

COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY

CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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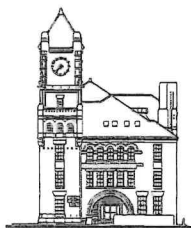
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County Manager

R. JONATHAN HART
County Attorney

JANICE E. BOCOOK
County Clerk



April 13, 2026

Mr. Detric Leggett, Chairman

Ms. Stephanie S. Cutter, Executive Director/CEO

Chatham Area Transit Authority

900 E. Gwinnett St.

Savannah, GA 31401

RE: Letter of March 24, 2026 - Request for FY27 Millage Rate Increase

Dear Chairman Leggett and Ms. Cutter:

I have received your letter of March 24, 2026, requesting that a millage rate increase for Chatham Area Transit Authority be approved by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners in June 2026. The letter requests that the millage rate be increased to 1.2 mils. I have shared this request with Chairman Ellis and the Board of Commissioners.

The Board decreased CAT's millage rate on July 24, 2025 from 1.056 to .94 mils because tax dollars were being used to offset revenue shortfalls in the ferry program. The ferries primarily benefit tourists and convention center traffic. They provide de minimis service to local taxpayers.

It is my understanding that at the start of the ferry program, an additional hotel/motel fee was authorized and provided through SAMMI to fund the ferry program's operations. When Ms. Cutter spoke to the Board regarding CAT's FY 2026 budget and millage request, she confirmed that the ferry program was no longer funded by SAMMI or other external parties. Since that time, the County has not received any updates on how the ferry program is funded.



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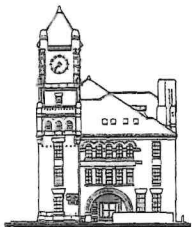
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In consideration of CAT's millage rate request, I have been asked to invite Ms. Cutter and Board Chair Leggett to a County Commission budget workshop to discuss CAT's proposed FY2027 budget and all services outlined therein. The budget presentation should include details on all of CAT's revenue sources and their relationship to each service CAT

funds, especially regarding the use of ad valorem taxes. I will follow up with you to schedule a mutually agreeable workshop date.

Our Internal Audit Department has recently completed a contract audit for paratransit service. The Board believes that our information is incomplete without further review of how CAT's other services are structured and funded. This analysis may require more data from CAT with additional review of the financial and service level data records. Once the scope of the review is finalized, I will contact you to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Kaigler
County Manager

MAK:dbh

cc: Chairman and Members of the Board
Linda B. Cramer, Assistant County Manager
R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney