

Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Unified Planning Work Program
Fiscal Year 2025



Developed by the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC)
in cooperation with the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority
and the Alabama Department of Transportation

Adopted: June 24, 2024

Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Unified Planning Work Program Fiscal Year 2025

This document is posted at
<https://www.warc.info/mpo-documents/>

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This UPWP was prepared as a cooperative effort of the U. S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), and local governments in partial fulfillment of requirements in Title 23 USC 134 and 135 (amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Sections 11201, November 2021.) The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Members

Policy Committee

Voting

John Hinton- City of Northport Mayor
Wallace McAdory - ALDOT West Central Region Engineer
Walt Maddox - City of Tuscaloosa Mayor
Rob Robertson - Tuscaloosa County Commission Chairman
Dennis Stripling - WARC Executive Director

Non-Voting

Rod Northam, West Alabama Rural Planning Organization, Policy Committee Chair
Mark D. Bartlett, Federal Highway Administration
Robert Green, Citizens Advisory Committee Chairman
Russell Lawrence, Technical Coordinating Committee Chairman
Bradley B. Lindsey., Alabama Department of Transportation
Yvette G. Taylor, PhD, Federal Transit Administration Region 4
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Chairman

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Voting

Julia Gable, University of Alabama Representative
Zach Ponds, Tuscaloosa Planning Director
Adriana Dunn, Region Preconstruction Engineer ALDOT West Central Region
TSM&O Engineer ALDOT West Central Region
Aaron Dawson, Federal Highway Administration
Marty Hamner, Trucking Representative
Scott Anders, County Engineer
Robert B. Dees, ALDOT Bureau of Local Transportation
Russell Lawrence, Tuscaloosa Co. Transit Authority Director
Zane Davis, West Alabama Regional Commission
Jeff Powell, Airport Manager
Julie Ramm, Northport Planning Department
Michael Gardiner, Director, Tuscaloosa City Engineer
Lauren Benson Tuscaloosa Co. Planning Department
Rhonda King, Federal Transit Administration
Tera Tubbs, Northport City Engineer
Elsa Tedla, Alabama Transportation Institute
Railroad Representative
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Representative

Non-Voting

Chairman, Tuscaloosa City Planning Commission
Chairman, Northport Planning Commission
Representative, Town of Brookwood
Representative, Town of Coaling
Representative, Town of Coker
Representative, Town of Lake View
Representative, Town of Moundville
Representative, Town of Vance
Representative, Alabama Department of Public Safety (Local Office)
Representative, Northport City Police Department
Representative, Tuscaloosa City Police Department
Representative, Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office

Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Members (Continued)

Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

Tuscaloosa City

Lenny Fulmer
James C. (Jimmy) Hamner
Randy McMaster
Max Snyder
Quinn Stewart
Katherine Waldon
Charlene Wilkinson
Bob Woodman

Northport

Max Davis
Robert Green
Glenn Griffin
Jill Hannah
Harry May
Anthony Perkins
Sam Phillips
David Turner

Tuscaloosa County

Jimmie Cain
Brad Darden
Alex Hainen
David Hartin
Jeremy Jones
John Myers
Brock Reynolds
Joe Robinson

**Resolution
Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
MPO 2024-11**

**Adopting the FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
As prepared by the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC)**

WHEREAS, the Tuscaloosa Area MPO is the organization designated by the Governor of the State of Alabama as being responsible, together with the State of Alabama, for implementing the applicable provisions of 23 USC 134 and 135 (amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, November 2021); 42 USC 2000d-1, 7401; 23 CFR 450 and 500; 40 CFR 51 and 93; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Transportation requires all urbanized areas, as established by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, engaged in area-wide urban transportation planning, to submit a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as a condition for meeting the provisions of Title 23, U. S. Code 134 and 135; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the declaration of these provisions, the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) and Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Planning Staff, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), have prepared a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2025; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to its duties, functions, and responsibilities, the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee, in session this 24th day of June, 2024, did review and evaluate the aforementioned FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), summarized on the attached pages; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee does hereby adopt the FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

Adopted on this the 24th day of June, 2024

MPO Chairman

ATTEST

MPO Process Coordinator

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Introduction

Purpose

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is developed to coordinate transportation and related planning activities for a cooperative, continuing, and comprehensive planning process. The primary objective of the UPWP is the development of an integrated planning program that considers the planning activities of each modal group and coordinates these activities to produce a total transportation plan serving all segments of the population. The UPWP presents the budget and work tasks necessary to accomplish and maintain the transportation planning process within Tuscaloosa County for fiscal year **2025 (October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025)**.

Laws and Regulations

The laws that require Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to develop unified planning work programs are found in Section 134 of Title 23 of the United States Code and Section 5303 of Title 49 of the United States Code. The Code was superseded or amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Sections 11201, November 2021. The rules that govern metropolitan planning organizations are published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) as Title 23, Chapter 1, Part 450, Subpart C. Section 450.308 specifically relates to the development of unified planning work programs.

Agency Participation

The UPWP was developed by the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). A description of the MPO can be found in Appendix A. The MPO is a cooperative effort of the West Alabama Regional Commission, the Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority (TCPTA), the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the City of Tuscaloosa, the City of Northport, and Tuscaloosa County. Each of these entities has membership on the various MPO committees. The staff of the MPO is housed at the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC).

Development Process

With input from ALDOT and TCPTA, the staff of the MPO developed a draft UPWP in March 2024. The draft was presented to the MPO committees for their review in April 2024. The MPO Policy Committee adopted the draft UPWP on April 15, 2024. At this point, the draft was presented to ALDOT, FHWA, and the FTA (reviewing agencies). The draft was also placed on the WARC website for public review.

ALDOT and FHWA provided the MPO staff with a summary of the comments from the reviewing agencies in April and June 2024, respectively. The MPO staff made the necessary adjustments to the draft UPWP and presented the second draft to the MPO committees in June 2024. The Policy Committee adopted the UPWP on June 24, 2024.

Public Involvement

The public had an opportunity to provide input in the development of the UPWP during the April and June 2024 MPO committee meetings. The public is allowed to participate in discussions held at the committee meetings. News releases that provide the meeting

details and agenda are distributed no later than two weeks prior to the committee meetings. The news releases are sent to the local media, special interest groups, and individuals upon request. The meeting schedule and agenda are posted on the WARC website and lobby bulletin board. The draft UPWP was posted on the WARC website in April 2024.

Title VI Activities

The MPO operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with the MPO. More information on the MPO Title VI program can be found on the MPO website (<http://warc.info/transportation-planning/tuscaloosa-area-mpo>). Task 4.2 of this work program describes the Title VI activities the MPO will conduct.

The MPO makes every effort to provide an inclusive planning process and adheres to and complies with all Title VI programs, processes, and procedures, that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)*
- *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*
- *Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000d*
- Title 23 U.S.C. Section 324 (Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex)
- Executive Order 12898 *Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, 1994
- Title 42 U.S.C. Section 6101-6107 *Age Discrimination Act of 1975* (Older American Act)
- Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5332 Nondiscrimination
- 49 C.F.R. 26 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
- 23 C.F.R. 230 Equal Employment Opportunity

The MPO adopted public involvement plan includes ADA, Title VI, and limited English proficiency elements. The transportation planning process complies with the *FTA Title VI Circular 4702.1B* (October 2012). Anyone with disabilities or limited English capabilities may request special assistance to participate in the transportation planning process.

Special Planning Considerations

Scope of the Planning Process (FAST Act Planning Factors)

In developing the UPWP, the MPO was required to consider the current surface transportation authorizing legislation, the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act* (FAST Act). Under the FAST Act, MPOs must consider projects and strategies that will:

- A. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- B. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
- C. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;

- D. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;
- E. 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, housing, and economic development patterns;
- F. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- G. Promote efficient system management and operation;
- H. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;
- I. Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
- J. Enhance travel and tourism.

The MPO prepared the UPWP based on these factors which are considered in every document and program produced by the MPO.

Planning Emphasis Areas

On December 30, 2021 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) for MPOs and state Departments of Transportation. MPOs are expected to include work items in the UPWPs that address the PEAs. The PEAs and the corresponding UPWP tasks are listed below.

- Tackling the Climate Crisis – Transition to a Clean Energy, Resilient Future
 - Work items included in Tasks 1.1, 2.2, 3.1, and 5.1
- Equity and Justice40 in Transportation Planning
 - Work items included in Tasks 1.1, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, and 4.2
- Complete Streets
 - Work items included in Tasks 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4
- Public Involvement
 - Work items included in Tasks 1.1, 3.1, and 4.1
- Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination
 - Work items included in Tasks 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.5
- Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination
 - Work items included in Tasks 1.1, 3.1, and 3.5
- Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)
 - Work items included in Tasks 1.1, 2.2, 3.1, and 5.1
- Data in Transportation Planning
 - Work items included in Tasks 1.1, 2.1, and 2.2

Transportation Performance Management

In 2012, the U.S. Congress established a performance management policy and national transportation goals with the passage of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The Act required the U.S. DOT to develop performance measures and States to set targets and monitor progress. The subsequent regulations defined the performance measures and reporting procedures. The regulations also made MPOs responsible for setting targets and monitoring progress in urban areas. Performance

management is expected to transform the surface transportation system by focusing federal funding on national goals and continually monitoring progress.

Title 23 CFR 490 defined 18 highway performance measures. Title 49 CFR 625 provided seven transit performance measures. Table 1 includes the performance measures grouped by performance area.

The regulations, specifically 23 CFR 450.314(h), require that MPOs, States, and transit agencies have written procedures for the transportation performance management programs. ALDOT developed the Alabama Performance Management Agreement in 2018 to address this requirement. The MPO adopted the agreement in April 2018. The MPO adopted a revised agreement in December 2021 which included new Transit Safety Performance Measures.

As part of the performance measurement program, the State departments of transportation (DOT), transit agencies, and MPOs are required to develop targets related to the adopted performance measures. MPOs have the option to set their own targets or adopt the State targets. However, MPOs are expected to select targets that are consistent with those chosen by the State DOT and transit agencies.

Table 1 includes the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Tuscaloosa Parking and Transit Authority, and MPO targets. The MPO adopted the targets set by ALDOT and the Transit Authority. The ALDOT targets represent five-year rolling averages. The Transit Authority targets were taken from the Transit Asset Management Plan.

Evaluation of the performance management program by the U.S. DOT occurs annually. Evaluation reports will be included in amended Long-Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs).

