



2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) First Read

TCC

October 2, 2026

Vision

ONE **great** REGION

Mission

Foster thriving communities for all within the Atlanta region through collaborative, data-informed planning and investments.

Values

Excellence | **Integrity** | **Equity**

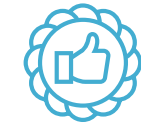
Goals



Healthy, safe, livable communities in the Atlanta Metro area.



Strategic investments in people, infrastructure, mobility, and preserving natural resources.



Regional services delivered with **operational excellence** and **efficiency**.



Diverse stakeholders engage and take a regional approach to solve local issues.



A competitive economy that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient.

2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

What it is: The UPWP is a core annual MPO requirement. It documents transportation planning activities performed with federal, state, and local transportation funds for the Atlanta metropolitan area.

Why it matters: Formal FHWA/FTA approval is required prior to beginning work on activities undertaken with FHWA/FTA planning and research funds.

2027 UPWP represents about \$27 million of federal, state, and local planning activity

Today: First Read
November 6: TCC

Presented by Michael Kray, Atlanta Regional Commission

2027	UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM Adopted November 2026
Atlanta Metropolitan Transportation Planning Area	
	
	
	



UPWP Background and Process

- **One of four documents federally required of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)**
 - Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Public Participation Plan (PPP)
- **Annual document developed and adopted concurrently with the ARC budget**
- **Coordinates transportation planning in the region**
 - Broadens awareness of activities that impact surface transportation in the region
 - Reduces duplicative planning efforts
 - Ensures common planning forecasts and assumptions
- **Developed in cooperation with the state, local governments, and public transportation operators**
 - Focused on federally funded planning activities
 - Also includes significant state and locally funded plans

UPWP Approval Process		
ARC	TCC	Nov 6
	TAQC/Board	Nov 11
USDOT	FHWA	Nov/Dec
	FTA	



2026 Work Program Highlights

Completed in 2026

- **ITS4US Complete Trip deployment, Phase 3 — completed and approved by FHWA**
- **Two amendments and four rounds of administrative modifications to the 2050 MTP and FY 2024–2027 TIP**
- **Development of the new FY 2027–2030 TIP**
- **ARC Funded Locally Led Plans**
 - Chattahoochee RiverLands Atlanta Reach scoping study (City of Atlanta)
 - Norcross-to-Lilburn multiuse trail feasibility study (Gwinnett County)
 - Newton County CTP
 - Rockdale County CTP
- **Other Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) and other local plans**

Initiated in 2026

- **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update**
- **Riding Forward (Regional Trails Plans)**
- **Regional Household Travel and Transit On-Board surveys**
- **Transportation Carbon Reduction Plan**
- **Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (PROTECT)**
- **Emergency Healthcare Transportation Access Study**
- **Regional ITS/TSMO Plan**
- **ITS4US Phases 4 and 5**
- **Ongoing Mobility Services programs**

2027 Selected Planning Highlights

MTP Update

Develops the long-range blueprint for regional infrastructure investments to ensure Atlanta's future success and improves quality of life.

- Total Budget: \$2.45 million
- 2027 Budget: \$1.0 million



MOBILITY
2055
METRO ATLANTA ON THE MOVE

Riding Forward

Creates three regional trail and bicycle facility plans: Flint River Gateway Vision Plan; South Metro Trail and bicycle facility plan; and the Regional Trail and Bicycle Facility Plan.

- Total Budget: \$3.5 million
- 2027 Budget: \$1.2 million



Regional Travel Surveys

Two major travel surveys will provide valuable data to inform regional planning and calibrate the travel demand model. They will quantify changes in travel behavior from the pandemic and increased teleworking as well as return-to-work policies.

- Household Travel Survey
 - Total Budget: \$1.875 million
 - 2027 Budget: \$0.8 million
- Transit On-Board Survey
 - Total Budget: \$1.6 million
 - 2027 Budget: \$0.8 million



Atlanta Regional
TRAVEL SURVEY



UPWP Development and Approval Timeline



WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

Draft 2027 UPWP is available for review at atlantaregional.org/upwp

Please send comments to staff by October 31, 2026

CONTACT

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