



Fall 2023 WAMPO Newsletter

MTP 2050 Progress

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a strategic, long-term document guiding future transportation projects in the WAMPO region. By federal mandate, Metropolitan Planning Organizations must involve the public throughout the planning process. The MTP 2050 must be completed by May 2025. Staff conducted a first round of public engagement and are preparing for the call for projects and the second round of public comment.

For more information, please reach out to Ashley Bryers – ashley.bryers@wampo.org

Round 1 Public Engagement Results

Round 1 of public engagement for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 ended on July 31st and the results are now available. The WAMPO team spent over 200 hours at pop-up events, interviews, listening sessions, and more to get the public involved in the planning process. Below are the results of the surveys that were collected and a compilation of summaries from listening sessions with key interest groups.

[Survey Results Data Analysis - https://bit.ly/MTP2050DATAANALYSIS](https://bit.ly/MTP2050DATAANALYSIS)

[Listening Session Summaries - https://bit.ly/Summaries_Compiled_Formatted](https://bit.ly/Summaries_Compiled_Formatted)

Phase 2 of public engagement for MTP 2050 will begin in December of 2023.

MTP/TIP Call for Projects

On September 15, 2023, WAMPO will open a combined Call for Projects for the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) and the short-range FFY2025-FFY2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Because there will be a single Call for Projects for both of these planning documents, jurisdictions that need to add or modify a project in both of them will only need to submit a single application (any project that will use federal funding or be regionally significant must appear in the TIP, which must be consistent with the MTP). Jurisdictions will be asked to submit their applications by January 5, 2024. The FFY2025-FFY2028 TIP is due to be approved by the WAMPO Transportation Policy Body (TPB) in August 2024 or earlier. MTP 2050 is due to be approved by the TPB in May 2025 or earlier.

