

Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

2025 ANNUAL REPORT (UPWP AGREEMENT 311664)



Prepared by:

Rapid City Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization
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Any person who has questions concerning this policy or who believes they have been discriminated against should contact the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Title VI Coordinator, Kip Harrington, at 394-4120.

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General Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Mandates changes in building codes, transportation, and hiring practices to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities. This act affects all existing and new public places, conveyances, and employers. The significance of ADA in transportation will be most apparent in transit operations, capital improvements, and hiring practices.
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
EPC	Executive Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
IIJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MTP	Metropolitan Transportation Plan, previously named Long Range Transportation Plan
PL	Federal Highway Planning Funds that have been set aside for transportation planning activities in Urbanized Areas. Funding is on an 81.95%/18.05% federal/local basis.
SDDOT	South Dakota Department of Transportation
SECTION 5307	Federal Program for capital improvements, i.e. terminals, shelters, mechanical equipment other than buses, computers, office equipment, etc. assistance.
SECTION 5310	Federal funding intended to enhance mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities. This section of funds will provide for programs to serve the special needs of transit- dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services

SECTION 5339 A formula program that provides funding for capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and bus-related equipment, and to construct bus-related facilities.

TAZ Traffic Analysis Zone

TACC Technical and Citizen Coordinating Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization

TIP Transportation Improvement Program

UPWP Unified Planning Work Program

INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) provides a comprehensive, cooperative and continuing program of transportation planning in the Rapid City, SD Urbanized Area. Participating agencies in the planning process include:

- City of Box Elder
- City of Rapid City
- City of Piedmont
- City of Summerset
- Ellsworth Air Force Base
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- Meade County
- Pennington County
- Rapid City Area School District
- Douglas School District
- Meade School District 46-1
- South Dakota Department of Transportation

Representatives of these agencies establish and implement goals and objectives through the transportation planning process. The process functions through two committees that help guide the development of necessary plans and projects required to meet future transportation demands:

- The Technical and Citizens Coordinating Committee - Comprised of MPO-wide representatives whose input provides a citizens' perspective on important transportation related issues, along with technical staff of the participating agencies that are responsible for reviewing and recommending approval of major transportation system plans, projects, and studies.
- The Executive Policy Committee - Comprised of elected and appointed officials from the participating agencies. The Committee is the approving body for the MPO and makes decisions regarding program content and the adoption of plans and studies required for implementation of the transportation planning program.

The Annual Report is designated in the Operations Plan as one of the transportation products to be presented to the MPO's transportation process committees. The report is required to provide an overview of the MPO activities. Included in this report is information on the MPO's financial expenditures during the 2025 calendar year. Also included are brief descriptions of activities associated with each line item.

2025 UPWP Work Activities

Personnel Services

These UPWP activities directly related to a comprehensive, cooperative and continuing planning process emphasized within The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, one that promoted, preserved and produced an efficient intermodal transportation system, supporting economic development while improving security and safety.

2025 Work Activities:

1. Staff participated in the 2025 Rapid City Area MPO Transportation Planning Self-Certification Process, which included ensuring compliance with environmental justice requirements.
2. Staff coordinated the execution of the annual planning agreements among the SDDOT, City of Rapid City, City of Box Elder, City of Summerset, City of Piedmont, Meade County and Pennington County as appropriate.
3. Staff coordinated and developed the 2026 Rapid City Area MPO UPWP, which included the cost of staff time, public notices, and printing costs.
4. Staff coordinated with the SDDOT to consolidate all consultant contracts and unobligated funding into the 2025 UPWP.
5. Staff prepared yearly demographic profiles based on best available information (2020 US Census Bureau and local building permit data) to enhance the environmental justice requirements.
6. Staff updated and revised MPO planning documents including the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
7. Staff maintained the MPO's accounting and vouchering system, whereby participants in the local transportation planning process are reimbursed for eligible transportation planning work activities.
8. Staff monitored work activities outlined in the 2025 UPWP and submitted vouchers monthly for reimbursement of eligible transportation planning work activities.
9. Staff monitored the implementation of grant activities.
10. Staff attended committee meetings, transportation planning meetings, and public meetings throughout the planning year. Staff discussed and distributed information regarding the transportation planning process and transportation improvements.

