

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR THE  
MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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**FY 2023 – 2024**

**October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024**

Prepared by the  
GULF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**June 2023**

*Adopted by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization on June 8, 2023*

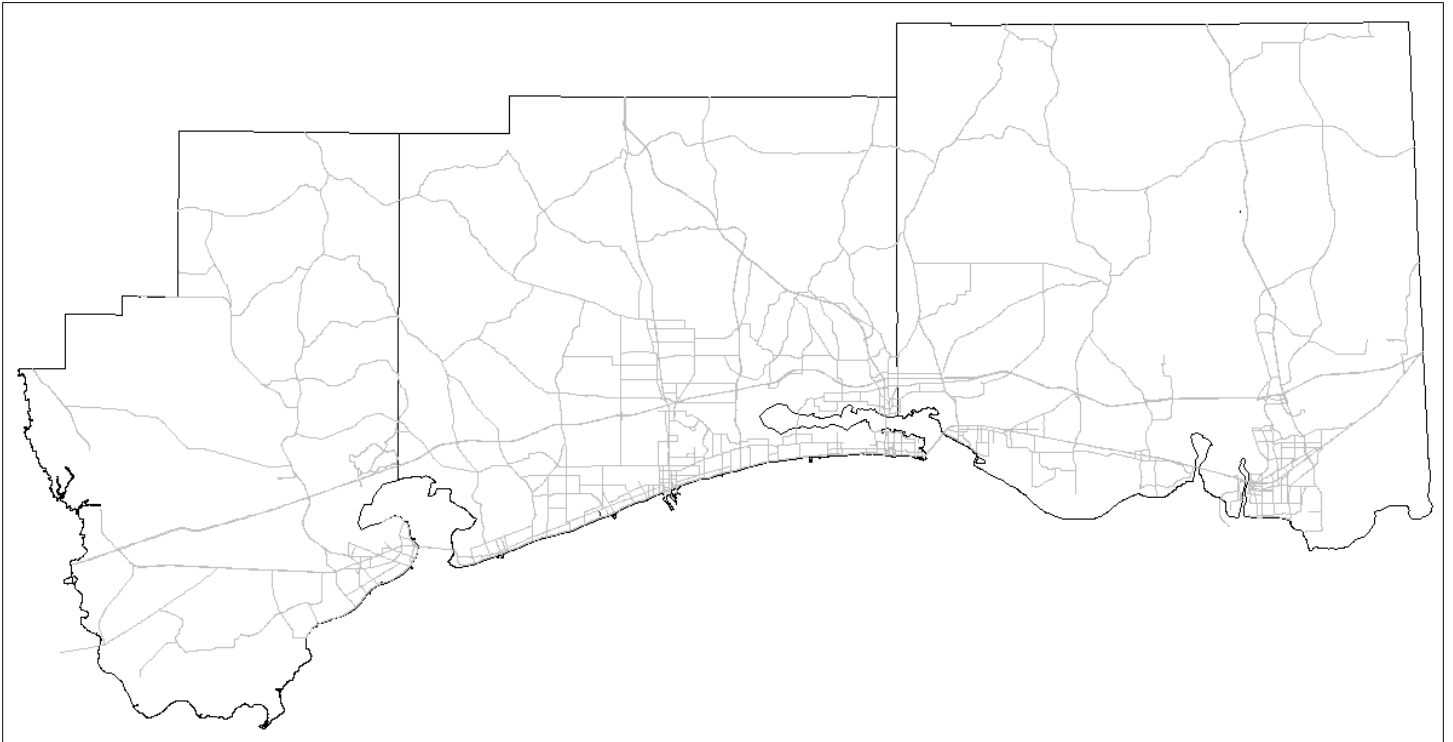
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## Introduction

Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC) was designated by the Governor of Mississippi as the Mississippi Gulf Coast MPO on December 20, 1973. GRPC serves as administrative and planning staff for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization. GRPC performs the principal planning and programming functions of the MPO under the direction of a Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) advised by a Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). The TPC, as the designated policy-making body of the MPO, holds the ultimate responsibility for making decisions regarding the regional transportation system in accordance with federal legislation (23 USC 134(b) and 49 USC 5303(c)). The TCC provides technical input to the decision-making process.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Planning Area encompasses three counties in which are located 12 municipalities: Waveland, Bay Saint Louis, and Diamondhead in Hancock County; Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, and D'Iberville in Harrison County; and Ocean Springs, Gautier, Pascagoula, and Moss Point in Jackson County. There are actually two distinct urbanized areas within the planning area: the Gulfport Urbanized Area (UZA), which stretches from Bay Saint Louis to Ocean Springs and includes portions of all three coastal counties, and the Pascagoula UZA, located in the eastern half of Jackson County.

