



**SANTEE
LYNCHES**

Regional Council of Governments

RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

**For Fiscal Years:
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
and
July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**

Adopted by the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors:

06/01/2026

Prepared for:

South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT)
and
Federal Highways Administration (FHWA)

Prepared by:

Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments

Summary

The Santee-Lynches Fiscal Years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP) describes all rural transportation and transportation-related planning activities anticipated for the fiscal period from July 2025 through June 2027. It contains a discussion of the major transportation issues, goals and objectives in the study area.

The RPWP consists of four major tasks: (1) Administration, (2) Planning and Program Management, (3) Transit Planning, and (4) Public Participation. These tasks encompass the following activities:

- Compliance with federal metropolitan planning guidelines and regulations
- General program administration and RPWP activities
- Maintenance of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- Maintenance of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Adopting statewide Transportation Performance Management targets
- Research, data collection, and geospatial data management
- Planning and technical assistance for public transportation services
- Assistance to regional transit agencies in grant applications
- Soliciting public opinions on transportation initiatives and projects
- Management of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects
- Complete Streets planning activities

Acknowledgement

The Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments has developed the FY 2025-2027 RPWP. The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of Santee-Lynches and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the South Carolina Department of Transportation or the US Department of Transportation.

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I. BACKGROUND OF PREVIOUS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

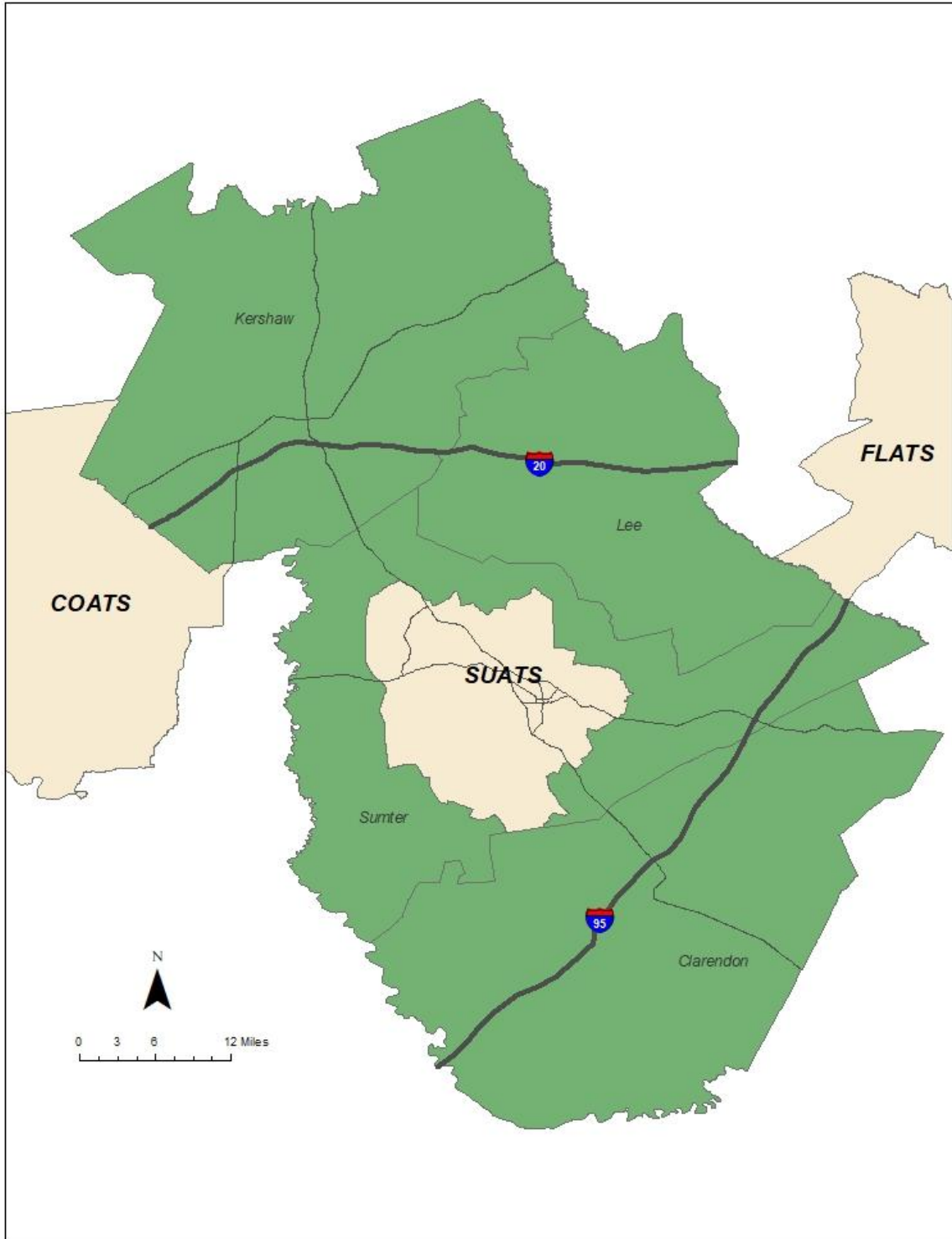
The Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments' (Santee-Lynches) formal inclusion in area transportation planning began in 1998 when the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), in compliance with the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, began involving the state's ten (10) Regional Councils of Government in the rating and ranking of major highway improvements for areas of the state not classified as Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). The Regional Council of Governments role in transportation planning was officially recognized with the passage of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21. This bill formally recognized regional planning organizations with the "Designation of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations". In November of 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or "BIL") was signed into law, providing a five-year funding program through 2026. The BIL replaces the FAST Act for future federal-aid transportation planning and projects.

