



Lincoln MPO Officials Committee Agenda Summary

AGENDA ITEM NO.	4
MEETING DATE	May 2, 2025
REQUEST	VOTE: Proposed FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program
ASSOCIATED MEETINGS	Lincoln MPO staff requested input from staff towards the development of the FY 2026 UPWP on February 3, 2025. A draft version of the UPWP was sent to the MPO Administration Committee, FHWA, and FTA for comment on March 26, 2025. The MPO Technical Committee voted to recommend approval at their meeting on April 9, 2025.
STAFF CONTACT	Rachel Christopher, rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov , 402-441-7603

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE THE FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The Draft FY 2026 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, 2025 through June 30, 2026. 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 2026 UPWP is available at:

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

The following revisions were made since Technical Committee action to address FHWA comments:

- Changed references to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) throughout
- Added that the upcoming Quadrennial Certification Review for the MPO is scheduled to be conducted on May 20, 2025.
- Removed a reference to the Air Quality Conformity Process as it does not apply to the Lincoln MPO.

Enclosed is a summary of the work program activities in the FY 2026 UPWP.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The Draft FY 2026 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 Officials Committee
From: Rachel Christopher, Transportation Planner
Date: April 24, 2025
Subject: Proposed FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program

The MPO Officials Committee will review the draft FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at their meeting on May 2.

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 2026 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 \$1,278,339 (this number includes carryover funds from the FY 2024 UPWP).

A summary of the work program activities in the draft FY 2026 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. A new recurring expense will be annual membership of the Lincoln MPO in the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) of approximately \$2,500. AMPO provides a variety of resources and peer support opportunities.

<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 Program, Transportation Reports and Newsletters, and Website Management and Enhancement. The activity for Environmental Justice Strategies and Implementing Title VI Requirements was removed to comply with recent U.S. Department of Transportation guidance that de-emphasized environmental justice in federal transportation decision-making. Title VI implementation in compliance with federal law will continue to take place under the Public Participation Program activity.

<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>PL Funds</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
\$45,733	\$36,586	\$9,147

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. A new recurring expense will be annual subscription to ClearGov for the TIP, which was used for the first time to prepare the proposed FY 2026-2029 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 2026, funds are included for staff time

contributing to the Safe Streets Lincoln Vision Zero Action Plan and work on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update and Lincoln Mobility Plan.

<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>PL Funds</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
\$1,104,635	\$883,708	\$220,927

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 on-call consultant work to update the Lincoln MPO Transportation Model on an as-needed basis (reduced from \$75,000 to \$30,000) and work on the Travel Demand Model Update associated with the Long Range Transportation Plan Update.

<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>PL Funds</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
\$59,768	\$47,814	\$11,954

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 has been undertaking an Airport Master Planning effort that could conclude in FY 2026, 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 will provide 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 is funded with federal funds through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).