

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

(July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025)

of

The Blair Metropolitan Planning Organization

Prepared by

The Blair County Planning Commission

In Cooperation With

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
District and Central Offices

&

Altoona Metro Transit

Adopted

December 11, 2023

Title VI and ADA Nondiscrimination Public Notice

It is the policy of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Blair County and the Blair County Planning Commission (BCPC) to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities and requires that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, income, disability or limited English proficiency can be excluded from the participation in, prevented admission or access to, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity or employment in for which the MPO and the BCPC receives Federal financial assistance. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI or related nondiscrimination laws has a right to file a formal complaint consistent with the MPO's complaint procedures. Any such complaint must be in writing and signed by the complaining person (s) or representative and filed within sixty (60) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. The Nondiscrimination Complaint Form can be obtained from the Offices of the Blair County Planning Commission or by visiting the Commission's Web site at blairplanning.org. You may obtain assistance with completing the complaint form from Blair Planning and assistance may be obtained by contacting any of the agencies listed on the complaint form or within the procedures. You may contact the Bureau of Equal Opportunity at (717) 787-5891.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Blair MPO, should contact the office of David McFarland, III, AICP, Planning Director and ADA Coordinator, Blair County Planning Commission, at (814) 693-2080 or 711 or dmcfarland@blairplanning.org as soon as possible before the scheduled event. Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Blair MPO is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to David McFarland, III, ADA Coordinator at the contact information above.

Language Taglines

English

ATTENTION: If you speak another language other than English, language assistance services can be made available to you. Call 1 (814) 245-3938.

Vietnamese

LƯU Ý: Nếu quý vị nói một ngôn ngữ khác không phải tiếng Anh, các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ có thể được cung cấp cho quý vị. Gọi 1 (814) 245-3938.

Korean

주의: 영어 이외의 다른 언어를 사용하는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 이용할 수 있습니다. 1 (814) 245-3938 으로 전화하십시오.

French

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Somali

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Russian

ВНИМАНИЕ: если вы говорите на другом языке, вам может быть оказана языковая помощь. Обратитесь в информационно-справочную службу по номеру: 1 (814) 245-3938.

Ukrainian

УВАГА: якщо ви розмовляєте іншою мовою, вам може бути надана мовна допомога. Зверніться до інформаційно-довідкової служби за номером: 1 (814) 245-3938..

Simplified Chinese

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Traditional Chinese

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Arabic

تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث لغة أخرى غير اللغة الإنجليزية، يمكننا توفير خدمات المساعدة اللغوية لك. اتصل بالرقم 1 (814) 245-3938.

Burmese

သတိပြုရန်- သင်သည် အင်္ဂလိပ် ဘာသာစကား မဟုတ်သော အခြား ဘာသာစကားကို

ပြောလျှင် သင့်အတွက် ဘာသာစကား အကူအညီ ဝန်ဆောင်မှုကို ရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။ 1 (814) 245-3938 သို့ ခေါ်ဆိုပါ။

Japanese

注意：英語以外の言語を話す場合は、言語支援サービスを利用できるようにすることができます。電話 1 (814) 245-3938.

Hindi

सूचना: यदि आप अंग्रेजी के अलावा कोई अन्य भाषा बोलते हैं, तो आपको भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराई जा सकती हैं। कॉल करें 1 (814) 245-3938.

Italian

ATTENZIONE: Se parli una lingua che non sia l'inglese, i servizi di assistenza linguistica possono essere messi a tua disposizione. Chiama 1 (814) 245-3938.

Polish

UWAGA: Jeśli posługujesz się językiem innym niż angielski, możesz skorzystać z usługi pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 1 (814) 245-3938.

Nepali

ध्यान दिनुहोस्: यदि तपाईं अंग्रेजीबाहेक अन्य भाषा बोल्नुहुन्छ भने तपाईंलाई भाषा सहायता सेवा उपलब्ध गराउन सकिन्छ। 1 (814) 245-3938 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्।

Urdu

توجہ دیں: اگر آپ انگریزی کے علاوہ کوئی اور زبان بولتے ہیں تو آپ کی زبان میں مدد کے لیے آپ کو خدمات فراہم کرائی جاسکتی ہیں۔ براہ کرم 1 (814) 245-3938 پر کال کریں۔

Spanish

ATENCIÓN: Si habla otro idioma que no sea inglés, habrá servicios de asistencia en otros idiomas disponibles. Llame al 1 (814) 245-3938.

Greek

ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ: Εάν μιλάτε άλλη γλώσσα διαφορετική από τα αγγλικά, οι υπηρεσίες γλωσσικής βοήθειας μπορούν να σας διατεθούν. Καλέστε 1 (814) 245-3938.

