

# Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS)



## Title VI Plan

*Draft September 8, 2021*

Title VI Plan Activity Log

Date	Activity (Review/Update/Addendum/ Adoption/Distribution)	Concerned Person (Signature)	Remarks
9/8/2021	Title VI Plan Adopted by MACORTS		

## Table of Contents

<b>1.0 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Policy Statement and Management Commitment to Title VI Plan</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>2.0 Introduction &amp; Description of Services</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 First Time Applicant Requirements	2-2
2.2 Annual Certifications and Assurances	2-2
2.3 Title VI Plan Concurrence and Adoption	2-2
<b>3.0 Title VI Notice to the Public</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Notice to Public	3-1
3.2 Notice Posting Locations	3-1
<b>4.0 Title VI Procedures and Compliance</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Complaint Procedure	4-1
4.2 Complaint Form	4-1
4.3 Record Retention and Reporting Policy	4-1
4.4 Sub-recipient Assistance and Monitoring	4-2
4.5 Sub recipients and Subcontractors	4-2
<b>5.0 Title VI Investigations, Complaints, and Lawsuits</b>	<b>5-1</b>
<b>6.0 Public Participation Plan</b>	<b>6-1</b>
<b>7.0 Language Assistance Plan</b>	<b>7-1</b>
<b>8.0 Transit Planning and Advisory Bodies</b>	<b>8-1</b>
<b>9.0 Title VI Equity Analysis</b>	<b>9-1</b>
<b>10.0 System-Wide Service Standards and Service Policies</b>	<b>10-2</b>
<b>11.0 Appendices</b>	<b>11-1</b>
APPENDIX A	FTA CIRCULAR 4702.1B REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MPOs
APPENDIX B	MACORTS DESCRIPTION
APPENDIX C	TITLE VI PLAN ADOPTION MEETING MINUTES AND GDOT CONCURRENCE LETTER
APPENDIX D	TITLE VI NOTICE TO PUBLIC (ENGLISH & SPANISH)
APPENDIX E	TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM & PROCEDURES (ENGLISH & SPANISH)
APPENDIX F	MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN
APPENDIX G	LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PLAN / MACORTS LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN
APPENDIX H	OPERATING AREA LANGUAGE DATA: MACORTS SERVICE AREA
APPENDIX I	DEMOGRAPHIC MAPS
APPENDIX J	TITLE VI EQUITY ANALYSIS

## 1.0 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Policy Statement and Management Commitment to Title VI Plan

The Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) assures the Georgia Department of Transportation that no person shall on the basis of race, color, and national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Federal Transit Laws, 49 CFR Part 21 Unlawful Discrimination, Nondiscrimination In Federally-Assisted Programs Of The Department Of Transportation and as per written guidance under FTA Circular 4702.1B, dated October 2012, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation under any program or activity undertaken by the agency.

MACORTS further agrees to the following responsibilities with respect to its programs and activities:

1. Designate a Title VI Liaison that has a responsible position within the organization and access to the recipient's Chief Executive Officer or authorized representative.
2. Issue a policy statement signed by the Executive Director or authorized representative, which expresses its commitment to the nondiscrimination provisions of Title VI. The policy statement shall be circulated throughout the Recipient's organization and to the general public. Such information shall be published where appropriate in language other than English.
3. Insert the clauses of Section 4.5 of this plan into every contract subject to the Acts and the Regulations.
4. Develop a complaint process and attempt to resolve complaints of discrimination against MACORTS.
5. Participate in training offered on the Title VI and other nondiscrimination requirements.
6. If reviewed by GDOT or any other state or federal regulatory agency, take affirmative actions to correct any deficiencies found within a reasonable time period, not to exceed ninety (90) days.
7. Have a process to collect racial and ethnic data on persons impacted by the agency's programs.
8. Submit the information required by FTA Circular 4702.1B to the GDOT. (refer to Appendix A of this plan)

**THIS ASSURANCE** is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all federal funds, grants, loans, contracts, properties, discounts or other federal financial assistance under all programs and activities and is binding. The person whose signature appears below is authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the agency.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: Brad Griffin 9/8/2021  
MACORTS Executive Director Date: Month/Day/Year

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: John Daniell 9/8/2021  
MACORTS Policy Committee Chairperson Date: Month/Day/Year

## 2.0 Introduction & Description of Services

MACORTS submits this Title VI Plan in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 49 CFR Part 21, and the guidelines of FTA Circular 4702.1B, published October 1, 2012.

MACORTS, as a part of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Planning Department, is a sub-recipient of FTA funds and provides serves all of Athens-Clarke County as well as parts of Oconee County and Madison County. Tiny portions of Jackson and Oglethorpe Counties are included within the MACORTS area, but they are non-participating members of MACORTS. The only transit system that receives funding from FTA within the MACORTS area is the Athens Transit System. They have developed a Title VI Plan separate from the MACORTS Title VI Plan. A more in-depth description of MACORTS is included in Appendix B.

### Title VI Liaison

Krystle.Cobran@accgov.com

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Inclusion Office

706-613-3015

[krystle.cobran@accgov.com](mailto:krystle.cobran@accgov.com)

301 College Avenue, Suite 202, Athens, Georgia 30601

### Alternate Title VI Contact

Stephanie Maddox, Internal Auditor

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Operational Analysis Office

706-613-3012

[stephanie.maddox@accgov.com](mailto:stephanie.maddox@accgov.com)

301 College Avenue, Suite 202, Athens, Georgia 30601

MACORTS must designate a liaison for Title VI issues and complaints within the organization. The liaison is the focal point for Title VI implementation and monitoring of activities receiving federal financial assistance. Key responsibilities of the Title VI Liaison include:

- Maintain knowledge of Title VI requirements.
- Attend training on Title VI and other nondiscrimination authorities when offered by GDOT or any other regulatory agency.
- Disseminate Title VI information to the public including in languages other than English, when necessary.
- Develop a process to collect data related to race, gender and national origin of service area population to ensure low income, minorities, and other underserved groups are included and not discriminated against.
- Implement procedures for the prompt processing of Title VI complaints.

## 2.1 First Time Applicant Requirements

MACORTS is not a first-time applicant for FTA/GDOT funding. The following is a summary of MACORTS's current and pending federal and state funding.

### Current and Pending FTA Funding

1. Section 5303 Transit Planning Grant, FY 2021, \$75,642 federal share, Current
2. Section 5303 Transit Planning Grant, FY 2022, \$80,673 federal share, Pending

### Current and Pending GDOT Funding

1. Section 5303 Transit Planning Grant, FY 2021, \$9,455 state share, Current
2. Section 5303 Transit Planning Grant, FY 2022, \$10,084 state share, Pending

### Current and Pending Federal Funding (non-FTA)

1. Metropolitan Transportation Planning Grant, FY 2021, \$191,720.80 federal share, Current
2. Metropolitan Transportation Planning Grant, FY 2022, \$191,720.80 federal share, Pending

### Current and Pending State Funding (non-GDOT)

1. None

During the previous three years, the Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration or the Georgia Department of Transportation did not complete a Title VI compliance review of MACORTS. MACORTS has not been found to be in noncompliance with any civil rights requirements. However, Title VI compliance was included in the MPO FHWA Certification Review that was conducted on October 11, 2017. No issues were identified.

## 2.2 Annual Certifications and Assurances

In accordance with 49 CFR Section 21.7(a), every application for financial assistance from FTA must be accompanied by an assurance that the applicant will carry out the program in compliance with Title VI regulations. This requirement shall be fulfilled when the applicant/recipient submits its annual certifications and assurances. Primary recipients will collect Title VI assurances from sub-recipients prior to passing through FTA funds.

MACORTS will remain in compliance with this requirement by annual submission of certifications and assurances as required by GDOT.

## 2.3 Title VI Plan Concurrence and Adoption

This Title VI Plan received GDOT concurrence on August 23, 2021. The Plan was approved and adopted by the MACORTS Policy Committee during a meeting held on September 8, 2021. A copy of the meeting minutes and GDOT concurrence letter is included in Appendix C of this Plan.

### 3.0 Title VI Notice to the Public

#### 3.1 Notice to Public

Recipients must notify the public of its rights under Title VI and include the notice and where it is posted in the Title VI Plan. The notice must include:

- A statement that the agency operates programs without regard to race, color and national origin
- A description of the procedures members of the public should follow in order to request additional information on the grantee’s nondiscrimination obligations
- A description of the procedure members of the public should follow in order to file a discrimination complaint against the grantee

A sample of the notice, in English and Spanish, is included in Appendix D of this Plan. The sample notice will be translated into other languages, as necessary.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Notice of Public Rights Under Title VI</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ATHENS PLANNING DEPARTMENT / MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MACORTS)</p> <p>The Athens-Clarke County Planning Department and, by extension, the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and / or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with Athens-Clarke County Inclusion Office.</p> <p>For more information on Athens-Clarke County Planning Department / Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study's civil rights program, and the procedures to file a complaint, contact: Phone: 706-613-3015 (TTY: 706-613-3114) / Email: <a href="mailto:krystle.cobran@acgov.com">krystle.cobran@acgov.com</a> or Visit the Inclusion Office at 301 College Avenue, Athens, GA 30601</p> <p>If information is needed in another language, please contact 706-613-3015. Si se necesita información en español, comuníquese con el 706-613-3015.</p> <p>A complainant may file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration or Federal Highway Administration by filing a complaint with:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Transit Administration Office of Civil Rights Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator East Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor – TCR 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Highway Administration - USDOT Office of Civil Rights 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 8<sup>th</sup> Floor E81-105 Washington, DC 20590</td> </tr> </table>	Federal Transit Administration Office of Civil Rights Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator East Building, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor – TCR 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590	Federal Highway Administration - USDOT Office of Civil Rights 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor E81-105 Washington, DC 20590	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Aviso de Derechos Públicos Bajo el Título VI</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ATENAS PLANIFICACIÓN DEPARTAMENTO / MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL DE TRANSPORTE DE ESTUDIO (MACORTS)</p> <p>El Departamento de Planificación del Condado de Athens-Clarke y, por extensión, el Estado de Transporte de Oconee Regional de Madison Athens-Clarke opera sus programas y servicios, sin distinción de raza, color y / o el origen nacional, de conformidad con el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles. Cualquier persona que cree que él o ella ha sido agraviado por cualquier práctica discriminatoria legal bajo el Título VI, puede presentar una queja con el Coordinador del Título VI Gobierno Unificado del Condado de Athens-Clarke en la Oficina de Inclusion.</p> <p>Para obtener más información sobre el Condado de Athens-Clarke Departamento de Planificación / programa de derechos civiles del Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Estudio Regional de Transporte, y los procedimientos para presentar una queja, comuníquese con: Teléfono: 706-613-3015 (TTY: 706-613-3114) Correo electrónico: <a href="mailto:krystle.cobran@acgov.com">krystle.cobran@acgov.com</a> o Visite la Oficina de Inclusion en el 301 College Avenue, Athens, GA 30601.</p> <p>Un demandante puede presentar una queja directamente con el Departamento de Transporte de Georgia mediante la presentación de una queja ante:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Departamento de Tránsito Oficina de Derechos Civiles Atención: Coordinador del Programa VI Título East Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Piso - TCR 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Highway Administration - USDOT Oficina de Derechos Civiles 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 8<sup>th</sup> Piso E81-105 Washington, DC 20590</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Si se necesita información en otro idioma, por favor póngase en contacto con 706-613-3015.</p>	Departamento de Tránsito Oficina de Derechos Civiles Atención: Coordinador del Programa VI Título East Building, 5 <sup>th</sup> Piso - TCR 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590	Federal Highway Administration - USDOT Oficina de Derechos Civiles 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 8 <sup>th</sup> Piso E81-105 Washington, DC 20590
Federal Transit Administration Office of Civil Rights Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator East Building, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor – TCR 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590	Federal Highway Administration - USDOT Office of Civil Rights 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor E81-105 Washington, DC 20590				
Departamento de Tránsito Oficina de Derechos Civiles Atención: Coordinador del Programa VI Título East Building, 5 <sup>th</sup> Piso - TCR 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590	Federal Highway Administration - USDOT Oficina de Derechos Civiles 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 8 <sup>th</sup> Piso E81-105 Washington, DC 20590				

#### 3.2 Notice Posting Locations

The Notice to the Public will be posted at many locations to apprise the public of MACORTS’s obligations under Title VI and to inform them of the protections afforded them under Title VI. At a minimum, the notice will be posted in public areas of the MACORTS / Athens-Clarke County Planning Department office including the reception desk and meeting rooms, and on the MACORTS website at [www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org).

A sample version of this notice is included in Appendix D of this Plan in English and Spanish.

## 4.0 Title VI Procedures and Compliance

### 4.1 Complaint Procedure

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color or national origin by MACORTS may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting the agency's Title VI Complaint Form (refer to Appendix E). The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County investigates complaints received no more than 180 days after the alleged incident. The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County will process complaints that are complete.

Once the complaint is received, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County will review it to determine if our office has jurisdiction. The complainant will receive an acknowledgement letter informing him/her whether the complaint will be investigated by our office within 10 calendar days of receipt.

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County has sixty (60) calendar days to investigate the complaint. If more information is needed to resolve the case, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County may contact the complainant. The complainant has ten (10) business days from the date of the letter to send requested information to the investigator assigned to the case. If the investigator is not contacted by the complainant or does not receive the additional information within the specified number of business days, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County can administratively close the case. A case can also be administratively closed if the complainant no longer wishes to pursue their case.

After the investigator reviews the complaint, she/he will issue one of two letters to the complainant: a closure letter or a letter of finding (LOF). A closure letter summarizes the allegations and states that there was not a Title VI violation and that the case will be closed. A LOF summarizes the allegations and the interviews regarding the alleged incident, and explains whether any disciplinary action, additional training of the staff member or other action will occur. If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision, she/he has thirty (30) days to do so from the time he/she receives the closure letter or the LOF.

The complaint procedure will be made available to the public on the MACORTS website ([www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)).

### 4.2 Complaint Form

A copy of the complaint form in English and Spanish is provided in Appendix E and on the MACORTS website ([www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)).

### 4.3 Record Retention and Reporting Policy

FTA requires that all direct and primary recipients (GDOT) document their compliance by submitting a Title VI Plan to their FTA regional civil rights officer once every three (3) years. MACORTS will submit Title VI Plans to GDOT for concurrence every three (3) years or any time a major change in the Plan occurs. Appropriate compliance documentation will also be provided to the FHWA as required.



Compliance records and all Title VI related documents will be retained for a minimum of three (3) years and reported to the primary recipient annually.

#### 4.4 Sub-recipient Assistance and Monitoring

MACORTS does not have any sub-recipients to provide monitoring and assistance to. As a sub-recipient to GDOT, MACORTS utilizes the sub-recipient assistance and monitoring provided by GDOT, as needed. In the future, if MACORTS has sub-recipients, it will provide assistance and monitoring as required by FTA Circular 4702.1B.

#### 4.5 Sub recipients and Subcontractors

MACORTS is responsible for ensuring that subcontractors are in compliance with Title VI requirements. Sub recipients may not discriminate in the selection and retention of any subcontractors. Subcontractors also may not discriminate in the selection and retention of any subcontractors. MACORTS, subcontractors, and/or TPOs may not discriminate in their employment practices in connection with federally assisted projects. Subcontractors and TPOs are not required to prepare or submit a Title VI Plan. However, the following nondiscrimination clauses will be inserted into every contract with contractors and subcontractors subject to Title VI regulations.

##### Nondiscrimination Clauses

During the performance of a contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor”) must agree to the following clauses:

1. **Compliance with Regulations:** The Contractor shall comply with the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation (hereinafter, “USDOT”) Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21, as they may be amended from time to time, (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations), which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this Agreement.
2. **Nondiscrimination:** The Contractor, with regard to the work performed during the contract, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national origin, in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The Contractor shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by section 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers a program set forth in Appendix B of the Regulations.
3. **Solicitations for Subcontractors, including Procurements of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations made by the Contractor, either by competitive bidding or negotiation for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials or leases of equipment; each potential subcontractor or supplier shall be notified by the Contractor of the subcontractor’s obligations under this contract and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin,
4. **Information and Reports:** The Contractor shall provide all information and reports required by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the *Georgia Department of Transportation and/or the Federal Transit Administration*, to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such

- Regulations, orders and instructions. Where any information required of a Contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information the Contractor shall so certify to the *Georgia Department of Transportation*, and/or the *Federal Transit Administration*, as appropriate, and shall set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this contract, MACORTS shall impose contract sanctions as appropriate, including, but not limited to:
    - a. withholding of payments to the Contractor under the contract until the Contractor complies, and/or
    - b. cancellation, termination or suspension of the contract, in whole or in part.
  6. **Incorporation of Provisions:** The Contractor shall include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (6) in every subcontract, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Regulations, or directives issued pursuant thereto. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the MACORTS, Georgia Department of Transportation, and/or the Federal Transit Administration, may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance.

#### Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Policy

As a condition of your agreement with GDOT, MACORTS and its contractors and subcontractors agree to ensure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, as amended, have the opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts. MACORTS and its contractor and subcontractors shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in the performance of any contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of GDOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of the contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.

#### E-Verify

As a condition of your agreement with GDOT, vendors and contractors of MACORTS shall utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the vendor or contractor while contracted with MACORTS. Additionally, vendors and contractors shall expressly require any subcontractors performing work or providing services pursuant to work for MACORTS shall likewise utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the subcontractor while working for MACORTS.

## 5.0 Title VI Investigations, Complaints, and Lawsuits

In accordance with 49 CFR 21.9(b), MACORTS / Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Planning Department must record and report any investigations, complaints, or lawsuits involving allegations of discrimination. The records of these events shall include the date the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint was filed; a summary of the allegations; the status of the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint; and actions taken by MACORTS / Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County in response; and final findings related to the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint. The records for the previous three (3) years shall be included in the Title VI Plan when it is submitted to GDOT.

MACORTS has had no investigations, complaints, or lawsuits involving allegations of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin over the past three (3) years. A summary of these incidents would be recorded in Table 1.

**Table 1: Summary of Investigations, Lawsuits, and Complaints**

	Date (Month, Day, Year)	Summary (include basis of complaint: race, color, or national origin)	Status	Action(s) Taken
Investigations				
1.				
2.				
Lawsuits				
1.				
2.				
Complaints				
1.				
2.				

## 6.0 Public Participation Plan

The Public Participation Plan for MACORTS, in coordination with the Limited English Proficiency Plan, was developed to ensure that all members of the public, including minorities and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations, are encouraged to participate in the decision-making process for MACORTS. Policy decisions need to take into consideration community sentiment and public opinion based upon well-executed outreach efforts. The public outreach strategies described in the PPP are designed to provide the public with effective access to information about MACORTS services and to provide a variety of efficient and convenient methods for receiving and considering public comment prior to implementing policies or approving planning documents. The PPP is included as Appendix F.

### Current Outreach Efforts

MACORTS is required to submit a summary of public outreach efforts made over the last three (3) years. The following is a list and short description of MACORTS recent, current, and planned outreach activities. Each of the below listed public involvement periods included the following outreach activities:

- posting information on the MACORTS and Athens Transit System (if applicable) websites
- posting information on the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department webpage and Athens-Clarke County website calendars
- announcements in Athens-Clarke County, Oconee County, and Madison County newspapers
- announcements in Spanish language publications available in the MACORTS region (if available)
- notices mailed out to interested individuals via e-mail (public mailing list)
- all committee meetings are open to the public and are publicized approximately 1 week before the meeting
- all committee meetings are recorded and are available for anyone who cannot attend the meeting in person
- During the Covid-19 pandemic, virtual meetings were held. The same process above applied to those meetings.

