

Greater Dalton

Metropolitan Planning Organization



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2022

Miles of success in serving the region.

Dear MPO Members:

We like to think of the MPO as a kind of champion whose focus is on bettering the future of the Greater Dalton Planning Area.

The MPO's mission remains focused on delivering collaborative plans, and fiscally constrained projects that have been prioritized to meet the community's needs. The MPO is committed to innovation in an evolving environment, and continuing to strive for cohesion between daily commuters and freight mobility.

Growth in the community this past year promoted forward-thinking, planning, and pursuing windows of opportunity to maintain the vision of a more resilient Greater Dalton.

To ensure continued growth, the MPO plans to leverage future funding opportunities derived from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Thanks to the “once in a generation” funds, the region will have greater access to resources aimed at improving the quality of life for those we serve.

As ever, the MPO is here to serve its member communities. Through this collaboration we can continue bettering the region together.

Sincerely,

The Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization

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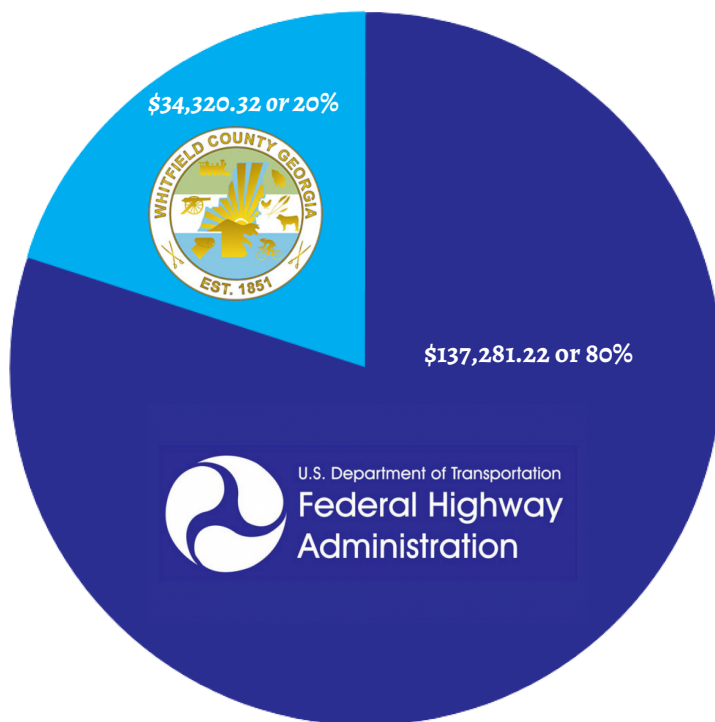
Our Policy Committee

The Greater Dalton MPO is a transportation decision-making board comprised of 10 voting members. The MPO is responsible for transportation planning and funding allocation in the Greater Dalton Planning Area. The MPO works with the public, planning organizations, government agencies, elected officials, and community groups to develop transportation planning documents.