1. To access interpreter, dial 1 (814) 245-3938.
2. Select target language:
 - Spanish 1
 - Mandarin 2
 - Russian 3
 - German 4
 - Arabic 5
 - Hindi 6
 - All Other Languages 8
3. Provide your first and last name and the 3-digit code of the municipality from which you are calling or 400 if calling from the Courthouse. The municipal codes are as follows:

Three (3) Digit Code	Municipality
110	Allegheny Township
120	Altoona
130	Antis Township
140	Bellwood Borough
150	Blair Township
160	Catharine Township
170	Duncansville Borough
180	Frankston Township
190	Freedom Township
200	Greenfield Township
210	Hollidaysburg Borough
220	Huston Townhsip
230	Juniata Township
240	Logan Township
250	Martinsburg Borough
260	Newry Borough
270	North Woodbury Township
280	Roaring Spring Borough
290	Snyder Township
300	Taylor Township
310	Tunnelhill Borough
320	Tyrone Borough
330	Tyrone Township
340	Williamsburg Borough
350	Woodbury Township
400	Blair County Courthouse

Unified Planning Work Program FY 2024-2025 for the
Blair Metropolitan Planning Organization

Introduction/Purpose

In urban areas above a population of 50,000, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is federally required statement of work identifying the transportation planning activities to be conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The period that this work program covers is July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

The Blair MPO originated as the Altoona Area Transportation Study in 1965 and now conducts the required transportation planning process countywide to accomplish the following:

- Provide a forum for local, state, and federal elected and appointed officials and other stakeholders to work cooperatively to maintain a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing transportation planning process for making transportation investment decisions, such as selecting projects for the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement/Twelve Year Program.
- Provide the means for the public to participate in the transportation decision-making process through public outreach according to federal and state regulations.
- Perform the activities listed in the UPWP that are required to keep Blair County eligible to receive federal, state, and local capital and operating assistance for highways, bridges, and public transit.

The UPWP is cooperatively prepared by the Blair County Planning Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Program Center and PennDOT District 9-0 offices, and Altoona Metro Transit. Federal funding for the work program activities is provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation through PennDOT at 80%. State motor license funds and local match funds from the County of Blair and the twenty-five municipalities comprise the remainder.

The documents that the MPO is responsible for preparing and regularly updating under Federal 23 CFR 450 Planning Regulations and that are described in this document are as follows:

- ***Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*** The work program is a statement of work identifying the transportation planning activities to be conducted within Blair County during a one or two year period.
- ***Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)*** This plan includes priorities for highways, bridges, public transit, and other modes of transportation for a minimum 20 year horizon and is required to be updated every five years in air quality attainment areas. The plan includes a Transportation Conformity Determination Report for regionally significant projects, a Core Elements Environmental Justice Analysis, project selection process documentation, a system performance report, and consultation with resource agencies during plan development.
- ***Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*** This program includes priorities for highways, bridges, public transit, and transportation alternatives projects for four years. The TIP and

PennDOT's Twelve Year Program are updated and approved by the MPO and adopted by the State Transportation Commission every two years.

- ***Public Participation Plan with a Title VI Plan and a Limit English Proficiency Plan***
The purpose of the public participation plan is to provide adequate public notice of transportation planning activities in which the public can participate and provide review and comment at key decision points, including a reasonable opportunity to comment on proposed long range transportation plans and TIPs.

Other work program activities conducted by Blair Planning are providing letters of support for County and municipal grant applications for PennDOT and DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Programs, the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program, the Green Light-Go, and the Automated Red Light Enforcement Programs.

Blair Planning also notifies non-profit organizations of the Federal Transit grant opportunities for small vans and buses through PennDOT, assists PennDOT in providing the Local Technical Assistance Program to the municipalities, and collects data on state and local federal-aid routes that help determine roadway funding.

Vision Statement

The region's vision and/or planning goals and planning priorities are from the comprehensive plan called the Alleghenies Ahead Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Blair County Commissioners in 2018. These include eliminating gaps in broadband and cell service coverage, agriculture land preservation, improving housing stock, and public health and safety that includes improving connectivity of walking and bicycling paths. These same goals are also included in the current 2021-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The work tasks in this UPWP help to implement this vision and goals by maintaining and improving the current system of highways, bridges, public transit, sidewalks, and walking and bicycling paths.

MPO Committees

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a policy board created by federal surface transportation planning legislation to conduct the regional transportation planning process. The coordinating committee of the MPO, which has elected officials representing the County of Blair, the City of Altoona, and the boroughs and townships collectively, is the policy or decision making board. The technical committee of the MPO reviews transportation issues and projects and makes recommendations as requested by the coordinating committee. The committees work cooperatively to prepare and implement regional transportation plans and programs and to comply with federal and state transportation planning regulations.

Coordinating Committee Voting members

Vince Greenland, P.E., District Executive, Engineering District 9-0, PennDOT
Mark Tobin, Planning Division Manager, PennDOT, Transportation Program Development Division
David Kessling, Board of Commissioners, County of Blair
Amy Webster, Esq., Board of Commissioners, County of Blair
Matt Pacifico, Mayor, City of Altoona
David Butterbaugh, Member of Council, City of Altoona
Dennis Igou, Mayor, Borough of Roaring Spring (representing boroughs collectively)
Ed Frontino, Supervisor, Township of Logan (representing townships collectively)
James A. Patterson, Supervisor, Township of Logan (representing townships collectively)
Vacant, Chairperson, Blair County Airport Authority
Scott Cessna, Chairperson, Board of Directors, Altoona Metro Transit.