Table 1 (* ULB = Useful Life Benchmark)

FHWA Safety Performance Measures (PM1)	Annual Target - 2023
Number of Fatalities	1,000
Rate of Fatalities (per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.400
Number of Serious Injuries	6,400
Rate of Serious Injuries (per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	9.80
Number of Non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries	400
FHWA Bridge/Pavement Performance Measures (PM2)	Original 4-Year Target - 2023
% of Pavements of the Interstate System in Good Condition	≥ 50.0%
% of Pavements of the Interstate System in Poor Condition	≤ 5.0%
% of Pavements of the Non-Interstate NHS in Good Condition	≥ 25.0%
% of Pavements of the Non-Interstate NHS in Poor Condition	≤ 5.0%
% of NHS bridges in Good condition by deck area	≥ 25.0%
% of NHS bridges in Poor condition by deck area	≤ 3.0%
FHWA System Performance Measures (PM3)	Original 4-Year Target - 2023

% of Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate that are Reliable	92.00%	
% of Person-Miles Traveled on the Non-Interstate NHS that are Reliable	90.00%	
Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) Index on the Interstate	1.3	
FTA Transit State of Good Repair Performance Measures	Annual Target - 2023	
% of Rolling Stock (Revenue vehicles) meet or exceed Useful Life Benchmark (ULB)	Reduce inventory by 5%	
% of Equipment (over \$50K) meet or exceed Useful Life Benchmark (ULB)	Reduce by 10%	
% of FTA-funded Facilities with condition rating below 3.0 (average) of FTA Average TERM Scale	No more than 20% of facilities rate less than average	
FTA Transit Safety Performance Measures	Annual Target 2023	
	Demand Response	Fixed Route
Fatalities	0	0
Rate of Fatalities	0%	0%
Injuries	0	0
Rate of Injuries	0%	0%
Safety Events	0	0
Rate of Safety Events	0%	0%
Mean distance between major mechanical failure	36,524	18,332

Overview of MPO Planning Activities

The MPO is required to produce three main documents; a UPWP, a long-range transportation plan (LRTP), and a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The UPWP is produced annually, the LRTP is produced every five years, and the TIP is produced every four years. Other documents developed as part of the transportation planning process include the public involvement plan, the bicycle and pedestrian plan, and the coordinated public transit plan. The table below lists the current and projected adoption dates for the MPO documents.

MPO Documents	Update Cycle (Years)	Current Adoption Date	Projected Adoption Date
Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)	5	August 26, 2019	Summer 2024
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	4	August 28, 2023	Summer 2027
Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (BPP)	5	August 31, 2020	Summer 2025
Public Involvement Plan (PIP)	5	August 28, 2023	Summer 2028
Coordinated Public Transit Plan	4	August 26, 2019	Spring 2024

Format

The UPWP is divided into five major tasks, each with multiple subtasks. The tasks and subtasks outline the transportation planning work that will be performed by the MPO staff at the West Alabama Regional Commission, the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority, and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT). The description of each task includes a purpose, an objective, goals, previous work, proposed work, products, staffing, schedule, and financial responsibility. Appendix A describes the MPO organization, Appendix B summarizes the UPWP budget, and Appendix C includes a transportation planning acronym and terms list.

Tasks

1.0 General Administration

1.1 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Administration

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to manage the transportation planning process. The goal is to have an effective and efficient transportation planning process. The objectives are to:

1. Complete the administrative requirements of the MPO
2. Complete the financial management requirements of the MPO
3. Prepare and update required documentation to meet State and Federal requirements
4. Conduct Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee meetings
5. Provide the general public, businesses, organizations, and the MPO committees with transportation planning related information and technical assistance

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. WARC Board of Directors Meetings - The MPO staff attended the WARC Board of Directors Meetings (March, June, and September 2024). The MPO staff attended the WARC Board of Directors Annual Meeting (11/16/23).
2. WARC Staff Meetings - The MPO staff attended WARC staff meetings.
3. ALDOT Conference Calls – The MPO staff attended virtual ALDOT conference calls when held.
4. MPO Staff Meetings - The MPO staff held monthly MPO staff meetings.
5. MPO Staff Assignment Schedule - The MPO staff made revisions to the staff assignment schedule.
6. Employee Evaluations - The Transportation Planning Director prepared annual employee evaluations.
7. Monthly MPO Progress Reports - The MPO staff prepared monthly MPO progress reports.
8. Annual Report - The MPO staff prepared an annual progress report for ALDOT in October 2023.
9. Prospectus Update - The MPO staff made revisions to the MPO *Prospectus* in November 2023.
10. Invoicing - The MPO staff prepared and submitted monthly invoices to ALDOT.
11. Monthly Financial Review - The MPO staff reviewed the WARC monthly financial statement.
12. Annual Audit Assistance and Review - The MPO staff provided information to the WARC auditors and reviewed the draft and final audit report.
13. Policy Committee and TCC Administration - The MPO staff conducted six MPO Policy Committee meetings (10/30/23, 12/11/23, 2/26/24, 4/15/24, 6/24/24, and 8/26/24). The MPO staff held six TCC meetings (10/19/23, 12/7/23, 2/22/24, 4/11/24, 6/20/24, and 8/22/24). The MPO staff prepared agendas, notices, and minutes for these meetings. The MPO staff prepared Policy Committee resolutions.

- The MPO staff prepared TCC recommendation lists. The MPO staff prepared six TCC project status reports.
14. Meeting Schedule - The MPO staff prepared the MPO committees meeting schedule for fiscal year 2025.
 15. Transportation-Related Meeting Attendance/Participation - The MPO staff attended meetings with various government and civic groups throughout the year.
 16. Information and Technical Assistance - The MPO staff provided transportation planning information and technical assistance to numerous individuals, businesses, organizations, and MPO committee members. The MPO staff averages 5 requests per month.
 17. Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC) – The MPO staff attended monthly TCRC meetings

Proposed Work

1. WARC Board of Directors Meetings - The MPO staff will attend WARC Board of Directors meetings (March 2025, June 2025, and September 2025). The MPO staff will attend the WARC Board of Directors Annual Meeting (November 2024).
2. WARC Staff Meetings - The MPO staff will attend WARC Staff Meetings.
3. MPO Staff Meetings - The MPO staff will conduct monthly MPO staff meetings during the first week of each month.
4. ALDOT Conference Calls – The MPO staff will attend virtual ALDOT conference calls when held.
5. MPO Staff Assignment Schedule - The MPO staff will revise the staff assignment schedule.
6. Employee Evaluations - The Transportation Planning Director will prepare annual employee evaluations.
7. Monthly MPO Progress Reports - The MPO staff will prepare monthly MPO progress reports.
8. Annual Report - The MPO staff will prepare an annual progress report for ALDOT in October 2024.
9. Prospectus Update - The MPO staff will revise the MPO *Prospectus* in November 2024.
10. Invoicing - The MPO staff will prepare and submit monthly invoices to ALDOT.
11. Monthly Financial Review - The MPO staff will review the WARC monthly financial statement.
12. Annual Audit Assistance and Review - The MPO staff will provide information to the WARC auditors and review the draft and final audit reports.
13. Policy Committee and TCC Administration - The MPO staff will organize and conduct six MPO Policy Committee meetings (October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025). The MPO staff will conduct six TCC meetings (October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025). The MPO staff will prepare agendas, notices, and minutes for these meetings. The MPO staff will prepare Policy Committee resolutions. The MPO staff will prepare TCC recommendation lists. The MPO staff will prepare six TCC project status reports.
14. Meeting Schedule - The MPO staff will prepare the MPO committees meeting schedule for fiscal year 2026.

15. Transportation-Related Meeting Attendance/Participation - The MPO staff will attend meetings with interested groups and make transportation planning presentations by request.
16. Information and Technical Assistance - The MPO staff will provide transportation planning information and technical assistance to individuals, businesses, organizations, and MPO committee members.
17. Performance Management - The MPO staff will adjust the transportation planning process and products to reflect goals, performance measures, and targets adopted by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the MPO, including those related to access to essential services.
18. Cooperation and Coordination with the Birmingham MPO - The MPO staff will continue to work with the Birmingham MPO on cross-planning area issues.
19. Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC) – The MPO staff will attend monthly TCRC meetings

Products

1. MPO Staff Assignment Schedule - October 2024
2. Employee Evaluations - Summer 2025
3. Monthly Progress Reports - First Week of Every Month
4. Annual Report - October 2024
5. MPO Prospectus - November 2024
6. Monthly Invoices - First Week of Every Month
7. Annual Audit - Summer 2025
8. Policy Committee Agendas, Notices, Resolutions, and Minutes - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
9. TCC Agendas, Notices, Recommendation Lists, Project Status Reports, and Minutes - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
10. MPO Committee Meeting Schedule for 2026 - Summer 2025
11. Technical Assistance - As Needed

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$120,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$96,000
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$24,000

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

1.2 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to prepare the upcoming fiscal year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and, if necessary, amend the current fiscal year UPWP. The goal is to provide a reasonable guide and budget for the transportation planning program for the upcoming year and the current year. The objectives are to:

1. Effectively consult with the appropriate agencies regarding transportation planning efforts
2. Determine reasonable financial requirements and limitations for the transportation planning process
3. Provide adequate opportunities for public involvement in the development of the UPWP
4. Keep the current transportation planning process budget in balance

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Consultation - The MPO staff consulted with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority (TCPTA), and the local governments regarding transportation planning efforts.
2. Budget - The MPO staff developed a budget for the Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP based on input from ALDOT and TCPTA.
3. Public Participation - The MPO staff posted the draft UPWP on the WARC website and distributed paper and digital copies of the draft UPWP, upon request.
4. Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP - The MPO staff prepared the Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP. The draft was distributed for review in April 2024. The final UPWP was adopted in June 2024.
5. Fiscal Year 2024 UPWP Budget - The MPO staff monitored the Fiscal Year 2024 UPWP budget.

Proposed Work

1. Consultation - The MPO staff will consult with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority (TCPTA), and the local governments regarding transportation planning efforts.
2. Budget - The MPO staff will develop a budget for the Fiscal Year 2026 UPWP based on input from ALDOT and TCPTA.
3. Public Participation - The MPO staff will post the draft UPWP on the WARC website. The MPO staff will distribute paper and digital copies of the draft UPWP upon request.
4. Fiscal Year 2026 UPWP - The MPO staff will prepare the Fiscal Year 2026 UPWP. The draft will be distributed for review in April 2025. The final UPWP will be adopted in June 2025.
5. Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP Budget - The MPO staff will monitor the Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP budget and amend, if necessary.

Products

1. Fiscal Year 2026 UPWP - April 2025 (Draft UPWP), June 2025 (Final UPWP)
2. Amended Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP Budget - As needed.

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The preparation of the Fiscal Year 2026 UPWP is expected to begin in March 2025 and end in late June 2025. A draft document is expected to be complete by April 2025, and the final document is expected to be complete by June 2025.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$8,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$6,400
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$1,600

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

1.3 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to fulfill DBE requirements placed on the MPO. The goal is to involve DBE firms in the transportation planning process. The objectives are to:

1. Aid in the recruitment and certification of DBE firms
2. Consider qualified DBE firms when contracts are awarded

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. DBE Recruitment - The MPO staff updated the DBE database as available in spring of 2024. Interested DBE firms were provided ALDOT DBE certification forms and instructions by the MPO staff.
2. MPO Contracts - The MPO did not award any direct contracts in fiscal year 2024.

