



Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program Tasks

Northwest Louisiana

METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA

Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, & Webster Parishes

Prepared by:
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Draft March 24, 2026

23, U.S. Code. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Fiscal Year 2027

Unified Planning Work Program

Prepared by the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments for the Metropolitan Planning Area of Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, and Webster Parishes in cooperation with:



**Federal Highway
Administration**



**Federal Transit
Administration**

Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
Metropolitan Planning Organization, Transportation Policy Committee
UPWP MPO Introduction of Task: March 27, 2026
Introduction for Public Comment: *May 15, 2026*
Adoption: *June 12, 2026*

Draft March 24, 2026

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Draft March 24, 2026

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

At a meeting of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee held on _____ pursuant to due notice, a quorum being present, the following resolution was duly adopted:

WHEREAS, The NLCOG has determined that the requirements of the Urban Transportation Planning process are being carried out utilizing the "3-C Planning Process" (continuous, comprehensive and coordinated); and

WHEREAS, The NLCOG has determined that the *UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM for the CADDO BOSSIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA, FISCAL YEAR 2027* was developed in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act or "FAST Act"

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee does hereby approve and adopt the *UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM for the NORTHWEST LOUISIANA METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA, FISCAL YEAR 2027* and directs the staff of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments to submit said program to the appropriate federal state and local agencies and to comply with any minor revisions necessary to facilitate submission and adoption requirements including all resolutions, certifications and assurances.

CERTIFICATION

I, J. Kent Rogers, Secretary to the Council of Governments, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a regular meeting of said Committee on _____.

Shreveport, Louisiana, this _____ day of _____

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments



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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, INC.
Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

At a meeting of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, Inc. (NLCOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee held on _____ pursuant to due notice, a quorum being present, the following resolution was duly adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that J. Kent Rogers, Executive Director of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, Inc. be authorized to execute all contracts and agreements pursuant to completion of those programs and projects for completion of the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget as adopted.

CERTIFICATION

I, J. Kent Rogers, Secretary to the Council of Governments, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a regular meeting of said Committee on _____.

Shreveport, Louisiana, this _____ day of _____

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, Inc

PURPOSE OF THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is an annual statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within the metropolitan planning area. At a minimum, a UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, who will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source(s) of funds. Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to develop UPWP to govern work programs for the expenditure of FHWA and FTA planning funds. [23 CFR 450.308(b)]. The intent of this work plan is to coordinate all transportation-related planning activities that reflect the planning priorities facing the Northwest Louisiana Metropolitan Planning Area of Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto and Webster Parishes in Louisiana

Planning Prospectus

The Infrastructure Investment and Job Acts (IIJA), passed by Congress in 2021, defines the framework under which MPO's are to operate in the coming fiscal year. The Unified Planning Work Program documents the federally funded planning activities being undertaken by the NLCOG to maintain and improve the overall efficiency of the region's transportation network including highway, transit, and non-traditional modes. Transportation Planning requires understanding and addressing the complex relationship between mobility and the region's economy, community, and environment. This leads to an evolving transportation investment strategy to best serve the reasons economic vitality and broad quality of life goals. Most of the tasks outlined in the UPWP are required by either Federal or State law and are ongoing. At the Federal level, these tasks include the development of a fiscally constrained Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), implementation of the Congestion Management Process (CMP), setting performance targets in coordination with state and local partners for national performance measures, and engaging the public and stakeholders to establish a shared vision and goals for the region.

The major planning priorities for the region are reflected in the Tasks described within the UPWP. A major emphasis is being placed on alternative modes of transportation and transportation safety. NLCOG has engaged in the development of a Regional Active Transportation Plan and a Safe Streets for All Regional Action Plan. The goal of these efforts is to define projects and programs which will allow for the development or greater and safer transportation alternatives leading to transportation systems with less congestion and delay, a higher state of good repair, greater accessibility to jobs and services, reductions in total vehicle miles travelled, fewer negative impacts on the environment, and increased motorist safety.

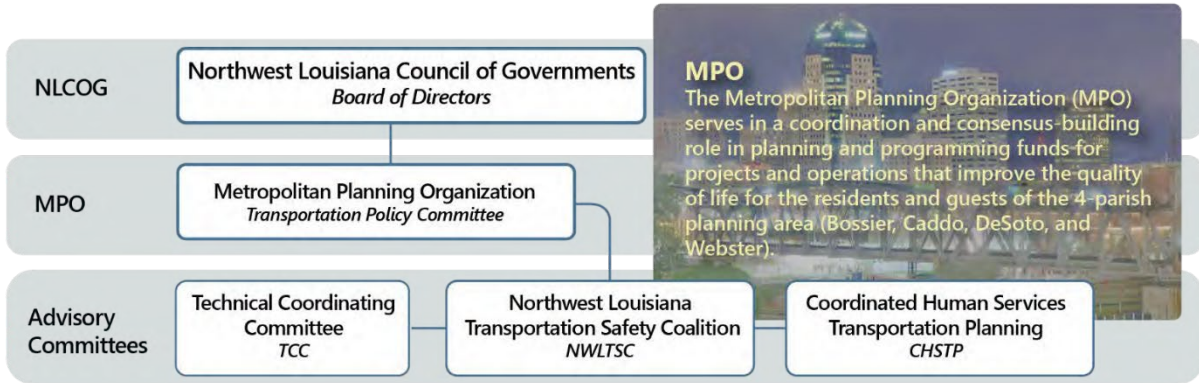
NLCOG ORGANIZATION

Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, Inc

The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, Inc. (NLCOG) shall have the purpose and duty to make studies, maps, plans, recommendations, and reports concerning the physical, environmental, social, economic and governmental characteristics and other aspects which affect the development and welfare of the area.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall have general oversight of the operations of the Council of Governments and is authorized to make executive decisions concerning the day-to-day operations of the Council of Governments and serve as an advisory committee to the Executive Director.



Metropolitan Planning Organization – Transportation Policy Committee

The Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Shreveport Bossier City Transportation Management Area (TMA). The MPO Transportation Policy Committee shall act as the decision-making body for all Metropolitan Planning Organization matters.

Technical Coordinating Committee

The Technical Coordinating Committee shall serve as an advisory committee of NLCOG and the MPO for all technical matters under consideration by the staff or as directed by the Board of Directors or its committees. The Technical Coordinating Committee shall serve as a steering committee for all transportation planning studies.

Northwest Louisiana Transportation Safety Coalition

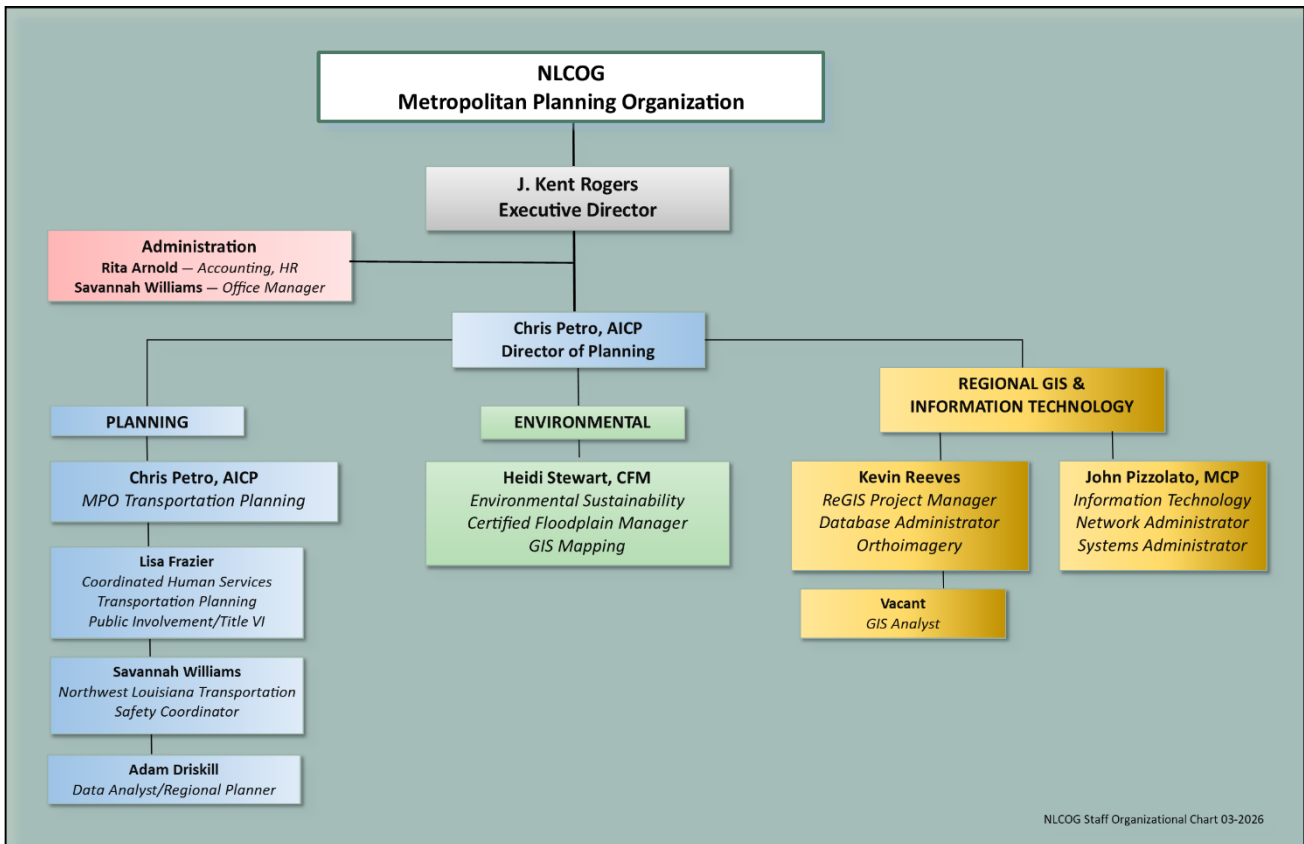
The NWLATSC is a multidisciplinary team formed to implement the Louisiana Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) at the regional level. The coalition works to collaborate efforts between local governments, law enforcement, public health organizations, education leaders, civic organizations, LADOTD, and other safety stakeholders on matters concerning transportation safety. There are over 230 partners and stakeholders representing close to 110 statewide and local agencies, municipalities, community groups, and safety-invested stakeholders.