Technical Committee Voting members

Dean G. Roberts, Transportation Planning Manager, PennDOT Center for Program Development and Management
Anne Stich, Transportation Planning Manager, PennDOT District 9-0
Richard Sutter, AICP, President, Richard C. Sutter & Associates, Inc., County of Blair
David McFarland, III, AICP, Planning Director, Blair County Planning Commission; Secretary
Nathan Kissell, Director, Department of Public Works, City of Altoona
Diana White, Director, Community Development, City of Altoona
Lisa Peel, Manager, Borough of Roaring Spring (representing boroughs collectively)
John Frederick, Recreation and Environmental Code Director, Township of Antis (representing townships collectively)
Luke Helsel, Sewage Enforcement Officer, Blair County Sanitation Office (rep. townships)
Tracy Plessinger, Airport Manager, Altoona-Blair County Airport
Josh Baker, CEO, Altoona Metro Transit.

Agency Members High-level Roles and Responsibilities as related to the MPO:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): The FHWA provides technical assistance, UPWP planning funds, transportation funds for projects, oversees the MPO's transportation planning process, and provides a non-voting member to the MPO.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA): The FTA is an MPO affiliate and funds Altoona Metro Transit and UPWP work tasks.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): The DEP is an MPO affiliate that deals with environmental issues.

Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED): DCED is an MPO affiliate that deals with municipal planning and economic development issues.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT): The District Executive serves as Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee and a Transportation Planning Manager from the PennDOT Central Office serves as Chairperson of the Technical Committee. PennDOT staff assist with MPO priorities.

City Planners: The City's Community Development Director and Public Works Director serve on the MPO technical committee and the City Mayor and one council person serve on the Coordinating Committee.

County Planners: The Planning Director serves on the MPO Technical Committee and as the MPO Secretary. BCPC staff assist with MPO priorities.

Transit Operator: The CEO of AMTRAN serves on the MPO Technical Committee, and the chair of the board of directors of AMTRAN serves on the Coordinating committee.

Altoona Blair County Airport: The Airport Manager serves on the MPO Technical Committee and the chair of the Blair County Airport Authority has served on the Coordinating Committee.

PA Turnpike: The Turnpike is not a member of the MPO due to its location outside of the County.

Planning Factors

23 CFR 450.306 (b) The metropolitan transportation planning process shall be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, and provide for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address the following factors:

1. Support the economic vitality of the region, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility options available for people and for freight.
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
7. Promote efficient transportation system management and operations.
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

9. Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate storm water impacts of surface transportation; and
10. Enhance travel and tourism.

The UPWP work tasks as they relate to the Federal Planning Factors.

Factors	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	Task 7
1. Support economic vitality...		X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Increase Safety...		X	X	X	X	X	
3. Increase Security...			X	X			
4. Increase Accessibility & Mobility Options...		X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Promote consistency between transportation improvements and local planned growth		X	X	X	X		X
6. Enhance connectivity between modes...		X	X	X	X		X
7. Promote efficient transportation system management and operations...		X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Preserve the existing transportation system		X	X	X	X	X	X
9. Improve Resiliency and reliability of the trans system		X	X	X	X	X	X
10. Enhance travel and tourism		X	X	X	X	X	

MPO Responsibilities Continued:

The Long Range Transportation Plan

23 CFR 450.324 (a) The metropolitan transportation planning process shall include the development of a transportation plan addressing no less than a 20-year planning horizon as of the effective date. In formulating the transportation plan, the MPO shall consider factors described in [§ 450.306](#) as the factors relate to a minimum 20-year forecast period.

23 CFR 450.324 (b) The transportation plan shall include both long-range and short-range strategies/actions that provide for the development of an integrated multimodal transportation system (including accessible pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities) to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in addressing current and future transportation demand.

Transportation Improvement Program

The *Transportation improvement program* (TIP), 23 CFR 450.104, is a prioritized list or program of transportation projects covering a period of 4 years that is developed and formally adopted by an MPO as part of the metropolitan transportation planning process, consistent with the metropolitan transportation plan, and required for projects to be eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S.C. and Title 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53. The TIP contains short-term projects including highways, bridges, public transit, and multi-modal improvements to be implemented within four years. The TIP is updated every two years.

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users of 2005, requires a locally developed, coordinated transportation plan that identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, provides strategies for meeting those local needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation. Blair Planning prepared a plan that the MPO adopted in 2008. Blair Senior Services, Inc., and Altoona Metro Transit regularly update similar plans.

Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, and Limited English Proficiency Plans

The purpose of the public participation plan is to provide adequate public notice of transportation planning activities in which the public can participate and provide review and comment at key decision points, including a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed long range transportation plan and the TIP.

A minimum public comment period of 45 calendar days shall be provided before a public participation plan is adopted by the MPO. Copies of the approved participation plan shall be provided to the FHWA and the FTA for informational purposes and shall be posted on the Blair Planning Website, to the maximum extent practicable. This requirement is in 23 CFR § 450.316.

As required by US DOT Title VI Program Order 1000.12C and US DOT EJ Order 5610.2C of 2021, the Public Participation Plan, Limited English Proficiency Plan, and Title VI Program need to be updated every three years.

