

FRM

**Fayette Raleigh Metropolitan
Planning Organization**

FAYETTE/RALEIGH METROPOLITAN

PLANNING ORGANIZATION

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Final

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Amendment #2 February 2024



RESOLUTION OF THE FAYETTE RALEIGH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD

CONCERNING THE FY 2023/2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

WHEREAS,

The U.S. Department of Transportation Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requires a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) be adopted by each Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS,

The Fayette Raleigh Metropolitan Planning Organization (FRM) is comprised of the urbanized area in and around Beckley, West Virginia and Fayette and Raleigh counties in West Virginia; and

WHEREAS,

The Fiscal Year 2023/2024 UPWP describes the transportation planning activities to be undertaken by FRM during Fiscal Year 2023/2024, beginning July 1, 2023, for FRM, as well as the funding sources and amounts to undertake these activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the FRM Policy Board adopts the attached Amended Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

So, resolved this day of 2024.

02/26/2024

Chairman, Robert Rappold

Date

Introduction

The Fayette/Raleigh Metropolitan Planning Organization (FRM) is the primary agency responsible for transportation planning in the urbanized areas of Fayette and Raleigh counties in West Virginia. FRM was organized in 2012 upon the release of 2010 U.S. Census data designating parts of Fayette and Raleigh counties combined as an urbanized area.

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) details the transportation planning work activities to be performed by the FRM transportation planning staff for the FRM Planning Area of Fayette and Raleigh counties in West Virginia during Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024), which begins July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area of the FRM, shown in Map 1, extends to the county boundaries of both Fayette and Raleigh counties. The 2010 U.S. Census designated Urbanized Area is comprised of the Cities of Oak Hill and Mt. Hope and the Town of Fayetteville in Fayette County and the City of Beckley and the Towns of Mabscott and Sophia in Raleigh County. Along with representatives from the two respective County Commissions, representatives of the municipalities named to be within the Urbanized Area comprise the voting members of the FRMPO and their municipalities are assessed accordingly. Municipalities within the county lines but outside of the Urbanized Area are still within the planning area of the FRMPO, but their representatives do not have voting rights and their municipalities are not asked to pay assessments.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) planning area is located within the jurisdiction of Regional Planning and Development Councils 1 and 4 which oversee the overall administration of the MPO.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- **Policy Board**

The Policy Board of the MPO consists of representatives from each of the municipalities located within the planning area, representatives from each county commission, the Executive Directors of each Planning and Development Council, and the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

- **Technical Advisory Committee**

The MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is comprised of technical representatives (such as county engineers, city engineers/planners, etc.) from each of the counties, municipalities, and transit organizations within the MPO region.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Fayette Raleigh Metropolitan Planning Organization is fully committed to implementing and complying with the current and most up to date federal requirements and recommendations for inclusion and diversity in an effort to bring social and economic equity to the citizenry. Environmental Justice (EJ) at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) means identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of the agency's programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations to achieve an equitable distribution of benefits and burdens.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/

CLIMATE CHANGE

FRM is fully committed to as best as possible and feasibly prudent to the inclusion of FHWA Climate Change recommendations and procedural considerations. All transportation planning and study development will include consideration of climate change methodologies and design attributes.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/resilience/publications/cape_cod/page10.cfm