For more information, please reach out to wampo@wampo.org

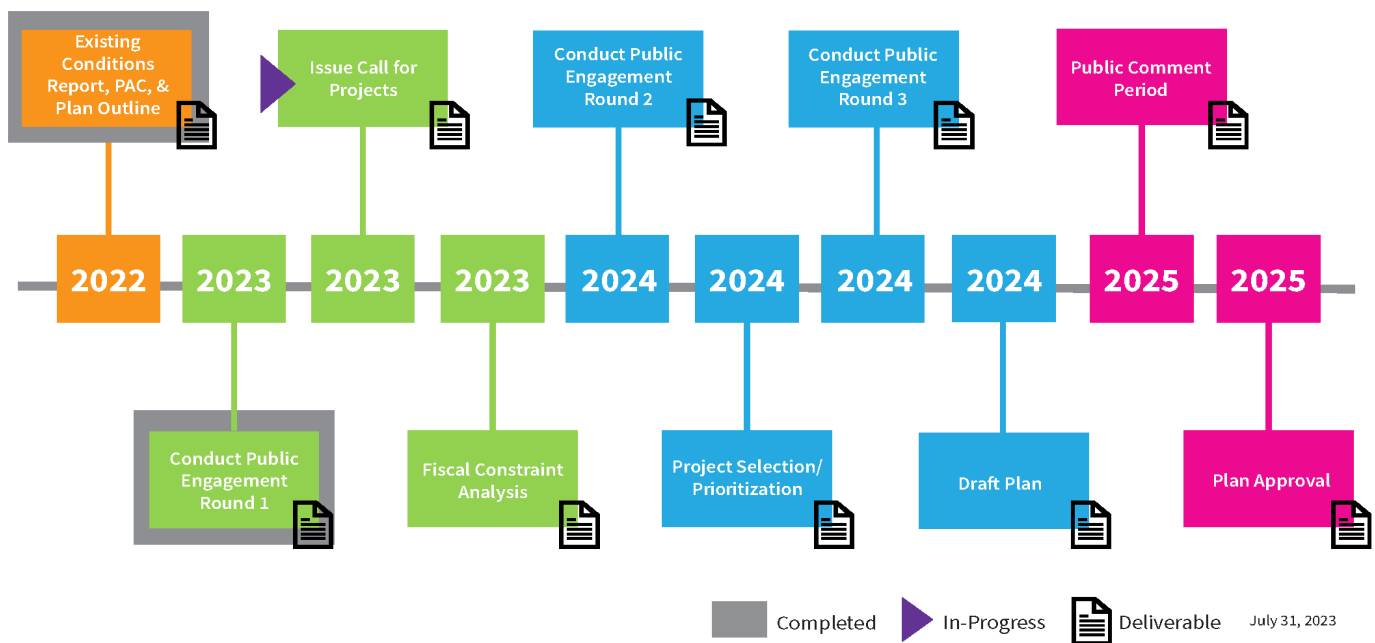
Round 2 Public Engagement

Round 2 of Public Engagement will focus on alternate scenarios preferences and performance measures. To capture the public's feedback, WAMPO staff will distribute another survey that will be open from December 2023 through February 2024. The survey will provide alternate scenarios and ask for respondents' preferences. This input will be used to develop a preferred scenario in the spring of 2024.

Planning Timeline

The plan will be completed in May 2025. However, there are many steps between now and then. The timeline graphic below shows the high-level deliverables.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 Progress



Transportation Planning Updates

Electric Vehicle Network Plan

The public engagement phase for the Electric Vehicle Network Plan has ended, with the survey closing on August 31st. We'll soon have access to the survey results. Here's what's coming next:

- 1. Presenting Results:** We'll analyze the survey feedback and create a report. This report will be shown to the steering committee in charge of the plan. It'll highlight what people shared, helping everyone understand public opinions.



2. **Finding Policies:** Using the survey insights, we'll figure out suitable rules and agreements. These will match what the public wants. These rules will guide how the plan gets carried out.

3. **Updating Vision:** The survey could lead us to rethink the plan's main idea and goals. We'll make adjustments to make sure the plan fits what people care about now.

4. **Keep Working on the Plan:** With the survey's insights and new policies in mind, we'll keep building the Electric Vehicle Networking Plan. We'll make sure it includes the new ideas and stays on track to meet its goals.

The goal is to make sure the plan respects what the community wants, and that the electric vehicle network gets better for everyone. This plan will be completed in late 2023/early 2024. Visit www.wampo.org/electric-vehicles to follow the planning process.

For more information, please reach out to Dora Gallo – dora.gallo@wampo.org

Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Updates

WAMPO is in the process of developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). Upon its expected adoption in late summer/fall 2023, the WAMPO region will be eligible for U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) discretionary Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation grants. Additional information about the Comprehensive Safety Action Planning process is available at www.wampo.org/safety.

The SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this year was published earlier than expected, with the result that grant applications were due on July 10th, 2023, prior to the expected adoption of the WAMPO CSAP, meaning the WAMPO region will not be able to apply for any Implementation grants during this round of funding. Instead, WAMPO staff and consultants put together a Planning and Demonstration grant application, which was submitted on June 30, 2023. WAMPO intends to then apply for an Implementation grant in 2024 or 2025.

The draft Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) Implementation Plan was discussed at the August 2nd Safety and Health Committee meeting. The Transportation Safety Technical Advisors (TSTA) will discuss the draft Implementation Plan on August 29. There will be a 30-day public comment period in August/September. Following that, the CSAP will be brought before the TPB for approval consideration. The consultants will soon begin working on Safe Streets Visualization and developing a Vision Zero Toolkit.

For more information, please reach out to Ashley Bryers – ashley.bryers@wampo.org