### Public Involvement Periods & Products in 2019, 2020, and 2021 (to date) Calendar Years

- December 3, 2018 – January 16, 2019: Update of MACORTS Participation Plan
- December 3, 2018 – January 16, 2019: Update of MACORTS/ACC Transit Department Limited English Proficiency Plan
- May 20 – July 3, 2019: Amendment to MACORTS/ACC Transit Department Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP Plan)
- August 19 – September 17, 2019: MACORTS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- August 26 – September 9, 2019: Amendment to FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – SR 10 Lp at Lexington Road
- May 26 – June 9, 2020: Amendment to FY 2018-2021 TIP & 2045 MTP – SR 10Lp at US 29, Belmont Road at Shoal Creek, and Clotfelter Road at Barber Creek Bridge Projects
- May 26 – June 9, 2020: Amendment to FY 2018-2021 TIP & 2045 MTP – UGA Section 5339 Award & ACC Transit Section 5339 Changes
- June 22 – July 6, 2020: Amendment to FY 2018-2021 TIP & 2045 MTP – SR 10Lp at Lexington Road Project

- August 24 – September 22, 2020: FY 2021 – 2024 TIP & Associated 2045 MTP Amendments
- August 24 – September 22, 2020: Amendments to 2045 MTP – SR 10 Lp at US 29, SR 316 Frontage Road, Phase 1 Removed; SR 316 at Jimmie Daniel Road & SR 10 Lp at Atlanta Highway Projects Added
- February 22 – March 8, 2021: Amendment to FY 2018 – 2021 TIP – SR 10/US 78 Bridge over North Oconee River
- February 22 – April 7, 2021: 2021 Update of MACORTS/ACC Transit Department Limited English Proficiency Plan
- February 22 – April 7, 2021: 2021 Update of MACORTS Participation Plan
- March 22 – April 5, 2021: Amendment to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP – Add 2 new Lump Sums, SR 10Lp at Atlanta Highway, SR 10Lp at Middle Oconee River, Clotfelter Road Bridge over Barber Creek
- March 22 – April 5, 2021: Amendment to FY 2021 – 2024 TIP – FY 22 Section 5307 Capital Adjustment for ACC Transit

## 7.0 Language Assistance Plan

MACORTS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization that provides transportation planning coordination within the Athens-Clarke County, Madison County, and Oconee County area. The Language Assistance Plan (LAP) / Limited English Proficiency Plan has been prepared to address MACORTS's responsibilities as they relate to the needs of individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Individuals, who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English are LEP. In the MACORTS area there are 4,152 residents or 2.8% who describe themselves as not able to communicate in English very well (Source: US Census). MACORTS is federally mandated (Executive Order 13166) to take responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to the benefits, services, information and other important portions of its programs and activities for individuals who are LEP. MACORTS has utilized the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) LEP Guidance Handbook and performed a four-factor analysis to develop its LAP / LEP. The LAP / LEP Plan is included in this Title VI Plan as Appendix G. The MACORTS LEP Plan was most recently updated and adopted on May 12, 2021.

## 8.0 Transit Planning and Advisory Bodies

As outlined in the MACORTS bylaws, MACORTS consists of 2 committees - the Technical Coordinating Committee and the Policy Committee. While these committees are not exclusively related to transit planning, transit planning is part of the broad transportation planning scope of the MPO. These committees include individuals based on the position they hold within their organizations including positions such as the CEO of each county, Public Works Director of each county, Transit System Director(s), Planning & Zoning Department staff of each county, and citizen advisory members, along with state and federal transportation planning partners. Also included are members of the designated citizen advisory committees for each of the three (3) participating counties.

Body	Caucasian	Latino	African American	Asian American	Native American	Other
MPO Area Population	69.5%	9.7%	22.4%	3.6%	0.1%	1.9%
Technical Coordinating Committee	77%	0%	20%	0%	0%	3%
Policy Committee	91%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%

MACORTS will make efforts to encourage minority participation on the committees. However, MACORTS does not choose the people hired / appointed into the positions that are included in the MACORTS structure. Every effort will be made to encourage the participation counties of MACORTS to continue to encourage minority participation in their government structure. MACORTS will utilize the minority population demographic maps included in Appendix I in order to focus on the areas in which the committee participation information is most encouraged.

## 9.0 Title VI Equity Analysis

Title 49 CFR, Appendix C, Section (3)(iv) requires that “the location of projects requiring land acquisition and the displacement of persons from their residences and business may not be determined on the basis of race, color, or national origin.” For purposes of this requirement, “facilities” does not include bus shelters, as they are considered transit amenities. It also does not include transit stations, power substations, or any other project evaluated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Facilities included in the provision include, but are not limited to, storage facilities, maintenance facilities, operations centers, etc. Since MACORTS is not directly involved in the delivery of transit services, a Title VI Equity Analysis for these types of facilities will most likely not be necessary. However, if necessary and in order to comply with the regulations, MACORTS will ensure the following:

1. MACORTS will complete a Title VI equity analysis for any facility during the planning stage with regard to where a project is located or sited to ensure the location is selected without regard to race, color, or national origin. MACORTS will engage in outreach to persons potentially impacted by the siting of the facility. The Title VI equity analysis must compare the equity impacts of various siting alternatives, and the analysis must occur before the selection of the preferred site.
2. When evaluating locations of facilities, MACORTS will give attention to other facilities with similar impacts in the area to determine if any cumulative adverse impacts might result. Analysis should be done at the Census tract or block group level where appropriate to ensure that proper perspective is given to localized impacts.
3. If MACORTS determines that the location of the project will result in a disparate impact on the basis of race, color, or national origin, MACORTS may only locate the project in that location if there is a substantial legitimate justification for locating the project there, and where there are no alternative locations that would have a less disparate impact on the basis of race, color, or national origin. MACORTS must demonstrate and document how both tests are met. MACORTS will consider and analyze alternatives to determine whether those alternatives would have less of a disparate impact on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and then implement the least discriminatory alternative.

MACORTS has not constructed any facilities nor does it currently have any facilities in the planning stage. Therefore, MACORTS does not have Title VI Equity Analysis reports to submit with this Plan. MACORTS will use the demographic maps included in Appendix I for future Title VI analysis, if necessary.

The mobility needs of the MACORTS region’s minority populations are considered during the planning process administered by MACORTS. Demographic maps showing the minority, poverty, and zero-car populations within the MACORTS region are included annually in the Transportation Improvement Plan document. This provides the members of the MACORTS committees data for use in their decision making regarding the potential Title VI impacts associated with transportation planning decisions. Included in Appendix J is the Title VI Analysis that was prepared at the program level during the preparation of the MACORTS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Appendix J also includes maps for the MACORTS area showing the public transportation system that is funded with Federal, State, and Local funds in the context of the demographics of the region.



## 10.0 System-Wide Service Standards and Service Policies

MACORTS is not a fixed route service provider.

## 11.0 Appendices

APPENDIX A	FTA CIRCULAR 4702.1B REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MPOs
APPENDIX B	MACORTS DESCRIPTION
APPENDIX C	TITLE VI PLAN ADOPTION MEETING MINUTES AND GDOT CONCURRENCE LETTER
APPENDIX D	TITLE VI SAMPLE NOTICE TO PUBLIC (ENGLISH & SPANISH)
APPENDIX E	TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM & PROCEDURES (ENGLISH & SPANISH)
APPENDIX F	MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN
APPENDIX G	LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PLAN / MACORTS LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN
APPENDIX H	OPERATING AREA LANGUAGE DATA: MACORTS AREA
APPENDIX I	DEMOGRAPHIC MAPS
APPENDIX J	TITLE VI EQUITY ANALYSIS

# **Appendix A**

## **FTA Circular 4702.1B Reporting Requirements for MPOs**

Every three years, on a date determined by FTA, each recipient is required to submit the following information to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as part of their Title VI Program. Sub-recipients shall submit the information below to their primary recipient (the entity from whom the sub-recipient receives funds directly), on a schedule to be determined by the primary recipient.

### **General Requirements**

*All recipients must submit:*

- Title VI Notice to the Public, including a list of locations where the notice is posted
- Title VI Complaint Procedures (i.e., instructions to the public regarding how to file a Title VI discrimination complaint)
- Title VI Complaint Form
- List of transit-related Title VI investigations, complaints, and lawsuits
- Public Participation Plan, including information about outreach methods to engage minority and limited English proficient populations (LEP), as well as a summary of outreach efforts made since the last Title VI Program submission
- Language Assistance Plan for providing language assistance to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP), based on the DOT LEP Guidance
- A table depicting the membership of non-elected committees and councils, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, broken down by race, and a description of the process the agency uses to encourage the participation of minorities on such committees
- Primary recipients shall include a description of how the agency monitors its sub-recipients for compliance with Title VI, and a schedule of sub-recipient Title VI Program submissions
- A Title VI equity analysis if the recipient has constructed a facility, such as a vehicle storage facility, maintenance facility, operation center, etc.**
- A copy of board meeting minutes, resolution, or other appropriate documentation showing the board of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions reviewed and approved the Title VI Program. For State DOTs, the appropriate governing entity is the State's Secretary of Transportation or equivalent. The approval must occur prior to submission to FTA.
- Additional information as specified in Chapters IV, V, and VI, depending on whether the recipient is a transit provider, a State, or a planning entity (see below)

### **Requirements of MPOs**

*Metropolitan Planning Organizations and other planning entities must submit:*

- All requirements set out in Chapter III (General Requirements)
- The requirements set out in Chapter IV (Transit Provider) if the MPO is a provider of fixed route public transportation
- Demographic profile of the metropolitan area
- A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations are identified and considered in the planning process
- Demographic maps that show the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds in the aggregate for public transportation projects

- Analysis of the MPO's transportation system investments that identifies and addresses any disparate impacts
- Description of the procedures the agency uses to ensure nondiscriminatory pass-through of FTA financial assistance (if requested)
- Description of the procedures the agency uses to provide assistance to potential sub-recipients in a nondiscriminatory manner (if requested)

# **Appendix B**

## **MACORTS Description**

### MACORTS Description

1. An overview of the organization including its mission, program goals and objectives.  
 The Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) is the metropolitan planning organization serving the region including all of Athens-Clarke County and portions of Madison County, Oconee County, Jackson County, and Oglethorpe County. Jackson and Oglethorpe Counties are non-participating members. MACORTS provides a continuing, comprehensive, cooperative urban transportation planning process. MACORTS strives to provide and maintain a multimodal transportation system that serves the needs of all citizens and provides efficient, safe, and convenient mobility, encourages desirable land use and development, promotes economic development, and minimizes adverse social and environmental impacts.
  
2. Organizational structure, type of operation, number of employees, service hours, staffing plan and safety and security plan.  
 MACORTS staff includes the Director of the MPO, 1 Transportation Planner, and 1 Associate Transportation Planner. MACORTS operates as a part of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County's Planning Department and is housed at that location. The Director of the MPO is also Director of the Planning Department.  
  
 MACORTS is made up of two committees – Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Policy Committee (PC). The TCC is made up of staff level technical positions from each county government, the University of Georgia, transit providers, GDOT, FHWA, FTA, and other transportation entities. This group makes recommendations to the Policy Committee, which serves as the decision-making body of MACORTS. The PC is made up of the CEO of each participating county, a citizen representative from each county, a representative from the University of Georgia, and a GDOT representative.  
  
 Safety and security plans are developed and administered through the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County and the other member counties individually.
  
3. Indicate if your agency is a government authority.  
 MACORTS operates as a part of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County's Planning Department.
  
4. Who is responsible for insurance, training and management, and administration of the agency's transportation programs?  
 MACORTS does not provide any transit service.
  
5. Who provides vehicle maintenance and record keeping?  
 MACORTS does not have vehicles nor provide any transit service.
  
6. Number of current transportation related employees  
 MACORTS funding includes the FHWA PL Metropolitan Transportation Planning Grant (80% federal; 20% local) and the FTA Section 5303 Transit Planning Grant (80% federal; 10% state; 10% local). MACORTS staff includes Director (15% PL Grant funded / 85% locally funded), 1 Transportation

Planner (PL Grant funded), 1 Associate Transportation Planner (PL Grant funded), and 1 Transit Planner (Section 5303 grant funded).

7. Who will drive the vehicle, number of drivers, CDL certifications, etc.?  
MACORTS does not provide any transit service.
8. A detailed description of service routes and ridership numbers  
MACORTS does not provide any transit service.



# **Appendix C**

## **Title VI Plan Adoption Meeting Minutes and GDOT Concurrence Letter**



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

August 23, 2021

Sherry F. McDuffie  
Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS)  
120 W. Dougherty Street  
Athens, Georgia 30601

Dear Ms. McDuffie,

The Department has completed its review of your Title VI Plan and has determined that it meets the requirements established in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Circular 4702.1B, "Title VI Program Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients," effective October 1, 2012.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and compliance of the FTA Civil Rights Program requirements. Should you need assistance or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ashley Finch, Rail/Transit Planner directly at [afinch@dot.ga.gov](mailto:afinch@dot.ga.gov) or (470) 432-1751.

Sincerely,

Kaycee Mertz



Kaycee Mertz  
Transit Program Manager  
Division of Intermodal

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

MACORTS Policy Committee  
 WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform  
 Wednesday, September 8, 2021  
 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** John Daniell, Oconee County Chairman  
 Kelly Girtz, Athens-Clarke County Mayor  
 Dave Henson, Oconee County Citizen  
 Sara Beresford, Athens Clarke County Citizen  
 Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning Office  
 Brett Jackson, UGA Transit  
 Brad Griffin, MACORTS – Alternate for early meeting

**Others Present:** Cherie Varnum, MACORTS  
 Pat Hale, Athens Transit Department  
 Tom Caiafa, GDOT Planning Office  
 Kimberly Grayson, GDOT Planning Office  
 Sue Anne Decker, GDOT District 1  
 Virginia Hamilton, UGA  
 Todd Bervan, UGA Transit  
 Ann-Marie Day, FHWA  
 Charles Hunt, Oconee County Citizen  
 Andy Hill, Oconee County Citizen

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Mr. Girtz called the meeting to order at 10:12 am

**II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Beresford made a motion to approve the minutes from August 11, 2021 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**III. REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED AT TCC MEETINGS / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Mrs. Varnum reviewed the public comment offered at the TCC meeting on August 25 as follows:

- Sharon Thelen, a citizen of Oconee County, spoke representing the Dials Mill Plantation Property Owners Association. The subdivision is located just south of the SR 316/Dials Mill Road interchange area. She outlined the potential impacts of both interchange projects on 316 at Dials Mill Road Extension and Dials Mill Road on the surrounding area and her subdivision specifically. She spoke about the need for more information regarding the interchange project and the process and options that have been considered to date. SueAnne Decker, GDOT District

Office, provided a link to information on GDOT's website and the email address to the project manager.

- Brian Brodrick, Mayor of Watkinsville, spoke in support of moving the Watkinsville Truck Bypass forward into the Scoping Phase. The project is a key priority for the Watkinsville City Council to mitigate truck traffic downtown.

#### **IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL DRAFT TITLE VI PLAN**

Mrs. Varnum stated the Title VI Plan is submitted to GDOT every 3 years. She explained the format is a template provided by GDOT Intermodal to all their sub-recipients so they can report their procedures as they relate to Title VI. She noted the content is repackaged information this committee saw when the Participation Plan and the Limited English Proficiency Plan were updated earlier this year. She explained the document is required to be signed and accepted by the MPO. She stated TCC recommended approval of the document for submission to GDOT.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to approve Title VI Plan for submission to GDOT Intermodal Programs Office. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

#### **V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) & FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO ADD THE SCOPING PHASE FOR THE WATKINSVILLE TRUCK BYPASS FROM US 441/SR 24 TO SR 15**

Mrs. Varnum explained GDOT has requested to include a Scoping phase for this project in the MTP & TIP so that federal transportation funds can be used for it. She noted there is no alignment or any detail beyond that included in the title on the agenda. Activities during the scoping phase include defining the required project deliverables, the working budget, and the schedule for designing and developing the project. The amount of funding required would be \$500,000 (\$400,000 federal & \$100,000 state). She explained the amendment to the MTP could be accomplished using some of the 'leftover' funds in the Plan so no projects would have to be moved out to make room for it. The TIP would be amended to include the Scoping in FY 22.

Mrs. Varnum stated staff would run both amendments together through the public process. She noted when the project moves out of the scoping phase, another amendment would be required through MACORTS. She explained the public comment period would be from September 20 – October 4, 2021 with a virtual and in person meeting. She stated TCC recommended approval to take the amendment to the public for review and comment.

Ms. Beresford asked for clarification about what is involved in the scoping phase. Ms. Decker explained that the scoping phase helps GDOT develop a schedule and Practical Alternatives Report (PAR) and understand any difficulties associated with the project before much more is invested in the PE phase. She was not sure why this project is being moved forward at this time.

Mr. Daniell stated that Oconee County has been interested in a bypass to US 441 for a while, however, most of the time the proposed alignments were outside of the MACORTS area. There's an issue with how the US 441 Widening will affect the town of Bishop. With increasing truck traffic coming up SR 15, it's important to look at ways to get traffic between SR 15 and US 441. This will have a big impact on Watkinsville.

Mr. Girtz made reference to his personal experience with the problematic truck traffic coming through Watkinsville to Madison and Milledgeville that he experienced during his tenure at his last job. He stated he had spoken to Mayor Broderick about his hope for the City of Watkinsville to have walkable and safe downtown corridor.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the amendment to add the scoping phase of the Watkinsville Truck Bypass to the 2045 MTP & 21-24 TIP to be taken to the public for review and comment. Mr. Daniell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Girtz spoke about the Atlanta Regional Commission's proposal for a bus route from Dekalb County and Athens-Clarke Counties for state funding. He stated support for the route and hoped to see the route funded by the state in the next couple of years.

#### **VIII. ADJOURN**

Mr. Girtz adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am and stated the next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2021.

# **Appendix D**

## **Title VI Notice to Public (English & Spanish)**

## Notice of Public Rights Under Title VI

### ATHENS PLANNING DEPARTMENT / MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MACORTS)

The Athens-Clarke County Planning Department and, by extension, the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and / or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with Athens-Clarke County Inclusion Office.

For more information on Athens-Clarke County Planning Department / Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study's civil rights program, and the procedures to file a complaint, contact:

Phone: 706-613-3015 (TTY: 706-613-3114) / Email: [Krystle.Cobran@accgov.com](mailto:Krystle.Cobran@accgov.com) or

Visit the Inclusion Office at 301 College Avenue, Athens, GA 30601.

If information is needed in another language, please contact 706-613-3015.

Si se necesita información en español, comuníquese con el 706-613-3015.

A complainant may file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration or Federal Highway Administration by filing a complaint with:

Federal Transit Administration  
Office of Civil Rights  
Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator  
East Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor – TCR  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Highway Administration - USDOT  
Office of Civil Rights  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor E81-105  
Washington, DC 20590

## **Aviso de Derechos Públicos Bajo el Título VI**

### **ATENAS PLANIFICACIÓN DEPARTAMENTO / MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL DE TRANSPORTE DE ESTUDIO (MACORTS)**

El Departamento de Planificación del Condado de Athens-Clarke y, por extensión, el Estudio de Transporte de Oconee Regional de Madison Athens-Clarke opera sus programas y servicios, sin distinción de raza, color y / o el origen nacional, de conformidad con el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles. Cualquier persona que cree que él o ella ha sido agraviada por cualquier práctica discriminatoria ilegal bajo el Título VI, puede presentar una queja con el Coordinador del Título VI Gobierno Unificado del Condado de Athens-Clarke en la Oficina del Inclusion.

Para obtener más información sobre el Condado de Athens-Clarke Departamento de Planificación / programa de derechos civiles del Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Estudio Regional de Transporte, y los procedimientos para presentar una queja, comuníquese con:

Teléfono: 706-613-3015 (TTY: 706-613-3114)  
Correo electrónico: [krystle.cobran@accgov.com](mailto:krystle.cobran@accgov.com) o  
Visite la Oficina de Inclusion en el 301 College Avenue, Athens, GA 30601.

