



Lincoln MPO Technical Committee Agenda Summary

AGENDA ITEM NO.	6
MEETING DATE	April 8, 2026
REQUEST	VOTE: Proposed FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program
ASSOCIATED MEETINGS	Lincoln MPO staff requested input from staff towards the development of the FY 2027 UPWP in early February 2026. A draft version of the UPWP was sent to the MPO Administration Committee, FHWA, and FTA for comment on March 18, 2026.
STAFF CONTACT	Rachel Christopher, rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov , 402-441-7603

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE THE FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The Draft FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) incorporates in one document all federal assisted state, regional, and local transportation planning activities proposed to be undertaken in the region during the State/MPO Fiscal Year from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. The UPWP provides a mechanism for the coordination of transportation planning activities in the metropolitan planning area and is required as a basis and condition for all federal funding assistance for transportation planning by the joint planning regulations of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

This work program describes all transportation planning activities utilizing federal funding during the coming fiscal year. It is funded primarily with the Metropolitan Planning Funds (PL funds) grant provided to the MPO. However, an MPO may use other eligible funds provided that the guidelines for use of those funds are met. Other funds that contribute towards transportation planning activities include FTA funds, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Planning funds, and state and local funds. State and local funds are used to provide the match for federal planning programs.



The Draft FY 2027 UPWP is available at:

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/PDS/Planning/MPO/Key-Planning-Documents/UPWP>

Enclosed is a summary of the work program activities in the FY 2027 UPWP.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The Draft FY 2027 UPWP has been developed based on funding levels resulting from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and is based on the 2020 Census counts for urbanized area populations in Nebraska.



Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization

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To: MPO Technical Committee
From: Rachel Christopher, Transportation Planner
Date: March 30, 2026
Subject: Proposed FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program

The MPO Technical Committee will review the proposed FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at their meeting on April 8, 2026 and make a recommendation to the MPO Officials Committee.

The UPWP is funded primarily with Metropolitan Planning Funds (PL funds). Metropolitan Planning Funds authorized under 23 U.S.C. 104(f)(3) are apportioned to States and are to be made available to the metropolitan planning organizations responsible for carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134. The estimated distribution of new PL Funds for FY 2027 is based upon the current State distribution formula that uses Census 2020 Urban Area population. The Lincoln MPO estimated PL funds for FY 2026 is \$1,334,488 (this number includes carryover funds from the FY 2025 UPWP).

A summary of the work program activities in the draft FY 2027 UPWP is provided below.

Administration and Management Activities:

These activities include General Program Administration and Coordination, Certification of the Transportation Planning Process, development of the UPWP, PL Fund Grant Administration, and Professional Development, Education and Training.

<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>PL Funds</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
\$93,169	\$74,535	\$18,634

Interagency and Public Outreach Activities:

These activities include Transportation Planning-Related Committees, Public Participation Plan, Transportation Reports and Newsletters, and Website Management and Enhancement. In the upcoming fiscal year, an amendment to the Public Participation Plan is anticipated to re-assess the plan following the Long Range Transportation Plan Update and Lincoln Mobility Plan processes, reflect approval of the City of Lincoln Language Access Plan and new City of Lincoln ADA/Title VI policy, and conform with federal policy changes. In addition, a re-branding of the MPO will be explored.

<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>PL Funds</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
\$48,173	\$38,538	\$ 9,635

Data Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Variables:

These activities include Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Demographic Database Update, Land Use Database Update and Maintenance, Community Value Factors and Surveys, Census Planning Activities (CTPP), and Transportation System Data Monitoring and Collecting.

<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>PL Funds</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
\$182,120	\$145,696	\$36,424

Short Range Planning and Programming Activities:

These activities include development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Financial Resources Development and Program Phasing, Enhanced Mobility FTA Grant Programs, and Transportation Facilities and Site Plan Review. An ongoing expense will be subscription to ClearGov for the TIP.

<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>PL Funds</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
\$112,499	\$89,999	\$22,500

Metropolitan Transportation Planning:

These activities include Long Range Transportation Plan Review, Evaluation and Coordination with Comprehensive Planning Activities, Subarea Planning and Corridor Studies, Multi-modal Planning, Goods and Freight Movement Planning, and Policy Studies and Regulation Review. For FY 2027, funds are included for staff time implementing the Safe Streets Lincoln Vision Zero Action Plan and continued work and implementation of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update and Lincoln Mobility Plan. In addition, staff time will also be spent on initial coordination for the City of Lincoln’s awarded Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment

Program (ATIIP) grant for Downtown Lincoln bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure planning and design, until a grant agreement and notice to proceed are in effect.

<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>PL Funds</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
\$1,003,979	\$803,183	\$ 200,796

Transportation System Planning:

These activities include Transportation Model Development and Maintenance, Congestion Management Process, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), and System Management, Operations and Coordination. Funds in this activity continue to be included for consultant work to update the Lincoln MPO Transportation Model associated with the Long Range Transportation Plan Update.

<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>PL Funds</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
\$228,171	\$182,537	\$45,634

Transit Planning Work Program:

These activities include Program Support and Administration, General Development/Comprehensive Planning, Long Range Transportation Planning, Short-Range Transportation Planning, Transportation Improvement Program, and Other Activities. The Transit Planning Program receives funds through FTA including FTA Sections 5303 and 5307 funds.

Environmental Studies, Programs and Coordination:

These activities include Environmental Planning, Urban Air Quality Planning, and Flood Plain Management Program Coordination. These programs typically receive funds from State (including Federal pass-through grant funds) or local sources.

Lincoln Municipal Airport Planning:

The Lincoln Airport Authority concluded an Airport Master Planning effort in the current fiscal year, with the primary objective of developing a long term program that will yield a safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally acceptable air transportation facility. The study provided an analysis of airport needs, a definition of the airport's role within the regional airport system and evaluate alternatives with the purpose of providing direction for the future development of the facility. The Airport Master Plan process is funded with federal funds through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).