JOPLIN AREA

Transportation Study Organization

Fiscal Year 2026 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 2026 Program Goals

The annual transportation planning program begins on November 1, 2025, and continues through October 31, 2026. 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 2026, 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. Produce the Complete Streets Construction Standards Manual for Complete Streets projects.
4. Produce the Active Transportation Academy that will utilize two e-bikes and 6 trail counters to assist JATSO's Active Transportation Planning, Project Follow-Up, and Safety Assessment Activities within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) to increase network connectivity, safety, and ease of use.
5. Update the Comprehensive Plan.
6. Update JATSO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and Corridor Management Plan.

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 2025 Work Items Completed

- Amend FY 2025 UPWP as needed
- Submitted UPWP quarterly progress reports and invoices to MoDOT
- Developed the FY 2026 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
- Attended the Laneshift Active Transportation Academy in Bentonville, Arkansas

FY 2026 Work Items

- Develop the FY 2027 UPWP
- Make any necessary amendments to the FY 2026 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 2026 End Products

- FY 2027 UPWP
- Any necessary amendments to the FY 2026 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, 2025, through October 31, 2026

Task 1 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$131,162	$104,930	$26,232
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	$139,662	$111,730	$27,932

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 2026 work on the TIP includes updates and amendments.

FY 2025 Work Items Completed

- Maintained and monitored the projects in the JATSO FY 2022-2025 TIP
- Updated the 2022-2025 TIP as needed
- Prepared the FY 2024 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
- Completed the FY 2026-2029 TIP

FY 2026 Work Items

- Amend the FY 2026-2029 TIP as needed
- Prepare 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
- 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 2026 End Products

- Board approved FY 2026-2029 TIP Amendments as needed
- FY 2025 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Schedule for Completion

Activities will be on-going from November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026

Task 2 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$32,490	$25,992	$6,498
Total	$32,490	$25,992	$6,498

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) and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (BPP). 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. Two studies or assessments are planned for FY 2026.

FY 2025 Work Items Completed

- Completed Origin and Destination study
- Public Engagement and Stakeholder Engagement for MTP Update

FY 2026 Work Items

- Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
- 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 2026 End Products

- Completed Comprehensive Plan Update
- Completed Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
- Completed Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Update

Schedule for Completion

The Comprehensive Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)*, and Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Plan updates will be on-going from November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026

Task 3 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$43,498	$34,798	$8,700
Comprehensive Plan Update	$100,000	$80,000	$20,000
Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation & Corridor Management Plan Update	$150,000	$120,000	$30,000
Total	$293,498	$234,798	$58,700

* $200,000 was budgeted in 2025 for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update to be completed Qtr.1 of 2026

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 2025 Work Items Completed

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

FY 2026 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 2026 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, 2025, through October 31, 2026.

Task 4 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$92,701	$74,161	$18,540
Total	$92,701	$74,161	$18,540

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 the 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 2025 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 2026 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 2026 End Products

- Updated and maintained GIS layers
- Updated ArcMap software license

Schedule for Completion

Activities will be on-going from November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026.

Task 5 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$49,775	$39,820	$9,955
Software License	$1,000	$800	$200
Total	$50,775	$40,620	$10,155

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 2026. 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 2025 Work Items Completed

- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
- Complete Streets Training for the Complete Streets Committee
- Submitted SS4A Implementation Grant Application for the Joplin Downtown Loop Bike Lane Project
- Completed the 2024 Complete Streets Performance Report
- Completed the 2025 Complete Streets Unfunded Needs List

FY 2026 Work Items

- Include and meet with Complete Streets Committee on projects as needed
- Active Transportation Academy training for Complete Streets Committee members
- Purchase equipment to develop a JATSO Active Transportation Academy for Joplin staff and elected officials
- Purchase equipment for planning and monitoring the use of JATSO's Active Transportation Network
- Develop a Complete Streets Construction Standards Manual for use during Complete Streets Projects

FY 2026 End Products

- Complete Streets Committee being involved with transportation projects as appropriate and as needed
- Complete Streets Construction Standards Manual
- JATSO Active Transportation Academy
- Active Transportation Network Monitoring Plan

Schedule for Completion

Activities will be on-going from November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026.

Task 6 Budget Breakdown

Budget Item	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Staff Time	$43,498	$43,498	$0
Complete Streets Conferences & Seminars	$3,000	$3,000	$0
Complete Streets Training Program E-Bikes	$6,000	$6,000	$0
Complete Streets Planning Trail Counters	$4,500	$4,500	$0
Complete Streets Construction Standards Manual	$150,000	$150,000	$0
Total	$206,998	$206,998	$0

Financial Summary Tables

Task Funding Breakdown

Task	Total	CPG Funds	2.5 Set Aside Safe & Access Trans	Local Funds
Program Support and Administration	$139,662	$111,730		$27,932
Short Range Transportation Planning	$32,490	$25,992		$6,498
Long Range Transportation Planning	$293,498	$234,798		$58,700
Geographic Information Systems	$50,775	$40,620		$10,155
Safety Planning	$206,998	$201,733	$5,265	$0
Total	$723,422	$614,872	$5,265	$103,285

Task	5307 Funds	Local Funds	Total
Transit Planning Task #4	$74,161	$18,540	$92,701

Source Funding Breakdown

Funding Summary by Source	
Consolidated Planning Grant Funds 80% for Task #1, #2, #3, and #5	$413,140
Consolidated Planning Grant Funds 100% for Safety Planning Task #6	$206,998
5307 Funds	$74,160
Local Match	$121,825
Total Funds Allocated	$816,123

CPG Balance Tracking

JATSO CPG Balance Tracking	
CPG Balance as of 6/1/25	$782,215
Estimated FY 2026 allocation	$269,464
Remaining FY 2025 CPG Funds to be expended	$(272,419)
CPG Funds Programmed for FY 2026	$(620,138)
Remaining Unprogrammed Balance	$159,122

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)
- Zoie Hamilton, 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					
Zoie Hamilton	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
Marvin Morris*	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