Environmental Justice

The goal of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is to ensure that the benefits and impacts or burdens of transportation projects are fairly distributed to all people, regardless of race, color, and national origin, and that all groups have access to meaningful participation.

The Executive Order No. 12898 of 1994 (Environmental Justice) states that each federal agency shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, administer and implement its programs, policies, and activities that affect human health or the environment to identify and avoid “disproportionately high and adverse” effects on minority and low-income populations.

To achieve that result, PennDOT and Blair Planning use data from the U.S. Census to identify areas with concentrations of low income and minority populations and analyzes the data to determine the impact of the benefits and burdens from projects in the Long Range Transportation Plan and TIP.

Unified Planning Work Program

The Code of Federal Regulations 23 CFR 450.308 (c) defines the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as: ...a statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be conducted within a metropolitan planning area. At a minimum, a UPWP will identify work proposed with sufficient detail to indicate who will perform the work, the schedule for completing the work, the resulting products, the proposed funding by activity/task, and a summary of the total amounts and sources of Federal and matching funds.

The PennDOT Central Office prepares a Guidance Document to assist Blair Planning in preparing the UPWP. Blair Planning distributes a draft copy of the work program to the PennDOT Central and District Offices, FHWA, and FTA at least 45 days prior to adoption for review and comment. Blair Planning then incorporates the comments before presenting the UPWP to the full MPO for review and approval.

Funding to complete the work tasks in the UPWP comes from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the local match funds contributed by the County of Blair and the twenty-five municipalities. The federal and state funds are made available through a legal agreement and work orders are executed by PennDOT and the Planning Commission.

Milestones Table with Major Planning Deliverables for the Region

Activity			
	Prior Adoption/ Completion	Next Required Adoption	Targeted Completion
FY 2022-2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	December 13, 2021	NA	NA
FY 2024-2025 UPWP	NA	January 31, 2024	October 2023
FY 2025-2027 UPWP	NA	January 31, 2025	October 2024
2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update & Air Quality Analysis	2023-2026 TIP June 27, 2022	2025-2026 TIP June 2024	April 30, 2024
Environmental Justice Evaluation of Benefits & Burdens of TIP	June 27, 2022	June 2024	April 30, 2024
Performance Measures Report of TIP projects	June 27, 2022	June 2024	April 30, 2024
2025-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update & Air Quality Analysis	February 10, 2021	February 10, 2026	September 2025
2025-2050 LRTP Environmental Justice Evaluation of Benefits & Burdens	February 10, 2021	February 10, 2026	September 2025
LRTP Performance Measures Report	February 2021	February 10, 2026	September 2025
Public Participation Plan that includes Title VI and Limited English Proficiency Elements	February 2016	N/A	June 2025
Local Bridge Priorities for 2025 TIP	April 30, 2023		April 30, 2025
Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects	Dec. 2022	N/A	Annually by December 29
Participate in Regional Operations Plan Updates	2021		To be determined
Revised Urbanized Area Boundary from U.S. Census	2014	December 2023 or early 2024	Submitted June 2023
Revised Functional Roadway Classifications	February 2015	After the 2020 U.S. Census	June 2025
Coordinated Public Transit Plan	May 2008	As needed	As needed
MPO Planning Process Review by FHWA/FTA/PennDOT	June 2018		As needed

Summary of UPWP FY 2024-25 Priorities/Deliverables

- The MPO will approve the 2025-2028 TIP in June 2024, and Blair Planning will submit the required documentation to PennDOT by July 15, 2024.
- Blair Planning will survey the municipalities for safety and local bridge priorities in early 2024 and consult with PennDOT District 9-0 to prepare Blair Planning's project priorities for the 2027 TIP by April 30, 2025.
- Blair Planning will use PennDOT's quarterly progress report to prepare an Annual List of Obligated Projects that received federal funds in FY 2024 and place it on its Web site by December 29, 2024.
- Blair Planning will update the MPO's Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, and Limited English Proficiency Plan by June of 2025.
- Blair Planning will assist the MPO to meet the requirement of adopting Safety Targets by February 28, 2025, and 2 to 4-year pavement, bridge, and travel time targets by June 2025.
- Blair Planning will review large developments for impacts on state and local roadways and in urban areas that need accessible sidewalks and/or bicycle parking.
- Blair Planning will work with PennDOT to schedule and host Local Technical Assistance Program Courses in FY 2024-2025.
- Blair Planning will attend PennDOT Collaboration meetings and assist with completing and collecting forms for local bridge and safety projects for the 2027 TIP update as needed.
- Blair Planning will review and/or field view 95 HPMS Roadway Sample Sections and send changes to PennDOT by December 2024.
- Blair Planning will attend meetings of the Intermunicipal Storm-water Committee, which works to reduce the impacts of stormwater to roadways and bridges.
- Blair Planning will inform nonprofits and operators of public transit of grants through PennDOT's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program.
- Blair Planning will inform municipalities of PennDOT's annual Green Light-Go and Multimodal Transportation Funding programs and provide letters of support.
- Blair Planning will notify municipalities and others of PennDOT's Transportation Set-Aside Program in May 2025, attend project meetings as needed.
- Blair Planning will provide letters of support for applicants of DCED's annual Multimodal Transportation Fund in July 2024.
- Blair Planning will prepare the FY 2025-2027 UPWP in cooperation with the PennDOT District and Central Offices, FHWA, AMTRAN, and stakeholders, and the MPO will approve by January 31, 2025.
- Blair Planning will update the Long Range Transportation Plan in-house and work with the Department's Program Center, PennDOT District 9-0, the MPO committees, stakeholders, and the public to update the plan by September of 2025. This includes Blair Planning preparing an Environmental Justice Core Elements Analysis for long range plan projects and working with the District to prepare a Performance System Report that describes achievements towards meeting performance targets. Blair Planning will also present the draft long range plan at an Agency Coordination Committee meeting for input on environmental impacts prior to adoption.
- Blair Planning will advertise the 2025-2050 long range transportation plan and conformity report for a 30 day public comment period, hold a public meeting on the documents, and address comments received prior to adoption.

