JOPLIN AREA

Transportation Study Organization

Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program

Approved by the JATSO Policy Board on

Introduction

Purpose

The Joplin area transportation planning process is an on-going work effort that constitutes the planning work activities developed by staff from the Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization (JATSO), with assistance from various agencies, including the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Metro Area PublicTransit System (MAPS Transit), and members of the JATSO Policy Board. The purpose is to analyze and evaluate various types of data (such as demographic, socio-economic, land use and scientific) to provide a rational basis for making short-range and long-range decisions about transportation needs in the Joplin metropolitan area. The planning process identifies present and future needs, and develops plans, policies, and projects to carry out objectives identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The transportation planning process is required by federal regulations as a prerequisite to the receipt of federal capital and operating assistance. The result from this continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive process will include plans and programs that match and enhance the comprehensively planned development of the metropolitan area. In addition, the planning process and requirements are mandated by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Organization

On May 20, 1983, Governor Christopher Bond of Missouri signed the letter of approval designating JATSO as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Joplin metropolitan area under Title 23 of the U.S. Code. The MPO has designated the City of Joplin as the contracting agent for service agreements involving federal planning funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The JATSO organization is governed by the JATSO Policy Board that consists of six members from the City of Joplin (Airport, Engineering, Planning, & Transit Departments), and one member from each of the following organizations: Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council, City of Webb City, City of Carl Junction, MoDOT Southwest District, Newton County, and Jasper County. The Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council is the local regional planning commission and represents smaller villages and unincorporated areas on the JATSO Policy Board. The organization and responsibilities of the various agencies involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process are defined in this Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Memorandum of Understanding, and the JATSO bylaws.

Funding for the UPWP

Funding for the UPWP comes from these sources: FHWA, FTA, the City of Joplin, and local jurisdictions, as applicable. FHWA Planning and FTA Section 5303 funds are combined into one category, called a Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG), and provide 80 percent of the UPWP funds. The Federal planning funds require a 20 percent local match. This local match is provided by the City of Joplin general revenue funding source except where jurisdictions are completing individual planning projects.

Planning Factors

The Federal transportation planning regulations require the metropolitan transportation planning process to be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive; and that the JATSO UPWP provide for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address the following ten factors:

1. Support the economic vitality of the Joplin metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and 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 storm water impacts of surface transportation; and
10. Enhance travel and tourism.

In 2012, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) was signed into law. MAP-21 transformed federal transportation grant programs by establishing new requirements for performance management and performance-based planning and programming to ensure the most efficient investment of federal transportation funds. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) was signed into law in 2015 and continued the performance management and performance-based planning and programming requirements of MAP-21 with minor changes. BIL was signed into law in 2021 which provided for continuation of these requirements. More guidance is expected to come out under BIL. In implementing MAP-21 and the FAST Act, State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), MPOs, and providers of public transportation must

- establish performance targets that reflect the measures;
- report on progress towards achieving those targets; and
- develop performance-based plans that implement a performance-based approach to planning and programming.

Eligible Work Activities

There are multiple work activities that are considered eligible for federal transportation planning funds. Eligible work activities, per 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303-5305, must support the JATSO regional transportation planning process.

Public Participation Plan

The purpose for the Public Participation Plan (PPP) adopted in 2025 is to involve the public in the planning process, since the purpose of regional planning is to meet public mobility needs. The PPP outlines a process for the public comments on the MTP, TIP, UPWP, Title VI/ Environmental Justice and at public meetings. See Table 1 for the comment periods required for various MPO work products. A paper copy of the PPP can be acquired at Joplin City Hall, 4th floor, Transportation Planning Office. Electronic copies of the PPP, Title VI Plan, and Limited English Proficiency Plan can be found on the JATSO website at this link: Plans & Resources | Joplin, MO - Official Website. Complaint Information can be found here. Title VI & Limited English Proficiency | Joplin, MO - Official Website

TABLE 1 – DOCUMENT UPDATE FREQUENCY AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS

Document	Frequency	Public Comment Period	Committee Action
Metropolitan Transportation Plan	Every 5 years	14 calendar days	JATSO Policy Board: Approve
Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendments	As needed	7 calendar days	JATSO Policy Board: Approve
Public Participation Plan	Periodically	45 calendar days	JATSO Policy Board: Approve
Transportation Improvement Program	Every 2 years	14 calendar days	JATSO Policy Board: Approve
Transportation Improvement Program Amendments	As needed	7 calendar days	JATSO Policy Board: Approve
Unified Planning Work Program	Every year	7 calendar days	JATSO Policy Board: Approve
Annual Listing of Obligated Projects	Every year	Posted on Website	None
Other Plans and Projects	As needed	As needed	JATSO Policy Board: Approve
Note: the public comment period will end at least two calendar days before the JATSO Policy Board meeting at which the document is to be approved or denied.			