*Figure 1: MPO Planning Area*



## UPWP

The UPWP lists the transportation studies and tasks that MPO staff and consultants will perform to support the metropolitan transportation planning process. It must identify the funding source for each project, the schedule of activities, and the agency or agencies responsible for each task or study. MPO staff facilitates the collaboration of governments, interested parties, and residents to elicit the Region's vision for transportation using data and planning methods described in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to generate and evaluate alternatives, policies, and processes in providing direction for the allocation of limited resources.

Changes to the UPWP can be made as needed. However, the following types of amendments require federal approval: An increase in federal funds, cumulative transfer among already approved work program line items greater than 10% of the total federal funds or \$100,000 (whichever is greater), change in scope or objectives of activities, the extension of the time period of the approved work program, transfer of substantive program work to a third party, and capital expenditures, including the purchase of equipment.

## **MPO PRIORITIES**

MPO staff facilitates the production of planning products that include analyses, studies, and other documented information to provide direction for the allocation of limited resources. MPO planning programs, studies, policies, and collaboration activities presented in the UPWP are used to generate lists of priority projects for roughly mirroring transportation funding sources, including regionally significant projects, local federal-aid projects, safety projects, congestion management projects, bicycle, and pedestrian projects and transit/demand management projects.

*Guide/Support Transportation Decision Making* - The MPO guides transportation decision-making by performing the planning and public administrative work necessary to develop and maintain the Region's long-range plans, short-range plans, and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). GRPC will maintain its certification as the MPO to ensure that the Region is eligible to apply and receive federal transportation dollars. The MPO will continue to carry out metropolitan transportation planning in cooperation with the State and with operators of publicly owned transit services.

*Facilitation, Education & Outreach* - The MPO uses various techniques to engage the public and other affected people in the MPO planning process by actively reaching out to the public to create new channels of communication that will make the transportation system more responsive to the needs of the users. The MPO also educates stakeholders and promotes innovative measures to enhance the safety of the transportation system through tasks described in this document.

*Project Development/Delivery* - MPO staff uses planning tasks identified in the UPWP to monitor transportation conditions leading to the identification and development of transportation projects that specifically address MPO objectives. The MPO has become a steward of project readiness by working closely with the LPAs to maintain the project development schedule.

## **MPO GUIDANCE**

Congress passes a new Transportation Bill approximately every four to six years: Planning factors may change as new bills are passed. The current Transportation Bill is the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*, which was signed into law by the president on November 15, 2021.

The new bill continues most of the standards and regulations from the previous bill: *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST)*. However, the *IIJA*, which is a portion of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (*BIL*), features new guidance for transportation planning that has been prepared by the U.S. Department of Transportation for all MPOs. This guidance includes the new Planning Emphasis Areas, which will determine the scheduled work tasks for the GRPC's 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

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## THE PLANNING EMPHASIS AREAS

### *Tackling the Climate Crisis-Transition to Clean Energy*

MPOs and public transportation providers are following the national goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 50-52% below the 2005 levels by the year 2030. The emissions reduction strategies include accelerating the transition towards electric and other alternative fuels and increasing access to public transportation and non-motorized transportation.

### *Tackling the Climate Crisis-Resilient Future*

MPOs and public transportation providers will work to identify the transportation system vulnerabilities to climate change impacts and evaluate potential solutions.

### *Equity and Justice<sup>40</sup> in Transportation Planning*

MPOs and public transportation providers will work to advance racial equity and support for underserved and disadvantaged communities (Executive Order 13985) by utilizing the following strategies:  
Improve infrastructure for non-motorized travel and increase public transportation in underserved communities;  
Plan for the safety of all road users, particularly for those on arterials;  
Target demand-response transportation services towards communities with higher concentrations of older adults and those with poor access to essential services. Include linking affordable housing and environmental justice communities when planning transit-oriented development.

### *Complete Streets and Safety*

MPOs and public transportation providers will work to include provisions for safety in future transportation infrastructure, particularly for those who are using the road outside of automobiles. Complete Streets is the description of the new national inclusive standard for road safety. A complete street is safe and feels safe for everyone using the street. Federally funded transportation operations and planning should prioritize safety and access to the network for travelers of all ages and abilities.