- Blair Planning will work with PennDOT and committee members to schedule MPO Coordinating and Technical Committee meetings in the fall of 2024 for 2025 and as needed.
- Blair Planning Blair Planning will work with PennDOT and committee members to review the Functional Classification of the state and local federal-aid roads following the approval of the Urban Area Boundary revisions resulting from the 2020 U.S. Census by June 2025

For More Information

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The MPO Facebook page may be accessed at: <https://www.facebook.com/BlairCountyMPO/>
The Blair Planning website page may be accessed at: <https://www.blairplanning.org/>

Blair MPO FY 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program Actions and Procedures

I. Administrative Work Tasks

Description of the planning work products and the activities to prepare them:

- Prepare the draft FY 2025-27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) by October of 2024 and ask the MPO to review and adopt the UPWP by January 31, 2025.

Blair Planning will use the PennDOT Central Office's guidance document to help draft the UPWP in cooperation with the PennDOT Central and District Offices, FHWA, FTA, Amtran, and other stakeholders that will receive a copy of the draft UPWP at least 45 days before a draft is sent to the MPO for adoption.

- Blair Planning prepares and submits monthly progress reports and invoices for work performed to the PennDOT Central Office and local share invoices to the County of Blair and the twenty-five participating municipalities.
- Blair Planning coordinates with PennDOT District and Central Offices, Amtran and other members to schedule MPO meetings. Blair Planning works with PennDOT Central and District Offices, FHWA and Amtran to prepare MPO meeting agendas, minutes, and required Documents and distributes to members before meetings.
- Blair Planning attends PennDOT Planning Partners' Annual Meeting and Conference Calls as needed.
- Blair Planning will meet Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) requirements.

The Blair Planning prepares and submits quarterly DBE reports to PennDOT Central Office.

Key Accomplishments to date from the prior 2022-2024 Work Program

- In October of 2023 prepared a draft of the 2024-2025 UPWP for review by PennDOT, FHWA, and FTA.
- Prepared and submitted monthly progress reports, invoices, and revised the UPWP budget for FY 2023-2024.
- Convened two MPO meetings in FY 2022-23 and will convene a third in December 2023. Blair Planning places newspaper notices of the MPO meetings at least a week before and places the agenda on its website at least 24 hours before MPO meetings.
- Performed an email/phone poll of the MPO in November of 2022 to create a Carbon Reduction Program line item and moved funds to the Chestnut Avenue Coordinated Signal Project.

Administrative Work Tasks

	Budget Total	Federal PL	Federal MPP	State MLF	Local FHWA	Local FTA
	\$34,758.00	13,903.20	13,903.20	1,756.19	1,719.61	3,574.80

II. Assistance and Outreach

Description of planning work products and the activities needed to prepare them:

- Update the Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plans.

In FY 2024-25, Blair Planning will update the MPO’s public participation and LEP plans and will include census data for low income and minorities populations. Blair Planning will incorporate feedback from the PennDOT Central and District Offices, FHWA, FTA, and other stakeholders. Blair Planning will advertise the draft public participation plan for a 45 day public comment period and hold a public meeting on both plans before MPO adoption.

- Prepare a Title VI Plan.

In FY 2024-25, Blair Planning will prepare a Title VI Plan as required by US DOT Title VI Program Order 1000.12C and US DOT EJ Order 5610.2C and advertise the draft plan for a 30 day public comment period and hold a public meeting before MPO adoption.

- Environmental Justice (EJ) Activities.

In FY 2024-25, Blair Planning will work with PennDOT and use the EJ Core Elements Base Data to identify and address potential disproportionate and adverse impacts on EJ populations as part of the update to the Long Range Transportation Plan projects.

In FY 2024-25, Blair Planning will send copies of the draft Public Participation and Title VI Plans to representatives of low-income and minority populations.

In Spring of 2025, Blair Planning will notify local governments and various stakeholders of the opportunity to provide comments to the Secretary of Transportation for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 12 Year Transportation Program update.

- Provide Limited English Proficiency (LEP) services as needed.

Blair Planning will provide language translation/interpretation services for the municipalities and for the MPO at the request from the public through Propio Language Services as needed.