Proposed Work

1. DBE Recruitment - The MPO staff updated the DBE database as available in spring of 2025. Interested DBE firms will be provided ALDOT DBE certification forms and instructions by the MPO staff.
2. MPO Contracts - The MPO does not plan to award any direct contracts in fiscal year 2025. If any contract is awarded, DBE firms will be considered.

Products

1. DBE Contracts - As needed

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$500
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$400
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$100

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

1.4 Education and Training

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to develop and maintain the technical proficiency of the MPO staff. The goal is a knowledgeable MPO staff that can provide appropriate guidance to the planning process. The objectives are to:

1. Provide the MPO staff with sufficient time to learn new techniques, learn new software, and maintain an understanding of the laws and regulations governing the MPO
2. Provide the tools necessary for the MPO staff to develop technical proficiency
3. Provide the opportunity and means to travel to useful workshops and conferences
4. Reimburse the MPO staff for travel expenses

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Read/Studied Appropriate Publications - The MPO staff read transportation planning related publications on a monthly basis. The MPO staff reviewed/studied federal regulations and circulars.
2. Studied GIS Software Programs - The MPO staff studied GIS programs.
3. Studied Traffic Modeling Packages - The MPO staff studied the Cube Voyager program. The staff also participated in an ALDOT modeling committee to evaluate modeling program alternatives.
4. Attended Workshops, Conferences, and Webinars - The MPO staff attended the following workshops, conferences, and webinars:
 - 10/4/23 – Carbon Reduction Strategies
 - 11/9/23 – State Data Center Workshop
 - 12/19/23 – Conference Call on truck traffic trends
 - 2/27/24 – City of Northport Safety Action Plan Workshop
 - 3/26/24 – 3/27/24 – Title VI Workshop
 - 7/15/24 – ESRI User Conference (Recorded Sessions)
 - 7/17/24 – 7/19/24 – ATPA Conference
5. Completed Travel Vouchers - The MPO staff completed vouchers for travel reimbursement.

Proposed Work

1. Read/Study Appropriate Publications - The MPO staff will read transportation planning related publications on a monthly basis. The MPO staff will review and study federal regulations and circulars.
2. Study GIS Software Programs - The MPO staff will study the GIS programs.
3. Study Traffic Modeling Package - The MPO staff will study the Cube Voyager program.
4. Attend Workshops and Conferences - The MPO staff will attend workshops, conferences, and webinars.
5. Travel Vouchers - The MPO staff will complete travel vouchers for travel reimbursement.

Products

1. Workshops, Conference, and Webinars - The MPO staff will attend workshops, conferences, and webinars throughout the year. However, these are generally not scheduled far enough in advance to list the programs or dates in the UPWP.

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25).

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$25,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$20,000
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$5,000

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

1.5 Capital and Operating Purchases

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to purchase, repair, and upgrade equipment, supplies, computer hardware, software, and furnishings necessary to manage the transportation planning process. The goal is for the staff and committees to have adequate tools to conduct the process efficiently. The objectives are to:

1. Determine appropriate needs and make appropriate purchases
2. Obtain the best value on purchases, repairs, and upgrades
3. Manage and maintain current equipment, supplies, computer hardware, software, and furnishings to minimize expenditures

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Purchased, Repaired, or Replaced Equipment and Supplies - The MPO staff purchased required equipment and supplies that could not be charged to the WARC Indirect Fund.
2. Maintained Software Licenses - The MPO staff renewed annual software licenses for ArcGIS software (\$865). This is an annual renewal that occurs in March.

Proposed Work

1. Purchase Computers - The MPO staff plans to purchase one replacement computer in fiscal year 2025, a workstation (Estimated \$1,500). If other computers become unusable during the year, replacement computers will be purchased.
2. Purchase, Repair, or Replace Equipment and Supplies - The MPO staff will purchase required equipment and supplies that cannot be charged to the WARC Indirect Fund.
3. Maintain Software Licenses - The MPO staff will renew annual software licenses for ArcGIS software (\$865). This is an annual renewal that occurs in March.

Products

1. Replacement Computers
 - Workstation (estimated cost \$1,500) - Winter 2024
2. New, Repaired, or Replaced Equipment and Supplies - As needed
3. Software Maintenance Agreements - March 2025

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$15,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$12,000
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$3,000

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

1.6 Continuity of Operations Plan

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to revise and maintain the integrity of the West Alabama Region Commission (WARC) Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The goal is to provide a COOP that will allow the staff to recover from a disaster (natural or human-made) and resume the transportation planning process as soon as possible. The objectives are to:

1. Have a reasonable guide to recover from a disaster
2. Have a staff that understands safety and recovery requirements and procedures

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. COOP Revision - The MPO staff revised the COOP to reflect current staff and office configuration in October 2023.
2. Staff Review - The MPO staff reviewed the responsibilities and procedures in the COOP in October 2023.
3. COVID-19 – The MPO staff continued to provide a virtual option to all MPO meetings.

Proposed Work

1. COOP Revision - The MPO staff will revise the COOP to reflect current staff and office configuration in October 2024.
2. Staff Review - The MPO staff will review the responsibilities and procedures in the COOP in October 2024.
3. COVID-19 – The MPO staff will revise the COOP to account for pandemic related issues.

Product

Revised COOP - October 2024

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items from this task will be conducted in October 2024.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$500
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$400
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$100

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

2.0 Data Collection and Analysis

2.1 Socioeconomic Data Collection and Maintenance

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to collect and maintain socioeconomic data used for the MPO transportation demand model and other transportation planning activities. The goal is to have accurate and up-to-date data necessary to revise the long-range transportation plan and conduct the transportation planning process. The objectives are to:

1. Have accurate and current socioeconomic data
2. Maintain data in digital formats, including GIS files
3. Ensure that the MPO committee and staff have the necessary socioeconomic data to make informed decisions

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Census Data - The MPO staff collected, summarized, and distributed census data.
2. Building Permits/E-911 Addresses - Building permits and new e-911 addresses were collected and summarized into TAZs by the MPO staff. The information was added to GIS files and mapped by the MPO staff.
3. Business/Employment - Business and Employment information was collected and maintained by the MPO staff.
4. School Enrollment - School enrollment numbers were collected and maintained by the MPO staff.
5. Traffic Counts - Traffic counts, provided by ALDOT, were transferred by the MPO staff into digital files, including GIS files. A traffic count brochure was generated by the MPO staff.
6. Essential Services - The MPO staff gathered data related to essential services including housing, employment, health care, schools, and recreation.
7. 2050 Socioeconomic Estimates - The MPO staff developed the initial 2050 socioeconomic estimates for the *2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan*.
8. Updated Urban Boundary and Functional Classification – The MPO reviewed and updated the new urban boundaries.

Proposed Work

1. Census Data - Census data will be collected, summarized, and distributed by the MPO staff.
2. Building Permits/E-911 Addresses - Building permits and new e-911 addresses will be collected and summarized into TAZs by the MPO staff. The information will be added to GIS files and mapped by the MPO staff.
3. Business/Employment - Business and Employment information will be collected and maintained by the MPO staff.
4. School Enrollment - School enrollment numbers will be collected and maintained by the MPO staff.
5. Traffic Counts - Traffic counts, provided by ALDOT, will be transferred by the MPO staff into digital files, including GIS files. A traffic count brochure will be developed by the MPO staff.

6. Essential Services - The MPO staff will continue to gather data related to essential services including housing, employment, health care, schools, and recreation.
7. 2025 Socioeconomic Estimates - The MPO staff will begin collecting 2025 socioeconomic estimates for the *2055 Long-Range Transportation Plan*.

Products

1. Census Data Files - Will be revised as data becomes available
2. Building Permit and E-911 Address Files - Will be revised monthly and summarized in February 2021
3. New Housing Units Map - April 2025
4. Business and Employment Files - Will be revised as data becomes available
5. School Enrollment Files - Will be revised as data becomes available.
6. Traffic Count Files - Summer 2025
7. Traffic Count Brochure - Summer 2025

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$46,500
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$37,200
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$9,300

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

2.2 Environmental Data Collection and Maintenance

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to collect and maintain data that is used by the MPO staff and committees to monitor human-made and natural environmental conditions in the planning area. The goal is to have accurate and current data available to enable the MPO staff and committees to make informed transportation decisions. The objectives are to:

1. Have accurate and current environmental data
2. Maintain data in digital formats including GIS files
3. Ensure that the MPO committee and staff have the necessary environmental data to make informed decisions

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Collected Data - The MPO staff collected environmental data (land use, accident locations, bridges, cemeteries, churches, major employers, government facilities, historic sites, archeological areas, parks, schools, shopping centers, medical facilities, strip mines, methane wells, hazardous waste sites, underground storage tanks, landfills).
2. Maintained Files/Databases - The MPO staff revised digital files, including GIS files.
3. Produced Maps - The MPO staff produced maps of various social and environmental files.

Proposed Work

1. Collect Data - The MPO staff will collect environmental data (land use, accident locations, bridges, cemeteries, churches, major employers, government facilities, historic sites, archeological areas, parks, schools, shopping centers, medical facilities, strip mines, methane wells, hazardous waste sites, underground storage tanks, landfills).
2. Maintain Files/Databases - The MPO staff will update digital files, including GIS files.
3. Produce Maps - The MPO staff will produce maps of various social and environmental files.
4. Essential Services - The MPO staff will continue to map essential services including housing units, employment centers, health care facilities, schools, and recreation facilities.
5. Travel and Tourism - The MPO staff will collect and map data related to travel and tourism. The MPO staff will provide the information to the MPO committees to ensure that transportation issues related to these elements are considered during the planning process.

Products

- Environmental Data Files - As data becomes available

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$30,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$24,000
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$6,000

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

2.3 Transportation Model Development and Maintenance

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to develop and maintain traffic models for the transportation planning process. The goal is to develop reasonable traffic models. The objectives are to:

1. Develop accurate input files for the model
2. Develop reasonable models
3. Accurately calibrate and verify the models
4. Produce easily understood reports, maps, and displays of the model outputs

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. 2050 Plan Traffic Model - The MPO staff developed the 2050 Plan traffic model.

Proposed Work

1. Traffic Model Software Conversion - The MPO staff will begin traffic model software conversion from Cube to TransCad
2. Models for MPO Member Governments - The MPO staff will develop models based on requests from the local governments represented on the MPO and ALDOT.