### *Public Involvement*

MPOs and public transportation providers will work to integrate Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) tools into the overall public involvement approach while ensuring continued public participation by individuals without access to computers and mobile devices.

### *Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)*

MPOs and public transportation providers will work to coordinate with representatives from the DOD in the transportation planning process and the project programming process on infrastructure and connectivity needs for STRAHNET routes and other public roads that connect to DOD facilities [23 U.S.C. 101 (b)(1)].

### *Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination*

MPOs and public transportation providers will work to coordinate with FLMA representatives in the transportation planning process and the project programming process on infrastructure for access routes and transportation services that connect to Federal Lands.

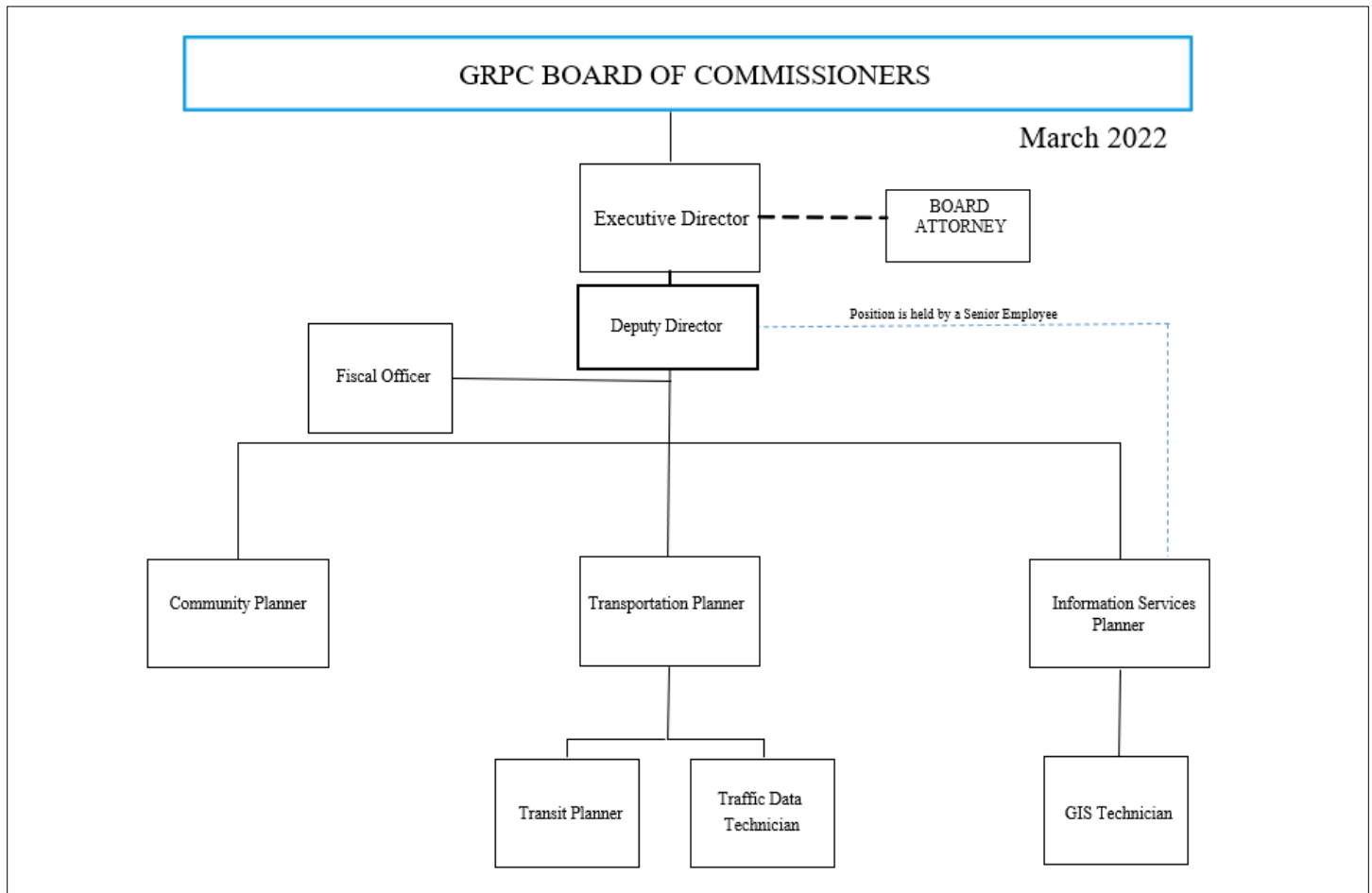
### *Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)*

MPOs will implement the Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) process for transportation planning projects of significant complexity in order to improve project delivery timeframes.

