

Appendix: E

Plan Development & 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 inclusion in the FFY2025-FFY2028 TIP depended on whether it originated as a project in the FFY2023-FFY2026 TIP, as a new local- or state-government project, or as a new WAMPO-suballocated project.

To be programmed to receive WAMPO-suballocated federal funding in the FFY2025-FFY2028 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 E1 describes the process for the development of the TIP.

Project Solicitation and Submission

From September 15, 2023, through February 2, 2024, WAMPO held a combined Call for Projects for the FFY2025-FFY2028 TIP and long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050). Project sponsors/member jurisdictions were emailed Excel-workbook forms to use for submitting projects. A Call for Projects Workshop was held virtually on November 8, 2024, to answer any questions from the project sponsors. Of the 108 total projects submitted during the combined Call for Projects, which also included project submissions meant only for MTP 2050, 31 projects were submitted and considered for funding recommendations in the FFY2025-FFY2028 TIP. Following the close of the combined Call for Projects and prior to review by the PSC, all submissions were scored and ranked based on the evaluation criteria described in the next section.

Figure E1: TIP Development Timeline

Determine Anticipated Available Funding	Fall 2023-Spring 2024
Call for Projects	Sep 2023 – Feb 2024
Call for Projects Workshop	Nov 8, 2024
Staff Review & Map Projects	Feb 2024 – May 2024
Project Selection Committee Meetings	Apr 2024 – May 2024
TAC Recommendation of Projects for WAMPO-Suballocated Funding	May 20, 2024
TPB Approval of Projects for WAMPO-Suballocated Funding	Jun 11, 2024
Update the Text of the Document	Mar 2024 – May 2024
State/Federal Review	May 2024 – Jun 2024
Public Comment Period	Jun 12, 2024 – Jul 11, 2024
Review Public Comments for Plan Incorporation	Jul 12, 2024 – Jul 15, 2024
TAC Recommendation for Approval	Jul 22, 2024
TPB Approval - Public Hearing	Aug 13, 2024

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.

On October 12, 2021, at a Transportation Policy Body (TPB) meeting, a 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 of the MTP & TIP. The methodology would not be implemented until the FFY2023-FFY2026 TIP update in 2022. The TPB approved the proposed methodology and criteria.

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

Project Selection Committee Meetings

There were three Project Selection Committee (PSC) meetings held on April 4, April 26, and May 3, 2024. The PSC reviewed the project scores and discussed the projects' merits and the available funding. There were 31 submitted projects considered for WAMPO-suballocated federal funding awards in the FFY2025-FFY2028 TIP. The combined qualifying costs for federal funding were over \$150 million for these projects, but only about \$30 million of WAMPO-suballocated federal funding was projected to be available in FFY2027 and FFY2028. The PSC worked diligently to select regionally significant projects across the WAMPO region that would fit within financial constraints. The PSC's recommendations were submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their May 20, 2024, meeting for a recommendation to the Transportation Policy Body (TPB). The TAC's project recommendations were approved by the TPB at their meeting on June 11, 2024.

Projects Selected

The projects in Table E1 were recommended by the PSC & TAC and approved by the TPB for WAMPO-suballocated federal funding. They include several new FFY2027-FFY2028 projects, as well as funding increases for several projects that already had some WAMPO-suballocated funding in the FFY2023-FFY2026 TIP, but were at less than the maximum of 80% federal funding.

Table E1: Projects Selected for New/Increased FFY2025-FFY2028 WAMPO-Suballocated Federal Funding

WAMPO I.D.	Lead Agency	Project Title	FFY(s)	Funding Program(s)	Amt. Added	New % Fed. Funding
R-19-17*	Wichita	West St., I-235-MacArthur	2024, 2025	TA, CMAQ, STBG	\$80,001	80.00%
40-510*	Wichita	17th St N, I-135 to Hillside	2025	TA, STBG	\$72,413	80.00%
40-537*	Butler County	SW Butler Rd Improvements from SW 170th St to SW 155th	2025, 2026	TA, STBG	\$282,019	80.00%
40-056*	Wichita	Wichita Intelligent Transportation System - E 21st St N	2025, 2026	CMAQ, STBG	\$126,723	80.00%
40-540*	Derby	Rock Road Corridor Improvements	2026	TA, STBG	\$1,121,082	80.00%
40-522*	Wichita	Redbud Path, Woodlawn to K-96	2025, 2026, 2027, 2028	TA, CMAQ, CRP, STBG	\$4,867,966	61.04%
MB-25-001	Bel Aire	Bel Aire Bike Ped Trail Phase 1	2027	TA	\$778,400	80.00%
MB-25-007	Haysville	Meridian - Saddle Brook Multiuse Trail	2027	TA	\$673,941	80.00%
TM-25-001	Wichita	ITS - 21st St and Maize to Downtown	2027, 2028	CMAQ	\$2,832,000	80.00%
MB-25-006	Butler County & Sedgwick County	W Rosewood/E 63rd St. S. Multi-use Path	2028	TA, CRP	\$2,573,600	80.00%
MB-25-005	Butler County	SW Butler Rd Multi-use Path at SW 150th St.	2028	CMAQ	\$1,062,672	78.72%
BR-25-002	Sedgwick County	B533: Bridge on Seneca between 63rd and 71st St South	2027	STBG	\$1,238,997	68.72%
RM-25-008	Haysville	Meridian Street (79th St to Grand Ave)	2027	STBG	\$4,589,020	68.72%
RM-25-022	Park City	85th Street and Broadway Roundabout	2027	STBG	\$581,183	68.72%
40-015	Bel Aire	45th Oliver to Woodlawn	2027, 2028	STBG	\$7,527,266	68.72%
RM-25-038	Wichita	127th St E, 13th to Douglas	2028	STBG	\$5,960,547	68.72%
*Project already has some WAMPO-suballocated funding (less than 80% federal maximum)					Total	\$34,367,830

Document Development

After projects were selected and prioritized, WAMPO staff developed this TIP document. The document was available for a thirty-day public comment period from June 12 through July 11, 2024. The information for the Public Comment Period was also posted on social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and X) and on the WAMPO website (www.wampo.org). The document was presented to the TAC for review and recommendation of approval on July 22, 2024, and to the TPB for review and approval on August 13, 2024.

Public Comments

The public comment period was held June 12 through July 11, 2024. No comments were received.