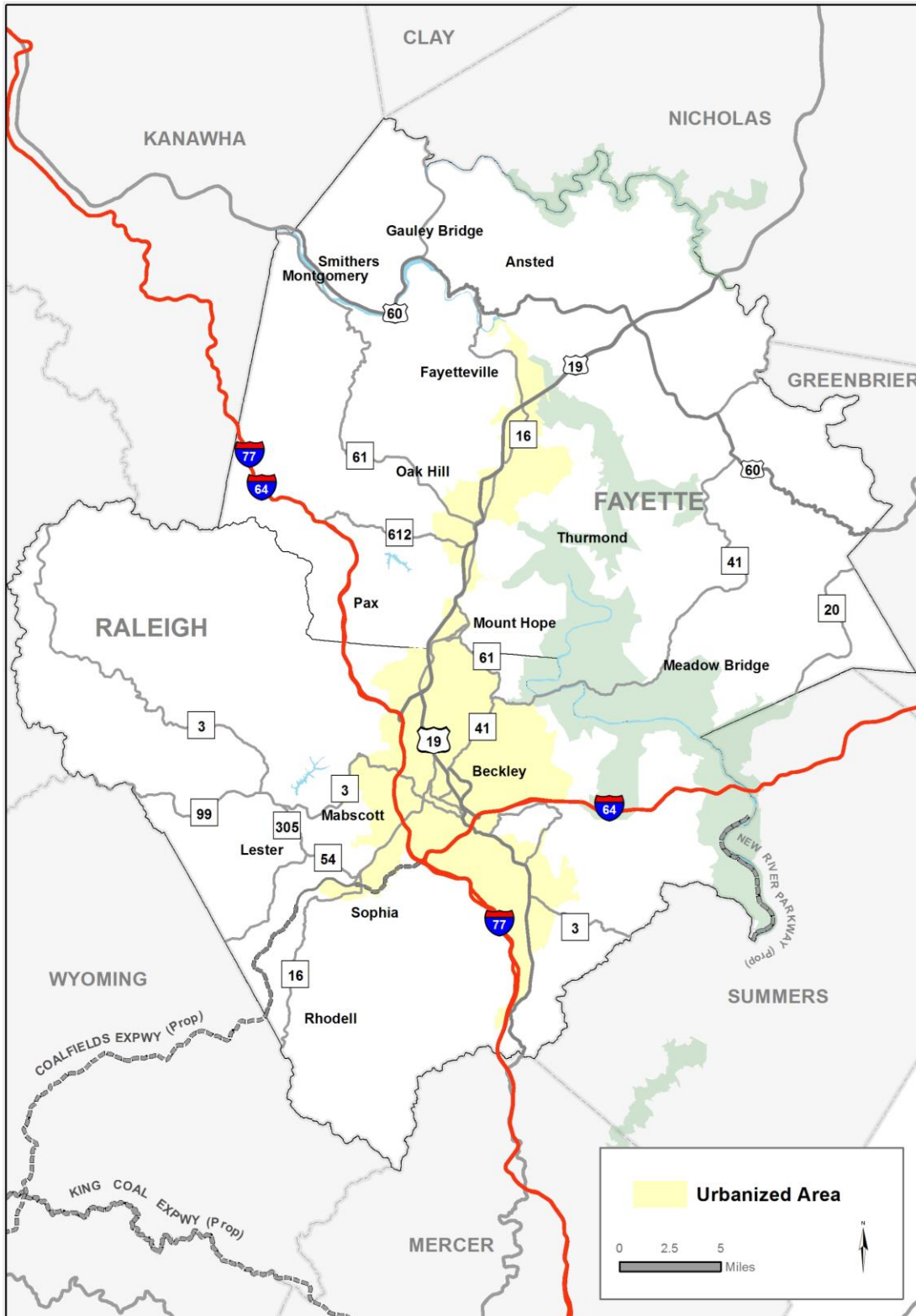
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) stipulates that each community is required to ensure public facilities and services are accessible by all persons. During FY 2024, FRM staff will continue to work with municipalities to educate, train, and/or evaluate their existing infrastructure deficiencies to prioritize upgrades, assess ADA compliance, develop, or update their ADA Transition Plans, and promote progress toward attaining and maintaining ADA compliance.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST) of 2015 established the requirement for a performance-based transportation planning process. This requirement was reaffirmed in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This data-driven process continues to focus on target setting, monitoring, and attaining performance targets in seven key performance areas: safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays. FRM continues to incorporate transportation performance management (TPM) initiatives and performance-based planning into its planning programs and plans.

To date, the FRM has adopted all performance targets set forth by WVDOT and New River Transit Authority (NRT) which were established in cooperation with MPOs, public transportation providers, and other stakeholders. FRM will continue to coordinate with WVDOT and public transportation providers to develop and adopt performance targets and update performance reports as required.

MAP 1: FAYETTE/RALEIGH MPO REGION





OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND BYLAWS

The MPO operates under its own set of bylaws. In addition to the bylaws, the MPO has executed Memoranda of Understanding with the West Virginia Department of Transportation as well as Intergovernmental Agreements with Region 1 and 4 Planning and Development Councils outlining the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies. Included within these agreements are sections referring to purpose, responsibilities, administration, compensation, finances, accounting, termination and debarment and suspension.

Organizational documents, financial records, and other official records of the FRM are located at the FRM headquarters at:

885 Broad Street, Suite 100
Summersville, WV 26651

All FRM records are available for public inspection by appointment during regular business hours (Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m., except holidays).

