

Call for Project

MPO 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)



FY 2026 Overall Work Program (OWP)

According to the required phases in the project development process, the MPO/RCRPC is now accepting applications for transportation planning funding requests through the 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP provides federal funds for transportation planning activities undertaken by MPO RCRPC, its member agencies, and municipalities throughout the RCRPC MPO Region.

What Types of Projects are Eligible?

The UPWP funds concept-level planning, analysis, and design initiatives. UPWP funds **cannot** be used for property acquisition, site preparation, preliminary engineering, detailed design, operations, and management, and/or construction projects.

MPO RCRPC offers planning funds related to three general areas of interest:

1. Physical improvements to the transportation system
2. Non-infrastructure transportation services and programs
3. Integration of transportation

Projects may encompass a corridor, neighborhood, downtown, municipality. Generally, projects will be expected to support communities through (1) planning for physical improvements to the transportation system; (2) non-infrastructure transportation services and programs; and/or (3) integration of transportation.

The following lists are examples of projects. Other activities that meet the selection criteria will be fully considered:

Transportation Infrastructure Planning

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans
- Traffic Calming Plans
- Street Connectivity Plans
- Access Management Plans
- Road Diet Plans
- Wayfinding/Signage Plans
- Complete Streets Implementation Plans
- Parking Management Plans
- Regional Data Development
- Transportation System Management and Operations
- Resiliency Plans
- Freight Plans
- Strategic Divestment Plans
- Plans to expand use of low or zero-emission vehicles
- Corridor Plans

Who can apply?

- Any municipality in the MPO Transportation Study Region
- RCRPC MPO member agencies
- Please see the RCRPC MPO Transportation Study Area on the next page

Visit us at:

<https://www.rcrpc.org/call-for-project-fy2026-owp>

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to
Access our website.



Richland County Regional Planning

19 North Main St
Mansfield, Ohio 44902



How to apply?

- Download the Application form from <https://www.rcrpc.org/call-for-project-fy2026-owp>
- Fill out the Application form and submit your project idea to MPO RCRPC by the January 15, 2025 (Wednesday) deadline

The UPWP under RCRPC OWP is MPO's Transportation operating plan and annual budget. The UPWP lists the federally funded transportation planning activities that MPO, its member agencies, and other municipalities in the MPO Transportation Study Area will advance during the next fiscal year. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, which extends from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026. MPO expects approximately \$300,000 of these funds to be available for new transportation planning & study projects in the FY2026. Planning funds for new projects will be released after June 30th, 2025.

Project Budget and Delivery

The UPWP is funded with federal transportation planning funds. These funds are allocated to MPO RCRPC through the Ohio Department of Transportation. The use of these funds come with requirements at both the federal and state levels. If funding is awarded, in addition to the requirements outlined below, detailed budget and delivery guidance will be provided to successful applicants. Failure to meet these requirements may result in funding being revoked.

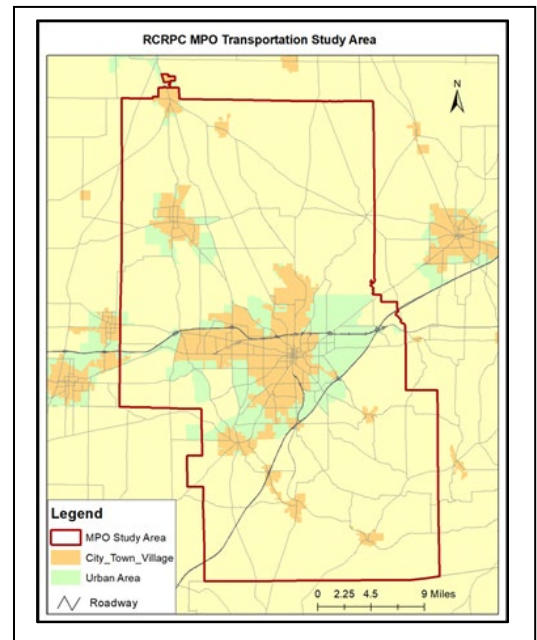
All applicants must meet the following budget requirements:

- Applicants must provide a minimum of 10 percent of the total project budget. For example, an applicant applying to fund a project costing a total of \$50,000 must commit at least \$5,000 cash. The total requested UPWP funding would then be \$45,000. However, applicants are encouraged to provide more than 10 percent of the total project budget for a higher score from the project evaluation team, if possible. Additionally, project sponsors are required to transfer the committed cash match requirement prior to start the project RFP process.

UPWP Project Selection Process

RCRPC will review and rank the proposals received in accordance with the criteria of evaluation. Following the evaluation process, the MPO Transportation Technical Director will recommend projects to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which approves a draft program of projects for review. Final approval of the project selected is made by the Transportation Coordinating Committee (MPO Policy Committee), taking into consideration TAC recommendations. Following the approval, the UPWP projects under FY2026 OWP will be forwarded to FHWA and ODOT as documentation for approval to funding the projects.

MPO will provide transportation planning funds for each fiscal year. Upon completion of the project planning study phase, the results and proposed improvement alternatives can be leveraged to apply for discretionary funds in the subsequent project implementation phases. If your proposal is not funded, MPO staff will provide technical assistance on how the application can be improved for the next UPWP funding cycle. Additionally the RCRPC MPO will work with each sponsor to implement the project for the RCRPC MPO Transportation Study Area. Please reach out to Mr. Pong Wu, Transportation Technical Director, if you have any questions regarding the MPO annual transportation funds for the project study or plan.



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