

Danville-Pittsylvania County MPO
FY 2027
Unified Transportation Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Introduction and Summary of Planning Process

Structure/General Organization

The Unified Transportation Planning Work Program (UPWP) defines the transportation planning processes and programs used by the Metropolitan Planning Organization and is normally developed and adopted on an annual basis. The overall authority for transportation planning in the Metropolitan Planning Area is in the hands of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is made up of locally elected and administrative officials of the local government members (City of Danville and County of Pittsylvania) and representation from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT); these members make up the Policy Board and are the voting entity for the MPO. There are seven eligible votes on the Policy Board: three from the City, three from the County, and one from the Virginia Department of Transportation. The City, County, and VDOT have provided alternate voting members from staff and administration. The MPO also has a Project Management Team (PMT) appointed by the MPO Chairman that is primarily administrative and planning personnel from the area; the PMT is the MPO's technical committee.

Planning Sources and Processes

With the establishment of the MPO, the Danville-Pittsylvania County area has available to it an organization for transportation planning which can provide a forum and instrumentality to bring together comprehensive and cooperative planning approaches that may lead to new, worthwhile project alternatives. These project ideas may eventually find their way into a transportation improvement program (TIP) at some future point in time if funding can be identified for their implementation. The planning efforts managed by the MPO include provisions for citizen participation.

Environmental Justice is an outgrowth of an Executive Order signed by President Clinton in 1994. The Executive Order augments Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by making the prohibition of discrimination based on race, color, and national origin more specific. It addresses persons belonging to Black, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, and low-income groups. The intent of environmental justice is to improve transportation planning and decision-making by including all public groups in the planning process. Specifically, Metropolitan Planning Organizations are expected to enhance public participation by eliminating participation barriers and engaging underserved populations in making transportation decisions.

To help explain environmental justice, the Executive Order and the U.S. Department of Transportation present three fundamental principles. These principles are:

1. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects on minority populations and low-income populations.
2. To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
3. To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

The Danville MPO is meeting these principles by continually examining the location and service area of each of its transportation improvements to ensure that its transportation system adequately and appropriately benefits all groups of the Region's population. The MPO is also providing direct notice to as many entities representing underserved groups, including groups representing disabled and underserved persons in the Region, as is practicable. The MPO will also hold public meetings and other activities in facilities that are centrally located and accessible by as many transportation modes as possible. Additionally, as a recipient of Federal funding, the MPO adheres to Executive Order 14224. The MPO will continue its work in complying with the Environmental Justice regulations by utilizing data provided by the 2020 Census and the socio-economic database developed for the LRTP update. The Danville MPO's Title VI Plan serves as a guide for the MPO to help ensure environmental justice obligations are achieved and, specifically, non-discriminatory practices and processes in place designed to prevent discrimination based on race, color, or national origin factors. The MPO also employs the *Public Involvement Participation Plan and Notification Procedures Manual*, which contains a list of organizations representing under-represented or underserved populations in the MPO area, as well as containing guidelines for public outreach, in addition to other pertinent information. These documents, as well as Danville MPO Discrimination Complaint Forms, are all available to the public on the Danville MPO's website, <https://danvillempo.org/>.

The UWP in the Process

The UWP attempts to set out the planning efforts being undertaken by the various entities of which it has knowledge. To date, the primary efforts listed originate with citizens, the local governments, VDOT and the MPO Policy Board. Project development and recommended planning project activity generally proceeds through Project Management Team consideration and then to the MPO Board, which, after consultation, makes final changes and project selection.

UWP and the TIP

As implied, the UWP annually sets out a compendium of transportation planning activities for which authorization and funding support is to be sought. Activities included normally are presented on a one-year schedule. The MPO Policy Board is also responsible for developing the annual TIP.

The projects considered in the TIP are different from those in the UWP. Items for inclusion in the TIP are done in the following ways:

- They have reached the project level;

- They involve capital improvements;
- They have been selected for implementation;
- Funding sources have been determined; and
- They cover an extended time period typically of three years.

The UWP is a planning activities administration tool, whereas the TIP sets out a schedule of actual projects for implementation. Projects in the TIP may also be end products of planning work carried out under the UWP.