PURPOSE OF THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) of the FRMPO is designed to set forth the details of transportation work tasks to be performed within the Fiscal Year running July 1 to June 30. The objective of this work program is to ensure that a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive approach for short- and long-range transportation planning is established and maintained for the metropolitan area, with proper coordination with neighboring jurisdictions and the Department of Transportation for the State of West Virginia. Its activities help to implement the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) planning factors as shown below.

PLANNING FACTORS / TASKS	Program Administration	Short-Range Planning	Multimodal Planning	Transportation Improvement Program	Long-Range Planning & Model	Public Participation
Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area	X	X	X	X	X	X
Improve transportation system safety for motorized and non-motorized users	X	X	X	X	X	X
Improve transportation system security for motorized and non-motorized users	X	X	X	X	X	X
Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight	X	X	X	X	X	X
Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve quality of life, promote consistency in planning for land use, transportation and economic development	X	X	X		X	X
Enhance multimodal/intermodal integration and connectivity	X	X	X	X	X	X
Promote efficient system management and operations	X	X	X	X	X	X
Emphasize preservation of the existing system	X	X		X	X	X

PLANNING FACTOR AREAS

As an MPO, the FRM is required to address ten planning factors in the development of its programs and plans through a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) planning process. The ten planning factors were established in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST) of 2015 and were reaffirmed in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Listed below is a summary of how the FRM FY 2024

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) plans to address and incorporate these planning factors.

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.

Provide for development and coordination of sustainable multimodal practices to promote efficient and safe transportation of people, goods, and services in the region, thus promoting economic opportunities, particularly to disadvantaged communities.

2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.

Incorporate transportation performance management (TPM) in the metropolitan transportation planning programs. Prioritizes the safety of all road users through Complete Streets initiatives, with the goal of providing an equitable and safe transportation network for users of all ages and abilities, including those from marginalized communities facing historic disinvestment. Promote data driven investment decisions using crash analyses, equity analyses, monitorization of TPM/performance targets, demographic data. Identify and support projects that will equitably support underserved communities, increase the safety of the transportation system for all road users, and encourage projects that lessen automobile pollution.

3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.

Coordinate with and provide assistance to NRT, the WV Department of Military Affairs and other local law enforcement agencies on homeland security issues as requested.

4. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and freight.

Promote coordination with local freight transportation providers and alternative uses of facilities to move people and goods. Includes work activities intended to assess and enhance equitable access to public transit services. Includes work activities to increase the accessibility and mobility for all road users.

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.

UPWP Tasks provide, promote and/or recommend projects which are air quality neutral, improve air quality by reducing motor vehicle use, reduce congestion, promote increased traffic flow efficiency, and promote alternate transportation modes. Also advance and/or recommend projects consistent with locally planned

economic and growth areas to provide efficient transportation services to encourage economic development, particularly to disadvantaged communities.

6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.

Promote plans and projects involving all modes of transportation and connections among facilities. Also includes work activities to increase equitable accessibility and mobility to public transit services and for bicycle and pedestrian travel.

7. Promote efficient system management and operation.

Promote projects to enhance mobility, reduce automobile pollution, and improve intersection and corridor operations. – Also identify safety deficiencies throughout the transportation network.

8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

Work closely with WVDOT to promote improvements to and maintenance of the existing transportation system.

9. Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.

Support projects and plans to improve resiliency and reliability of the existing transportation system. Also provide needed data and analysis to support future projects and plans.

10. Enhance travel and tourism.

Promote improvements to and maintenance of the existing transportation system to support the economic conditions of the metropolitan planning area especially outdoor recreation tourism to support the newly designated New River Gorge National Park and Preserve.

With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in 2021, the following Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) were identified for State departments of transportation (State DOT), metropolitan planning organizations (MPO), and providers of public transportation. These PEAs include, but are not limited to: Climate Change, Equity and Justice⁴⁰ in Transportation Planning, Complete Streets, Public Involvement, Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination, Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination, Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL), and Data in Transportation Planning.

As implementation guidance and directives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), FRM will integrate the requirements of the legislation into its work activities.

Task I	Program Administration
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Task 1 – Project Administration	
Federal Share	\$30,000
State Share	\$5,000
Local Share	\$5,000

A. Objective

The purpose of this task is to administer the MPO in a manner that provides a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning and programming process for the region and maintains its eligibility to receive federal transportation funds.

B. Previous Work

This is a continuing work activity.