Products

1. Models for MPO Member Governments - As requested

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$17,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$13,600
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$3,400

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

3.0 Transportation System

3.1 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to prepare and maintain a long-range transportation plan. The goal is to develop and maintain a financially balanced long-range transportation plan that addresses the needs of the community. The objectives are to:

1. Develop reasonable financial projections
2. Monitor financial projections and transportation project costs
3. Monitor transportation needs
4. Develop reasonable strategies to address transportation needs
5. Prepare an easily understood plan
6. Amend the plan based on current transportation needs
7. Provide the general public a reasonable opportunity to be involved in the LRTP process

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Financial Projections and Transportation Project Costs - The MPO staff monitored the financial projections, transportation project costs, and air quality attainment status and adjust the plan accordingly.
2. Transportation Needs - The MPO staff monitored transportation needs and made adjustments to the plan when necessary.
3. Plan Amendments - The MPO staff amended the plan with MPO adopted amendments based on the current financial conditions and transportation needs.
4. Alabama Performance Management: The MPO worked and coordinated with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on setting goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets required by the FAST Act for inclusion in the LRTP, TIP, and other necessary documentation required by ALDOT.
5. Safety Data Monitoring - The MPO staff monitored safety data and, if necessary, amended the plan to address safety issues.
6. Cooperation and Coordination with the Birmingham MPO - As needed, the MPO staff worked with the Birmingham MPO staff to address cross-planning area issues related to the plan.
7. 2050 LRTP Social and Environmental Review - The MPO staff prepared a social and environmental factor report as part of the LRTP development.
8. 2050 LRTP Financial Plan - The MPO, with ALDOT and the local governments, prepared a financial plan for the LRTP.
9. 2050 LRTP Environmental Justice Review - The MPO prepared an environmental justice report as part of the LRTP development.
10. 2050 LRTP Project Lists - The MPO developed the initial and final project lists for the 2050 LRTP.
11. 2050 LRTP Plan Document - The MPO prepared the draft and final 2050 LRTP.

Proposed Work

1. Financial Projections and Transportation Project Costs - The MPO staff will monitor the financial projections, transportation project costs, and air quality attainment status and adjust the plan accordingly.
2. Transportation Needs - The MPO staff will monitor transportation needs and make adjustments to the plan if necessary.
3. Plan Amendments - The MPO staff will amend the plan with MPO adopted amendments based on the current financial conditions and transportation needs.
4. Alabama Performance Management: The MPO will work and coordinate with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on setting goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets required by the FAST Act for inclusion in the LRTP, TIP, and other necessary documentation required by ALDOT.
5. Safety Data Monitoring - The MPO staff will monitor safety data and, if necessary, will amend the plan to address safety issues.
6. Cooperation and Coordination with the Birmingham MPO - As needed, the MPO staff will work with the Birmingham MPO staff to address cross-planning area issues related to the plan.

Products

1. An Up-To-Date Long-Range Transportation Plan - A long-range transportation plan that reflects the current financial conditions, transportation needs, air quality status, and safety issues. The plan will be amended as necessary.

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25).

The draft 2055 Long-Range Transportation Plan is scheduled to be adopted in June 2029. The final plan is scheduled to be adopted in August 2029.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$10,962
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$8,770
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$2,192

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

3.2 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to develop and revise the TIP. The goal is to develop a realistic, financially constrained, multi-year program of transportation projects drawn from the long-range transportation plan. The objectives are to:

1. Develop reasonable financial projections and cost estimates for the TIP
2. Monitor the progress of the TIP projects
3. Maintain an accurate database of TIP projects
4. Coordinate the TIP development with ALDOT and the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority
5. Provide the general public a reasonable opportunity to be involved in the TIP process
6. Produce an easily understood TIP

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Annual Authorized Project List - The MPO staff produced the annual authorized project list in October 2023. The list was published on the WARC website.
2. TIP Projects Progress - The progress of the TIP projects was monitored on a regular basis by the MPO staff. Changes were made to the TIP database and the MPO budget sheet by the MPO staff.
3. TIP Database of Projects - Project descriptions were modified by the MPO staff.
4. TIP Amendments - The MPO staff amended the TIP based on ALDOT and local government recommendations.

Proposed Work

1. Annual Authorized Project List - The MPO staff will produce the annual authorized project list in October 2024. The list will be published on the WARC website by the MPO staff.
2. TIP Projects Progress - The progress of the TIP projects will be regularly monitored by the MPO staff. Changes will be made to the MPO-Portal database and the MPO budget sheet by the MPO staff.
3. TIP Database of Projects - Project descriptions will be modified by the MPO staff.
4. TIP Amendments - The FY 2024-2027 TIP will be amended by the MPO staff based on ALDOT and local government recommendations.
5. Alabama Performance Management: The MPO will work and coordinate with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on setting goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets required by the FAST Act for inclusion in the LRTP, TIP, and other necessary documentation required by ALDOT.
6. Safety Data Monitoring - The MPO staff will monitor safety data and include safety components in the TIP.
7. Cooperation and Coordination with the Birmingham MPO - The MPO staff will work with the Birmingham MPO staff to ensure that cross-planning area TIP issues and projects are handled appropriately.

Products

- 1. Authorized Project List - October 2024
- 2. Updated TIP Database - As needed
- 3. Amended TIP - As needed

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

The draft FY 2028-2031 Transportation Improvement Plan is scheduled to be adopted in June 2028. The final plan is scheduled to be adopted in August 2028.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$20,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$16,000
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$4,000

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

3.3 Public Transit Planning

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to assist the transit providers in Tuscaloosa County plan an effective transit system and provide technical assistance to the transit providers. The goal is a well-planned and effective transit system serving the entire community. The objectives are to:

1. Coordinate transit service when feasible
2. Improve transit service for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and low-income individuals
3. Address transit gaps when feasible
4. Ensure private sector transportation companies can participate in the transportation planning process
5. Amend/Update the Coordinated Public Transit Plan based on identified transportation needs

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Transportation Disadvantaged Assistance - The MPO staff provided technical and grant writing assistance to agencies involved in providing transit service to the transportation disadvantaged (elderly, low income, and persons with disabilities).
2. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant Application Review - The MPO staff reviewed Section 5310 grant applications and provided certification related to the federally required transit coordination plan.
3. Transit Coordination Committee – The MPO staff held three Transit Coordination Committee meetings in FY 2024 (2/15/2024, 3/20/2024, 8/1/2024).
4. West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan (2024) - The MPO prepared the coordinated public transit plan.

Proposed Work

1. Transportation Disadvantaged Assistance - The MPO staff will provide technical and grant writing assistance to agencies involved in providing transit service to the transportation disadvantaged (elderly, low income, and persons with disabilities).
2. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant Application Review - The MPO staff will review Section 5310 grant applications and provide certification related to the federally required transit coordination plan.
3. Performance Management - The MPO will assist the Transit Authority in developing and updating the Transit Asset Management Plan. The MPO will work with the Transit Authority to set and track targets in the Transit Asset Management Plan.
4. Alabama Performance Management: The MPO will work and coordinate with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on setting goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets required by the FAST Act for inclusion in the LRTP, TIP, and other necessary documentation required by ALDOT.
5. Cooperation and Coordination with the Birmingham MPO - The MPO staff will work with the Birmingham MPO staff to ensure that all cross-planning area transit issues are addressed in the coordinated public transit plan.

6. Transit Coordination Committee – The MPO staff will hold two Transit Coordination Committee meetings in FY 2025 (November and February).
7. West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan (2024) Annual Report- The MPO will prepare the FY 2025 annual report for the coordinated public transit plan.

Products

1. West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan (2024) Annual Report – Spring/Summer 2025
2. FTA Grant Application Reviews - Spring/Summer 2025

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$19,375
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$12,000
Section 5317 New Freedom Funds - Federal Funds	\$4,375
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$3,000

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

3.4 Safe and Accessible Transportation Options

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to plan activities to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities. The goal is to improve opportunities for multiple travel modes in the Planning Area. The objectives are to:

1. Assist local governments in ensuring the safe and adequate accommodation of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, children, older individuals, individuals with disabilities, motorists, and freight vehicles.
2. Have a useful bicycle and pedestrian plan for the local governments and public
3. Have an effective and active Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPC)
4. Assist local governments with bicycle and pedestrian-related grant applications

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. BPC Technical Assistance - The MPO staff provided technical assistance to the BPC.
2. Monitor and Update Files - The MPO staff monitored bicycle and pedestrian transportation conditions in the community and revised paper and digital files, including GIS files, to reflect changes.
3. BPC Administration - The MPO staff conducted six BPC meetings (10/16/23, 12/4/23, 2/12/24, 4/8/24, 6/17/24, and 8/19/24). The staff prepared agendas, notices, and minutes for these meetings.

Proposed Work

1. BPC Meetings - The MPO staff will conduct six BPC meetings (October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025).
2. BPC Technical Assistance - The MPO staff will provide technical assistance to the BPC as requested.
3. Monitor and Update Files - The MPO staff will monitor bicycle and pedestrian transportation conditions in the community and revise paper and digital files, including GIS files, to reflect changes.
4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Amendment - The MPO staff will amend the current bicycle and pedestrian plan based on MPO resolutions.
5. Grant Preparation - The MPO staff will prepare or help prepare bicycle and pedestrian-related grant applications for local governments upon request.
6. Safety Data Monitoring - The MPO staff will monitor safety data and, if necessary, will amend the bicycle and pedestrian plan to address safety issues.
7. Alabama Performance Management: The MPO will work and coordinate with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on setting goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets required by the FAST Act for inclusion in the LRTP, TIP, and other necessary documentation required by ALDOT.
8. BPC Administration - The MPO staff will conduct six BPC meetings (October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025). The staff will prepare agendas, notices, and minutes for these meetings.

9. 2025 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan: The MPO staff will develop the 2025 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Products

1. BPC Agendas, Notices, Recommendations, and Minutes - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
2. Revised Bicycle and Pedestrian Files - As needed
3. Amended Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan - As needed
4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Related Grant Applications - As requested
5. 2025 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – Summer 2025

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

The 2025 draft bicycle and pedestrian plan will be completed by the end of June 2025. The final plan will be completed by the end of August 2025.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$9,662
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$9,662
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$0

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

3.5 Transportation Management and Operations Planning

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to assist the local governments with transportation management and operations planning. The goal is a regional transportation system where management and operation functions are actively and continuously coordinated to improve system resiliency and reliability. The objectives are to:

1. Provide a forum for the local governments and ALDOT to discuss transportation management and operations
2. Provide technical assistance to local governments and ALDOT related to management and operations planning

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Management and Operations Forum - The MPO staff provided the Policy and Technical Coordinating Committee opportunities to discuss management and operations planning at regularly scheduled meetings (October 2023, December 2023, February 2024, April 2024, June 2024, and August 2024).
2. Technical Assistance - The MPO staff did not receive a request for management and operations technical assistance in 2024.
3. ALDOT Updates – A representative from ALDOT provided TSMO updates at the MPO TCC meetings

Proposed Work

1. Management and Operations Forum - The MPO staff will provide the Policy and Technical Coordinating Committee opportunities to discuss management and operations planning at regular meetings (October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025).
2. Technical Assistance - The MPO staff will provide technical assistance for management and operations related issues, as requested.
3. System Resiliency and Reliability Statistics - The MPO staff will research and gather resiliency and reliability data.
4. Alabama Performance Management: The MPO will work and coordinate with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on setting goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets required by the FAST Act for inclusion in the LRTP, TIP, and other necessary documentation required by ALDOT.