11. Staff continued to participate in regular meetings with non-profit transportation providers to assist with the development, implementation and monitoring of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.
12. Staff undertook supporting activities of the MPO committees and the planning process by coordinating and staffing meetings, open houses and public hearings, developing committee agendas and taking meeting minutes, assembling and distributing meeting packets, posting and publishing public notices, developing reports and documents, managing committee membership, maintaining the MPO and Transportation Planning websites, and distributing information.
13. Staff attended/participated in various training courses, conferences, seminars, workshops and other activities related to professional development in person and virtually. The cost of training, travel, and lodging, including staff time is included in this activity. No approval of out-of-state travel was requested.
14. Staff participated in FHWA, FTA, and/or SDDOT training opportunities and events which pertain to the operations and planning process of the Rapid City Area MPO.
15. Staff assisted member agencies of the MPO with the development of their Comprehensive and Transportation Plans. Assistance provided under the UPWP was limited to study advisory team participation, land use assessments, street plan updates, tasks associated with the development of the travel demand model and the preparation of GIS generated maps.
16. Staff assisted communities within the MPO in the preparation of GIS maps for land use data on an as-needed basis.
17. Staff continually developed, monitored and maintained the GIS database and TAZ data for the MPO area.
18. Staff participated in agency professional memberships and subscriptions related to transportation planning.
19. Staff reviewed USDOT regulations, guidance, and circulars, and reviewed best practices information, from other sources, to ensure compliance with regulations.
20. Staff and MPO member agencies maintained inventories of transportation information required for transportation planning. These inventories include traffic counts, turning movement counts and crash statistics. New data was gathered and existing inventories updated and made available for MPO functions.
21. Traffic information, inventories and data gathering efforts were coordinated with staff, MPO member agencies and transportation specialists from the SDDOT.

22. Staff cooperated with SDDOT efforts to expand the Global Positioning System (GPS) control for South Dakota to continue establishing accurate GIS position data.
23. Staff maintained and updated geographic information systems base inventory maps of the natural and man-made resources, features, and environmentally sensitive areas that could be adversely affected by changes in the region's transportation system. GIS staff continues to expand the use of coordinate geometry to input plat information.
24. Staff continued to add land use and socio-economic data to the GIS database.
25. City and County staff reviewed proposed land use changes and developmental proposals to determine their anticipated effects on the existing and future transportation system.
26. Staff updated socio-economic data to assist with creating an updated Travel Demand Forecast Model.
27. Staff collected data needed to conduct transportation planning tasks identified in the UPWP.
28. Staff maintained the travel demand forecasting model and used the updated model to review transportation decisions.
29. Staff analyzed impacts related to land use and transportation system coordination on a corridor/study area basis.
30. Staff prepared the public transportation portion of the CIP and the 2026-2029 TIP. The TIP included the four-year plan for proposed capital and operating expenditures for public transportation and identified potential funding sources. The TIP was developed, adopted, and distributed in compliance with all federal, state, and local requirements. The TIP included all transportation improvements planned by the member agencies within the Rapid City Metropolitan Planning Area for 2026-2029, including both federal and non-federal funded projects.
31. Staff evaluated all transportation improvement projects for consistency with the MTP. All transportation improvement projects were reviewed for their impacts on intermodal facilities and routes within the urbanized area and the region and for consistency with the MTP.
32. Staff accounted for life-cycle costs when comparing project estimates with projected financial resources.

33. Staff continued the process of implementing a pavement management system. The Rapid City Engineering Services Division staff led the efforts in creating and maintaining the pavement management system and the implementation process.
34. Staff collected and analyzed crash statistics to determine appropriate traffic improvements.
35. Staff evaluated potential and existing safety issues for pedestrians and vehicles.
36. Staff evaluated and monitored the transit system's operational characteristics in order to identify necessary changes. Staff continually identified short-range improvements to the public transportation system and analyzed the feasibility of various transit and paratransit service options.
37. Staff coordinated with agencies interested in the areas of land use management, environmental resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation.
38. Staff provided for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services to increase the ability of the transportation system to support homeland security and to safeguard the personal security of all motorized and non-motorized users.
39. Staff provided SDDOT a work and financial activities year-end summary.
40. Staff prepared an annual listing of obligated projects.
41. Staff undertook the required activities necessary to administer, manage and complete the projects and studies identified in the 2025 Work Activities under Professional Services/Consultants contained herein.
42. Staff verified that the public transportation implications of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are being pursued through the ADA Transition Plan. The Transition Plan also included transit stops.
43. Staff conducted and coordinated the development and approval of transportation-related comprehensive planning, including land use and major street plans for developing areas within the Metropolitan Planning Area.
44. Staff completed other transit-related planning activities and special studies as approved by the transportation planning committees.
45. Staff and committee members reviewed and made recommendations regarding awarding Section 5310 Transit Funding grant funds to the SDDOT Office of Air, Rail, and Transit.