Un demandante puede presentar una queja directamente con el Departamento de Transporte de Georgia mediante la presentación de una queja ante:

Departamento de Tránsito  
Oficina de Derechos Civiles  
Atención: Coordinador del Programa VI Título  
East Building, 5th Piso - TCR  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Highway Administration - USDOT  
Oficina de Derechos Civiles  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
8th Piso E81-105  
Washington, DC 20590

Si se necesita información en otro idioma, por favor póngase en contacto con 706-613-3015.



# **Appendix E**

## **Title VI Complaint Form & Procedures (English & Spanish)**

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia

Title VI Complaint Form

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act requires that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Note: The following information is necessary to assist the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCUG) in processing your complaint. Should you require any assistance in completing this form, please contact the Title VI Coordinator. Complete and return this form to Stephanie Maddox, Title VI Coordinator, City Hall, 301 College Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30605.

1. Complainant’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Address \_\_\_\_\_

3. City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

4. Telephone Number (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (business) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Person discriminated against (if someone other than the complainant)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which of the following best describes the reason you believe the discrimination took place? Was it because of your:

a. Race/Color \_\_\_\_\_

b. National Origin \_\_\_\_\_

c. Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. What date did the alleged discrimination take place? \_\_\_\_\_

8. In your own words, describe the alleged discrimination. Explain what happened and whom you believe was responsible. Please use the back of this form if additional space is required.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Have you filed this complaint with any other federal, state, or local agency; or with any federal or state court? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal agency      \_\_\_\_\_ Federal court      \_\_\_\_\_ State agency  
 \_\_\_\_\_ State court      \_\_\_\_\_ Local agency

10. Please provide information about a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

11. Please sign below. You may attach any written materials or other information that you think is relevant to your complaint.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
 Complainant's Signature

**Table 1: Summary of Investigations, Lawsuits, and Complaints**

	Date (Month, Day, Year)	Summary (include basis of complaint: race, color, or national origin)	Status	Action(s) Taken
Investigations				
1.				
2.				
Lawsuits				
1.				
2.				
Complaints				
1.				

2.			
----	--	--	--

**El Gobierno Unificado del Condado de Athens-Clarke, Georgia**  
**Formulario de Queja Título VI**

Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 establece que "Ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos, por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional, ser excluida de participar en, ser negado los beneficios de, o ser objeto de discriminación bajo cualquier programa o actividad que reciba asistencia financiera federal ".

Nota: La siguiente información es necesaria para ayudar al Gobierno Unificado del Condado de Athens-Clarke (ACCUG) en la tramitación de su queja. Si necesita ayuda para completar este formulario, por favor póngase en contacto con el Coordinador del Título VI. Completar y devolver este formulario a Stephanie Maddox, Título VI Coordinador, City Hall, 301 College Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30605.

1. Nombre del demandante \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ciudad, Estado y Código Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_
4. Teléfono(casa) \_\_\_\_\_ (negocio) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Persona discriminado (si alguien que no sea el demandante)  
 Nombre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ciudad, Estado y Código Postal \_\_\_\_\_
6. ¿Cuál de las siguientes opciones describe mejor la razón por la que cree que se produjo la discriminación? ¿Fue por su:
  - a. Raza / color \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Nacional Origen \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. otro \_\_\_\_\_
7. ¿En qué fecha la supuesta discriminación se llevan a cabo? \_\_\_\_\_
8. En sus propias palabras, describir la supuesta discriminación. Explique lo que pasó y quien considera que fue responsable. Utilice el reverso de este formulario si necesita más espacio.

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

9. ¿Ha presentado esta queja con cualquier otro federal, estatal o local; o con cualquier corte federal o estatal? \_\_\_\_\_ Sí \_\_\_\_\_ No

En caso afirmativo, marque todo lo que corresponda:

\_\_\_\_\_ Agencia Federal \_\_\_\_\_ Corte Federal Agencia \_\_\_\_\_ State Corte  
\_\_\_\_\_ State agencia \_\_\_\_\_ Agencia Local

10. Sírvanse proporcionar información sobre una persona de contacto en la agencia / tribunal donde se presentó la denuncia.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ciudad, estado y código postal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Número de teléfono \_\_\_\_\_

11. Por favor, firme abajo. Puede adjuntar cualquier material escrito o cualquier otra información que usted piensa que es relevante para su queja.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Del demandante Firma

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fecha

## Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County's Title VI Nondiscrimination Complaint Procedures

### Overview

These procedures apply to all complaints filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 relating to any program or activity administered by ACCUG or its subrecipients, consultants, and/or contractors. Intimidation or retaliation of any kind is prohibited by law.

### Right to File Complaints

These procedures do not deny the right of the complainant to file formal complaints with other state or federal agencies or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination. Every effort will be made to resolve complaints informally at the recipient and subrecipient level. The option of informal mediation meeting(s) between the affected parties and the Title VI Coordinator may be utilized for resolution.

### Procedures

1. Any individual, group of individuals, or entity that believes it has been subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI nondiscrimination provisions may file a written complaint with ACCUG's Title VI Coordinator using the Title VI Complaint Form attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. A formal complaint must be filed in writing or in person by the complainant and/or his/her representative no later than 180 calendar days after the alleged discrimination occurred or after the alleged discrimination became known to the complainant. The complaint must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Complaint shall be in writing and signed by the complainant(s).
  - b. Include the date of the alleged act of discrimination (date when the complainant(s) became aware of the alleged discrimination; or the date on which that conduct was discontinued or the latest instance of the conduct).
  - c. Present a detailed description of the issues, including but not limited to names and job titles of those individuals perceived as parties in the complained-of incident.
  - d. Generally, the Title VI Coordinator will acknowledge receipt of a complaint within 10 days of it being submitted and inform the complainant of action taken or any possible action to process the complaint; provided that the complainant must first provide the identity(ies) of the complainant(s) and affirm its intent to proceed with the complaint.
  - e. Allegations received by telephone will be reduced to writing and provided to the complainant for confirmation or revision before processing. A complaint form will

be forwarded to the complainant for him/her to complete, sign, and return to the Title VI Coordinator for processing.

Failure of the complainant to respond to requests for information may result in a dismissal of the complaint.

2. Upon receiving the written complaint, ACCUG will determine its jurisdiction, acceptability of the complaint, need for additional information, and the investigative merit of the complaint. In some situations, ACCUG may request GDOT's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity to conduct the investigation. In the event GDOT handles the investigation, GDOT will follow its adopted procedures for investigating discrimination complaints, per its current Title VI Plan.
3. A complaint may be dismissed for the following reasons:
  - a. The complainant requests the withdrawal of the complaint.
  - b. The complainant fails to respond to repeated requests for additional information needed to process the complaint.
  - c. The complainant cannot be located after reasonable attempts.
4. If the complaint is against a subrecipient, consultant, or contractor under contract with ACCUG, the appropriate sub-recipient, consultant, or contractor shall be notified of the complaint within fifteen (15) calendar days of the County receiving the complaint.
5. Once ACCUG decides its course of action, the complainant and the respondent will be notified in writing of such determination within five (5) calendar days. The complaint will be logged in the Title VI Coordinator's records along with the basis for the allegation identified and the race, color, national origin, handicap/disability, age and gender of the complainant.
6. In cases where ACCUG assumes the investigation of the complaint, the Title VI Coordinator will provide the respondent with the opportunity to respond to the allegations in writing. The respondent will have 10 calendar days to furnish the Title VI Coordinator with his/her response to the allegations.
7. Within 60 calendar days of the acceptance of the complaint, the Title VI Coordinator (or GDOT investigator) will prepare an investigative report. Only qualified, well-trained investigators should conduct the investigations. The report shall include a narrative description of the incident, identification of persons interviewed, findings, and recommendations for disposition.
8. The investigative report shall be reviewed by the ACCUG Attorney's office (the "Attorney"). The Attorney may discuss the report and its recommendations with the Title

- VI Coordinator and other staff as appropriate. The report will be modified as needed and made final for its release to the complainant and respondent.
9. Once the investigative report becomes final, briefings will be scheduled with the complainant and respondent within fifteen (15) calendar days. Both the complainant and the respondent shall receive a copy of the investigative report during the briefings and will be notified of their respective appeal rights.
  10. A copy of the final investigative report and a copy of the complaint will be forwarded to the Georgia Department of Transportation Office of Equal Employment Opportunity within sixty (60) calendar days of the completion of the briefings.
  11. If the complainant or respondent is not satisfied with the results of the investigation of the alleged discriminatory practice(s), he or she shall be advised of his/her rights to appeal ACCUG's decision to GDOT, United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), United States Department of Justice (USDOJ), or other entity as appropriate. The complainant has thirty (30) calendar days after ACCUG's briefing to appeal. Unless new facts not previously considered come to light, reconsideration of ACCUG's opinion will not be available.
  12. A Complaints Log shall be maintained annually by ACCUG. The Complaints Log shall contain the following information for each complaint filed:
    - a. The name and address of the person filing the complaint
    - b. The date of the complaint
    - c. The basis of the complaint
    - d. The disposition of the complaint
  13. ACCUG shall not be allowed to investigate a complaint against itself.

## Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County

### Procedimientos de Quejas del Título VI de No Discriminación

#### Visión de Conjunto

Estos procedimientos se aplican a todas las quejas presentadas en virtud del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 según enmendada, Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, y



la Ley de Restauración de Derechos Civiles de 1987, relativa a cualquier programa o actividad administrada por ACCUG o sus beneficiarios secundarios, consultores, y / o contratistas. La intimidación o represalias de cualquier tipo está prohibida por la ley.

### **Derecho a Presentar Quejas**

Estos procedimientos no niegan el derecho del demandante a presentar denuncias formales con otras agencias estatales o federales o de buscar un abogado privado para denuncias de discriminación. Se hará todo lo posible para resolver las quejas de manera informal en el receptor y el nivel de sub-receptor. La opción de la reunión de mediación informal (s) entre las partes afectadas y el Coordinador del Título VI se puede utilizar para su resolución.

### **Procedimientos**

1. Cualquier persona, grupo de personas, o entidad que cree que ha sido víctima de una discriminación prohibida por disposiciones de no discriminación del Título VI, puede presentar una queja por escrito al Coordinador del Título VI de ACCUG utilizando el Formulario de Queja Título VI que se adjunta e incorporada aquí como referencia. Una queja formal debe ser presentada por escrito o en persona por el demandante y / o su representante / a más tardar 180 días naturales después de que ocurrió la supuesta discriminación o después de la supuesta discriminación se hizo conocido al demandante. La queja debe cumplir los siguientes requisitos:
  - a. Queja deberá ser por escrito y firmado por el demandante (s).
  - b. Incluya la fecha del supuesto acto de discriminación (fecha en que el denunciante (s) se dio cuenta de la supuesta discriminación, o la fecha en que se suspendió esa conducta o la última instancia de la conducta).
  - c. Presentar una descripción detallada de los temas, incluyendo pero no limitado a los nombres y cargos de las personas que se perciben como partes en el quejado de incidente.
  - d. En general, el Coordinador del Título VI acusará recibo de una queja dentro de los 10 días de que se presenta e informar al denunciante de las medidas adoptadas o cualquier acción posible procesar la queja; a condición de que el demandante debe primero proporcionar la identidad (es) de la querellante (s) y afirmar su intención de proceder con la denuncia.
  - e. Las denuncias recibidas por teléfono se reducirán a la escritura y proporcionados a la demandante para su confirmación o revisión antes de su procesamiento. Un formulario de queja será remitida a la demandante para él / ella para completar, firmar y regresar al Coordinador del Título VI para su procesamiento. El incumplimiento de la demandante para responder a las solicitudes de información puede resultar en una desestimación de la denuncia.
  
2. Una vez recibida la queja por escrito, ACCUG determinará su jurisdicción, la aceptabilidad de la queja, la necesidad de información adicional, y el mérito de investigación de la queja. En algunas situaciones, puede solicitar ACCUG Oficina de Igualdad de Oportunidades en el Empleo de GDOT para llevar a cabo la investigación. En

- caso GDOT maneja la investigación, GDOT se seguirá sus propios procedimientos para la investigación de quejas de discriminación, por su actual plan del Título VI.
3. Las reclamaciones podrán ser desestimado por las siguientes razones:
    - a. El demandante solicita la retirada de la denuncia.
    - b. El denunciante no responde a las reiteradas solicitudes de información adicional necesaria para tramitar la denuncia.
    - c. El denunciante no puede ser localizado después de intentos razonables.
  4. Si la queja es contra un sub-beneficiario, consultor o contratista bajo contrato con ACCUG, la adecuada sub-receptor, consultor o contratista serán notificadas de la reclamación dentro de los quince (15) días calendario a partir de la Provincia que reciben la queja.
  5. Una vez ACCUG decide su curso de acción, el demandante y el demandado serán notificados por escrito de dicha determinación dentro de los cinco (5) días calendario. La queja se registrará en los registros del Coordinador del Título VI, junto con la base de la denuncia identificada y la raza, color, origen nacional,
  6. En los casos en ACCUG asume la investigación de la queja, el Coordinador del Título VI proporcionará al demandado la oportunidad de responder a las alegaciones por escrito. El demandado tendrá 10 días naturales para amueblar el Coordinador del Título VI con su / su respuesta a las acusaciones.
  7. Dentro de los 60 días naturales siguientes a la aceptación de la queja, el Coordinador del Título VI (o GDOT investigador) preparará un informe de investigación. Sólo investigadores calificados y bien entrenados deben llevar a cabo las investigaciones. El informe incluirá una descripción narrativa de los hechos, la identificación de las personas entrevistadas, hallazgos y recomendaciones para su disposición.
  8. El informe de la investigación, será examinada por la oficina del Fiscal de ACCUG (el "abogado"). El Fiscal podrá discutir el informe y sus recomendaciones con el Coordinador del Título VI y el resto del personal, según corresponda. El informe se modificará según sea necesario y hecho final para su lanzamiento a la demandante y el demandado.
  9. Una vez que el informe de la investigación se convierte en definitiva, sesiones informativas se programará con el demandante y el demandado dentro de los quince (15) días calendario. Tanto el demandante como el demandado recibirán una copia del informe de la investigación durante las sesiones informativas y será notificado de sus respectivos derechos de apelación.
  10. Una copia del informe final de investigación y una copia de la queja será remitida al Departamento de Transporte Oficina de Igualdad de Oportunidades en el Empleo de Georgia dentro de los sesenta (60) días naturales siguientes a la finalización de las

- sesiones informativas.
11. Si el demandante o el demandado no está satisfecho con los resultados de la investigación de la práctica discriminatoria alegada (s), él o ella será informado de sus / sus derechos para apelar la decisión del ACCUG a GDOT, Departamento de Transporte de Estados Unidos (US DOT ), los Estados Unidos Departamento de Justicia (USDOJ), u otra entidad, según corresponda. El demandante tiene treinta (30) días calendario después de la sesión informativa de ACCUG apelar. A menos que nuevos hechos que antes no considerados salen a la luz, la reconsideración de la opinión de ACCUG no estará disponible.
  12. A Quejas Login serán mantenidos anualmente por ACCUG. Las quejas Iniciar deberán contener la siguiente información para cada denuncia presentada:
    - a. El nombre y la dirección de la persona que presenta la queja
    - b. La fecha de la denuncia
    - c. La base de la queja
    - d. La disposición de la queja
  13. ACCUG no estará autorizado a investigar una denuncia contra sí mismo.

# Appendix F

## MACORTS Participation Plan

PARTICIPATION PLAN

MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATIONAL  
STUDY



Prepared by:  
*ATHENS CLARKE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT*

In cooperation with:

*Madison County Department of Planning and Zoning  
Oconee County Planning Department  
Federal Highway Administration  
Federal Transit Administration  
Georgia Department of Transportation*

*Adopted May 12, 2021*

[www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)

# MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## PARTICIPATION PLAN

Adopted May 12, 2021

Athens-Clarke County Planning Department  
120 W. Dougherty Street  
Athens, GA 30601  
Phone: (706) 613-3515  
Fax: (706) 613-3844  
Email: [macorts@accgov.com](mailto:macorts@accgov.com)  
Web: [www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)

*The opinions, findings, and conclusions in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the Department of Transportation, State of Georgia, the Federal Transit Administration, or the Federal Highway Administration.*

*No person in the United States shall be excluded, on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, disability, or national origin, from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination of any kind by the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) membership, staff, or agents.*

MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION  
STUDY  
PARTICIPATION PLAN

<u>Section</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Page</u>
A.	Purpose of MACORTS_____	1
B.	Introduction_____	1
	MACORTS Committees_____	2
	MACORTS Staff_____	3
C.	Participation Strategy_____	3
	Consultation_____	3
	Public Access_____	4
	Public Outreach & Education_____	6
	Public Input_____	7
	Evaluation of Participation Plan_____	8
D.	Adoption and Amendment of Participation Plan_____	9

<u>Appendices</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Page</u>
A.	Resolution Adopting MACORTS Participation Plan_____	10
B.	Comments Summary for Participation Plan_____	11
C.	Locations – Public Notices, MACORTS Documents, & Public Meetings	13
D.	Public Participation Evaluation Criteria_____	14
E.	Public Participation Checklist_____	16
F.	List of Resource Agencies & Consultation Contacts_____	17
G.	STIP & TIP Amendment Process (GDOT)_____	19

**MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
PARTICIPATION PLAN**

**A. PURPOSE**

The Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) Participation Plan is designed to ensure timely and meaningful input into the metropolitan transportation planning process. The Participation Plan outlines the process to involve all interested parties in the regional transportation planning process and the development and amendment of major transportation studies undertaken as part of MACORTS. The overall objective is to provide a process that is proactive, provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement. This most recent version of the Participation Plan has been updated to be compliance with the latest federal transportation legislation, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

**B. INTRODUCTION**

The Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) is the transportation planning process established for the Athens, Georgia urbanized area. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962 established the requirement for transportation planning in urban areas throughout the country. The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), adopted in 1998, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), enacted on August 10, 2005, MAP-21, enacted on July 6, 2012, and FAST Act, enacted on December 5, 2015, are the most recent laws extending the federal requirement for transportation planning.

In keeping with the original federal mandate, the MACORTS planning process is cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive. The MACORTS planning process is cooperative because it brings together local elected officials, state and federal transportation personnel, citizens, and other interested parties to plan and program transportation projects. MACORTS participants continuously evaluate transportation needs and plan for long-term improvements. The MACORTS process is comprehensive because it considers all modes of transportation, including cars, trucks, buses, airplanes, railroads, bicycles, and pedestrians. The MACORTS public participation process for the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) meets the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) public participation requirements related to the development of the Section 5307 Program of Projects.

The MACORTS area includes the urbanized part of the Athens region, as defined by the U. S. Bureau of Census, plus the area expected to become urbanized over the next twenty years. The study area now encompasses all of Athens-Clarke County and portions of Oconee, Madison, Jackson, and Oglethorpe. However, Oglethorpe and Jackson Counties have chosen not to participate in the transportation planning process. Therefore, those counties are not directly included in the Participation Plan. A map of the MACORTS boundary is included on the next page.





**MACORTS Committees**

The MACORTS planning process is guided by two committees: the Policy Committee (PC) and the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). The Policy Committee meets monthly and is responsible for prioritizing projects and making final decisions on MACORTS planning and programming issues. The committee is comprised of local elected officials, Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) representatives, University of Georgia representatives, representatives of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and representatives of the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) meets monthly and is responsible for completing all technical work related to the MACORTS planning process. The TCC maintains all of the required transportation related documentation, and is a recommending body to the Policy Committee. The TCC is comprised of transportation engineers, planners, citizen representatives, transit agency representatives, and managers from the federal, state, and local levels.

The CAC, as designated in the MACORTS bylaws, provides members from each participating member county to both the PC and TCC. Currently, the CAC for Athens-Clarke County is designated as the Athens-Clarke County Planning Commission. The CAC members for Oconee County is designated by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. The CAC for Madison County is designated as the Madison County Planning and Zoning Commission. Therefore, the CAC membership is comprised of citizens from throughout the urbanized area.

