

**Submitted By:** Athens Transit System  
Pat Hale, Interim Director  
Phone: 706-613-3437  
Email: pat.hale@accgov.com

**Project Type:** Public Transit related projects - Athens Transit System

**General Program Goal:** Economic Prosperity

**Previously Submitted and Rejected:** No

**Continuation Project:** No

**Project Total Cost:** \$ 35,598,000

**Total Annual Operating Cost:** \$ (6,980,000)

**Abbreviated - Project Description:** Provide funding for ACCGov Transit Operations and Maintenance functions and personnel for fiscal years 2023-2027.

---

**Project Location/Address:** 775 East Broad Street

**Is the Site currently owned by the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County?** Not Applicable

**Is the Site within State Highway Rights-of-Way?** Not Applicable

**Site Specific Information:** Not Applicable

**Does this Project require the acquisition of any land rights, whether existing sites, new site, easements, or Rights-of-Way?** No

**Project/Program Description:** Provide funding for ACCGov Transit Operations and Maintenance functions and personnel for fiscal years 2023-2027.

**Project Mission Statement/Selection Criteria:** Athens Transit is committed to improving and enhancing Public Transit services throughout Athens-Clarke County by expanding transit services into all areas of the community. This project is envisioned to improve the customer's experience when using Athens Transit vehicles and/or facilities. As well as help to facilitate improvements to the community's overall transportation system by providing more mobility options to all citizens, helping to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and our quality of life, through expanded Transit services. Additionally, the funding may also be used as match state and/or federal grants to acquire additional transit vehicles and equipment, thereby furthering the value of the local TSPLOST dollar.

The project goals are envisioned to:

- a) reduce barriers and improve accessibility to transit users, exceed customer expectations about riding public transit and position transit services as the mobility option of choice
- b) encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation, and
- c) increase transit ridership.

**How is this Project recommended/included in any approved ACCGov Land Use Plan, Master Plan, Corridor Study, or Service Delivery Plan?** Yes, this information is included in the 2018 Athens-Clarke County Transportation Development Plan, adopted by ACC Mayor and Commission. ACCGov Transit funding is programmed into MACORTS TIP

**How is this Project included in the Madison Athens-Clarke County Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) long-range Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)?** The development of recommendations for the update of the Athens Transit

Transportation Development Plan was based on a variety of factors including data collection, performance indicators, input from technical staff and public involvement along with findings and recommendations from the 2018 Transit Transportation Development Plan for Athens Transit System. MACORTS has developed financial planning information for the FY23-Fy26 range. Fiscal year 2027 is not included in MACORTS Tier II TIP. ACCGov Transit Staff estimates cost for FY2027 at \$7,315,213. The Total five year cost is \$34,899,131 to support ACCGov Transit Operations and Maintenance functions.

## PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

**How will the Project meet one or more of the Selection Criteria?**

**Promotes the Goal of improving Equitability of capital improvements throughout the Community:**

This project is requested for the Operations and Maintenance of ACCGov Transit. ACCGov Transit provides fare-free public transportation for all persons in Athens-Clarke County.

**Protects the community's existing Transportation Infrastructure Investments:** Public Transit provides individuals a safe affordable means of transportation, provides individuals a means to improve their quality of life, give back to the community, helps reduce traffic congestion and air pollution and positively influences the local economy in numerous ways. Public Transit provides individuals a means to travel to obtain goods and services, creates jobs and transportation to employment, schools, medical services and social activities.

**Reduces Pavement Maintenance deficit:** Transit reduces vehicle traffic. Increased Transit system accessibility allows for more people to forego their personal vehicle, in turn reducing the need for roadway maintenance.

**Promotes the Upgrade and Continued Use of Alternative Transportation Facilities:** Transit reduces vehicle traffic. Increased Transit system accessibility allows for more people to forego their personal vehicle, in turn reducing the need for roadway maintenance.

**Promotes increased access to existing public facilities:** Transit reduces vehicle traffic. Increased Transit system accessibility allows for more people to forego their personal vehicle, allowing residents of Athens-Clarke county access to public facilities via public transportation.

**Promotes increased usage of the Transit System, including improving Pedestrian access to Transit Facilities:** The funds requested in this project promote the usage of public transportation and pedestrian access by supporting the operations and maintenance functions of Transit.

**Increases capital for Transit Services or expands the Transit System:** The funds requested in this project can be used in conjunction with capital assets to support the daily operations of transit and the ongoing acquisition of capital assets.

