

Unified Planning Work Program

for the
South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
(SWRMPO)
FY 2026 & FY 2027

MPO Endorsement: May 15, 2025

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Introduction

Transportation systems in urban areas are regional by nature. This is certainly true for the SWRMPO area as the transportation systems of its eight municipalities are closely linked. I-95 operates as the primary artery through five of the municipalities and by all measures its volumes are well over capacity. The Route 7 Expressway in Norwalk and the Merritt Parkway are other major transportation features. CTDOT studies of all three facilities are closely monitored by the MPO.

As older East Coast cities, the primary local roadways in Norwalk and Stamford were laid out before the automobile age. Compared to newer urban areas in other parts of the nation, retrofitting to modern capacity standards here is a higher priority.

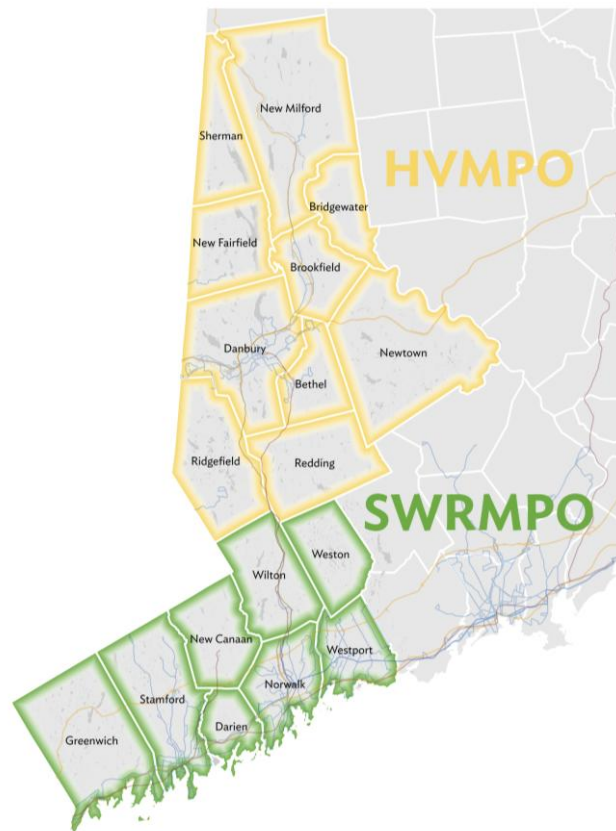
In pursuit of better mobility, economic vitality and improved travel times, planning for capacity enhancement and improved safety are continuous concerns. And the “livability” of all of the MPO’s proposed investments in transportation must reflect context sensitive design, pedestrian and bike access.

The SWRMPO area has significant commuter rail service, primarily oriented towards New York City. Local bus service operates in the denser areas. Planning for transit-oriented development is being undertaken in the vicinities of several rail stations. The integration of all transportation modes, not always fully considered in the past, is now acknowledged as essential for the efficiency of the area’s transportation system.

Structure of Transportation Planning in the South Western Region:

Federal transportation funding programs allow for input from the leadership of regions. Representatives of a region then work alongside state and federal officials to shape the scope of the transportation investments to be funded in the area.

The South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), has been designated by federal and state governments to conduct transportation planning in the south western region of Connecticut. This includes the eight municipalities of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport and Wilton; in addition to transit and state representation.



To manage the regional component of a transportation planning program, every two years the MPO updates a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), documenting upcoming metropolitan transportation planning activities and processes to comply with the federal planning requirements.

As the federally mandated and funded transportation policy-making organization, the MPO is to carry out a “continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive” multimodal transportation planning process in accordance with 23 U.S. Code 134 and 49 U.S. Code 5303. This includes the development of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Detailing of transportation planning activities conducted under the UPWP is documented in quarterly reports submitted to USDOT and CTDOT. These are available to the public.

The authorizing and funding of regional transportation planning by MPOs serves to maximize the cost-benefit of federal expenditures on transportation. In pursuit of this objective, detailed technical studies and a constrained capital improvement program are produced by the MPO. The UPWP provides the framework to execute such activities.

Through its approval power over federally funded transportation capital projects and services in the TIP, the MPO maintains a significant partnership with USDOT and CTDOT. In addition, the MPO is responsible for solicitation, prioritization and submission of funding applications under a variety of federal transportation programs.

The South Western Region MPO maintains an agreement with the Western CT Council of Governments (WestCOG) for it to serve as host agency for staffing and administrative matters. While housed together, the two organizations maintain policy independence from one another; actions by the MPO relating to federal transportation matters are not subject to an override by votes at WestCOG.

Interregional coordination of these and other MPOs within Connecticut is facilitated by CTDOT monthly meetings. Interregional cooperation with nearby MPOs in New York State, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania is facilitated by an updated agreement in 2017.

Priorities to Address Issues and Deficiencies

The transportation system is complex in both size and breadth. A core objective of the UPWP is to identify opportunities to mitigate deficiencies in the MTP and describe the work activities intended to fulfill them. This information is provided below, with more detail included as part of each UPWP Task.

Important Activities:

1. **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Implementation:** The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is federal transportation legislation that identifies specific federal planning regulations for MPOs. The MPO will work with CTDOT and others to implement these provisions and any new transportation legislation.
2. **Models of Regional Planning:** The MPO will continue to work with CTDOT and adjoining MPOs to coordinate regional plans and other activities where possible to ensure a regional approach to transportation planning. This may also include performance-based planning activities. Coordination between HVMPO and SWRMPO on work products and joint meeting formats will also continue.

3. **Congestion and Air Quality:** a core activity of the MPO, which is a Transportation Management Area (TMA). The MPO will continue coordination with CTDOT and others to identify congestion and develop appropriate mitigation strategies. In the South Western Region, emphasis areas for congestion include I-95, the Merritt Parkway, U.S. Routes 1 and 7, among others. Use of the National Performance Management Research Dataset (NPMRDS) and others, including GIS network analyst routing, will support congestion management and planning.
4. **Safety:** the MPO will continue to analyze safety data for purposes of identifying areas for improvement and project development planning. Efforts are incorporated into the MTP and will be evaluated in the Regional Transportation Safety Plan, while also assisting with MPO safety targets. Staff will continue to identify opportunities to partner with the UConn T2 Center for efforts to enhance safety planning.
5. **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD):** Work with CTDOT, municipal partners, and other stakeholders along the New Haven main line and branch lines to explore areas for future TOD and economic development. Support recommendations of TOD studies that have been endorsed by municipalities.
6. **System Investment and Performance:** the MPO will continue to place emphasis on safety, operations and maintenance initiatives, including:
 - a. Highways: support FHWA and CTDOT's efforts to ensure that deficiencies along I-95, Routes 1 and 7, and the Merritt Parkway are addressed. This includes existing and future efforts related to safety and congestion, such as interchange improvements along I-95 in Norwalk and Stamford.
 - b. Transit: Continue to support activities that maintain a state of good repair. Seek opportunities to improve the New Haven Line and branch lines in the region.
7. **Connectivity:** continue planning efforts to improve connectivity across all modes. The MPO will continue to:
 - a. Incorporate **Complete Streets** principles for all users into project development and planning.
 - b. Identify opportunities for expansion or infill of on- and off-road **bicycle and pedestrian networks** to access transit and other destinations. Continue work on developing a regional bicycle network and continue connectivity analyses to develop strategies to enhance mobility.
8. **LOTCHIP:** staff will continue efforts for this state-funded program, which provides funding for regionally significant municipal projects. Staff will work alongside CTDOT and member municipalities to continue advancing existing projects while also developing new projects that will improve the transportation system. Eligible LOTCHIP activities include soliciting for project proposals, pre-screening proposals with municipalities, reviewing applications for eligibility and completeness, requesting additional information from municipalities, prioritizing projects and submitting to CTDOT.

9. **Freight Planning:** Staff will continue efforts in collecting and analyzing freight data in support of updating the regional freight profile. The MPO will continue to participate in freight planning initiatives with neighboring MPOs through coordination with NYMTC and the MAP Forum Multi-State Freight Working Group.
10. **Resilience:** efforts to analyze, assess and improve the transportation system's vulnerability to natural hazards such as flooding, will continue. This includes both inland impervious areas, riverine and coastal flooding. Of importance is working to "harden" critical transportation assets near the shoreline, which may be vulnerable to storm surge. Staff to the MPO will continue to work with CTDOT, DEMHS, municipalities and other partners to help advance these efforts.

Planning Factors:

Federal legislation provides planning guidelines for MPOs, citing ten primary planning factors to guide the process. The MPO directs its transportation planning to incorporate these guiding national principles, defined as follows:

1. **Economic Vitality.** Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
2. **Safety.** Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
3. **Security.** Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
4. **Mobility.** Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight.
5. **Environment and Planning.** Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
6. **System Integration.** Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes for people and freight.
7. **System Management.** Promote efficient system management and operation.
8. **System Preservation.** Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
9. **Resiliency.** Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.
10. **Travel and Tourism.** Enhance travel and tourism.

Transportation Performance Management

Transportation Performance Management (TPM) as a strategic approach that uses system information to make investment and policy decisions to achieve national performance goals. The UPWP incorporates TPM in the transportation planning and programming process by addressing the following performance areas:

- Highway Safety
- Bridges and Pavement
- System Performance

- Freight
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
- Transit Asset Management
- Transit Safety – Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

The UPWP lays out the transportation planning work the MPO expects to undertake in ‘state’ fiscal years 2026 and 2027 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027), including the following descriptions of work by task:

Task №	Brief Description	Page №
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Tasks

1. Management of The Planning Process

Objective

To administer the transportation program funded by FHWA, FTA, CTDOT and MPO members and conform to all applicable federal and state laws, regulations and guidance.

Activities

- 1.1. Primary Administration and Interagency Coordination.** Develop the UPWP as the administrative instrument for coordinating metropolitan transportation planning activities in the MPO area.
- 1.2. Financial Management.** Prepare the program budget and financial documents, including an annual audit, quarterly invoices, communications, and other materials necessary to financially manage the MPO program.
- 1.3. MPO Meeting Administration.** Prepare MPO agendas, meeting minutes and other documentation associated with management of the planning program.
- 1.4. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Administration.** The TAG works closely with the MPO staff on program coordination and technical exchange. It also reviews proposed TIP amendments and makes recommendations upon them to the MPO. The TAG is also utilized as the interface between MPO member and CTDOT program staffs. Preparation of agendas and minutes mirror processes utilized for the MPO.
- 1.5. Quarterly Reporting.** Within its quarterly reports to USDOT and CTDOT, the MPO will document staff activities in terms of meetings attended, data disseminated, technical assistance, traffic and transit plans reviewed, progress with the program year’s specific technical studies, etc.
- 1.6. TMA Certification.** The MPO will review its latest certification review findings, continue activities and preparation, and participate in the next TMA Certification process.