- Place all draft MPO plan documents like those mentioned on Blair Planning’s website for public review and comment as needed.

Key Accomplishments to date from the prior 2022-2024 Work Program

- Informed municipalities when PennDOT was accepting TA Set-Aside Program and Multimodal Transportation Fund applications.
- Blair Planning reviewed the proposed local bridge recommendations for the 2025 TIP and sent the list of local bridges to PennDOT District 9-0.
- Drafted six Blair Planning letters of support for DCED Multimodal and PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund grant applications and one letter for TA Set-Aside.
- Placed all required documents on the Blair Planning website.
- Participated in PennDOT Planning Partner virtual meetings and annual in person meeting.
- Coordinated with the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission on the Greenway Mini-Grant Program.
- Prepared a draft updated language assistance plan with 2020 US Census data.

Assistance and Public Outreach

	Budget Total	Federal PL	Federal MPP	State MLF	Local FHWA	Local FTA
	\$62,277.46	49,821.97	0	6,293.30	6,162.19	0

III. Plans and Programs/Supporting Activities/Project Delivery (Highway and Bridge)

Description of planning work products and the activities needed to prepare them:

- Work in cooperation with PennDOT, FHWA, and FTA and their guidance to implement provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Blair Planning staff will conduct steering/technical committee meetings for the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan that includes highway, bridge, public transit, and non-motorized transportation projects.

Blair Planning staff will work in-house with PennDOT, FHWA, FTA, steering committee, stakeholders, and the public to update the MPO’s Long Range Plan.

Blair Planning will work with PennDOT Central/District Offices, FHWA, and FTA to adequately address 23 CFR 450 requirements, Performance Based Planning and Programming, Transportation Performance Management, and asset management principles to document existing and future conditions and needs.

Blair Planning will consult with PA resource agencies to ask what transportation needs they have and present a summary of the plan at an Agency Coordination Committee meeting in the summer of 2025. PennDOT District 9-0 Environmental Unit coordinates with the resource agencies early in the design phase of projects and throughout projects as needed.

Blair Planning will provide copies of the draft long range plan and TIP to representatives of the minority and low-income communities and to the Tribes and Nations for review and comments.

- Work with PennDOT to assess the need and apply for Transportation Systems Management and Operations funding and participate in updates of the Regional Operations Plan as needed.
- FHWA encourages the MPO to review of the Functional Classification Roadway Designations within three years of formal approval of the Urban Area Boundary revisions following the U.S. Census. As a result, targeted completion of the review of Functional Classification of Roadways is June 2025.

Project Delivery

- In July 2024, Blair Planning will submit the final 2025-2028 Highway and Bridge TIP and required documentation to PennDOT.
- Early activities for preparing the 2027-2080 TIP will begin within this work program such as Blair Planning surveying the twenty-five municipalities and the County of Blair for safety and local bridge priorities. Blair Planning will consult with PennDOT District Engineering District 9-0 and prepare a list of project priorities by April 30, 2025.
- PennDOT Connects/Local Government Collaboration meetings will initiate all new projects being considered for inclusion in TIP updates. PennDOT initiates the meetings for state owned projects and Blair Planning will work with municipalities and/or their engineers to complete PennDOT Connects forms on local bridge projects as needed prior to Spring 2025 submission.

Blair Planning will attend PennDOT Connects form interviews with municipalities for state road and bridge projects as needed and project visioning field views of candidate road and bridge projects prior to programming as needed.

- Consider air quality conformity analysis for projects of regional significant included in the long range plan project list in the Spring of 2025.

A consulting firm working with PennDOT District and Central Offices will perform air quality analysis reports on highway and transit projects of the long range plan. Blair Planning will advertise the draft long range plan, and draft conformity reports for a 30 day public review and comment period, and hold a public meeting, prior to MPO adoption.

- Blair Planning will use demographic profile mapping to review the 2025 Long Range Plan projects and describe benefits and burdens analysis of plan projects in relation to low-income and minority communities in 2025. Blair Planning will send copies of the Environmental Justice Analysis to representatives of low-income and minority communities and to the Tribes and Nations.
- Blair Planning will prepare and post on its website by December 29 of each year a list of the Blair MPO's TIP projects that obligated federal funds in the previous year.

Supporting Planning/Programming Activities

- The MPO will rank Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Projects as needed. Blair Planning will announce and distribute application information for PennDOT’s Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program to the County, local governments, school districts and others as needed in May of 2025.

PennDOT District 9-0 will conduct field views of TA Set-Aside projects with Blair Planning and applicants.

- The MPO will adopt Statewide performance measures and targets as needed.

Blair Planning will work with PennDOT District and Central Office to convene meetings of the MPO to adopt annually revised statewide performance targets for safety by February 28, 2025, and revised targets for pavements, bridge deck area, and travel time reliability by June 2025.

- Blair Planning will reference the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure formula program within the MPO’s TIP narrative, but the MPO is not required to include such projects in the TIP.