Products

1. Management Operations Discussions - (October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025)
2. Technical Assistance Items - As requested
3. System Resiliency and Reliability Data - Throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25)

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$1,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$800
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$200

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

3.6 Transportation Safety Planning

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to incorporate transportation safety into the planning process. The goal is to improve transportation safety in the community. The objectives are to:

1. Provide accurate and useful transportation safety data to the MPO committees
2. Provide an opportunity for transportation safety issues to be discussed at MPO committee meetings

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Crash Report - The MPO staff prepared an annual crash report for the MPO committees in December 2023.
2. Safety Observation Report - The MPO staff prepared a report of safety observations from the MPO committees. The report was revised after each set of MPO committee meetings (October 2023, December 2023, February 2024, April 2024, June 2024, and August 2024). The report was summarized in September 2024. The reports were provided to the appropriate state and local offices.
3. City of Northport Safety Action Plan – The MPO staff participated in a City of Northport SAP meeting

Proposed Work

1. Crash Report - The MPO staff will prepare an annual crash report for the MPO committees in December 2024.
2. Safety Observation Report - The MPO staff will prepare a report of safety suggestions from the MPO committees. The report will be updated after every set of MPO committee meetings (October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025). The report will be summarized in September 2024 and will be provided to the appropriate state and local offices.
3. Alabama Performance Management: The MPO will work and coordinate with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on setting goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets required by the FAST Act for inclusion in the LRTP, TIP, and other necessary documentation required by ALDOT.

Products

1. Crash Report - December 2024
2. Safety Observation Report - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025, and September 2025

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$2,500
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$2,000
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$500

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

3.7 Freight Planning

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to collect freight data to improve transportation planning activities. The goal is a regional transportation system where the needs of freight transportation are addressed. The objectives are to:

1. Develop a system to gather freight data
2. Include freight data in the transportation planning process

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

- Trucking Firm Database - The MPO staff updated a database of trucking firms based in Tuscaloosa County.
- Statewide Freight Plan Update – The MPO staff had a virtual meeting with ALDOT to discuss Statewide Freight Plan Update.

Proposed Work

1. Freight Planning - The MPO staff will continue to encourage the discussion of freight issues at the MPO committee meetings and will continue to include freight issues in the development of the MPO documents.
2. Trucking Firm Database - The MPO staff will update a database of trucking firms based in Tuscaloosa County.
3. Cooperation and Coordination with the Birmingham MPO - The MPO staff will continue to work with the Birmingham MPO staff to address cross-planning area freight issues along the I-20/59 corridor.
4. Alabama Performance Management: The MPO will work and coordinate with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on setting goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets required by the FAST Act for inclusion in the LRTP, TIP, and other necessary documentation required by ALDOT.

Products

Not applicable

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25).

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$1,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$800
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$200

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

4.0 Public Involvement

4.1 Public Involvement Process

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to develop and manage the public involvement process. The goal is to provide an open transportation planning process that considers the needs of all segments of the local population. The objectives are to:

1. Have a proactive public involvement process
2. Provide timely and adequate public notice of MPO activities
3. Provide full public access to key decisions in the MPO planning process
4. Provide early and continuing public involvement in the MPO planning process
5. Provide reasonable public access to technical and policy data used to develop plans and programs
6. Ensure that low-income individuals, minorities, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens have an opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process
7. Conduct Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) meetings
8. Maintain a viable Public Involvement Plan (PIP)
9. Maintain a Record of Public Involvement (RPI)

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Public Notification - The MPO staff provided news releases regarding MPO meetings and events to media contacts, interested public agencies, and groups that deal with low-income people, minorities, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens. The news releases were provided by postal mail and electronic mail. In addition, the news releases were posted on the WARC website and the WARC Meeting Bulletin Board. The news releases were distributed no later than two weeks prior to meeting dates.
2. Annual MPO Training - The MPO staff conducted the annual MPO training on March 6, 2024. The training was free and open to the public.
3. Mailing Lists Maintenance - The MPO staff-maintained mailing lists of media contacts, interested public agencies, and groups that deal with low-income people, minorities, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens. The MPO staff maintained two lists, a postal mail list, and an electronic mail list.
4. Document Distribution - The MPO staff distributed MPO documents to committee members, government agencies, and the general public. The MPO staff posted the MPO documents on the WARC website.
5. Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Annual Performance Review - The MPO staff calculated the performance measures of the PIP for fiscal year 2023 in October 2023.
6. CTAC Administration - The MPO staff conducted six CTAC meetings (10/17/23, 12/5/23, 2/20/24, 4/9/24, 6/18/24, and 8/22/24). The staff prepared agendas, notices, and minutes for these meetings. The MPO staff prepared CTAC recommendations lists. The MPO staff prepared six CTAC safety suggestion reports and six new development reports for the CTAC.

7. MPO Response - The MPO staff provided written responses to inquiries into the transportation planning process or MPO documents in fiscal year 2024.
8. Record of Public Involvement (RPI) - The MPO staff prepared the final RPI for fiscal year 2023 in October 2023. The MPO staff compiled the initial RPI for fiscal year 2023 throughout the year.
9. Public Meetings - The MPO staff conducted public meetings and public reviews for the MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan as needed.
10. Presentations – The MPO staff conducted three presentations about the MPO and its processes. They included to a University of Alabama engineering class, a University of Alabama planning class, and to the Tuscaloosa state legislative delegation.

Proposed Work

1. Public Notification - The MPO staff will provide news releases regarding MPO meetings and events to media contacts, interested public agencies, and groups that deal with low-income people, minorities, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens. The news releases will be provided by postal mail and electronic mail. In addition, the news releases will be posted on the WARC website and the WARC Meeting Bulletin Board. The news releases will be distributed no later than two weeks prior to meeting dates.
2. Annual MPO Training - The MPO staff will conduct the annual MPO training during March 2025. The training will be free and open to the public.
3. Public Meetings - The MPO staff will conduct public meetings as needed for the planning process.
4. Public Presentations - The MPO staff will speak at public and civic groups during fiscal year 2025, upon request.
5. Mailing Lists Maintenance - The MPO staff will maintain mailing lists of media contacts, interested public agencies, and groups that work with low-income people, minorities, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens. The MPO staff will maintain two lists, a postal mail list, and an electronic mail list.
6. Document Distribution - The MPO staff will distribute MPO documents to committee members, government agencies, and the general public. The MPO staff will also post the MPO documents on the WARC website.
7. PIP Maintenance - The MPO staff will amend or revise the PIP based on MPO determination or federal regulation changes, as needed.
8. PIP Annual Performance Review - The MPO staff will calculate the performance measures of the PIP for fiscal year 2024 in October 2024.
9. CTAC Administration - The MPO staff will conduct six CTAC meetings (October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025). The staff will prepare agendas, notices, and minutes for these meetings. The MPO staff will prepare CTAC recommendation lists. The MPO staff will prepare CTAC safety suggestion reports. The MPO staff will prepare new development reports for the CTAC.
10. MPO Response - The MPO staff will provide written responses to inquiries into the transportation planning process or an MPO document in fiscal year 2025.

11. Record of Public Involvement (RPI) - The MPO staff will prepare the final RPI for fiscal year 2024 in October 2024. The MPO staff will compile the initial RPI for fiscal year 2025 over the course of the year.

Products

1. News Releases (MPO Committee Meetings, and MPO Training) - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
2. MPO Training - March 2025
3. Public Presentations - As requested
4. Mailing Lists - Updated as needed
5. Public Involvement Plan Amendments or Revisions - As needed
6. CTAC Meetings - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
7. CTAC Recommendation List - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
8. CTAC Safety Observation List - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
9. CTAC New Development Reports - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
10. MPO Written Responses - As required
11. Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Annual Review - October 2024
12. Record of Public Involvement - October 2024

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

The draft 2028 Public Involvement Plan is scheduled to be adopted in June 2028. The final plan is scheduled to be adopted in August 2028.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$20,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$16,000
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$4,000

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

4.2 Traditionally Underserved Population Planning

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to ensure that the plans, programs, and processes developed by the MPO consider the needs of the traditionally underserved populations (low-income, minority, disabled, and elderly) and adhere to the provisions of the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (ADA), Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, and the *FTA Title VI Circular 4702.1B* (October, 2012). The goal is to ensure that federally funded transportation projects in the Tuscaloosa Area do not disproportionately affect the traditionally underserved populations and that these populations are not denied the benefits of the projects. The objectives are to:

1. Accurately map the traditionally underserved populations
2. Involve the traditionally underserved populations in the transportation planning process
3. Make the MPO committees aware of the needs of the traditionally underserved populations

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Map Underserved Populations - The MPO staff mapped low-income, minority, disabled, and elderly population areas.
2. Public Notification - The MPO staff provided news releases regarding MPO meetings and events to groups that provide services to low-income people, minorities, persons with disabilities, and elderly citizens.
3. Technical Assistance - The MPO staff provided technical assistance to groups that provide services to low-income people, minorities, persons with disabilities, and elderly citizens.
4. Title VI Compliance - The MPO staff managed the MPO Title VI program including the requirements of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan.
5. Title VI Training – The MPO staff attended a two-day Title VI workshop in March
6. West Alabama Regional Commission ADA transition plan – As needed, the MPO staff reviewed the WARC transition plan adopted in 2016.

Proposed Work

1. Map Underserved Populations - The MPO staff will revise maps for low-income, minority, disabled, and elderly population as more current data is collected.
2. Public Notification - The MPO staff will provide news releases regarding MPO meetings and events to groups that provide services to low-income people, minorities, persons with disabilities, and elderly citizens (October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025).
3. Technical Assistance - The MPO staff will provide technical assistance to groups involved with low-income people, minorities, persons with disabilities, and elderly citizens, as requested.
4. Title VI Compliance - The MPO staff will manage the MPO Title VI program including the language assistance provisions of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan.

5. Local Government ADA Plan Coordination - As needed, the MPO staff will coordinate ADA transition plan activities between the local governments, ALDOT, and FHWA.
6. West Alabama Regional Commission ADA transition plan – As needed, the MPO staff will review the WARC transition plan adopted in 2016.

Products

1. Maps of Underserved Populations - As needed
2. News Releases (MPO Committee Meetings, MPO Training, and TIP Public Meeting) - October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
3. Technical Assistance - As requested
4. Title VI Compliance Tracking - As needed
5. Language Assistance - As needed

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$1,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$800
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$200

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

5.0 Environmental Mitigation and Streamlining

5.1 Environmental Protection Planning

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to incorporate environmental protection activities into the planning process. The goal is to minimize negative environmental consequences of transportation. The objectives are to:

1. Have an MPO staff and MPO committees that have a working knowledge of air quality planning
2. Provide accurate and useful environmental protection and climate change data to the MPO committees
3. Provide an opportunity for environmental protection and climate change issues to be discussed at MPO committee meetings

Tuscaloosa County is currently in attainment of all criteria pollutants monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) compliance.