Safe Routes to School

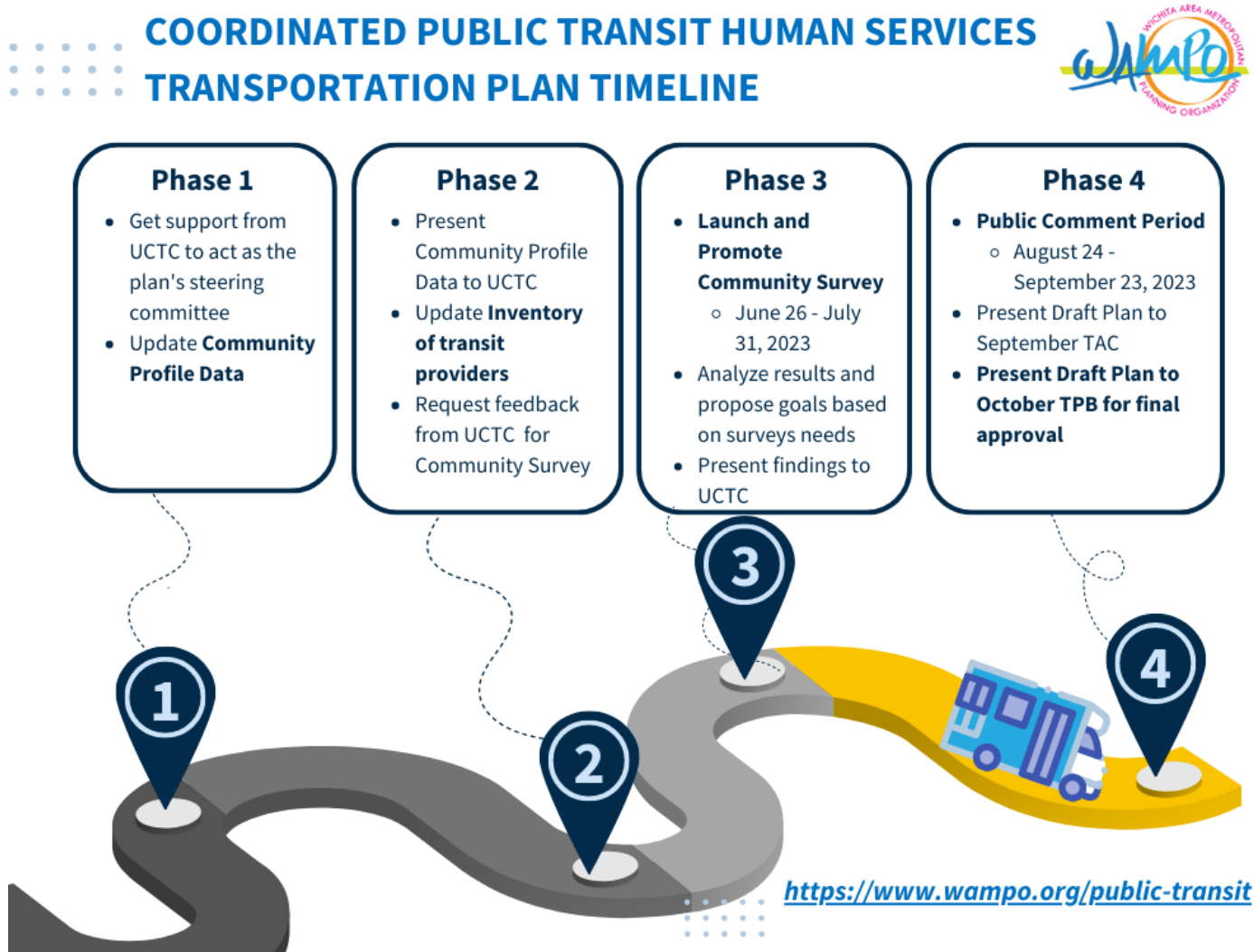
The Federal government makes funding available to local governments and school districts to make it safer for children to walk, roll, or bicycle to and from school. This is done through the so-called “6 Es” of Safe Routes to School (SRTS): Engagement, Equity, Engineering, Encouragement, Education, and Evaluation, which encompass both infrastructure improvements and behavior-focused initiatives. For SRTS activities to qualify for Federal funding, they must be part of the implementation of an SRTS plan, with cooperation between local governments and school districts. For that reason, WAMPO has secured \$200,000 of Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding in FFY2024 for

SRTS planning in the region. Although the exact outlines of this planning effort are still under discussion, the intent is to help interested local governments and school districts establish SRTS plans and thereby qualify for Federal funding for activities described in those plans. As part of this effort, WAMPO is considering an update to the Regional Safe Routes to School Plan, which was last updated in 2008 by WAMPO and the Safe Kids Wichita Area Coalition.

For more information, please reach out to Nick Flanders – nicholas.flanders@wampo.org – or Dora Gallo – dora.gallo@wampo.org

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

WAMPO is currently in the process of updating its Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan. This plan focuses on the transportation needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income households. The following graphic depicts the plan update process:





We are currently in phase four of the plan update process which involves the public comment period that opened August 24, 2023, and closes September 23, 2023. Public comments received during this period will be reported to and considered by the Transportation Policy Body (TPB) at their October 10, 2023, meeting, when they will consider the plan for approval. To read about the community survey results and plan draft visit <https://www.wampo.org/public-transit>.

2023 Bike-Pedestrian Count Volunteer Request

The upcoming WAMPO 2023 Bike-Pedestrian Count is approaching, and we're excited to invite you to be part of it! Your active participation is crucial for ensuring accurate data collection and aiding us in our efforts to create a more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly community. This is your chance to have a meaningful impact on the future development of our region's infrastructure.

