

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** 5307 Transit Grant Authorizing Resolution

**DATE:** August 5, 2026

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Federal Transit Administration 5307 Program provides formula based Operating and Capital funding to support the ACCGov Transit program. 5307 funds support the Transit Operating program project at up to 50%, and support Transit Capital projects at 90%. Reductions in available 5307 funds in FY 2028 will increase reliance on TSPLOST 2023 Project 19 and/or ACCGov General Fund contributions.

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**BUDGET INFORMATION:**

REVENUES:               \$       4,258,780       Fiscal Year 2028 FTA 5307 Apportionment

EXPENSES:

|         |    |                   |                                                 |
|---------|----|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| ANNUAL: | \$ | 4,258,780         | FY28 FTA 5307 Including STIC                    |
|         | \$ | 6,028,414         | TSPLOST 2023 Project 19                         |
|         | \$ | <b>10,287,194</b> | <b>FY28 ACCGov Transit Operating (estimate)</b> |

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CAPITAL:

OTHER:

|                 |                         |              |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| FUNDING SOURCE: | TSPLOST 2023 Project 19 | \$ 6,028,415 |
|                 | FTA 5307 FY 2028        | \$ 2,929,870 |
|                 | FTA STIC FY 2028        | \$ 1,328,910 |

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**COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON:** September 1, 2026

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**PURPOSE:**

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

- a) Adopt a Resolution (**Attachment #1**) authorizing the submission of an application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for FY 2028 Federal Transit Administration – 5307 operating assistance in the amount of \$ 4,258,780;
- b) Authorize the acceptance of the grant at the currently projected level or alternative level, if awarded; and,
- c) Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all associated documents.

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**HISTORY:**

1. Since 1977, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urbanized Area (UZA) Formula Program (Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307) has annually provided operating and capital funding assistance to qualifying transit systems, including Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov) Transit. Operating

assistance reimburses eligible expenses up to 50% and capital assistance reimburses eligible expenses up to 80%.

2. Since 2013, the University of Georgia (UGA) and ACCGov have entered into an annual agreement to credit UGA for their ridership contribution to FTA reimbursements. Historically, UGA received the credit through fare discount for UGA-affiliated riders.
3. From March 2020 through June 2023, ACCGov Transit was primarily funded through Federal emergency relief funds due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Also beginning in March 2020, the Mayor and Commission (M&C) approved 'fare free' ACCGov Transit services, waiving fares for all ACCGov Transit passengers.
4. On June 15, 2021, the M&C adopted the FY22 annual budget, which did not include a General Fund transfer to the ACCGov Transit Fund. This was the first time since the inception of the Transit Department General Fund dollars were not used to support the Transit Department Operating Project.
5. On May 24, 2022, Athens-Clarke County voters approved the TSPLOST 2023 program. Of this, \$27.3M is designated to support current ACCGov Transit operations starting in October 2022.
6. In May 2022, UGA informed ACCGov that UGA Campus Transit had been approved as a sub-recipient to apply for and receive FTA reimbursements for eligible transit expenses.
7. Beginning in July 2022, ACCGov Transit received Federal emergency relief funds that provided 100% reimbursements for eligible operating expenses.
8. In June 2023, and as part of the vote to adopt the FY24 budget, the M&C authorized a General Fund transfer of \$500K to ACCGov Transit. This funding was used to establish an ACCGov Transit fund reserve and could also be used as a local match for FTA funding.
9. In August 2023, the M&C approved an annual agreement between ACCGov Transit and UGA Campus Transit for FY25. This agreement recognizes UGA's sub-recipient status and agrees that UGA may claim reimbursements totaling 60% of the STIC sub-program. ACCGov Transit may apply for 40% of the STIC sub-program as well as the remaining FTA 5307 funding.
10. In September 2023, as required, ACCGov Transit and UGA Campus Transit jointly presented a collaborative plan to the Madison Athens Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) Technical Committee and to the MACORTS Policy Committee.
11. April 2024, M&C approved the FY 2025 ACCGov – UGA Transportation agreement outlining the sharing of funds between ACCGov and UGA Campus Transit. Per historic agreements Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC) funds will be split between entities at 42%/58% (ACCGov/UGA) for eligible public transportation expenses based upon annual NTD performance factors.

12. June 2, 2026, ACCGov Mayor and Commission approved the ACC-UGA Transportation Memorandum outlining the sharing of funds between ACCGov and UGA Campus Transit. Per the approved FY27-28 agreement, Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC) funds will be split between entities at 49%/51% (ACCGov/UGA) for eligible public transportation expenses based upon annual NTD performance factors.

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**FACTS & ISSUES:**

1. The U.S. Congress appropriates Transit Formula Funds annually. Annual funding requests are based on cost projections and submitted to FTA through the Georgia Department of Transportation as part of the approved (MACORTS) Transportation Improvement Plan. The actual funding levels will not be available or finalized until approved by the Congress, usually in December of each calendar year.
2. Typically, the FTA 5307 grant program reimburses up to 50% of eligible transit operating expenses. The FTA 5307 program includes a sub-program named *Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC)*. This sub-program is based on a calculation that includes ridership, passenger miles, revenue miles, and vehicle miles. Without using the University of Georgia's (UGA) ridership numbers, ACCGov Transit may only qualify for two of the factors in a given fiscal year. Including UGA's ridership numbers increases that number to five factors.
3. It is projected that \$4,258,780 of FTA 5307 funds will be available to ACCGov Transit during FY28 for operating and capital reimbursements. It is expected that ACCGov Transit will expend 100% of the formula 5307 funds allocated to ACC Transit Department's FY8 operating and capital budgets. The grant requires ACCGov to match a minimum of 50% of the operating funds and 20% of capital funds, which is expected to come from 2023 TSPLOST Project 19.
4. The operating reimbursements will be used to reimburse up to 50% of FY28 Transit operating expenses. The capital reimbursements will be used in accordance with the Transit Capital Improvement Plan and MACORTS-approved Transportation Improvement Plan, during FY28, to maintain bus and bus related facilities, for preventive maintenance items for transit vehicles/equipment, and to upgrade information technology and security systems. These funds typically become available after the beginning of the federal fiscal year. The table below provides examples of eligible expenses.

| Examples of eligible operating expenses | Examples of eligible capital expenses          |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Personnel costs                         | Transit vehicle preventative maintenance parts |
| Facility maintenance expenditures       | Technology systems, including GPS tracking     |
| Fuel for transit vehicles               | Vehicle-related equipment                      |
| Safety and security labor costs         | Vehicle Purchases (including support fleet)    |

|                          |                                                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Contract labor           | Transit vehicle spare parts                         |
| Daily Operating supplies | Facility repair/rehabilitation budget               |
| Utilities                | Safety/Security Hardware                            |
|                          | Support Equipment/tools                             |
|                          | Bus stop repair/replacement                         |
|                          | Planning/Transportation related studies/evaluations |
|                          | Employee Training/Education                         |

5. All federal funding is subject to Congressional appropriations. If anticipated funding is reduced or insufficient for Transit program needs, additional local funding will be required to maintain current services or transit services will need to be reduced proportionally.
6. Based upon published FFY26 FTA 5307 Apportionment Table and the ACCGov/UGA FY27-28 agreement, the estimated available reimbursements will be:

| <b>FY2028 Projected Federal Transit Administration 5307 Revenues</b> |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total FTA FFY26 5307 (including STIC)                                | \$ 5,641,931        |
| FTA FFY 26 STIC                                                      | \$ 2,712,061        |
| FTA FFY 26 Formula 5307                                              | \$ 2,929,870        |
| ACC STIC (@49%)                                                      | \$ 1,328,910        |
| UGA STIC (@51%)                                                      | \$ 1,383,151        |
| <b>TOTAL FY 28 FTA Funds Available to ACC Transit</b>                | <b>\$ 4,258,780</b> |

7. FTA Formula funds apportioned to the Athens-Clarke County Urbanized Area (UZA) have decreased by 42% relative to prior year allotments. The FY2026 FTA apportionment including STIC funds of \$3,616,944 is 27% less than the average FTA 5307 funding apportionment over the prior three years.
8. This recommendation supports the following ACCGov Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy:  
Safely Move around Athens Goal, Strategy C – *Expand multi-modal Transit access to reduce auto dependency and provide greater mobility for Athens-Clarke County residents.*

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#### **OPTIONS:**

1. Mayor and Commission:
  - a. Adopt a Resolution (**Attachment # 1**) authorizing the submission of an application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for FY 2028 Federal Transit Administration – 5307 operating assistance in the amount of \$4,258,780;

- b. Authorize the acceptance of the grant at the currently projected level or alternative level, if awarded; and,
  - c. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all related documents.
2. Mayor and Commission deny the grant application.
3. Mayor and Commission defined option.

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**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Option #1 a, b, & c

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**DEPARTMENT:** Transit  
Prepared by: Victor Pope



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Victor Pope, Transit Director

August 5, 2026

Date

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

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Bob Cowell, Manager

August 11, 2026

Date

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment#1: FY28\_5307\_Authorizing\_Resolution

## Part C: Authorizing Resolution

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The following two pages include an authorizing resolution that must be enacted by the governing body of the Applicant Organization and signed by the Chair of the County Commission, Mayor, or the head of the governing body as appropriate. Please complete the fillable fields on the resolution, then print and sign the designated fields. The authorizing resolution must be properly witnessed and notarized, including the date the notary's commission expires. The resolution should also be stamped with the notary seal as well as the seal of the county commission, city, or appropriate applicant jurisdiction. The certificate of the attesting officer must also be completed. A scanned copy of the completed, signed, and notarized Authorizing Resolution should be submitted as an attachment with the full application package.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR A GRANT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5307.**

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Transit Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants to non-urbanized (rural) areas for mass transportation projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon Applicant, including the provision of the local share of project costs; and

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY \_\_\_\_\_ hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant",

1. That the Designated Official \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter referred to as the "Official, is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ with the Georgia Department of Transportation, to aid in the purchase of bus transit vehicles and/or the planning, development, and construction of bus transit-related facilities pursuant to Section 5307 of the Federal Transit Act.
2. That the Official is authorized to execute and file such application and assurances, or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. That the Official is authorized to execute and file all other standard assurances, or any other document required by the Georgia Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation in connection with the application for public transportation assistance.
4. That the Official is authorized to execute grant contract agreements on behalf of the Applicant with the Georgia Department of Transportation.
5. That the Official is authorized to set forth and execute Minority Business Enterprise, DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) and WBE (Women Business Enterprise) policies and procedures in connection with the project's procurement needs as applicable.

6. That the applicant while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration will comply with FTA Circular 9030.1E, FTA Certifications and Assurances for Federal Assistance 2026 as listed in this grant application and General Operating Guidelines as illustrated in the Georgia State Management Plan.
7. That the applicant has or will have available in the General Fund the required non-federal funds to meet local share requirements for this grant application.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of Authorized Official

Signed, sealed, and delivered this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026 in the presence of

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public/Notary Seal

### **CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned duly qualified and acting \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title of Certifying/Attesting Official) (Applicant's Legal Name) certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting held on  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Certifying/Attesting Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Certifying/Attesting Officer

(Place Seal Here)