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning Committee

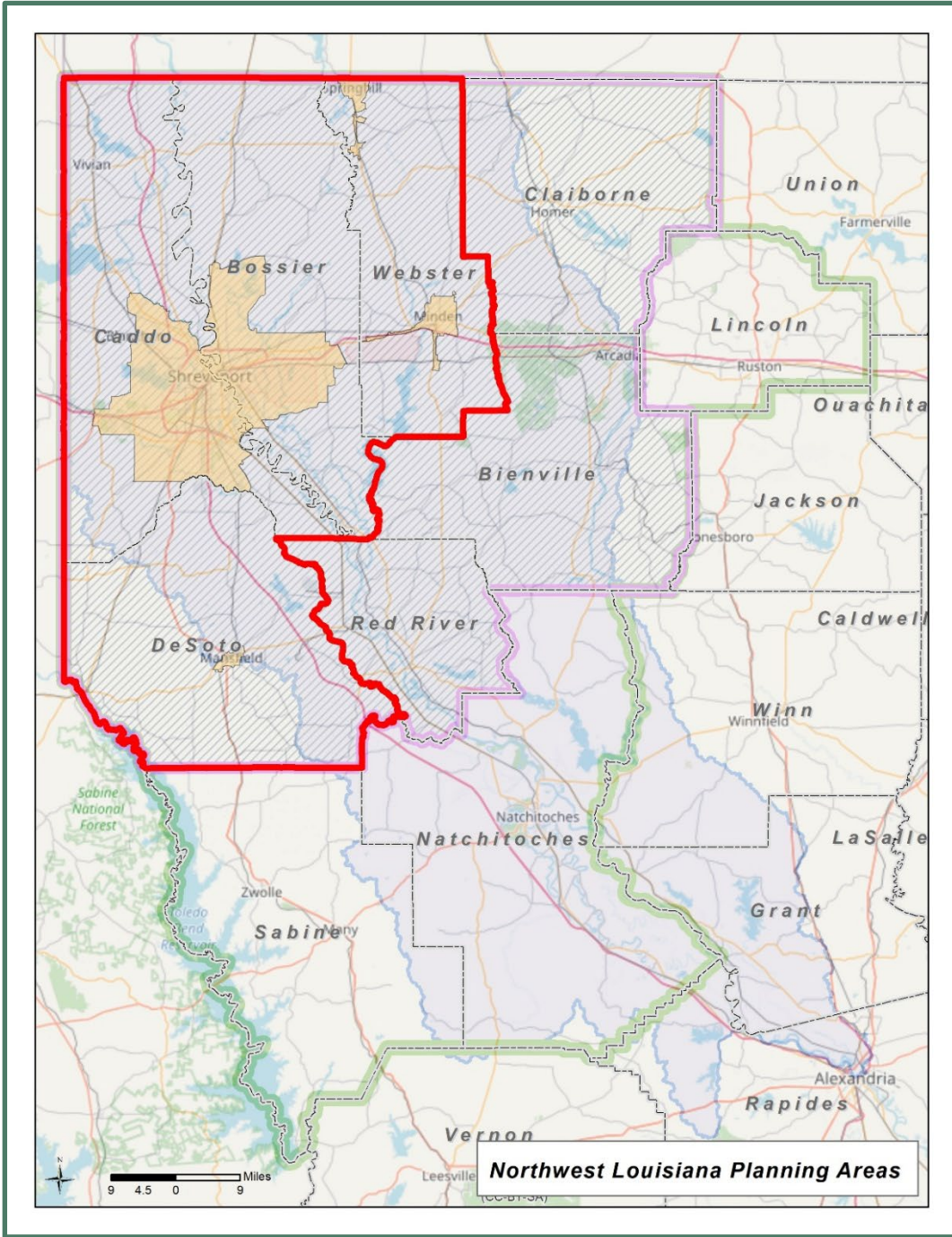
Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning Committee (CHSTP) members include specialized and public transportation operators in Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, and Webster Parishes; and representatives of human service agencies specializing in employment, healthcare, and homeless advocacy.

NLCOG Staffing

J. Kent Rogers	Executive Director
Chris Petro	Director of Planning
Rita Barnette	Accountant
Lisa Frazier	Public Relations Coordinator
John Pizzolato	Network & Systems Administrator
Kevin Reeves	GIS Project Manager
Heidi Stewart	Environmental Sustainability Planner/GIS Analyst
Savannah Williams	Regional Transportation Safety Coordinator / Office Manager
Adam Driskill	Data Analyst\Regional Planner
Vacant	GIS & Data Analyst




Northwest Louisiana Planning Areas



 MPO Planning Area & 2020 Census Combined Statistical Area
Caddo, Bossier, DeSoto, Webster

 2020: Urbanized Area Boundary
Shreveport, Greenwood, Blanchard, Bossier City, Benton, Haughton, Mansfield, Minden, Springhill

 Human Services Transportation Planning Area & Louisiana Planning District 7
Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Lincoln, DeSoto, Red River, Bienville, Sabine, Natchitoches

 LaDOTD District 04 - La State Police Troup G
Northwest Louisiana Regional Transportation Safety Coalition
Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, Bienville

 Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 1

PLANNING FACTORS

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) reemphasized the planning factors under previous legislation and the responsibility of the MPO in preparing and maintaining the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program and the Unified Planning Work Program. This work program represents a continuation of the strategic planning process begun in previous years. The focus continues to be on maintaining, improving, and utilizing information resources in the day-to-day transportation decision-making process. The metropolitan transportation planning process shall be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, and provide for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address the following factors:

1. support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
2. increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
3. increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
4. increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;
5. 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 and economic development patterns;
6. enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
7. promote efficient system management and operation;
8. emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;
9. improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
10. enhance travel and tourism.

Objective:

To discuss the planning programs priorities facing the metropolitan planning area and describe all metropolitan planning, transportation, and transportation related air quality planning activities in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and the mission and goals of NLCOG.

	A-1	A-2	A-3	A-4	A-5	B	C	D	E	F	S-1	S-2	J	W
Economic Vitality	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Safety	*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Security	*		*			*		*		*	*	*		*
Accessibility and Mobility	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Environment	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Modal Connectivity	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Efficiency	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Preservation	*	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Resilience	*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Travel and Tourism	*	*			*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*

Performance Measures:

23 CFR Part 490 set forth a series of performance measures to be established at the federal, state, and MPO level. NLCOG’s performance targets have been established as noted below.

FINAL RULES FHWA: 23 CFR 490 / FTA: 49 CFR 625 & 630	LOUISIANA MPOs Sets Targets	NLCOG (MPO) STATUS
Safety Performance Measures (PM1) (5 Measures)	180 Days After State Annual Target (State Required by Aug. 31 st of that year)	COMPLETED 2026 NLCOG (MPO) Annual Safety Targets Adopted by MPO Policy Committee 02.20.2026
Pavement / Bridge Condition Measures (PM2) (6 Measures)	180 Days After State Target (State Required by Nov. 15 th)	COMPLETED 4 Year MPO Targets Adopted by the MPO Policy Committee: 05.12.2023
Transit Asset Mngt. Rule (From 5307’s TAMP: SGR – Targets)	SGR targets to MPO and State DOT (prior to June 30 th , 2023) MPO Consideration when received	COMPLETED 4 Year MPO Targets Adopted by the MPO Policy Committee: 05.12.2023
System Performance (PM3) (3 Measures)	180 Days After State Target (State Required by Nov. 15 th)	COMPLETED 4 Year MPO Targets Adopted by the MPO Policy Committee: 05.12.2023

METROPOLITAN PLANNING PROGRAMS

TASK A-1

CORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING PROGRAMS

A properly developed regional comprehensive plan, implemented, and sustained, will deliver a metropolitan area that is and can be developed in an orderly manner and is consistent with the public values and goals. The major emphasis of Task A-1 will be the update of the NLCOG 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan which includes the Metropolitan Planning Area of Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, and Webster Parishes.

Goal:

The goal of this task is in creating, refining, and implementing the core MPO products, including the Transportation Improvement Program, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the Annual List of Obligated Projects. This will be done by conducting planning and analyses that lead toward transportation systems with less congestion and delay, a higher state of good repair, greater accessibility to jobs and services, reductions in total vehicle miles travelled, fewer negative impacts on the environment, and increased motorist safety.