- 1.7. Other Administration.** The completion of an annual MPO process recertification; and as necessary, work connected with MPO redesignation. The MPO will review, adjust and incorporate any potential changes that will occur with the new Urban Areas (UA) as defined by the Census 2020 data following guidance from CTDOT and FHWA. The MPO will coordinate with state and federal partners on Census Boundary Smoothing.

Product Schedule

Item	Release date
SFY 2026-2027 UPWP Amendments	As needed
SFY2028-2029 UPWP	May 2027
Quarterly & Annual Progress Reports	October, January, April and June
Meeting Minutes	Monthly
Annual Audit	November
Annual MPO recertification	November
Narrative Reports & Memoranda	Throughout the year

2. Data Collection & Analysis

Objective

Develop and apply research and analysis tools to aid in forecasting transportation needs, including the ability to provide impact studies.

Collect and share relevant transportation system data and ensure federal transportation planning requirements are satisfied. Coordinate data collection with other local, regional, state, and federal agencies.

Enhance the technical capacity of transportation systems, staff, and other stakeholders in the region.

Activities

Collect, monitor, and analyze data for highway, transit, bike and pedestrian systems and transportation demand management performance as a means of identifying deficiencies, developing plans and improving programs, strategies, and projects.

2.1. Data Management: Acquire, Maintain, and Distribute data products critical to transportation tasks and activities. Notable datasets are listed below.

- Commuter Lot Inventory: Assist the CTDOT Bureau of Public Transportation by conducting quarterly vehicle utilization counts.
- Regional Traffic Counting Service: Continue utilization of cameras to count traffic and record multi-modal behavior for area intersections and corridors. The MPO will share traffic count data as requested by CTDOT.
- Regional Trail Counting Service: Continue utilization of counters to collect data on trails in the region.

- Creation of a Comprehensive Street Network: The MPO intends to develop a street single network that can be used for network analyses and to display various road information, such as lanes, direction, and functional class.
- Stormwater Data: Provide data collection services for municipalities to capture stormwater infrastructure data associated with transportation infrastructure. Data is collected/updated upon request.
- Demographic Data: Maintain relevant instances of demographic data, most of which drawn from the US Census. Data products are updated annually.
- Planimetric Data: Acquisition, maintenance, and development of planimetric data is an ongoing effort with updates mostly occurring following a statewide flight acquisition. Planimetric data reflects surface objects digitized into mappable features (Building footprints, pavement, sidewalks, street signs, manholes, utility poles, etc.).
- Property Data: Acquisition, maintenance, and development of property data, both parcel boundaries and associated property characteristics (known as CAMA data). These data products are collected annually under a state requirement and reported to OPM.
- Imagery: Following an imagery flight data acquisition (usually overseen as a statewide effort), WestCOG acquires raw products as required for analysis efforts.
- Surficial Data: Following a lidar flight data acquisition (usually overseen as a statewide effort), WestCOG acquires raw products and develops additional surface products (e.g. elevation, slope, aspect models, etc.).
- Environmental Data: Acquisition, maintenance, and development of environmental data covers the natural features interacting with transportation planning and transportation infrastructure. This may include, and not limited to, hydrography, ground cover, soils, flood, and meteorological data. Typical sources for this data include EPA, USDA, CT DEEP.
- Other: Additional efforts to support the transportation process may be undertaken, as applicable. Where possible, data from the latest Census and American Community Survey will be applied. Staff will also support system investment and performance for HPMS, FHWA 536 reports, and functional classification efforts.
- Data Sharing Portal: WestCOG maintains a public-facing data portal for ready access to WestCOG's public-facing data products. WestCOG also works directly with municipal partners for special data requests.

2.2. Geographic Information Systems (GIS): Maintain, expand, and visualize WestCOG's GIS to support Transportation tasks and activities.

- Regional Map Viewer: Develop and maintain a GIS web portal to facilitate effective data exchange, public accessibility and viewing of transportation datasets.
- GIS Visualizations: Develop and maintain Webmaps, Storymaps, Dashboards to visualize the transportation planning efforts.

- GIS Integration: Expand the integration of WestCOG's GIS with internal and external systems for improved efficiency and data quality. Integration may occur internally within WestCOG products or externally with 3rd party products, systems, and practices.

2.3. Expand Technical Capacity: Increasing the skills of staff and partners using data for improved transportation planning performance.

- Training: Offer support for advanced GIS, transportation, and planning training to staff and other stakeholders
- Technology: Acquire data collection technology and field equipment that provides new collection, research, and analysis capabilities. Technology and equipment may include, but is not limited to, traffic cameras, radar counters, pedestrian counters, trail counters, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV).
- Software: Acquire or renew software to support the planning and programming process including, but not limited to, EcoInteractive Project Tracker tool to manage the eTIP/eSTIP; Highway Capacity Software for transportation modeling, mapping/GIS, big data/remote telemetry, and artificial intelligence.

2.4. Partner Collaboration for Data & Analysis: Fostering partnerships with regional stakeholders and government partners to facilitate expanded collaborative data exchanges and analysis.

- Regional Partnership: coordinate with CTDOT and other stakeholders on state and regional data standards to better serve the data in transportation planning needs.
- Data Sharing: Where possible, coordinate with other MPOs to share data, methodologies, and analyses for transportation planning and programming activities. This includes data that may be used for the development of the TIP, MTP, CMP, FHWA and FTA performance measures, projects of mutual regional interest, or other special transportation studies.

2.5. Analytics: Performing data science and GIS analysis to forward Transportation Planning Initiatives.

- Congestion: Utilize data from relevant data sources (e.g. National Performance Management Research Dataset [NPMRDS]) to support the Congestion Management Process (CMP) by defining congestion; identifying congestion links; and monitoring the network. Analyses will also assist in the identification of improvement strategies, including Transportation Demand Management (TDM).
- Safety: Retrieve, review, and analyze crash data from relevant sources (e.g. CT Crash Repository.) Safety data and analyses will support other initiatives such as Road Safety Audits (RSAs), Regional Engineering Services, and the Safety Action Plan.
- Performance Measures: Continue efforts to develop a performance-based management approach to transportation planning, including associated targets in accordance with MAP-21 and FAST Act guidance. Continue coordinating with CTDOT on the development of performance targets.

Product Schedule

Item	Release date
Traffic count and intersection data and/or analysis reports	On demand
Transportation network GIS layers and analyses	On demand/project basis
Statistical or other quantitative analyses	On demand/project basis
Performance Measure Targets	Ongoing
Regional GIS Web Portal	Ongoing
Commuter Lot Inventory	Quarterly

3. Planning Activities

Objectives

To develop and implement short- and long-term transportation plans and projects. Priorities within this activity will relate closely to addressing issues and deficiencies identified in the MTP, including:

- Increase safety and security for all modes and users, especially for vulnerable users;
- Improve the usability and performance of the transportation system across all modes;
- Decrease congestion through use of TDM, access to transit and nonmotorized transportation;
- Improve the environment, including air quality, by reducing the impacts of transportation projects and systems where possible;
- Promote responsible land use and development that is considerate of all users of the transportation system, including bicyclists and pedestrians. Incorporate Complete Streets concepts where possible;
- Continue development of tools and strategies to better analyze the performance, operation, maintenance, and preservation of the transportation system, including financial considerations; and
- To deepen stakeholder involvement in the planning process.

As part of this Task, the MPO will integrate the ten federal planning factors and USDOT Planning Emphasis Areas into the planning process. Much of this policy-oriented activity will rely upon the Data and Analysis Task detailed in the previous section.

Activities

3.1 Maintain and Update Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The MPO will continue work to maintain the 2023 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as support its goals and strategies through other transportation planning and programming efforts. Amendments to the MTP may be made on an as-needed basis, which may require a new air quality conformity finding. The MPO will prepare an update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. Covering a 20+ year planning horizon, the MTP will be inclusive of all modes and

financially constrained, comply with air quality consultation/conformity and public participation requirements, be consistent with current and forecast land use and transportation conditions, and comply with 23 CFR Part 450 and other further updated federal regulations and guidance.

- 3.2 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Formulation, Amendment and Adoption.** The TIP is a staged, fiscally constrained multi-year program of projects approved for funding by federal, state, and the MPO. The TIP will be prepared through a consultative process between FHWA, FTA, CTDOT, and the MPO. Opportunities for public involvement will also be provided.

The TIP will respond to current needs, reflect available resources, and be compliant with federal and CTDOT guidance, including air quality conformity and consultation. The TIP will be periodically amended and maintained with CTDOT and the MPO to ensure accurate and timely delivery of information for informed decision making. All TIP amendments are presented to the TAG and MPO members for discussion and endorsement.

Staff will coordinate with CTDOT and stakeholders in the development of the FY27-30 TIP.

Projects included in the TIP align with the goals and strategies as identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The MPO will continue to coordinate with CTDOT on the integration of the e-TIP platform.

- 3.3 Models of Regional Coordination.** The MPO will continue working to promote cooperation and coordination across MPO boundaries, and across state boundaries where appropriate to reinforce a regional approach to transportation planning. The MPO currently coordinates with neighboring MPOs and RTPs for data collection (e.g. TRANSCOM) and programmatic activities in the Urban Areas and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (UA, MSA). Recent examples include the TAP project/program coordination in the Bridgeport-Stamford UA. The MPO also conducts joint meetings with the HVMPO.

Activities will continue to assist with 3C objectives and federal requirements for MPO coordination with respect performance measures, and the TIP where applicable. Participation in the multistate Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum, Multi-State Freight Working Group, Multi-State Resilience Working Group, and other 3C activities will continue.

The MPO coordinates with the other MPOs in the Bridgeport-Stamford Urban Area (UA). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed to identify how the planning process and corresponding planning products will be coordinated and opportunities for joint planning efforts.