~ 2 ~

### MACORTS Staff

The Athens-Clarke County Planning Department houses the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the MACORTS region. The Director of the Planning Department is the Executive Director of MACORTS and Chair of the TCC and is responsible for overall supervision of staff work on the planning process. In addition to designated staff of the Planning Department, employees of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) are directly involved in MACORTS planning activities. Planners with GDOT coordinate state-level aspects of any studies, assist with technical analysis, and play a major role in the development and utilization of the MACORTS travel demand model.

### C. PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

The MACORTS Participation Plan encompasses five (5) components: Consultation, Public Access, Public Outreach and Education, Public Input and Evaluation.

#### CONSULTATION

**OBJECTIVE:** To ensure that major regional transportation documents, including the Participation Plan, are developed in consultation with the general public and other interested parties, and reflect existing and future plans for development of the region. This also involves efforts to identify and include all interested parties in the transportation planning process. The following strategies shall be used to achieve this objective:

#### Consultation Strategies

1. The MPO shall maintain and update a public mailing list composed of stakeholders and potential stakeholders. The purpose of the public mailing list is to disseminate information about MACORTS transportation plans and projects. Any member of the public will be able to sign up for the mailing list at any MPO function, via phone, e-mail, and through the MACORTS website ([www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)). Special attention shall be given to include members of potentially underserved groups.
2. The MPO has identified and involved groups that are traditionally underserved in the MACORTS area in the transportation planning process. MACORTS created and maintains (through census, GIS or other similar means) to identify those communities with high concentrations of minority, low-income, disabled or elderly populations. In addition, the MPO identifies media, where possible, that serves these communities and maintains a mailing/contact list to notify these media outlets of all MACORTS public meetings.
3. Any planning products that are required to go to the public for review and comment including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) shall be prepared and / or amended by the MPO in consultation with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities in the study area. Consultation for these and other MACORTS documents that require public outreach shall include contacts with State,

~ 3 ~

local, Indian Tribe and private agencies responsible for planned growth, economic development, environmental protection, airport operations, freight movements, land use management, natural resources, conservation and historic preservation.

During the development of the MACORTS MTP and TIP the MPO will compare available plans, maps and inventories from state and local resource agencies to determine which resources will be directly or indirectly affected by the plan or program. The consultation process will include the following steps:

- An initial identification of the resources and responsible agencies likely to be affected by the plan or program
  - A review of available information (plans, maps and inventories) derived from agency websites
  - Consult with the responsible agency or agencies regarding the potential impact of the plan or program
  - Document action taken in the consultation process, including acknowledging the receipt of comments and suggestions from resource agencies, for inclusion in the MACORTS MTP and TIP.
5. The procedures for processing administrative modifications and amendments to the MTP and TIP shall be the same as those published by the Georgia Department of Transportation in August 2013 or subsequent versions and included as Appendix G (as amended in August 2013).

**PUBLIC ACCESS**

**OBJECTIVE:** To ensure that the general public and other interested parties have timely and convenient access to agendas, meetings, documents and other information related to the regional transportation planning process. The following strategies shall be used to achieve this objective:

**Public Access Strategies**

1. All MACORTS plans and documents shall be made available for the public to review at the MACORTS office and on the MACORTS website ([www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)). Copies of draft documents also will be available for public review in the planning offices of the participating member counties of MACORTS (see Appendix C for locations). Copies of the current MACORTS plans and documents shall be provided free of charge in digital and/or hardcopy upon request. Copies of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan shall be distributed to all other participating agencies.
2. Updates to the MTP and TIP will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period. A 15-day public review and comment period will be provided for amendments to the MTP and TIP.
3. Administrative modifications to the MTP and TIP are not subject to a public review period. They

~ 4 ~

are, however, reviewed and approved through the MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Policy Committee. Those meetings are open to the public, and the TCC meeting agenda includes a standing public comment item. This insures that the public has an opportunity to comment at those meetings.

4. The development of the MACORTS Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan, and any future amendments to the plans, will be subject to a 45-day public review and comment period.
5. The development of the MACORTS Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and amendments to the UPWP are not subject to a public review period. They are, however, reviewed and approved through the MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Policy Committee. Those meetings are open to the public, and the TCC meeting agenda includes a standing public comment item.
6. The MPO shall provide reasonable access to technical and policy information used in the development of planning products including the MTP and TIP. Committee meeting agendas and minutes shall be posted on the MACORTS website. Meeting recordings will be provided upon request.
7. The MPO shall provide, upon request and 48-hour notice, assistance to those with special needs or limited English proficiency at MACORTS meetings.
8. Pages on the MACORTS website can be translated into any of several languages as chosen by the user to assist those with limited English proficiency.
9. In-person public meetings will be held at convenient and accessible locations and times. All committee meetings, public hearings, and formal events of MACORTS shall be held in facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities. Generally speaking, meetings will be held at public facilities (see Appendix C for locations), on weekday evenings and at locations that are handicapped accessible and served by public transit, where available.
10. As necessary, public and committee meetings may be held virtually at the discretion of the Policy Committee. In preparation for virtual public meetings, all materials to be presented in the meeting will be posted on the MACORTS website ([www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)).
11. If a Final Draft version of an MACORTS document/plan differs significantly from the Draft version that was provided to the public for review and comment, that document will be provided to the public again for review and comment for a minimum of 15 days (45 days for Participation Plan). Whether a document is "significantly different" will be decided by the MPO Staff in coordination with the Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and/or Federal Transit Administration.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

**OBJECTIVE:** To use effective tools and techniques to provide information about the regional transportation plans and issues to the general public and other stakeholders. The desired outcome is that the public provides meaningful input on a transportation plan or issue based upon accurate and complete information and the potential impact of alternative actions. The following strategies shall be used to achieve this objective:

#### **Public Outreach and Education Strategies**

1. All MACORTS meeting agendas will be distributed a minimum of three (3) business days in advance to all committee members, area media outlets, and other interested parties including the public mailing lists. Agendas and minutes of meetings will be posted on the MACORTS web site.
2. Public meeting notices and notices of public review and comment periods will be published at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting date or the start of the review and comment period. The notices also will be posted on the MACORTS web site.
3. The MPO will provide the media with information pertaining to the adoption, revision or amendment of all MPO plans at least three (3) days prior to the date of the final action. Notice will be provided in the form of mail-out materials to committee meetings and other interested parties.
4. The MPO will use the following tools and techniques to inform the media, general public and other interested parties about transportation plans, programs and activities:
  - a. **Press Releases** – Used to announce upcoming meetings and activities and to provide information on specific issues related to transportation planning.
  - b. **Print Display Ads** – Used to advertise public meetings and review and comment periods for transportation plans and projects. Display ads are published in area newspapers throughout the MACORTS area. When available and as time permits, advertisements will be placed in the Spanish-language publications with circulation in the MACORTS region. Virtual meetings will be advertised this way as well.
  - c. **Fact Sheets and Brochures** – Used to provide general information about MACORTS plans and programs, such as the MTP, TIP, Participation Plan, Limited English Proficiency Plan, and Unified Planning Work Program. Fact sheets will be available in print at MACORTS public meetings and in electronic format on the MACORTS website. Brochures will be used to provide summary information about MACORTS and its transportation planning activities.
  - d. **Direct Mailings** – Used to advertise public meetings and review and comment periods for transportation plans and projects, or to provide information to a targeted group or area. A public mailing list for electronic and hardcopy (US mail) communications will be maintained and used to provide information about committee

~ 6 ~

meetings and public involvement activities.

- e. **MACORTS Website** – Used to display general information about MACORTS, copies of MACORTS transportation documents, committee meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, and other information about the MACORTS planning process. The website is also used to advertise public meetings and review and comment periods for transportation plans and projects. Comments can be sent directly from the website to MACORTS staff on an on-going basis. Individuals can sign up for the MACORTS public mailing list directly from the website.
- f. **Speaking Engagements** – The MPO shall make staff available to speak to civic groups, neighborhood associations, and other interested parties about MACORTS transportation planning efforts and associated projects.

### PUBLIC INPUT

**OBJECTIVE:** To obtain meaningful and diverse input from the general public and other interested parties on regional transportation needs, plans, programs and activities. Inherent in this objective is the MPO's responsibility to provide timely response to public input, to document the input, and to recommend changes / amendments to plans based on public comment.

#### Public Input Strategies

1. **Identify Interested Parties** – An interested party or stakeholder is defined as any person or group that is affected by a transportation plan, program, or project, including those who may not be aware that they are affected. Stakeholders may include the general public, environmental, health, neighborhood, citizen, and civic organizations, as well as traditionally underserved communities such as people with disabilities, low income, and racial/ethnic minorities.
2. **Citizens Advisory Committee** – The MACORTS Citizens Advisory Committee representatives will continue to be a source of ongoing input on behalf of the general public.
3. **MACORTS Committee Meetings** – The MACORTS committee meetings, whether in-person or virtual, will be a regularly-scheduled forum for the discussion of, and updates on regional transportation needs, plans, programs and activities. The TCC meeting agenda includes a standing public comment opportunity.
4. **MACORTS Public Meetings** – MACORTS public meetings will be held in conjunction with the update or amendment of the MTP, TIP, Participation Plan, Limited English Proficiency Plan, and the during special studies related to regional transportation issues. As conditions dictate, or at the discretion of the Policy Committee, public meetings may be held virtually. All materials to be shared at the virtual meeting will be provided on the MACORTS website for the duration of the comment period. Copies will be provided to anyone who requests them in either hardcopy or digital format. This will provide the public with ample access to materials and staff beyond the traditional

~ 7 ~

public meeting format.

5. **Comment Sheets** – Comment sheets will be distributed at public meetings and available on the MACORTS website to obtain feedback on regional transportation needs, plans, programs and activities. Comment forms will be made available on the MACORTS website and at the Planning Departments in the MACORTS region during any public comment period. A comment form is available for general comments/concerns of the public on the MACORTS website to provide continuous feedback.
6. **Surveys** – Surveys will be used to obtain information from the general public and other stakeholders as to the effectiveness of the public involvement activities. Surveys will be available at all MACORTS public meetings and on the MACORTS website.
7. **Visualization Techniques** – The MPO will use GIS maps, sketches, drawings and similar tools at public meetings to both convey information and elicit public input about transportation plans and projects.
8. **MACORTS Website** – The MACORTS website will be used to provide information to the public about MACORTS and all of the transportation planning process and products. It will also provide a mechanism for dialogue with the public.

#### EVALUATION OF PARTICIPATION PLAN

**OBJECTIVE:** To evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies, tools and techniques used as part of the Participation Plan. The desired outcomes include increased public involvement in, and awareness of, the regional transportation planning process, and the use of tool and techniques that generate increased public input in regional transportation plans and programs.

**Evaluation Strategies** – The MPO will use the following mix of quantitative and qualitative criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of public participation tools and techniques used in the regional transportation planning process. After each update of the MTP, the Participation Plan will be evaluated for effectiveness. Results of that evaluation will be used to guide what, if any, adjustments need to be made to the Participation Plan. The table included as Appendix F summarizes how these criteria apply to the various public participation tools and techniques used by MACORTS. Some of the possible criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the Participation Plan are listed below:

1. Number of “hits” on the MACORTS website per month, or number of “hits” on the MACORTS website during a public comment period.
2. Number and type of public comments received regarding planning products and/or projects.
3. Number of issues / concerns expressed by the Citizens Advisory Committee representatives and the response to, or change resulting from, the issue or concern.

~ 8 ~

4. Number of newspaper articles / television interviews / online posts generated by press releases and other notices to the media.
5. Number or percent of public meeting attendees indicating how they became aware of the meeting (e.g. direct mail, newspaper display ad, television, website, word-of-mouth) on public participation survey form.
6. Number of people attending public meetings regarding planning products and/or projects or accessing the MACORTS website during a public comment period.
7. Number and type of plan / project changes resulting from public comments.

#### **D. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF PARTICIPATION PLAN**

1. The MACORTS Participation Plan shall be adopted by the MACORTS Policy Committee only after consultation with interested parties, a 45-day public review and comment period, and the consideration of any comments received from the general public and other interested parties.
2. Amendments to the MACORTS Participation Plan shall be adopted by the MACORTS Policy Committee only after consultation with interested parties, a 45-day public review and comment period, and the consideration of any comments received from the general public and other interested parties.
3. Appendices to the Participation Plan include supplemental information, such as comments received about the Participation Plan and a list of locations where MACORTS plans are available for public review. Updates to the appendices are not subject to the consultation and public review and comment requirements. Revisions to appendices will be distributed to all MACORTS committees, applicable federal, state and local agencies and other interested parties.
4. The MACORTS Participation Plan, and any amendments or updates to the plan, will be made available at the ACC Planning Department, and will also be posted on the MACORTS web site.



APPENDIX A

**MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
RESOLUTION OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
ADOPTION OF THE MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION BY THE MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE ADOPTING THE  
MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, federal regulations for urban transportation planning issued in June 2016, reaffirmed the requirement that the Metropolitan Planning Organization, in cooperation with participants in the planning process, develop and update as necessary the Participation Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Region; and,

WHEREAS, the urban transportation planning regulations require that the Participation Plan be a product of a planning process certified as in compliance with all applicable requirements of the law and regulations; and,

WHEREAS, the staff of the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department and the Georgia Department of Transportation have reviewed the organization and activities of the planning process and found them to be in compliance with the requirements of the law and regulation; and,

WHEREAS, the locally developed and adopted process for private sector participation has been followed in the development of the Participation Plan; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study Policy Committee adopts the Participation Plan dated May 12, 2021, as set forth in the document attached to this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MACORTS Policy Committee finds that the requirements of applicable law and regulation regarding urban transportation planning have been met and authorizes the Planning Director to execute a joint certification to this effect with the Georgia Department of Transportation, if necessary.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study Policy Committee.

5-12-2021  
Date

  
Chair, MACORTS Policy Committee

~ 10 ~

APPENDIX B

UPDATE OF DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN FOR  
 MACORTS AND ACC TRANSIT DEPARTMENT & MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN  
 PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED FEBRUARY 22 – APRIL 7, 2021  
 SUMMARY

Note: Draft LEP Plan and Draft Participation Plan were posted on the MACORTS website in their entirety on February 18, 2021 along with a public comment form that could be printed or e-mailed and a comment form that could be e-mailed directly from the website. All materials were available on CD in pdf format as well as in hardcopy.

Virtual Public Meeting (March 11, 2021; 5:30 – 6:30 pm)

Attendance: 0

Total Visitors to MACORTS Website During Public Involvement: 2,111

Total Visitors to Public Involvement Tab During Public Involvement: 99

Written Comments

Total E-mailed Comments:	1
Forms Turned In At Public Meetings:	0
Comments Mailed In:	0
Comments Faxed In:	0
<u>Other Comments:</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Comments:	1

**Organizations / Groups that Submitted Comments Included:**

None

**Comments Specific to LEP Plan:** (See attachment for exact comments)

None

**Comments Specific to Participation Plan:** (See attachment for exact comments)

- Update websites in Appendix C to accgov.com. (1)

**General / Other Comments :** (See attachment for exact comments)

None

**APPENDIX C  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETINGS & REVIEW OF MACORTS DOCUMENTS**

**LOCATIONS FOR POSTING NOTICES/ PUBLIC COMMENT MATERIALS**

1. Athens-Clarke County Planning Department – 120 W. Dougherty Street, Athens, GA
2. Athens Transit System – 775 E. Broad Street, Athens, GA
3. Madison County Planning Department – 91 Albany Drive, Danielsville, GA
4. Oconee County Planning Department – 22 N. Main Street, Watkinsville, GA
5. MACORTS website – [www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)
6. Athens-Clarke Co. Planning Dept. website – [www.acegov.com/151/Planning-Department](http://www.acegov.com/151/Planning-Department)
7. Oconee County website – [www.oconeecounty.com/communitylinks/MACORTS](http://www.oconeecounty.com/communitylinks/MACORTS)

**DOCUMENT LOCATIONS (DRAFT & FINAL DOCUMENTS)**

1. Athens-Clarke County Planning Dept. – 120 W. Dougherty Street, Athens, GA
2. Athens-Clarke County Library – 2025 Baxter Street, Athens, GA (Final TIP & MTP)
3. Madison County Planning Department – 91 Albany Drive, Danielsville, GA
4. Madison County Library – Highway 98, Danielsville, GA (Final TIP & MTP)
5. Oconee County Planning Department – 22 N. Main Street, Watkinsville, GA
6. Oconee County Library – 1080 Experiment Station Road, Watkinsville, GA (Final TIP & MTP)
7. MACORTS website – [www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)
8. Athens-Clarke Co. Planning Dept. Webpage – [www.acegov.com/151/Planning-Department](http://www.acegov.com/151/Planning-Department)
9. Oconee County website – [www.oconeecounty.com/communitylinks/MACORTS](http://www.oconeecounty.com/communitylinks/MACORTS)
10. Georgia Department of Transportation Project Information – [www.dot.ga.gov/BS](http://www.dot.ga.gov/BS)

**IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS**

1. Athens-Clarke County Planning Department Auditorium – 120 W. Dougherty Street, Athens, GA
2. Danielsville Government Building Public Meeting Room – 91 Albany Avenue, Danielsville, GA
3. Oconee Veterans Park Community Room – 3500 Hog Mountain Road, Watkinsville, GA
4. Other community locations that are accessible and convenient and central to the affected community

~ 13 ~

*MACORTS Participation Plan*

*[www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)*

*Adopted May 12, 2021*

**APPENDIX D  
EVALUATION CRITERIA AND RELATED TOOLS AND PERFORMANCE GOALS**

<b>Public Participation Tool</b>	<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Performance Goal(s)</b>	<b>Methods to Meet Goal(s)</b>
In-Person Public Meetings	Calls, letters, and e-mails; number of attendees	Minimum 5 people per meeting	Schedule meetings at convenient times and accessible locations. Use other public involvement tools to increase awareness of meetings
Virtual Public Meetings	Number of Visits to Website; Attendance in Virtual Meeting	Increase of at least 10% over average website traffic	Have all materials on website for duration of comment period including presentation materials; Advertise as would for in-person
Display Ad	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of persons that it reached.	Minimum of 15% of meeting attendees /survey respondents that indicated that they saw the ad.	Pursue publication in a prominent location of the paper. Increase the size or modify the layout to make ads more visible.
E-mail Announcements /Internet Announcements	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of persons that it reached.	Minimum of 5% of meeting attendees /survey respondents indicated that they saw the announcement.	Increase e-mail list by advertising the availability of e-mail announcements using other public involvement tools.
Direct Mailings	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of persons that it reached.	Minimum of 5% of meeting attendees /survey respondents that indicated that they received the mailing.	Increase/decrease mailing to more accurately target affected areas.
TV Message Boards	Calls, letters, and e-mails; Number of persons that it reached.	Minimum of 5% of meeting attendees / survey respondents that indicated that they saw the message	Increase frequency of use of government tv channel (only available in ACC)
Posters and Flyers	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of persons that it reached.	Minimum of 5% meeting attendees /survey respondents indicated they saw flyer.	Increase distribution to common areas where posters will be more visible to the general public.
Press Releases	Calls, letters, e-mails from media and others	No standard. Press release format may be modified based on specific comments	Prepare and distribute press releases to advertise MACORTS meetings, review and comment periods, and milestones in specific projects.

<b>Public Participation Tool</b>	<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Performance Goal(s)</b>	<b>Methods to Meet Goal(s)</b>
MACORTS Website	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of 'hits' (visits) on the web site	Minimum of 30 hits more during public comment period vs. other times	Use other public involvement tools and document to increase advertisement of the web site.
Fact Sheets	Calls, letters, etc.; Number of persons reached.	Positive comments	
Surveys	Calls, letters, etc.; Number of responses	60% of contacted persons participate in the survey OR 20% of mail recipients return the survey.	Encourage responses by explaining the importance of receiving feedback. Offer incentives for returning surveys.