46. Staff continued to incorporate virtual public involvement methods to engage with the public more effectively by supplementing face-to face information sharing with current technology.
47. Staff collaborated with SDDOT and FHWA to designate urbanized boundary and Metropolitan Planning Area utilizing 2020 Census data, with SDDOT technical assistance and FHWA approval.
48. Staff collaborated with SDDOT and FHWA to designate Urban Critical Freight Corridors within the Rapid City MPO.
49. Staff conducted public involvement activities as identified in the Participation Plan.
50. Staff continued to utilize the Complete Streets approach in its transportation planning efforts.
51. Staff identified and documented MPO activities that met the 2.5% planning fund expenditure on Safe and Accessible Transportation Options.

Professional Services/Consultants

These activities address both identified and unanticipated problems and needs that occur during the course of the work program year. Contractual services with consultants or other professionals to conduct studies and other UPWP activities were identified by a corresponding program year.

2025 Work Activities:

1. Staff completed work on Requests for Proposals and other necessary documentation. All MPO approved Requests for Proposals were distributed, consultant selection procedures followed, and contracts prepared and executed. Staff was responsible for contract preparation, contract execution, and project management.
2. Staff requested approval from the MPO committees of the implementation of special studies as identified in the UPWP. Work under this task included coordination of meetings, budget preparation, and special analysis.
3. Staff undertook required activities necessary to administer, manage and complete the following projects and studies to the extent of budgeted funding:

- a. Worked with the consultant on the Rapid City Comprehensive Plan (transportation and land use components). The plan was completed in November 2025.
- b. Worked with the consultant on the Rapid Trip 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The plan was completed in August 2025.
- c. Worked with the consultant on the Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan. The plan was completed in January 2026.
- d. Worked with the consultant on the Railyard Relocation and Railway Alignment Study. The study is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2026.

Capital Resources

These activities include the capital investments necessary to carry out the transportation planning process.

1. MPO staff acquired computer hardware, software (including software upgrades) and peripheral devices to ensure continuation of the transportation planning process. SDDOT reviewed all capital purchases justifying the purchase prior to acquisition.

2025 Year End UPWP Budget

2025 UPWP Expenditures				Federal - 81.95%		Local - 18.05%		Total	
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL BUDGET	FHWA	LOCAL MATCH	FUNDS EXPENDED	FUNDS REMAINING	MATCH EXPENDED	MATCH REMAINING	BUDGET EXPENDED	BUDGET REMAINING
Personnel	461,000.00	377,789.50	83,210.50	254,732.38	123,057.12	56,106.41	27,104.09	310,838.79	150,161.21
Professional Services	966,430.76*	791,990.01	174,440.75	311,922.42	480,067.59	68,702.87	105,737.88	380,625.29	585,805.47
Capital Resources	85,000.00	69,657.50	15,342.50	41,973.15	27,684.35	9,244.85	6,097.65	51,218.00	33,782.00
Total	1,512,430.76	1,177,811.62	259,420.38	648,530.46	529,281.16	142,842.90	116,577.49	791,373.35	645,858.65

*Includes 2025 UPWP allocated funds of \$200,000.00 and FY2024 Contract Carryover Funds of \$766,430.76

Rapid City Comprehensive Plan Update Totals			
Agency	TOTAL BUDGET	Professional Services Budget Expended	Budget Remaining
City of Rapid City	247,040.20	184,574.85	62,465.35
FHWA Planning Funds	41,009.80	41,009.80	0.00

Contract Completed
October 2025

Rapid TRIP 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Totals			
Agency	TOTAL BUDGET	Professional Services Budget Expended	Budget Remaining
City of Rapid City	76,023.89	53,413.61	22,610.28
FHWA Planning Funds	345,161.11	242,506.62	102,654.49

**Contract Completed
September 2025**

Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan Totals			
Agency	TOTAL BUDGET	Professional Services Budget Expended	Budget Remaining
Grant Funded	199,971.90	168,888.59	31,083.31

**Contract Completed
January 2025**

Railyard Relocation and Railway Alignment Study Totals			
Agency	TOTAL BUDGET	Professional Services Budget Expended	Budget Remaining
City of Rapid City	63,404.32	30,130.23	33,274.09
FWHA Planning Funds	287,866.15	136,796.27	151,069.88