



# Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

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## Metropolitan Planning Organization

### FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program

#### Overview

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a biennial statement of work identifying planning priorities and work tasks for the Lower Connecticut River Valley (LCRV) Region for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 which runs from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027. Preparation of the UPWP is required by Metropolitan Planning Code of Federal Regulations 23CFR 450.308(b) of the United States Department of Transportation. The UPWP must present a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (“3C”) approach to transportation planning activities in the region. The UPWP is prepared with cooperation and guidance from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as state and public transportation operators.

The UPWP is one of four key documents Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to develop and maintain for the region. The other key documents are the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Public Participation Plan (PPP).

#### FY 26-27 UPWP Chapters

Chapters in the UPWP include the 1) prospectus, 2) staff outline, 3) important issues, 4) planning goals, 5) transportation and integration of objectives, 6) financial plan and 7) appendices.

#### Chapter 1

The Prospectus complements the annual work program and provides a narrative that outlines the region's anticipated transportation agenda and linkage to the planning issues facing the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region.

#### Chapter 2

The Staff Outline chapter describes the roles and responsibilities of RiverCOG administrative and planning staff.

#### Chapter 3

The Important Issues chapter includes intermodal transportation, public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian transportation, transit-oriented development, airports, roadways, complete streets, freight, economic vitality/land use/environment, safety and security, plans and studies, and other issues with the objective to plan for a cost effective, safe, and efficient system for all modes of transportation within the LCRV region.

#### Chapter 4

Current federal legislation, 23usc134(h)(1) and 49usc5303(h)(1), identifies planning factors that Metropolitan Planning Organizations must consider in their planning process. In addition, MAP 21 outlined national goals, 23usc150(b), and the FAST Act requires MPOs promote a performance based approach to transportation planning. The UPWP addresses these planning goals in chapter four.

## Chapter 5

Transportation and Integration of planning objectives are divided into to six tasks in chapter five. These tasks and examples important activities within them include:

### Task 1 - Management of Planning Process

Development of the 28-29 UPWP, quarterly reports, audit reports.

### Task 2 - Data Collection – General Collection and Analysis

Census and other demographic and planning data, GIS data, transit, traffic and bike/ped data, economic, agriculture and housing data, invasive species, and other data.

### Task 3 - Planning Activities

Development of the MTP, corridor studies, transit studies, freight studies, bike/ped studies, development of the TIP, development of transportation projects under various state and federal programs, congestion management, incident management, performance and safety management, air quality conformity and other programs.

### Task 4 - Other Technical Assistance

Municipal and transit district assistance on topics such as mapping, funding sources, state and federal program compliance, program and project review and implementation.

### Task 5 - Public Information and Involvement

Review public participation policies, conduct project and program community involvement, ensure equity for environmental justice, Title VI, ADA, LEP, underserved populations and others who may have mobility challenges.

### Task 6 - Natural Hazzard Mitigation Planning

Assist member municipalities with Natural hazard mitigation planning to analyze the natural hazards that could impact the region, determines risk and vulnerability, and defines actions that will be taken to make our region more resilient to natural disasters.

## Chapter 6

The Financial Plan chapter contains a series of tables which show:

Table I	UPWP Funding Sources FY 2026 & 2027
Table II	Staff Hours and Budget for FY 2026 & 2027
Table III	Maximum Hourly Rates for Staff FY 2026 & 2027
Table IV	Financial Responsibility by Task FY 2026 & 2027

## Appendix

The Appendix includes the statement of MPO/State/Transit Operators planning roles and responsibilities as required by 23 CFR Sec. 450.314(a), "Metropolitan Planning Agreements" as well as resolutions adopting both the statement and FY 26-27 UPWP.

For additional information or free language interpretation or translation services please call 860/581-8554. Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed to them.