Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization
2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, Proposed Amendment 3

Summary: The proposed amendment contains one (1) new project and the removal of one (1) project from the Missouri Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Reflects Changes
Reflects Additions

NEW

TIP No.	15HS-26	**Sponsor**	MoDOT	**Description**	I-44 Add lanes
MoDOT No.	ST0089B	**Federal No.**	N/A	**Location**	from Rte. 43 (Main Street) to Loop 49 (Rangeline Road) in Joplin.

Phase	Year	Type	Source	Cost	
Engineering	2026	Non-Federal	MoDOT	$ 1,560,000	**Notes:**
Right of Way	2026	Non-Federal	MoDOT	$ 5,000	Non-Federal Funding Source: SFY 2025 Special General Revenue Funds.
Engineering	2027	Non-Federal	MoDOT	$ 2,560,000	
Construction	2027	Non-Federal	MoDOT	$ 21,016,000	

Federal Total: $ - **Non-Federal Total:** $ 25,141,000 **Project Total:** $ 25,141,000 **Previously Programmed:** $ -

REMOVE:

TIP No.	41HS-24	**Sponsor**	MoDOT	**Description**	I-44 Safety capactiy and pavement improvements
MoDOT No.	ST0089	**Federal No.**	N/A	**Location**	at various locations from Joplin to Conway.

Phase	Year	Type	Source	Cost	
Engineering	2026	Non-Federal	MoDOT	$ 35,570,000	**Notes:**
Right of Way	2026	Federal	NHPP	$ 18,400	Non-Federal Funding Source: SFY 2025 Special General Revenue Funds &
Right of Way	2026	Non-Federal	MoDOT	$ 4,600	State Transportation Revenue. Partially located in JATSO area.
Construction	2026	Federal	Safety	$ 6,831,900	
Construction	2026	Federal	NHPP	$ 94,112,800	
Construction	2026	Non-Federal	MoDOT	$ 371,004,300	

Federal Total: $ 100,963,100 **Non-Federal Total:** $ 406,578,900 **Project Total:** $ 508,173,000 **Previously Programmed:** $ 631,000

WAS:

FY 2026 Roadway Financial Summary								
TIP Number	**PROTECT**	**Safety**	**NHPP**	**Earmark**	**MoDOT**	**MoDOT-AC**	**Local**	**Total**
Totals	$8,000	$6,998,400	$117,074,400	$0	$430,485,200	$35,032,000	$5,992,000	$595,590,000

CHANGED TO:

FY 2026 Roadway Financial Summary								
TIP Number	**PROTECT**	**Safety**	**NHPP**	**Earmark**	**MoDOT**	**MoDOT-AC**	**Local**	**Total**
Totals	$8,000	**$166,500**	**$22,943,200**	$0	**$25,471,300**	$35,032,000	$5,992,000	**$89,613,000**

WAS:

FY 2027 Roadway Financial Summary								
TIP Number	**PROTECT**	**Safety**	**NHPP**	**Earmark**	**MoDOT**	**MoDOT-AC**	**Local**	**Total**
Totals	$8,000	$157,500	$16,228,800	$0	$12,079,900	$820,800	$0	$29,295,000

CHANGED TO:

FY 2027 Roadway Financial Summary								
TIP Number	**PROTECT**	**Safety**	**NHPP**	**Earmark**	**MoDOT**	**MoDOT-AC**	**Local**	**Total**
Totals	$8,000	$157,500	$16,228,800	$0	**$35,655,900**	$820,800	$0	**$52,871,000**

JOPLIN AREA
Transportation Study Organization

SUBJECT: JATSO seeking public comments on FY2026-2029 TIP Amendment 3

Comments Received:

1) Saw the notice about JATSO opening a short public comment window for TIP Amendment 3 (including the I-44 lane addition project). Short turnaround comment periods are tough - you need input to be accessible to the public and you also need clean documentation and summaries on the back end.

PublicInput helps MPOs and transportation agencies run these kinds of comment periods with structured intake and straightforward reporting that supports both internal decision making and public transparency.

If it would help, I can share a couple examples of how agencies handle TIP amendments and other time boxed comment periods (including a simple "what we heard" summary format). Want me to send those over?

PublicInput

John Flanagan
Business Development Representative
252 486 5332

JATSO remains dedicated to following established procedures regarding public comment notices and periods of its plans and amendments as set by the JATSO Public Participation Plan (https://www.joplinmo.org/1174/Public-Participation), last updated in March 2025. If you have concerns or would like to stay up-to-date on the JATSO information, please visit Transportation Improvement Program | Joplin, MO - Official Website.

2) As a Joplin resident who frequently needs to utilize I-44 I think 3 lanes and improved interchanges will literally save lives. I hope this project is approved and funded and the third lane is restricted unless passing for commercial vehicles.

