

**SALISBURY/WICOMICO  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION UNIFIED PLANNING  
WORK PROGRAM FY 2027**

**DRAFT**

## **SALISBURY/WICOMICO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FY 2027**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

As a result of the 2000 U.S. Census, the Salisbury area was classified as an Urbanized Area (UA), and in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements a Metropolitan Planning Organization was designated by Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich on February 19, 2004. The initial UA of the Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization (S/WMPO) included the City of Salisbury, the City of Fruitland, the Towns of Delmar (Md. & De.), and the adjacent unincorporated areas of Wicomico County, Md., and Sussex County, De.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Decennial Census, the population of the Urbanized Area was 98,081 with 73,493 persons residing in Maryland (74.9%) and approximately 24,588 persons residing in Delaware (25.1%). This represents an increase of 38,655 persons between the 2000 and 2010 Census, which the majority of the population increase occurred in the expanded portion of the UA in Delaware. In response to the population increase and changes to the delineation criteria of an UA between the 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census, the size of the UA expanded from approximately 43 sq. miles to 73 sq. miles. In addition, a Planning Study Area boundary, which includes the UA, is a larger area encompassing anticipated growth areas of the member jurisdictions over the next 20 years.

The 2010 UA for the S/WMPO region includes the City of Salisbury, City of Fruitland, Town of Delmar, MD, Town of Hebron, and portions of Wicomico and Somerset counties in Maryland. The Delaware portion consists of Town of Delmar, Town of Laurel, Town of Blades, City of Seaford, and part of unincorporated Sussex County, DE. The Metropolitan Planning Area boundary includes the aforementioned jurisdictions, as well as expanded portions of Wicomico County, Maryland, and Sussex County, Delaware.

Following the 2020 Decennial Census, the U.S. Census Bureau modified the Urban Area (UA) designation criteria as compared to the methodology used for the 2010 Decennial Census. This resulted in a decrease in size of the former UA, with Somerset County, Town of Hebron, and other areas in Maryland no longer being included; and in Delaware, the towns of Laurel and Blades, the City of Seaford, and lands between the municipalities are also excluded from the UA. The 2020 population of the current UA is approximately 78,075 persons.

Since the 1960's the federal government has established urban transportation planning requirements in all metropolitan areas, as a prerequisite to the

approval of federal funding (23 CFR Part 450 and 49 CFR Part 613). The regulations require a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3-C) planning process in all urbanized areas. In accordance with federal regulations, the S/WMPPO is the planning agency responsible for regional transportation planning activities within the UA.

In 1991, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) was passed. This Act revised some of the established regulations and procedures and placed a new emphasis on Metropolitan Planning Organizations. As part of this Act, the MPO planning process has been more specifically defined and new planning requirements have been prescribed.

In 1998, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) was passed continuing the initiatives of the 1991 Act and adding several new provisions and programs.

In 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was passed, building on the foundation established by ISTEA and TEA-21 and representing the largest surface transportation investment in the Nation's history. SAFETEA-LU expired in 2009 and after a series of Continuing Resolutions, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) was signed into law by President Barack Obama in July 2012.

MAP-21 built on and refined many of the highway, transit, bike and pedestrian programs and policies established by ISTEA in 1991. MAP-21 focuses the federal aid programs and policies on the following national goals:

1. Safety;
2. Infrastructure;
3. Congestion Reduction;
4. System Reliability;
5. Freight Movement and Economic Vitality;
6. Environmental Sustainability; and
7. Reduced Project Delivery Dates.

On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed into law Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). The FAST Act provided funding certainty for infrastructure planning and capital programming over a five-year timeframe extending from FY 2016 through FY 2020. Overall, the FAST Act continues to maintain current program structures and funding shared between highways and transit. Also, the law changed and reformed many Federal transportation programs, including, streamlining the review and approval processes for new transportation projects, providing new safety tools, and establishing new

programs to advance critical freight projects.

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). As the largest long-term investment in the Nation's history, the BIL provided \$550 billion from fiscal years 2022 through 2026 in new Federal investment for infrastructure, including roads, bridges, mass transit, wastewater infrastructure, and broadband.

This Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a cooperative planning effort by federal, state, and local transportation agencies serving the Salisbury/Wicomico MPO Area, and functions as the annual work program for the S/WMPO. The purpose of the UPWP is to describe and coordinate all transportation planning activities to be completed with federal, state, and local resources during a fiscal year, and is designed to make the transportation planning process consistent with the appropriate federal regulations. Included in the UPWP is a budget detailing how each fund source will be utilized. The UPWP is reviewed, revised, and adopted annually.

## **II. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT) PLANNING EMPHASIS AREAS**

The FAST Act continues to focus on transportation planning as was outlined in preceding federal transportation legislation. In accordance with that focus, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) in December 2021. PEAs are planning topical areas that the Federal agencies wish to place emphasis on as the MPOs develop their planning work programs.

## **III. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

### **A. Metropolitan Planning Organization Council**

The S/WMPO was designated by Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich on February 19, 2004, and is the primary agency responsible for transportation planning within the MPO's Planning Area.

At the time of this publication, the primary governing body of the S/WMPO is the Council, which consists of 11 voting members. The voting members consist of representatives from the following governments and agencies:

#### ***Maryland***

Maryland Department of Transportation (1 position);

Wicomico County (3 positions);

City of Salisbury (2 positions);

City of Fruitland (1 position);  
Town of Delmar, MD (1 position); and  
Tri-County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore of MD (1 position).

***Delaware***

Delaware Department of Transportation (1 position);  
City of Seaford (1 position)

**B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

The S/WMPO Council has established a 12-voting member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of technical representatives such as planners and engineers. The TAC provides technical expertise and develops recommendations to assist the Council by reviewing and recommending revisions to the planning process, data collection, forecasts, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRRP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the UPWP. The current TAC voting membership includes representation from the various member jurisdictions, as well as from transportation organizations and relevant state agencies, which provides the opportunity to achieve a unified transportation planning effort.

**C. MPO Staff**

The S/WMPO is staffed by the Salisbury-Wicomico County Department of Planning, Zoning and Community Development. The S/WMPO Administrator manages the daily operations of the Organization, as well as coordinates regional transportation planning projects and activities, oversees the financial management of the organization and serves as a liaison to local, state, and federal agencies involved in regional transportation planning activities within the S/WMPO Metropolitan Planning Area.

**D. Organizational Procedures and Bylaws**

The S/WMPO operates under an adopted set of Bylaws. Wicomico County provides support services to the organization, including, but not limited to legal, financial, and procurement services. Staff performing these services operate under the applicable rules and procedures of the County and the State of Maryland. The S/WMPO's official records are maintained in the Wicomico County Department of Planning, Zoning, and Community Development in Room 203 of the Government Office Building, 125 N. North Division Street, Salisbury, MD, 21803. The records are available for public review Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**SALISBURY/WICOMICO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FY 2026**

**A. Core Planning**

**1. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

- Objectives: To develop the Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2027 – FY 2030 as specified by the federal urban transportation planning requirements and consistent with state CTPs.
- Methodology: Compile a comprehensive list of federally funded And regionally significant transportation improvements recommended for implementation during the 4-year program period. The document will represent the region's transportation priorities and include realistic cost estimates.
- End Product: FY 2027 – FY 2030 Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Program, as well as amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2025 – FY 2028 TIP.
- Staffing: S/WMPO.

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$4,000.00, as listed below by source and state:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$2,368
FTA	\$832
DOT	\$400.00
Local	\$400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>

Completion Date: Draft / Adoption – Fall 2027  
Amendments and Administrative Modifications – as needed basis.

**2. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Objectives: To develop the FY 2027 UPWP, amend FY 2026 UPWP, as well as de-obligate unencumbered carryover funding from the FY 2026 UPWP.

Methodology: This sub-task will be performed by the S/WMPO with assistance from the Technical Advisory Committee, S/WMPO Council, MDOT, MTA, DeIDOT, FHWA, or FTA. Specific tasks to be funded will be identified by Staff, TAC, Council and/or transportation planning activities undertaken during previous years, as well as recommendations contained in the adopted LRTP and local comprehensive plans.

End Products: Amend FY 2026 UPWP, if necessary, and develop FY 2027 UPWP.

Staffing: S/WMPO.

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$5,000.00, as listed below by source and state:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$2,959
FTA	\$1,041
DOT	\$500.00
Local	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>

Completion Date: Draft / Adoption – Winter / Spring 2027  
Amendments – as needed

**3. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Objective: The S/WMPO adopted their LRTP, Connect 2050, on February 21, 2024, and is required by federal regulations to update the Plan on a four-year cycle. To meet this schedule, the Plan will be reviewed, revised, and adopted during 2027.

Methodology: In anticipation of the 2027 update of the Organization’s LRTP, S/WMPO Staff will compile essential background information, conduct research about emerging trends, and analyze transportation and development activity to identify potential impacts to the regional transportation network. Pertinent data to be compiled and analyzed includes: previous and on-going transportation planning studies and reports prepared for the S/WMPO; Capital Improvement Programs and Budgets of member jurisdictions; improvements since the last update; freight analysis data (movements and modes); Census data; waterborne freight commodities data; Shore Transit’s Annual Transportation Plan; State and Federal Surface Transportation Plans; and locally-adopted comprehensive plans.

The S/WMPO Staff will be extensively involved with

other aspects of the update, including, but not limited to the following: organizing public participation and outreach efforts; managing the project team and schedule; identifying and compiling relevant resource data; coordinating Plan review and adoption process with the Technical Advisory Committee, S/WMPO Council, FHWA, FTA, MDOT, MTA, and DeIDOT to ensure the Plan is in conformance with applicable state and federal regulations, as well as consistent with local plans, policies, and programs.

The S/WMPO’s adopted Public Participation Plan will be followed to ensure and encourage public participation.

End Product: 2028 Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Long Range Transportation Plan.

Staffing: S/WMPO and consultants.

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$25,000.00, as listed below by source and state:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$14,070.38
FTA	\$5,203
DOT	\$2,500.00
Local	\$2,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>

Completion Date: Draft – August 2028  
Local adoption – Prior to December 2028

**4. TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Objectives: To ensure the Transportation Development Plan (TDP) prepared by the Shore Transit is consistent with the S/WMPO LRTP.

Methodology: The S/WMPO annually reviews the TDP to ensure consistency with the LRTP. This will include, when necessary, discussions amongst S/WMPO staff, MTA, and Shore Transit.

End Products: Consistency between the S/WMPO's LRTP and Shore Transit's TDP.

Staffing: S/WMPO.

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$600.00, as listed below by source and state:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$355
FTA	\$125
DOT	\$60.00
Local	\$60.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>

Completion Date: Ongoing

**B. MPO Administration**

Objectives: Significant organizational and regional transportation planning activities have been completed since the establishment of the S/WMPO in 2004. These activities include the establishment of a Council and Technical Advisory Committee, and the development and adoption of governing documents, including, but not limited to the following: Memorandum of Understanding and Master Agreement; Prospectus and Bylaws; and establishing the S/WMPO Metropolitan Planning Area boundary. Also, this task includes administrative responsibilities associated with the daily operations of staffing the S/WMPO and its regional planning activities and functions.

In addition to these daily operations, during FY 2027 the following on-going activities are anticipated:

- Staff training – Wicomico County Department of

Planning, Zoning, and Community Development staff will continue to receive training on the federally prescribed Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process. This item is timely given the enactment of Performance Measures associated with the passage of the MAP-21 and the FAST Act. This continuous training will include opportunities offered through membership, participation, and attendance of conferences and training activities of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO).

- Review and, if necessary, revise Governing and Planning Documents – S/WMPO Staff will conduct an annual review and, if necessary, recommend revisions of existing organizational documents, including, but not limited to the Bylaws and Prospectus, Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, etc.
- Data Collection – S/WMPO Staff will coordinate the collection and storage of traffic studies prepared by developers during the submission and review of various development projects proposed within the S/WMPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary. Also, when applicable, the S/WMPO will maintain data pertaining to traffic counts on roadways within the MPA that have been compiled by the various member jurisdictions.
- Manage the S/WMPO, which includes the daily activities needing to be performed to keep the S/WMPO operational. These activities, include, but are not limited to the following:

- Manage the daily operations and activities of the S/WMPO;
- Contract administration between the S/WMPO and other entities and vendors;
- S/WMPO accounting and financial requirements;
- Continued maintenance of the S/WMPO invoice tracking database;
- Prepare quarterly reimbursement requests and progress reports;
- Staff and support of the S/WMPO Technical Advisory Committee and the Council;
- Represent the S/WMPO at transportation related meetings, presentations, team planning initiatives, and conferences; and
- Attend training, conferences, and seminars to ensure the S/WMPO staff are knowledgeable about applicable federal and state regulations and performance measures consistent with MAP 21 and the FAST Act.

Methodology:

These sub-tasks will be performed by the S/WMPO, MDOT, and DeLDOT. The developmental work will be consistent with federal Metropolitan Planning Organization Guidelines.

End Products:

- Training of S/WMPO Staff.
- Input of S/WMPO Staff and coordination with DeLDOT about the air quality conformity issues associated with being designated as a Maintenance Area.
- Current adopted documents, to include the Prospectus and Bylaws, Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, etc.
- A tabulation of relevant traffic studies and data within the S/WMPO MPA.
- S/WMPO Invoice tracking database to streamline internal review and processing of invoices and prepare reimbursements.

Staffing: S/WMPO.

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$45,000.00, as listed below by source and state:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$26,635
FTA	\$10,092.22
DOT	\$4,500.00
Local	\$4,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>

Completion Date: Ongoing

### C. Public Participation Process

Objective: Activities will be undertaken to increase public participation in the S/WMPO's transportation planning process.

Methodology: The Organization adopted a Public Participation Plan in FY 2008, and amended in FY 2012 and FY 2020. Implementation efforts will continue to maintain and, when necessary, update the Public Participation Plan and the Organization's website through regular review and comparison with those developed for other MPO's, as well as modifications to any officially adopted document(s).

End Product: A current and updated Public Participation Plan; continue to maintain the existing S/WMPO website, which contains links to member jurisdictions and organizations; advertise upcoming TAC and MPO Council meeting dates, agendas, and materials;

advertise Request for Proposals; and provide a public portal to review existing plans, publications, and work program items (TIP, UPWP, and the LRTP).

Staffing: S/WMPO, website consultant, and advertising vendors.

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$2,500.00, as listed below by source and state:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$1,465
FTA	\$535
DOT	\$250.00
Local	\$250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

Completion Date: Ongoing

**D. Special Studies**

Objective: To conduct planning-level needs assessment for prospective traffic and pedestrian safety studies. Specific studies to be determined.

Methodology: To be determined.

End Product: To be determined.

Staffing: S/WMPO and selected consultant(s).

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$167,671.77, as listed below by source and state:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$98,926.34
FTA	\$35,211.07
DOT	\$16,767.18
Local	\$16,767.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$167,671.77</b>

Completion Date: Ongoing

**1. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS – ONGOING ENHANCEMENTS**

Objective: The County Planning Department has previously initiated work on the development of a Geographic Information System, which is an ongoing coordinated effort between the S/WMPO, MDOT, and DelDOT. This task will support this effort and develop and utilize data for transportation and land use planning.

Methodology: Work is continuing on the development and enhancement of comprehensive multi-jurisdictional GIS. The GIS is used to produce mapping and data for many purposes including: transportation/transit planning; macro-level demand and growth forecasting/modeling; Emergency 911 planning;

project impact analysis;  
comprehensive road inventory and  
mapping; and ongoing update of  
land use files and development  
capacity analysis.

End Product: The GIS database developed from this task will support ongoing transportation planning functions related to mapping and inventory of roadway network infrastructure, and will also assist in the development and completion of the LRTP, and to support Corridor and Traffic Management Studies (both motorized and non-motorized).

Staffing: S/WMPO and consultants.

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$5,000.00, as listed below by source and state:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$2,959
FTA	\$1,041
DOT	\$500.00
Local	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>

Completion Date: Ongoing

## **2. TRANSIT PLANNING**

Objective: Funding is allocated to assist Shore Transit with planning activities designed to reduce gaps in access to essential services including housing, employment, health care, academic institutions, recreation, and other major activity generators. Funding during this fiscal year may be used to retain professional planning services.

Methodology: To be determined, dependent upon specific purpose.

End Product: On-demand micro-transit service options in and around the metro-core area of Salisbury that provide first mile/last mile connections to the Shore Transit network, providing expanded service options and eliminating the need for a central transfer point in the Downtown Salisbury area.

Staffing: S/WMPO, Shore Transit Staff and selected consultant(s).

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$43,747.00, as listed below by source and state:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$25,908
FTA	\$9,089
DOT	\$4,375
Local	\$4,375
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$43,747</b>

Completion Date: To be determined

### **3. FREIGHT PLANNING**

Objective: Continue to conduct freight planning activities with state, and local agencies; and stakeholders to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods and services on the regional transportation network. Moreover, maintain and establish partnerships with freight related organizations a private entities. Also, funding will be used for annual membership dues. private entities.

Methodology: The scope of work for specific projects will be developed by the S/WMPO Staff and MDOT. Professional consulting services will be obtained to conduct and present the findings of project(s).

End Product: To be determined.

Staffing: S/WMPO, MDOT Staff and selected consultant(s).

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$1,000.00, as listed below by source:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$592
FTA	\$208
DOT	\$100
Local	\$100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>

Completion Date: Ongoing

**4. WALKWICOMICO PLANNING INITIATIVES**

Objective: To collect and develop pedestrian related data and increase planned walking activities within the MPA.

Methodology: The S/WMPO will continue partnering with Wicomico County Health Department's Walk Wicomico Committee to explore outreach and educational opportunities, as well as organizing community walks to promote the importance of walking. Annual activities will be presented to the S/WMPO TAC and Council.

End Product: To be determined.

Staffing: S/WMPO and the Walk Wicomico Committee.

Funding: Funding for this task totals \$2,000.00, as listed below by source:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MARYLAND</u>
FHWA	\$1,184
FTA	\$416
DOT	\$200
Local	\$200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>

Completion Date: Ongoing

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# SALISBURY/WICOMICO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FY 2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>					
A. CORE PLANNING	FHWA	FTA	MDOT	LOCAL*	TOTAL
1. TIP	\$2,368	\$832	\$400	\$400	\$4,000
2. UPWP	\$2,959	\$1,041	\$500	\$500	\$5,000
3. Salisbury/Wicomico Area Long-Range Transportation Plan	\$14,070.38	\$5,203	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$25,000
4. Transportation Devel. Prog.	\$355	\$125	\$60	\$60	\$600
Subtotal Section A	<i>\$19,753.38</i>	<i>\$7,200</i>	<i>\$3,460</i>	<i>\$3,460</i>	<i>\$34,600</i>
B. MPO ADMINISTRATION	<i>\$26,635</i>	<i>\$10,092.22</i>	<i>\$4,500</i>	<i>\$4,500</i>	<i>\$45,000</i>
C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS	<i>\$1,465</i>	<i>\$535</i>	<i>\$250</i>	<i>\$250</i>	<i>\$2,500</i>
D. SPECIAL STUDIES (To be amended per approved FY 27 projects)	\$98,926.34	\$35,211.07	\$16,767.18	\$16,767.18	\$167,671.77
E. OTHER					
1. GIS Enhancements	\$2,959	\$1,041	\$500	\$500	\$5,000
2. Transit Planning	\$25,908	\$9,089	\$4,375	\$4,375	\$43,747
3. Freight Planning	\$592	\$208	\$100	\$100	\$1,000
4. WalkWicomico Planning Initiatives	\$1,184	\$416	\$200	\$200	\$2,000
Subtotal Section E	<i>\$30,643</i>	<i>\$10,754</i>	<i>\$5,175</i>	<i>\$5,175</i>	<i>\$51,747</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$177,896.07</b>	<b>\$63,318.94</b>	<b>\$30,151.88</b>	<b>\$30,151.88</b>	<b>\$301,518.77</b>

**NOTES:**

\* Wicomico County 10% services as local match

Maryland – **FY 27 Base Allocation \$251,965** (FHWA=\$148,186; FTA= \$53,386; MDOT= \$25,197; Local= \$25,197)

**FY 2026 Carryover Funding - \$49,553.77** (\*Estimated carryover funds reflected in the FY27 UPWP budget are based on anticipated de-obligation of unencumbered FY26 funds. Final carryover amounts are subject to change pending fiscal year-end reconciliation.)

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