Staff will continue to coordinate closely with the MPOs of the Bridgeport-Stamford Transportation Management Area. These efforts will include a regular meetings with staff from the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on transportation programming, planning projects, grant solicitations, and other projects of mutual regional interest. At least one coordination meeting each year will be scheduled and will include representatives from FHWA and FTA.

- 3.4 Coordination with CTDOT.** The MPO will coordinate with CTDOT on transportation planning and programming activities. These efforts are outlined in the “Statement of MPO Planning Roles and Responsibilities” which may be found in the Appendix. Staff will coordinate with CTDOT to

help implement recommendations from the LEAN event to improve the transportation planning and programming process.

3.5 Congestion Management Process (CMP). As part of a federally defined Transportation Management Area, SWRMPO will continue its CMP efforts consistent with federal and state guidance, including the following six elements:

- determine the highway and transit CMP network;
- define congestion, including parameters to be measured and associated thresholds;
- identify and develop strategies to address congested links: geometric, operational and transit elements;
- implement short- and long-term strategies and include in MTP and TIP;
- monitor the network, including improvements; and
- share any specialized traffic information collected with CTDOT's Traffic Analysis Unit

Outputs from the Task 2: Data Collection and Analysis will be utilized to support the CMP, including performance measures. Strategies, including those consistent with the ten planning factors and federal emphasis areas, will be incorporated into the TIP where possible. The CMP will continue to be coordinated with the MPOs within the Bridgeport-Stamford Transportation Management Area. A working group will convene to prepare the annual Monitoring Report to analyze new congestion data and report on strategy progress.

Staff will support municipalities in implementing the recommendations from the Conceptual Development of Congestion Reduction Projects study with the goal of advancing the concepts into the project development pipeline.

3.6 Limited Access Roadway Policy Development. The MPO will assist CTDOT in on-going development of policies for I-95, the Merritt Parkway and the Expressway portion of Route 7. This activity will involve technical exchange and attendance at CTDOT stakeholder meetings.

3.7 Assistance with Transit Planning. The MPO will support transit district management, identify rail parking needs, rail and local transit interfaces, also seek to improve coordination of inter-regional and intra-regional transit and paratransit services. Activities which strive to improve bus stops, signage, shelters, and transit security and safety will also be conducted. The MPO will assist with counts of vehicles using the commuter parking lots. The MPO will assist CTDOT with the development of the Bus Stop Enhancement Program to identify bus stops that should be prioritized for improvements.

The MPO will also coordinate and cooperate with CTDOT's Bureau of Public Transportation on the continuing development of an updates to the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan and on the selection of projects for the various programs covered by the plan. The MPO will engage with public transit providers operating in the region, including CTtransit, Norwalk Transit District, and CTDOT Office of Rail. The MPO will participate in meetings, assist with outreach, identify gaps and strategies, and review documents as needed.

The MPO will coordinate with transit operators in support of services that meet the needs of the region. As referenced in Task 4, the MPO will oversee the development of the Regional Transit Study which will evaluate existing services and identify opportunities for improvement. With respect to potential affordable housing, the MPO will seek to identify areas, including reclaimed brownfields, near existing and proposed rail and bus routes and along potential future public transit corridors, which may be suitable for the construction of affordable housing. These analyses will support the development of WestCOG's regional housing affordability plans and studies.

Additional transit supportive activities will be initiated through alternative channels, such as TIP updates, travel demand management, freight, mobility and accessibility, in addition to others.

(Activities eligible for 2.5% Complete Streets funding)

3.8 Support Multimodal Components, Livability. The MPO will conduct integrated multi-modal transportation planning and foster development of sound public policy. It will promote bicycle and pedestrian travel and initiatives, incorporate Complete Streets policies, facilitate commuter parking and ridesharing.

The MPO will promote safe and livable communities. Activities will also support livability principles such as: mobility and accessibility, connectivity to town, city and neighborhood centers, first and last mile connections, congestion management, food security relative to the transportation system, journey-to-work analysis, and the environment. The MPO will include Complete Streets elements in the transportation planning of all modes to identify the needs for users of all abilities, demographics, and ages. In cooperation with CTDOT, staff will explore use of the INVEST tool for Sustainable Highways.

The MPO will maintain a Regional Bicycle Network plan that will facilitate a connected bicycle network and build on the recommendations from existing transportation studies. The identifies North-South and East-West bicycle connectivity corridors to become the “backbone” of the regional network. The MPO will support the municipalities in advancing projects that will help fill in gaps of this network. The goal is to make streets safer for bicyclists and improve the off-road trail system to make bicycling a more viable means of transportation in the region. The MPO will also continue inventorying trails in the region, identifying gaps and connections to major destinations to support multi-modal transportation.

As referenced in Task 4, the MPO will oversee the development of the Traffic Calming and Complete Streets Best Practices Toolbox. This document will serve as a resource for municipalities and provide best practices that can be incorporated into transportation projects.

The MPO will coordinate with CTDOT to educate and support municipalities on their relevant responsibilities under ADA and Section 504 to ensure all programs, activities, and services under the municipality's jurisdiction are examined to identify barriers to access. The MPO will support municipalities on transportation projects to ensure accessibility of pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way, such as curb ramps, sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and transit stops in accordance with applicable regulations.

3.9 *(Activities eligible for 2.5% Complete Streets funding)* Freight and Goods Movement. The MPO will continue freight planning activities that:

- expand data collection and analysis;

- engage freight users and providers;
- maintain a list of freight stakeholders in the MPO area;
- maintain a list of major freight generators;
- provide GIS data, including: freight generators and stakeholders in the MPO area, freight supportive land uses;
- identify and maintain a list of system constraints for freight movements (local geometric challenges, local bridge height, weights, turning radii, etc); and
- evaluate truck parking locations and identify opportunities for parking

The MPO will update the Regional Freight Profile, which was incorporated as an appendix of the MTP, and provides an overview on all modes of freight including: truck, rail, air, and maritime activities. The profile will be updated with new information in 2026. The MPO will coordinate with CTDOT to support the strategies of the Statewide Freight Plan. The MPO will continue to identify opportunities to consult with freight providers and stakeholders as part of the transportation planning process.

The MPO will continue to participate in freight planning initiatives in coordination with regional partners, including NYMTC and through the MAP Forum Multi-State Freight Working Group. Staff will participate in meetings and workshops, review planning documents and data analyses.

3.10 Promote Safety of System Components. The MPO will work with other stakeholders to advance infrastructure projects and initiatives that promote safety of all modes for people and goods. Staff will continue to aggregate and analyze data, including use of relevant sources (e.g. expanded CTDOT-UConn Crash Repository) and in-house geospatial analyses, among others. Staff will conduct reviews of related data, goals, objectives, and strategies to promote safety with the State's transportation system.

The MPO will continue to support and promote Road Safety Audits within the region, which help identify areas of concern and appropriate countermeasures. The CT Strategic Highway Safety Plan was incorporated by reference into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Staff will continue to participate as a member of the Safety Circuit Rider Advisory Committee and coordinate on statewide and regional safety initiatives. The MPO will integrate safety considerations into all applicable planning project development efforts.

The MPO will evaluate and update the Regional Safety Action Plan (previously referred to as the Regional Transportation Safety Plan RTSP); this update will include an analysis of crash data in the region, stakeholder coordination, site visits, and development of countermeasures to improve safety for all roadway users (*safety for pedestrian and cyclists are eligible for 2.5% Complete Streets funding*). Staff will continue coordinating with municipalities to implement recommendations from the SAP.

Staff will coordinate with the municipalities in the development of the FY23 SS4A Implementation Grant for the Western Connecticut Safety Improvements Project.

Staff will assist with the development of the annual highway safety targets and participate in the development of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

The MPO will participate in the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Coalition to support a systematic, planned, and coordinated multi-disciplinary approach to detect, respond and clear crashes to restore traffic capacity as safely and quickly as possible. The MPO will coordinate with local stakeholders to enhance TIM training and activities in the region.

3.11 Economic Vitality, Land Use, and Transportation Models. Within the region, major growth corridors, projected land uses, and related transportation improvements will be analyzed and assessed, including the correlation with economic development. The MPO will promote consistency with the MTP and with planned state and local development patterns. MPO staff will also evaluate the transportation system to provide context for the maintenance of the WestCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The MPO staff will support the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and the Western Connecticut Economic Development District (WCEDD). The POCD and CEDS provide input and context for regional transportation planning. The MPO will incorporate principles of Complete Streets, traffic calming, context sensitive design and smart growth into transportation planning, programs, projects and processes (*activities eligible for 2.5% Complete Streets funding*). The MPO will host ad-hoc committee meetings with municipal commission members to discuss transportation planning initiatives. Opportunities to enhance tourism, where feasible, will also be considered.

3.12 Assist with Security Procedures. The MPO will plan for the multi-modal security of transportation systems, including identification of critical facilities and review of emergency plans to ensure that critical facilities, key players, and transportation systems are identified. Staff will continue to engage in hazard mitigation, evacuation planning, and emergency management activities. Staff will support the development and maintenance of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The MPO will pursue transportation-based strategies identified in the HMP, as well as strategies that support transportation-planning initiatives. This includes the resiliency and reliability of transportation infrastructure to stormwater and other hazards. Staff will cooperate with Connecticut Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (CT DEMHS) and DEMHS Region 1, Metro-North and other stakeholders to maintain and improve security and safety in the MPO area. Staff will continue to serve the DEMHS Emergency Support Function (ESF1 Transportation) group, a subset of the Regional Emergency Planning Team. In partnership with adjacent COGs, meetings of this group will be held to identify transportation emergency planning needs in the MPO area, demonstrating a successful model of regional planning.

3.13 Protect and Enhance the Environment.

The MPO will work to protect the environment, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvement and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns. Coordination with Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and others regarding adaptation, mitigation, resilience, sea level rise, extreme storm events, stormwater impacts, environmental and historic resource assessments, energy conservation, brownfields mitigation and other environmental matters relating to transportation and in support of CTDOT's resiliency planning efforts will continue.

The MPO will work with CTDOT in to consider transportation system impacts on overall quality of life and opportunities to enhance livability, including regional air quality and conformity determinations. The MPO will also coordinate and participate with the National Environmental Policy Act process for transportation planning studies.