Thank you,

Kena Arp

Funding is available to widen I-44 from 2 lanes in each direction to 3 lanes in each direction between Main Street and Range Line Road. The new lanes will be striped as an auxiliary lane,

which does not have lane restrictions. Lane restrictions will be a consideration when a through lane is added to the interstate.

3) Please add sound barrier walls to diminish noise coming from the road. Already the highway noise disturbs residents and the nature preserve below and an extra lane would only worsen that problem.

Thank you,
Daniel

A sound study was conducted between Main Street and Range Line Road for the addition of a lane in each direction on I-44. Per policy, a sound study is required when adding through lanes. For a sound wall to be constructed, it needs to meet the feasible criteria, which calls for the wall to reduce noise levels by at least 5 decibels for at least the first two rows of homes closest to the wall. It also needs to meet the reasonable criteria, which means that the wall has to be less than 1,300 square feet and cost no more than $46,000 per benefitted property. For the I-44 study between Main Street and Range Line Road, the walls did not meet the criteria mentioned above.

4) If lanes are added, this will eliminate several neighborhoods. I feel strongly that neighborhoods were not properly informed of this public comment period. Because of those factors and additional high speed traffic, I oppose the project.

Ashley

JATSO remains dedicated to following established procedures regarding public comment notices and periods of its plans and amendments as set by the JATSO Public Participation Plan (https://www.joplinmo.org/1174/Public-Participation), last updated in March 2025. If you have concerns or would like to stay up-to-date on the JATSO information, please visit Transportation Improvement Program | Joplin, MO - Official Website.

5) The need for additional truck lanes on I-44 in Missouri is driven by the significant freight traffic that the highway carries. I-44 is known to carry about eight-and-a-half times the freight tonnage that I-70 does, making it a critical route for commercial trucking. The Missouri Legislature's state budget proposal includes $727 million to widen I-44 to six lanes in Springfield, Joplin, and Rolla, reflecting the state's commitment to improving this vital transportation corridor.

I understand that this Amendment is just for the section from Rangeline to Main Street (of which I fully support) but the real picture is from the State Line to the I-49 North connection at

Carthage. Anything that will help complete this vital section of the total project is needed to protect the safety of the residents of SW Missouri.

Steve Stockam

MoDOT recently updated a Purpose and Need Study on I-44 between the Oklahoma State Line and the Route 100 East (Exit 253) interchange in Gray Summit, a total of 253 miles. One outcome of this study is to aid MoDOT in evaluating when and how to implement future potential improvements. As funding becomes available, MoDOT will utilize this study to prioritize improvement locations. Current funding provides for improvements in the higher prioritized locations. Additional information concerning this study can be found at: Forward 44 Environmental Study | Missouri Department of Transportation

6) Yes. It's badly needed.
Vikki

7) Mr Lolley. Residents on the North side of I-44 from Alabama west to Connecticut St bridge are asking for sound barriers. Senator Carter is helping and MODOT has told residents they would do a sound feasibility study this summer. Residents in Sunnyvale turned in several signatures requesting the sound barriers. Traffic noise is very upsetting along this section of the interstate. Noise during the day and especially at night affects residents along this section of the interstate. Thank you.

Morris Glaze

A sound study was conducted between Main Street and Range Line Road for the addition of a lane in each direction on I-44. Per policy, a sound study is required when adding through lanes. For a sound wall to be constructed, it needs to meet the feasible criteria, which calls for the wall to reduce noise levels by at least 5 decibels for at least the first two rows of homes closest to the wall. It also needs to meet the reasonable criteria, which means that the wall has to be less than 1,300 square feet and cost no more than $46,000 per benefitted property. For the I-44 study between Main Street and Range Line Road, the walls did not meet the criteria mentioned above.

8) We conducted a noise study between Main Street and Rangeline Road for the addition of a lane in each direction on I-44. We did not have any areas within this section that qualified for a sound wall.

Thank you,

Kristi Bachman

Southwest I-44 Project Director

9) Dear JATSO and MoDOT Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong support for adding a third lane in both directions along I-44 between South Main Street and Range Line Road in Joplin.

As a local resident, I travel this stretch regularly, and traffic congestion has noticeably increased. The current two-lane configuration often leads to bottlenecks, unsafe merging, and sudden slowdowns, especially during peak hours and near exits. With continued growth in our area, the roadway no longer adequately supports the volume of passenger and commercial traffic using it daily.

Expanding to three lanes would improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and increase overall safety for families, commuters, and freight vehicles. This corridor is a critical connection for our community, and proactive improvements now will better serve Joplin for years to come.

Thank you for considering public input on this important project. I strongly encourage moving forward with the proposed expansion.