Policy Committee Voting Members

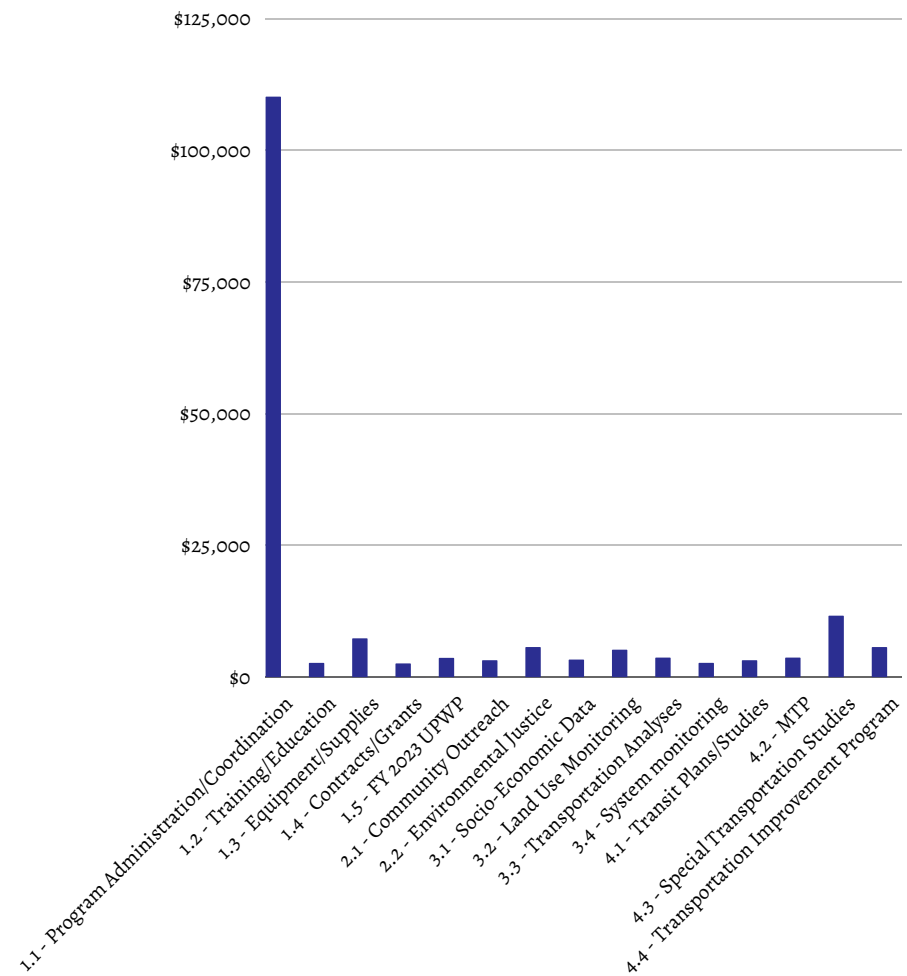
Chairman Whitfield County	Administrator Whitfield County	Mayor City of Dalton	Administrator City of Dalton	Councilman City of Dalton
JEVIN JENSEN	BOB SIVICK	DAVID PENNINGTON	ANDREW PARKER	DENNIS MOCK
Mayor City of Tunnel Hill	Mayor City of Varnell	Mayor Town of Cohutta	Planning Leader FHWA - Georgia	Planning Director Georgia DOT
KEN GOWIN	TOM DICKSON	RON SHINNICK	ANN-MARIE DAY	JANINE MILLER

FY 2022 Funding Summary



To help municipal partners review and monitor projects in the Transportation Improvement Program falling in their jurisdiction, the Greater Dalton MPO has coordinated with project managers to provide reports directly to the local representatives. On February 22, 2022, the Policy Committee adopted the [FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program](#) (UPWP). This plan allocates funding across various tasks that will be completed during the contract year.

FY 2022 Funding By UPWP Task



Transportation Improvement Program

The [Transportation Improvement Program](#) (TIP) is a comprehensive list of Federal, State, and locally funded transportation projects expected to be built over the next four years. This MPO core product is a snapshot of your tax dollars at work! As an MPO, our annual TIP includes all authorized projects. This year our staff connected project managers to local municipalities for direct project reports, individualized reports highlighting all projects within that municipality, making project updates accessible to municipal partners. The Greater Dalton MPO typically updates the TIP annually, and the MPO Policy Committee approves the TIP in July every year. The Fiscal Year 2021-2024 TIP programmed 18 projects with a funding commitment of about \$14.6 million. Three projects moved into design phase or beyond.

Major Projects

Project	Type of Work	Cost
State Route 2 @ Conasauga River	Bridge Replacement	\$308,000.00 for Preliminary Engineering
State Route 201 @ Tanyard Creek	Bridge Replacement	\$2,620,910.00 for Total Project Completion
State Route 225 @ Pinhook Creek	Bridge Replacement	\$810,000.00 for Preliminary Engineering and Right-of-Way

Zero is the Goal

In response to the rate of serious injury and fatal crashes on the nation's highway system, the Greater Dalton MPO committed to a target of "zero" for its Federal [performance measures](#) in 2018, and updated the measures on January 4, 2022. In order to meet this target, the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) established an emphasis on addressing safety concerns at key intersections and corridor segments on the region's roadway network. The intent is to identify high crash intersections and corridors for further analysis, develop countermeasures, and program capital improvements to address safety. The Greater Dalton MPO has spent the past year working with State and Federal partners to leverage available funding for safety projects. The first project application for this effort was located on Dawnville Road, a key corridor between two state routes connecting Whitfield and Murray Counties. The MPO anticipates completion of roadway safety to continue and align with further funding opportunities. Moving forward, the MPO will consult with local emergency services to identify high crash locations, develop plans, and program state and Federal funds for project implementation.



RAISE Grant

This spring, the Greater Dalton MPO partnered with the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners (BOC) to submit a Federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). RAISE is the successor to the TIGER Grant program. The BOC is requested \$4.5 million to complete the project.