As part of ongoing assistance to SCDOT, Santee-Lynches performs the following functions:

- Maintain and update the Region's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in 5-year intervals. (The current plan was updated in 2013 to the horizon year of 2050.)
- Assist in the development and update of the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan, including all modal components.
- Assist in the development and implementation of planning requirements associated with current federal transportation initiatives.
- Maintain the Region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and continue to detail all programmed project activity in the region.
- Assist in regional transportation planning efforts, including assessment of mobility needs and identification of funding sources for project needs.
- Serve as the venue for regional transportation meetings and forums.
- Serve as a site for the public to access SCDOT documents for public review and comment.
- Assist in improving communication and cooperation among regional transportation and transit providers.
- Assist human services agencies in assessing gaps and barriers in transportation delivery for disadvantaged and underserved groups.
- Provide advocacy on behalf of human service organizations concerning transportation topics.
- Facilitate stakeholder meetings related to coordination of human service transportation.

Additionally, Santee-Lynches continues to provide ongoing planning and technical assistance to the sixteen (16) units of local government located in the four-county region, as well as planning advice and technical assistance on various transportation and related land-use issues. SCDOT provides funding to support the various objectives of this Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP). Funds from two sources within SCDOT – Planning and Research (SPR) and the Office of Public Transit (OPT) – are referenced in this work program.

PLANNING AREA MAP



II. MEMBERSHIP

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee for the Santee-Lynches Rural Planning Work Program is the 29-member Board of Directors for the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments. This body, with members appointed by the eight (8) member jurisdictions of the Council of Governments, is proportionate to the population of each jurisdiction.

Technical Advisory Committee (Study Team)

The membership of the Technical Advisory Committee, known as the Santee-Lynches Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) consists of the following organizational representatives, each holding one (1) vote:

- Santee-Lynches Council of Governments Board Appointee (Chairman)
- Santee-Lynches Council of Governments Board Appointee (Vice-Chairman)
- Clarendon County Transportation Committee
- Clarendon County Economic Development Office
- Clarendon County Engineer or Public Works Director
- Kershaw County Transportation Committee
- Kershaw County Engineer/Public Works Director
- Kershaw County Economic Development Office
- Lee County Transportation Committee
- Lee County Engineer or Public Works Director
- TheLink Economic Development Alliance
- Sumter County Transportation Committee
- Sumter County Engineer or Public Works Director
- Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study (SUATS) Coordinator
- Columbia Urban Area Transportation Study (COATS) Coordinator
- Shaw Air Force Base Representative
- Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority

Non-Voting Representatives to the Committee

- Area Planner, Office of Statewide Planning, SCDOT
- Director, Office of Public Transit, SCDOT
- Multimodal Planning Manager, Office of Intermodal and Freight Planning, SCDOT
- Program Manager, Office of Preconstruction, SCDOT
- SCDOT District Manager, District 1 (Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)
- SCDOT District Manager, District 7 (Clarendon)

III. RURAL PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP) is a work program for achieving the goal of transportation improvements within the Santee-Lynches planning area. Each of the four tasks in the work program – Administration, Planning and Program Management, Transit Planning, and Public Participation – has objectives and resources identified for producing final products. This RPWP will cover two consecutive fiscal years, FY 2025-2026 and FY 2026-2027.