Objectives:

- ❖ To continue implementation of the NLCOG 2045 the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the parishes of Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, and Webster.
- ❖ To finalize and adopt the update to the NLCOG 2045 the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the parishes of Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, and Webster to forecast year of 2050.
- ❖ Meet the revised Federal requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the FAST-Act through the development and review of performance measures for use in the overall planning process and identification and prioritization of projects for implementation.
- ❖ Monitor the region's transportation systems in order to identify construction and transportation management projects and strategies that reduce congestion on the region's networks and improve roadway state of good repair.
- ❖ Continue to implement, update and revise the Management Systems including the Congestion Management Process, the Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan, and the Traffic Incident Management Systems Plan for the area.

Fiscal Year 2026 Major Products:

- ❖ NLCOG 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan amendments and modifications.
- ❖ Administrative Modifications and Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program for the years 2023 - 2026.
- ❖ Began Development of Moving Forward NWLA 2050, the update to the 2045 MTP.
- ❖ Began Development of the Transportation Improvement Program for the years 2027 - 2030.
- ❖ The Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects for the previous fiscal year.
- ❖ Adoption of Annual Safety Performance
- ❖ Update of the corridors and data for the Congestion Management Process and Plan

Methodologies:

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (23 CFR 450.324)

Implementation of the NLCOG 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for Metropolitan Planning Area of Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, and Webster Parishes. Staff will recommend amendments as needed including integration of approved performance measures as needed.

NLCOG and consultants will be continuing extensive work on the development and adoption of an Update to the NLCOG 2045 MTP with new horizon year of 2050. Anticipated adoption prior to October 31, 2026 with ongoing implementation following adoption.

Travel Demand Modeling (23 CFR 45.324(f)(1);23 CFR 450.324(e))

Staff will maintain the existing 4-Step TransCAD model ensuring that the latest, most accurate traffic, land use, socio-economic, and employment data inputs available are utilized in the model, through continual coordination with local governments, LADOTD, and coordinating these data sets with the regional GIS efforts of Task C. The model will also be updated in conjunction with the MTP update.

Transportation Improvement Program (CFR 450.326, 328, 332)

Maintaining the current Transportation Improvement Program for the Northwest Louisiana Transportation Management Area for Fiscal Years 2023 - 2026 through amendments and modifications as deemed necessary for project implementation. Staff will work in consultation with federal, state, and local agencies and governments to develop a new TIP for Fiscal Years 2027 – 2030 in compliance with the updated MTP. Should the existing TIP need to be amended, staff will ensure that these amendments are approved by the MPO Transportation Policy Committee and that they are conducted with the required outreach procedures through Task E and in coordination with the upkeep of project database and mapping within Task C.

Obligated Projects (23 CFR 450.334)

Develop the annual list of projects obligated in the last fiscal year will be created to show funding commitments. These projects will also be mapped through Task C to demonstrate geographical parity and categorized by type to ensure a reasonable distribution of project types and modal emphasis areas. Report anticipated December 2026.

Performance Measures (23 CFR 450.306(d);23 CFR 450.340;23 CFR 490;49 CFR 625)

To monitor the performance of the transportation system, and the effectiveness of programs and projects as they relate to the National Goals, a series of performance measures were established in the areas of safety (PM1), infrastructure condition (PM2), and system performance (PM3). These measures are outlined in 49 USC 625 and 23 CFR 490.

The goal of this task is to conduct planning and analyses of all DOT requirements regarding the establishment of performance targets and measuring progress toward targets that lead toward transportation systems with less congestion and delay, a higher state of good repair, greater accessibility to jobs and services, reductions in total vehicle miles travelled, fewer negative impacts on air quality, and increased motorist safety. Performance measures will be analyzed thru use of big data accessed through StreetLight, Regional Integrated Transportation Information

System (RITIS) provided by LADOTD, the regional travel demand mode, and other data sources as needed.

Congestion Management (23 CFR 450.322)

Congestion Management Process (CMP) is iterative and ongoing, and includes monitoring congestion on major roadways, identifying bottlenecks on the congestion management system, and proposing network improvements. NLCOG recently updated the CMP data and analysis resulting in the addition of new CMP corridors. This information will play a role in the update to the MTP and TransCAD modeling efforts.

Support and Development, Equipment, Software

Expenses associated with staff attendance or participation in training events, workshops, conferences, or other events and peer-to-peer exchanges that contribute to professional development and/or institutional knowledge about best practices in metropolitan planning. Staff may also purchase software, data, or equipment that is demonstrated as necessary to conduct the activities in this task.

Products & Benchmarks:

- ❖ 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) amendments and modifications as appropriate.
- ❖ Adoption of MTP Update with forecast year of 2050. (adoption no later than Oct 31, 2026)
- ❖ Travel Demand Model (TDM) runs for project evaluation.
- ❖ Travel Demand Model updates with forecast year of 2050. (upon adoption of plan update)
- ❖ Adoption of TIP Amendments and Modifications for implementation of the current TIP
- ❖ Finalize Development and Adoption of new TIP for Fiscal Year 2027 – 2030 (adoption no later than September 30, 2026)
- ❖ The Annual List of Obligated Projects (ALOP)
- ❖ Traffic Counts and Streetlight data analysis as needed in support of local planning efforts and the MTP and TDM (ongoing as needed)

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2045 MTP amendments and modifications												
2050 MTP Update												
2045 Travel Demand Model evaluations												
2050 Travel Demand Model Update												
TIP (FY 23 – 26) Maintenance												
TIP (FY 27 - 30) Development												
Annual List of Obligated Projects												
Traffic Counts /Streetlight Data												

Funding:

Staffing:

Director of Planning (Task Lead)

Executive Director

Environmental Sustainability Planner

Regional Planner

Public Involvement Coordinator/Title VI Officer

MTP Update Contractual Project Team:

To be determined and dependent on scope of work to be agreed upon in consultation with LaDOTD, FHWA, and FTA

TASK A-2

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has developed a streamlined project development and delivery process. This process relies heavily on the principles of project management and defines seven stages in the project development process. The process starts by doing a feasibility study for a proposed project and ends by putting a completed project into service. Stage 0 and Stage 1 of this process involves the feasibility and environmental analysis of the project.

Goal:

To assist in moving projects through the development process, funding and financing stages, and tracking through to construction. Activities under this task will document and guide identified projects through local, state, and federal processes from inception to completion. This will include assisting in the development of Stage 0 Feasibility Studies and Stage 1 Planning and Environmental Studies for projects identified in the Long-Range Plan. Specific focus will be given to those projects identified and/or earmarked in local, state, or federal transportation legislation and those projects receiving Urban Area greater than 200k funding.

Objectives:

- ❖ Assist in and monitor the development of Stage 0 Feasibility Studies for earmark, greater than 200k, and selected projects within the NLCOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- ❖ Assist in and monitor the development Stage 1 Environmental Studies for earmark, greater than 200k, and selected projects within the NLCOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- ❖ Assist local governments in moving projects forward through the project development process.
- ❖ Work with our federal, state, and local delegation to ensure all possible funding measures are available to northwest Louisiana.
- ❖ Assist in the development of policy documents that are needed for alternative financing mechanisms.
- ❖ Maintain the Northwest Louisiana Mega Projects Status Report and Updates

Fiscal Year 2026 Major Products:

- ❖ Assistance to local agencies in development of various Stage 0 Checklist
- ❖ Continued Coordination with Task J I-49 Inner City Connector – Stage 1 Environmental
- ❖ Assistance to Bossier Parish with the East-West Corridor development
- ❖ Assistance to Webster Parish on the development of the US 371 in Webster Parish along with Capital Outlay Request for Local Match Support Funding.
- ❖ Continued assistance to City of Shreveport on numerous Stage 0 and Stage 1 reports for projects. [See link to TIP projects for City of Shreveport.](#)
- ❖ Northwest Louisiana Mega Projects status reports and updates.
- ❖ Report on projects within the region including those let within the past 12 months, those under construction, those to be let in the next 12 months, and synopsis of the MEGA Projects

Methodologies:

Stage 0 and Stage 1 Analysis ([LaDOTD Stage 0; 23 CFR 450.318](#))

GIS and TransCAD analysis of project corridors for both Stage 0 and Stage 1 analysis. Stage 0 Feasibility Studies and Stage 1 Environmental Studies will be developed in accordance with the DOTD Project Development manual. Coordination with Task J I-49 Inner City Connector – Stage

1 Environmental. Stage 0 and Stage 1 studies will be coordinated with the local sponsors and DOTD as projects make their way through the project development process. (ongoing as needed)

MEGA Projects and Regional Project Status Reports (23 CFR 450.316, 318)

Quarterly updates to the Northwest Louisiana Mega Projects Status Report and periodic Project Status Reports on projects within the region including those let within the past 12 months, those under construction, those to be let in the next 12 months, and synopsis of the MEGA Projects

Traffic Analysis/Studies (23 CFR 450.324(e))

Traffic analysis studies will be conducted in accordance with requests from the member agencies. Traffic data will be gathered from StreetLight, tube counts when appropriate, and other data sources. (ongoing as needed)

Products & Benchmarks:

- ❖ Stage 0 studies for selected projects within the current MTP and TIP.
- ❖ Stage 1 environmental studies for selected projects within the current MTP and TIP.
- ❖ Northwest Louisiana Mega Projects Status Reports
- ❖ Northwest Louisiana Regional Project Updates
- ❖ Traffic Analysis from various locations.