**Maintains or Improves Air Quality:** Transit can help to improve air quality by reducing traffic congestion in SOVs along specific corridors with higher frequency transit services and by acquiring low emissions vehicles, which are more environmentally friendly, i.e. hybrid electric buses.

**Reduces vehicle miles traveled and traffic congestion:** Transit reduces vehicle traffic. Increased Transit system accessibility allows for more people to forego their personal vehicle, in turn reducing the need for roadway maintenance.

**Reduces time spent traveling in vehicles:** Transit reduces vehicle traffic. Increased Transit system accessibility allows for more people to forego their personal vehicle ultimately reducing travel time and improving roadway safety.

**Continues TSPLOST 2018 Corridor Improvements or transportation related safety improvements:** This funding request will provide funding for the operations and maintenance for transit.

**Promotes Health and Safety:** The use of public transportation reduces pollutants, increases air quality, and reduces traffic on the road ultimately improving roadway safety.

### Triple Bottom Line Impacts

**Positive Benefits for the Economic Prosperity of Athens-Clarke County:** When citizens use public transportation, it decreases the impacts on other infrastructures such as roads and bridges. Improvements to Transit facilities, bus and bus stops facilities and acquisition of new transit vehicles positively impact various other ACC departments, agencies, and organizations by providing clean, safe, accessible, customer-friendly locations and equipment for citizens to utilize public transportation services to access these departments, agencies, and other organizations, for work, education, medical, shopping or other services. They also reduce transportation costs to some of these departments by clients and support these departments, agencies, and other organizations.

**Detrimental Impacts to the Economic Prosperity of Athens-Clarke County:** NONE

**Positive Benefits for the Social Well-Being of our Residents and visitors:** The positive impact these transit service improvements and new vehicles will have on the Athens-Clarke County Tax Base is an increase in tax revenue, through the provision of access to jobs and the creation of jobs, throughout the community. Studies have shown that for every dollar local communities invest in public transit, a three-fold return is

realized. Public transit creates jobs and opportunities for more than users and transit employees. When customers use Athens Transit, they are able to obtain goods and services, to get to work or to school, and to access health care or social activities. Because of this, more jobs are being created within the community to fill the needs of the transit users. More educators, service workers, retailers, doctors, health care workers, etc. are all needed. The maintenance of the transit related facilities, the procurement of equipment, spare parts and expendable items, all serve to create more jobs in the community. While doing these things, all of our citizens are spending money, making money, gaining the skills, education, or the health care that will allow them to improve their quality of life. All these citizens are putting back into the community, paying taxes, being productive members of our society while bolstering our local economy.

**Detrimental Impacts for the Social Well-Being of our Residents and visitors:** NONE

**Positive Impacts on the Environment:** Public Transportation utilization reduces the need for personal vehicles. The reduction in personal vehicles equates to a positive environmental impact, and increased roadway safety.

**Detrimental Impacts on the Environment:** None.

**Positive/Negative Impacts on ACCGov Departments, Agencies, or other Organizations, if not covered in one of the above questions:** When citizens use public transportation, it decreases the impacts on other infrastructures such as roads and bridges. Improvements to Transit facilities, bus and bus stops facilities and acquisition of new transit vehicles positively impact various other ACC departments, agencies, and organizations by providing clean, safe, accessible, customer-friendly locations and equipment for citizens to utilize public transportation services to access these departments, agencies, and other organizations, for work, education, medical, shopping or other services. They also reduce transportation costs to some of these departments by clients and support these departments, agencies, and other organizations.

## Project Costs

**Detailed project capital budget costs (to be funded from TSPLOST 2023 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.)	\$ -
3. Miscellaneous Fees: (Min. Minimum of 3% of Construction Costs – used for permitting, etc. Utilize minimum of 10% if land acquisition if necessary.)	\$ -
4. Construction:	\$ -
5. Construction Contingency: (10% of the Construction line item)	\$ -
6. Acquisition of Capital Equipment:	\$ -
7. Testing:	\$ -
8. Project Management: (4% of the total budget line items above)	\$ -
9. Project Contingency: (10% of the total budget line items above)	\$ -
10. Public Art: Calculated at 1% of the Construction line item.	\$ -
11. Other 1: ACCGov Transit Operating and Maintenance costs Fy 2023-2027	\$ 34,900,000
12. Other 2:	\$ -
<b>Project Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 34,900,000</b>
14. Program Management (2% of Project Subtotal):	\$ 698,000
<b>TSPLOST 2023 Project Total:</b>	<b>\$ 35,598,000</b>

## Project Financing

**Is the proposed Project to receive funding from source(s) other than TSPLOST 2023? No**