APPENDIX E

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CHECKLIST:  
TOOLS USED IN COMPLETING SPECIFIC WORK ELEMENT**

Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Public Participation Tool</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Method Used Yes / No</b>
Transportation Planning web site	Public web site for dissemination of information	
Transportation Planning Feedback Database	Database that compiles feedback for evaluation	
Identify Interested Parties or Stakeholders	Method used to identify different groups that would be affected by a project	
Display Ad	Newspaper or print advertisements	
Direct Mailings	Used to more accurately target affected areas.	
Press Releases	Press releases to announce meetings, projects, et cetera.	
TV Message Boards	Government access channel announcement board. (Available in ACC only)	
Project specific web sites	Use with other tools to provide detailed information	
Citizen Advisory Committee Representatives	Committee which is part of most planning studies.	
Small Group Meetings	Meetings that are held at the request of affected groups.	
E-mail Announcements	Used with other tools to increase public announcements	
Public Hearings	Used for the adoption of documents such as the TIP or LRTP.	
Comment Forms	Used to solicit public feedback and used for evaluation purposes.	
Surveys	Used to solicit public feedback on specific issues	
Posters and Flyers	Distributed in public areas to increase visibility	
Visualization Techniques	Drawing/sketches, aerial photography, pictures, "visual choice" surveys	
Public information	Available in an electronically accessible format (e.g. PDF documents)	
Public meetings	Held at convenient and accessible locations and times.	

~ 15 ~

APPENDIX F

LISTS OF RESOURCE AGENCIES AND CONSULTATION CONTACTS

State & Local Planned Growth:

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
 Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
 Madison County Planning & Zoning Department  
 Athens-Clarke County Planning Department  
 Oconee County Planning & Code Enforcement Department

Economic Development:

Athens-Clarke County Economic Development Department  
 Oconee County Chamber of Commerce  
 Madison County Chamber of Commerce  
 Athens-Clarke County Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Georgia Department of Economic Development

Tourism:

Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau  
 Oconee County Department of Tourism  
 Madison County Chamber of Commerce

Natural Disaster Risk Reduction:

Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency  
 Madison County Emergency Management Agency  
 Athens-Clarke County Emergency Management Agency  
 Oconee County Emergency Management Agency

Environmental Protection:

Georgia Forestry Commission  
 Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Natural Resources Division  
 Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Historic Preservation Division  
 Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Environmental Protection Division  
 Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Resource Division  
 Georgia Department of Natural Resources – State Parks & Historic Sites Division  
 Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services  
 Oconee County Parks & Recreation Department  
 Madison County Recreation Department

Airport Operations:

Athens - Ben Epps Airport

Freight Movement:

McLane Trucking  
Georgia Motor Trucking Association  
SAIA Motor Freight Line Inc.  
CSX Railroad

Private Providers of Transportation:

Groome Transportation  
Stephens Limo Service Inc.  
Bulldog Limo Service  
Georgia Medical Transportation  
Caring Man in a Van  
Georgia Department of Human Services – Office of Facilities & Support Services  
United Taxi

Bike / Pedestrian Facility Advocates:

Bike Athens  
Georgia Bikes

Disabled Population:

Hope Haven of Northeast Georgia  
Georgia Options  
People First of GA, Inc.  
Disabled American Veterans

Intercity Bus Operators:

MegaBus (American Coach Lines Inc.)  
Southeastern Stages



## Appendix G

### Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Process

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued the Final Rule to revise the Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning regulations incorporating changes from the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST). The revised regulations clearly define administrative modifications and amendments as actions to update plans and programs. 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 450.104 defines administrative modifications and amendments as follows:

- Administrative modification “means a minor revision to a long-range statewide or metropolitan transportation plan, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that includes minor changes to project/project phase costs, minor changes to funding sources of previously-included projects, and minor changes to project/project phase initiation dates. Administrative Modification is a revision that does not require public review and comment, redemonstration of fiscal constraint, or a conformity determination (in nonattainment and maintenance areas).”
- Amendment “means a revision to a long-range statewide or metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, or STIP that involves a major change to a project included in a metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, or STIP, including the addition or deletion of a project or major change in project cost, project/project phase initiation dates, or a major change in design concept or design scope (e.g., changing project termini or the number of through traffic lanes). Changes to projects that are included only for illustrative purposes do not require an amendment. An amendment is a revision that requires public review and comment, redemonstration of fiscal constraint, or a conformity determination (for metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs involving “non-exempt” projects in nonattainment and maintenance areas). In the context of a long-range statewide transportation plan, an amendment is a revision approved by the State in accordance with its public involvement process.”

The following procedures have been developed for processing administrative modifications and amendments to the STIP and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) TIPs and Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs). Processes described below detail procedures that are to be used to update an existing approved STIP or TIP and associated plan, if applicable. A key element of the amendment process is to assure that funding balances are maintained.

~ 18 ~

**Administrative Modifications for Initial Authorizations**

The following actions are eligible as Administrative Modifications to the STIP/TIP/LRTP:

- A. Revise a project description without changing the project scope, conflicting with the environmental document or changing the conformity finding in nonattainment and maintenance areas (less than 10% change in project termini). This change would not alter the original project intent.
- B. Splitting or combining projects.
- C. Federal funding category change.
- D. Minor changes in expenditures for transit projects.
- E. Roadway project phases may have a cost increase less than \$2,000,000 or 20% of the amount to be authorized.
  - o If the STIP amount is \$10,000,000 or less, the cost may be increased up to \$2,000,000.
  - o If the STIP amount is greater than \$10,000,000, the cost may be increased by a maximum of 20%.
- F. Shifting projects within the 4-year STIP as long as the subsequent annual draft STIP was submitted prior to September 30.
- G. Projects may be funded from lump sum banks as long as they are consistent with category definitions.

An administrative modification can be processed in accordance with these procedures provided that:

- 1. It does not affect the air quality conformity determination.
- 2. It does not impact financial constraint.
- 3. It does not require public review and comment.

The administrative modification process consists of a monthly list of notifications from GDOT to all involved parties, with change summaries sent on a monthly basis to the FHWA and FTA by the GDOT.

The GDOT will submit quarterly reports detailing projects drawn from each lump sum bank with remaining balance to the FHWA.

~ 19 ~

**Amendments for Initial Authorizations**

The following actions are eligible as Amendments to the STIP/TIP/LRTP:

- A. Addition or deletion of a project.
- B. Addition or deletion of a phase of a project.
- C. Roadway project phases that increase in cost over the thresholds described in the Administrative Modification section.
- D. Addition of an annual TIP.
- E. Major change to scope of work of an existing project. A major change would be any change that alters the original intent i.e. a change in the number of through lanes, a change in termini of more than 10 percent.
- F. Shifting projects within the 4-year STIP which require redemonstration of fiscal constraint or when the subsequent annual draft STIP was not submitted prior to September 30. (See Administrative Modification item F.)

Amendments to the STIP/TIP/LRTP will be developed in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. This requires public review and comment and responses to all comments, either individually or in summary form. For amendments in MPO areas, the public review process should be carried out in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Participation Plan. The GDOT will assure that the amendment process and the public involvement procedures have been followed. Cost changes made to the second, third and fourth years of the STIP will be balanced during the STIP yearly update process. All amendments should be approved by FHWA and/or FTA.

Notes:

1. The date a TIP becomes effective is when the Governor or his designee approves it. For nonattainment and maintenance areas, the effective date of the TIP is based on the date of U.S. Department of Transportation's positive finding of conformity.
2. The date the STIP becomes effective is when FHWA and FTA approve it.
3. The STIP is developed on the state fiscal year which is July 1 - June 30.
4. Funds for cost increases will come from those set aside in the STIP financial plan by the GDOT for modifications and cost increases. Fiscal Constraint will be maintained in the STIP at all times.

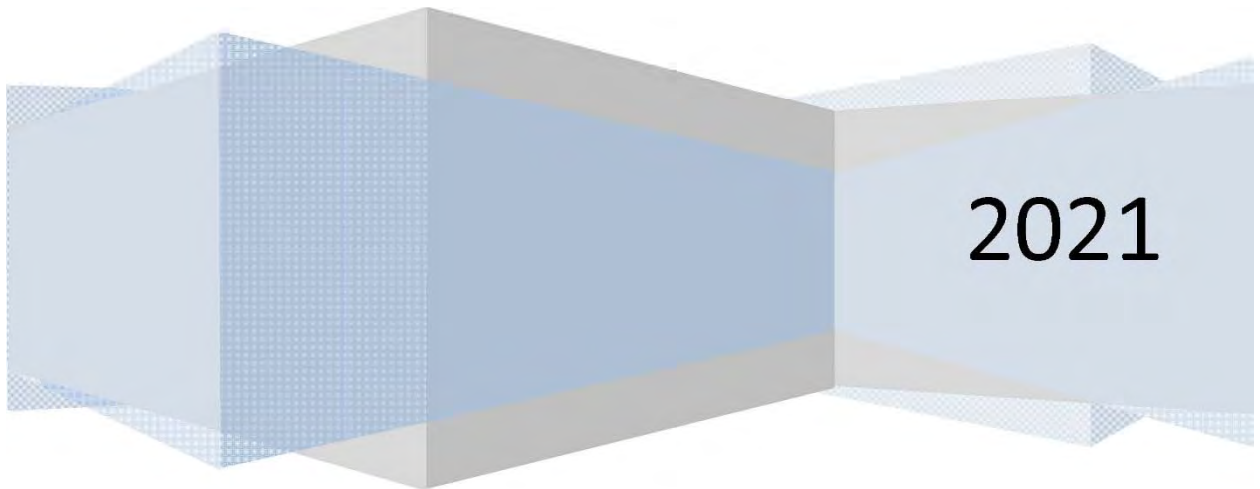
~ 20 ~

**Appendix G**  
**Language Assistance Plan (LAP) /**  
**MACORTS Limited English**  
**Proficiency Plan**

Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study  
(MACORTS) & Athens-Clarke County Transit Department

## Limited English Proficiency Plan Adopted May 12, 2021

Prepared by Athens-Clarke County Planning Department



**RESOLUTION BY THE MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MACORTS) POLICY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, federal regulations require that the Limited English Proficiency Plan for urbanized areas must be completed and periodically be updated and,

WHEREAS, the Technical Coordinating Committee of MACORTS in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Georgia Department of Transportation has reviewed the Limited English Proficiency Plan,

WHEREAS, the Technical Coordinating Committee at its April 28, 2021 meeting recommended the approval of the Limited English Proficiency Plan for MACORTS and the Athens Transit Department:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MACORTS Policy Committee concurs with the recommendation of the Technical Coordinating Committee of MACORTS to approve the Limited English Proficiency Plan.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study Policy Committee, at their meeting held on May 12, 2021.

Recommended by:



Brad Griffin  
TCC Chairman / MPO Director

May 12, 2021



John Daniell  
MACORTS Policy Committee Chairperson

May 12, 2021

**Limited English Proficiency Plan  
for  
Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study  
and  
Athens-Clarke County Transit Department**

Adopted  
May 12, 2021

Prepared By:  
Athens-Clarke County Planning Department

*The Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP) is established pursuant to and in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons With Limited English Proficiency."*

*The opinions, findings, and conclusions in this publication are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily those of the Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration, or Georgia Department of Transportation.*

*No person in the United States shall be excluded, on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, disability, or national origin, from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination of any kind by the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) membership, staff, or agents.*

Table of Contents

Introduction.....1

Purpose.....1

Four Factors to Formulate an LEP Plan .....1

Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study .....2

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department.....3

Limited English Proficiency Analysis .....4

    Factor 1: Number of LEP persons served in eligible service population .....4

    Factor 2: The frequency with which LEP persons encounter the services provided .....10

    Factor 3: The nature and importance of the services and programs .....11

    Factor 4: The resources available to MACORTS, ACCTD, and Overall cost .....11

Safe Harbor Stipulation .....12

Language Assistance Measures.....13

Plan Monitoring & Updating.....13

Providing Notice to LEP Persons .....13

Implementation of LEP Initiatives .....14

MACORTS and ACCTD Staff Training .....14

LEP Plan Access .....14



List of Tables

1. Total Speakers by Race, Age 18+ .....	4
2. Top Ten Languages Spoken in MACORTS Region .....	5
3. Top Ten Languages Spoken in Athens-Clarke County .....	6
4. Total Limited English Proficient Speakers .....	6
5. Total Limited English Proficient Speakers by Language Group.....	7
6. Limited English Proficiency Customers of Athens-Clarke County Planning Department	10
7. Limited English Proficiency Riders of Athens-Clarke County Transit Department .....	11

List of Figures

1. Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study Planning Boundary.....	2
2. Athens-Clarke County Transit Department System Map.....	3
3. LEP Persons by Census Tracts Compared to Regional Total.....	8
4. LEP Persons by Census Tracts in Athens-Clarke County with ACCTD Service Overlay	9

### Introduction

On August 11, 2000, President William J. Clinton signed Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Service for Persons with Limited English Proficiency", to clarify Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on the grounds of race, color, or national origin by any entity receiving federal financial assistance. Administrative methods or procedures that have the effect of subjecting individuals to discrimination or defeating the objectives of these regulations are prohibited. The purpose of Executive Order 13166 is to ensure accessibility to programs and services to otherwise eligible persons who are not proficient in the English language.

### Purpose

The purpose of this Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan is to demonstrate compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166. The LEP Plan is for persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. Such persons may be eligible to receive language assistance with respect to a particular service, benefit, or encounter. This Plan will examine the services and products provided by the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) and the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACCTD). The Plan will outline current accommodations made for LEP persons and possible future accommodations that can and/or should be made to make these services and products more accessible to LEP persons.

### Four Factors to Formulate an LEP Plan

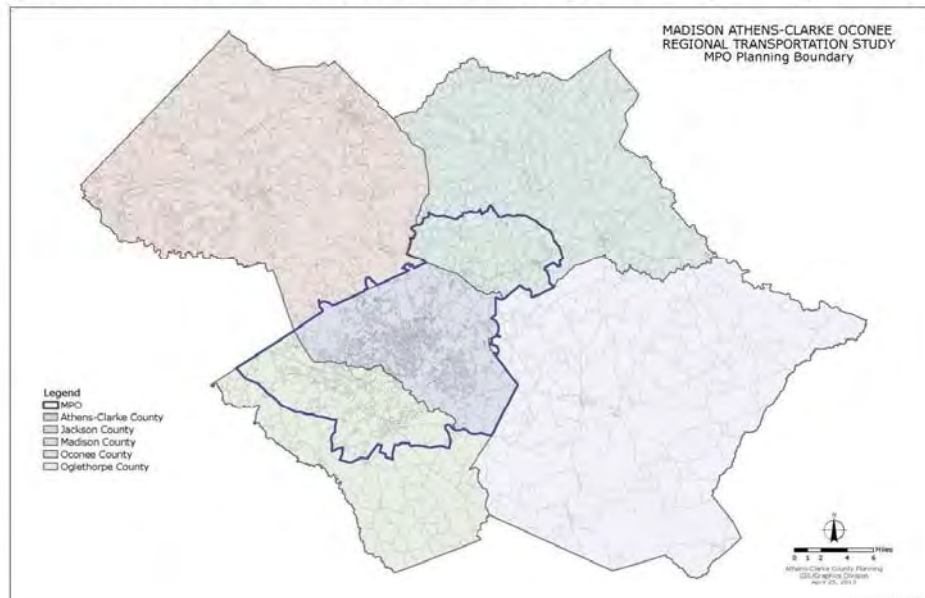
In determining how to provide effective and meaningful access for LEP customers, the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has established the following four guidelines to consider in determining "reasonable steps" to be taken by MACORTS and Athens-Clarke County Transit Department:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons served or encountered in the eligible service population,
2. The frequency with which LEP persons encounter the services, programs, or activities provided,
3. The nature and importance of the services, programs, or activities; and
4. The resources available to the program and the costs of providing interpretation/translation services.

### Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study

The Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) was formed in 1969 and is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning in Athens-Clarke County and portions of Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Jackson Counties. MACORTS is responsible for implementing the 3-C (comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing) transportation planning process.

Figure 1: Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study Planning Boundary



The Athens-Clarke County Planning Department, in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Transportation, is responsible for carrying out the transportation planning process as mandated under federal legislation. MACORTS products include, but are not limited to, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, the Unified Planning Work Program, and the Participation Plan.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan outlines the transportation planning vision for the next 20 years. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is an annually updated program of projects to receive federal funding during the next 4 fiscal years for implementation. The Unified Planning Work Plan (UPWP) is the annual operating and capital budget for MACORTS. The Participation Plan outlines how and when public involvement activities will be conducted. These documents are the main work efforts of MACORTS.

### Athens-Clarke County Transit Department

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACCTD) provides public transportation for Athens-Clarke County with 32 buses on 20 bus routes throughout the county. ACCTD offers fixed route bus service that operate Monday – Saturday from approximately 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, depending on the route, day, and time of year. In FY 2020, the ACCTD provided over 1.3 million rides on the fixed route service. All fixed route vehicles are ADA-accessible.

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department offers a Demand Response transportation option for people with a mobility impairment called "The Lift". This service is provided for those patrons who cannot ride the fixed route bus service. In FY 2020, the ACCTD provided 5,398 rides on demand response service. Additionally, ACCTD has a "Bus-N-Bike" program which makes daily commuting much easier, safer, and more convenient for cyclists to ride the bus. All fixed route vehicles are equipped with a three-position bicycle rack mounted to the front of the bus.

Figure 2: Athens-Clarke County Transit Department System Map



### Limited English Proficiency Analysis

This plan uses the four factors outlined by the US Department of Transportation to determine the level and extent of language assistance necessary to reasonably ensure meaningful access to public transit and MACORTS services within the MPO area. Data used in this analysis was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, specifically the American Community Survey's 5-year estimates. Due to the constraints of the available data, the member counties were analyzed at the Census Tract level, which does not conform completely to the MACORTS boundary. Therefore, it should be noted that the number of LEP persons within the MACORTS area is smaller than this data suggests. Recommendations are based on the results of the analysis including the available data.

#### Factor 1: The number of LEP persons served in the eligible service population

The MPO has developed a demographic profile of the population in the MACORTS region and ACCTD service area (Athens-Clarke County). As illustrated in Table 1, the MPO region has a total population (over 18 years of age) of 160,212 individuals. This total represents the Census Tracts within Athens-Clarke, Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Jackson Counties with any part in the MPO area. This area is larger than the area within the MACORTS boundary. Athens-Clarke County total population (over 18 years of age) is 111,568. The race and ethnic breakout is as follows:

**Table 1 - Total 'Speakers' by Race Age 18 & Over**

Census Source	Race	Athens-Clarke Co.	Madison Co.	Oconee Co.	Oglethorpe Co.	Jackson Co.	Total
B01001A	White	68,232	7,606	22,461	3,955	5,897	108,151
B01001B	African American	25,722	1,231	1,365	705	825	29,848
B01001C	American Indian	138	11	6	9	0	164
B01001D	Asian	4,311	123	1,070	0	38	5,542
B01001E	Hawaiian / Islander	83	0	0	0	5	88
B01001F	Other Race	2,022	304	90	133	57	2,606
B01001G	Two or More Races	2,440	68	321	51	43	2,923
B01001I	Hispanic	8,620	559	1,072	334	305	10,890
	Total	111,568	9,902	26,385	5,187	7,170	160,212

*Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, B01001A-G & B01001I, 5 year Average 2014 - 2018, Sex by Age by Race*

The LEP Analysis is based upon the Census data reported for persons ages 18 and up. This age group represents the potential ‘customers’ of ACCTD and MACORTS. Services and documents provided by ACCTD and MACORTS have a greater impact on the lives of this age group. MACORTS documents, particularly, are not written for an audience under 18 years of age. Children would generally have guidance from adults on navigating the ACCTD system.

