

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Gallatin Valley MPO - Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Jeff Butts, MPO Manager

SUBJECT: FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program First Review

MEETING DATE: June 10, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Grant

RECOMMENDATION: Participate in the FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program first review.

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

BACKGROUND: The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the Gallatin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's annual scope of work and budget for federally funded transportation planning. The UPWP includes Federal Highway Administration Planning (PL) funds for MPO activities and Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 funds for transit planning activities programmed by the Gallatin Valley Urban Transportation District (GVUTD). Adoption of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2027 UPWP by October 1, 2026 is required to ensure uninterrupted federal reimbursement.

Preliminary MPO funding assumptions identify approximately \$442,982 in Federal Highway Administration Planning (PL) funds. After the required \$50,461 State allocation, approximately \$392,521 in FFY 2027 PL funds remains available for the MPO work program. The draft UPWP also includes approximately \$210,114 in carry-forward funding from the previous year, following a \$20,800 amendment to the FFY 2026 UPWP. For FFY 2027, the transit section identifies approximately \$115,283 in Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 funds, \$28,821 in local match, and a total transit planning program of approximately \$144,104.

The draft FFY 2027 UPWP programs the MPO's core responsibilities, including administration, public involvement, completion of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), staff time for the Valley Trail Loop Feasibility Study, transportation data collection, and continued coordination with local, state, federal, and transit partners. Transit planning activities include program administration, Transit Development Plan implementation, future and current service analysis, TIP coordination, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) planning and coordination.

As part of this year's UPWP development, staff prepared updated five-year funding projections for the MPO work program. The projections show that the State allocation deduction and office-related operating costs each reduce available planning funds by more than \$50,000 annually. Together, these recurring costs create a projected five-year deficit. While this does not create an immediate issue for the current year's budget, it identifies a structural concern that will require future consideration to preserve the MPO's planning capacity.

In response to the updated financial projections, staff is evaluating the return of the two continuous count stations for a refund. This would increase available reserve funding and reduce future operating costs associated with the equipment.

Staff will present the draft FFY 2027 UPWP, review updated funding assumptions, summarize the transit planning section, and discuss the five-year cost projection with TTAC. This item is intended as a first review of the draft UPWP, with TPCC review anticipated next, followed by staff revisions and final consideration next month. No action is requested at this meeting. MPO staff will continue evaluating options over the next six months to one year to preserve planning capacity within the MPO's available funding.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the committee.

FISCAL EFFECTS: The UPWP identifies \$400,200 in MPO expenses eligible for federal reimbursement.

Attachments:

[FFY2027_UPWP_TTAC-draft.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: June 3, 2026