Meeting National Goals for Transportation Planning

The UWP and the planning process it engenders allows the MPO to participate in and meet requirements from the national perspective of conducting a *Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive* transportation planning process that results in plans and programs that consider all modes of transportation and support metropolitan community development and social goals. This is widely known as the "3-C Process."

Current and Future UWP Activities and Facing the Future Issues

As noted, the MPO has engaged in a number of short-range planning activities. Historically, the MPO has undertaken numerous short-range projects such as corridor studies, intersection studies, and transportation development plan updates. In the future it is anticipated that the MPO through the UWP-specified activities will continue to undertake short-range type planning activities to manage congestion and monitor for Long-Range Transportation Plan update needs depending on availability of financial support for the planning activities. The MPO will also be expected to work with the Commonwealth and federal agencies, as deemed appropriate, in implementing the guidelines and programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and other applicable federal transportation policies.

The MPO will follow the implementation and will seek opportunities to capitalize on the BIL adopted in November 2021. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, passed as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, provides long-term funding for surface transportation infrastructure planning and investment, including increased funding over the previous FAST Act. The BIL authorizes \$567.5 billion over fiscal years 2022 through 2026 for all modes of transportation administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. This includes \$274.1 billion in new funding. The BIL maintains a focus on safety, keeps intact the established structure of the various highway-related programs, and continues efforts to streamline project delivery.

Primary issues facing the area include how best to redesign and improve the transportation system and, at the same time, ensure that necessary funds will be available to undertake the physical projects needed. The key question is whether there will be funds available to undertake the physical improvements that are ultimately prompted from the planning process.

FY27 Work Plan Tasks

During this fiscal year, the following activities will be pursued by MPO and VDOT staff:

Task 1.0 Administration and Maintenance of the Transportation Planning Process

1.01 General Administration and Operations

Description: This task includes ongoing activities to ensure the proper management and operations of the continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated (3-C) planning process. The objectives of this task are to implement the FY 2027 UPWP throughout the fiscal year; provide all required administrative functions including accounting, personnel, contract, and office administration; and support the activities of the Danville MPO through preparation of agendas, attendance, scheduling meetings, reports, minutes, and other duties as needed for the MPO Policy Board and subcommittees such as the Project Management Team/Technical Advisory Committee.

End Products:

- Prepare meeting agendas; minutes; resolutions; arrange for and/or attend meetings, conferences, and training.
- Preparation for and attendance at the MPO Policy Board meetings.
- Preparation for and attendance at Project Management Team (Technical Committee) meetings or virtual/online meetings, including any work for special committees.
- Process PL funding requests; VDOT preparation and/or review of PL and PL Pass-through funding agreements and addenda.
- Review local and regional transportation planning activities and attend public hearings conducted by the MPO as needed.
- Develop and employ mechanisms for accommodation of MPO transportation planning activities with guidelines for Environmental Justice and with regulations for Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Efforts can include: developing processes to evaluate disproportionate impacts and distribution of benefits and burdens of plans and programs on low-income and minority populations; establishing procedure to assess low-income and minority population participation in the planning process; incorporate Environmental Justice efforts in the UPWP. MPO staff will seek out and continue to participate in a Title VI Civil Rights training activity during FY 27.
- Prepare and execute funding agreements and contracts, including contract extensions or supplements, as needed.

- Prepare and review progress, financial, and other supportive reports; VDOT: review and process quarterly billing invoices and progress reports.
- In FY 27, in the interest of improving public access to MPO transportation planning activities, the standalone MPO website will be maintained and updated, incorporating transportation activities, programs, studies, reports, meetings, and other items of public interest.
- Review, as necessary, consultant contracts or supplements and monitor consultant contracts, negotiations, and work progress on MPO-sponsored transportation planning and studies employing consultants.
- Respond to requests for intergovernmental reviews and their coordination with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission.
- Review proposed enhancement projects as requested.
- Employ training, courses, seminars, and conferences to enhance the transportation planning and administration skills of staff and/or Policy Board, Project Management Team/Technical Advisory Committee.
- Update the Study Data and Prioritization Tool (SIPT) with the most recent data available as a means to identify viable consultant-led studies in future years.