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Air Quality Monitoring and Reporting - The MPO staff monitored the ADEM air quality data and provided the information to the MPO committees in December 2023.
2. Climate Change - Green House Gas Report - The MPO staff prepared a climate change and greenhouse gas report for the MPO committees in December 2023.

Proposed Work

1. Staff Training - The MPO staff will attend or participate in air quality, climate change, greenhouse gas, and storm-water training workshops including those related to MOVES. The staff will also review air quality, greenhouse gas, and climate change documents and websites.
2. Air Quality Monitoring and Reporting - The MPO staff will monitor the ADEM air quality data and provide the information to the MPO committees in December 2024.
3. Climate Change - Green House Gas Report - The MPO staff will prepare a climate change and greenhouse gas report for the MPO committees in December 2024.
4. Surface Transportation Storm-Water Impact Research - The MPO staff will begin researching surface transportation storm-water impacts and provide relevant data to the MPO committees.

Products

1. Air Quality Reports - December 2024
2. Climate Change - Green House Gas Report - December 2024

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

The work items in this task will be conducted throughout the fiscal year (10/01/24 - 09/30/25). If applicable, estimated completion dates are listed under the Products section.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$2,000
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$1,600
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) - Local Match	\$400

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

6.0 Transit System Planning

6.1 Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority System Planning

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to develop a transit system plan for the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority. The goal is to provide a guiding document that will improve and expand the current transit service offered by the Transit Authority. The objectives are to:

1. Review current service provided by the Transit Authority
2. Develop detailed improvement and expansion ideas
3. Establish a reasonable budget
4. Provide a schedule

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Task created due transit planning work done in FY 2021. No work was done in FY 2024.

Proposed Work

1. No planning work is expected in FY 2025.

Products

1. None planned

Staffing

Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority staff
Consultant

Schedule

None

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$0
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$0
Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority - Local Match	\$0

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

7.0 Future Planning Activities

7.1 Future Planning Activities

Purpose, Goal, and Objectives

The purpose of this task is to serve as a placeholder for uncommitted funds. The goal is to reserve funds dedicated to the Tuscaloosa Urban Area. The objective is to:

- Have funds available if needed work is identified

Previous Work (Fiscal Year 2024)

- None

Proposed Work

- If needed work is identified in FY 2025, the MPO will amend the UPWP to include a detailed work list.

Products

- If needed work is identified in FY 2025, the MPO will amend the UPWP to include a detailed product list.

Staffing

West Alabama Regional Commission (MPO Staff)

Schedule

If need work is identified, the MPO will amend the UPWP to include a detailed schedule.

Financial Responsibility

Total	\$758,549
Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Funds (FHWA/FTA)	\$606,839
Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority - Local Match	\$151,710

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category. This task contains PL carry over funds.

Appendix A

MPO Description

Tuscaloosa Area MPO Description

Section 1

Introduction

To be eligible for Federal funds, the *Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962* required Urban Areas with populations over 49,999 to have a transportation planning process. The Act stated that the planning process was to be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive. In addition, the Act required plans and programs produced from the process to be consistent with the comprehensive planned development of the area. Subsequent acts retained this language.

Organization

The Tuscaloosa Area transportation planning process is conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO is composed of four committees. The Policy Committee is the official decision-making body of the process. The Policy Committee is served by three advisory committees the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), and Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPC). More information on the committees can be found in Section 3 of this appendix.

Metropolitan Planning Area (Study Area)

Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to include the current Census Bureau-defined urbanized area and the area expected to be urbanized by the forecast year of the long-range transportation plan in the planning area. The planning area can also be expanded to include "... regional economic development and growth forecasting areas." The Tuscaloosa Area MPO used this option when Tuscaloosa County was adopted as the planning area. All MPO plans and programs are limited to the planning area. Figure 1 depicts the planning area and the urbanized area.

Agreement

The agreement legally delineates the concerned governmental entities, defines the duties of each entity, and outlines the organizational structure. The first agreement was executed in 1963, and the most recent agreement was signed in 2016. The agreement is between the West Alabama Regional Commission, Tuscaloosa County, City of Tuscaloosa, City of Northport, Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority, and the State of Alabama.

Legal Reference

The laws regarding Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are found in Section 134 of Title 23 of the United States Code and Section 5303 of Title 49 of the United States Code. The Code was superseded or amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Sections 11201, November 2021. The rules that govern metropolitan planning organizations are published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) as Title 23, Chapter 1, Part 450, Subpart C.

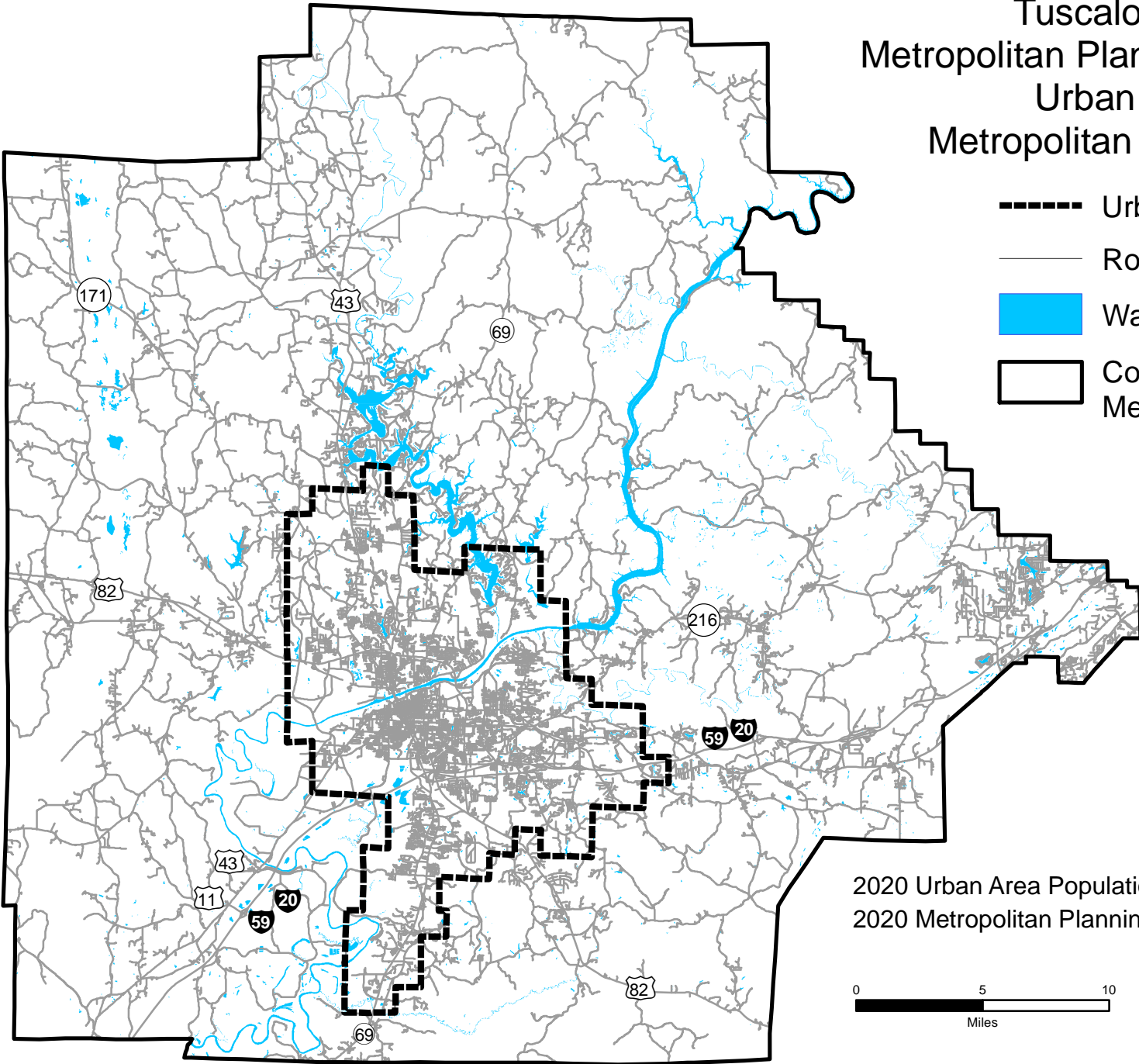
Transportation Planning Process Coordinator

The Executive Director of the West Alabama Regional Commission is the designated Coordinator of the transportation planning process. The Coordinator is responsible for the overall guidance of the process, as well as the coordination of all data collected from the local area. The Coordinator provides staff and clerical assistance for the planning process from the West Alabama Regional Commission.

West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) Staff

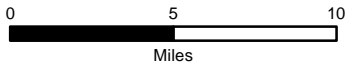
There are over 70 employees at the WARC; however, only three employees work directly with the MPO. These three include the Transportation Planning Director and two Transportation Planners. Five other WARC Employees serve the MPO and the other programs housed at the WARC in an indirect capacity. These include the Executive Director, a fiscal officer, two accountants, and an office manager.

Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Urban Area & Metropolitan Planning Area



- Urban Area
- Roadways
- Water
- County Line/
Metropolitan Planning Area

2020 Urban Area Population: 156,450
2020 Metropolitan Planning Area Population: 227,036



Source:
Basemap: Tuscaloosa Co e-911
Urban Area Boundary: Tuscaloosa Area MPO, Based on the 2020 US Census

December 2023

Section 2

Products of the Transportation Planning Process

Unified Planning Work Program

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) represents the budget and work tasks necessary to accomplish and maintain the transportation planning process within the Tuscaloosa study area. The UPWP is developed to coordinate transportation and related planning activities for a cooperative, continuing, and comprehensive planning process.

The primary objective of the UPWP is the development of an integrated planning program that considers the planning activities of all transportation groups and coordinates these activities to produce a total transportation plan serving all segments of the population. The MPO updates the UPWP annually.

Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Tuscaloosa Area MPO is required to produce a long-range plan every five years. The long-range plan outlines the transportation projects within the Tuscaloosa study area that need to be completed to fulfill the projected transportation demands by the 20-year forecast date.

The MPO adopted the *2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan* in 2024. The MPO vision statement, goals, and objectives are part of the plan. The projects on the plan are balanced against forecasted revenue and include only those with identified funding. The MPO is scheduled to update the plan in 2029.

Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a short-range, financially constrained subset of the long-range transportation plan. However, many projects that are included in the TIP will not be specifically listed in the long-range transportation plan; including some operational, maintenance, enhancement, and transit projects. The projects on the TIP are prioritized over the four years covered by the document.

The TIP is redeveloped every four years and financially balanced against expected revenues. ALDOT uses the TIP as a guide in selecting projects for funding in the Tuscaloosa area and in the development of the State Transportation Improvement Program. The current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was adopted in 2023 and is scheduled to be updated in 2027.