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Stage 0 and Stage 1 Analysis												
MEGA Projects												
Project Updates												
Traffic Analysis Studies												

Funding:

Staffing:

- Executive Director (Task Lead)
- Director of Planning
- Environmental Sustainability Planner
- Regional Planner

TASK A-3

FREIGHT & INTERMODAL PLANNING

The movement of freight plays an important role in economic growth. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) strengthens the established policy to improve the condition and performance of the national freight network and achieve goals related to economic competitiveness and efficiency; congestion; productivity; safety, security, and resilience of freight movement; infrastructure condition; use of advanced technology; performance, innovation, competition, and accountability, while reducing environmental impacts. In addition, 23 U.S.C. 134 and 23 CFR 450.306 specifically identify the need to address freight movement as part of the metropolitan transportation planning process.

Goal:

To efficiently plan for the movement of freight that promotes safe and efficient interactions between freight and the rest of the region's transportation system with a focus on economic development, land uses, and environmental concerns.

Objectives:

- ❖ Improved movement of freight transport into and through the metropolitan region
- ❖ Identify data solutions to tracking origins and destinations of freight carrying trucks.
- ❖ Provide data analysis for potential funding opportunities associated with freight corridors.

Fiscal Year 2026 Major Products:

- ❖ Data analysis for I-20 and I-49 Interstate Systems Heavy/Medium Duty Truck Flow Study
- ❖ Freight movement analysis to and from the main campus of the Caddo Bossier Port.
- ❖ Assistance with regional coordination for the I-69 service road project.

Methodologies:

Freight Movement Studies (23 CFR 450.306(b)(4), (6);23 CFR 450.324(b)(f))

NLCOG will expand upon initial corridor analysis studies of the Interstate System within the region to look at the freight movements along the arterial systems in the region. This will entail completion of the I-20 and I-49 Interstate Systems Heavy/Medium Duty Truck Flow Study, initiating freight flow analysis along I-220 and LA 3132, and documentation of the freight movement analysis for the Caddo Bossier Port.

Regional Freight Data Set (23 CFR 450.306(b)(4), (6);23 CFR 450.324(b)(f))

NLCOG will maintain regional freight data sets that summarizes freight assets and opportunities within the region and demonstrates these issues, including system constraints, visually using GIS mapping. (ongoing)

Products & Benchmarks:

- ❖ Updating the I-20 and I-49 Interstate Systems Truck Flow Report (Dec. 2026)
- ❖ Finalizing freight flow analysis along I-220 and LA 3132
- ❖ Reviewing the freight movement analysis for the Caddo Bossier Port (Feb 2027)
- ❖ GIS Database of regional freight in Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto and Webster Parishes including highways, rail, waterways, ports, pipelines, and associated facilities. (ongoing)
- ❖ Assistance with regional freight data evaluation for potential funding opportunities. (ongoing)

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
I-20 & I-49 Truck Flow Study												
I-220 & LA 3132 Freight Analysis												
Caddo Bossier Port Freight Analysis												
GIS Freight Database Maintenance												
Freight Movement Studies												
Freight data evaluation												

Funding:

Staffing:

- Executive Director ([Task Lead](#))
- Director of Planning
- Regional Planner
- GIS Project Manager

TASK A-4

RESILIENCY AND LAND USE

To promote livable and sustainable communities through a coordinated approach to transportation, transportation related infrastructure, and land use planning, and through improving mobility, accessibility as well as addressing transportation infrastructure resilience.

Goal:

Through better coordination and planning, the transportation system and development patterns can support one another more effectively and help accommodate the changes in these patterns of Northwest Louisiana.

Objectives:

- ❖ Coordination with local government to ensure responsible and informed land use and transportation planning linkages promoting the use and/or development of best available data.
- ❖ Implementation of the newly adopted Carbon Reduction Program.

Fiscal Year 2026 Major Products:

- ❖ Coordination with local government and planning departments.
- ❖ Development of project selection procedures for the Carbon Reduction Program.

Methodologies:

Land Use and Local Planning Coordination ([*Linking Transportation and Land Use*](#))

Coordinate with local parishes and municipalities in order to promote policy objectives related to comprehensive smart growth planning for the region. At a corridor level, this coordination will be used to ensure that transportation projects are complementary to and in support of local land use planning efforts.

Infrastructure Resilience ([*23 CFR 450.324\(f\)\(7\)*](#))

Under the current DOTD, the FAST Act expands the focus on the resiliency of the transportation system to reduce stormwater runoff from transportation infrastructure. In addition, it requires strategic efforts to reduce the vulnerability of existing transportation infrastructure to natural disasters. NLCOG will work to integrate the data and information gathered through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative for Region 1 into the transportation planning process.

Products & Benchmarks:

- ❖ Coordination with local planning departments. (ongoing)
- ❖ Overlay of the current transportation network on the LWI Region 1 watershed model. (begin as projects develop through plan update – ongoing)

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Coordination with local planning departments												
Plan projects over watershed model												

Funding:

Staffing:

Environmental Sustainability Planner ([Task Lead](#))
Executive Director
Director of Planning
Regional Planner

TASK A-5

COMPLETE STREETS

FHWA encourages States, MPO's, and communities to adopt and implement Complete Streets policies that prioritize the safety of all users in transportation network planning, design, construction and operations. ([PL 117-58 Sec. 11206](#))

Goal:

To create multiuse active transportation infrastructure facilities, including bikeways or pedestrian and bicycle trails, that make connections within or between communities.

Objectives:

- ❖ Implementation of the Northwest Louisiana Regional Active Transportation Plan.
- ❖ Work with local governments and local planning agencies to implement complete streets policies in alignment with those developed through the Regional Active Transportation Plan.
- ❖ Increase the number of projects submitted for the LaDOTD Safe Routes to Public Places and Transportation Alternatives funding.

Fiscal Year 2026 Major Products:

- ❖ Adoption of the Northwest Louisiana Regional Active Transportation Plan

Methodologies:

Northwest Louisiana Regional Active Transportation Plan ([PL 117-58 Sec. 11206](#))

Implementation of the Regional Active Transportation Plan and coordination of projects with local governments to *prioritize specific Complete Streets projects to improve the safety, mobility, or accessibility of a street.* (FHWA Complete Streets 100% funding)

Local Government Coordination ([PL 117-58 Sec. 11206](#))

Encouraging local planning agencies to adopt and implement the complete streets polices contained within the plan that *creates a network of active transportation facilities, including sidewalks, bikeways, or pedestrian and bicycle trails, to connect neighborhoods with destinations such as workplaces, schools, residences, businesses, recreation areas, healthcare and child care services, or other community activity centers.* (FHWA Complete Streets 100% funding)

Transportation Alternatives Programs (TAP) ([PL 117-58 Sec. 11206](#))

Assisting Local governments with applications for funding to *create a network of active transportation facilities, including sidewalks, bikeways, or pedestrian and bicycle trails, to connect neighborhoods with destinations.* (FHWA Complete Streets 100% funding)

Products & Benchmarks:

- ❖ Implementation of the Northwest Louisiana Regional Active Transportation Plan
- ❖ Assistance local governments and planning agencies with development and adoption of Complete Streets policies in coordination with the regional plan.
- ❖ Assistance to local governments and agencies with project under the Safe Routes and Transportation Alternative program.

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
NWLA Active Transportation Plan Implementation												
Local Government Coordination												
TAP program assistance												

Funding:

Note: Although the PL Set Aside for Complete Streets requires no match support the MPO has allocated an additional \$5,000.00 in funding should there be over run in cost.

Staffing:

Executive Director (Task Lead)

Director of Planning

Regional Planner

TASK B

PUBLIC TRANSIT PLANNING & COORDINATION

Part of the transportation planning process is to identify transportation connectivity gaps in access to essential services. Essential services include housing, employment, health care, schools/education, and recreation. This includes the identification of performance measures and analytical methods to measure the transportation system's connectivity to essential services and the use of this information to identify gaps in transportation system connectivity that preclude access of the public, including traditionally underserved populations, to essential services.

Goal:

Planning for the region's public transit systems, with focus on improving connectivity within and between systems, maintaining and modernizing transit infrastructure, fostering transit supportive land use, and identifying associated transportation infrastructure enhancements that would increase access to and efficacy of the system.

Objectives:

- Implementation and coordination as outlined in the MPO- SporTran MOU including planning assistance, grant and plan development, annual FTA certifications and assurances, coordinated human services transportation planning.
- A public transportation system that serves as an economic engine and source of individual opportunity by efficiently connecting residents to jobs, education, healthcare, and other essential services
- Develop strategies for improving public transportation opportunities for disadvantaged populations, i.e., elderly, disabled, or low-income individuals, as identified in the Coordinated Public Transportation-Human Services plan.
- Continued coordination with agencies on the development of regional passenger rail initiatives including Amtrak service.
- Continue to improve coordination of human services transportation in the region, and the on-going process for continual coordination and improvement.