Table 2 shows the 10 most prevalent languages spoken in the MACORTS region as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. This data includes all age brackets from 5 years old and up. A more detailed breakdown of the data was not available from the U.S. Census Bureau. This limitation of the available data inflates the number individuals reported in each age group by including those under 18 years of age.

**Table 2 – Top Ten Languages Spoken in MACORTS Region**

5 yrs and over Population	176,455	
English	153,464	86.97%
Spanish or Spanish Creole	13,811	7.82%
Other Indo-European	2,122	1.20%
Chinese	1,907	1.08%
Other Asian/Pacific Islander	1,067	0.60%
Other & Unspecified	785	0.44%
Korean	763	0.43%
German	653	0.37%
Arabic	507	0.29%
French, Haitian, or Cajun	455	0.26%
Total	175,534	99.48%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-yr Estimate: 2014 - 2018; C16001 – Language Spoken by All Ages*

Table 3 shows the 10 most prevalent languages spoken in Athens-Clarke County as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. This data includes all age brackets from 5 years old and up. A more detailed breakdown of the data was not available from the U.S. Census Bureau. This limitation of the available data inflates the number individuals reported in each age group by including those under 18 years of age.

**Table 3 – Top Ten Languages Spoken in Athens-Clarke County**

5 years and over population	117,825	
English	99,947	84.83%
Spanish or Spanish Creole	10,828	9.18%
Other Indo-European	1,546	1.31%
Chinese	1,362	1.16%
Other Asian/Pacific Islander	746	0.63%
Other & Unspecified	746	0.63%
Korean	694	0.59%
German	511	0.43%
Arabic	491	0.42%
French, Haitian, or Cajun	274	0.23%
Total	117,145	99.42%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-yr Estimate: 2014 – 2018; C16001 – Language Spoken by All Ages

The Census Bureau has four classifications for how well people speak English. The classifications are ‘very well’, ‘well’, ‘not well’, and ‘not at all’. For the purposes of the LEP Plan, people who were categorized as speaking English ‘not well’ or ‘not at all’ by the U.S. Census Bureau have been considered to be Limited English Proficient persons. As Table 4 shows, Oglethorpe County has the highest percentage of LEP individuals with 3.26%, while the entire region has approximately 2.78% of the population categorized as having limited English proficiency.

**Table 4 – Total Limited English Proficient Speakers 18 years of age and over By County**

	Total Speakers	Total LEP Individuals	Total % LEP Individuals
<b>Athens-Clarke Co.</b>	102,948	3,221	3.13%
<b>Madison Co.</b>	9,343	262	2.80%
<b>Oconee Co.</b>	25,313	378	1.49%
<b>Oglethorpe Co.</b>	4,853	158	3.26%
<b>Jackson Co.</b>	6,865	133	1.94%
<b>Total</b>	149,322	4,152	2.78%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-yr Estimate: 2014 – 2018; B16004 – Age by Language Spoken at Home by Ability

**Table 5 – Total Limited English Proficient Speakers  
18 years of age and over By County & Language Group**

Language Group	Athens-Clarke Co.	Madison Co.	Oconee Co.	Oglethorpe Co.	Jackson Co.	Total
Spanish	2,768	245	254	158	0	3,425
Indo-European	86	0	0	0	81	167
Asian & Pacific	253	17	124	0	52	446
Other Languages	114	0	0	0	0	114
Total	3,221	262	378	158	133	4,152

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-yr Estimate: 2014 – 2018; B16004 – Age by Language Spoken at Home by Ability*

Figures 3 and 4 on the following pages illustrate graphically the density of LEP persons by census tract. Figure 3 shows the density based on the regional totals. Figure 4 shows the concentration of LEP persons in Athens-Clarke County compared to the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department service area.



Figure 3: Concentrations of LEP persons (18+ years of age) by Census Tract within the MACORTS planning area counties compared to regional totals

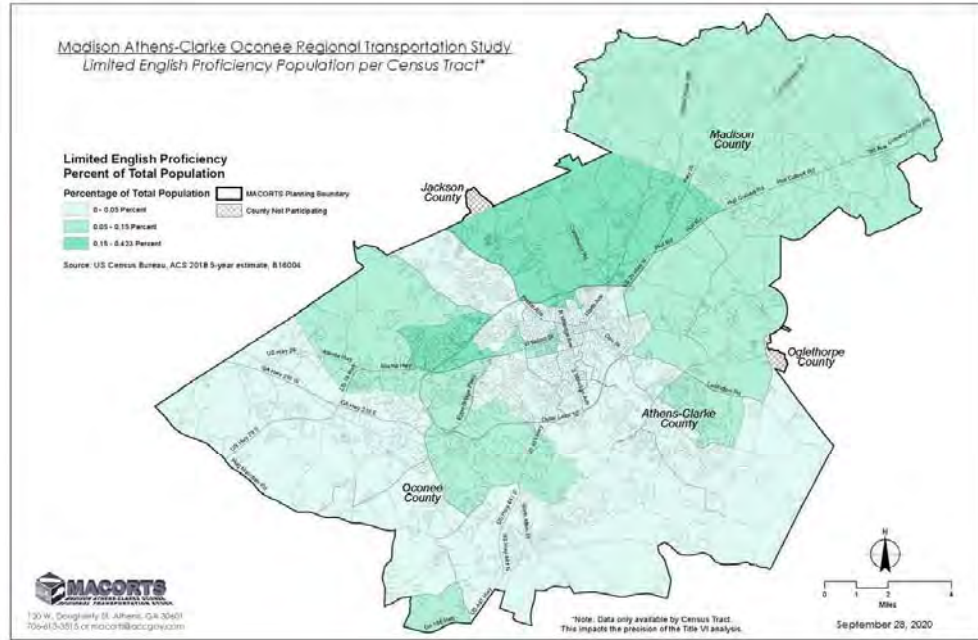
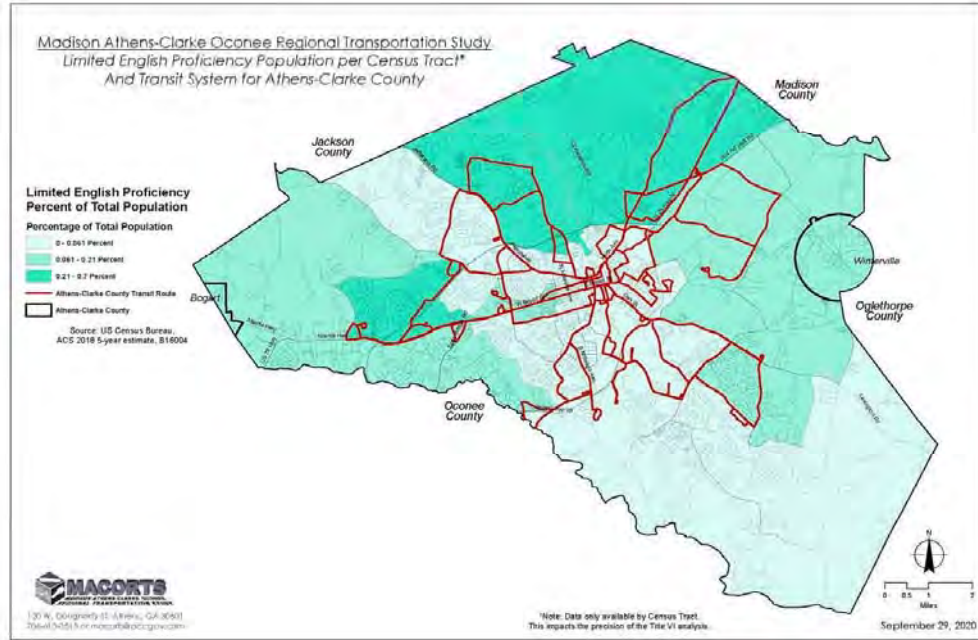


Figure 4: Shows the concentrations by Census Tracts of LEP Persons (18+ Years of Age) in Athens-Clarke County with Athens-Clarke County Transit Department System Map



**Factor 2: The frequency with which LEP persons encounter the services provided.**

To date, MACORTS has had very little contact with LEP persons in the course of MPO business. Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACCTD) has more contact with LEP persons due to the nature of services provided and number of persons with whom the staff interacts with on a weekly basis, but the percentage is still quite small. ACCTD and MACORTS planning staff were surveyed in regards to their interactions with LEP individuals in an average week. The MACORTS staff have had no requests for assistance from LEP persons in the last 15 years. Anecdotally, MPO staff noted only interacting less than 5 times in the last 20 years with LEP individuals during the course of their public interactions or day-to-day business. The remainder of the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department staff, who are housed with the MPO staff, indicated that they encounter an average of less than 2 LEP persons per week per planner. The office-wide total was 12 LEP customers encountered of the 256 customer interactions for the week surveyed (4.7%). Usually, these people bring another person with them who speaks English to assist them, according to the survey. Table 6 shows the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department number of customers and the number of LEP persons on an annual basis. LEP individuals make up approximately 4.7% of the customers annually.

**Table 6 – Limited English Proficiency Customers of Athens-Clarke County Planning Department**

LEP Persons Per Week	Extrapolated LEP Persons Per Year	Total Customers Per Week	Extrapolated Customers Per Year	Weekly Percentage LEP Customers	Annual Percentage LEP Customers
14	728	256	13,312	5.47%	5.47%

*Additional Notes: This data came from a survey of employees of the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department. They were asked how many LEP persons were encountered in an average week. This office handles zoning, land use and plans review. The MPO, MACORTS, is administered out of this department. The number of customers per year was extrapolated from a survey of total customers during the week of September 21 – 25, 2020.*

The staff of the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department was surveyed as well. They were asked how many LEP persons they encounter in the average week. Responses ranged from zero to 12 persons per week. The informal accounting of LEP persons was extrapolated to annual totals and compared to the number of people that ride ACCTD by route and by the total annual ridership. Table 7 illustrated that the highest percentage by route was on Route 7 – Prince Avenue with 0.73% of ridership being classified as LEP. When compared to the total annual ridership, the percentage of LEP persons system-wide is approximately 0.17%.

**Table 7 – Limited English Proficiency Riders of Athens-Clarke County Transit Department**

Bus Rts	Average Annual Number of LEP Riders	2020 Annual Ridership	LEP Annual Percentage	Bus Rts	Average Annual Number of LEP Riders	2020 Annual Ridership	LEP Annual Percentage
1	52	68,847	0.08%	20	52	122,895	0.04%
2	104	52,390	0.20%	21	208	33,562	0.62%
3	0	26,653	0.0%	22	0	24,489	0.0%
5	52	98,877	0.05%	23	0	2,521	0.0%
6	0	102,148	0.0%	24	364	50,337	0.72%
7	520	71,072	0.73%	25	104	80,874	0.13%
8	208	82,330	0.25%	26	52	47,055	0.11%
9	52	53,046	0.10%	27	104	141,855	0.07%
12	0	161,637	0.0%	28	0	21,092	0.0%
14	208	79,965	0.26%	30	104	16,426	0.63%
Any / All*	96			Total	2,280	1,338,071	0.17%

\*Some drivers indicated that they drove different routes every day, so their responses couldn't be attributed to any particular route.

**Factor 3: The nature and importance of the services and programs.**

MACORTS is responsible for regional transportation planning. Denial or delay of access to services or information provided by the MPO would not have life threatening or even serious implications on an LEP individual. This is especially true if compared to services such as healthcare, emergency transportation, water, sewer, fire protection, police protection, and other essential services.

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department provides public transportation to the Athens-Clarke County area giving people access to work, healthcare, and other programs and/or services. Without access to public transportation, many of these individuals would not be able to take advantage of other services that could potentially be life changing or life sustaining. Therefore, lack of public transportation services could have an adverse effect on LEP individuals.

**Factor 4: The Resources Available to the MACORTS, ACCTD, and Overall Cost**

MACORTS serves a very small percentage of LEP persons, less than 2.8 % or approximately 4,152 in the region and has limited funds available for LEP services. Providing translation

assistance to LEP persons would be funded entirely from existing MACORTS operating funds and would compete with other operational requirements for funding. MACORTS's annual federal allocation is approximately \$188,000 for a total base grant amount of approximately \$235,000. The total budget varies from year to year slightly.

Given the small number of LEP people within the region and the MACORTS budget, it would be burdensome to produce written translations for the core MACORTS documents. The expense and time required to provide these translated documents could jeopardize the mandated objectives of the transportation planning program. It is appropriate, however, for MACORTS to provide translated summaries of core products as requested by LEP persons. A translation option is provided on each page of the MACORTS website ([www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org)) so that pages from the website can be translated into any of several languages (Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, or Spanish and others).

The Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACCTD) has been very proactive in their treatment of LEP persons. ACCTD has funding available through federal grants and the local government to continue to enhance their services for the LEP population.

### Safe Harbor Stipulation

Federal law provides a "Safe Harbor" stipulation so that recipients of federal funds can ensure with greater certainty that they comply with their obligations to provide written translations in languages other than English. A "safe harbor" means that if a recipient provides written translations in certain circumstances, such action will be considered strong evidence of compliance with the recipient's written-translation obligations under Title VI. The established threshold for the inclusion of a safe harbor for each eligible LEP language group that constitutes 5% of the service area population or 1,000 LEP persons, whichever is less.

Within the MACORTS region, approximately 2.78% of the population over 18 years of age is considered LEP. Of the total LEP population, Spanish is the only one LEP language group that meets the population threshold for which written translations of vital documents should be provided to meet the safe harbor standard. Based on the small percentage of LEP persons encountered doing MACORTS business and the limited MACORTS Staff (2) and budget, it is deemed that written translations of core documents would be so burdensome as to defeat the objectives of the programs. MACORTS has taken measures to provide appropriate accommodations and keep with the spirit of the regulations.

Within Athens-Clarke County, the ACCTD service area, approximately 3.13% of the population over 18 years of age is considered LEP. Of the total LEP population, Spanish is the only one LEP language group that meets the population threshold for which written translations of vital documents should be provided to meet the safe harbor standard. ACCTD has taken measures to provide essential information in Spanish either orally or in print.

### Language Assistance Measures

Language measures currently used and planned to be used by the MACORTS MPO and the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department include the following:

- Translation of summary of vital documents in Spanish via the MACORTS website
- Translation of vital documents in their entirety in Spanish, upon request
- Posting advertisements / public notices in Spanish-language publications locally circulated
- Providing Transit literature in Spanish (ie schedules, route guides, point-of-sale signage, Rider's Guide)
- Provide oral interpreter services at any meeting or public hearing, with advance notice of 3-7 calendar days. Interpreter to include foreign language and the hearing impaired.
- Posting notices in appropriate languages informing LEP persons of available services on the MACORTS website
- Spanish-speaking staff are available at ACCTD to assist LEP persons
- ACCTD buses have on-board location announcements in English and Spanish
- ACCTD provides bi-lingual outreach to the local Hispanic Community actively engaging them in several areas related to public transit.
- ACCTD is currently engaging the local Hispanic Community in a promotional campaign with the objective to increase transit ridership for this community.
- ACCTD provides a monthly bilingual 'How to Ride the Bus' program (English/Spanish).
- E-ink (tablet information mounted on bus shelters) displays have Braille instructions, Spanish capability, and read-aloud options
- ACCTD uses the Token application for passengers to buy bus passes and use them from their phones. The app is available in English and Spanish.
- ACCTD utilizes the myStop application to provide route information in English and Spanish.

### Plan Monitoring & Updating

MACORTS and ACCTD will update the LEP Plan on the required schedule for Title VI materials, currently every 3 years. As part of the triennial update, census data will be reviewed and analyzed for changes in demographics. Staff will evaluate whether the current language assistance measures are sufficient and recommend adjustments accordingly.

### Providing Notice to LEP Persons

MACORTS will provide statements offering language assistance in public information, public notices, and on the MACORTS website to those persons requiring language assistance or special accommodations. MACORTS and ACCTD provide the technology to translate their websites into several languages. ACCTD has translated public materials, such as route guides and schedules, so that they are available in Spanish.

### Implementation of LEP Initiatives

With advance notice of three to seven calendar days, MACORTS will provide interpreter services at the Technical Coordinating Committee meetings, Policy Committee meetings, or other public meetings. Interpreters will provide services for both the foreign language and hearing impaired. Public notices will provide the contact information for this service. "I Speak" cards or a list of identifiers in the various languages will be provided for use at all public meetings to help identify the needs of LEP persons attending. Public meetings notices are published in Spanish in a local Spanish-language publication for all MACORTS public meetings and public comment periods.

The Athens-Clarke County Transit Department is providing many services to LEP persons currently. ACCTD schedules are available in Spanish and Braille. A picture book was developed that shows how to ride the bus for non-English speakers. The ACCTD website includes a mechanism to translate the content into one of several languages. There are currently several ACCTD staff members that speak Spanish fluently and are available to assist in interpretation as needed. These staff members are operators who would be available to drive along the routes with the highest LEP demand. ACCTD actively markets to the Spanish-speaking population.

### MACORTS and ACCTD Staff Training

MACORTS staff members are provided training on the requirements for providing meaningful access to services for LEP persons. Additional training opportunities will be taken advantage of as they become available.

ACCTD staff members receive training regarding the Limited English Proficiency regulations and available resources as part of the Sensitivity Training at New Employee Orientation. Periodic refresher courses are provided as part of ACCTD monthly staff meetings. ACCTD staff has access to take classes in Command Spanish through the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County periodically. Staff are trained on the technology/tools used to provide passenger information in English and Spanish.

### LEP Plan Access

MACORTS and ACCTD will post the LEP Plan on their websites at [www.macorts.org](http://www.macorts.org) and [www.accgov.com/Transit](http://www.accgov.com/Transit), respectively. Anyone with internet access will be able to access the plan. For those without internet service, several area libraries offer free Internet access. Digital versions or hardcopies of the LEP Plan will be provided to MACORTS members, the Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and any person or agency requesting a copy free of charge.