Key Accomplishments to date from the prior 2022-2024 Work Program

- Submitted the approved 2023-2025 Highway and Bridge TIP and the above mentioned required documents to PennDOT Central Office in July of 2022.
- Surveyed the county and twenty-five municipalities for local bridge and safety projects for the 2025 TIP and submitted Blair Planning’s recommendations to PennDOT District 9-0.
- Asked the municipalities that have local bridge funding requests to complete PennDOT Connects form for the 2025 TIP.
- Attended quarterly PennDOT Connects Steering Committee meetings.
- Provided a letter of support for the City of Altoona, Logan, and Allegheny Township’s combined Green Light-Go application to improve intersections on Logan Blvd.
- Added four Act 89 funded County of Blair owned culverts to the 2023 TIP.
- Added the Lamppost Lane, Allegheny Township, and McMahan Road, Logan Township, projects funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission to the 2023 TIP.
- Reviewed the proposed 2020 US Census urbanized area boundary and provided comments in a letter to PennDOT.

Plans and Programs Highway

	Budget Total	Federal PL	Federal MPP	State MLF	Local FHWA	Local FTA
	\$104,937.54	89,950.03	0	10,604.21	10,383.30	0

IV. Plans and Programs/Supporting Activities/Project Delivery (Public Transit)

Description of planning work products and the activities needed to prepare them:

- After MPO approval, Blair Planning will send the Public Transit portion of the 2025 TIP with necessary documents to PennDOT in July of 2024.
- Blair Planning will prepare a Core Elements Environmental Justice Analysis for the long range plan that will include transit projects as needed.
- Blair Planning will include transit projects as needed in the 2025-2050 long range plan update.
- Once the 2025 transit portion of the TIP is adopted, Blair Planning will work with the PennDOT Central Office and Amtran to amend the transit TIP as needed.
- Blair Planning will include transit projects funded in federal fiscal year 2024 in the annual list of obligated projects in December of 2024 and place on Blair Planning’s Web site.
- Blair Planning will seek Amtran’s input for the Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, and long range transportation plan updates.

Key Accomplishments to date from the prior 2022-2024 Work Program

- Submitted the MPO approved 2023-2026 Transit portion of the TIP and the above mentioned required documents to PennDOT Central Office in July of 2022.
- Recommended sidewalks, street trees, and lighting for various land developments in the urban area that are near transit stops.
- Provided Amtran with information about PennDOT’s Multimodal Transportation Fund.
- Included transit projects in the 2022 and 2023 Annual List of Obligated Projects.
- Assisted Amtran with administrative changes to the transit TIP in January of 2023.

Plans and Programs Transit

	Budget Total	Federal PL	Federal MPP	State MLF	Local FHWA	Local FTA
	\$58,871.00	0	47,906.80	0	0	11,744.20

V. Consistency with Municipal and Intergovernmental Plans/Economic Development/Modernization

Goals of this work task are as follows:

- Identify livability, sustainability, and resiliency strategies to tie the quality and location of transportation facilities to broader opportunities, such as access to employment opportunities, affordable housing, quality schools, safe streets, economic development, social equity, and environment conservation.

- Review land use planning activities (i.e., subdivision and land developments) for consistency with the Alleghenies Ahead Comprehensive Plan, municipal comprehensive plans and ordinances, and the need for traffic impact studies as a result of the development.

Description of planning work products and the activities needed to prepare them:

- Blair Planning will review land developments for impacts on state and local roadways and for consistency with the Alleghenies Ahead Comprehensive Plan and municipal plans and ordinances that in urban areas include accessible sidewalks, street trees, lighting, bicycle parking, stormwater, and recreation projects.
- Route 453 Study Road Safety Improvement Study.

Blair Planning will attend project Route 453 study meetings as needed.

- Announce and distribute application information for PennDOT’s Multimodal Transportation Fund in the September of 2024 and the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program in May of 2025, and the Green Light-Go Program to the County, local governments, and others.

Key Accomplishments to date from the prior 2022-2024 Work Program

- Distributed grant application information for the above mentioned programs and provided eight letters of support for applications including the City’s Altoona Transportation Center.
- Reviewed land developments for impacts on state and local roadways and consistency with countywide and local plans.
- Attended a Route 453 Safety Improvement Study public meeting.

Consistency with Municipal and Intergovernmental Plans

	Budget Total	Federal PL	Federal MPP	State MLF	Local FHWA	Local FTA
	\$47,133.00	37,706.40	0	4,762.92	4,663.68	0

VI. Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Data Collection

Blair Planning collects HPMS roadway data to be used by PennDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to assess the system performance of state and local federal-aid roadways to help determine funding levels including liquid fuels.

Description of planning work products and the activities needed to prepare them:

- Verify and update roadway inventory data on 95 Highway Performance Monitoring System sample sections including additional segments that may be required based upon revised urban boundary revisions.

Blair Planning will review 95 HPMS sample sections in the fall of 2024 and submits data changes to PennDOT by the first Friday in December.

- Blair Planning participates in PennDOT’s field audits of HPMS sample sections to verify accuracy of the data collected.

Key Accomplishments to date from the prior 2022-2024 Work Program

- Blair Planning attended the annual PennDOT HPMS training workshops.
- PennDOT Conducted a field audit of Blair HPMS sample sections in August of 2023.
- Reviewed 95 HPMS sample sections and submitted changes to PennDOT in November of 2022, and reviewed 95 HPMS sample sections in 2023 using a new ArcGIS application.