The MPO will work with CTDOT regarding alternatively-fueled vehicles and infrastructure programs.

Staff will continue to prepare high resolution land cover analyses, helping identify stormwater runoff, and ecologically sensitive areas along the transportation network. The MPO will look at the transportation-based stormwater infrastructure and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements and support the municipalities to meet these requirements.

The MPO will work on flood mitigation opportunities, including supporting communities in identifying FEMA-eligible transportation projects. These efforts will advance state of good repair and build resiliency for transportation infrastructure to address current conditions and future needs.

The MPO will coordinate with partners to explore a regional resilience analysis. This analysis will be data driven and include a risk-based assessment of vulnerabilities of transportation assets and systems. The goal of this analysis is to identify opportunities to reduce damage and disruption to the transportation system, and improve the safety of traveling public.

The MPO will work with CTDOT and other partners to assess and mitigate impacts of deicing materials on drinking water. These efforts include informing municipal maintenance staff on best management practices related to road salt use.

The MPO will research synergies for transportation and conservation efforts (e.g. pollinator pathways).

Other eligible activities that may relate to and environmental planning in transportation include: cultural and historic resources, construction of scenic viewing areas, environmental mitigation, aquatic habitat connectivity, vegetation management, vehicle-caused wildlife mortality, multi-purpose trails, and bicycle and pedestrian activities.

3.14 Operations and Systems Preservation. The MPO will identify capital and operational improvements needed to preserve mobility and safety within existing transit and highway networks. In addition, intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and updates to the ITS architecture will continue to be incorporated into planning activities wherever possible, specifically TDM. A TDM analysis will evaluate telework, remote education, wired and wireless broadband infrastructure, and additional emphasis areas for data collection, planning and analysis.

The MPO will identify Traffic Incident Management needs in consideration of emergency management and transportation planning, which includes but is not limited to causes, impacts, and quick clearance of incidents.

3.15 Planning and Environmental Linkages. Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) is a study process that is typically used to identify transportation issues, along with environmental concerns in a corridor or a specific location. It is generally conducted before any project construction phasing is identified, and before specific problems and solutions are known. The MPO will participate in any PELs that the Department is conducting.

3.16 Staff Training and Development. The MPO will participate in training and professional development opportunities to strengthen internal resources to carry out the work outlined in this work program. Staff will participate in trainings through CTDOT, FHWA, FTA, National Highway

Institute, other federal partners, planning organizations such as the American Planning Association, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Congress for New Urbanism, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, American Public Transportation Association, and others.

Product Schedule

Item	Release date
Metropolitan Transportation Plan	5/27
FY27-30 TIP	5/26
TIP amendments and actions	Ongoing
Models of regional planning	Ongoing
Congestion Management Process	Annual
Safety Action Plan Evaluation	Ongoing
Safety Action Plan Update	2026
Regional Bicycle Network Update	Ongoing
Regional Freight Profile	12/26

4. Other Technical Assistance

Objective

To address the issues and deficiencies identified in the MTP, address the ten FAST Act planning factors, USDOT emphasis areas, and transportation performance management. As part of the process, the MPO will:

- Participate in corridor, area, locational and topical studies and working groups;
- Provide technical assistance to studies, analyses, and other services to state, regional, transit, municipal, and other transportation stakeholders; and
- Development of studies to identify and mitigate system deficiencies.

An important component of the task will be to assist stakeholders with transportation funding programs and coordination. Also, assistance with economic and community development, coastal resilience, and other considerations into transportation plans. This task will also enhance the technical capabilities of regional and municipal planners, as well as other stakeholders.

Many of the activities in this section will draw from data collection and analyses described in Task 2. Funding coordination and project development will leverage this data and assist Regional Engineering Service activities. This service will benefit the region and its municipalities by thoroughly vetting project concepts and help ensure transportation investments target existing deficiencies. Such technical assistance will also bridge the gap between planning and implementation.

Activities

4.1 General Technical Support. The MPO will also provide program coordination, guidance in grant execution, monitoring of project schedules and project implementation when requested. Legislation will be monitored as it affects the region's transportation program, including the final rule for MPO coordination.

4.2 Assistance with Funding Programs. The MPO will assist stakeholders in the development of projects and priorities for relevant programs such as: the STP Urban Program, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), FTA 5307, FTA 5310, Locally Coordinated Public-Transit Human Services Transportation Program (LOCHSTP), State Matching Grant Program for Demand Responsive Transportation for Elderly and People with Disabilities, the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP), the Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP), and other programs as appropriate. LOTICIP activities include soliciting for project proposals, pre-screening proposals with municipalities, reviewing applications for eligibility and completeness, requesting additional information from municipalities, prioritizing projects and submitting to CTDOT. The MPO will also continue researching new grant and funding opportunities for transportation projects. MPO staff will continue to prepare applications for FHWA/FTA competitive grant programs oversee grant administration and project management for any awarded grants.

4.3 Complete Technical Studies. The MPO will work with municipalities and other partners on existing and future corridor studies.

The following planning studies have already been initiated and work will continue in this UPWP:

Norwalk Route 1 (Connecticut Avenue & Van Buren Avenue) Corridor Master Plan Study – the purpose of this study is to provide a comprehensive transportation and land-use plan by identifying short-term strategies for quick implementation that will improve mobility, safety, and accessibility for all users and address all modes of transportation utilized within the corridor. Additionally, large scale long-term improvements in the corridor will be identified for the next 25 years or more. This includes a framework for future land-use in the corridor.

New Canaan Branch Noise Pollution Abatement Feasibility Study – This project will determine a cost-effective approach to implementing noise reduction measures, quiet zone(s) or other methods, along the New Canaan Branch Line of the Metro-North Railroad. The goal of the study is to reduce the impacts for the residents and businesses around the crossings while also improving the safety of all users at the railway-highway grade crossings. Activities include stakeholder coordination with CTDOT, Metro-North Railroad, municipalities, and completion of a Diagnostic Team Meeting to address safety at all crossings.

Traffic Calming and Complete Streets Best Practices Toolbox – This project is intended to result in the development of Toolbox of planning principles and precepts for residential streets and access roads and driveways that reflects best practices. The best practices and planning precepts should apply to lower-speed (less than 40 mph) roads and streets functionally classified as “local” and access roads/driveways and should be based on consideration of safety and mobility of all users (i.e., motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, emergency responders), economy of construction and maintenance, community cohesion, land use, and utility accommodation. *(Activity eligible for 2.5% Complete Streets funding)*

4.4 Technical Assistance in Support of the Transportation Planning Program. Consultant services will be contracted in support of the transportation planning program’s items that exceed available in-house staffing. For any planning studies that will use PL funds, the MPO will complete a DOT Planning Study Application. Efforts may involve studies of selected traffic and transit problems to

identify deficiencies, alternatives and concepts for improvements or countermeasures, and performance measures.

Competitive Grants:

Western Connecticut Regional Trail Planning:

Recipient: WestCOG

Funding: USDOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) FY23 Grant (\$4,528,000) and CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program (\$566,000)

Overview: The MPO will develop a regional transit study that will evaluate existing transit service provided in HVMPO and SWRMPO and identify opportunities for improvement. The study will cover services provided by HARTransit, Norwalk Transit District, and CTtransit Stamford. The study will also evaluate opportunities to connect to transit service in neighboring regions, such as the Bee Line in New York, and service to Bridgeport and Waterbury. The project will be guided by an advisory committee, closely coordinated with the existing transit operators, and include robust public involvement. MPO staff will coordinate with FTA, CTDOT, MetroCOG and NVCOG during the development of the study.

Regional Transit Study:

Recipient: WestCOG (planned)

Funding: USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program: FY23 Regional Partnerships Challenge (\$1,000,000)

Overview: The MPO will develop a regional transit study that will evaluate existing transit service provided in HVMPO and SWRMPO and identify opportunities for improvement. The study will cover services provided by HARTransit, Norwalk Transit District, and CTtransit Stamford. The study will also evaluate opportunities to connect to transit service in neighboring regions, such as the Bee Line in New York, and service to Bridgeport and Waterbury. The project will be guided by an advisory committee, closely coordinated with the existing transit operators, and include robust public involvement. MPO staff will coordinate with FTA, CTDOT, MetroCOG and NVCOG during the development of the study.

Western Connecticut Safety Improvements Project:

Recipient: WestCOG

Funding: USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) FY23 Implementation Grant (\$3,959,346)

Overview: The project will make vehicular and pedestrian safety improvements at 93 locations in the region to address an increase in traffic crashes. These include new or restriped high-visibility crosswalks, curb extensions, dynamic speed feedback signs, leading pedestrian intervals, all-STOP intersection conversions, curve design improvements, and other measures to facilitate walking and cycling in downtown areas, increase connectivity between municipalities in the region by facilitating access to bus stops, and reduce speeding.

Other Planning Studies: The following planning studies are recommended to be conducted in this UPWP, DOT Planning Study Applications will be submitted for consideration:

Stamford Circulation Study – This study will review future traffic conditions in the City of Stamford in a comprehensive way and recommend future improvements to the road network. The major objectives of the study are to discover solutions to alleviate traffic congestion levels, facilitate smooth traffic flow on local streets, improve pedestrian mobility and promote alternate modes of transportation. Specifically, improvements that consider the following are sought: reduced congestion in areas of the City during peak hours; possible new or improved road sections, diversion of purely local traffic in Stamford off I-95 and Route 15 onto the local road network, improved safety at problem intersections; and safe pedestrian and bicycle connections.

Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Study – This study will include screening level analysis will identify implementable projects to enhance the ITS infrastructure in the region. The study will evaluate changes to accommodate new technologies including coordinated and adaptive signals, ramp metering, and connected and autonomous vehicles. Recommendations from this study will help inform what investments are needed in the region and opportunities for funding under future programs.

Regional Freight Study: The WestCOG region is a freight gateway between New England, the New York Metropolitan Area, and points west and south. Freight movements to, through and from the WestCOG region are a significant activity that contributes to the region's vitality as well as to its congestion and other side effects. The Regional Freight Profile's purpose is to:

- Analyze the various types of freight which come to/through and from the region;
- Examine the modes by which freight is transported;
- Identify and advocate for freight-supportive projects, and
- Guide the HVMPO and SWRMPO in planning/programming funding.