Any questions or comments regarding this plan should be directed to the MACORTS staff:

Athens-Clarke Planning Department - 120 W. Dougherty Street, Athens, GA 30601  
Phone: (706)-613-3515; E-mail: [macorts@accgov.com](mailto:macorts@accgov.com)

**Appendix H**  
**Operating Area Language Data:**  
**MACORTS Area**  
**(2015 – 2019 Data – ACS 5-Year**  
**Estimates)**



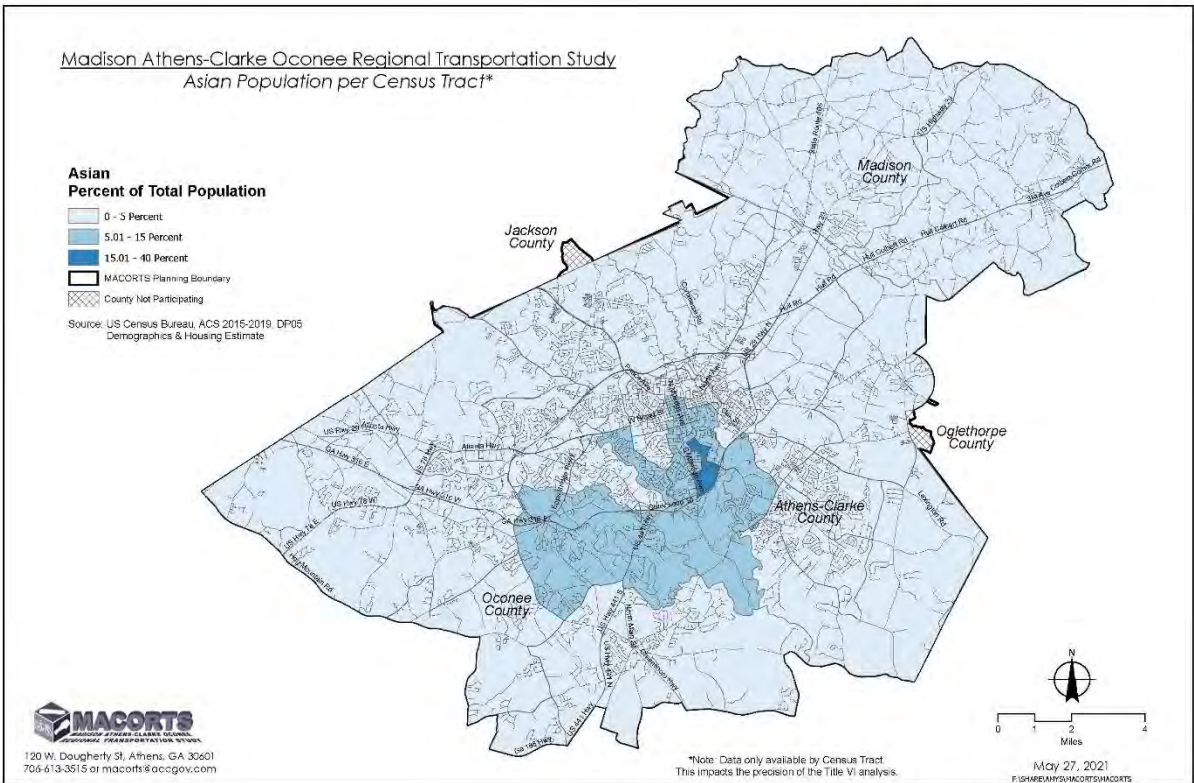
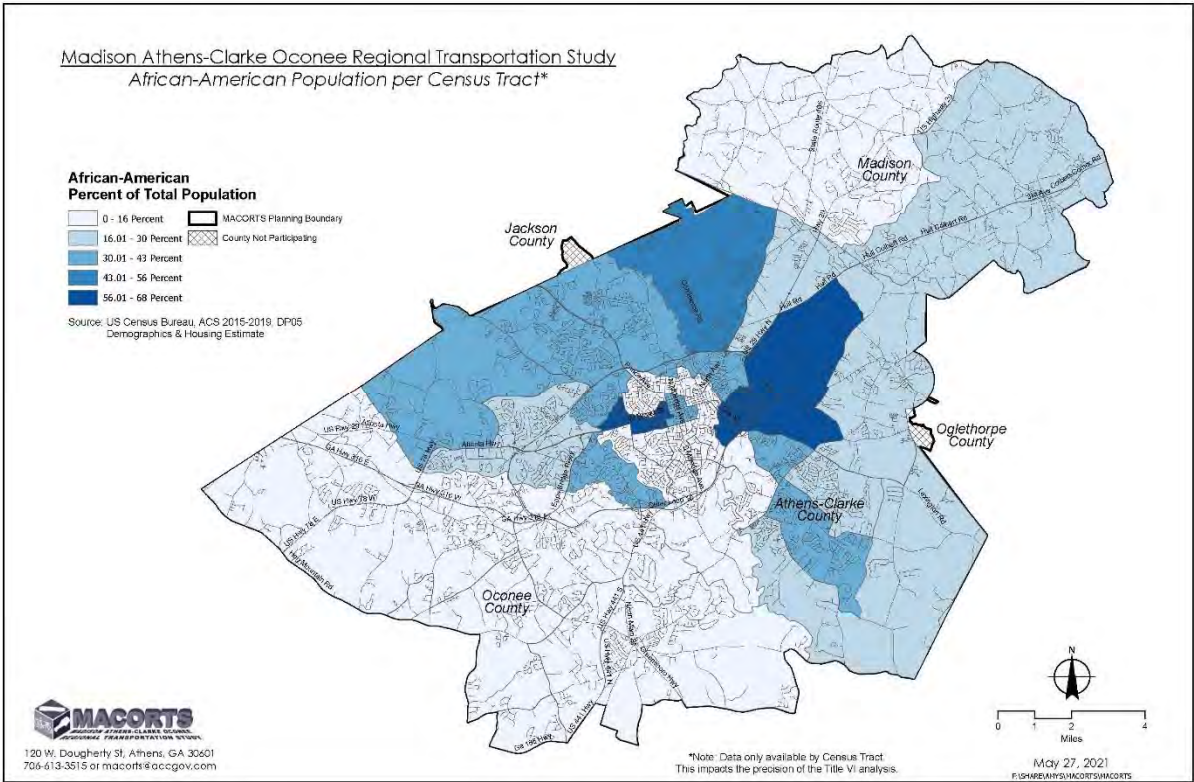
**Language Data for MACORTS Area - US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, C16001, 2015-2019 5-Year Estimate - Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for Population 5 years and Up**

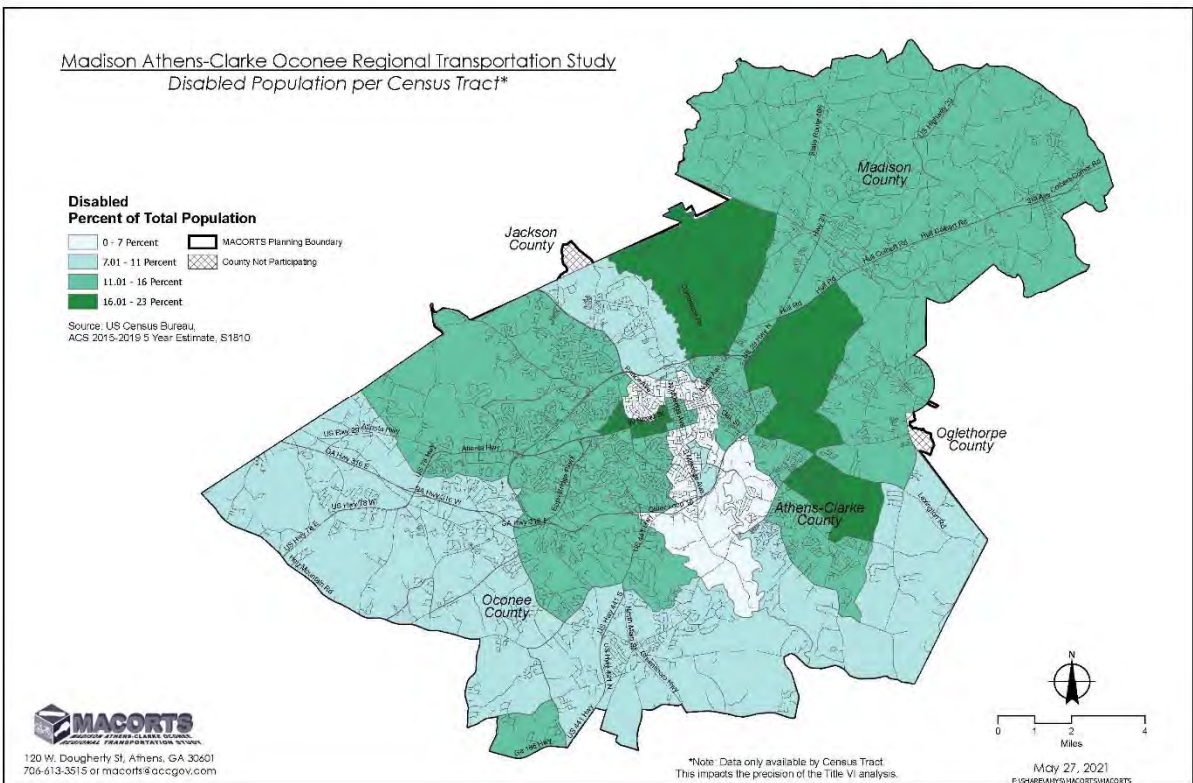
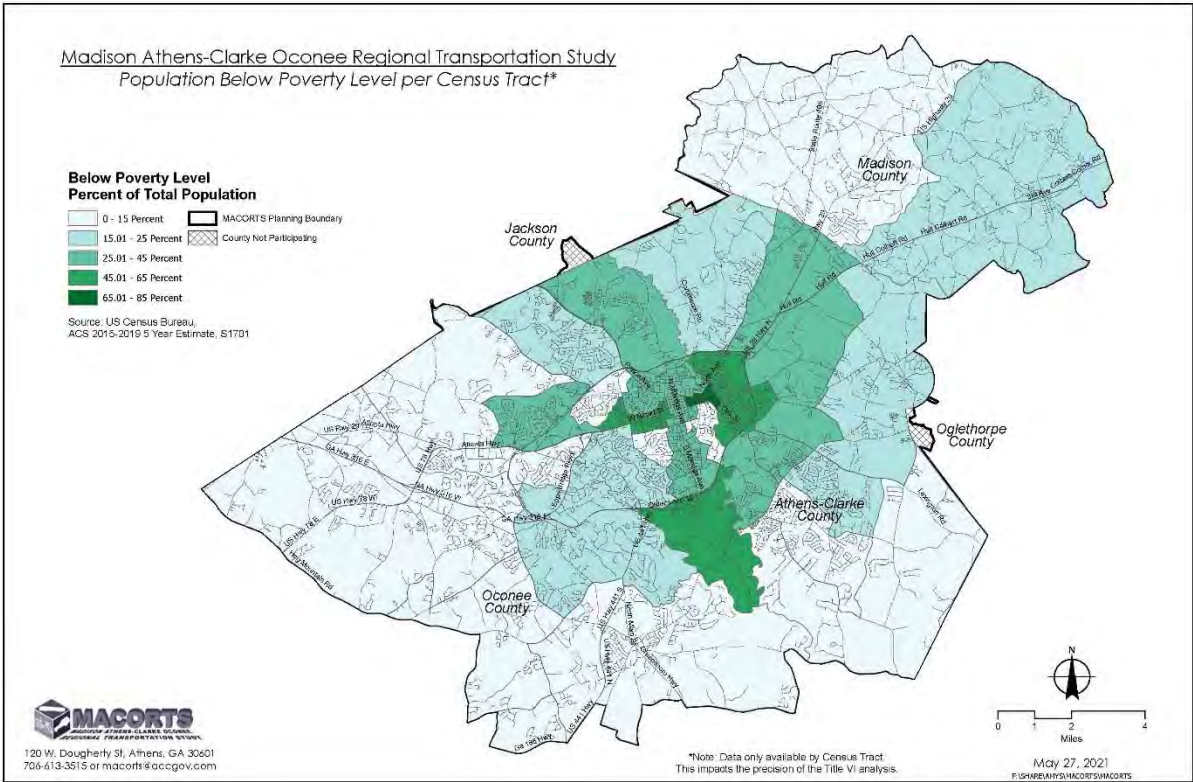
<u>Language</u>	<u>MACORTS Total</u>	<u>Percent of Population</u>
Total	165439	
Speak only English	143169	86.5%
Spanish or Spanish Creole	13641	8.2%
Speak English "very well"	7037	4.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	6604	4.0%
French (incl. Haitian, Cajun)	503	0.3%
Speak English "very well"	457	0.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	46	0.0%
German or West German Languages	612	0.4%
Speak English "very well"	570	0.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	42	0.0%
Russian, Polish, or Slavic Languages	305	0.2%
Speak English "very well"	287	0.2%
Speak English less than "very well"	18	0.0%
Other Indo-European Languages	1757	1.1%
Speak English "very well"	1465	0.9%
Speak English less than "very well"	292	0.2%
Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	1544	0.9%
Speak English "very well"	972	0.6%
Speak English less than "very well"	572	0.3%
Korean	787	0.5%
Speak English "very well"	498	0.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	289	0.2%

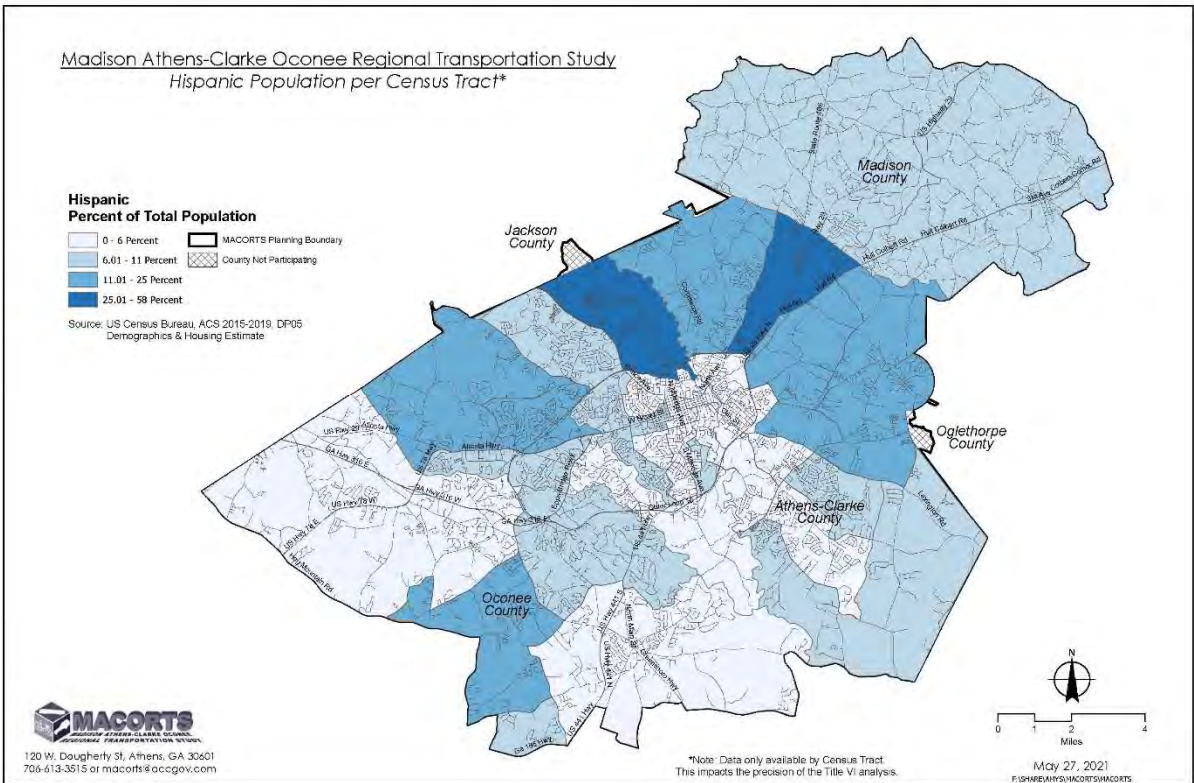
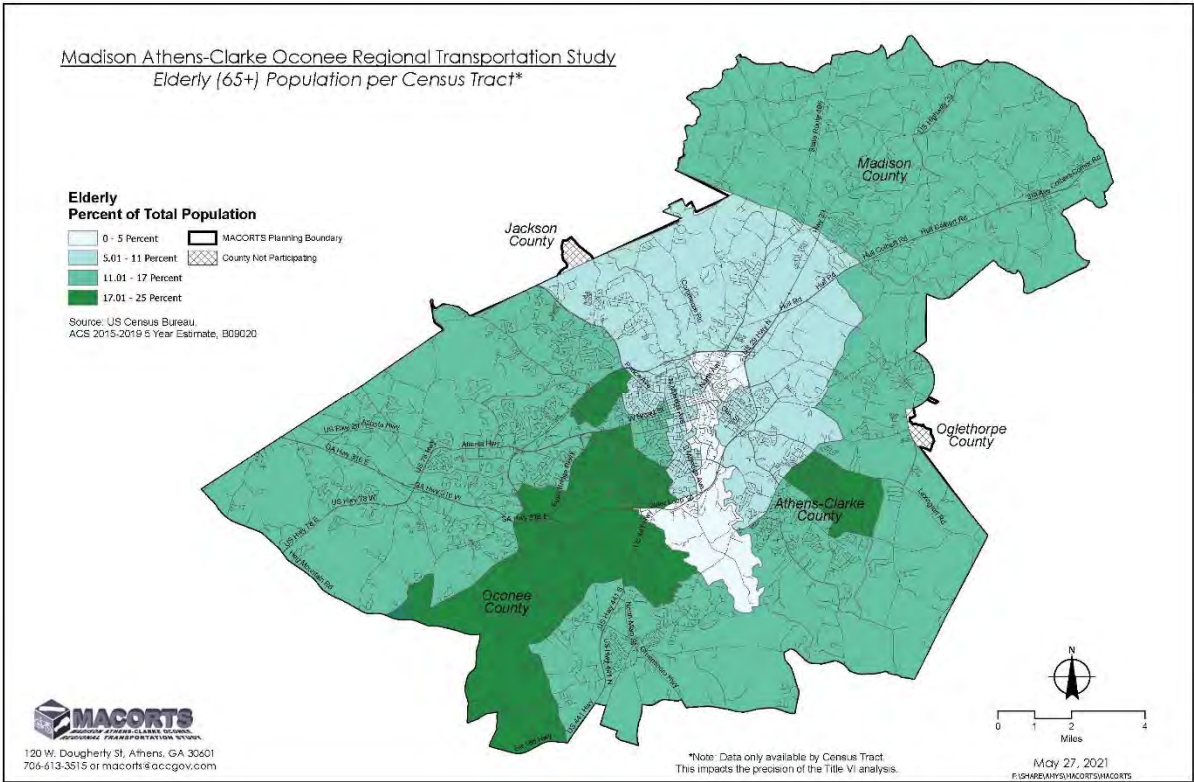
**Language Data for MACORTS Area - US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, C16001, 2015-2019 5-Year Estimate - Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for Population 5 years and Up**