C. FY23/24 Activities

- Develop and oversee the implementation of tasks in the Unified Planning Work Program.
- Maintain current membership list; prepare and distribute agenda and supporting materials for meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee, Policy Board, and other special meetings; and record meeting minutes.
- Respond to periodic requests from WVDOT and other agencies for transportation information relating to the MPO planning area.
- Participate in transportation conferences, workshops, and training to remain informed of MPO requirements, emerging trends, and technical methods.
- Prepare regular progress reports and reimbursement requests for submittal to WVDOT.
- Ensure the agency’s compliance with all federal and state requirements, including Title VI, and maintain appropriate documentation.
- Identify transportation training and other resources from the WV Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) that would be of benefit to MPO members.

- Monitor Federal and State publications for training and guidance on issues pertaining to MPO operations and planning activities such as Transportation Performance Management and Resiliency measures.
- Maintain a Public Participation Plan to ensure the involvement of citizen special interest groups, freight haulers, commerce associations, major economic developments, education institutions, public transit providers of transportation and other interested persons or groups. The Fayette Raleigh Metropolitan Planning Organization is fully committed to implementing and complying with the current and most up to date federal requirements and recommendations for inclusion and diversity in an effort to bring social and economic equity to the citizenry.
- Continued opportunities for stakeholder input on plans and projects will be provided through various state and local media outlets as well as public notifications and electronic media. Input will be compiled and made part of the decision-making process of the FRMPO.
- FRM will strive to achieve the federal government's intentions with respect to Environmental Justice. Environmental Justice (EJ) at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) means identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of the agency's programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations to achieve an equitable distribution of benefits and burdens.
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/

D. Products

1. A transportation planning program that identifies the area's needs and recommends ways to address them, consistent with federal requirements. (Ongoing)
2. Regular meetings of the TAC and Policy Board (Quarterly)
3. Current membership list (Ongoing)
4. Regular progress reports and invoices (Quarterly)
5. UPWP (adoption in June of current fiscal year)
6. Maintain a Title VI Plan (Ongoing)
7. Participation in conferences, workshops, and professional training (Ongoing)
8. Maintain Performance Measure Documentation in accordance with State and Federal guidance and requirements (Ongoing)

9. A proactive public participation process that provides complete and user-friendly information, timely public notices, and full public access to key decisions. (Ongoing)
10. Maintenance of a website where the public can learn about the MPO's functions and responsibilities, view plans and other documents, learn about upcoming meetings, and provide input to the transportation planning and programming process. (Ongoing)

Task II **Short Range Planning**

Task 2 – Short Range Transportation	
Federal Share	\$121,500
State Share	\$20,250
Local Share	\$20,250

A. Objective

The objective of the Short-Range Planning task is to analyze and identify potential solutions to address transportation problems in particular areas, and/or further refine the scope of projects and programs recommended in the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Recommendations may lead to the adoption of local and/or regional policies, as well as specific projects that can be considered for funding in the MPO’s Transportation Improvement Program.

B. Previous Work

Review previous 5 years of short-range planning studies and objectives

Update past short range planning studies as needed

Review performance measures and update as needed

C. Work Ongoing

- Recommended changes to signal timing, safety improvements, and other modifications on selected congested corridors and intersections.
- Continue scoping/prioritization process for intersection improvement analyses for selected corridors and intersections within the planning area.
- Continue to evaluate subarea traffic impacts resulting from the opening of the East Beckley Bypass Industrial Drive Connector and identify any further operational or roadway modifications needed to ensure safety and discourage neighborhood cut-thru traffic.
- Review and update Transportation Performance Management criteria and Resiliency measures.

D. FY23/24 Activities

- Identify bike/pedestrian improvements. Will include inventory and assessment to be used in fashioning ADA Transition Plan

- Work with National Park Service to improve accessibility aspects of newly designated New River Gorge National Park and Preserve
- Begin efforts in developing plans to implement Electric Vehicle technology
- Locate and Identify Transportation assets via GIS technology
- Implement the recently received SS4A Safety Study Grant
- Clear Fork Rail Trail Study
- Rt. 19 Phase I Study
- Corridor Study: Laurel Street Intersection

E. Products

- Recommended changes to signal timing, safety improvements, and other modifications on selected congested corridors and intersections
- Enhance the Transportation asset data base to share with Stakeholders from various sectors in the Region
- Develop potential safety improvement projects grant application(s) based on SS4A study information

Task III **Multimodal Planning**

Task 3 – Multimodal Planning	
Federal Share	\$11,250
State Share	\$1,875
Local Share	\$1,875

A. Objective

The purpose of this task is to analyze the needs of transit users, bicyclists, and pedestrians, develop recommendations to address needs especially resiliency related issues, comply with WV State adopted Performance Measures and maintained and updated in accordance with FRM's LRTP and TIP.