Planning Factors

Transportation legislation identifies ten areas which planning organizations should consider when developing their plans. These ten planning factors pertain to both local and regional transportation planning. They are:

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 for people and freight;
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the 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 system management and operation;
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;
9. Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
10. Enhance travel and tourism.

Santee-Lynches will incorporate these Planning Factors into its transportation planning program. Throughout this document, these factors are associated with the function and coordination of the multimodal transportation planning process.

RPWP Task	Planning Factors									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I Administration	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
II Planning and Program Mgmt.	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
III Transit Planning	♦			♦	♦		♦			
IV Public Participation				♦	♦					

Planning Emphasis Areas

The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration identify eight Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) which should be considered by federal planning funds recipients when preparing work programs for transportation planning. The PEAs are:

1. Tackling the Climate Crisis – Transition to a clean energy, resilient future
2. Equity and Justice 40 in transportation planning
3. Complete Streets
4. Public Involvement
5. Strategic Highway Network/US Department of Defense coordination
6. Federal Land Management Agency coordination

7. Planning and environment linkages
8. Data in transportation planning

The Santee-Lynches RPWP describes the specific tasks for Santee-Lynches pursuant to these emphasis areas. The RPWP consists of four tasks in FY2025-2026 and six tasks in FY2026-2027, as indicated below:

1. Administration

This task includes general oversight, reporting, coordinating with state and federal partners, managing the Policy Committee and Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, and completing the Rural Planning Work Program.

2. Planning and Program Management

This task includes managing the Transportation Improvement Program, completing the Long Range Transportation Plan, Complete Streets planning activities, conducting research, collecting necessary data, and managing the GIS.

3. Transit Planning

This task includes supporting the operations of the Santee Wateree Regional Transit Authority and participating in the Section 5310 grant process.

4. Complete Streets (FY26-27)

This task includes planning for Complete Streets solutions in local projects.

5. TAP Management (FY26-27)

This task includes assisting with the management of local Transportation Alternatives Program projects.

6. Public Participation

This task includes holding meetings and providing opportunities for public comment and involvement in the transportation planning process.

Task I	Administration
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OBJECTIVE: Advise and inform participating agencies of program substance and expenditures; to coordinate transportation planning, transit planning and transportation engineering; and to process resolutions endorsed by the Policy Committee. Required duties include informing the public and committee members of meetings, preparation of meeting packets, attendance at meetings, coordination of projects/programs, and oversight of planning activities. Additional work elements are to prepare the RPWP, to prepare application packages for various federal-aid transportation programs, to addend professional transportation meetings, and to ensure appropriate administrative and management tasks associated with the coordination of the multimodal transportation planning process are accomplished in order to support Santee-Lynches' overall transportation work programs.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: Correspondence, memoranda, agreements, agenda, recordkeeping and minutes will be produced by staff. Expected projects to be completed for FY 2025-2027 are:

- Purchase office supplies, equipment, and software that enhance transportation planning
- Attend training seminars and workshops that enhance transportation planning
- Obtain meeting spaces for transportation events as required

- Prepare and submit quarterly reports and monthly financial reimbursement invoices and other reports and documentation to SCDOT
- Preparation of maps, presentations, and other media for public presentations, council meetings, etc.
- Submit necessary reports to SCDOT
- Attend COG/MPO Academy
- Staff reports and other analysis
- Provide consultation and advice to local elected officials
- Provide and acquire contractual services as needed

BUDGET:

Fiscal Year	Total	SCDOT	Local	Percent of Total
2025-2026	\$19,531.25	\$15,625.00	\$3,906.25	12.5%
2026-2027	\$66,406.25	\$53,125.00	\$13,281.25	42.5%

Task II Planning and Program Management

OBJECTIVE: Provide comprehensive oversight of the various transportation-related documents and policies within the Santee-Lynches region in an effort to ensure that such policies are aimed towards meeting coordinated, unified goals and objectives. In addition, Santee-Lynches will consider the ten factors mentioned above in all planning and program related development and work with the SCDOT to ensure the continued development of a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that will reflect needs and meet requirements of Federal Transportation Regulations.

Provide GIS support for transportation-related projects, which require intricate maps depicting transportation infrastructure, freight corridors and roadways, safety elements, public transit routes, and accessible transportation alternatives, for Santee-Lynches staff, units of local government, and regional organizations located within the Santee-Lynches transportation planning jurisdiction.