Highway Performance Monitoring System

	Budget Total	Federal PL	Federal MPP	State MLF	Local FHWA	Local FTA
	\$ 5,773.00	4,618.40	0	583.38	571.22	0

VII. A. Local Technical Assistance Program

PennDOT’s Bureau of Planning and Research is working with Blair Planning to customize LTAP to meet the needs of the Blair County municipalities. The goals of the program are as follows:

- Prepare a priority training list that identifies local government training needs and use the list to work with PennDOT to schedule LTAP courses.
- Advertise dates and locations of LTAP Courses to the County and municipalities and PennDOT Municipal Services representatives by email. All registrations for training courses will be coordinated directly through Blair Planning and/or the LTAP web site.
- Provide PennDOT course registration information one week prior to the scheduled course date(s).
- Participate in annual LTAP Planning Partners’ meeting and other PennDOT meetings as required and attend LTAP training courses.

Description of planning work products and the activities needed to prepare them:

- Schedule and hold four in person LTAP courses each year in Blair County. Provide course registration information to PennDOT one week prior to the scheduled course date.

Blair Planning will work to schedule LTAP courses requested by the municipalities and select LTAP course locations.

Blair Planning will also distribute information regarding LTAP technical assistance and courses during in person annual meetings with the municipalities.

Blair Planning will coordinate LTAP course scheduling with the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission and the Cambria County Planning Commission.

Key Accomplishments to date from the prior 2022-2024 Work Program

- Sent email notices to the municipalities of LTAP courses to be held locally.
- Scheduled two in person LTAP courses for the fall of 2022 and two for the spring of 2023.
- Planning Director and other planning staff met with the twenty-five municipalities for feedback on planning services including LTAP technical assistant studies and courses.

Local Technical Assistance Program

	Budget Total	Federal PL	Federal MPP	State MLF	Local FHWA	Local FTA
	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	0	0	0	0

VIII. Set-aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options

The Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act requires each MPO to use at least 2.5% of its PL funds (under 23 U.S.C. 505) on specified planning activities to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities.

Description of planning work products and the activities needed to prepare them:

- Create an Active Mobility Committee to help identify bicycle and pedestrian projects. Members of the committee would represent the following groups:
 - Blair County Planning Commission
 - PennDOT District 9-0 Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
 - Blair MPO Technical Committee
 - Public schools
 - People with disabilities
 - People age 65 and over
 - Others.

The committee will determine its meeting schedule to collect and review the existing plans, ideas, and documents related to active mobility throughout the County. The committee would select the most implementable complete streets/bicycle/pedestrian type of projects for the group to encourage placement in municipal comprehensive plans and the MPO’s Active Transportation Plan. The group would also inform the municipalities how to seek grant funding to implement the identified bicycle and pedestrian type projects through the following grants:

- Department of Community and Economic Development’s Multimodal Transportation Fund and Keystone Communities Program.
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resource’s Community Conservation Partnerships Program and Greenways Trails Recreation Program.

- PennDOT's Multimodal Transportation Fund and Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Programs.
- PA Department of Health.
- Others.

PennDOT District 9-0 maintains inventory of existing and planned multimodal assets and completes bicycle and pedestrian checklists for all candidate projects. The District also has an internal Bike/Ped committee that reviews all projects with bicycle or pedestrian needs.

Key Accomplishments to date from the prior 2022-2024 Work Program

- Attended Blair County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee and sub-committee meetings to gather feedback on forming the active mobility committee in 2023.
- Attended a meeting with Tyrone Township Supervisors and PennDOT regarding maintaining existing on-road bicycle route signs in July 2023.

Set-aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options

	Budget Total	Federal PL	Federal MPP	State MLF	Local FHWA	Local FTA
	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	0	0	0	0

Unified Planning Work Program Summary for Budget
Blair Metropolitan Planning Organization
Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Work Task	Budget	PL Federal	MPP Federal	MLF State	Highway Local	Transit Local
I. Administrative	34,758.00	13,903.20	13,903.20	1,756.19	1,719.61	3,475.80
II. Assistance & Outreach	62,277.46	49,821.97	0.00	6,293.30	6,162.19	0.00
III. Plans & Programs Highway	104,937.54	83,950.03	0.00	10,604.21	10,383.30	0.00
IV. Plans & Programs Transit	58,871.00	0.00	47,096.80	0.00	0.00	11,774.20
V. Consistency Municipal Intergovernmental Plans Highway Perf.	47,133.00	37,706.40	0.00	4,762.92	4,663.68	0.00
VI. Monitoring	5,773.00	4,618.40	0.00	583.38	571.22	0.00
Subtotal	313,750.00	190,000.00	61,000.00	24,000.00	23,500.00	15,250.00
VII. Local Tech. Assist. Prog.	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
VIII. Safe & Access. Trans.	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Program	323,750.00	200,000.00	61,000.00	24,000.00	23,500.00	15,250.00

Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP) - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Metropolitan Planning Funds (PL) - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
State Motor License Fund (MLF)

Work Order 1A; Vendor 139316; Contract C920001361