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## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In accordance with 23 U.S.C. 104 generally, Metropolitan Planning funds are made available from FHWA and FTA through the Consolidated Planning Grant Agreement to each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designated for an urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 individuals and responsible for carrying out the 3-C Metropolitan Planning Process.

#### *Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds*

The purpose of Metropolitan Planning funds is to carry out the requirements of 23 U.S.C. 134 and provide for a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3-C) Metropolitan Transportation Planning process. As required by 23 CFR 450.308(b), the MPO shall document planning activities in a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Funds are apportioned annually to MDOT according to a statutory formula. MDOT makes funds available to the MPOs in the State based on an approved distribution formula.

#### *State Planning and Research (SP&R)*

The State Planning and Research Program funds statewide planning and research activities. The funds are used to establish a cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive framework for making transportation investment decisions and to carry out transportation research activities throughout the State. Funding is provided for SP&R by a 2% set aside from each State's apportionments of four programs: The National Highway Performance

Program (NHPP); the Surface Transportation Program (STP); the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP); and the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Program. The MPO uses these funds for its traffic count program.

*Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP)*

MPP (Section 5305) or FTA-flex funds are a major source of Federal financial assistance to help urbanized areas (UZAs) plan for the development, improvement, and effective management of their multimodal transportation systems. MPP funds are available to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process and meet the transportation planning requirements of the joint Federal Transit Administration (FTA)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) planning regulations. In general, MPP grants are available to assist States, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and local governmental authorities with preparing transportation plans and programs; planning, engineering, designing, and evaluating a public transportation project; and conducting technical studies related to public transportation. These funds are distributed by FTA to the states based on urbanized area populations. These funds, in turn, are sub-allocated by states to MPOs by a formula that considers each MPO's urbanized area population, their individual planning needs, and a minimum distribution.

*Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options (PL-SATO)*

PL funds – 109210 -101000

Flex funds - 109210-102000

PL-SATO funds - 109210-103000

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## 2023 – 2024 ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Item	PL	Local	Total PL
Carryover	\$571,868	\$142,967	\$714,835
FY 2023	\$728,418	\$182,104	\$910,522
FY 2024	\$742,986	\$185,746	\$928,732
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,043,272</b>	<b>\$510,817</b>	<b>\$2,554,089</b>

Item	FTA	MDOT	Total FTA
Carryover	\$222,513	\$55,628	\$278,141
FY 2023	\$262,685	\$65,680	\$328,356
FY 2024	\$267,938	\$66,984	\$334,922
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$753,136</b>	<b>\$188,292</b>	<b>\$941,420</b>

Item	PL-SATO	Local	Total SATO
Carryover	\$17,750	\$0	\$17,750
FY 2023	\$18,105	\$0	\$18,105
FY 2024	\$18,467	\$0	\$18,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$54,322</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$54,322</b>

Item	SPR	MDOT	Total SPR
FY 2023	\$120,000	\$30,000	\$150,000
FY 2024	\$120,000	\$30,000	\$150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$240,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

## 2023 – 2024 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES

Task	PL	Local	PL TOTAL	FTA-flex	MDOT	FTA TOTAL	PL-SATO	Local	PL-SATO TOTAL
A-1	\$114,130	\$28,532	\$142,662	\$114,130	\$28,532	\$142,662	\$0	\$0	\$0
A-2	\$45,120	\$11,280	\$56,400	\$45,120	\$11,280	\$56,400	\$0	\$0	\$0
A-3	\$128,027	\$32,007	\$160,034	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
B-1	\$153,974	\$38,494	\$192,468	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
B-2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$286,382	\$71,596	\$357,978	\$0	\$0	\$0
B-3	\$50,848	\$12,712	\$63,560	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
C-1	\$329,184	\$82,296	\$411,480	\$82,296	\$20,574	\$102,870	\$0	\$0	\$0
E-1	\$1,221,988	\$305,497	\$1,527,485	\$225,204	\$56,305	\$281,509	\$34,322	\$0	\$34,322
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,043,271</b>	<b>\$510,817</b>	<b>\$2,554,089</b>	<b>\$753,135</b>	<b>\$188,284</b>	<b>\$941,419</b>	<b>\$54,322</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$54,322</b>

Task		SPR funds	MDOT match	SPR TOTAL
D-1	Traffic Counting Program	\$240,000	\$60,000	\$300,000

\*Projected revenue estimates were provided by MDOT for the UPWP. PL funds and FTA flex funding used for planning activities described in the UPWP are sub-allocated to each task based on the staff working on that task.