This project is for the replacement of Whitfield County Bridge #313-0068-0. The current condition limits freight mobility choices in an area that thrives on manufacturing, and potentially threatens access to employment opportunities and designated bus routes. Degrading conditions have forced weight restrictions, so the safety of more than 12,000 daily travelers is not jeopardized. As a regionally significant project, the goal is to reconstruct the bridge to incorporate additional infrastructure improvements to include:

- Realignment of a curved horizontal alignment that prohibits adequate sight distance.
- Adding ADA compliant sidewalks
- Adding increased shoulder widths to accommodate emergencies and biking in the area
- Including conduit for the potential expansion of broadband in the area

All the proposed improvements will be reconstructed and designed to improve flooding conditions. Additionally, this project will improve the quality of life by improving connectivity for the citizens residing and working in the Greater Dalton area—particularly the pedestrian population—and make the community and project area more attractive through the reconstruction of the alignment and the introduction of ADA-compliant sidewalks. This Project has demonstrated its strong collaboration by a diverse group of Federal, State, local and private partners.

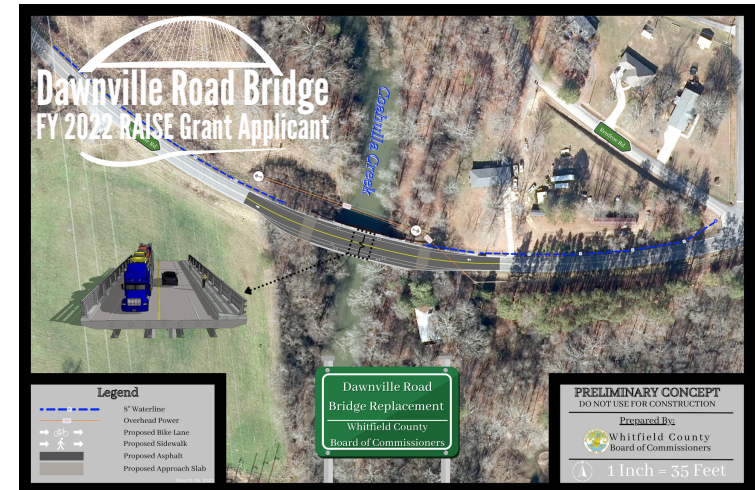


Figure 1: Preliminary Concept

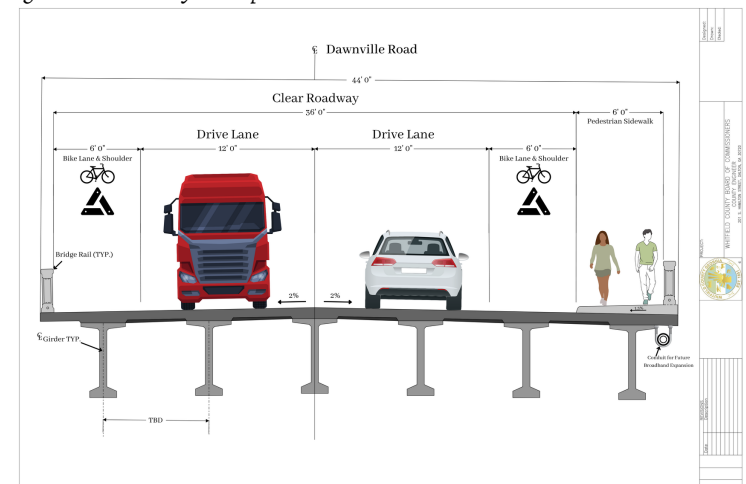
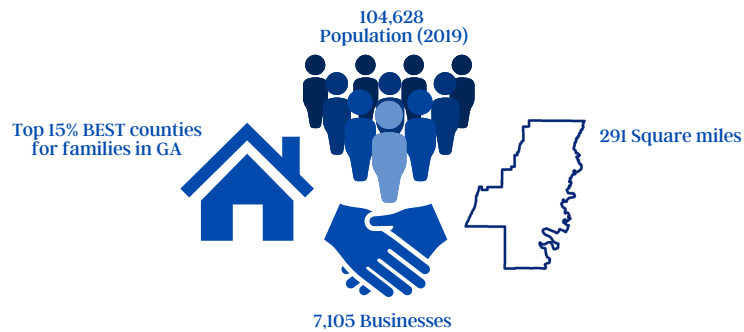