Participating in the Bike-Pedestrian Count holds significant importance as it guides our future investments and enhancements for bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure. By volunteering, you'll play a direct role in enhancing the walkability, bike-friendliness, and overall accessibility of our community.

We invite you to join us as a volunteer for the 2023 Bike-Pedestrian Count on the dates and times listed below:

- **Wednesday, September 13:** 10 AM - 12 PM
- **Wednesday, September 13:** 5 PM - 7 PM
- **Thursday, September 14:** 10 AM - 12 PM
- **Thursday, September 14:** 5 PM - 7 PM
- **Saturday, September 16:** 12 PM - 2 PM

We're looking forward to your involvement!

Sign up to volunteer at <https://bit.ly/Bike-Ped-2023-Volunteer-Form>.

For more information about the Bike-Ped Count, visit <https://www.wampo.org/bicycle-pedestrian>.

WAMPO Suballocated Projects for 2023-2024

WAMPO awarded Suballocated Federal funding to the following projects in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023:

- Wichita Transit: "Wichita Transit Network Redesign Plan"
- Wichita Public Works: "West St., Harry to Pawnee"
- Valley Center: "Meridian, from Ford (77th St. N.) to Seward (69th St. N.) and Main to 5th (85th St. N.)"
- Sedgwick County: "Zoo Boulevard Bridge over M.S. Mitch Mitchell Floodway"

In the WAMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the following projects are programmed to receive Suballocated funding in FFY2024 (projects may be added to or removed from this list during FFY2024, which starts October 1, 2023):

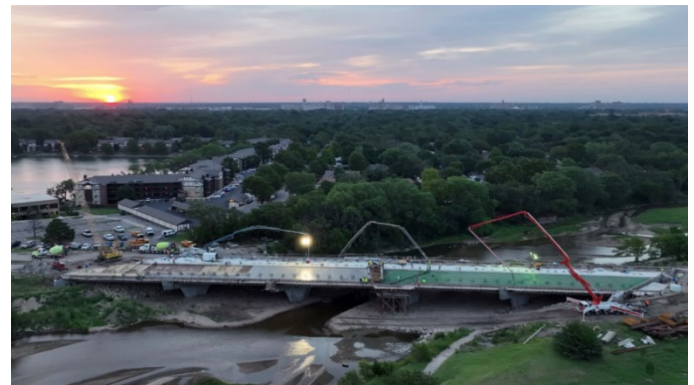
- Wichita Public Works: "West St., I-235-MacArthur"
- Wichita Public Works: "Douglas, Seneca to Meridian" (may be moved to FFY2025)

- Haysville: “Seneca & 63rd Street Bike Ped Pathway”
- Derby: “Nelson Drive Realignment”
- Kechi: “Oliver and Kechi Rd. Intersection”
- Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT): “WICHway Video Wall”
- WAMPO: “Safe Routes to School Planning Assistance”

For up-to-date, detailed information on these and other projects in the WAMPO TIP (including maps), visit <https://www.wampo.org/transportation-improvement-program>.

North Amidon Project Update – Nick

Since Fall 2022, the Amidon Avenue bridge across the Arkansas River in north Wichita has been closed for reconstruction (the recommended detour is to follow 13th St./21st St. to West St.). According to City of Wichita Public Works staff, a majority of the bridge concrete work is completed, and the adjacent pavement and remaining bridge items are to be completed within the next few months. At this time, crews are ahead of schedule and the City anticipates opening for traffic by Thanksgiving 2023. Recent pictures are included below.



Certification Review Results

WAMPO completed its quadrennial Certification Review with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on May 10-12, 2023. The results of that Certification Review were positive and did not include any required corrective actions. Three commendations were made.

1. WAMPO is commended for its use of innovative public involvement strategies to engage the public, particularly its efforts to have a presence at community events.
2. WAMPO and Wichita Transit are commended for the integration of transit participation into the MPO planning process through transit agency representation on most MPO committees.
3. WAMPO’s creation of MPO subject-specific committees as a result of strong public interest is a best practice.