FY 2027 Program Goals

The annual transportation planning program begins on November 1, 2026, and continues through October 31, 2027. The UPWP is directed toward the continuation and improvement of existing activities and the development of those activities mandated by federal regulations. For fiscal year 2027, JATSO's goals are:

1. Increase community engagement by using the JATSO website, FACEBOOK, and other online tools to reach as many residents of the JATSO planning area as possible.
2. Maintain and amend the 2026-2029 JATSO TIP in accordance with state and federal standards as necessary.
3. Enter into an agreement for Transportation Planning and Analysis software.
4. Continue Complete Streets planning projects associated with JATSO's Active Transportation Plan, Project Follow-Up, and Safety Assessment Activities within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) to increase network connectivity, safety, and ease of use.

Task 1 – Program Support and Administration

Objective

JATSO staff will manage the transportation planning program for the metropolitan planning area, conduct public meetings, develop, and administer the UPWP, and attend professional development and training events.

Status

This task is on-going with activities occurring on a day-to-day or on-demand basis.

FY 2026 Work Items Completed

- Amend FY 2026 UPWP as needed
- Submitted UPWP quarterly progress reports and invoices to MoDOT
- Developed the FY 2027 UPWP
- Updated the Public Participation Plan, conducted public meetings, relaunched the JATSO Facebook page.
- Updated the JATSO website with current information and work products
- Participated in monthly coordination meetings with MoDOT, (6) Southwest District Unfunded Needs List prioritization meetings, needs prioritization workshop, and rural bridge prioritization workshop.
- Participated in several webinars and Zoom meetings with FHWA and MoDOT
- Updated JATSO's Title VI Plan

FY 2027 Work Items

- Develop the FY 2028 UPWP
- Make any necessary amendments to the FY 2027 UPWP
- Plan and conduct public meetings in accordance with the PPP
- Maintain and update the JATSO website and Facebook page
- Monitor and update planning documents
- Prepare and transmit quarterly progress reports and invoices to MoDOT
- Participate in MoDOT’s district and statewide planning partner activities
- Participate in training, webinars, and conferences related to transportation planning as they become available
- Improve office equipment, computer systems, and software as needed.

Public Participation

Any adoption of a UPWP or UPWP amendment will comply with JATSO’s Public Participation Plan. This requires a seven (7) day public comment period prior to JATSO meetings and any updates to the UPWP. A news release will be issued and posted to the JATSO webpage in advance of the public meeting.

FY 2027 End Products

- FY 2028 UPWP
- Any necessary amendments to the FY 2027 UPWP
- Four (4) quarterly progress reports and invoices submitted to MoDOT
- Meeting attendance and coordination with MoDOT

Schedule for Completion

Activities will be on-going from November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027

Task 1 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$136,577	$109,262	$27,314
Travel Expenses	$3,000	$2,400	$600
Conferences and Seminars	$500	$400	$100
Dues and Memberships	$3,000	$2,400	$600
Office Equipment & Supplies	$2,000	$1,600	$400
Total	$145,077	$116,062	$29,014

Task 2 – Short Range Transportation Planning

Objective

JATSO staff will maintain a fiscally constrained area-wide programmed listing of transportation improvement projects inside the Joplin metropolitan planning area for a four-year period that is consistent with JATSO's metropolitan transportation plan. JATSO updates its TIP every other year.

Status

Staff developed the FY 2026-2029 TIP during FY 2025 for approval by the JATSO Policy Board. FY 2027 work on the TIP includes the development of the FY 2028-2031 TIP, FY 2026-2029 updates and amendments.

FY 2026 Work Items Completed

- Maintained and monitored the projects in the JATSO FY 2026-2029 TIP
- Completed TIP amendments as needed
- Prepared the FY 2025 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects
- Coordinate with local jurisdictions on transportation projects to promote regional coordination and cooperation in carrying out planning program activities
- Voted to support MoDOT performance targets
- Incorporated Transit Departments target measures into the TIP and MTP

FY 2027 Work Items

- Amend the FY 2026-2029 TIP as needed
- Complete FY 2028-2031 TIP
- Prepare the FY 2026 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects
- Coordinate with local jurisdictions on transportation projects to promote regional coordination and cooperation in carrying out planning program activities
- Incorporate performance measures and targets into the TIP and MTP as needed
- Conduct Public Meetings for TIP amendments in accordance with the Public Participation Plan

Public Participation

Prior to adopting a TIP, a public meeting will be held by the Policy Board. A news release will be issued and posted to the JATSO webpage fourteen (14) days in advance of the public meeting. TIP amendments will have a public comment period of seven (7) days. The public is encouraged to formulate comments regarding the TIP document.

