

SUMMER 2024

WAMPO QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) is the lead independent agency for coordinating priorities for regionally significant transportation investments in roads, highways, transit, rails, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. In engagement with its member communities and state and federal partners, WAMPO supports the region's economic and transportation goals.

Read some of our Summer 2024 updates below and visit www.wampo.org for more information.

2024 Bicycle and Pedestrian Count

The 2024 Bicycle and Pedestrian Count is approaching, and we're excited to invite you to participate! Your active participation is crucial for ensuring accurate data collection and aiding us in our efforts to create a more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly community. This is your chance to have a meaningful impact on enhancing the walkability, bike-friendliness, and overall accessibility of our community.

Volunteering is simple- sign up and indicate your preferred days/times and locations. WAMPO staff will provide you with everything else.

The 2024 Bike-Ped Count will take place on the following dates and times:

- **Wednesday, September 11:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Wednesday, September 11:** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- **Thursday, September 12:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Thursday, September 12:** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- **Saturday, September 14:** 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



Ready to make a difference? Sign up today and secure your spot as a volunteer!

For more information and to register, please visit www.wampo.org/bicycle-pedestrian.

MTP 2050 Progress

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a strategic, long-term document guiding future transportation projects in the WAMPO region. By federal mandate, Metropolitan Planning Organizations must involve the public throughout the planning process. MTP 2050 must be completed by May 2025. WAMPO is in the process of determining what projects will be included MTP 2050 and is developing draft chapters and appendices.

For more information, visit www.wampo.org/mtp2050.

Draft Chapters on the WAMPO Website

WAMPO is developing long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050), which will guide the region's transportation infrastructure investments and policies over the next quarter century. As WAMPO works towards completing a draft of the full plan, draft chapters and appendices will be posted on the WAMPO website for public review. This approach ensures transparency and allows community members, stakeholders, and policymakers to review and provide input on the proposed strategies and projects. By making the information readily available, WAMPO is fostering an inclusive planning process that seeks to incorporate diverse perspectives and insights, ultimately leading to a more robust and effective transportation plan for the future. This phased release allows for a more manageable review process, enabling community members, stakeholders, and policymakers to focus on specific sections and provide detailed feedback, ensuring that the final plan is comprehensive and reflective of the community's needs and priorities.

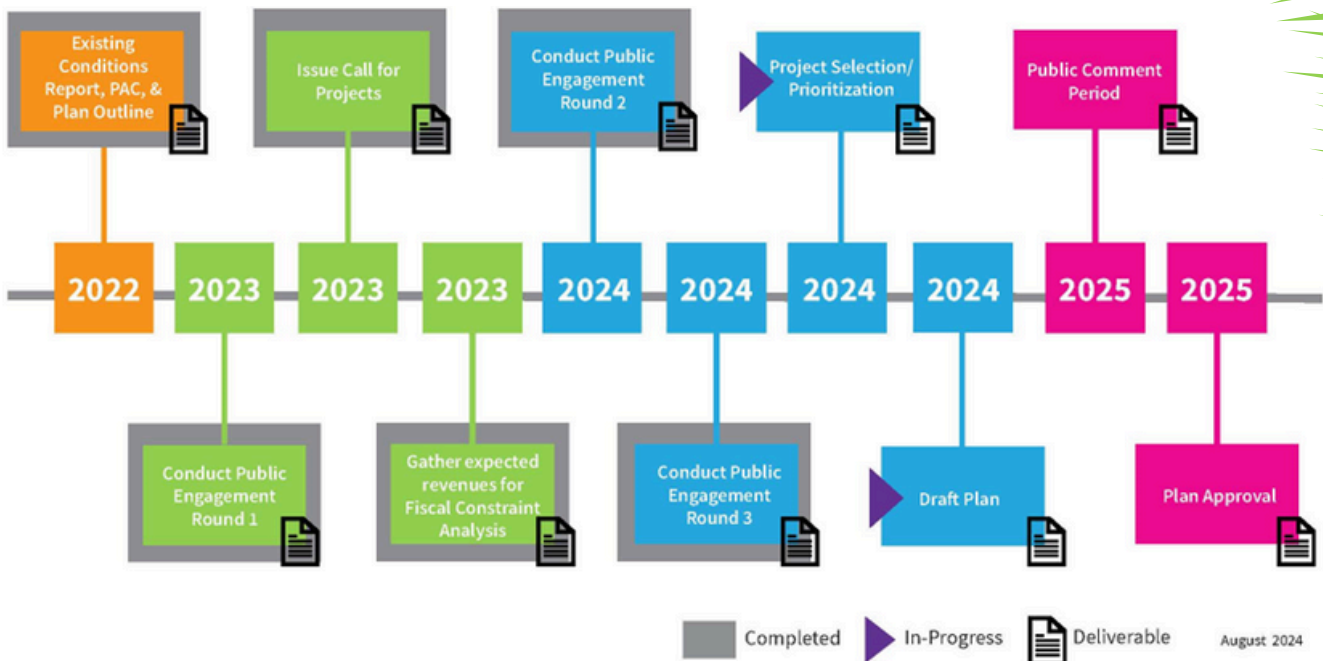
Draft sections of MTP 2050 will be posted incrementally, with individual chapters and appendices made available on the WAMPO website, at www.wampo.org/mtp2050.

Public Engagement Round 3 Results Report

WAMPO conducted the third round of public engagement for MTP 2050 from May 20, 2024, through June 30, 2024. The purpose of this round of public engagement was to gather opinions on transportation issues & policy alternatives and to document transportation-mode usage trends within the WAMPO region. During this round of public engagement, WAMPO staff utilized several strategies to engage with the public about MTP 2050 and how it will help shape the transportation network. The third MTP 2050 survey was made available to the public in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, posted on the WAMPO website, made available on paper at various in-person events, and advertised through social media posts on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn, to encourage participants to take the survey online. Member jurisdictions and other local agencies also greatly contributed to WAMPO's outreach efforts by featuring the survey on websites, in newsletters, and on social media. 474 survey responses were recorded and analyzed and the MTP 2050 Public Engagement Round 3 Summary is available at www.wampo.org/mtp2050.

Planning Timeline

The plan is anticipated to be approved in May 2025. However, there are many steps between now and then. The timeline below shows the high-level deliverables.

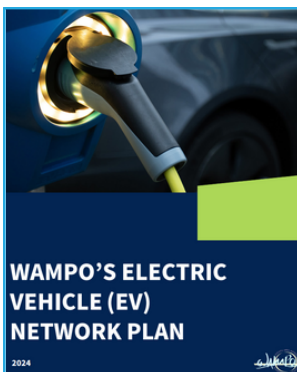


WAMPO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form visit www.wampo.org or call (316) 779-1313. The preparation of this report has been financed in part through funds from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, under the Metropolitan Planning Program, Section 104(d) of Title 23, U.S. Code. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Transportation Planning Updates

FFY2025-FFY2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

On August 13, 2024, the WAMPO Transportation Policy Body (TPB) approved the new FFY2025-FFY2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It was available for public comment from June 12 through July 11, 2024, and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) formally recommended it for approval on July 22, 2024. All federally funded transportation projects within the WAMPO region, and those projects deemed regionally significant by WAMPO in partnership with key stakeholders, are required to appear in the TIP. These projects are made into a prioritized, four-year list representing funding commitments from local, state, and federal partners that benefit the region. For additional details, please visit www.wampo.org/transportation-improvement-program.



Electric Vehicle Network Plan Update

Survey results for the Electric Vehicle Network Plan have been analyzed, and the detailed report is now available on our website. Additionally, WAMPO staff have reviewed and incorporated public comments received for the plan. Visit www.wampo.org/electric-vehicles to read the full Electric Vehicle Network Plan.

Safety Updates

ICT Safe Coalition

ICT Safe: A Regional Transportation Coalition held its quarterly meeting on August 7, 2024. The mission of ICT Safe is to reduce transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries in the WAMPO region by implementing the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). ICT Safe includes a diverse range of stakeholders involved in education, engineering, enforcement, advocacy, and emergency response. The next meeting will be held virtually on November 6, 2024, at 9:30 AM. For more information about ICT Safe, please visit www.wampo.org/ict-safe.

Recently, WAMPO staff and members of the coalition and workgroups determined that combining meetings and resources will help strengthen the efforts of their shared missions. Moving forward, the [WAMPO Active Transportation Committee](#) and [Drive Safe Sedgwick](#) will fall under the umbrella of the ICT Safe Coalition. This will help increase information/resource sharing among all members while reducing the number of quarterly meetings.

Safe Routes to School

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program aims to make walking and bicycling to and from school safer for K-12 students in the United States through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, public engagement, and safety education. Passionate about the goals of promoting safety, active transportation, and community engagement while reducing traffic congestion, WAMPO has worked to direct federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding for SRTS planning assistance in the region. WAMPO is in the process of hiring a consultant to provide assistance to jurisdictions and schools/school districts with the development of their SRTS plans. Once such plans are in place, the projects and activities called for in those plans (e.g., new crosswalks and sidewalks, safety-education programs) will be better positioned to take advantage of future funding opportunities.

Meanwhile, the Kansas Safe Routes to Schools program is expanding and in the process of developing a strategic plan. To make sure this plan is reflective of and useful to communities throughout Kansas, we need your help to learn more about what communities are already doing; what is needed to encourage more students to walk, bike, and roll; and what barriers are standing in their way.

Please take the Kansas SRTS survey here - <https://tinyurl.com/KDOT-SRTS-survey> - to share what's happening near you and what you'd like to see Kansas SRTS focus on in the future. We want to ensure the Kansas SRTS program is the best it can be and serves communities across the state! The survey will be open until August 30, 2024.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

In June 2023, WAMPO applied for a Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) demonstration grant. In mid-December 2023, notice was received that WAMPO was awarded a demonstration grant in the amount of \$940,000. The funds will be used for supplemental safety planning and demonstration activities, such as educational campaigns and before-and-after studies of temporary improvements. WAMPO staff are currently working closely with the FHWA to ensure full compliance with grant requirements and funding rules and are working with participating municipalities to determine how the funding can be utilized best to improve safety in high-crash locations.

To learn more about WAMPO's safety initiatives, visit www.wampo.org/safety.

Regional Transit Implementation Plan

WAMPO is collaborating with SRF Consulting Group, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, and Shockey Consulting Services to develop a Regional Transit Implementation Plan, building on the 2018 Wichita Area Transit Feasibility Study. The plan's deliverables include, among other things, a History of Transit, Feasibility and Future Conditions Reports, Steps to Establishing a Regional Transit Authority, and an Implementation Plan. The Regional Transit Service Alternatives are available at www.wampo.org/regional-transit.

To learn more about the Regional Transit Implementation Plan, please visit www.wampo.org/regional-transit.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

WAMPO Meeting Schedule

Members of the public are welcome to join WAMPO meetings on Zoom or in person at the WAMPO offices (as applicable – some boards/committees meet online only). Meeting dates and times are subject to change at the discretion of each committee's chairperson. In-person meetings are held at the Ronald Reagan Building, 271 W 3rd St., Room 203, Wichita, KS 67202, unless otherwise stated, and Zoom links are available on the WAMPO website at least one week before the scheduled meeting time.

- **August 26:** Technical Advisory Committee Meeting at 10:00 AM
- **September 10:** Transportation Policy Body Meeting at 3:00 PM
- **September 23:** Technical Advisory Committee Meeting at 10:00 AM
- **October 8:** Transportation Policy Body Meeting at 3:00 PM
- **October 28:** Technical Advisory Committee Meeting at 10:00 AM
- **November 6:** ICT Safe: A Regional Transportation Coalition at 9:30 AM

For more information about each committee and the complete schedule, visit www.wampo.org/boards-and-committees

Upcoming Office Closures

WAMPO will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **Monday, September 2, 2024:** Labor Day
- **Monday, November 11, 2024:** Veterans Day
- **Thursday, November 28, 2024:** Thanksgiving Day
- **Friday, November 29, 2024:** Day after Thanksgiving Day

Information about office closures and upcoming events can be found at www.wampo.org/events.

Follow WAMPO on Social Media

WAMPO has enhanced its digital marketing efforts to increase public engagement, and staff aim to ensure that the organization's digital marketing strategy aligns with WAMPO's Public Participation Plan. To stay informed about and get involved with WAMPO's transportation planning process, connect with WAMPO online.

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wampoks>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wampoks>
- X (formerly Twitter): <https://x.com/wampoks>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@WAMPOKansas>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wampoks>

August 21, 2024