CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT

900 East Gwinnett Street · Savannah, GA 31401

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT – FOR BOARD ACTION

AGENDA NO: 2027-10-010-003

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 27, 2026

PROJECT NAME: Partnership Agreement -CAT, City of Savannah & Savannah Convention Center

DEPARTMENT: Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contractual agreement with the City of Savannah and the Savannah Convention Center to fund the construction of a temporary floating dock at the west end of River Street. The temporary dock will be located adjacent to the planned Plant Riverside Dock and Shelter project site.

DATE AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIOR BRIEFING OR AUTHORIZING ACTION:

N/A

ISSUE:

The Savannah Convention Center is scheduled to host several major events in 2027, including the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Annual Conference on April 22–25, 2027 and the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) on July 16–20, 2027. Proposals for the Plant Riverside Dock and Shelter project are due November 6, 2026, for evaluation and a recommendation to the Board; however, the project may not be completed in time to meet ferry docking needs during these conferences. A temporary dock is therefore needed to provide sufficient capacity for passenger ferry service across the Savannah River during peak conference periods and to support the Talmadge Bridge project. CAT plans to operate three to four ferries during these designated times.

DISCUSSION:

Additional docking capacity is needed to meet transportation needs across the Savannah River to the Savannah Convention Center for scheduled conferences and events, including ACCG in April 2027and SLC in July 2027. CAT currently has three operable ferries and is moving forward with the immediate restoration of the Susie King Taylor I. SKT I Restoration Project is funded by Federal Highway Administration Grant No. GA-2026-026, awarded through the FY 2023–2026 FHWA Ferry Boat Program.

The grant provides $1,105,159 in federal funding (80%) and requires a $276,291 (20%) local match for a total of $1,381,450. The local match is budgeted within the FY 2027 Operating Budget & Capital in the event stakeholder contributions are not received. Restorations of Juliette Gordon Low I, Florence Martus I, and Mary Musgrove I are under Federal Transit Administration (FTA) review and are contingent upon the approval of a $1,004,000 Congressionally Directed Spending request submitted in early 2026.

PROCUREMENT | COMPLIANCE:

All Authority procurements are conducted in compliance with federal, state, local and Authority policies, and procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The proposed temporary dock construction will be funded through a partnership agreement between CAT, the City of Savannah, and the Savannah Convention Center with project funding support consideration by other community stakeholders. Projected cost of the temporary floating dock is $500,000. The table below identifies verbal commitments upon approval of the governing bodies. It is anticipated that other stakeholders may provide funding, however confirmation from all funding participants is still in progress. Upon completion of the temporary dock, CAT will maintain ownership.

River Street West End Temporary Dock Project			
	Federal	State	Local
Chatham Area Transit Authority	$0	$0	$250,000
City of Savannah	0	0	125,000
Savannah Convention Center	0	0	125,000
Total Projected Project Cost	$0	$0	$500,000

City of Savannah will incur engineering and project management costs for the Plant Riverside Dock & Shelter & the River Street West End Temporary Dock projects.

POLICY ANALYSIS:
N/A

NEXT STEPS:
Upon approval, staff will proceed with funding its share of the project upon final agreement review by legal. CAT's share of project costs will be funded by FY 2027 budgeted contingency funds. The current balance in General Fund Contingency is $786,106.

ATTACHMENTS:
N/A

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
N/A

PROPOSED MOTION:
Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contractual agreement with the City of Savannah and the Savannah Convention Center to fund the construction of a temporary floating dock at the west end of River Street. The temporary dock will be located adjacent to the planned Plant Riverside Dock and Shelter project site.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES
Department Item Preparer – Stephanie S. Cutter, Executive Director / CEO

Department Chief – Reviewed by: Stephanie S. Cutter, Executive Director / CEO

Procurement | Compliance – Procurement and Compliance Reviewed by: Victor Colon, Procurement Manager

Chief Financial Officer – Financial Impact and Budget Reviewed by: Gloria Royal, Interim – CFO

Executive Director/CEO - Final Reviewer: Stephanie Cutter, CEO

Board of Directors – Final Approval [insert board action]

This section is completed by the Board Administrator
Passed and approved on [insert date] of [insert month and year].
Motion made by:
Seconded by:

AGENCY BOARD DESIGNEE:

Board Approval (signed by Board Chair or Board Administrator)