Completion date: Ongoing/Continuing in FY 2027

Budget: \$60,000 Staff: \$60,000

1.02 Reporting and Compliance with MPO, VDOT, and FHWA-Required Tasks, Regulations

Description: This task includes all activities associated with annual development and maintenance of the annual MPO work program (UPWP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including amendments, as well as any necessary and required updates to the 2045 Long-Range Plan.

In addition, MPO staff will work cooperatively with the Virginia Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration-Richmond staff, as necessary in accommodating the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and other pertinent federal transportation policies -- based requirements needed for the MPO to attain full compliance. The staff, with help from the FHWA and VDOT, will also want to monitor, maintain, and improve upon the Public Involvement Program that the MPO uses in its operations.

Fiscal Year 2027 activities will be flexible to be responsive to any demands placed on the MPO with the advent of the BIL or other federal requirements. MPOs will need to monitor new policy directives in the CFRs of public comments and responses as well as the final regulatory actions generated subsequent to the federal public involvement/comment process.

In an effort to continue to meet objectives identified by the FHWA, the MPO will continue to execute and refine the Performance Based Planning and Programming process. The MPO will seek guidance from the Lynchburg District VDOT Planning Staff and the FHWA staff in considering any recommended changes or refinements to this process.

End Products:

Completion date: Continuing in FY 2024

Budget: \$10,424 Staff: \$10,424

End Products:

- Process amendments to FY 2027 Unified Transportation Work Program (UWP) and prepare the FY 2028 UWP.
- Develop and process as necessary amendments to the FY 2027 - 2030 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) as requested by VDOT.
- Maintaining reconciliation of MPO's transportation planning processes for compliance with the BIL and other applicable federal regulations. Work may include other planning efforts with State agencies to meet the regulations and fulfill required planning efforts.
- Revise, as necessary, the Public Involvement Process to comply with BIL requirements. An end product aiding this will be:
 - Development of recommendations for improvements to public involvement efforts.

Completion date: Continuing/Ongoing FY 2027

Budget: \$6,000 Staff: \$6,000

Task 2.0 Long-Range Transportation Planning and Surveillance

2.01 2045/2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Maintenance

Description: During FY 2027, MPO staff will continue to coordinate, maintain, and amend, as necessary, the Long-Range Transportation Plan updated to the Year 2045 or 2050, b) Evaluate any requests or needs for modification of either of the Long-Range Transportation Plans, including responding to BIL requirements and preparing for future updates including the next transportation reauthorization bill.

End Products:

- Public assistance and information.
- Updates and amendments to keep Plan current.

Completion date: The 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan is anticipated to be completed in late 2026, with updates and amendments to keep either of the two plans current ongoing in FY 27

Budget: \$10,000 Staff: \$10,000

2.02 Consultant Led Studies in Support of Long-Range Planning Efforts

Description: The MPO has provided for the potential of initiating local transportation planning efforts to assist the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County with their needs and supporting the continual ongoing development of projects that derive from the Long-Range Transportation Plan and its recommendations list.

In FY 27, the MPO will utilize its consultant support to continue to update the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to horizon year 2050. It is an FHWA requirement that the LRTP be updated every five years for metropolitan planning organizations falling within EPA “attainment areas,” for criteria pollutants. The current LRTP was adopted in August 2020, meaning that this plan is now required to be updated. The MPO began working with an on-call consultant in furtherance of this effort in FY 26, and anticipates the process to be complete in late 2026 – about the middle of FY 27.

Consultant agreements will include provision for end products to be provided as a deliverable for the project. Remaining funds of \$74,000 will be deprogrammed from FY 26 and carried over into FY 27 to fund the on-call consultant’s efforts to complete the LRTP.

Current / Ongoing Initiatives:

Development of Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Supplemental Plans:

In FY 25, the Danville MPO adopted its Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan, which was funded by a federal SS4A grant awarded to the MPO in FY 23. On-call consultant EPR, PC worked with the MPO beginning in FY 23 to develop the Plan, which identified safety deficiencies in the MPO area and put forth recommendations to improve safety.

In late FY 24, EPR, PC assisted the MPO with preparing a SS4A Implementation Grant to seek funding for many of the recommendations that were advanced in the aforementioned Safety Action Plan. That grant, which sought approximately \$8.4 million for infrastructure safety improvements, educational efforts, and supplemental planning activities, was partially funded to include only the supplemental planning activities. The amount awarded to the MPO is \$640,000, requiring a 20 percent match of \$160,000, for a total of \$800,000. The funds will be utilized to conduct a safety study for the West Main Street corridor in the City of Danville, as well as to update the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan.

Update of Danville MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan:

In Fiscal Year 2027, the Danville MPO will continue work on the process of updating the *2045 Danville MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)*, which began in FY 26. The current (2045) LRTP was adopted August 20, 2020, and the updated plan will have a horizon year of 2050. The MPO's on-call consultant, EPR, PC, has been selected to update the plan, which is scheduled to be completed at the end of Calendar Year 2026 or early 2027.

Future Consultant-Led Studies:

Norfolk-Southern Railroad Crossing at West Main Street (City of Danville): This study is needed to address a safety issue pertaining to a single Norfolk-Southern railroad track that crosses West Main Street in the vicinity of Gatewood Drive. The track currently includes warning signage and flashing lights, but no safety gates. With the recent completion of a casino farther east along the corridor and the potential for other development having the likelihood to increase traffic volumes along this corridor, it is likely that this railroad crossing will pose a greater safety risk to the traveling public in the future. Therefore, a study is needed to determine how best to address this safety concern. It is likely that the SS4A-funded safety study of the West Main Street corridor will develop one or more recommendations for this safety concern.

U.S. Route 58 East (South Boston Road) from Danville Regional Airport east to the eastern MPO boundary (City of Danville and Pittsylvania County): This study would evaluate safety, functionality, and multimodal transportation needs and formulate recommendations along the U.S. Route 58 corridor between Danville Regional Airport and the eastern MPO boundary.

West Main Street between the limits of former Dewberry Study (Schoolfield) and U.S. Route 29 Interchange (City of Danville): Include study of and potential improvements to the West Main Street corridor as a priority in the next update of the Danville MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan. Subsequent to that, a study is recommended by the City to identify safety, functionality, and multimodal travel needs and to formulate relevant recommendations along the corridor. Given the recent development of a casino as well as future developments that will likely influence traffic volumes, safety, and the built environment along the corridor, a corridor study will be imperative within the next several years. A SS4A-funded safety study along the West Main Street corridor is expected to satisfy the safety component of this need, though this study will likely also include a multi-modal component to facilitate safe bicycle and pedestrian mobility.

End Product: Consultant-led study reports including supporting graphs, pictures, maps, drawings, and other pertinent statistical data.

Completion Date of 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan: 2nd or 3rd Quarter of FY 27

Budget: \$324,430.84 Staff: \$40,000 Consultant: \$284,430.84

Task 3.0 Technical Assistance

3.01 General Development and Comprehensive Planning

Description: This task allows for assistance to MPO localities on transportation-related activities on an individual basis or MPO basis, as needed.

This task includes but is not limited to:

- Providing transportation planning and plan development assistance, transportation technical input, and resources to the MPO's localities to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the transportation network;
- Assessing the impact of major developments and other significant land use changes on the transportation system;

- Assisting with the update of local comprehensive plans to ensure land use and other elements are consistent with the statewide and MPO transportation plans and other planning documents;
- PDC Staff will compile all available and future land use GIS layers/attribute data from local comprehensive plans within the Planning District Commission boundaries. The staff will use the GIS tool provided by VDOT-TMPD to geo-reference local transportation plan recommendations. The PDC staff will coordinate and utilize the assistance provided or as needed from VDOT-TMPD in accomplishing this task.
- Assisting the City of Danville and/or Pittsylvania County with complete streets efforts
- Providing assistance relating to grant-writing and other forms of support
- Review plans and documents, as requested
- Assisting with other duties as requested by VDOT, FHWA, and the MPO, including participation in the NEPA process for transportation projects.

In an effort to ensure its effectiveness in regional planning, the MPO will consider or revisit, if applicable, its metropolitan area planning agreements with area local governments or other area MPOs to facilitate to the greatest possible extent cross-jurisdictional communication among the VDOT, MPOs, and area local governments to improve collaboration, policy implementation, technology use, and performance management.

The MPO will place emphasis on exploring opportunities to identify and address gaps in transportation access to essential services such as health care, employment, education, and recreation. The MPO will explore opportunities to reach underserved populations by evaluating its public participation plans with the intent of communicating with and more effectively involving disadvantaged populations in the transportation planning process.

- Assist with developing regional consensus on priorities of highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects for consideration by the Commonwealth Transportation Board for inclusion in the Six-Year Improvement Program.
- The MPO staff will monitor and attempt to exercise measures to promote safety-conscious planning in the current and future fiscal years.
- Review road plans for conformity with current transportation plans; assist with area and District-wide planning for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and higher levels of technology for project developments in the future.
- MPO staff work on GIS, CTPP data for distribution and utilization related to transportation planning projects, studies, and coordination as appropriate.

- If requested, coordinate multi-modal study activities and maintain necessary transportation inventories, including bicycles or bicycle paths.
- Evaluate and review special situations such as: major traffic generators, site plans, elderly and handicapped needs, and any needs for Paratransit projects.
- Continuous review of current transportation plan(s) for consideration of additional TSM improvements such as traffic engineering, fringe parking lots, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, goods movement, and vehicle occupancy.
- Assisting VDOT and other Commonwealth transportation agencies in development of statewide plans to meet federal requirements or the requests of the Office of the Governor or in order to respond to General Assembly legislation.
- Assist City and County in developing project needs for inclusion in their Comprehensive Plan's Transportation Elements Chapter.
- Provide VDOT GIS layers and any other related data obtained from the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County relating to parcel index, future land use, etc.

End Products: Reports, correspondence, work papers, mapping or other work products generated in the course of staff provision of general technical assistance

Completion date: Continuing FY 2027

Budget: \$31,630 Staff: \$31,630

VDOT-TMPD Support to MPOs:

VDOT's Transportation and Mobility Planning Division (TMPD), located in the Central Office, will provide statewide oversight, guidance, and support for the federally-mandated Metropolitan Transportation Planning & Programming Process. TMPD will provide technical assistance to VDOT District Planning Managers, local jurisdictions, regional agencies, and various divisions within VDOT in the development of transportation planning documents for the MPO areas. TMPD will participate in special studies as requested.

**PL Costs by Task
FY 2027**

Task		Consultants	MPO/PDC	Totals
1.01	General Administration and Operations		\$44,000	\$44,000
1.02	Reporting and Compliance with MPO Required Tasks, Regulations		\$12,000	\$12,000
	General Technical Assistance		\$10,000	\$10,000
2.01	Long-Range Transportation Plan Development/Maintenance		\$10,000	\$10,000
2.02	Consultant -Led Studies	\$284,430.84	\$40,000	\$324,430.84
3.01	General Development and Comprehensive Planning		\$35,000	\$35,000
Total:		\$284,430.84*	\$151,000	\$435,430.84*

**FY 2027 Unified Transportation Planning Work Program
PL & SPR FUNDING**

Source	Danville MPO/West Piedmont PDC			VDOT District Support
	*PL-PDC	**PL-Consultants Studies	***PL-Total	SPR
Federal	\$120,800	\$227,544.67	\$348,344.67	\$80,000
State	\$15,100	\$28,443.08	\$43,543.08	\$20,000
Local	\$15,100	\$28,443.08	\$43,543.08	n/a
Total:	\$151,000	\$284,430.84	\$435,430.84	\$100,000

* PL-PDC denotes funds to be used for staff activities and administrative tasks; amount also covers activities that the MPO may engage in such as contract & consultant management for corridor planning, support on the consultant studies, BIL compliance efforts, comprehensive planning support, and VTRANS support.

** PL- funded consultant work includes activities such as developing studies, and in updating MPO plans.

Summary Table - All Sources of Funds

	FHWA SPR	FHWA PL	VDOT SPR	Local	Total
Administrative--State Tran. Planning	\$80,000		\$20,000		\$100,000
Admin.--MPO Tran. Planning		\$120,800	\$15,100	\$15,100	\$151,000
PL- Consultants		\$227,544.67	\$28,443.08	\$28,443.08	\$284,430.84
Total - All Sources:	\$80,000	\$348,344.67	\$43,543.08	\$43,543.08	\$435,430.84