

Appendix D: Plan Development and Public Comments

Plan Development

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) lists all federally funded transportation projects within the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) region, as part of a prioritized, four-year list of projects planned for the WAMPO region. Each project's eligibility criteria for incorporation into the FFY2027-FFY2030 TIP depended on whether it originated as a project in the FFY2025-FFY2028 or prior TIP, was submitted for consideration for WAMPO suballocated federal funding, or was submitted as a local- or state-government project that did not request suballocated funding but that must appear in the TIP due to it being regionally significant or receiving other sources of federal funding.

To be programmed to receive WAMPO suballocated federal funding in the FFY2027-FFY2030 TIP, a project must be recommended for funding by the Project Selection Committee (PSC), and then that recommendation must be officially endorsed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and approved by the Transportation Policy Body (TPB).

Process Overview

Figure D1 describes the process for the development of the TIP.

Figure D1. TIP Development Process and Timeline

Determine Anticipated Available Funding	Fall 2025 - Spring 2026
Call for Projects for WAMPO Suballocated Funding	February 2, 2026 - March 6, 2026
Call for Projects Workshop	February 12, 2026
Staff Review, Score, & Map Projects	February 2026 - May 2026
Project Selection Committee Meeting on WAMPO Suballocated Funding	March 30, 2026
Call for Changes (Aside from Requests for WAMPO Suballocated Funding)	April 6, 2026 - April 17, 2026
TAC Recommendation of Projects for WAMPO Suballocated Funding	April 27, 2026
TPB Approval of Projects for WAMPO Suballocated Funding	May 12, 2026
Update the Text of the Document	March 2026 - June 2026
State/Federal Review	June - July 2026
Public Comment Period	June 17, 2026 - July 16, 2026
Review Public Comments for Plan Incorporation	July 17, 2026 - July 20, 2026
TAC Recommendation on TIP Approval	July 27, 2026
TPB Approval - Public Hearing	August 11, 2026

Project Solicitation and Submission

From February 2, 2026, through March 6, 2026, WAMPO held a Call for Projects for the FFY2027-FFY2030 TIP. Project sponsors (WAMPO member jurisdictions, transit agencies, and the Kansas Department of Transportation) were emailed an Excel-workbook form to use for submitting projects. A Call for Projects Workshop was held virtually on February 12, 2026, to provide an overview of the project submission process, review application requirements, and answer any questions from the project sponsors. During the Call for Projects period, WAMPO staff updated a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, which included questions asked during the workshop as well as questions received by WAMPO staff via email, over the phone, or in person. The FAQ document was updated periodically and made available on the WAMPO TIP webpage to assist project sponsors with the project application process.

WAMPO member jurisdictions submitted twenty-two (22) projects requested to be considered for new suballocated federal funding awards in the FFY2027-FFY2030 TIP. Following the close of the Call for Projects and prior to review by the PSC, all submissions were scored and ranked based on TPB-approved evaluation criteria within each of seven (7) project categories, as noted in the next section (some categories include subcategories which are not listed below). Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) staff reviewed the candidate projects for eligibility for suballocated federal funding and civil engineering staff from WAMPO member jurisdictions conducted cost-estimate reasonableness checks for each candidate project using the cost estimate documentation submitted as part of each project's application. Project cost reasonableness reviews were completed by staff from jurisdictions other than the project's lead agency to maintain neutrality.

In addition to the Call for Projects for suballocated federal funding, WAMPO held a Call for Changes for the FFY2027-FFY2030 TIP from April 6, 2026, through April 17, 2026. In contrast to the Call for Projects, this Call for Changes was intended to be treated like the Calls for Changes that WAMPO regularly holds for TIP amendments (about four times per year), as an opportunity for project sponsors to notify WAMPO staff of any requested updates to TIP projects, including any project details to be added, removed, or modified. The Call for Changes was not another opportunity to apply for suballocated federal funding.

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation criteria for regional transportation projects are based on federal goals, as well as regional goals. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), enacted in 2012, included provisions to make the U.S. surface transportation system more streamlined, performance-based, and multimodal, and to address challenges facing the transportation system, including safety, infrastructure condition, traffic congestion, efficiency of freight movement, environmental impacts, and delays in project delivery. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) have built on the changes made by MAP-21, including providing a dedicated source of federal dollars for freight projects.

The federal-aid highway program primarily focuses on the following goals:

- **Safety** - To achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.
- **Infrastructure Condition** - To maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair.
- **Congestion Reduction** - To achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System.
- **System Reliability** - To improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system.
- **Freight Movement and Economic Vitality** - To improve the national freight network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development.
- **Environmental Sustainability** - To enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
- **Reduced Project Delivery Delays** - To reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agencies' work practices.