B. Previous Work

- Transit Reports
- Analysis of Freight access to the Raleigh County Regional Airport
- Bike /Ped analysis in Downtown Beckley

C. FY23/24 Activities
Transit

- Analyze ridership data, as provided by NRT, concerning location, route, and service type. Produce reports on ridership to monitor trends and identify any potential needs to modify or expand transit service.
- Analyze boarding and alighting counts, as provided by NRT, to support decisions related to bus stop location and prioritizing specific stops for improvements.
- Analyze passenger surveys, as provided by NRT, to obtain information on customer demographics, trip purpose, and perception of service.
- Coordinate with NRT to maintain current information on the scope, status and funding for transit projects and programs in the TIP.
- Coordinate with WVDOT to provide input and assist with public and stakeholder involvement for the Coordinated Human Services-Public Transit Plan.

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- Identify and Address Bicycle and Pedestrian deficiencies via GIS technology, in particular where they relate to Transportation Performance Management and Resiliency measures.

D. Products

Transit

1. Summary and analysis of passenger survey responses as conducted and provided by NRT (Annually)

Bicycle/Pedestrian

1. Recommendations to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities into the projects in the FRM's Transportation Improvement Program (Ongoing)

D. Products

1. A fiscally constrained Transportation Improvement Program that contains all federally funded and/or regionally significant projects for roadways, transit, the bicycle and pedestrian network, and other transportation enhancements in the MPO region.
2. Publication of an Annual List of Obligated Projects to report to the public on progress made in implementing the TIP during the previous program year.

Task V Long Range Planning and Regional Model

Task 5 – Long Range Planning and Region Model	
Federal Share	\$24,000
State Share	\$4,000
Local Share	\$4,000

A. Objective

The purpose of this task is to maintain a multimodal Long Range Transportation Plan which addresses regional issues relative to highways, transit (public transportation and human services transportation), bicycle/pedestrian, safety, resiliency, freight and homeland security issues and other transportation enhancements and meets the basic requirements of Federal rules and regulations, and in accordance with WV State Performance Measures. This includes ongoing GIS based data collection needed to monitor and report on the performance of the transportation system, and periodic updates to the regional travel demand model.

B. Previous Work

- Analyzed existing conditions and developed a regional travel demand model
- Conducted public and stakeholder meetings and an on-line survey to obtain input on regional goals and needs
- Completed a fiscally constrained, multi-modal plan to address issues identified through technical analysis and public/stakeholder input
- Explored strategies, policies and organizational structure needed to implement the goals of the LRTP.

C. FY23/24 Activities

- Monitor travel times and delays at key intersections for congested corridors identified in the Regional Transportation Plan.
- Map and analyze data via GIS Technology for injury crashes and fatal crashes reported by law enforcement agencies in the MPO area.
- Track development changes in Fayette and Raleigh counties that significantly affect population or the number of employees in a traffic analysis zone.
- Coordinate with WVDOT and the NRTA to establish targets for the transportation performance measures required by MAP-21.

- Complete the additions and revisions, including consideration of the latest WV State adopted performance measures.

D. Products

1. Identification of high crash locations where safety studies will be requested (Annually)
2. Identify potential resiliency improvement measures.
3. Data and information to assist WVDOT in State allocation of resources

Safe Streets for All Action Plan (SS4A)

SS4A Grant	FY 23-24	
Federal Share		199,200.00
Recipient Share		15,000.00
Other Funds		34,800.00
Total Grant		249,000.00

The Safe Streets for All (SS4A) action plan, initiated by the Fayette Raleigh Metropolitan Planning Organization (FRMPO), aims to cultivate a culture of safety by crafting a comprehensive regional safety action plan. Through the utilization of the 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program, this plan addresses long-standing rural transportation safety concerns, while also aligning with the region's economic development strategy. Furthermore, the SS4A action plan promotes improved public health outcomes and facilitates proactive responses to climate change-induced disasters, fostering a safer and more resilient community.