Fiscal Year 2026 Major Products:

- Coordinated Human Services Transportation quarterly meetings.
- Adoption of update to the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.
- Maintenance and update of web-based mapping applications for connecting those in need of human services to those providing human services.
- Title VI analysis of current transit routes.
- Transit TIP amendments and modifications as necessary for implementation.

Methodologies:

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning ([CFDA 20.509](#) & [CFDA 20.513](#))

Continually coordinate with the region's transit properties as needed, including a quarterly meeting with the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning (CHSTP) advisory committee, which will assist in establishing regional public transportation needs, inter-agency coordination, priorities, the annual distribution of FTA funds, and the development of the TIP's transit element.

To work with the regions human service transportation providers, non-profits, those providing human services, and those in need of human services to ensure accessibility to transportation. Develop and distribute region-wide ridership (customer satisfaction) survey for use within the 10-parish region. Develop and distribute Rural Public Transportation Need Analysis and Demographic Summaries for each parish within the 10-parish region using GIS/Census data.

To work with transit providers to create a policy of regularly collecting measures of transit system performance in order to determine the effects of improvements to the transportation system network. Such measures may include general readership, disabled and elderly ridership, bicycle transfers ridership, headway performance, and travel times, among others. Effects of major transit improvements on the regional air quality may also be estimated through use of transportation demand models. (ongoing)

Program Support and Administration (FTA Sec 5303 ALI 44.21.00)

Direct program support, administration, interagency coordination, citizen participation, public information, local assistance, and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) development. staff attendance or participation in training events, workshops, conferences, or other events and peer-to-peer exchanges that contribute to professional development and/or institutional knowledge about best practices in metropolitan planning. (ongoing)

General Development and Comprehensive Planning (FTA Sec 5303 ALI 44.22.00)

Annual Title VI Analysis of existing transit routes and systems. To work with transit providers to create a policy of regularly collecting measures of transit system performance to determine the effects of improvements to the transportation system network. (ongoing)

Long Range Transportation Planning [System & Project Level] (FTA Sec 5303 ALI 44.23.00)

Analysis of the region and transit systems and investments for inclusion in the update to the Regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as outlined in Task B-1 Metropolitan Planning Programs. (ongoing)

Short Range Transportation Planning [System & Project Level] (FTA Sec 5303 ALI 44.24.00)

Development of the annual Program of Projects for FTA formula funds. Monitoring opportunities for grants that would fund projects directly or indirectly contributing to public transit mobility. Assistance will be offered to agencies applying for funding. (ongoing)

Transportation Improvement Program (FTA Sec 5303 ALI 44.25.00)

The Transit element of the TIP will be monitored for adherence to strategies that will assist the region in achieving regional Transit Asset Management performance targets. TIP amendments and modifications will be made as necessary. (ongoing as needed)

Other Activities (FTA Sec 5303 ALI 44.27.00)

Continued coordination with agencies on the development of regional passenger rail initiatives including Amtrak service. (ongoing)

Products & Benchmarks:

- Title VI mapping and data products (*FHWA Civil Rights Guidance FTA Civil Rights Guidance*)
- Up-to-date transit element of the TIP (*23 CFR 450.326, 328, 332*)
- Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan for Northwest Louisiana (*FTA Section 5310 Circular 9070.1G*)
- Development and maintenance of A GIS web mapping application to link those in need of human services, those providing human services, and transportation providers throughout the region. (*FTA Section 5310 Circular 9070.1G*)

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
CHSTP Coordination and Quarterly Meetings												
Program Support												
Comprehensive Planning												
Long Range Planning												
Short Range Planning												
Public Transit TIP Coordination												
Other												

Funding:

Staffing:

Public Involvement Coordinator/Title VI Officer (Task Lead)
 Executive Director
 Director of Planning
 Environmental Sustainability Planner

REGIONAL DATA DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

TASK C

GIS DATA DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE

NLCOG and its member agencies have entered into agreements for the development and maintenance of a Regional Geographic Information System. This system is housed by NLCOG and administered by its staff.

Goal:

To promote regional compatibility in geographic information systems processes, procedures, and products among the NLCOG member agencies, state and federal sponsors, and local jurisdictions in Northwest Louisiana. This includes aiding in the development of or to provide high quality GIS products and resources for use in UPWP related corridor and systems planning as well as to support local parish and municipal transportation and land use planning, 911 emergency services, economic development and environmental planning efforts in Northwest Louisiana.

Objectives:

- ❖ Supporting internal work efforts and the work of partner stakeholders through the collection, storage, organization, analysis, and distribution of land use and transportation planning data, mapping, and imagery.
- ❖ Coordination with local and state agencies resulting in a comprehensive, up-to-date database of transportation related data for use in identifying projects, informing existing projects, projects, and in the development of the TIP, MTP, and Congestion Management Plan.
- ❖ Promote regional compatibility and sharing in GIS processes, procedures, and products among the member agencies of NLCOG, state and federal sponsors, and local agencies in northwest Louisiana by housing, developing and distributing data.
- ❖ Ensure that outcomes of local and regional planning efforts are compatible with the regional GIS products to support improved integration of regional transportation planning with land use decision-making processes.
- ❖ Provide GIS/Imagery and database development support to local entities as needed for the development of coordinated GIS data products.
- ❖ Work with member agencies to increase data quality in terms of detail and accuracy improving existing data, while promoting the integration of planning data development across agencies and across data development initiatives.

Fiscal Year 2026 Major Products:

- ❖ Contracted for 2026 updated arial imagery for the four-parish planning area. (first flight early 2026)
- ❖ Compiling and analyzing demographic and economic data from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau for the production of in-house database collections, map products and comparative trend analysis studies.
- ❖ Acquiring proprietary data from private vendors to ascertain social, economic, and transportation trends in the region, for integration into the travel demand model and for other demographic analyses.
- ❖ Continued ArcGIS Server implementation to better provide imagery and data products to both member agencies and the general public through web mapping applications.

Methodologies: Five basic task areas have been established to manage the ReGIS System:

ReGIS Administration ([23 CFR 450.324\(e\)](#))

To continue maintaining and developing a regional geographic information. To assist in the management of regional GIS efforts and to coordinate the development of GIS systems of the member government's/agencies. To provide technical support for the development of GIS and database developments. (ongoing)

Basemap Maintenance ([23 CFR 450.324\(e\)](#) and [FHWA GIS in Transportation](#))

To continue to update and expand the project basemap based on new photography this includes building features, hydrology features, transportation features, etc. To review and update quasi-political boundaries such as neighborhoods, school attendance zones, Delphi Planning zones, etc. (ongoing)

Regional Aerial Photography ([23 CFR 450.324\(e\)](#) [CTPP](#))

The purpose of this task is to assist our member agencies in obtaining aerial photography for the area. This project includes a multiyear – multiflight project for the Metropolitan Planning Area of Bossier, Caddo, De Soto, and Webster Parishes. Since the mid 1990's, NLCOG has facilitated the development of Geographic Information Systems and associated spatial data for our region. NLCOG has also facilitated the purchase of spatial data for Northwest Louisiana as a cost-sharing objective for local governments and other interested entities. NLCOG will continue to provide updated flight imagery through the Northwest Louisiana Regional Aerial Photography Project budgeting \$1,518,984 over the next four years for two new flights. (first flight early 2026)

Application Development ([23 CFR 450.324\(e\)](#) [CTPP](#))

Continue the development of custom user applications for access to GIS, Census and planning data. This includes user Interfaces, network development, and Census Data Inter/Intra net Application. In addition, NLCOG will work towards the development of a regional data-sharing network between public entities. (ongoing)

Socio-Economic Variables / Census Demography / Urban Boundaries ([23 CFR 450.312](#))

To compile, organize, and analyze socio-economic and environmental data for the region in order to supplement planning efforts within the region and to provide useful demographic data to the public and local agencies. Staff will integrate the 2020 Census data as it becomes available and assess potential changes to the urban, urbanized, MSA, and other boundaries and potential impacts on the geographic extent of the metropolitan planning area. (ongoing)

Information Technology and Systems Support ([SAUP](#))

NLCOG will continue the upkeep of internal IT systems, including personal computers, network systems, software, security, and external backups for both emergency and non-emergency related recovery needs. This will include backing up systems on a regular basis including daily, weekly, and monthly as appropriate. Staff will ensure that IT equipment is adequate to agency needs. Staff will outline needs for upgrades to all systems and software to properly maintain compatibility and proper operations and update the Information Systems Disaster Recovery and Continuity Plan. (ongoing)

Support and Development, Equipment, Software

Expenses associated with staff attendance or participation in training events, workshops, conferences, or other events and peer-to-peer exchanges that contribute to professional development and/or institutional knowledge about best practices in metropolitan planning. Staff may also purchase software, data, or equipment that is demonstrated as necessary to conduct the activities in this task.