FY 2027 End Products

- Board approved FY 2026-2029 TIP Amendments as needed
- Complete FY 2028-2031 TIP
- FY 2026 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Schedule for Completion

Activities will be on-going from November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027

Task 2 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$33,868	$27,095	$6,774
Total	$33,868	$27,095	$6,774

Task 3 – Long Range Transportation Planning

Long range transportation planning's purpose is to prepare for the long-term health and growth of the regional transportation system, both motorized and non-motorized. This includes JATSO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Comprehensive Plan. Additional tools, studies, and plans that pertain to long-range transportation planning are found in Task 3.

Status

Transportation needs in the JATSO planning area continue to evolve and require more data and tools to provide for transportation planning needs.

FY 2026 Work Items Completed

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
- Public Engagement and Stakeholder Engagement for Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Update
- Contracted consultant services for the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

FY 2027 Work Items

- Phase I completion of the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Transportation Planning & Analysis Software agreement term includes 2027, 2028, and 2029
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Update

Public Participation

JATSO will work with the consultants on all projects to create robust public engagement plans that comply with the PPP.

FY 2027 End Products

- Completed Phase I Comprehensive Plan Update
- Completed Transportation Planning & Analysis Software agreement and user training.
- Completed Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Update

Schedule for Completion

The Comprehensive Plan*, and Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Plan update* will be on-going from November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027. Transportation Planning & Analysis Software agreement and user training is scheduled for completion in Spring 2027.

Task 3 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$45,065	$36,052	$9,013
Transportation Planning &	$80,000	$64,000	$16,000
Analysis Software			
Total	$125,065	$100,052	$25,013

* $100,000 was budgeted in 2026 for the Comprehensive Plan update and $150,000 for Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation plan update to be completed in 2027

Task 4 – Transit Planning

Objective

The JATSO staff will provide program and administrative support for the Metropolitan Area Public Transit System (MAPS) and the Sunshine Lamp Trolley system. JATSO staff will conduct long and short-range transit planning responsibilities. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 funds are utilized for these planning activities.

Status

JATSO staff continues with program support and administration.

FY 2026 Work Items Completed

- JATSO staff monitored the MAPS and collected data and information.
- JATSO staff monitored the Sunshine Lamp Trolley system.

FY 2027 Work Items

- The JATSO staff collects and records transit data and information and reports the data findings to local, state and federal government agencies.
- The JATSO staff use data and information to complete short and long-range planning responsibilities.
- The JATSO staff monitors and analyzes Sunshine Lamp Trolley system.
- Review transit targets and update Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan if necessary.
- Review Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and update Safety Goals if necessary.

Public Participation

The JATSO staff will hold public meetings and gather input in accordance with the Public Participation Plan.

FY 2027 End Products

- The JATSO staff assist to develop planning activities for daily operations of MAPS.
- The JATSO staff provides MoDOT and FTA with necessary transit data and documentation.

Schedule for Completion

Activities will be on-going from November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027.

Task 4 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$98,146	$78,517	$19,629
Total	$98,146	$78,517	$19,629

Task 5 – Geographic Information Systems

Objective

JATSO staff will work with the City of Joplin, the Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council, and other local agencies to update and create databases and collect and input data into JATSO's GIS.

Status

The City of Joplin updates zoning maps within the Joplin corporate boundaries. Census information, other socio-economic data, and additional transportation data of the Joplin area is inserted into JATSO's GIS databases as it becomes available.

FY 2026 Work Items Completed

- Staff maintained and updated street, trail, subdivision, zoning, sewer, flood plain, and ownership GIS layers.
- Maintained and updated GIS layers used by JATSO, MAPS, the Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council and local governments and agencies.
- Annual ESRI licensing fee
- Maintained the GIS website

FY 2027 Work Items

- Maintain and update GIS layers used by JATSO, MAPS, HSTCC, and member local governments and agencies
- Annual ESRI licensing fee
- Maintain the GIS website

FY 2027 End Products

- Updated and maintained GIS layers
- Updated ArcMap software license

Schedule for Completion

Activities will be on-going from November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027.

Task 5 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$50,626	$40,501	$10,125
Software License	$1,000	$800	$200
Total	$51,626	$41,301	$10,325

Task 6 – Safety Planning

Objective

JATSO staff will work on projects, plans, and other priorities specifically to address safety issues in our planning area. This task is utilizing the 2.5% set aside of Safe and Accessible Transportation Options Planning funds for JATSO. The amount of the 2.5% set aside will be $5,265 for FY 2027. The work items listed in Task 6 meet the eligibility requirements of Safe and Accessible Transportation Options Planning and will be 100% funded with set aside and CPG funds. No local match is required.

Status

JATSO will perform on-going planning activities that address safety throughout the planning area.