The Profile is also intended to serve as a 'translator' or bridge to larger scale planning efforts conducted by multi-regional entities such as the MAP Forum, state DOTs, and USDOT.

Additional resources may also be utilized for MPO consultant studies or activities that exceed available staffing, technical capabilities or financial resources. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning: in support of multi-modal initiatives, activities are likely to improve access and mobility to other transportation modes, enhance livability and quality of life, reduce congestion, as well as improve air quality. Activities may include, but are not limited to (*activities eligible for 2.5% Complete Streets funding*):
 - Municipal Pedestrian Plans
 - Public Space Improvement Plan
 - Wayfinding plans

- Expanded regional bicycle and pedestrian plans
- Pedestrian Safety Strategies
- Norwalk: Bike and Pedestrian Mobility Study
- Trail and shared-use path development
- Transit and Passenger Rail Planning: Analyzing fixed route service; enhancements to paratransit; inter-transit district and other coordination; bus rapid transit; first and last mile connectivity, relationships to economic development. Activities may include, but are not limited to (*activities eligible for 2.5% Complete Streets funding*):
 - Multi-modal transit-oriented development studies around train stations
 - Norwalk: Autonomous Vehicle Shuttle Feasibility Study
 - Transportation Demand Management Studies
 - Study to expand passenger rail service
 - Study of access from train stations to commercial centers
 -
 - Stamford: Bedford/Summer Complete Streets Study
- Transportation Optimization, Congestion, and Access Management: use computer-aided analysis of transportation routes to optimize a variety of activities. Efforts will support many planning emphasis areas such as reducing congestion, improving multi-modal connectivity, as well as safety considerations, and project development. Activities may include but are not limited to:
 - Signal Optimization Analysis
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity and Route Optimization Analysis: pair with suitability analysis and identify gaps in the network.
 - Regional Travel Demand Management Study
 - Ramp Metering Study
 - Study of Route 7 in Norwalk and Wilton
 - Stamford: Long Ridge Road and High Ridge Road Intersection Improvements
 - Stamford: North State Street Optimization
 - Stamford: Access to Employment in North Stamford
 - Stamford: Cove Road Corridor Study
 - Westport: Study of Route 136 and Route 57 intersection (including access to Route 15)
 - Congestion Management Strategy Concept Designs

- Others, as identified with relevant stakeholders.
- Transportation Security: Activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - Evacuation Plan
 - Inventory of transportation, evacuation and disaster-related plans
- Transportation and Environmental Planning: Activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - Air Quality Monitoring
 - Stormwater Quality Mapping
 - Alternately-fueled vehicles
 - Brownfields assessment
- Other efforts, as identified with relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to:
 - Transit Oriented Development (review and promote opportunities that support TOD)
 - Housing and Land Use Studies
 - Study of Alternative Revenue Sources to Support Transportation Infrastructure
 - An Analysis of Access to Parks and Open Space
 - Aging in Place and Mobility Study
 - Access Management
 - Telecommuting Study
 - Local School Bus Study
 - Connected Vehicles Study
 - Scenic Roads Inventory and Plan
 - Traffic Calming Plans
 - Parking Analyses
 - Air and Noise Pollution Studies
 - Evaluation of railroad crossings and recommendations for infrastructure improvements

Any external services utilized will follow CTDOT RPO Procurement Procedures, or its successor.

4.5 Stakeholder Coordination. The MPO will coordinate with all stakeholders, including, CTDOT, advisory committees, local social service agencies, elderly and disabled transportation providers, and appropriate citizen advocacy groups.

As a key coordination task, staff will participate in the quarterly coordination meetings and monthly teleconferences organized by CTDOT. Review other materials where applicable.

The MPO will provide a representative to:

- Norwalk Routes 7 and 15 Project Advisory Committee
- I-95 Greenwich PEL Study
- I-95 Stamford PEL Study
- Merritt Parkway Advisory Committee
- Metropolitan Area Planning Forum (MAP Forum)
- Multi-State Freight Working Group
- Multi-State Resilience Working Group
- Transportation Operations Coordinating Committee (TRANSCOM)
- Connecticut Association for Community Transportation
- T2 Safety Circuit Rider Advisory Committee
- Other stakeholder groups, as identified

Product Schedule

Item	Release date
Technical support*	October, January, April and June
Assistance with funding programs*	October, January, April and June
Complete consultant studies	TBD
Other studies, as identified and agreed upon with federal and state partners	TBD

*Included in quarterly progress reports

5. Public Participation

Objective

To promote effective public participation in transportation planning by coordinating and collaborating with federal, state, regional, local agencies and other stakeholders. Also, to provide timely and user-friendly information to the public, and facilitating a dialog with public officials, citizens, organizations, not-for-profits, and businesses. The MPO will continue to identify opportunities to strengthen outreach to Title VI, disability organizations, and other community organizations focused on diverse populations.

The MPO will utilize visualization techniques wherever possible, to assist the dissemination of complex information to stakeholders and the public alike. The MPO will also explore alternative communication methods and formats. Public participation activities will adhere to federal requirements.

Activities

5.1 Report on Public Involvement: The status of public involvement activities will be reported on within the MPO's comprehensive quarterly reports. Public involvement at MPO meetings will be recorded within MPO minutes.

The effectiveness of the public involvement process outlined in the MPO's Public Involvement Plan (PIP) will be reviewed on an annual basis and the results of the evaluation will be shared with FHWA and FTA.

5.2 Web Site: maintain and enhance the MPO website. Ensure access to transportation sections are clearly delineated on home page. Posting of public notices and detailed transportation related materials to the web, including visualizations, will be continued.

5.3 Title VI and Limited English Proficiency (LEP): MPO public participation activities will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, all state and federal laws, requirements and guidance. The MPO program will ensure full and fair access to participation by all potentially affected in the transportation decision-making process, including LEP Populations.

5.4 Citizen Participation in Consultant Studies: Citizen participation will be included in contracted consultant studies and reported on quarterly in the report sections for those studies.

5.5 Technical Assistance Regarding Public Involvement: Where applicable, staff to the MPO will provide technical assistance to stakeholders to promote effective public involvement and technical capacity to deliver quality outreach, information, and public involvement.

Product Schedule

Item	Release date
Quarterly public involvement and stakeholder coordination reports*	October, January, April and June
Web site to assist transportation planning program	Ongoing
Title VI, updated as needed	Ongoing
Articles and press releases for community and media sources	Ongoing
Translated documents upon request	On demand
Evaluation of Public Participation Plan	Annual

*Included with quarterly progress reports

Position Descriptions

Descriptions of the WestCOG staff positions that are to be supported by federal funding for MPO activities are as follows:

Executive Director

With strategic policy established by the SWRMPO Board, the Executive Director plans and organizes the activities of the SWRMPO, provides strategic leadership to SWRMPO activities, participates in the implementation of UPWP tasks, serves as point of contact for federal, state, and municipal officials on all legislative and policy matter, represents the SWRMPO in meetings with governmental agencies, businesses, non-profits, profession and other public organizations at the national and state levels, serves as lead staff to and reports to the SWRMPO board.

Deputy Director

The Deputy Director provides overall project coordination between the MPO and WestCOG. Has liaison duties between local, regional, state and federal agencies. Assists with staff matters, outreach and communications for the MPO. Provides leadership, guidance and coordination in support of the MPO's transportation planning program, including serving as a back-up in the oversight of the MPO's administrative process. Lastly the Deputy Director may fill in for the duties outlined for the Transportation Director or Principal Data Scientist depending on staffing needs.

Transportation Director

The Transportation Director oversees the management of the MPO's transportation planning program. Serves as the primary MPO liaison with CTDOT and USDOT and is responsible for the oversight of the region's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and reporting to the MPO policy boards. Provides supports to planning staff in the development of the UPWP tasks, including transportation studies, grant solicitations, competitive grant writing, MTP development, TIP administration, and other technical studies. Works with CTDOT and area municipalities to advance the planning and implementation of transportation projects and oversees the MPO's administrative process.

Principal Planner

Provides advanced technical planning support for Unified Planning Work Program activities and supports planning staff on assignments with subject matter expertise. Works with CTDOT and area municipalities to advance the planning and implementation of transportation projects and assists in coordinating competitive grant applications. Has leadership and liaison duties between state, federal, and local agencies and assists with MPO administration requirements.

Senior Planner

Provides advanced technical planning support for Unified Planning Work Program activities. Conducts research and performs analyses, assists in the analysis and interpretation of transportation related state policies and regulations, prepares maps and other graphics, assists in the preparation of the MTP, the TIP, grant research and writing, and organizing forums and workshops for related transportation planning issues for the MPOs of the WestCOG region. Manages individual transportation planning programs, projects, and studies with minimal supervision.

Program Director

The Program Director oversees the management of a transportation program and is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable state and federal requirements. This role involves facilitating

coordination among stakeholders at the local, regional, state and federal level and presenting program updates to the MPO and TAG. Oversees data research, analysis and report preparation activities, provides technical planning assistance to area municipalities, and provides leadership in support of their program. Has leadership and liaison duties between state, federal, and local agencies and assists with MPO administration requirements as needed.

Senior Project Manager/Project Manager

Assists in the development and management of the MPOs of the WestCOG region transportation programs and projects, has liaison duties between local, regional, state and federal agencies, and is assigned responsibility for managing individual transportation planning programs and projects. Undertakes data research, analysis and report preparation activities, provides technical planning assistance to area municipalities, provides leadership in the application of GIS resources for transportation planning, and provides assistance in fulfilling the MPO's administrative requirements.

Planner

Provides technical planning support for the MPOs of the WestCOG's Unified Planning Work Program activities, conducts research and performs analyses, assists in the analysis and interpretation of transportation related state policies and regulations, prepares maps and other graphics, assists in the preparation of the MTP, the TIP, and organizing forums and workshops for related transportation planning issues. Assists with the management of individual transportation planning programs, projects and studies.

Associate Planner

Provides technical planning support for the MPOs of the WestCOG's Unified Planning Work Program activities, conducts research and performs analyses, assists in the analysis and interpretation of transportation related state policies and regulations, prepares maps and other graphics, assists in the preparation of the MTP, the TIP, and organizing forums and workshops for related transportation planning issues.

Assistant Planner

Provides general planning support to assist the MPOs in carrying out the tasks outlined in the Unified Planning Work Program with close supervision and guidance from other planners and staff.