Products & Benchmarks:

- ❖ Continuously maintained GIS database
- ❖ Development of web accessible GIS data sets for both member agencies and public access
- ❖ Updated Aerial Photography for the four parish Metropolitan Planning Area
- ❖ Updated Information Systems Disaster Recovery and Continuity Plan.
- ❖ Development of web accessible image services for both member agencies and public access

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
ReGIS Administration												
Basemap Maintenance												
Aerial Photography												
Application Development												
Socio-Economic Data												
Census Demography												
Land Use Data												
Systems Administration												

Funding:

Staffing:

- GIS Project Manager (Task Lead)
- Information Technology Network & Systems Administrator (Co Lead)
- Director of Planning
- Environmental Sustainability Planner
- Regional Planner

OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

TASK E

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

Seeking meaningful public involvement is important for sharing the concerns of the community. NLCOG is committed to actively involving the public in identifying and addressing quality of life issues. NLCOG will strive to proactively inform and involve the public and improve public involvement through creative and interactive approaches. In order to continue to fulfill its federal mandates, NLCOG has developed several specific and functional goals and objectives for the Public Involvement Policy. This task is an ongoing and continuous effort.

Goal:

The purpose and goal of this task is to develop an effective, aggressive Public Involvement / Community Outreach program to promote the involvement of citizen's groups, business organizations, minority groups, and the public at-large in the transportation policy and planning process.

Objectives:

- ❖ Expand public involvement and community outreach efforts to a broader section of the region's population ensuring that all citizens have the opportunity for input, comment, and information.
- ❖ Employ a breadth of communication tools to educate citizens as well as local government and elected officials about the agency's function, projects and programs.
- ❖ Solicit and encourage public participation in identifying and addressing quality of life issues including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Programs, as well as the projects and programs of the UPWP.
- ❖ Proactively inform and involve the public and increase public involvement through creative and interactive approaches.

Fiscal Year 2026 Major Products:

- ❖ Major update to NLCOG website (www.nlcog.org)
- ❖ Community Outreach by attending, participating in, and speaking at various community events and organizations.
- ❖ Outreach to of various community groups for the development of projects and programs outlined in the UPWP.

Methodologies:

Three basic task areas have been established to implement and further develop public outreach and inclusion in the planning process:

Public Involvement and Citizen Participation ([23 CFR 450.316](#))

Continued implementation of the NLCOG Public Involvement Plan adopted in Fiscal Year 2023. NLCOG will continue to maintain and expand its database of stakeholders, including neighborhood groups, environmental organizations, the business community, non-profit organizations, etc. (ongoing)

Education and Outreach (23 CFR 450.316)

NLCOG will publish transportation related publications on its website, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, the Unified Planning Work Program, Comprehensive Plans, and other commissioned reports.

Participation at public meetings, forums, summits and other events. NLCOG will engage with environmental organizations, the business community, governmental agencies and citizen groups to educate the public about projects and programs. (ongoing)

Title VI Review (23 CFR 450.316)

In adherence with Certification Review NLCOG will continue to review Title VI programs and revise the Title VI Plan, plans and procedures as needed. (ongoing)

Visualization In Planning (23 CFR 450.316)

NLCOG will continue to maintain and update the www.nlcog.org web site and incorporate new visualization techniques for better awareness and understanding of MPO projects and plans. New technology has changed the communication process. Providing visual images to a broader audience has become easy, fast and high quality. Visualization can provide the public and decision makers with a clear idea of the proposed policies, plans and Transportation Improvement Programs and the impacts on the human and natural environment. Visuals can make information instantly or intuitively understandable. NLCOG will incorporate visualization including but not limited to story boards, story mapping, interactive mapping, and other techniques into its outreach efforts. (as needed and/or requested)

Support and Development, Equipment, Software

Expenses associated with staff attendance or participation in training events, workshops, conferences, or other events and peer-to-peer exchanges that contribute to professional development and/or institutional knowledge about best practices in metropolitan planning. Staff may also purchase software, data, or equipment that is demonstrated as necessary to conduct the activities in this task.

Products & Benchmarks:

- ❖ Press Releases as needed for implementation of projects and programs of the UPWP
- ❖ Continued update to www.NLCOG.org website.
- ❖ Facebook page with various announcements and notices
- ❖ Visualization efforts on various projects and programs utilizing various techniques and technology including ArcGIS Online.
- ❖ Participation in community organizations such as Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development agencies.

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Web & Social Media updates												
Visualization Efforts												
Title VI												
Public Outreach												

Funding:

Staffing:

Public Involvement Coordinator/Title VI Officer (Task Lead)

Executive Director

Director of Planning

Environmental Sustainability Planner

TASK F

MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

NLCOG and its member agencies have entered into agreements for the development and administration of the budget, program of work, and contracts to fulfill the UPWP and MPO roles and responsibilities.

Goal:

Provide for inter-agency cooperation and coordination of the planning process. Provide for the overall management of NLCOG and development of the staff in carrying out the work program. Included in this effort will be MPO Transportation Policy Committee and Board of Director's activities, and coordination with DOTD, FHWA, FTA, EPA, and other governmental agencies.

Objectives:

- ❖ Provide for implementation of the UPWP
- ❖ Prepare and manage contracts and agreements that contain the necessary provisions to ensure that contracted work is completed appropriately, in a timely fashion, and within the legal requirements and conduct expectations set forward by NLCOG, the State of Louisiana, and the Federal government.
- ❖ Implement the human resources functions which are necessary to ensure that the agency and its staff have the wherewithal to conduct the everyday functions of the Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- ❖ Provide for accounting and grant implementation.

Fiscal Year 2026 Major Products:

- ❖ Fiscal Year 2026 UPWP implementation
- ❖ Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit & Agreed Upon Policies and Procedures Audit
- ❖ Contracts with DOTD for implementation of FY 2026 planning funds
- ❖ Integration of new Time Sheet Reporting software

Methodologies:

Three basic task areas have been established to implement administrative functions of NLCOG including UPWP, Human Resources, and Accounting. In addition, NLCOG will continue with Strategic Planning effort under the previous year's UPWP and will continue that effort moving forward.

UPWP Administration (23 CFR 450.308)

This task includes the development of an annual report reviewing of previous year's work program, (FY 2026), implementation of Fiscal Year 2027 Work Program including amending and revising as necessary, and development of Fiscal Year 2028 Work Program. Amendments or revisions are made when additional work is requested by one of our member agencies and/or LADOTD, FHWA, and FTA or when time allocation to Tasks will exceed by more than 25% of the original estimate. Also included is staff time and support for the MPO Policy, Technical, and Project Development, meetings and development of performance and expenditure reports. (ongoing)

Human Resources (23 CFR 420.111)

This task includes the continual refinement and update NLCOG Employee Policies and Procedures, managing retirement, health insurance, staffing resources, and professional development activities. (ongoing)

Accounting and Grant Administration (23 CFR 450.308)

This task provides for the Administration of the budget and grants of the Fiscal Year 2027 Work Program, the financial audit of Fiscal Year 2026 Work Program and Budget and the development of Grant Applications as needed for work program implementation. Also included in this task are the preparation and dissemination of monthly, quarterly, and annual progress reports. (ongoing)

Support and Development, Equipment, Software

Expenses associated with staff attendance or participation in training events, workshops, conferences, or other events and peer-to-peer exchanges that contribute to professional development and/or institutional knowledge about best practices in metropolitan planning. Staff may also purchase software, data, or equipment that is demonstrated as necessary to conduct the activities in this task.

Products & Benchmarks:

- ❖ Fiscal Year 2027 UPWP (monitoring and amending as necessary)
- ❖ Draft Fiscal Year 2028 UPWP
- ❖ Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Audit (audit report due December 31, 2026)
- ❖ Contracts and Agreements for Implementation of FY 2027 UPWP
- ❖ Updated NLCOG Employee Policies and Procedures (report out March of 2027)
- ❖ Performance and Expenditure Reports (DOTD Progress Reports)

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
FY 2027 UPWP Implementation												
Audit – Financial and Policies												
Monthly Invoicing												
Quarterly Report												
Update Employee Polices												
FY 2028 UPWP & Budget Drafts												

Funding:

Staffing:

Executive Director (Task Lead)

Director of Planning

Accountant

Office Manager

Note:

Funding for the management/administration for NLCOG activities unrelated to the functions of the MPO such as Task W LWI Region 1 Regional Capacity Building, and Board of Directors meetings and activities, will be funded with local funds only. FHWA PL and FTA 5303 funds will only be used for the management and administration of eligible MPO activities.

REGIONAL SAFETY PLANNING

TASK S-1

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA REGIONAL SAFETY COALITION

Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a plan to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries on Louisiana's roadways through widespread collaboration and an integrated 4E approach: engineering, education, enforcement and emergency services. The vision of the SHSP is Destination Zero Deaths and the goal is to reduce the number of fatalities by half by the year 2030.

The development, implementation, and updating of the SHSP is mandated by federal MAP-21 legislation for all the States. To obligate Louisiana's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds, Louisiana must develop, implement and regularly update an SHSP that identifies and analyzes highway safety problems and opportunities, and highway safety improvement projects must be consistent with the State's SHSP. MAP-21 requires that the SHSP is developed after consultation with a broad range of safety stakeholders, which includes regional transportation planning organizations and metropolitan planning organizations, if applicable; State and local traffic enforcement officials; county/parish transportation officials; other major Federal, State, tribal, and local safety stakeholders, and; other stakeholders as outlined in 23 U.S.C. 148(a)(12). Depending on the SHSP safety priority areas and strategies, additional partners such as representatives from the public health, education, and medical professions may be involved.

