. Other 1:	\$
12. Other 2:	\$
Project Subtotal:	\$ 107,328,000
14. Program Management (2% of Project Subtotal):	\$ 2,147,000
TSPLOST 2026 Project Total:	\$ 109,475,000

Project Financing

Is the proposed Project to receive funding from source(s) other than TSPLOST 2026? No

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:	
7. Other:	
8. Other:	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
NET OPERATING COSTS OF PROJECT:	\$ 0