900 East Gwinnett St.
Savannah, GA 31401

STAFF SUMMARY AND BOARD ACTION REPORT

AGENDA NO: 2027-11-10-004

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 23, 2026

PROJECT NAME: 2027 State Legislative Agenda Adoption

DEPAR TMENT: Executive Office and Governmental Affairs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Request Board adopt the Chatham Area Transit 2027 State Legislative Agenda as priorities set forth for the agency during the upcoming General Assembly Session for the purpose to advocate, pursue, and focus on the adopted position of the Authority.

DATE AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIOR BRIEFING OR AUTHORIZING ACTION *[If applicable]:*

October 5, 2026 – The CAT Board of Directors held its annual Legislative Workshop to discuss and identify issues for consideration as CAT's state-level priorities. The briefing was led by local lobbyist, Georgia Public Affairs (John Clayton and Terry Coleman, and federal lobbyist Squire Patton Boggs (Jack Kingston).

November 23, 2026 – In lieu of holding a second workshop, the CAT Board of Directors will receive a legislative priorities presentation led by CEO Stephanie Cutter and the Georgia Public Affairs consultant Terry Coleman. The purpose of the presentation is to review and confirm the proposed legislative priorities before they are brought before the Board for consideration and adoption.

ISSUE:

The CAT Board of Directors is the governing authority for Chatham Area Transit and has developed a legislative plan to pursue at the state level. Adopting a formal strategy allows for more effective communication with elected officials and policymakers, in uniform with what the CAT Board of Directors has set forth as adopted strategy and policy. In addition, this agenda captures agency priorities and provides direction for Board members engagement on behalf of the agency, as well as policy direction to staff and contracted lobbyists to assist in representing the agency's interest during the 2027 legislative session.

DISCUSSION:

During the month of October and November, CEO Cutter circulated a draft proposal for the 2027 legislative priorities for review and workshop discussion.

The material presented was developed in cooperation with Terry Coleman, Georgia Public Affairs consultant.

The proposed agenda builds upon the priorities outlined in the CAT 2023 Master Transit Plan and COA/TDP efforts. CAT and its government affairs team have also participated in community partnership discussions with local government and the business community in scoping out the 2027 legislative agenda.

The 2027 request supports the essential need, and importance of transit infrastructure as it builds economic vitality for the Savannah and Chatham County region.

In preparation for the 2027 session of the Georgia General Assembly session, convening on Monday, January 11, 2027, the proposed action would authorize CAT Board members, staff, and consultants to advocate, pursue, and focus on the following positions during the upcoming state legislative session as proposed below.

CAT will focus on seeking the following:

Health Benefits, Operating and Capital Funding

CAT will build upon the success of last year's funding through two approaches:

1) Legislation for CAT to become a **participant in the State of Georgia's Health Insurance and Retirement** Plans.
2) Support of a **Direct line-item allocation** to meet federal grant local match requirements in the amount of $8,491,815.
3) State funding to support regional workforce public transportation, $6,253,000.

PROCUREMENT | COMPLIANCE *(provided by the Procurement Officer)*:

Compliance statement – N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

Project Scope Number	FTA/ Grant Number	CAT Budget Line Item	Budget Line-Item Description	Federal Funding Request	State Funding Request	Local Funding	Total Funding Amount
				0.00	0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
	TOTAL SECTION FUNDS:						**$0.00**

POLICY ANALYSIS:

It is consistent with the Board's direction to review and approve resolutions to support agency advocacy and funding requests. Once approved, each action report becomes an official act of the Authority.

NEXT STEPS:

Publish and advance these legislative priorities through CAT's lobbyist to the Georgia General Assembly representatives as CAT's 2027 Adopted Legislative Agenda.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Resolution No. 2026-11-10-004

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:

The committees of the Board did not meet this month, November 2026.

PROPOSED MOTION: (to be read into the minutes)

Move to: *"Move that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2026-11-10-004 adopting the Chatham Area Transit 2027 State Legislative Agenda as the legislative priorities of the Authority for the 2027 General Assembly Session and authorizing the Board, Chief Executive Officer, staff, and legislative consultants to advocate for, pursue, and advance the adopted positions of the Authority."*

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

Department Item Preparer – Prepared by: Beverly Dumas
Department Chief – Reviewed by: Stephanie S. Cutter
Procurement | Compliance – Procurement and Compliance Reviewed by: N/A
Chief Financial Officer – Financial Impact and Budget Reviewed by: N/A
Executive Director/CEO - Final Reviewer: Stephanie S. Cutter, CEO
Board of Directors – Final Approval [insert board action]

This section is completed by the Board Administrator
Passed and approved this [insert date] of [insert Month and Year]
Motioned by:
Seconded by:

AGENCY BOARD DESIGNEE:

Board Approval (signed by Board Chair or Board Administrator)

Attachment A

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11-10-004R

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT 2027 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND AUTHORIZING ADVOCACY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Chatham Area Transit Authority ("CAT") is committed to providing safe, reliable, and accessible public transportation services that support economic growth, workforce mobility, and quality of life throughout Chatham County and the greater Savannah region; and

WHEREAS, the CAT Board of Directors serves as the governing authority for the agency and is responsible for establishing the legislative and policy priorities of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2026, the CAT Board of Directors conducted its annual Legislative Workshop to discuss state and federal legislative priorities for the 2027 legislative session, with presentations provided by Georgia Public Affairs and Squire Patton Boggs; and

WHEREAS, during October and November 2026, CEO Stephanie Cutter and CAT staff, in cooperation with Georgia Public Affairs consultant Terry Coleman, developed and refined a proposed 2027 State Legislative Agenda for Board consideration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislative priorities are informed by the CAT 2023 Master Transit Plan, the Comprehensive Operational Analysis/Transit Development Plan (COA/TDP), and discussions with local government, community stakeholders, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, the CAT Board of Directors recognizes the critical role public transportation plays in supporting economic vitality, workforce access, regional connectivity, and infrastructure development throughout the Savannah and Chatham County region; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a formal legislative agenda will provide direction to Board members, staff, and contracted legislative representatives regarding CAT's priorities and positions during the 2027 Session of the Georgia General Assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Chatham Area Transit Authority that: The CAT Board of Directors hereby adopts the Chatham Area Transit Authority 2027 State Legislative Agenda as the official legislative priorities of the Authority for the 2027 Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

The Board authorizes the Authority to advocate for and pursue legislation, appropriations, and policy initiatives that support the following priorities:

1. **State Health Insurance and Retirement Participation**
   Support legislation authorizing Chatham Area Transit to participate in the State of Georgia Health Insurance and Retirement Plans, thereby enhancing employee recruitment, retention, and workforce stability.
2. **State Matching Funds for Federal Grants**
   Support a direct state line-item appropriation in the amount of $8,491,815 to assist in meeting local matching requirements associated with federal transit grants and infrastructure investments.
3. **Regional Workforce Transportation Funding**
   Support state funding initiatives in the amount of $6,253,000that enhance regional workforce transportation services and improve access to employment opportunities throughout the region.

The Board hereby authorizes CAT Board members, the Chief Executive Officer, agency staff, and contracted legislative consultants and lobbyists to advocate for, pursue, and represent the Authority's adopted legislative positions before members of the Georgia General Assembly, state agencies, and other governmental officials.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Board of Directors of the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of November 2026.

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

_____
Detric Leggett, Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Board Secretary

Approved as to Form:

_____
General Counsel