Louisiana has established a two-pronged approach for implementation of the SHSP – statewide emphasis area teams that promote proven effective strategies through constantly evolving action plans and regional safety coalitions that implement those action plans at the local level. A regional safety coalition coordinator is a critical component of implementation of the SHSP at the local level.

In order to regionally implement and sustain the SHSP, it is necessary to provide funding for a regional safety coalition coordinator through the NLCOG. The primary task of this sponsor/state agreement will be to implement and sustain the SHSP by bridging all gaps between DOTD District personnel, local governments, local law enforcement, the community, local civic organizations, emergency services/hospitals, school boards, and other safety partners within the region. The LADOTD Highway Safety Section does not have the T.O. or expertise at the regional and local level to accomplish these tasks.

Methodology:

SHSP Regional Safety Planning Activities ([23 CFR 924.9](#))

- Develop, implement, and sustain Regional level action plans for each SHSP emphasis area.
- Attend and actively participate in Statewide SHSP Implementation Team and Emphasis Area Team Meetings, SHSP trainings, and other regional and/or local meetings that promote, support and assist with implementing transportation safety planning and improvements and/or emphasis area action plan action steps.
- Plan and coordinate meetings within each of the Regional Emphasis Area teams quarterly.
- Plan and coordinate at least two (2) Hybrid Regional Safety Coalition meetings annually.
- Plan and coordinate preparation meetings as needed with regional emphasis area team leaders prior to working group and/or full Regional Safety Coalition meetings.
- Assist in planning and coordination of the Louisiana Highway Safety Corridor Program as needed.

Regional and State Safety Data Analysis Activities

- Develop extensive knowledge of SHSP web based crash data dashboards.
- Analyze regional safety (crash, traffic and roadway) data needed to inform strategies and targeted focus areas for regional efforts.
- Interpret safety data for region and state.
- Identify trends in safety data to assist with developing, prioritizing, implementing, and evaluating regional strategies and tactics.
- Clearly communicate safety trends to various types of audiences including the general public, local planners and engineers, SHSP safety coalition stakeholders, legislative delegations, etc.
- Research best practices for collecting and analyzing safety data for safety planning and project development purposes.

SHSP Stakeholder Education and Outreach Activities

- Develop productive partnerships with SHSP Stakeholders including but not limited to LADOTD, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) including their grantees, Louisiana State Police (LSP), Local Technical Assistance (LTAP), local law enforcement agencies, municipalities/parishes, emergency services, school board officials, elected officials, tribal agencies, and other safety advocates to promote the SHSP and seek out highway safety related activities to participate in within the region.
- Maintain productive partnerships with SHSP stakeholders through routine in-person consultations, support and technical assistance in SHSP programs and activities.
- Recruit new regional safety coalition members, Emphasis Area team leaders, and task leaders for SHSP action steps to maintain continuous engagement and progress.
- Conduct local media outreach through collaboration with law enforcement and public safety advocates by promoting national, statewide and regional safety initiatives and campaigns within the SHSP emphasis areas. Outreach could include circulating public service announcements, publishing news articles and posting online press releases specific to the region.
- Identify and establish strong professional relationships with local media news organizations (radio, print and TV), LADOTD Public Information Officers (PIO), and other traffic safety PIOs.
- Create and maintain a strong social media presence on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. as guided by the annual Emphasis Area action plan outreach strategies and the SHSP Safety Campaign Media Scheduler.
- Prioritize and conduct educational outreach efforts to inform the public and SHSP stakeholders about highway safety concerns and countermeasures in the SHSP emphasis areas.
- Develop and distribute educational outreach materials such as newsletters, press releases, safety campaign material, or other safety materials to current and potential safety partners.
- Incorporate the Destination Zero Deaths (DZD) state and regional branding in all outreach and educational materials.
- Actively participate in regional, statewide, and national transportation focused conferences and trainings as related to the SHSP emphasis areas.
- Keep up to date on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) safety programs/grants with goal of identifying potential federal funded projects.

Administration

- Prepare and submit monthly invoices and progress reports by the 20th of each month. Monthly progress reports and expenses shall be tied to the action steps in the Regional Emphasis Area Action Plans.
- Maintain Standard Operating Procedures for critical tasks.
- Track and maintain contact list of Regional Safety Coalition members and leaders.
- Provide support to Regional Emphasis Area Teams and working groups for documenting meetings/discussions and progress.
- Track ongoing and upcoming transportation safety projects funded through LHSC and LADOTD.
- Report quarterly progress to the State on strategies and/or tactics within each of the Emphasis Area action plans.
- Produce necessary documentation and deliverables in order to implement Regional action steps
- Track, monitor, and communicate Regional Safety Coalition activities.

Products & Benchmarks:

- ❖ Support for Implementation of the Regional Safety Plan
- ❖ Increased awareness of driver safety in northwest Louisiana
- ❖ Regional Quarterly Strategy Output Measures Report
- ❖ Regional Action Plan Summary Attainment Card

Milestones:

Funding:

Staffing:

Regional Transportation Safety Coordinator (Task Lead)

GIS Analyst (safety data analysis lead)

Executive Director

Director of Planning

Accountant

TASK S-2

SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) establishes the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program that will provide \$5-6 billion in grants over the next 5 years. Funding supports regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The SS4A program supports the Department's National Roadway Safety Strategy and a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways. ([Pub. L. 117-58 Section 24112](#))

Goal:

The SS4A program supports the Department's National Roadway Safety Strategy and a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways.

Objectives:

Implementation, education, and outreach on Northwest Louisiana Safe Streets and Roads for All Regional Action Plan adopted by the MPO in Fiscal Year 2025.

Previous Work:

- ❖ Establishment of the Northwest Louisiana Regional Transportation Safety Coalition under Task S-1
- ❖ Adoption of the Northwest Louisiana Safe Streets and Roads for All Regional Action Plan

Methodologies:

The comprehensive safety action plan that a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant funds includes the following key components:

Leadership commitment and goal setting that includes a goal timeline for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

Safety analysis of the existing conditions and historical trends that provides a baseline level of crashes involving fatalities and serious injuries across a jurisdiction, locality, Tribe, or region.

Engagement and collaboration with the public and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and community groups, that allows for both community representation and feedback.

Strategy and project selections that identify a comprehensive set of projects and strategies, shaped by data, the best available evidence and noteworthy practices, as well as stakeholder input and considerations, that will address the safety problems described in the Action Plan.

Progress and transparency methods that measure progress over time after an Action Plan is developed or updated, including outcome data.

Products and Benchmarks:

- ❖ Implementation of the projects within the Northwest Louisiana Safe Streets and Roads for All Regional Action Plan
- ❖ Adoption of the Leadership commitment and goals setting that includes a goal timeline for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries by regional partners and member agencies.

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Implementation of SS4A plan												
Education and Outreach												
Leadership Commitment												

Funding:

Staffing:

- Executive Director
- Director of Planning
- Accountant
- Environmental Sustainability Planner
- Regional Planner
- Regional Transportation Safety Coordinator

SPECIAL PROJECTS

TASK J

I-49 INNER CITY CONNECTOR – STAGE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL

Stage 1 Planning and Environmental Study for the I-49 Inner City Connector project. Following the Stage 0 Feasibility Study, the Stage 1 study will result in the preparation of NEPA documentation to allow for the construction of the preferred alternative.

Goal:

Stage 1 of the I-49 Inner City Connector is to obtain environmental clearance consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a controlled access highway to connect the existing Interstate 49 (I-49)/Interstate 20 (I-20) interchange to the proposed I-49/Interstate-220 (I-220) interchange within the city of Shreveport in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. This corridor is approximately 3.8 miles long.

Objectives:

- ❖ Complete Stage 1 Environmental Study for the I-49 Inner City Connector
- ❖ Complete Interchange Justification Report and Interchange Modification Report as related to the I-49 Inner City Connector.

Previous Work:

- ❖ Construction of I-49 from I-20 south to I-10 in Lafayette Louisiana
- ❖ Completed Stage 1 Environmental Study for I-49 North from I-220 to the Louisiana/Arkansas state line.
- ❖ Comprehensive Stage 0 and Environmental Studies for the I-49 Inner City Connector Project

Methodologies: *(23 CFR 450.318)*

Development of a plan for coordinating with public and agencies and agency scoping meeting.
The preparation of an Interchange Justification Report and Interchange Modification Report.
Environmental analysis of the five build alternatives currently identified through the NEPA process.