Public Involvement Plan

The purpose of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to ensure that the transportation planning process encourages active public participation. It is the vision of the MPO to have a community that understands the transportation planning process and actively participates in the process. The MPO goals outlined in the PIP are to (1) have an open planning process that encourages early and continuous public participation; (2) provide complete and timely information regarding the plans, programs, procedures, policies, and technical data produced or used during the planning process to interested parties and the

general public; (3) provide timely and adequate public notice of hearings, meetings, reviews, and major document availability; (4) demonstrate consideration and recognition of public input and provide appropriate responses to public input; and (5) encourage participation in the planning process by low-income groups, minorities, persons with disabilities, and the elderly; and to consider the needs of these groups when developing programs and plans. The PIP describes how the MPO incorporates the public into the process, how public involvement is tracked, and performance is measured. The current Public Involvement Plan (PIP) was adopted in 2023 and is scheduled to be updated in 2028.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan serves as a guide for improving bicycle and pedestrian activity in Tuscaloosa County. The plan was initiated by the MPO to facilitate the development of their transportation plans and programs. However, due to many of the proposed projects falling outside of the authority of the MPO, the MPO intended other agencies and governments to use the plan. The current Tuscaloosa Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was adopted in 2020 and is scheduled to be revised in 2025.

Section 3

Committees

The Tuscaloosa Area transportation planning process is conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO is composed of four committees. The Policy Committee is the official decision-making body of the process. The Policy Committee is served by three advisory committees the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), and Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPC). The Policy Committee has the ultimate decision on transportation planning matters. However, the work and recommendations of the advisory committees shape all of the outputs of the transportation planning process.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee serves as the official decision-making body for the Tuscaloosa Area transportation planning process. In this capacity, the Committee determines how federal transportation funds are spent in the study area. The responsibilities of the committee include providing overall guidance to the planning process, review and approval of all process plans and programs, as well as appointing TCC and CTAC members. The Policy Committee usually meets on the last Monday of even-numbered months. The Policy Committee is composed of 12 members, five voting and seven non-voting.

Technical Coordinating Committee

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) provides technical support to the MPO Policy Committee. The TCC members review the planning process products from a technical perspective ensuring that appropriate concerns are addressed, including local planning issues, engineering details, environmental questions, and future growth, among many others. The TCC has the authority to make alternative recommendations for any of the products.

The TCC coordinates the work of the various departments and agencies involved in the transportation planning process. The local governments, the State DOT, and selected other transportation interests are represented on the TCC. The TCC members share information and data that builds and improves the planning processes and products. The TCC usually meets on the third Thursday of even-numbered months.

Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee

The Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) consists of twenty-four citizens from the Tuscaloosa area. The Mayors of Tuscaloosa and Northport and the County Commission Chair each appoint eight members to the committee. The CTAC was established to provide active public participation in the transportation planning process. Prior to the formation of the CTAC, the MPO relied primarily on public meetings for citizen input on transportation planning issues. There are a number of problems with public meetings of this nature, with the most significant being a lack of participation.

Another shortcoming of the public meeting is the knowledge that is required to understand the planning process. While the MPO staff tries to make the process easy to understand, people who are not familiar are generally not willing to participate. The CTAC provides the MPO with a standing committee of citizens who have a good knowledge of the planning process and can effectively convey public concerns related to transportation in a structured fashion.

The CTAC reviews MPO documents, studies, reports, plans, and programs and provides the MPO with recommendations concerning these topics. The CTAC also informs the MPO of public concerns related to transportation projects and issues. A CTAC member once suggested that the committee members act as antennas in the community gathering opinions and ideas in the course everyday life and passing the information on to the MPO. The CTAC usually meets on the third Tuesday of even-numbered months.

In addition to the CTAC, the MPO adopted a public involvement plan. The plan describes the MPO public participation goals and lists strategies to encourage public participation in the transportation planning process. The CTAC is included as one of several methods to garner public involvement.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

The MPO (Policy Committee) authorized the formation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPC) in 1997. The committee assists the MPO in developing plans, programs, and projects related to bicycle and pedestrian activities. The BPC consists of individuals from many areas of the community who share a common interest in improving bicycling and walking in Tuscaloosa County. Membership on the committee ranges from professional planners to avid bicyclists. There is no set membership list. Anyone who attends the BPC meetings is considered a member and has voting privileges. The BPC usually meets on the third Monday of even-numbered months.

Appendix B

Budget Summary Tables

Table 1 - FY 2025 Agency Participation Summary

TASK	WARC PL+5317* (FHWA-FTA-WARC)	TCPTA PL*	TOTAL
1.0 Totals	\$169,000	\$0	\$169,000
1.1	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000
1.2	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000
1.3	\$500	\$0	\$500
1.4	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
1.5	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
1.6	\$500	\$0	\$500
2.0 Totals	\$93,500	\$0	\$93,500
2.1	\$46,500	\$0	\$46,500
2.2	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
2.3	\$17,000	\$0	\$17,000
3.0 Totals	\$64,499	\$0	\$64,499
3.1	\$10,962	\$0	\$10,962
3.2	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
3.3	\$19,375	\$0	\$19,375
3.4	\$9,662	\$0	\$9,662
3.5	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
3.6	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
3.7	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
4.0 Totals	\$21,000	\$0	\$21,000
4.1	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
4.2	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
5.0 Totals	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
5.1	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
6.0 Totals	\$0	\$0	\$0
6.1	\$0	\$0	\$0
7.0 Totals	\$758,549	\$0	\$758,549
7.1	\$758,549	\$0	\$758,549
TOTAL	\$1,108,548	\$0	\$1,108,548

PL = Metropolitan Planning Fund; WARC = West Alabama Regional Commission;
 FHWA = Federal Highway Administration; FTA = Federal Transit Administration; SECT 5317 = FTA New Freedom;
 SECT 5307 = FTA Urban Area Funds; TCPTA = Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority; ST/LOC = State or Local
 The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category.
 All Tasks contain carry over PL funds.
 MPOs can carry over PL funds for 3 years. Older PL funds are returned to ALDOT for reallocation.

Table 2 - FY 2025 Funding Budget

TASK	PL*		SECT 5317*		Consultant*		TOTAL	
	FHWA-FTA 80%	WARC* 20%	FTA* 100%	WARC* 0%	FHWA-FTA 80%	WARC* 20%	FEDERAL 80%	ST/LOC* 20%
1.0 Totals	\$132,800	\$33,200	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$600	\$135,200	\$33,800
1.1	\$93,600	\$23,400	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$600	\$96,000	\$24,000
1.2	\$6,400	\$1,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,400	\$1,600
1.3	\$400	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400	\$100
1.4	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$5,000
1.5	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$3,000
1.6	\$400	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400	\$100
2.0 Totals	\$73,200	\$18,300	\$0	\$0	\$1,600	\$400	\$74,800	\$18,700
2.1	\$37,200	\$9,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$37,200	\$9,300
2.2	\$24,000	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,000	\$6,000
2.3	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,600	\$400	\$13,600	\$3,400
3.0 Totals	\$40,370	\$10,092	\$4,375	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,745	\$10,092
3.1	\$8,770	\$2,192	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,770	\$2,192
3.2	\$16,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,000	\$4,000
3.3	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$4,375	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,375	\$3,000
3.4*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3.5	\$800	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800	\$200
3.6	\$2,000	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$500
3.7	\$800	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800	\$200
4.0 Totals	\$16,800	\$4,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,800	\$4,200
4.1	\$16,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,000	\$4,000
4.2	\$800	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800	\$200
5.0 Totals	\$1,600	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,600	\$400
5.1	\$1,600	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,600	\$400
6.0 Totals	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
6.1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7.0 Totals	\$606,839	\$151,710	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$606,839	\$151,710
7.1	\$606,839	\$151,710	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$606,839	\$151,710
3.4*	100% \$9,662	0% \$0					100% \$9,662	0% \$0
TOTAL	FHWA \$881,271	WARC \$217,902	FTA \$4,375	WARC \$0	FHWA \$4,000	WARC \$1,000	FEDERAL \$889,646	ST/LOC \$218,902
	PL TOTAL	\$1,099,173	SECT 5317 TOTAL	\$4,375	Consultant TOTAL	\$5,000	TOTAL	\$1,108,548

PL = Metropolitan Planning Fund; WARC = West Alabama Regional Commission;
 FHWA = Federal Highway Administration; FTA = Federal Transit Administration; SECT 5317 = FTA New Freedom;
 SECT 5307 = FTA Urban Area Funds; Consultant = Consultant Budget; ST/LOC = State or Local Matching Funds
 The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category.
 All Tasks contain carry over PL funds.
 MPOs can carry over PL funds for 3 years. Older PL funds are returned to ALDOT for reallocation.

Table 3 - FY 2025 West Alabama Regional Commission MPO Planning Budget

Task	Total PL+5317 Budget (FHWA-FTA- WARC)	Staff PL+5317 Budget (FHWA-FTA- WARC)	Consultant PL Budget (FHWA-FTA- WARC)
1.0 General Administration - Total	\$169,000	\$166,000	\$3,000
1.1 Metropolitan Planning Organization Administration	\$120,000	\$117,000	\$3,000
1.2 Unified Planning Work Program	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
1.3 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program	\$500	\$500	\$0
1.4 Education and Training	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
1.5 Capital and Operating Purchases	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
1.6 Continuity of Operations Plan	\$500	\$500	\$0
2.0 Data Collection and Analysis - Total	\$93,500	\$91,500	\$2,000
2.1 Socioeconomic Data Collection and Maintenance	\$46,500	\$46,500	\$0
2.2 Environmental Data Collection and Maintenance	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
2.3 Transportation Model Development and Maintenance	\$17,000	\$15,000	\$2,000
3.0 Transportation System - Total	\$64,499	\$64,499	\$0
3.1 Long-Range Transportation Plan	\$10,962	\$10,962	\$0
3.2 Transportation Improvement Program	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
3.3 Public Transit Planning	\$19,375	\$19,375	\$0
3.4 Safe and Accessible Transportation Options	\$9,662	\$9,662	\$0
3.5 Transportation Management and Operations Planning	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
3.6 Transportation Safety Planning	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
3.7 Freight Planning	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
4.0 Public Involvement - Total	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0
4.1 Public Involvement Process	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
4.2 Traditionally Underserved Population Planning	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
5.0 Environmental Mitigation and Streamlining - Total	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
5.1 Environmental Protection Planning	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
6.0 Transit System Planning - Total	\$0	\$0	\$0
6.1 Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority System Planning	\$0	\$0	\$0
7.0 Future Planning Activities - Total	\$758,549	\$758,549	\$0
7.1 Future Planning Activities	\$758,549	\$758,549	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,108,548	\$1,103,548	\$5,000

The FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funds have been consolidated into the PL category.
All Tasks contain carry over PL funds.