Planning Aide

Performs similar functions to, but under supervision of the other planners and staff.

Principal Data Scientist

The Principal Data Scientist oversees WestCOG's Data Science work program and closely coordinates with the Principal Planner to implement the MPO's transportation planning program. The Principal Data Scientist is responsible for overseeing all data science projects, coordination (local, regional, state, federal) data initiatives, staff training/hiring, administrative duties, and the maintenance/implementation of WestCOG's data science work program. Under the Data Scientist track, the Principal Data Scientist also performs research, analyses, data visual/map/ reports development, workshops, pursue grants, and project oversight at the highest levels of complexity and nuance with no supervision required.

Senior Data Scientist

Senior Data Scientists are responsible in administering/overseeing data science projects for Unified Planning Work Program activities. Data science efforts include research, analyses, data visual/map/ reports development, workshops, pursue grants, and project oversight with high levels of complexity and nuance. They would oversee multiple projects from start to finish, requiring minimal supervision from the Principal Data Scientist. The Senior Data Scientist would also provide training where applicable for Data Scientists and Associate Data Scientists.

Data Scientist

Data Scientists are responsible in administering data science projects for Unified Planning Work Program activities. Data science efforts include research, analyses, data visual/map/ reports development, workshops, pursue grants, and project oversight at moderate levels of complexity and nuance. They would oversee projects from start to finish, requiring moderate supervision from the Senior and Principal Data Scientists.

Associate Data Scientist

Associate Data Scientist assist with data science projects for Unified Planning Work Program activities. Data science efforts include research, analyses, data visual/map/ reports development, workshops, and pursue grants at moderate levels of complexity under the supervision of Senior or Principal Data Scientists.

Assistant Data Scientist

Assistant Data Scientists provide general analytical support to assist the MPOs in carrying out the tasks outlined in the Unified Planning Work Program with close supervision and guidance from other planners and staff.

(Senior) Finance Manager/Finance Director

Under minimal supervision, provides administrative support to the Executive Director and Policy Board, and is responsible for overall office activities including automated recordkeeping, financial reports/presentations for the WestCOG and its programs – including the South West Region MPO, accounts payable/receivable function, budgeting, annual government audit, facilities management, grant tracking, capital purchases and all duties relating to financial management; also coordinates work programs with the Office Manager in all responsibilities for payroll and human resources benefit coordination; assistants others as assigned, including website maintenance and IT support. This position reports to the Executive Director.

Office Manager

Under direct supervision, performs a variety of office administration duties for WestCOG and clerical tasks to support the needs of the Executive Director, the Council Board, the MPOs of the WestCOG region and professional staff. Types correspondence, memos, meeting notices and reports; data entry in various computer applications, including Excel and Access; responsible for managing office equipment, i.e. fax, copier, postage meter, telephone system etc. Other duties include: maintaining organizational records, Outlook database, organizes logistics for various meetings, files and office supply inventory, as well as placing public notices and media releases. This position reports to the Executive Director.

Communications Associate/Assistant

Provides administrative support to Executive Director, Finance Director, and general staff as needed; assists in the development, communication, and distribution of MPO and COG meeting materials; supports the needs of the transportation planning work program, while maintaining records for regional TIP processing; maintain general files, contact lists, office management administration duties; Legislative tracking on pertinent transportation and regional issues to RPOs; and correspondence with chief elected officials, legislators, and other local administrators.

Funding Tables

FUNDING-SWRMPO FHWA/PL

Fiscal Year 2026

EXPENDITURES BY STAFF										
	Executive & Deputy Director		Transportation Planning Staff		GIS Planning Staff		Administrative Staff		Direct Expenses	Totals
Task	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost		% of Total Contract
1: Management of the Planning Process	400	\$ 34,319	50	\$ 1,910	0	\$ -	200	\$ 8,978		3.58%
2: Data Collection and Analysis	150	\$ 12,870	1200	\$ 45,836	1000	\$ 29,371	0	\$ -	\$ 67,500	12.33%
3: Planning Activities	900	\$ 77,217	4250	\$ 162,334	300	\$ 8,811	0	\$ -	\$ 30,000	22.07%
4: Other Technical Assistance	50	\$ 4,290	500	\$ 19,098	50	\$ 1,469	0	\$ -	\$ 695,539	57.11%
5: Public Participation	50	\$ 1,923	100	\$ 13,402	0	\$ 1,268	0	\$ -	\$ 10,000	2.11%
Complete Streets Funding	100	\$ 8,580	625	\$ 23,873	100	\$ 2,937	0	\$ -		2.81%
Total Hours:	1,650		6,725		1,450		200		\$ 1,261,523	100.00%
Subtotal Direct Salary		\$ 139,198		\$ 266,453		\$ 43,856		\$ 8,978		\$ 458,484
Add BFO @ (98.72%-audited rate)		\$ 137,416		\$ 263,042		\$ 43,294		\$ 8,863		\$ 452,616
Total Salary & BFO:		\$ 276,614		\$ 529,496		\$ 87,150		\$ 17,840		\$ 911,100
EXPENDITURES BY DIRECT COST										
Total Direct Costs:									\$ 803,039	\$ 803,039
Total		\$ 276,614		\$ 529,496		\$ 87,150		\$ 17,840		\$ 1,714,139

* Direct Costs include such things as travel, meetings, professional development, equipment purchases, legal notice, technical assistance, etc...

Budget Estimated by CTDOT (February 2026)

	Federal 80%	State 10%	Local 10%	Total
FY2026	\$ 905,053	\$ 113,131	\$ 113,131	\$ 1,131,316
FY2027	\$ 905,053	\$ 113,131	\$ 113,131	\$ 1,131,316
Complete Streets FY26	\$ 38,622			\$ 38,622
Complete Streets FY27	\$ 38,622			\$ 38,622
Total Agreement Amount:	\$ 1,887,349	\$ 226,262	\$ 226,262	\$ 2,339,876

Two Year Agreement (FY26&27):	FY26&27 Grant
Total Amount of CTDOT Reimbursement:	\$ 2,984,333
Total Amount of Local Match Required:	\$ 443,943
Total Amount of 2 Yr. Program:	\$ 3,428,276

Carryover	IJA Carryover	20% Local	Total
\$ 321,610	\$ 113,751	\$ 108,841	\$ 544,202
\$ 321,610	\$ 113,751	\$ 108,841	\$ 544,202
\$ 643,220	\$ 227,502	\$ 217,681	\$ 1,088,403

Grand Total
\$ 1,675,518
\$ 38,622
\$ 1,714,139

Total FY 2026

FUNDING-SWRMPO FHWA/PL

Fiscal Year 2027

EXPENDITURES BY STAFF											
Task	Executive & Deputy Director		Transportation Planning Staff		GIS Planning Staff		Administrative Staff		Direct Expenses	Totals	% of Total Contract
	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost			
1: Management of the Planning Process	400	\$ 38,132	50	\$ 2,122	0	\$ -	200	\$ 9,975		\$ 50,229	4.15%
2: Data Collection and Analysis	150	\$ 14,299	1200	\$ 50,928	1000	\$ 32,634	0	\$ -	\$ 67,500	\$ 165,362	13.66%
3: Planning Activities	900	\$ 85,797	4250	\$ 180,372	300	\$ 9,790	0	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 305,959	25.27%
4: Other Technical Assistance	50	\$ 4,766	500	\$ 21,220	50	\$ 1,632	0	\$ -	\$ 593,134	\$ 620,752	51.27%
5: Public Participation	50	\$ 2,205	100	\$ 15,368	0	\$ 1,454	0	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 29,027	2.40%
Complete Streets Funding	100	\$ 9,533	625	\$ 26,525	100	\$ 3,263	0	\$ -		\$ 39,322	3.25%
Total Hours:	1,650		6,725		1,450		200			\$ 1,210,651	100.00%
Subtotal Direct Salary		\$ 154,733		\$ 296,535		\$ 48,774		\$ 9,975		\$ 510,017	
Add BFO @ (98.72%-audited rate)		\$ 152,752		\$ 292,740		\$ 48,149		\$ 9,847		\$ 503,489	
Total Salary & BFO:		\$ 307,485		\$ 589,275		\$ 96,923		\$ 19,822		\$ 1,013,505	
EXPENDITURES BY DIRECT COST											
Total Direct Costs:									\$ 700,634	\$ 700,634	
Total		\$ 307,485		\$ 589,275		\$ 96,923		\$ 19,822		\$ 1,714,139	

* Direct Costs include such things as travel, meetings, professional development, equipment purchases, legal notice, technical assistance, etc...

Budget Estimated by CTDOT (February 2026)

	Federal 80%	State 10%	Local 10%	Total
FY2026	\$ 905,053	\$ 113,131	\$ 113,131	\$ 1,131,316
FY2027	\$ 905,053	\$ 113,131	\$ 113,131	\$ 1,131,316
Complete Streets FY26	\$ 38,622			\$ 38,622
Complete Streets FY27	\$ 38,622			\$ 38,622
Total Agreement Amount:	\$ 1,887,349	\$ 226,262	\$ 226,262	\$ 2,339,876

Carryover	I/IJA Carryover	20% Local	Total
\$ 321,610	\$ 113,751	\$ 108,841	\$ 544,202
\$ 321,610	\$ 113,751	\$ 108,841	\$ 544,202
\$ 643,220	\$ 227,502	\$ 217,681	\$ 1,088,403

Grand Total
\$ 1,675,518
\$ 38,622
\$ 1,714,139

Total FY 2027

Two Year Agreement (FY26&27):	FY26&27 Grant
Total Amount of CTDOT Reimbursement:	\$ 2,984,333
Total Amount of Local Match Required:	\$ 443,943
Total Amount of 2 Yr. Program:	\$ 3,428,276

RAISE and CT Deep Rec Trails Grant Grant Funding Source

Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027

	<i>Federal 80%</i>	<i>Non-Federal 20%</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>FY2026</i>	<i>\$ 2,264,000</i>	<i>\$ 566,000</i>	<i>\$ 2,830,000</i>
<i>FY2027</i>	<i>\$ 2,264,000</i>	<i>\$ 566,000</i>	<i>\$ 2,830,000</i>
<i>Total Agreement Amount:</i>	<i>\$ 4,528,000</i>	<i>\$ 1,132,000</i>	<i>\$ 5,660,000</i>