Access the Federal Certification Review Report at <https://bit.ly/Wichita-TMA-Cert-Review-2023-Final-Report>

KAMPO Update

On Monday, August 21, 2023, we hosted the Kansas Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (KAMPO) gathering. The event was attended by a total of 30 participants, including representatives from KDOT, Flint Hills MPO, Lawrence-Douglas MPO, Mid-America Regional Council, St. Joseph Area Transportation Study Organization, Federal Highway Administration, Urban Corridor CTD Mobility Manager, CTD #9 Mobility Manager, and Sedgwick County Health Department. The meeting commenced with an overview of MPO highlights, focusing on core documents and special projects. Updates were also provided by KDOT as well as FHWA.

The primary agenda of the meeting revolved around several key topics. These included discussions on the Comprehensive Safety Action Planning Process, dialogue about Bicycle and Pedestrian Data Collection, and considerations related to Electric Vehicle Planning. Additionally, the meeting covered subjects such as Food Access and Transportation Planning, Safe Routes to School initiatives, Funding Discussions, and collaborative efforts for Regional Transit.

It was also noted during the meeting that the next KAMPO event will be organized by St. Joseph Area Transportation Study Organization, with the exact date yet to be determined.

Office Closures

WAMPO will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **September 4:** Labor Day
- **November 10:** Veteran's Day
- **November 23:** Thanksgiving Day
- **November 24:** Day After Thanksgiving
- **December 25:** Christmas Day
- **December 26:** Day After Christmas
- **January 1:** New Year's Day

Information about office closures and upcoming events can be found at: www.wampo.org/events

Upcoming Meetings and Events

WAMPO Meeting Schedule

Members of the public are welcome to join WAMPO meetings on Zoom or at the WAMPO offices. Meeting dates and times are subject to change at the discretion of each committee's chairperson. Invitees will receive a Zoom link to register for each meeting one week before its scheduled time.

- **September 12:** Transportation Policy Body Meeting at 3 PM
- **September 25:** Technical Advisory Committee Meeting at 10 AM
- **October 10:** Transportation Policy Body Meeting at 3 PM
- **October 23:** Technical Advisory Committee Meeting at 10 AM
- **November 1:** Safety and Health Committee Meeting at 9:30 AM (Tentative)
- **November 2:** Executive Committee Meeting at 11 AM
- **November 16:** United Community Transit Coalition Meeting at 2 PM
- **December 6:** Active Transportation Committee Meeting at 9:30 AM (Tentative)

For more information about each committee, visit <https://www.wampo.org/boards-and-committees>.

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) Webinars

Members of the public are welcome to view the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) webinars at the WAMPO offices. The webinars are from 2 – 3 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

- **October 18:** Tactile Walking Surface Indicators to Aid Wayfinding for Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities
- **November 15:** How to keep a statewide plan off the shelf; pedestrian planning in Minnesota
- **December 20:** Lighter, Faster, Drier: Beyond Quick-Build Towards Resilient Treatments for High-Quality Active Transportation Infrastructure

If you would like to attend these webinars, RSVP by emailing wampo@wampo.org.

Information about each session can be found at: www.wampo.org/bicycle-pedestrian.

WAMPO Is Seeking Winter Public Outreach Opportunities

As we prepare for the second round of public engagement that begins in December, WAMPO is seeking public outreach opportunities where staff can distribute surveys to collect public feedback about alternate scenarios, preferences, and performance measures.



To share upcoming events with the WAMPO team, please complete the [Community Events Partnership Form](#), and the Public Outreach Coordinator will follow up with you to discuss the event in detail.

Access the Community Events Partnership Form at <https://forms.gle/1t7yDqx4nPgubCeb9>

For more information or to share your event ideas, please reach out to Jessica Hutton – jessica.hutton@wampo.org

Follow WAMPO On Social Media

WAMPO has enhanced its digital marketing efforts to achieve specific public participation goals. The WAMPO staff aims to ensure that the organization’s digital marketing strategy aligns with WAMPO’s public participation plan. To stay informed about and get involved with WAMPO’s transportation planning process, follow WAMPO online.

- Follow and like WAMPO’s **Facebook** Page: <https://www.facebook.com/wampoks>
- Follow WAMPO’s **Instagram** Page: <https://www.instagram.com/wampoks>
- Follow WAMPO on **Twitter**: <https://twitter.com/wampoks>
- Subscribe to WAMPO’s **YouTube** Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@wampokansas1627>
- Connect with WAMPO on **LinkedIn**: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wampo-ks>

August 25, 2023