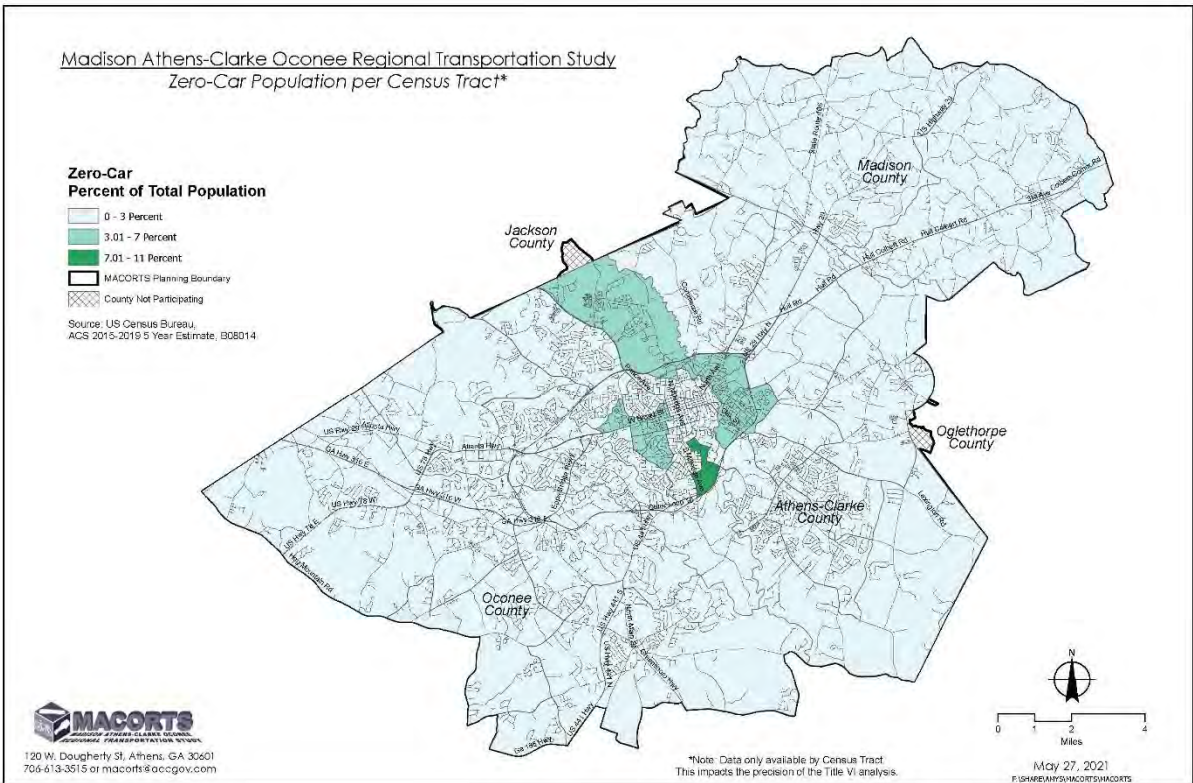
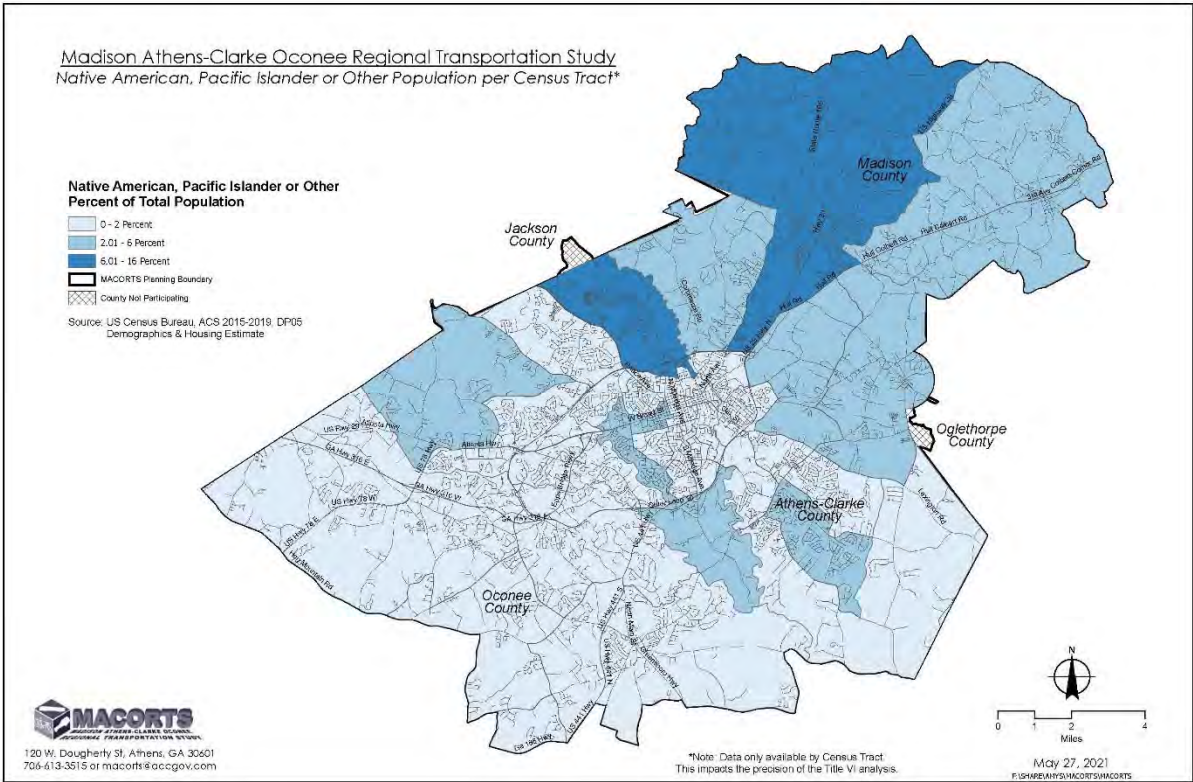
<u>Language</u>	<u>MACORTS Total</u>	<u>Percent of Population</u>
Vietnamese	297	0.2%
Speak English "very well"	251	0.2%
Speak English less than "very well"	46	0.0%
Tagalog	373	0.2%
Speak English "very well"	279	0.2%
Speak English less than "very well"	94	0.1%
Other Asian & Pacific Island languages	1039	0.6%
Speak English "very well"	545	0.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	494	0.3%
Arabic	647	0.4%
Speak English "very well"	427	0.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	220	0.1%
Other and unspecified languages	765	0.5%
Speak English "very well"	639	0.4%
Speak English less than "very well"	126	0.1%

**Appendix I**  
**Demographic Maps**  
**(2015 – 2019 Data – ACS 5-Year**  
**Estimates)**









# Appendix J

## Title VI Equity Analysis



Excerpt from MACORTS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan approved October 9, 2019 containing the Title VI Analysis for the MACORTS region.

MACORTS

2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE



#### *Title VI and Environmental Justice*

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin shall be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. In addition, the focus on Environmental Justice (EJ) states that federal agencies shall identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. As the recipients of federal transportation dollars, the planning process must incorporate the Title VI and EJ analysis, as these populations often experience significant transportation and mobility challenges. These challenges were reported by the public during the public involvement phases of the development of this Plan (see Public and Stakeholder Engagement section beginning on page 89.) The US Census Bureau American Community Survey data from 2016 was used to update the identification and location of the Title VI and EJ populations from the previous plan.

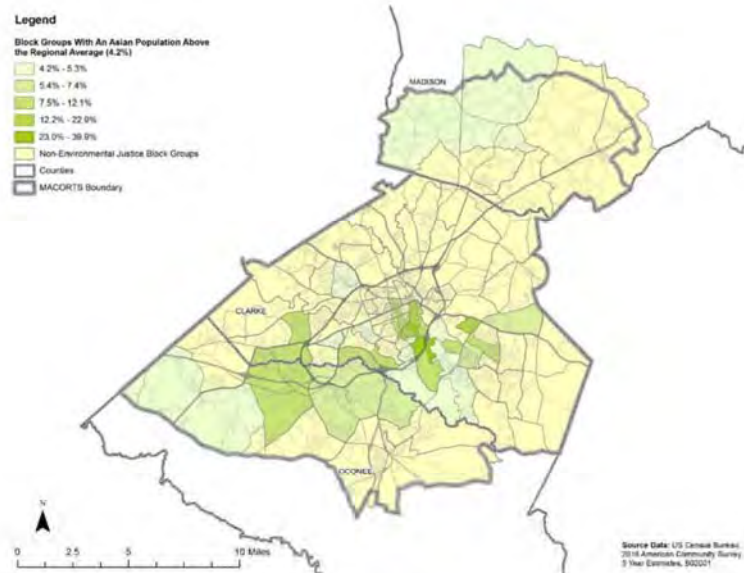


Using this Census geography of block groups and tracts, any area was identified with populations above the overall regional average of 4.2%. The northwestern area of the MPO in Madison County does have block groups with EJ populations that are greater than the 4.2% regional average, but less than 5.3%. Regionally, the highest concentrations of EJ populations are found in the more central areas of Athens-Clarke County and in the block groups along the Oconee/Athens-Clarke County line. Based on the Census data, the regional average for each of the following categories was calculated; maps of the categories are shown in Figures 6 through 13.



- **Asian**  
Block groups with an Asian population above the regional average of 4.2% are concentrated in Athens-Clarke County, primarily in the central area and south and east of the center. Block groups are also located along the Oconee County line.

FIGURE 7. ASIAN POPULATIONS ABOVE REGIONAL AVERAGE

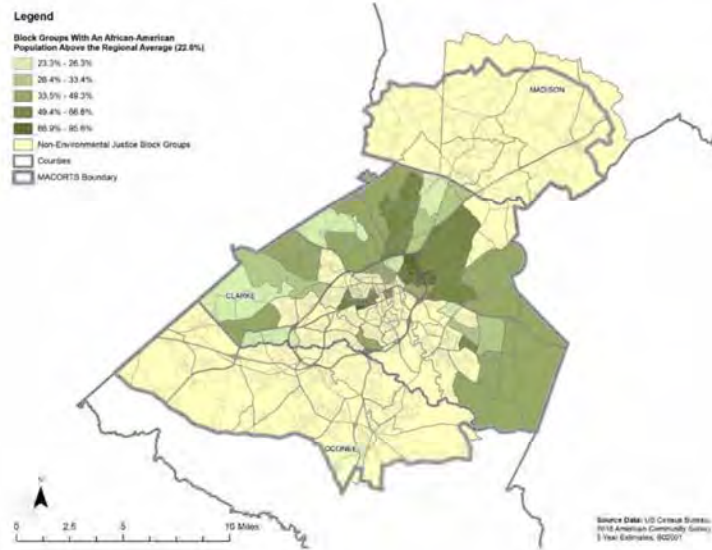




▪ African-American

The block groups with an African American population above the regional average of 22.6% are located only in Athens-Clarke County, with concentrations of populations occurring primarily north and east of the downtown area, along with several block groups found in the downtown area.

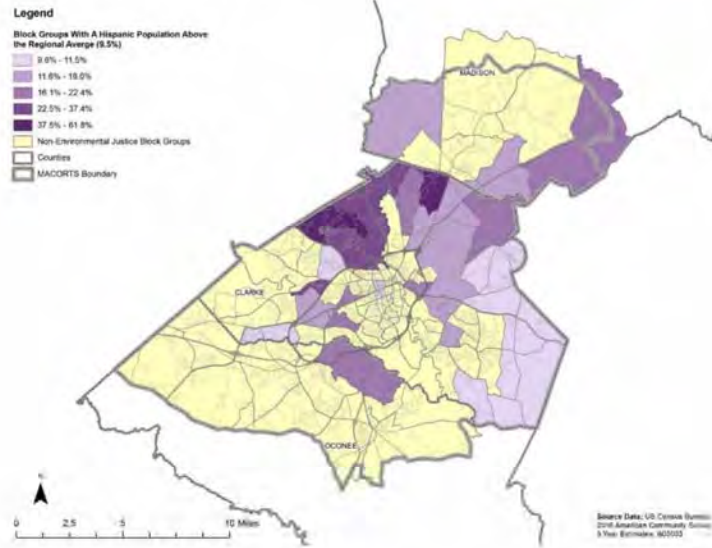
FIGURE 6. AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATIONS ABOVE REGIONAL AVERAGE





- Hispanic  
The largest concentrations of the Hispanic populations occur in northeastern Athens-Clarke County at the Madison County line and in the northern portions of the county near the Jackson County line.

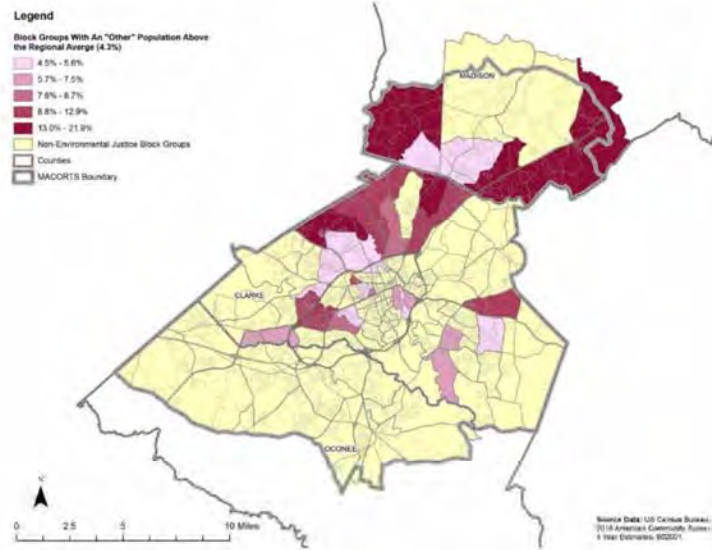
FIGURE 8. HISPANIC POPULATION ABOVE REGIONAL AVERAGE





- Other Race not Caucasian, African American or Asian**  
 The block groups with the heaviest concentrations occur in southern Madison County adjacent to Oglethorpe and Athens-Clarke Counties and in western Madison County adjacent to Jackson County. Concentrations in Athens-Clarke County are found primarily in the northern areas adjacent to Madison and Jackson Counties. In addition, there are smaller concentrations found west of the downtown area.

FIGURE 9. OTHER POPULATIONS ABOVE REGIONAL AVERAGE

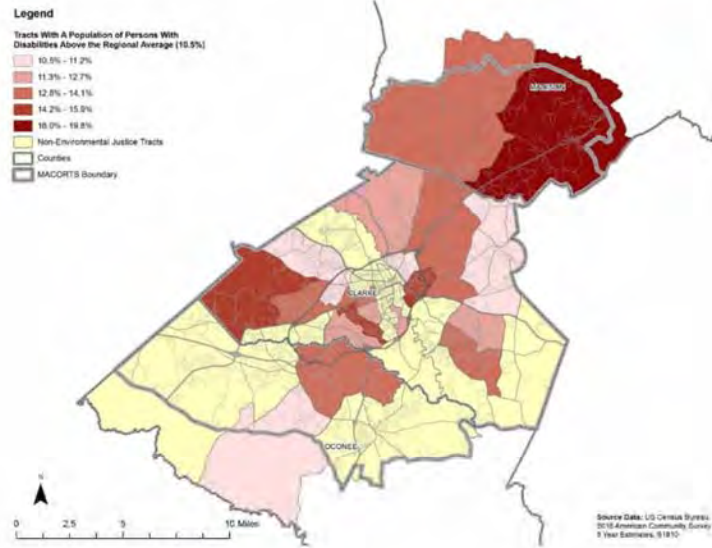




■ Persons with Disabilities

The largest population is found in eastern Madison County, with a concentration of between 16% and 20% above the regional average. The western portion of Madison County also exhibits populations above the regional average. Those areas in Athens-Clarke County are found west of the downtown area, and northwest of the downtown area towards Madison County.

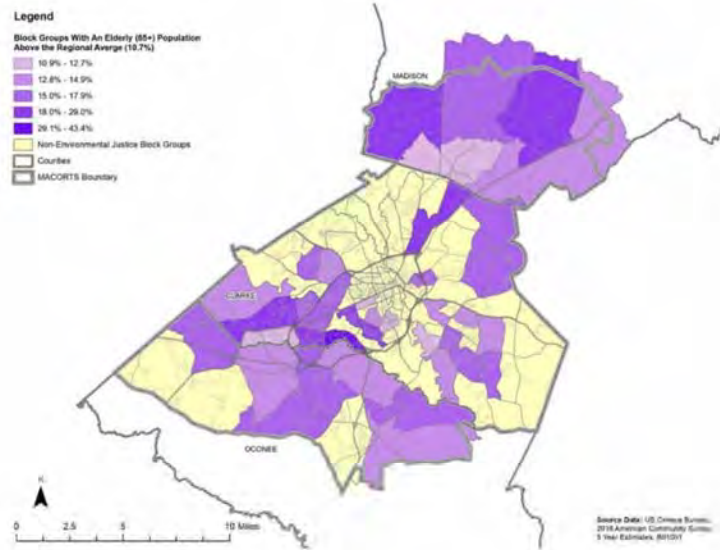
FIGURE 10. POPULATIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ABOVE REGIONAL AVERAGE





- Elderly (Age 65 and Over)**  
 Elderly populations, or those over 65 years of age, above the regional average of 10.7% were found primarily in Madison County and in Athens-Clarke County adjacent to Madison County and in the western portion of the county. There were no block groups over the regional average in Oconee County.

FIGURE 11. ELDERLY POPULATIONS ABOVE REGIONAL AVERAGE

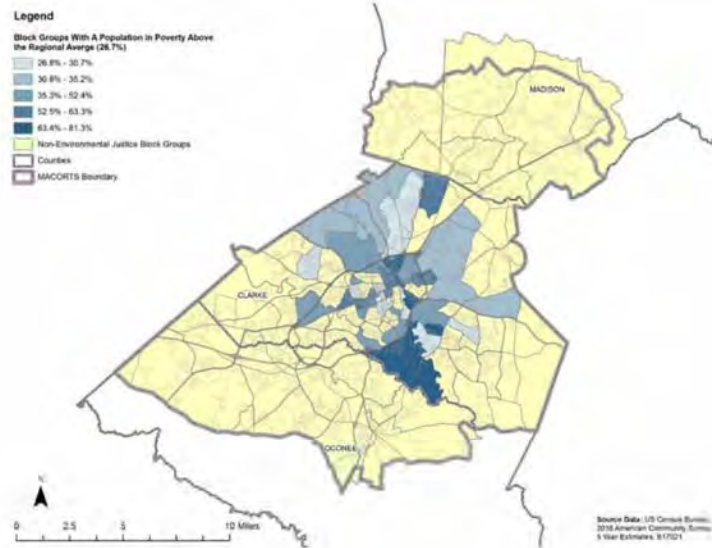




■ Poverty

The average of populations living in poverty in the counties of Athens-Clarke, Madison, and Oconee is 26.7%. Those areas with populations above the regional average are found in Athens-Clarke County, with none found in Madison and Oconee Counties. These populations primarily surround the downtown area except to the west.

FIGURE 12. POPULATIONS IN POVERTY ABOVE REGIONAL AVERAGE

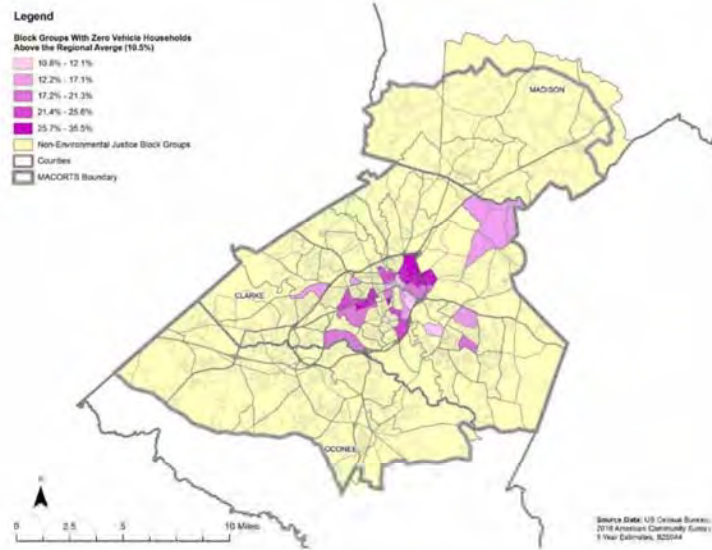






- Households without Access to an automobile**  
 Populations with no access to a vehicle, or Zero Vehicle Households, are found only in Athens-Clarke County. The regional average for these populations is 10.5% and the block groups with populations higher than this average are found primarily in the central area of the county, near the downtown. There is one block group adjacent to Madison County that is also above the regional average.

FIGURE 13. ZERO VEHICLE HOUSEHOLDS ABOVE REGIONAL AVERAGE





Service Option	Annual Operating Costs	Capital Costs
Route 20 Frequency	\$502,952	\$450,000
Route 21 Frequency	\$756,902	\$450,000
Route 22 Frequency	\$756,913	\$450,000
Route 27 Frequency	\$679,286	\$450,000
Route 28 Frequency	\$317,316	\$450,000
<b>Long Term Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,231,917</b>	<b>\$4,620,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,984,612</b>	<b>\$10,440,000</b>

Since the adoption of the TDP, all routes that circulated through the University of Georgia campus were re-routed to accommodate campus construction. In addition, the realignments of Routes 5, 6, and 7 have been implemented, as well as the new service on US 29/Danielsville Road.

**Environmental Mitigation**

In order to understand how the impacts of the identified projects, the project map was overlaid with the Environmental Justice communities, as well as with the natural and community resources. The projects that are adjacent to, or within, the identified Environmental Justice communities, which include minority populations, concentrations of elderly populations, populations living in poverty and those without access to a vehicle, were reviewed to ensure better access and mobility, as well as minimal to no community impacts.

The map in Figure 43 displays the locations with the highest concentrations of Environmental Justice communities overlaid with the identified projects. The projects that are within, or adjacent to those areas with the highest concentrations of Environmental Justice populations all include new and/or enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as configurations to enhance both the safety, as well as the aesthetics of the facility. These projects include access management techniques that improve safety for motorists, as well as other modal users, provide pedestrian refuges with the inclusion of medians, and provide opportunities for landscaping and streetscaping. Each of these projects is aligned with the MACORTS commitment to provide all populations with efficient mobility, access and connectivity.



FIGURE 43. TITLE VI PROJECT ANALYSIS