SS4A Grant Funding Source

Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027

	<i>Federal 80%</i>	<i>Non-Federal 20%</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>FY2026</i>	<i>\$ 1,979,673</i>	<i>\$ 494,918</i>	<i>\$ 2,474,591</i>
<i>FY2027</i>	<i>\$ 1,979,673</i>	<i>\$ 494,918</i>	<i>\$ 2,474,591</i>
<i>Total Agreement Amount:</i>	<i>\$ 3,959,346</i>	<i>\$ 989,837</i>	<i>\$ 4,949,183</i>

Reconnecting Communities Grant Funding Source

Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027

	<i>Federal 100%</i>	<i>No Local Match</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>FY2026</i>	<i>\$ 500,000</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 500,000</i>
<i>FY2027</i>	<i>\$ 500,000</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 500,000</i>
<i>Total Agreement Amount:</i>	<i>\$ 1,000,000</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 1,000,000</i>

Maximum Hourly Rates: FY2026 & FY2027

*maximum hourly rates shall not exceed:

Titles	FY2026	FY2027
Executive Director	\$255.00	\$267.75
Deputy Director	\$230.00	\$241.50
(Senior) Finance Manager/Finance Director	\$205.00	\$215.25
Office Manager	\$155.00	\$162.75
Communications Associate/Assistant	\$130.00	\$136.50
Program Director	\$230.00	\$241.50
Senior Project Manager	\$200.00	\$210.00
Project Manager	\$180.00	\$189.00
Transportation Director	\$230.00	\$241.50
Principal Planner	\$205.00	\$215.25
Senior Planner	\$180.00	\$189.00
Planner	\$155.00	\$162.75
Associate Planner	\$140.00	\$147.00
Assistant Planner	\$130.00	\$136.50
Planning Aide	\$120.00	\$126.00
Principal Data Scientist	\$205.00	\$215.25
Senior Data Scientist	\$180.00	\$189.00
Data Scientist	\$155.00	\$162.75
Associate Data Scientist	\$140.00	\$147.00
Assistant Data Scientist	\$130.00	\$136.50

Appendices

Planning Roles and Responsibilities

CTDOT REQUIRED APPENDIX: STATEMENT OF COOPERATIVE SWRMPO/STATE/TRANSIT OPERATORS' PLANNING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to outline the roles and responsibilities of the State, the South Western Region MPO and appropriate providers of public transportation as required by 23 CFR Sec. 450.314(a), (h) "Metropolitan Planning Agreements".

General Roles & Responsibilities

The South Western Region MPO will perform the transportation planning process for their region and develop procedures to coordinate transportation planning activities in accordance with applicable federal regulations and guidance. The transportation process will, at a minimum, consist of:

1. Preparation of a two-year Unified Planning Work Program that lists and describes all transportation planning studies and tasks to be completed during this two-year period.
2. Preparation and update of a long range, multi-modal metropolitan transportation plan.
3. Preparation and maintenance of a short-range transportation improvement program (TIP).
4. Financial planning to ensure plan and program are financially constrained and within anticipated funding levels.
5. Conduct planning studies and system performance monitoring, including highway corridor and intersection studies, transit system studies, application of advanced computer techniques, and transportation data collection and archiving.
6. Public outreach, including survey of affected populations, electronic dissemination of reports and information (website), and consideration of public comments.
7. Ensuring the transportation planning process evaluates the benefits and burdens of transportation projects and/or investments to ensure significant or disproportionate impacts on low income and minority populations are avoided and/or mitigated. This will be accomplished using traditional and non-traditional outreach to Title VI populations, including outreach to LEP populations.
8. Development and implementation of a Congestion Management Process as appropriate.
9. Ensuring plans, projects and programs are consistent with and conform to air quality goals of reducing transportation-related emissions and attaining National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
10. Self-certify the metropolitan planning process at least once every four years, concurrent with TIP adoption and submittal, certifying the planning process is being conducted in accordance with all applicable federal requirements and addressing the major issues facing the area.

Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan

1. South Western Region MPO will be responsible for preparing and developing the long range (20–25 years) metropolitan transportation plans for their respective region.
2. South Western Region MPO may develop a consolidated transportation plan summary report for the planning region that includes the key issues facing the area and priority programs and projects.
3. CT DOT will provide the following information and data in support of developing the transportation plan:
 - a. Financial information – estimate of anticipated federal funds over the 20–25 year time frame of the plan for the highway and transit programs.
 - b. Trip tables – for each analysis year, including base year and the horizon year of the plan by trip purpose and mode. (*CT DOT will provide this only if requested since South Western Region MPO may maintain their own travel forecast model.*)
 - c. Traffic count data for state roads in the South Western Region MPO region, and transit statistics as available.
 - d. List of projects of statewide significance by mode, with descriptions, so that they can be incorporated into the long range metropolitan transportation plans.
 - e. Assess air quality impacts and conduct the regional emissions assessment of the plan. Will provide the results of the assessment in a timely manner to allow inclusion in the plan and to be made available to the public at public information meetings. (Refer to air quality tasks.)
4. South Western Region MPO may conduct transportation modeling for the area.
5. South Western Region MPO will consult with the appropriate providers of public transportation on local bus capital projects to include in the transportation plan, and will work together to develop local bus improvements for the plan from the 10-year capital program. Through consultation, they will identify future local bus needs and services, including new routes, service expansion, rolling stock needs beyond replacement, and operating financial needs.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

1. The selection of projects in the TIP and the development of the TIP will occur through a consultative process between CT DOT, South Western Region MPO, and the appropriate provider(s) of public transportation.
2. CT DOT will send a draft proposed 5-year Capital Plan to the South Western Region MPO for review and comment. The draft list will reflect input that the CT DOT received from the South Western Region MPO during the consultation process on the previous year's plan.
3. CT DOT will prepare an initial list of projects to include in the new TIP. This list will be based on the current TIP that is about to expire and the 5- year Capital Plan.
4. CT DOT will consult with and solicit comments from South Western Region MPO and transit providers on the TIP and incorporate where practicable.
5. CT DOT will provide detailed project descriptions, cost estimates and program schedules. The project descriptions will provide sufficient detail to allow the South Western Region MPO to explain the projects to the policy board and the general public.

6. CT DOT will provide a list of projects obligated during each of the federal fiscal years covered by the TIP/STIP. The annual listing of obligated projects should include both highway and transit projects.
7. South Western Region MPO will compile the TIP for the Region, including preparing a narrative. Projects will be categorized by federal aid program and listed in summary tables. The TIP will be converted into a format that will allow it to be downloaded to the Region's website. South Western Region MPO will maintain the TIP by tracking amendments and changes to projects (schedule, scope and cost) made through the TIP/STIP Administrative Action/Amendment/Notification process.
8. CT DOT will develop the STIP based on the MPOs' TIPs and projects located in the rural regions of the State.
9. CT DOT will include one STIP entry each for the Bridge program and the Highway Safety Improvement program. This entry will list the total funds needed for these programs for each fiscal year. All Regions will receive back up lists in the form of the Bridge Report and the Safety Report monthly. The one line entry will reduce the number of entries needed in the STIP. Any projects listed in the Bridge and or Safety Report that are over \$5m and on the NHS, will be transferred directly into the STIP as its own entry per the TIP/STIP Administrative Action/Amendment/Notification process.
10. CT DOT will provide proposed amendments to the South Western Region MPO for consideration. The amendment will include a project description that provides sufficient detail to allow the South Western Region MPO to explain the proposed changes to the South Western Region MPO board and project management contact information. It will also provide a clear reason and justification for the amendment. If it involves a new project, CT DOT will provide a clear explanation of the reasons and rationale for adding it to the TIP/STIP.
11. When an amendment to the TIP/STIP is being proposed by the South Western Region MPO, the project sponsor will consult with CT DOT to obtain concurrence with the proposed amendment, to obtain Air Quality review and consistency with Air Quality Conformity regulations and ensure financial consistency.
12. CT DOT will provide a financial assessment of the STIP with each update. South Western Region MPO should prepare a TIP summary table listing all projects by funding program sorted by year based on CT DOT's financial assessment, demonstrating and maintaining financial constraint by year.

Air Quality Planning

1. CT DOT and South Western Region MPO should meet at least once per year to discuss the air quality conformity process, the regional emissions analysis and air quality modeling.
2. CT DOT will conduct the regional emissions analysis, which includes the South Western Region MPO area and provide the results to the South Western Region MPO. The regional emissions analyses for the build or future years will include the proposed transportation improvements included in the regional long-range metropolitan transportation plans and TIP.

3. South Western Region MPO will prepare a summary report of the conformity process and regional emissions analysis for the Region. It will contain a table showing the estimated emissions from the transportation system for each criteria pollutant and analysis year.
4. The summary report on the regional emissions analyses will be inserted into the long-range transportation plan and TIP.
5. South Western Region MPO will make the regional emissions analysis available to the public.

Public Participation Program

1. The South Western Region MPO will annually review and evaluate their public participation program.
2. The South Western Region MPO will update and prepare a list of neighborhood and local organizations and groups that will receive notices of MPO plans, programs and projects.
3. The South Western Region MPO will work to ensure that low-income, minority and transit dependent individuals are afforded an adequate opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process, receive a fair share of the transportation improvement benefits and do not endure a disproportionate transportation burden. South Western Region MPO will comply with federal legislation on these issues.
4. The South Western Region MPO's process for developing plans, projects, and programs will include consultation with state and local agencies responsible for land use and growth management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation and historic preservation.
5. The South Western Region MPO will maintain their website to provide clear and concise information on the transportation planning process and provide an opportunity to download reports and documents. This will include developing project and study summaries, converting reports into a pdf or text format, and maintaining a list of available documents. The website will provide links to other associated organizations and agencies.

Public Transportation Planning

1. The South Western Region MPO will allow for, to the extent feasible, the participation of transit providers at all transportation committee and policy board meetings to provide advice, information and consultation on transportation programs within the planning region.
2. The South Western Region MPO will provide the opportunity for the transit provider(s) to review and comment on planning products relating to transit issues within the region.
3. The South Western Region MPO will allow for transit provider(s) to participate in UPWP, long-range plan, and TIP development to ensure the consideration of any appropriate comments.
4. The South Western Region MPO and CT DOT will assist the transit provider(s), to the extent feasible, with planning for transit-related activities.