Engineering studies necessary to develop alternatives considered to the extent necessary to complete the NEPA process

Technical studies to determine social, economic and environmental impacts at a level of detail consistent with the requirements of NEPA and other applicable laws and regulations

Preparation of a preliminary EA

Preparation of a Record of Decision (ROD)

Preparation of a Mitigation Plan

Preparation of an Implementation Plan with cost estimates in the year of expenditure

Preparation of a Project Management Plan in accordance with Federal guidelines

Products and Benchmarks:

- ❖ Approved Interchange Modification Reports
- ❖ Publish Draft EIS
- ❖ Public Hearing on Draft EIS
- ❖ Record of Decision
- ❖ Mitigation Plan, Implementation Plan with cost estimates in the year of expenditure, and Project Management Plan in accordance with Federal guidelines
- ❖ Administration and Implementation

Milestones:

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Publish Draft EIS												
Public Hearing and Comments												
Submit final EIS and draft Record of Decision (ROD)												
ROD approval by FHWA												
Administration and Implementation												

Funding:

INCOME			Expenses		
Type	Source	Amount	Type		Amount
State Surplus Funds	State	\$2,000,000.00	Contractual		\$8,071,513.00
State Surplus Funds	State	\$1,000,000.00	Staff		\$928,487.00
Unclaimed Property Funds	State	\$300,000.00			
STP >200K	Federal	\$1,500,000.00			
STP >200K	Federal	\$1,200,000.00			
BP Pay-Go	State	\$3,000,000.00			
Total		\$9,000,000.00	Total		\$9,000,000.00

Staffing:

Executive Director (Task Lead)
 Director of Planning
 Accountant

Contractual Project Team:

Providence Engineering (Team Lead)
 Stantec
 Franklin Associates
 ESI / Coastal Engineering

BUDGET AND FUNDING

The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments is the financial guide for the operations of the NLCOG during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. The 2027 budget supports the work activities outlined in the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Below is a synopsis of this budget, full details can be found under separate document *Fiscal Year 2027 Budget: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027*.

Income:

Source	Amount	% of Category	% of Total
FEDERAL FUNDS			
Federal Highway General PL (H.972582.1)	\$664,119.00	62.24%	26.42%
PL Set Aside for Complete Streets (H.972582.1)	\$15,276.00	1.43%	0.61%
Federal Transit (5303) (PL80-09-27)	\$127,249.00	11.93%	5.06%
Federal Transit (5311) (PL80-09-26)	\$10,000.00	0.94%	0.40%
Federal Transit (5310) (PL80-09-26)	\$5,000.00	0.47%	0.20%
Highway Safety Improvement Program (H.013799)	\$245,377.19	23.00%	9.76%
sub total	\$1,067,021.19	100.00%	42.45%
STBG & OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS			
SPR (MTP Update) (H.972556)	\$200,000.00	26.53%	7.96%
STBG>200k (MTP Update) (H.972556)	\$200,000.00	26.53%	7.96%
State Match for SPR (H.972556)	\$50,000.00	6.63%	1.99%
STBG>200k (Aerial Photography)	\$303,796.80	40.30%	12.09%
sub total	\$753,796.80	100.00%	29.99%
LOCAL FUNDS			
General Local			
Shreveport	\$203,064.70	38.14%	8.08%
Bossier City	\$72,700.70	13.65%	2.89%
Caddo Parish	\$55,562.25	10.43%	2.21%
Bossier Parish	\$78,066.60	14.66%	3.11%
DeSoto Parish	\$31,365.10	5.89%	1.25%
Webster Parish	\$40,461.60	7.60%	1.61%
Caddo Bossier Port Commission	\$51,250.00	9.62%	2.04%
sub total	\$532,470.95	100.00%	21.19%
Other Local			
Caddo 911 (GIS)	\$14,125.00	8.82%	0.56%
Caddo Tax (GIS)	\$20,000.00	12.49%	0.80%
Reserve Funds (Local for STBG>200k MTP Update)	\$50,000.00	31.24%	1.99%
Reserve Funds (Local Aerial Photography)	\$75,949.20	47.45%	3.02%
sub total	\$160,074.20	100.00%	6.37%
FUNDING TOTAL	\$2,513,363.14	100.00%	100.00%

Funding By Task:

Task	Description	FHWA PL	PL Set Aside for Complete Streets	FTA (5303)	FTA (5311)	FTA (5310)	Highway Safety Improvement
A-1	Core Metropolitan Planning Programs						
A-2	Project Development						
A-3	Freight and Intermodal Planning						
A-4	Resiliency and Land Use						
A-5	Complete Streets						
B	Transit Planning and Coordination						
C	GIS Data Development & Maintenance						
E	Public Involvement & Outreach						
F	Management and Administrative Programs						
S-1	Northwest Louisiana Regional Safety Coalition						
S-2	Safe Streets and Roads for All (plan implementation)						
	TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Task	Description	SPR	State Match	STBG >200k	STBG Match	Total Local Support	Total
A-1	Core Metropolitan Planning Programs						
A-2	Project Development						
A-3	Freight and Intermodal Planning						
A-4	Resiliency and Land Use						
A-5	Complete Streets						
B	Transit Planning and Coordination						
C	GIS Data Development & Maintenance						
E	Public Involvement & Outreach						
F	Management and Administrative Programs						
S-1	Northwest Louisiana Regional Safety Coalition						
S-2	Safe Streets and Roads for All (plan implementation)						
	TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Notes:

FHWA PL, FTA 5303, SS4A, SPR, and STBG >200k funds require a minimum 20% local matching funds.

NLCOG has no activities funded with other Federal, State, and/or local funds that plan for other transportation modes.

APPENDICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Notice of Public Comment Period

May 18, 2025 – May 31, 2025

The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG), the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is submitting for a 14-day public review and comment the:

***UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)
and Budget for the
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA
Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)***

To meet the requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) transportation legislation, this document is now available for public review and comment. Updated annually, the Unified Planning Work Program summarizes the transportation planning activities of the MPO staff, its member agencies, and other transportation and planning agencies conducting work in Northwest Louisiana.

Those interested may view the document at the following locations:

Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
<http://www.nlcog.org>

For further information, contact NLCOG at 318-841-5950. Any questions, comments or suggestions concerning the UPWP should be directed to:

Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
Attn: J. Kent Rogers – UPWP
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

or sent by e-mail to public_comments@nlcog.org.

All public comments must be postmarked by Saturday May 31, 2025.

APPENDIX A

MEETING SCHEDULES AND MEMBERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Board of Directors:

Tentative Meeting Dates and Time for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 2026 – June 2027)

In general, the Board of Directors will meet every third Friday of the month beginning with July 17, 2026. The meetings will begin immediately following the MPO. Meetings will take place in the Government Chambers at Government Plaza 505 Travis St, Shreveport, LA 71101.

July	17	2026	9:30 a.m.	January	15	2027	9:30 a.m.
August	21	2026	9:30 a.m.	February	19	2027	9:30 a.m.
September	18	2026	9:30 a.m.	March	19	2027	9:30 a.m.
October	16	2026	9:30 a.m.	April	16	2027	9:30 a.m.
November	20	2026	9:30 a.m.	May	14	2027	9:30 a.m.
December	18	2026	9:30 a.m.	June	11	2027	9:30 a.m.

Members for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 2026 – June 2027)

Mayor Tom Arceneaux	City of Shreveport
Mr. Bruce Blanton	Webster Parish
Mrs. Erica Bryant	Caddo Parish
Mayor Tommy Chandler	City of Bossier City
Mr. Eric England	Caddo Bossier Port Commission
Mr. Michael Norton	Desoto Parish
Dr. Ken Ward	Bossier Parish

Metropolitan Planning Organization:

Tentative Meeting Dates and Time for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 2026 – June 2027)

In general, the MPO will meet every third Friday of the month beginning July 17, 2026. The meetings will begin at **9:00 am**. Meetings will take place in the Government Chambers at Government Plaza 505 Travis St, Shreveport, LA 71101.

July	17	2026	9:00 a.m.	January	15	2027	9:00 a.m.
August	21	2026	9:00 a.m.	February	19	2027	9:00 a.m.
September	18	2026	9:00 a.m.	March	19	2027	9:00 a.m.
October	16	2026	9:00 a.m.	April	16	2027	9:00 a.m.
November	20	2026	9:00 a.m.	May	14	2027	9:00 a.m.
December	18	2026	9:00 a.m.	June	11	2027	9:00 a.m.

Members for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 2025 – June 2026)

Mayor Tom Arceneaux	City of Shreveport
Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown	Bossier City/Parish MPC
Mr. Bruce Blanton	Webster Parish
Mrs. Erica Bryant	Caddo Parish
Mayor Tommy Chandler	City of Bossier City

Members for Fiscal Year 2026 (cont.)

Mr. Eric England	Caddo Bossier Port
Mr. Stephen Jean	Shreveport/Caddo MPC
Mr. David North	La DOTD
Mr. Michael Norton	Desoto Parish
Dr. Ken Ward	Bossier Parish
Mr. Dinero' Washington	SporTran

Non- voting Members

Laura Phillips	FHWA
Michelle Bloomer	FTA

Technical Coordinating Committee:

Meeting Dates and Time for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 2026 – June 2027)

In general, the Technical Coordinating Committee will meet at a minimum of once per quarter. Meeting dates are set on an as needed basis. The meetings will generally begin at 11:00 am meetings will take place virtually through ZOOM. Should meeting be held in person they will take place at the offices of NLCOG.

Members for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 2026 – June 2027)

City Engineer	City of Shreveport
Environmental Services Director	City of Shreveport
City Engineer	City of Bossier City
Director of Public Works	Caddo Parish
Parish Engineer	Bossier Parish
Parish Engineer	Desoto Parish
Parish Engineer	Webster Parish
Assistant Director	Shreveport/Caddo MPC
Assistant Director	Bossier City/Parish MPC
Planning Director	SporTran
Director of Engineering and Planning	Caddo Bossier Port
Traffic Engineer	La DOTD Dist. 04
Statewide Planning Engineer	La DOTD
Director of Planning	NLCOG

APPENDIX B UPWP PUBLIC COMMENTS