The evaluation of regional transportation projects is specialized for the following types of transportation improvements:

- Bridge Rehabilitation/Replacement
- Traffic Management Technologies (Roadway System Mgmt.)
- Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization/Automation
- Roadway Expansion
- Multiuse Trails & Bicycle Facilities
- Pedestrian Facilities/Safe Routes to School
- Transit Expansion/Transit Modernization

On October 12, 2021, at a Transportation Policy Body (TPB) meeting, project-evaluation methodology and scoring criteria were presented for approval, with the intention to better organize additional data to assist the Project Selection Committee in prioritizing MTP and TIP projects in future updates. The methodology was first used in 2022 for the development of the FFY2023-FFY2026 TIP, and most recently updated and approved by the TPB on September 9, 2026, following the adoption of the current MTP, Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050.

For a detailed version of the most up-to-date methodology for project evaluation criteria, please visit the TIP webpage, www.wampo.org/transportation-improvement-program.

Project Selection Committee Meetings

A Project Selection Committee (PSC) meeting was held on March 30, 2026. The PSC reviewed the project scores and discussed the projects' merits and the available funding. There were 30 projects considered for WAMPO suballocated federal funding awards in the FFY2027-FFY2030 TIP, including eight (8) planning studies for which WAMPO would be the lead agency, which were not scored or ranked. The federal funding that all of these projects, combined, could utilize totaled more than \$100 million, but only about \$35.7 million of WAMPO suballocated federal funding was projected to be available to award. The PSC worked diligently to select regionally significant projects across the WAMPO region that would fit within financial constraints. The PSC's recommendations were presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on April 27, 2026, for a recommendation to the Transportation Policy Body (TPB). The TAC's suballocated funding award recommendations were considered and approved by the TPB on May 12, 2026.

Projects Selected

The projects in Table D1 were recommended by the PSC & TAC and approved by the TPB for WAMPO suballocated federal funding. This table does not include any projects that were awarded suballocated federal funding prior to the development of the FFY2027-FFY2030 TIP and carried over from the FFY2025-FFY2028 TIP to the FFY2027-FFY2030 TIP.

Table D1. Projects Selected for New FFY2027-FFY2030 WAMPO Suballocated Federal Funding

WAMPO ID	Lead Agency	Project Title	FFY(s)	Funding Program(s)	Amt.	Resultant % Fed. Funding
PL-26-001	WAMPO	Interstate Passenger Rail Study Support	2028	STBG	\$300,000	60.00%
RM-25-026	Sedgwick County	R372: 21st St North and 167th St West Intersection Improvements	2028, 2029	CRP	\$876,989	56.22%
MB-26-001	Wichita	Gypsum Creek Multi-Use Path, Oliver to Lincoln	2029	TA	\$1,584,000	80.00%
RM-25-018	Maize	119th Street Improvements From 29th Street to 37th Street	2029	STBG	\$5,028,072	80.00%
TR-26-003	Wichita Transit	Purchase of Replacement Buses	2029, 2030	CRP	\$2,362,464	40.00%
TM-26-001	Wichita	ITS - Central Ave, Seneca to 159th St E	2029, 2030	CMAQ, CRP	\$4,586,788	76.45%
RM-25-040	Wichita	21st Street North, 119th Street West to St. Teresa	2029, 2030	STBG, TA	\$11,415,921	73.18%
PF-26-001	Wichita	Seneca Street & 55th Street South Sidewalks	2030	TA	\$1,692,000	80.00%
RM-25-009	Haysville	West Grand Improvements	2030	STBG	\$4,011,948	80.00%
RM-25-046	Goddard & Sedgwick County	183rd St Expansion	2030	STBG	\$3,850,000	80.00%
					Total	\$35,708,182

Document Development

After projects were selected and approved by the TPB, WAMPO staff developed this TIP document. The document was available for a thirty-day public-comment period from June 17, 2026, through July 16, 2026. To enhance visibility of the public-comment opportunity, several outreach strategies were employed, including a paid public notice in the Wichita Eagle, a press release to WAMPO email distribution lists and media contacts, advertisements on social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and X) and on the WAMPO website (www.wampo.org), and outreach to planning partners. Before the start of the public-comment period, WAMPO staff developed an executive summary of the document available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

The document was presented to the TAC for review and recommendation of approval on July 27, 2026, and to the TPB for review and approval on August 11, 2026.

Public Comments

The public-comment period for the FFY2027-FFY2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was held June 17, 2026, through July 16, 2026. One (1) public comment was received and is documented below, along with WAMPO's response. Personally identifiable information has been redacted for the privacy of the person who commented.

Comment Received via Email:

WAMPO Staff & Management:

I want to thank you for supporting the bike/ped projects that are included in your plan, such as bike/ped trails in Bel Aire, Haysville, and Butler County the Gypsum Creek multiuse path reconstruction, sidewalks at Seneca & 55th South, and the bike/ped components of several of the other projects.

I am very pleased with the progress on the Redbud Trail from Woodlawn eastward to the K-96 Trail [with a pedestrian bridge to be built over Rock Road]!

Should you have questions, please let me know.

Thanks again,

WAMPO Response: Comment was noted and acknowledged.