

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Transportation Board

FROM: Jeff Butts, MPO Manager

SUBJECT: Gallatin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Long Range Transportation Plan Update

MEETING DATE: May 27, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Plan/Report/Study

RECOMMENDATION: Participate in the Gallatin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.3 Public Agencies Collaboration: Foster successful collaboration with other public agencies and build on these successes.

BACKGROUND: The Gallatin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was established following the 2020 Census after the Bozeman urbanized area exceeded the 50,000 population threshold. Federal code conditions receipt of surface transportation funding on the designation of an MPO and the establishment of a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive performance-based multimodal transportation planning process.

The MPO provides a regional forum for transportation planning among the Cities of Bozeman and Belgrade, Gallatin County, Streamline, Montana State University, and state and federal transportation partners. The MPO is governed by the Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee (TPCC), which includes two representatives from the Bozeman City Commission.

Current Work

The MPO is preparing its first Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The LRTP will include a fiscally constrained project list informing the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is incorporated into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). These programs direct federal surface transportation funding.

The LRTP is being developed through a phased process that includes existing and projected conditions analysis, transit planning, evaluation of alternatives, identification of a preferred alternative, and development of projects to support the goals and objectives. The project team has completed the Transit Strategic Plan and Existing and Projected Conditions Report. It is now entering the Alternatives Analysis phase.

The next phase will compare a future no-build condition with three investment approaches: added capacity on existing roadways, new network connections, and a hybrid approach informed by the first two analyses. This comparison will help identify projects that best advance LRTP goals and performance outcomes.

The TPCC-adopted goals are below:

- Support Safe Travel Across All Modes
- Ensure a Well-Maintained Transportation System
- Expand Mobility Choices Throughout the Region
- Enhance Health, Quality of Life, and Preserve Regional Character
- Enhance Transportation and Land Use Planning Coordination
- Improve Transportation System Resilience

Update

The discussion will focus on the current phase of LRTP development, the incorporation of prior public and partner input, and the next phase of analysis for evaluating potential transportation investments.

This item is presented for information and discussion. No formal action is requested.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the board.

FISCAL EFFECTS: None.

Report compiled on: March 5, 2026