Fiscal/Financial Planning

1. The CT DOT will provide the South Western Region MPO with up-to-date fiscal and financial information on the statewide and regional transportation improvement programs to the extent practicable. This will include:
 - a. Anticipated federal funding resources by federal aid category and state funding resources for the upcoming federal fiscal year, as shown in the TIP financial chart.
 - b. Will hold annual meetings to discuss authorized funds for the STP-Urban and LOTCIP accounts.
 - c. Annual authorized/programmed funds for the FTA Section 5307 Program as contained in the STIP and the annual UA split agreements.
 - d. Monthly updates of STP-Urban Program showing current estimated cost & scheduled obligation dates.
2. The CT DOT will notify the South Western Region MPO when the anticipated cost of a project, regardless of funding category, has changed in accordance with the agreed upon TIP/STIP Administrative Action/Amendment/Notification process .
3. The South Western Region MPO will prepare summary tables and charts that display financial information for presentation to the policy board.

Congestion Management Process (CMP) Program

1. The South Western Region MPO, if located in a TMA, will conduct a highway performance monitoring program that includes the gathering of available traffic counts and travel time information and determination of travel speeds and delay.
2. The South Western Region MPO will conduct congestion strategies studies for critical corridors and identify possible improvements to reduce congestion and delay.
3. The South Western Region MPO will work with CT DOT on programming possible congestion-reducing projects.
4. The South Western Region MPO will, upon implementation of a congestion reduction improvement, assess post-improvement operations and determine level of congestion relief.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program

1. The CT DOT will maintain the statewide ITS architecture and ensure consistency with the Regional ITS Architecture for the South Western Region MPO.
2. The South Western Region MPO will maintain and update the Regional ITS Architecture for the South Western Region MPO, where appropriate.

Performance Based Planning and Programming

A. Collection of Performance Data

1. All data collected for performance measure goals will be collected by the CTDOT and will meet the MAP 21/FAST ACT provisions and requirements, unless the MPO decides to set its own performance target, in which case the MPO will be responsible for collecting their own data.
2. All data collected for goals for Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) State of Good Repair performance measures and Safety performance measures established under the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) will include data provided by the Transit Districts to the National Transit Database (NTD) and through CTDOT, in accordance with the Transit Asset Management Rule.
3. CTDOT will make the compiled data collected for each performance measure available on a platform accessible by CTDOT and the MPO's.
4. CTDOT will develop a Measures and Deliverables tracking spreadsheet outlining each Performance Measure, the deliverables required, the submittal dates and the CTDOT contact and provide to the South Western Region MPO.

B. Selection of Performance Targets

CTDOT will draft statewide performance targets for each of the FAST Act performance measures and coordinate with the MPOs and Transit Representatives, as required by 23 CFR Parts 450 and 771, as well as 49 CFR Part 613 as outlined below:

1. The CTDOT will discuss performance measures at each of the regularly scheduled monthly meetings (via teleconference or in person meeting).
2. The CTDOT will present data collected for each performance measure and collaborate with the South Western Region MPO and Transit Representatives on assumptions.
3. The CTDOT will provide South Western Region MPO and Transit Representative with 30 days to provide feedback on the data received and the assumptions provided.
4. The feedback received will be discussed at the next scheduled monthly meeting.
5. CTDOT will set targets for each performance measure with consideration of feedback received.

C. Reporting of Performance Targets

1. CTDOT will notify the South Western Region MPO and Transit Representatives by email when final statewide targets are established.
2. CTDOT will send the targets that have been set, the backup information and a PowerPoint presentation to South Western Region MPO for their use in educating the MPO Policy Board. CTDOT will provide region level data summaries, if available.
3. The South Western Region MPO has 180 days after the CTDOT establishes their targets to establish their own targets or endorse the State's targets and agree to plan and program projects so that they contribute toward the accomplishment of the performance targets.
4. If the South Western Region MPO is establishing their own targets, the South Western Region MPO will report those targets to the CTDOT by email no later than the 180 day timeframe.
5. The South Western Region MPO will share this information with the Policy Board and will require Policy Board resolution to support the targets set by CTDOT or endorse their own targets.

6. The South Western Region MPO will forward the Policy Board resolution to the Performance Measures Unit at the CTDOT before the 180 day limitation for FHWA performance measures via the DOT.Map21@ct.gov email box.
7. For FTA performance measures, it is noted that South Western Region MPO provided a resolution of support for the initial transit State of Good Repair (SGR) performance targets on July 1, 2017. Thereafter, in accordance with FTA, transit providers will continue to share their targets annually with the South Western Region MPO. However, South Western Region MPO targets are not required to be updated annually, only revisited whenever the South Western Region MPO updates their MTP and/or TIP on or after October 1, 2018.
8. For FTA safety performance measures as part of the PTASP, the South Western Region MPO has received the Plan which included safety performance targets and will have 180 days to support these initial targets. Each transit provider is required to review its agency Safety Plan annually and update the plan, including the safety performance targets, as necessary.

D. Reporting of progress toward achieving goal

1. CTDOT will document progress towards achieving statewide performance targets annually, and report to the NTD. Information will be available to the South Western Region MPO and transit representatives for use in updates to the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, the CTDOT TAM Plans and the FTA Annual report by email after the required reports are issued to Federal Agencies.
2. CTDOT will share updated TAM Plans with the South Western Region MPO in a timely manner, and the MPOs will incorporate them into their planning process.
3. South Western Region MPO will document progress towards achieving performance targets and report that information to CTDOT in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Plan as outlined in the Measures and Deliverables tracking spreadsheet via email. The CTDOT will collect this information and file until requested from FHWA/FTA.

E. The collection of data for the State asset management plan for the NHS

1. CTDOT will collect all asset management data required for all NHS routes, regardless of ownership.

30 Performance Measures

Highway Safety	Number of Fatalities - 5-Year Rolling Average
Highway Safety	Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT - 5-Year Rolling Average
Highway Safety	Number of Serious Injuries - 5-Year Rolling Average
Highway Safety	Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT - 5-Year Rolling Average

Highway Safety	Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-Motorized Serious Injuries - 5-Year Rolling Average
Bridges & Pavements	Percentage of Pavements of the Interstate System in Good Condition
Bridges & Pavements	Percentage of Pavements of the Interstate System in in Poor Condition
Bridges & Pavements	Percentage of Pavements of the Non-Interstate NHS in Good Condition
Bridges & Pavements	Percentage of Pavements of the Non-Interstate NHS in Poor Condition
Bridges & Pavements	Percentage of NHS Bridges classified in Good Condition (by deck area)
Bridges & Pavements	Percentage of NHS Bridges classified in Poor Condition (by deck area)
System Performance	Percent of the Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate That Are Reliable
System Performance	Percent of the Person-Miles Traveled on the Non-Interstate NHS That Are Reliable
Freight	Percent of the Interstate System mileage providing for reliable truck travel times
Congestion and Air Quality(beg 2022)	Annual Hours of Peak-Hour Excessive Delay (PHED)
Congestion and Air Quality	Percent of Non-SOV Travel
Congestion and Air Quality(beg 2022)	Total Emissions Reduction
Transit Asset Management	Percentage of Service (non-revenue) Vehicles that have met or exceeded their Useful Life Benchmark (ULB)
Transit Asset Management	Percentage of Facilities with an asset class rated below condition 3 on the TERM scale.

Transit Asset Management	Infrastructure (rail, fixed guideway, track, signals, and systems) - Percentage of track segments with performance restrictions
Transit Asset Management	Percentage of Revenue Vehicles within a particular asset class that have met or exceeded their ULB
FTA C 5010.1E	Number of fatalities per “vehicle revenue miles.” by mode.
FTA C 5010.1E	Number of serious injuries per “vehicle revenue miles.” by mode.
PTASP safety performance targets	Fatalities (total number of reported fatalities)
PTASP safety performance targets	Fatalities (fatality rate per total vehicle revenue miles by mode)
PTASP safety performance targets	Injuries (total number of reportable injuries)
PTASP safety performance targets	Injuries (injury rate per total vehicle revenue miles by mode)
PTASP safety performance targets	Safety Events (total number of reportable safety events)
PTASP safety performance targets	Safety Events (safety event rate per total vehicle revenue miles by mode)
PTASP safety performance targets	System Reliability (mean distance between mechanical failures by mode)

Amendment

This Statement on Transportation Planning may be amended from time to time or to coincide with annual UPWP approval as jointly deemed necessary or in the best interests of all parties, including Federal transportation agencies.

Effective Date

This Statement will be effective after it has been endorsed by the South Western Region MPO as part of the UPWP, and as soon as the UPWP has been approved by the relevant Federal transportation agencies.

No Limitation on Statutory Authority

Nothing contained in this Statement is intended to or shall limit the authority or responsibilities assigned to signatory organizations under Connecticut law, federal law, local ordinance, or charter.

**SOUTH WESTERN REGION
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

DARIEN•GREENWICH•NEW CANAAN•NORWALK•STAMFORD•WESTON•WESTPORT•WILTON

**2025-05-15 #02 Resolution of Endorsement for the FY26 and FY27
SWRMPO Unified Planning Work Program**

WHEREAS, the South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMPO), in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), is responsible for carrying out the urban transportation planning process for the South Western Region;

WHEREAS, the voting board of the SWRMPO comprises the two mayors and six first selectmen of the area, which includes Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport and Wilton, CT, as well as transit representatives from Norwalk Transit District and CTtransit Stamford;

WHEREAS, a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to guide the planning process is developed in cooperation with CTDOT, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), and transportation stakeholders to serve as the grant application for funds to conduct SWRMPO transportation planning;

WHEREAS, SWRMPO, in cooperation with CTDOT is responsible for adopting the FY26 and FY27 Unified Planning Work Program for the South Western Region;

WHEREAS, WestCOG, as the Hosting Agency for the SWRMPO, will contract to receive and disperse planning funds to carry out the adopted UPWP;

RESOLVED, that the SWRMPO hereby endorses the FY26 and FY27 UPWP, contingent upon administrative and technical adjustments prescribed by the CTDOT and USDOT.

This resolution is in full force and effect as of **May 15, 2025**

May 15, 2025



Toni Boucher, Chairman