Table 4 - FY 2025 Other Major Planning Activities

The following table lists major planning activities that will be undertaken during the fiscal year.

Sponsor	Description	Website (If Available)
Alabama Department of Transportation	Future - Alabama Public Involvement Plan	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Future - Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Future - Alabama Rail Plan - Update	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Future - Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAM)	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Statewide Airport System Plan	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Statewide Freight Plan	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Statewide Highway Safety Plan	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Statewide Management Plan	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Alabama Rail Plan	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Statewide Transportation Plan	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Alabama Department of Transportation	Tuscaloosa East Bypass - EIS	ALDOT Website - https://www.dot.state.al.us/
Northport City	Bike and Pedestrian Plan	Not available
Northport City	Comprehensive Plan	Not available
Tuscaloosa City	Citywide Comprehensive Plan - Update	http://www.tuscaloosa.com/Government/Departments/Planning%20and%20Development%20Services/area-plans
Tuscaloosa City	District 3 Specific Plan	http://www.tuscaloosa.com/Government/Departments/Planning%20and%20Development%20Services/area-plans
Tuscaloosa County	Old Birmingham Highway from I-20/59 to Jefferson County Line - Hazardous materials survey	Not available
Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority	Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority System Planning	Not available

Appendix C

Transportation Planning Acronyms and Terms

Transportation Planning Acronyms and Terms

5th Division - Alabama Department of Transportation 5th Division, office located in Tuscaloosa, includes nine counties in West Alabama, Replaced with West Central Region in 2014

AAA - Area Agency on Aging, West Alabama AAA

AADT - Average Annual Daily Traffic count

ACS - American Community Survey; U.S. Census Bureau product; replacement for the decennial long-form data

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act

ADAP - Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

ADT - Average Daily Traffic count

ALDOT - Alabama Department of Transportation

ARC - Appalachian Regional Commission

ARC - Formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens, now known as The Arc

Bicycle / Pedestrian Scale Development - Development that consists of a mix of land uses (residential, commercial, public) in close proximity, where one could comfortably walk or ride a bicycle from their origin (e.g., residence, place of employment) to a destination (e.g., place of employment, store, government facility, park)

BPC - Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

BR - Bridge funding program; also BRON

CA - Capital funds (transit)

CAC - Citizens Advisory Committee; now known as CTAC

Capacity Project - (Road) a project that adds through lanes to an existing road or builds a new road; (Transit) a project that adds new routes or expands demand response/para-transit fleet

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations

CN - Construction - the final phase of a transportation project, the actual building of the project

CRF – Carbon Reduction Funds

CTAC - Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee

DOT - Department of Transportation

DPI or DPIP - Innovative/Special funding program, applies to projects specifically named in federal legislation

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

ESWA - Easter Seals West Alabama

FAST Act - Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (PL 114-94)

FHWA - Federal Highway Administration

FOCUS - Focus on Senior Citizens

FTA - Federal Transit Administration

Functional Classification System - a system to distinguish roads according to the type of service provided

GHG - Greenhouse Gas

GIS - Geographic Information System - a computer system that links cartographic images with databases and allows the user to create new maps and databases through various means, including overlay and query operations

IIJA - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

ISTEA - Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991

ITS - Intelligent Transportation System

JARC - Job Access and Reverse Commute - Federal Transit Administration Section 5316 funding program

LAP - Language Access Plan, sometimes referred to as a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

LEP - Limited English Proficiency

LEP Plan - Limited English Proficiency Plan - outlines how the MPO and RPO integrates people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) into the transportation planning process - sometimes referred to as a Language Access Plan (LAP)

LOC - Local funding

Long-Range Transportation Plan - outlines projects that will be required to meet the needs of an area over an extended period of time usually 20 years, revised every four to five years

LRTP - Long-Range Transportation Plan

LVOE - Level of Effort

MAP-21 - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Public Law 112-141)

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization, Tuscaloosa Area MPO

MPO-Portal - web-based software used to manage and integrate the TIP and STIP processes and databases; replaced TELUS

MO - Maintenance and Operation, same as federal O&M and TSMO, ALDOT preference

MO Project - Maintenance and Operation project, same as federal O&M project and TSMO project, ALDOT preference

NAAQS - National Ambient Air Quality Standards

New Freedom - Federal Transit Administration Section 5317 funding program

NHS - National Highway System, a transportation funding category, only projects on designated NHS routes can use these funds; also NHSP

O&M - operations and management, same as MO and TSMO

O&M Project - a project that improves the operation and/or management of a transportation system; examples include turn lanes, traffic signal optimization, ITS center, same as MO Project and TSMO Project

OP - Operating funds (transit)

PARA - Parks and Recreation Authority

PE - Preliminary Engineering - the first phase of most transportation projects, the study and design of the project

PL - Metropolitan Planning Funds

Public Forum - designated time during RPO and MPO meetings in which the public or interested parties may address the Policy Committee or Advisory Committees

Public Hearing - hearings to formally present information and gather public input for projects and plans - The Tuscaloosa Area MPO and West Alabama RPO do not hold

public hearings. The Alabama Department of Transportation and local governments conduct public hearings for specific projects.

Public Meeting - meetings held by the Tuscaloosa Area MPO and West Alabama RPO to review draft transportation planning documents - The Tuscaloosa Area MPO holds public meetings for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the Public Involvement Plan (PIP).

Public Review - public reviews allow anyone to examine and comment on draft documents during a specified period of time - The Tuscaloosa Area MPO and West Alabama RPO holds public reviews for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Public Involvement Plan (PIP), and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. During the review period, draft documents are available on the internet, the West Alabama Regional Commission, and the Transit Authority. The review period extends from the date the MPO or RPO adopts the draft document for public review until the MPO or RPO adopts the final document, generally two months.

ROW - Right of Way - a phase of transportation projects, the purchase of right of way

RPO - Rural Planning Organization, West Alabama RPO

RW - Right of Way - a phase of transportation projects, the purchase of right of way

SAFETEA-LU - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users - (Pub. L. 109–59, August 10, 2005)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on the disability

Section 5303 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for technical studies

Section 5307 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for urban area transit capital and operating expenses, see Section 5339

Section 5309 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for capital transit improvements

Section 5310 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for elderly and disabled transit capital assistance

Section 5311 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for rural area transit capital and operating expenses

Section 5316 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for job access and reverse commute transit, also known as JARC

Section 5317 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for new Americans with Disabilities Act transit assistance, also known as New Freedoms

Section 5339 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for bus and bus facilities; replaced Section 5309 in MAP-21, eligible to 5307 recipients

SHSP - Strategic Highway Safety Plan

SPR - State Planning and Research funds

ST - State funding

STP - Surface Transportation Program

STAA - Surface Transportation Any Area funding category, represents funds that may be used anywhere in the state, ALDOT has the authority to allocate these funds

STIP - State Transportation Improvement Program

STOA - Surface Transportation Other Area funding category, represents funds that are used in Urban Areas with populations less than 200,000

STP - Surface Transportation Program, a transportation funding category, Urban Areas are allocated an amount of funds annually based on a specific per capita dollar amount

TAP - Transportation Alternatives Program

TARC - Tuscaloosa Association of Retarded Citizens, also known as The ARC

TAZ - Transportation Analysis Zone - districts used for computer traffic modeling

TCC - Technical Coordinating Committee

TCPTA - Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority, also known as Tuscaloosa Metro Transit, Tuscaloosa Trolley, the Authority

TDOT - Tuscaloosa Department of Transportation

TEA-21 - Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century

TIP - Transportation Improvement Program - a list of funded MPO projects slated to begin over a four-year period, revised every four years

Title VI - Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000d* (Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs)

TMA - Transportation Management Area, area designated by the Secretary of Transportation, having an urbanized area population of over 200,000

TR - Transit project

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Funds - Under pre-MAP-21 legislation, ten percent of all Surface Transportation Program funds allocated to a state are required to be spent on enhancement projects. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, acquisition of historic sites and construction of pedestrian or bicycle facilities

TSMO - Transportation System Management and Operations, same as MO and O&M

TSMO Project - a project that improves the operation and/or management of a transportation system; examples include turn lanes, traffic signal optimization, ITS center, same as MO Project and O&M Project

UCP - United Cerebral Palsy

UMTA - Urban Mass Transit Administration; now known as FTA

UPWP - Unified Planning Work Program - a set of tasks that the WARC staff is committed to perform over a fiscal year, revised annually

Urban Area Boundary - boundary surrounding a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area, established by the MPO with ALDOT and FHWA approval

UT - Utility Construction - a phase of transportation projects, the relocation of utilities

WAPDC - West Alabama Planning and Development Council; now known as West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC)

WARC - West Alabama Regional Commission

WARPO - West Alabama Rural Planning Organization

West Central Region - Alabama Department of Transportation Region, office located in Tuscaloosa County, includes 14 counties in West Alabama, Replaced the 5th Division in 2014

Appendix D

Livability Principles and Indicators

Livability Principles and Indicators

1) Provide more transportation choices

Develop safe, reliable and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote public health.

Indicators

- Percentage of 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) projects that contain bicycle and pedestrian elements, excluding transit projects: 78% (West Alabama Regional Commission [WARC] calculation)
- Percentage of transit funding in the 2045 LRTP: 5% (WARC calculation)

2) Promote equitable, affordable housing

Expand location and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.

Indicator

- 62 percent (2012-2016)
- 59 percent (2017-2019)
- 55 percent (2024)
Housing and Transportation Affordability Index - Center for Neighborhood Technology

3) Enhance economic competitiveness

Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers as well as expanded business access to markets.

Indicator

- Unemployment rate:
 - 8.2 percent (2011)
 - 7.2 percent (2012)
 - 5.8 percent (2013)
 - 5.8 percent (2014)
 - 5.4 percent (2015)
 - 5.6 percent (2016)
 - 4.3 percent (2017)
 - 3.7 percent (2018)
 - 2.7 percent (2019)
 - 6.6 percent (2020)
 - 3.2 percent (2021)
 - 2.6 percent (2022)
 - 2.8 percent (2023)
 - Annual Average - Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

4) Support existing communities

Target federal funding toward existing communities – through such strategies as transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling – to increase community revitalization, improve the efficiency of public works investments, and safeguard rural landscapes.

Indicators

- Percentage of 2045 LRTP funding that will be used to improve existing facilities: 94% (WARC calculation)
- Percentage of transit funding in the 2045 LRTP: 5% (WARC calculation)

5) Coordinate policies and leverage investment

Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.

Indicator

- Number of local or MPO policies that prevented federal, state, or local funding from being leveraged or prevented collaboration between public and/or private groups: 0 (WARC research)

6) Value communities and neighborhoods

Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods – rural, urban or suburban.

Indicator

- Percentage of housing units within a half mile of an employment center: 75% occupied housing units (2010 Census and WARC calculations)
- Percentage of housing units within a half mile of a park, including school playgrounds: 58% occupied housing units (2010 Census and WARC calculations)