## **WORK PROGRAM TASKS**

A.1 MPO ADMINISTRATION

A.2 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A.3 PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

B.1 MPO PLANNING

B.2 TRANSIT PLANNING PROGRAM

B.3 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

C.1 PLANNING TOOLS AND DATA DEVELOPMENT

D.1 TRAFFIC DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM

E.1 SPECIAL PROJECTS, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

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## A.1 MPO ADMINISTRATION

### Responsible Party and Contact Information:

Name/Title: Kenneth Yarrow, Executive Director  
Telephone Number: 228-864-1167  
Email: kyarrow@grpc.com

### Purpose and Scope:

This task includes the management of a regional decision-making body referred to as the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). The TPC consists of executive officials from the 15 Gulf Coast jurisdictions, ports, and Coast Transit Authority. The completion of activities in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), transportation planning process, providing opportunities for involvement in transportation planning programs and processes, and administrative/operational activities required to function as an MPO are performed here.

### Accomplishments during the Previous Work Program Period:

MPO Prospectus and Handbook update, TIP project public review, and targeted outreach

### Planned Activities for this Work Program:

1. Program Administration. Manage the day-to-day activities of the MPO, ensuring proper staffing, technical resources, and office infrastructure are available to complete activities identified in the UPWP. Maintain continued eligibility for federal and State transportation aid through the maintenance of a certified “3-C” urban transportation planning process. Maintain MPO designations and mailing lists for each MPO member.
  2. Professional Development. Staff will participate in workshops, meetings, training, education, and webinars to develop new skills and expertise in transportation planning. In-state and out-of-state travel may be required.
  3. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Staff will maintain the MPO’s UPWP. Prepare reports about MPO activities to the GRPC Board and MDOT.
  4. MPO Meetings. GRPC will host Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) meetings. Staff will prepare presentations, agendas, and minutes for meetings. Staff will represent the MPO in State, regional, and local meetings. Staff will participate in meetings with MPO collaborators, including but not limited to MDOT, FHWA, FTA, and the LPAs.
  5. Community Meetings. GRPC staff represents the MPO at various meetings in the Region. Meetings may include County Board meetings, City Council meetings, project meetings, and collaboration meetings.
  6. Public Participation. (Planning Emphasis Area: Public Involvement) This task provides for the implementation of the MPO’s Public Participation Plan (PPP). Provide outreach and review opportunities for updates and amendments to MPO documents. Review the effectiveness of the
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procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.

7. MPO Newsletter. (Planning Emphasis Area: Public Involvement) GRPC will maintain communication with MPO members, stakeholders, and the general public. The newsletter will be sent out to email lists. GRPC will build and maintain email lists to improve our communication about GRPC planning activities, funding announcements, and program review opportunities. The newsletter will link to the website for more information on the subject.
  
8. Social Media. (Planning Emphasis Area: Public Involvement) Maintain social media accounts and GRPC website to share and discuss current events related to transportation. Format planning documents, developing website information, developing other printed materials, and public meeting facilitation as needed.
  
9. Environmental Justice and Title VI Program. (Planning Emphasis Area: Equity and Justice40). Staff will monitor, evaluate, and implement Title VI and Environmental Justice compliance, guidance, and requirements for plans and programs. Targeted outreach to disadvantaged communities will be used to solicit input on plans and programs.
  - GRPC staff will conduct an Equity Impact Analysis to examine the amount of transportation funding resources invested in disadvantaged communities. The effort will ensure equity in accordance with the Justice40 standards.
  - GRPC will develop new transportation advisory groups with an emphasis on the recruitment of group members whose demographics include diversity in income level, race, age, and preferred mode of transportation.

**Deliverables:** *UPWP, MDOT quarterly reports, GRPC Board reports, MPO meeting minutes, MPO newsletter, Equity Impact Analysis*

**Projected Cost:**

Task	PL funds	Local match	PL TOTAL	FTA-flex	MDOT match	FTA TOTAL
A-1	\$114,130	\$28,532	\$142,662	\$114,130	\$28,532	\$142,662

## A.2 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

### Responsible Party and Contact Information:

Name/Title: Armendia Pierce, Transportation Planning Manager  
Telephone Number: 228-864-1167  
Email: apierce@grpc.com

### Purpose and Scope:

GRPC works with local public agencies (LPAs) of all modes to update the TIP. The MPO coordinates with FHWA, MDOT, and local LPAs to keep the TIP updated with current project timelines, project descriptions, and funding allocations. GRPC performs TIP modifications, amendments, and updates as needed.

### Accomplishments during the Previous Work Program Period:

2022 Call for Projects process, 2023-2026 TIP development, TIP prioritization process, and policy update.

### Planned Activities for this Work Program:

1. TIP Document. (Planning Emphasis Area: FLMA Coordination) Staff develops the TIP document, manage TIP updates, amendments, and modifications. Work with transit agencies to build the transit Program of Projects (POP). Manage funding balances and obligation authority.
2. Project Meetings. Communicate with the Gulf Coast Local Public Agencies and host project meetings to gain information required to track the status of projects to reduce project delivery delays. Attend TIP project kickoff meetings, field reviews, and office reviews to represent MPO interests.
3. 2024 Call for Projects. Staff will work with the MPO to develop an investment strategy for the Gulf Coast MPO STBG and TAP funds. A TIP call for projects will be administered by GRPC. Staff will update the TIP investment strategy and evaluation process for the proposed TIP projects.
4. Public Outreach. (Planning Emphasis Area: Public Involvement/Equity and Justice40) Staff will perform public review periods, public meetings, and other outreach for TIP review. Targeted outreach to identify potential impacts from transportation projects to low-income and minority areas will provide specific opportunities for comment.
5. List of Obligated Projects. Staff will work with MDOT to manage a list of obligated projects and make it available to the public and stakeholders on the GRPC website.

### Deliverables

*TIP document, prioritization process, investment strategy, list of obligated projects*

### Projected Cost

Task	PL funds	Local match	PL TOTAL	FTA-flex	MDOT match	FTA TOTAL
A-2	\$45,120	\$11,280	\$56,400	\$45,120	\$11,280	\$56,400

## A.3 PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

### Responsible Party and Contact Information:

Name/Title: Jeff Loftus, Community Planning Manager

Telephone Number: 228-864-1167

Email: jol@grpc.com

### Purpose and Scope:

Provide contract administration services to GRPC and local LPA projects.

### Accomplishments during the Previous Work Program Period:

GRPC administered contracts and served as LPA for the Port of Gulfport for signal timing study.

### Planned Activities for this Work Program:

1. Contract Administration. Provide contract administration and status updates for GRPC studies. Provide oversight for the procurement process to select consultants for GRPC lead projects.
2. GRPC as LPA. GRPC will serve as LPA For regional projects and studies as needed. Staff will maintain certification for the MDOT's Local Public Agency (LPA) process.
3. Project Liaison. GRPC will provide assistance to local public agencies for TIP projects. Staff will work to help local agencies overcome project hurdles. GRPC will assist LPAs in getting projects activated.
4. Grant Writing. GRPC will monitor the grant opportunities for the implementation of transportation projects and programs, develop its own grant applications, and provide support to LPAs.
5. Technical Assistance. GRPC will assist LPAs with various transportation related tasks.
6. Emergency Relief Task Assignment. (Planning Emphasis Area: Tackling the Climate Crisis - Resilience) The GRPC staff will execute the assignment of providing support to local, State, and federal agencies to mitigate the impacts of a major disaster by serving as a liaison between the local governments and the State and Federal agencies, assisting in the assessment of damages to the transportation system and providing data and maps for the support of the relief efforts.
7. List of Qualified Consultants. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be issued to build a list of qualified consultants to assist with GRPC small studies.

### Deliverables

*Procurement for GRPC consultants, contract administration*

### Projected Cost

Task	PL funds	Local match	PL TOTAL	FTA-flex	MDOT match	FTA TOTAL
A-3	\$128,027	\$32,007	\$160,034	\$0	\$0	\$0

## **B.1 MPO PLANNING**

### **Responsible Party and Contact Information:**

Name/Title: Kenneth Yarrow, Executive Director

Telephone Number: 228-864-1167

Email: [kyarrow@grpc.com](mailto:kyarrow@grpc.com)

### **Purpose and Scope:**

This section contains activities related to transportation planning. Consultants may be used for various tasks.

