

JPACT Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) discussion

Presenters: John Mermin, Metro

Contact for this worksheet/presentation: john.mermin@oregonmetro.gov

Purpose/Objective

Share draft FY 2026-27 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with JPACT

What the UPWP Is

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is developed annually by Metro as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Portland Metropolitan Area. It is a federally-required document that serves as a guide for transportation planning activities to be conducted over the course of each fiscal year, beginning on July 1st. Included in the UPWP are descriptions of the transportation planning activities, the relationships between them, and budget summaries displaying the amount and source of state and federal funds to be used for planning activities. The UPWP is developed by Metro with input from local governments, TriMet, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). It helps ensure efficient use of federal planning funds. The UPWP may be amended periodically as projects change or new projects emerge.

What the UPWP Is not

The UPWP is not a regional policy making document and does not make any funding allocations. Instead, the UPWP reflects decisions already made by JPACT, the Metro Council and/or the state legislature on funding and policy. The UPWP does not include construction, design or preliminary engineering projects. It only includes regionally significant planning projects (primarily those that will be receiving federal funds) for the upcoming fiscal year.

UPWP Adoption process

The Draft UPWP was sent to Federal and State reviewers (and TPAC) on January 29, 2026. The required Federal and State consultation was held on March 5, 2026. Edits were made to reflect input from the consultation and TPAC. At its April 3 meeting, TPAC recommended adoption of the revised UPWP.

Staff will ask for adoption (by consent) at the May 21 JPACT and Council meetings. Staff will transmit the adopted UPWP to Federal & State partners as soon as possible following adoption. This allows time for the IGA to be signed by Metro's COO prior to June 30, allowing for federal funding to continue flowing into the region without delay.

Annual Self-Certification

As an MPO, Metro must annually undergo a process known as self-certification to demonstrate that the Portland metropolitan region's planning process is being conducted in accordance with all applicable federal transportation planning requirements, as a prerequisite to receiving federal funds. The annual self-certification is processed in tandem with the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and documents that Metro has met those requirements. Required self-certification areas include:

- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designation
- Geographic scope
- Responsibilities, cooperation and coordination

- Metropolitan Transportation Planning products
- Planning factors
- Federal Transportation Performance Measurement
- Public Involvement
- Title VI
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Lobbying

Each of these areas is discussed in Exhibit B to Resolution No. 26-5559

Outcome

JPACT learns what's in FY2026-27 UPWP in advance of taking action to approve the UPWP by consent at its May 21 meeting.

What has changed since JPACT last considered this issue/item?

JPACT last considered this when adopting the FY2025-26 UPWP in April 2025. Since that time a new UPWP has been developed with input and review from local, regional, state and federal partners and was recommended for adoption by TPAC on April 3, 2026.

What packet material do you plan to include?

- UPWP legislation
 - Resolution No.26-5559
 - Exhibit A (UPWP document)
 - Exhibit B (Annual Self-Certification demonstrating Metro's compliance with federal planning regulations)