Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization OKs CAT grants

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) recently approved more than $1.3 million in grant funding applications submitted by Chattahoochee Area Transit for new buses and a bus stop improvement project.

As a result of the CORE MPO’s vote on Oct. 27, the CAT funding will be added to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan in December. The grant approval sets CAT on a course to receive the funding during the 2023 fiscal year.

The approved funding application includes $936,000 for two new 35-foot diesel buses that will help CAT maintain a dependable fleet and lower long-term maintenance costs by replacing the oldest and least reliable buses. In addition, the CORE MPO approved CAT’s application for $400,000 to develop a bus stop improvement plan that will guide the placement of amenities such as shelters, benches and trashcans. The plan will also help CAT determine where accessibility improvements are needed in order to make all bus stops ADA compliant.

Both grants will require that CAT provide a 20-percent local match. The funds were approved as part of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, a federal program that provides funds to states and localities for transportation improvement projects.

CORE MPO manages the STBG funds allocated to the Savannah area, which amounts to around $4 million each year.
Veterans Day Parade to impact CAT services (continued from page 1)

Wheaton & Family Dollar - Wheaton & Live Oak
Liberty & East Board (WB) - Wheaton & Live Oak
East Board & Perry (NE) - Wheaton & Live Oak
Oglethorpe & Price - transit center
Oglethorpe & Abercorn (WB) - transit center
Oglethorpe & Bull (WB) - transit center
Oglethorpe & Barnard (WB) - transit center
11 CANDELER and 14 ABERCORN
Outbound stops missed-alternative stop
Abercorn & Oglethorpe (SB) - transit center
Abercorn & Liberty (SB) - transit center
Abercorn & Macan (SB) - transit center
Abercorn & Jones (SB) - transit center
Rose Of Sharon (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Wayne (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Huntingdon (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Wayane - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Jones - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Macan - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Liberty - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Oglethorpe - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Half (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Bolton (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Park (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Henry (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Bentlyt - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Jefferson (EB) - Gwinnett & Waters at the route 28 bus stop
Abercorn & Oglethorpe (EB) - Gwinnett & Waters at the route 28 bus stop
Inbound Stops missed-alternative stop
Abercorn & Henry – Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Pank - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Bolton - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Half - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Oglethorpe - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Parker - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Liberty - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Macan - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Bolton - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Liberty - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Half - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Oglethorpe - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Glenwood - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Bentlyt - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Henry (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Park (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Macan (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Bolton (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Henry (SB) - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Bentlyt - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Star - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Liberty - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Half - Abercorn & Anderson
Abercorn & Oglethorpe - Abercorn & Anderson
27 WATERS
Outbound stops missed-alternative stop
Oglethorpe & Jefferson (EB) - Gwinnett & Waters at the route 28 bus stop
Oglethorpe & Abercorn (EB) - Gwinnett & Waters at the route 28 bus stop
Inbound Stops missed-alternative stop
Abercorn & Henry – Abercorn & Anderson
Glenwood & Macan - Abercorn & Anderson
Liberty & East Board (EB) - Gwinnett & Waters at the route 28 bus stop
Alonda Bynoe walks back to the vehicle during a CAT Mobility training session.
Bynoe will be joining her mother, Sandy Early, who has worked at CAT as a fixed-route operator for 21 years.

CAT Mourns Maintenance Director Steve Boatright

“I’m still not sure what to say but first and foremost I hope everyone knows we lost a great man, a great employee to CAT but most of all a great friend,” Jimmy said. “Steve looked after me at work and always helped me out in any situation that I needed him! It’s almost hunting season and I am going to miss our conversations about hunting and miss all the pictures that we would share during this time of the year. My condolences to his family.”

Maintenance Support Specialist Cara Lehman said she was very fortunate to work with Steve for the past five and a half years, describing him as a great friend, mentor and boss.

“I loved watching his face and his excitement when the new buses and the generator for the electric buses came into the yard, it was like a kid on Christmas day,” Cara said.

Steve was ambitious and believed the best of everyone he met, while always jumping at the opportunity to help everyone, said Maintenance Manager Donna Dale.

“He always reached beyond his limits to make things work at CAT,” Donna said.

During the CAT Board’s Governance Committee meeting last month, Interim CEO Valerie Ragland took a moment along with the committee members to recognize Steve’s passing with a moment of silence. Steve has given so many contributions, so much commitment and dedication to CAT, Valerie said.

“He truly is going to be missed,” she said. “We already miss him.”

Chief of Staff/Board Liaison Beverly Du-

mas said that Steve was very hands on and would be hard to replace. She said that even on challenging workdays, Steve would never complain and would always remind you that “It’s a beautiful day.”

Paratransit training (Continued from page 1)

Pleasantly surprised when she learned Bynoe was hired (Bynoe had not told her she applied), Early said that her daughter is a people person who will make a great paratransit operator.

“’She is a sweetheart,’ she said. ‘She’ll get along with anybody.’ Please be sure to say hello and thank Bynoe for helping to provide this vital service if you see her.

It has been two years since Chatham
Area Transit implemented a veterans
discount program that provides a 50-
percent discount on CAT services to
former members of the military. The dis-
count can be applied to most of CAT’s
fixed-route fare options, including $1.50
one-way trips, $3 day passes and $50
monthly passes.

Since the program was launched, CAT
has issued about 1,500 veteran
discounts. For those who have not done
so, we encourage more veterans to take
advantage of the discount when using CAT
services.

Proof of membership in a veterans’ or-
ganization such as the VWV, American
Legion and AMVETS also will be accept-
ed. Half-fare ID cards also can be ob-
tained by presenting proof of service at
the ticket window at the downtown Joe
Murray Rivers, Jr. Intermodal Transit
Center, 610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue.

These IDs can then be used in place
of military service documentation. Veterans
can also call customer service at (912)
233-5767 to get set up and purchase the
discounted passes using CAT’s Token
Transit mobile ticketing app.

Veterans who need proof of their ser-
vice can learn how to get a copy of their
DD 214 form (Report of Separation)
from the National Archives by going to
the following web address: https://
themilitarywallet.com/replace-lost-
military-service-
records/ or scan-
ing the QR code with
their smartphone’s
camera.

CAT discount available to veterans

VETERAN HALF FAKE

To honor their service, CAT is offering half-fare
to all veterans.

To get the discount, veterans must present one of the following:
Veteran ID Card, Discharge Documents, Driver’s License with Veteran
Designation, Proof of Membership with a Veterans Organization or a
Half-Fare ID Card.

For more information, visit catchacat.com

According to the Georgia Department
of Veterans Service, there were about
28,000 veterans in Chatham County
in 2017. Statewide, the number was
almost 700,000.

CAT also offers similar half-fare pro-
grams to young people ages 6-18, peo-
ple with disabilities, Medicare recipi-
ents, and seniors ages 65 and older.

To get the discount, veterans should
present bus operators with either their
veteran ID card, discharge documents
or driver’s license with a veteran designa-
tion.

Join Our Team! Open positions for bus operators, paratransit drivers, & ferry captains
Starting salaries from $12.45 - $26

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