

FALL 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 Fall 2024 updates below and visit www.wampo.org for more information.

MTP 2050 Progress

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a federally required, strategic, long-term document guiding future transportation projects in the WAMPO region. In accordance with federal rules, Metropolitan Planning Organizations must involve the public throughout the MTP-development process. Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) is planned to be completed by May 2025. On November 12, 2024, the WAMPO Transportation Policy Body (TPB) approved a fiscally constrained list of priority projects and project categories to appear in MTP 2050.

Draft Chapters on the WAMPO Website

Draft MTP 2050 chapters and appendices are being 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. Such a phased release allows for a more manageable review process, enabling interested parties 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 have been, and continue to be, posted incrementally, with individual chapters and appendices made available for public review on the WAMPO website, at www.wampo.org/mtp2050

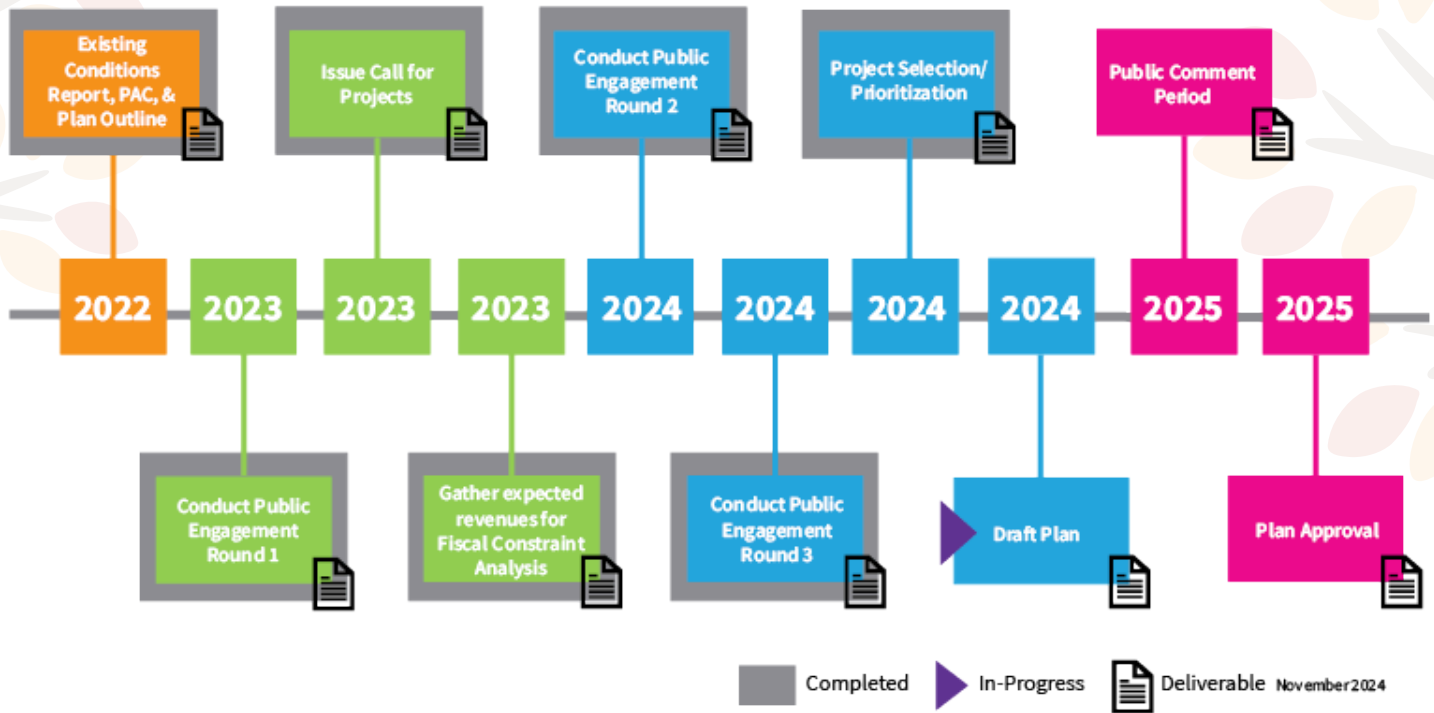
Public Engagement Round 4

WAMPO tentatively plans to open a 30-day public-comment period during March-April 2025, during which the full plan will be available for public review, with opportunities to comment through the WAMPO website, at regularly scheduled board and committee meetings, and at an open house.

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.

Planning Timeline

MTP 2050 is anticipated to be approved by the WAMPO Transportation Policy Body in May 2025. However, there are many steps to get to that point. The timeline below shows the high-level deliverables



Transportation Planning Updates

Nonmotorized Transportation

2024 Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Results

Each year, WAMPO conducts a bicycle and pedestrian count event at key locations throughout the region, with the help of community volunteers. These data enhance understanding of how people are using nonmotorized modes of transportation and inform future transportation planning and investment decisions. Data collected at 36 locations in 2024 are used to project the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) of bicycle riders and pedestrians, based on national standards. WAMPO staff have compiled data, performed projections, and analyzed demographics to form a comprehensive report, and have developed a corresponding interactive map.

The Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Report is available at www.wampo.org/bicycle-pedestrian.

WAMPO Regional Active Transportation Plan

WAMPO is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to assist with the development of a Regional Active Transportation Plan to enhance safety and connectivity for walking, biking, and other nonmotorized travel. The RFP will focus on infrastructure, policy, and program improvements, informed by public input to address barriers and opportunities. For elements of the eventual plan, the Active Transportation Committee emphasized wheelchair accessibility, regulatory updates for motorized devices, destination-oriented bike lanes, thorough public engagement, and clear policies. Wichita’s infrastructure tracker will support the plan, aiming to create accessible and sustainable transportation options across the region.

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Draft Wichita Bicycle Plan

The draft Wichita Bicycle Plan is available for review and public comment. The goal of the plan is to develop a comprehensive biking network that identifies priority projects to make biking safer, more comfortable, and more convenient, and that captures the community’s vision and goals for biking in Wichita. The planning process is now in its final stages will be presented to Wichita City Council by the end of this year. The draft plan is available for public review at www.wichitabicycleplan.com/. Comments can be provided to Lee Carmichael at LCarmichael@wichita.gov.

Public Transit Updates

FTA Section 5310 Program - Now Open

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA’s) Section 5310 Program funds transportation initiatives that improve mobility for older adults and individuals with disabilities. WAMPO is now accepting applications for this competitive grant program, inviting eligible organizations to apply for funding to enhance transit accessibility, safety, and inclusion in the region. WAMPO opened the 5310 Call for Projects on November 15, 2024. Applications are due January 17, 2025.

For more information, please visit www.wampo.org/wampo-5310.

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. A draft of the plan will be available in early 2025 and will include, among other things, a History of Transit, Feasibility and Future Conditions Reports, Steps to Establishing a Regional Transit Authority, and an Implementation Plan.

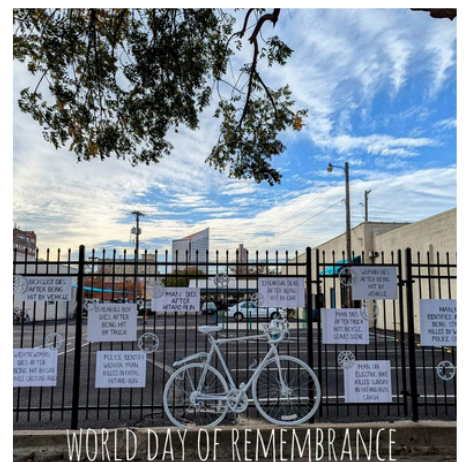
To learn more about the *Regional Transit Implementation Plan*, please visit www.wampo.org/regional-transit.

Safety Updates

ICT Safe Coalition

ICT Safe: A Regional Transportation Coalition met on November 6, 2024, including breakout meetings of Drive Safe Sedgwick and the Active Transportation Committee. Staff provided project updates and shared resources for the World Day of Remembrance (WDoR) for Road Traffic Victims, which was held on November 17, 2024. Bike Walk Wichita hosted a memorial event to honor the lives lost to traffic crashes. WDoR resources and social media content can be accessed at <https://worlddayofremembrance.org>. Holly Terrill, Bike Walk Wichita Executive Director, provided a brief update on a behavioral messaging project that will encourage motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians to make eye contact and be aware of each other. This project is funded by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

The next ICT Safe meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2025. Meeting details can be found at www.wampo.org/ict-safe.



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. WAMPO recently hired 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.

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

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). 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.

- **November 25, 2024:** Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting at 10:00 AM
- **December 10, 2024:** Transportation Policy Body (TPB) Meeting at 3:00 PM
- **January 14, 2025:** Transportation Policy Body (TPB) Meeting at 3:00 PM
- **January 27, 2025:** Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting at 10:00 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:

- **Thursday, November 28, 2024:** Thanksgiving Day
- **Friday, November 29, 2024:** Day after Thanksgiving Day
- **Tuesday, December 24, 2024:** Christmas Eve
- **Wednesday, December 25, 2024:** Christmas Day
- **Wednesday, January 1, 2025:** New Year's Day
- **Monday, January 20, 2025:** Martin Luther King Day

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

Follow WAMPO On Social Media

- **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>

[Click here to receive WAMPO emails](#)

November 21, 2024

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