Sincerely,

Kylee Odle

Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization
602 S Main Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801
417-624-0820 ext. 1514
rlolley@joplinmo.org

March 3, 2026

Amanda Barch

Missouri Department of Transportation
Transportation Planning Division
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Ms. Barch

Please find attached the third amendment to the Joplin Area Transportation study Organization's FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The proposed TIP Amendment 3 containing one (1) new project (15HS-26), and the removal of one (1) project (41HS-24) was requested by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). The new project to be added is to add lanes on I-44 from Main Street to Range Line in Joplin.

The public comment period for this amendment began at 9 a.m., Wednesday, February 18, 2026, and concluded at 12 noon, Thursday, February 26, 2026. JATSO received nine comments related to this project. The list of comments is attached.

TIP Amendment 3 was approved by the JATSO Policy Board by emergency electronic vote on February 27, 2026. Nine (9) members voted in favor and zero (0) against.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email at rlolley@joplinmo.org or phone (417)624-0820 X 1514

Sincerely,

Robert Lolley
Transportation Planner
City of Joplin

MoDOT

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Missouri Department of Transportation
Ed. Hassinger, P.E., Director

1.888.ASK MODOT (275.6636)

January 15, 2025

The Honorable Mike L. Kehoe
Governor, State of Missouri
State Capitol
Room 216
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Kehoe,

Federal regulations under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and continued in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), require state governors to approve certain transportation-related documents. This requirement is expected to continue with subsequent federal reauthorization.

In the past, the Missouri Department of Transportation has acted on behalf of the Governor of the State of Missouri to conduct all staff work related to transportation, to act as a liaison between the State of Missouri and other entities on transportation issues, and to approve transportation-related planning matters. In the past, this mechanism has been advantageous to the State and other stakeholders for a number of reasons, including not limited to:

- Streamlining of approval processes;
- Expertise and involvement in the processes;
- Cost Savings; and,
- Federal regulation and member designated projects (earmarks) familiarity,

Based on our past successes in administering the program in this manner, I hereby request your concurrence with continuing this practice for the duration of your term as Governor of the State of Missouri.

Sincerely,

Ed Hassinger, P.E.
Director

Approved: _____
Governor of Missouri

Date: 2-26-2025

MoDOT

Missouri Department of Transportation
Ed Hassinger, P.E. Director

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

1.888.ASK MODOT (275.6636)

March 3, 2026

Mr. Kevin Ward
Regional Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
3220 West Edgewood, Suite H
Jefferson City, MO 65109

SUBJECT: Joplin Metropolitan Area
Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization (JATSO)
FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Approval Request to Incorporate FY 2026 Amendment three into the FY 2026-2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Dear Mr. Ward:

In fulfillment of the requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Governor Kehoe delegated authority for approval of MPO TIPs and TIP Amendments to MoDOT for the remainder of his term. This "highway only" amendment includes the addition of one new MoDOT project and the removal of one MoDOT project.

Enclosed is a copy of the Governor's delegation letter and supporting documentation. The JATSO Board of Directors approved the TIP amendment on February 26, 2026. All public involvement considerations have been met, and fiscal constraint has been ensured. Public comments are included in the submittal.

We request approval of incorporating this TIP amendment into the FY 2026-2030 STIP at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Ed Hassinger, P.E.
Director

Enclosure

cc: Cecelie Cochran-FHWA Gerri Doyle-FTA
Frank Miller-SW Robert Lolley-JATSO

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration
3220 West Edgewood, Suite H
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Federal Transit Administration
901 Locust Street, Room 404
Kansas City, MO 64106

March 9, 2026

Mr. Ed Hassinger, P.E.
Director
Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Subject: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Dear Director Hassinger:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has reviewed and approved the requested amendment to the FY 2026-2030 Missouri State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to incorporate the Highway Only Amendment 3 of the Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization (JATSO) FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as further described in your letter of March 3, 2026, with the condition that public comments on the amendment be addressed by MoDOT and/or MPO staff. This amendment contains the addition of auxiliary lanes to I-44 and the removal of one I-44 safety and pavement improvement project. No transit projects were included in this request.

The JATSO Board of Directors approved the Highway Only TIP Amendment 3 on February 26, 2026. On February 26, 2025, the Missouri Governor delegated concurrence authority for the transportation planning process to the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). MoDOT has approved the JATSO Highway Only TIP Amendment 3.

Therefore, in accordance with 23 CFR § 450.218(b), FHWA has determined that this TIP amendment and subsequent STIP amendment is based on a transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of 23 U.S.C. § 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. § 5303 and 5304, and 23 CFR § 450. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Cecelie Cochran of FHWA MO (573) 638-2609.

Sincerely,

CECELIE RENE COCHRAN
Digitally signed by CECELIE RENE COCHRAN
Date: 2026.03.09 12:48:40 -05'00'

For: Kevin W. Ward, P.E.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration