

# ST Transportation in the Region

A Publication of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Southern Georgia Regional Commission  
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## Safe Routes to School Benefits

The Safe Routes To School Program empowers communities to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and routine activity once again. Georgia's SRTS Resource Center assists schools and communities with education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation, planning, and other non-construction related SRTS activities.

Two programs support the goals of making it safer for kids to walk and bike to school, and to encourage more kids to do so:



- Funding to local governments to improve the walking and bicycling conditions to schools; and
- Support for school-based Safe Routes to School programs through partnerships with the Resource Center.

Funded by the Federal SRTS program, the SGRC in partnership with the Georgia SRTS Resource Center provides information and technical assistance to schools and local governments interested in the program.

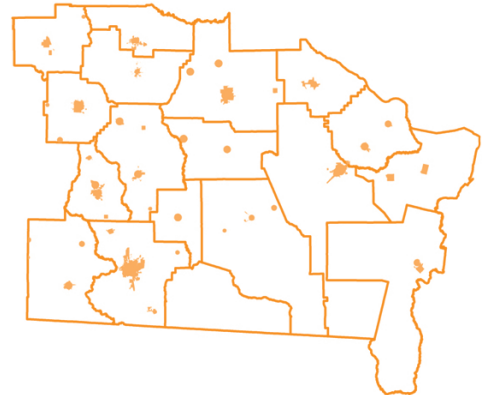
If you would like more information on SRTS visit [www.saferoutesga.org](http://www.saferoutesga.org) or contact Corey Hull at [chull@sgrc.us](mailto:chull@sgrc.us) and ask to be placed on our SRTS mailing list.

## Local Discretionary Project Lists for TIA

On October 10, 2011 the Southern Georgia Regional Transportation Roundtable approved a regional transportation project list that contains 75% of the funds this region would receive if a transportation sales and use tax is approved by the voters on July 31, 2012. The tax is estimated to generate \$670,985,361 total; \$503,239,020 of which is reserved for the 75% regional projects list.

The remaining 25% of the funds (\$167,746,439) are allocated to local governments by formula (based on population and road centerline miles). While these funds are to be spent at the discretion of each local government on transportation related projects, it is recommended that your local government begin to consider how these funds might be spent over the next 10 years. By identifying these projects now, your local voters will be able to know how all of the funds from this proposed sales and use tax will be spent in their local community.

In order to have a central source for information about the proposed sales tax, we are asking local governments to submit their project lists for the 25% discretionary funding by March 31, 2012 to the following address: SGRC; ATTN: Corey Hull; 327 W Savannah Ave.; Valdosta, GA 31602; or by email at [chull@sgrc.us](mailto:chull@sgrc.us).



## 10 Years of Crash Data in Lowndes County

Every year the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization produces an annual crash report examining general vehicle crash trends in Lowndes County. The Georgia Department of Transportation now has ten years of crash data available for analysis. In this year's crash report the VLMPO will take an indepth look at crash trends over the past decade in Lowndes County. Here are a few of the preliminary statistics we have found. For more information on the annual crash reports visit our website at [www.sgrc.us/transportation](http://www.sgrc.us/transportation) and click on 'Data and Resources'.

- Total Crashes: 35,505
- 19% Decrease from 2005 to 2009
- Fatal Crashes: 161
- Total Fatalities: 161
- 66% of collisions were rear-end or angle
- 271 Pedestrian Crashes
- Average Age of Causal Driver: 35.3
- 506 Causal Drivers with breathalyzer test over .08
- 2,883 Drivers did not use Safety Equipment (seat belt or helmet)
- 73% of crashes occurred inside Valdosta Urban Area
- 26% of crashes occurred between 3pm and 6pm

## *Title VI Training*

Within the past year many of the local cities and counties have received information from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) regarding Title VI. Many of local governments have had to sign Title VI assurance documents in order to ensure federal funding for your road construction projects. However, many may still not understand the requirements of Title VI and how it affects local governments. To that end, GDOT will provide a comprehensive training class targeting Title VI and ADA roles, responsibilities and duties for federal aid sub-recipients, i.e. local governments free of charge. Since GDOT will begin auditing all sub-recipients for Title VI and ADA compliance within six to eight months following training, your attendance is required as compliance protects current and future federal funding.

The course provides an overview of the FHWA Title VI and Environmental Justice programs and authorities, as well as

how to administer the programs at the State DOT and Local Government levels. **Each city and county that receives federal transportation funds through GDOT to do road construction projects is required to comply with these federal requirements.** This course is offered to assist local governments in protecting current and future federal transportation funding.

The training will be held in Atlanta at the GDOT Offices, 600 West Peachtree St. NW on the following dates: January 26, February, 23, April 26 and May 24, from 9:00 AM to Noon; and in Macon at the GDOT Training Center at 4499 Riverside Drive on June 28.

Please contact Corey Hull at [chull@sgrc.us](mailto:chull@sgrc.us) to register or if you have any questions.

## *Welcome*

This newsletter is a tool to provide information to transportation stakeholders and the public about upcoming transportation improvements throughout Southern Georgia. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Valdosta Urbanized Area.

### **MPO Policy Committee**

Ben Futch, City of Lake Park  
John Gayle, City of Valdosta  
Keith Golden, GDOT Commissioner (Interim)  
Larry Hanson, City of Valdosta  
John Leonard, SGRC  
Ashley Paulk, Lowndes County  
Joe Pritchard, Lowndes County

### **MPO Staff**

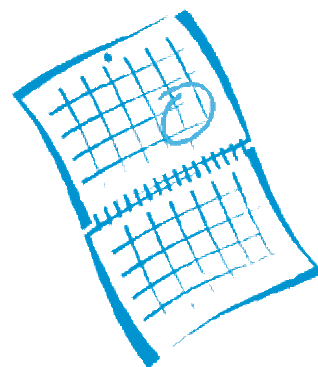
Corey Hull, MPO Coordinator  
Janice McKinnon, Planner

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Citizen's Advisory Committee  
3/6/12 3:00 PM  
6/5/12 3:00 PM

Technical Committee  
3/13/12 10:30 AM  
6/12/12 10:30 AM

Policy Committee  
3/13/12 1:30 PM  
6/12/12 1:30 PM



Meetings are typically held quarterly in March, June, September and December. All meetings are open to the public and held at the SGRC office unless otherwise indicated.

Visit our website at: [www.sgrc.us/transportation](http://www.sgrc.us/transportation) and click on Public Participation for more Information.



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If so please send a request to [chull@sgrc.us](mailto:chull@sgrc.us)