Provide research support for transportation projects, including in-depth analysis of statistical information such as demographics, population, density, land use, transportation infrastructure, employment trends, commuting patterns, environmental justice, and economic trends.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: Transportation related documents will be reviewed and analyzed by staff so that appropriate recommendations may be made to ensure that plans are written in a manner that avoids duplication and conflicts in transportation planning and implementation. Expected projects to be completed for FY 2025-2027 are:

- 5-year update of the Long Range Transportation Plan
- Update the TIP to coordinate with the Long Range Transportation Plan
- Continue to receive guidance and consultation on all Santee-Lynches projects from SCDOT and FHWA
- Advise Planning Staff in region units of local governments on the development of ordinances that will protect existing corridors
- Provide consultation and advice to local elected officials
- Attend meetings and seminars to maintain GIS proficiency
- Provide transportation-related GIS research and mapping products for meetings and for units of local government as needed
- Assess growth trends, including population and housing/facility construction, as they relate to impacts on transportation infrastructure and transportation options
- Collection of socioeconomic data, population, and employment to study growth trends and development
- Provide consultation and advice to local elected officials

- Provide transportation-related research, statistical analysis, guidance, and technical assistance to units of local government and other agencies in the region
- Work with national, statewide, and local agencies to obtain guidance, policy direction, and assistance
- Obtain certifications that advance project planning capability
- Investigate new technologies that increase efficiency and effectiveness in plan development and research
- Adopting statewide Transportation Performance Management targets, including safety, infrastructure, and system performance targets

BUDGET:

Fiscal Year	Total	SCDOT	Local	Percent of Total
2025-2026	\$66,406.25	\$53,125.00	\$13,281.25	42.5%
2026-2027	\$59,375.00	\$47,500.00	\$11,875.00	38%

Task III Transit Planning

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate efforts of planners and transportation service providers, particularly Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA), and assist in monitoring public transportation routes to assess needs based on existing ridership and areas of projected growth and development. Assist SWRTA to improve ridership by offering advice and identification of location needs for infrastructure. In partnership with the Office of Public Transit, manage the Section 5310 grant process for eligible applicants.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: The expected products of this task will be the on-going meetings in an effort to determine transit facility needs in the Santee-Lynches region. Expected projects to be completed for FY 2025-2027 are:

- Educate local, regional, and state officials and members of the general public on the comprehensive transit networks
- Assist SCDOT in improving communication and cooperation among regional transportation providers
- Assist SCDOT in the dissemination of announcements and application packages within the region of responsibility
- Complete periodic evaluation and update of the regional coordination or transit plan, and provide input to SCDOT for updating regional and statewide coordination
- Coordinate with local providers and assist in efforts to avoid duplicated services
- Work with SUATS and COATS planners and developers to investigate transit-oriented housing
- Work with SWRTA on reports, studies, and research necessary to advance transit offerings provided by that agency
- Assist in managing the Section 5310 transit grant application process for priority of receiving funds each year, including reviewing and ranking eligible applications
- Provide guidance and assistance to grassroots efforts to promote transit initiatives
- Provide consultation and advice to local elected officials
- Collaborate with SWRTA to ensure dependable transit is available to and from industrial parks and other employment nodes

BUDGET:

Fiscal Year	Total	SCDOT	Local	Percent of Total
2025-2026	\$46,875	\$37,500	\$9,375.00	30%
2026-2027	\$18,375	\$15,000	\$3,750	12%

Task IV Complete Streets Planning

OBJECTIVE: Undertake Complete Streets planning activities, including adopting and implementing relevant policies to prioritize all modes of travel and the safety of all users.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: Expected products of this task for FY 2026-2027 will be identification of and planning for candidate Complete Streets projects. This includes potentially incorporating Complete Streets solutions into TAP projects (see Task V).

BUDGET:

Fiscal Year	Total	SCDOT	Local	Percent of Total
2025-2026	-	-	-	-
2026-2027	\$3,906.25	\$3,125.00	\$781.25	2.5%

Task V Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Management

OBJECTIVE: Assist local communities in evaluating and carrying out Transportation Alternatives Program projects, as appropriate, including developing letters of intent and formal applications.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: Expected products of this task for FY 2026-2027 will be to provide assistance to eligible applicants, including developing project scopes, preparing biannual applications, and managing projects, as needed. In addition, the COG will:

- Support previously funded TAP projects
- Assist with the City of Manning’s TAP project
- Identify potential TAP funding eligible projects during the funding cycle and provide support to local jurisdictions pursuing these opportunities

BUDGET:

Fiscal Year	Total	SCDOT	Local	Percent of Total
2025-2026	-	-	-	-
2026-2027	\$1,562.50	\$1,250.00	\$312.50	1%