FY 2026 Work Items Completed

- Quarterly Complete Streets Committee meetings
- Complete Streets Training for the Complete Streets Committee
- Purchased equipment for JATSO's Active Transportation Academy and Network monitoring system
- Completed the public engagement portion of the Complete Streets Construction Standards Manual Project
- Completed the 2026 Complete Streets Unfunded Needs List

FY 2027 Work Items

- Include and meet with Complete Streets Committee on projects as needed
- Complete Streets Performance Report for November 1, 2024-October 31, 2026
- Completion of the Complete Streets Construction Standards Manual for use during Complete Streets Projects*

FY 2027 End Products

- Complete Streets Committee being involved with transportation projects as appropriate and as needed
- Complete Streets Construction Standards Manual*
- Complete Streets Performance Report

Schedule for Completion

Activities will be on-going from November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027.

Task 6 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$45,065	$45,065	$0
Complete Streets Conferences & Seminars	$3,000	$3,000	$0
Total	$48,065	$48,065	$0

* $150,000 was budgeted in 2026 for the Complete Streets Construction Manual to be completed in 2027.

Financial Summary Tables

Task Funding Breakdown

Task	Total	CPG Funds	2.5 Set Aside Safe & Access Trans	Local Funds
Program Support and Administration	$145,077	$116,062		$29,014
Short Range Transportation Planning	$33,868	$27,095		$6,774
Long Range Transportation Planning	$125,065	$100,052		$25,013
Geographic Information Systems	$51,626	$41,301		$10,325
Safety Planning	$48,065	$42,800	$5,265	$0
Total	$403,701	$327,310	$5,265	$71,126

Task	Total	5307 Funds	Local Funds
Transit Planning Task #4	$98,146	$78,517	$19,629

Source Funding Breakdown

Funding Summary by Source	
Consolidated Planning Grant Funds 80% for Task #1, #2, #3, and #5	$284,510
Consolidated Planning Grant Funds 100% for Safety Planning Task #6	$48,065
5307 Funds	$78,517
Local Match	$90,755
Total Funds Allocated	$501,847

CPG Balance Tracking

JATSO CPG Balance Tracking	
CPG Balance as of 6/1/26	$650,271
Estimated FY 2027 allocation	$270,323
Remaining FY 2026 CPG Funds to be expended	$(355,000)
CPG Funds Programmed for FY 2027	$(501,847)
Remaining Unprogrammed Balance	$63,747

JATSO Information

Organizational Chart

- Robert Lolley, Transportation Planner (1.0 FTE)
- Gina Thompson, Transit Director (1.0 FTE)
- John Gilligan, GIS Coordinator (0.8 FTE)
- Troy Bolander, MPO Staff Director (0.5 FTE)
- Johan Bullington, Planning and Development Assistant Director (0.25 FTE)
- Mallory Wicklund, Finance Budgeting (0.25 FTE)
- Eric Kellstadt, Administrative Assistant (0.25 FTE)
- Dakota Rusk, Traffic Engineer (0.25 FTE)
- Dan Johnson, Public Works Director, JATSO Board Chairman (0.1 FTE)
- Jeremy Hagerman, Public Works Assistant Director (0.1 FTE)
- Rob Beachner, Engineering Project Manager (0.1 FTE)

Employee	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6
Robert Lolley	X	X	X			X
Gina Thompson				X		
John Gilligan					X	
Troy Bolander	X	X	X		X	X
Johan Bullington	X	X	X			X
Mallory Wicklund	X					
Eric Kellstadt	X					
Dakota Rusk	X	X	X			X
Dan Johnson	X	X	X			X
Jeremy Hagerman	X	X	X			X
Rob Beachner	X	X	X			X

Members

Name	Agency	Title
Dan Johnson*	City of Joplin	Director of Public Works; Chair
Troy Bolander*	City of Joplin	Director of Planning; Vice Chair
Chad Weller	City of Joplin	Assistant Director of Public Works – Operations
Jermey Hagerman*	City of Joplin	Assistant Director of Public Works – Engineering
Allison Zahner*	City of Joplin	Airport Manager
Gina Thompson*	City of Joplin	Transportation Coordinator
Carl Francis*	City of Webb City	City Administrator
Steve Lawver*	City of Carl Junction	City Administrator
Carrie Campbell*	Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council	Executive Director
Michael Wake*	Missouri Department of Transportation	Area Engineer
Michael D. Landis*	Jasper County	Commissioner
Daniel Swem*	Newton County	Commissioner
Frank Miller	Missouri Department of Transportation	Southwest District Planning Manager; Alternate
Kimberly A. Ader	Missouri Department of Transportation	Southwest District Planning Coordinator; Alternate
Will Cline	Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council	Transportation Planner; Alternate
Dakota Rusk*	City of Joplin	Traffic Engineer

Voting Members *

JATSO Boundary Map