Figure 2: Proposed Cross-Section

Public Outreach

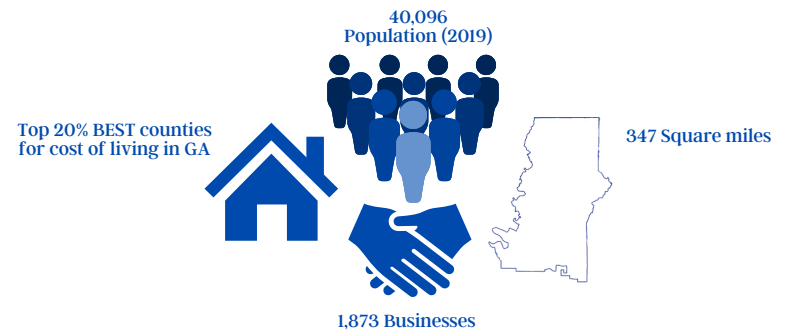
Engaging Greater Dalton's communities is the cornerstone of all MPO efforts, and now more than ever, pivoting the outreach and engagement strategy was essential. While in years past the MPO was able to host community meetings and create in-person connections, this past year forced MPO staff to reevaluate how it can connect with the community while abiding by social distancing requirements. We began hosting virtual meetings and moved to hybrid meetings, as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. The MPO plans to continue hosting hybrid meetings to meet the needs of all planning partners. The Public Participation Plan will continue to be updated as we navigate the stochastic nature of the community engagement environment.

Who We Serve



Whitfield County Community Snapshot

Who We Serve



Murray County Community Snapshot

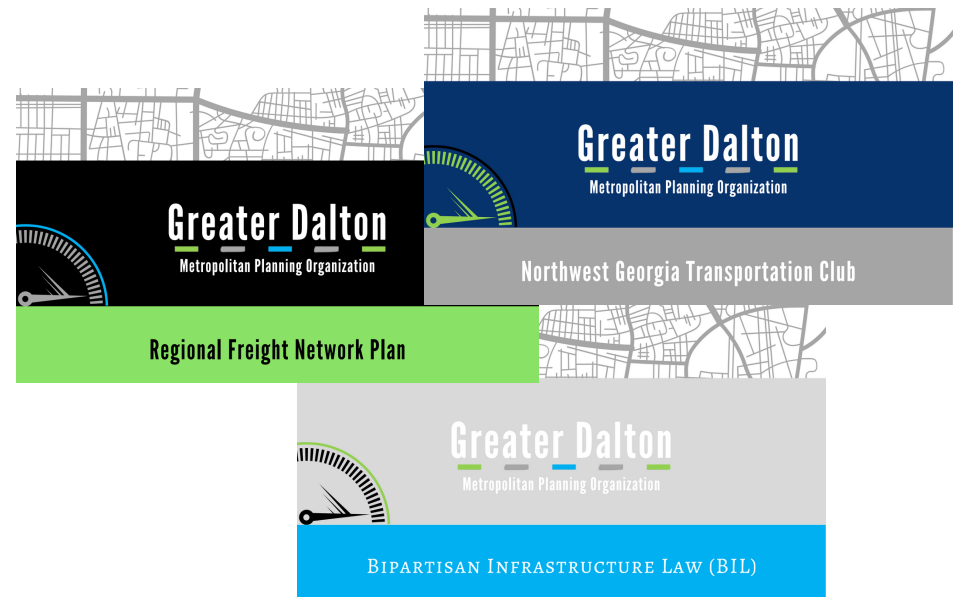
Regional Freight Network Plan

The Greater Dalton MPO was awarded additional PL Funds from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in March of 2022. The amount of \$200,000.00 will aid in developing the area's first Regional Freight Network Plan. The objective of this task will be to provide a final comprehensive Regional Freight Network Plan that consists of the necessary technical detail that includes study findings and recommendations as well as a concise Executive Summary, and compilation of all task deliverables included in the Scope of Work.

The consultant team will provide an implementation plan that outlines how the freight plan recommendations will be incorporated into the long-range transportation plan, short-range transportation plan, and other local plans (Comprehensive Plan, Project Requests to the State, etc.).

The consultant team will prepare a final report based on all the analyses produced from the study, and will be responsible for an electronic version of the report suitable for printing and inclusion on the Greater Dalton MPO website.

This plan will correspond with the objectives established for the [planning future](#).



Community Partnerships

Greater Chattanooga Freight Hub

The Greater Dalton MPO worked with Thrive Regional Partnership, and other public and private entities to develop the Greater Chattanooga Freight Hub. It's a geospatial data hub that integrates information from across three states (Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee) that are critical corridors of the southeastern supply chain network. Learn more about Thrive and all of the great work they are doing at the [2022 State of Freight Forum!](#)

The goals of the Freight Hub are to:

- Provide a baseline of modes, moves, and facilities across the region.
- Increase awareness and higher education institution curriculum focus on multimodal freight movement.
- Support regional planning and projects by validating trends and the importance of tri-state linkages for economic development and efficiencies.
- Provide maps, data, and analysis approaches that can be adopted by states in support of their efforts.
- Promote a multimodal approach to understanding and defining freight corridors.
- Promote a greater understanding of freight policy and program options, and the operational and real-world consequences for freight systems and the economy.



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