Task VI Public Participation

OBJECTIVE: Actively seek citizen participation and involvement in Santee-Lynches transportation updates and federally funded projects.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: Expected products of this task will be up-to-date data that will be available for the public to inform them of future, as well as existing, transportation facilities and improvements. Expected projects to be completed for FY 2025-2027 are:

- Conduct public meetings and other public participation functions
- Continue to publicly advertise all meetings and planned projects in a timely manner
- Continue to seek public comments on all transportation-related documents
- Involve public in scenario planning workshops on integrating transportation and land use planning

- Prepare survey questionnaire forms and solicit public opinions on variety of transportation related issues
- Involve public in workshops dealing with alternative modes of transportation
- Continue to actively seek other methods to increase public involvement such as surveys and public workshops on selected topics (e.g. access control, enhancements, corridor protection)
- Increase use of visualization tools, including maps and conceptual drawings
- Implement measures outlined in Public Participation Plan
- Conduct survey to collect information for the Long Range Plan Update
- Provide consultation and advice to local elected officials
- Conduct public meetings to increase awareness and participation in the planning process
- Post public notices, arrange meeting places and other associated needs
- Post appropriate transportation-related documents on the Santee-Lynches Transportation website, www.santeelynchescog.org/transportation
- Manage the public participation process in the Long Range Transportation Plan and/or projects requiring input from the public

BUDGET:

Fiscal Year	Total	SCDOT	Local	Percent of Total
2025-2026	\$23,437.50	\$18,750.00	\$4,687.50	15%
2026-2027	\$6,250.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.00	4%

IV. STAFF RESOURCES

The staff at Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments provides an interdisciplinary team of professionals available to accomplish the work program.

Primary staff for the work program (and their general duties/qualifications) will include:

1. **Executive Director:** 15+ years' leadership and management experience. Role: provide overarching vision for program of work, oversight of work program and coordination with SCDOT and local elected officials, assisted by staff.
2. **Finance Manager:** 5+ years financial management experience, including financial aspects of federal and state grant and appropriation programs. Role: financial management and tracking of expenditures and compliance with financial policies and practices.
3. **Planning Director:** 20+ years' experience in local government planning, environmental planning, policy analysis, and GIS. Role: general direction for all planning functions; GIS mapping.
4. **Assistant Planning Director:** 9+ years' experience in local and regional planning, including land use, grant management, and GIS. Role: general transportation planning support; GIS mapping support.

Financial management and oversight of program funds will be conducted by the Santee-Lynches Finance Director and assisted by the project director. The Santee-Lynches Executive Director and Board of Directors provide financial oversight to this and other work programs. The Economic and Community Sustainability/Transportation Committee of the Santee-Lynches Board of Directors provides policy guidance to the program.

V. BUDGET

Table 1: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Task Allocation Budget and Funding Sources

Work Program	Total	Federal Share	State Share	Local Share	% of Total RPWP
Task I Administration	\$19,531.25	\$15,625.00	\$0	\$3,906.25	12.5%
Task II Planning and Program Mgmt.	\$66,406.25	\$53,125.00	\$0	\$13,281.25	42.5%
Task III Transit Planning	\$46,875.00	\$37,500.00	\$0	\$9,375.00	30%
Task IV Public Participation	\$23,437.5	\$18,750.00	\$0	\$4,687.5	15%
TOTAL	\$156,250.00	\$125,000.00	\$0	\$31,250.00	100%

Table 2: Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Task Allocation Budget and Funding Sources

Work Program	Total	Federal Share	State Share	Local Share	% of Total RPWP
Task I Administration	\$66,406.25	\$53,125.00	\$0	\$13,281.25	42.5%
Task II Planning and Program Mgmt.	\$59,375.00	\$47,500.00	\$0	\$11,875.00	38.0%
Task III Transit Planning	\$18,750.00	\$15,000.00	\$0	\$3,750.00	12.0%
Task IV Complete Streets	\$3,906.25	\$3,125.00	\$0	\$781.25 ¹	2.5%
Task V TAP Management	\$1,562.50	\$1,250.00	\$0	\$312.50	1.0%
Task VI Public Participation	\$6,250.00	\$5,000.00	\$0	\$1,250.00	4.0%
TOTAL	\$156,250.00	\$125,000.00	\$0	\$31,250.00	100%

¹ Local share requirements for Complete Streets planning activities are waived. Refer to USDOT FHWA Memorandum *Waiver of Non-Federal Match for SPR and PL funds in Support of Complete Streets Planning Activities*, January 5, 2023.