### **Accomplishments during the Previous Work Program Period:**

Setting up the Performance and Asset Management Program and performing various analysis reports.

### **Planned Activities for this Work Program:**

1. Performance and Asset Management Program. (Planning Emphasis Area: Data in Transportation Planning) GRPC will continue to use the Program to guide the transportation planning process. Strategies identified in the Program will be reported using GRPC Analysis Reports. GRPC will monitor federal performance measures and GRPC performance measures to show advancements in reaching stated goals. GRPC will continue to develop additional performance measures in support of the GRPC planning goals and strategies from the GRPC's Performance and Asset Management Program. GRPC Analysis Reports will be completed based on the Performance and Asset Management Program. The reports will be presented on a web-based project page and distributed to MPO members for their consideration.
  2. GRPC Project Identification and Development. Develop projects from previously completed GRPC planning. GRPC will use prioritization methods to decide which projects to pursue. Selection criteria will include but are not limited to right-of-way availability and equity considerations. Locations identified in the Local Road Safety Plan will be evaluated by GRPC and MDOT for project development to improve the safety of identified locations. GRPC Analysis Reports, GRPC's Pedestrian Demand Analysis, Transit Stops Access Plan, and other GRPC planning will be used to help identify locations for project development such as:
    - Installing pedestrian safety enhancements and closing network gaps with sidewalks, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, signal improvements, and audible pedestrian signals for people walking, rolling, or using mobility assisted devices.
    - Improving pedestrian crosswalks by adding high-visibility pavement markings, lighting, and signage at transit stops, in a designated neighborhood, or along a busy public transportation route.
    - Creating safe routes to school and public transit that lead to people safely walking, biking, and rolling in underserved communities.
    - Combating roadway departure crashes through enhanced delineation, shoulder widening, rumble strips, and roadside safety improvements.
    - Evaluating and improving the safety of intersections by considering innovative design changes, improved delineation, and advanced warning.
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3. SS4A Action Plan. (Planning Emphasis Area: Complete Streets). The Gulf Coast Local Road Safety Plan was completed in FY 2022. The Plan analyzed existing conditions and historical trends of crashes involving fatalities and serious injuries across the Gulf Coast. The Plan addresses intersections, lane departures, and bicycle and pedestrian concerns. The Local Road Safety Plan will be updated to meet the criteria required for the Safe Streets and Road For All (SS4A) Grant Program's Action Plan. GRPC staff or consultants will be used to accomplish this task.
  4. Regional Roundabout Study: GRPC staff will review potential sites in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties for roundabout construction. A final site recommendations report will be completed.
  5. Regional Intersection Study. Complete an intersection analysis plan of the Region to identify intersections with needed improvements. Criteria will be established to reflect the characteristics of a good intersection, including proper pedestrian crossings, ADA considerations, technology upgrades, and other safety concerns. GRPC staff or consultants will be used to accomplish this task.
  6. Speed Management Program. (Planning Emphasis Area: Data in Transportation Planning) Identify areas with high average speeds using GRPC speed survey data and RITIS travel time data. Recommendations will be made based on engineering studies to carry out speed management strategies such as road design changes, setting appropriate speed limits, and making strategic use of speed safety cameras. GRPC staff or consultants will be used to accomplish this task.
  7. Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination. (Planning Emphasis Area: STRAHNET/DOD) The GRPC staff will coordinate projects to improve the sections of the strategic highway network that have been identified and prioritized within the MTP 2045 Plan.
  8. Regional Freight Mobility Study. Perform a study to ensure efficient mobility for freight users and industries in the Region. This effort will be used to identify freight clusters. Tier I and Tier II freight networks, Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC), and other freight routes will be evaluated to identify impediments to the network such as traffic delay, roadway geometric challenges, bridge condition, bridge clearance, crash rates, rail crossing safety, road weight class, and pavement conditions. GRPC staff or consultants will be used to accomplish this task.
  9. Regional Resilience Planning. (Planning Emphasis Area: Tackling the Climate Crisis - Resilience) Hurricane evacuation routes and roads accessing shelters will be examined to identify existing and potential impediments to mobility. Opportunities for transportation redundancy will be identified. GRPC staff or consultants will be used to accomplish this task.
  10. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. (Planning Emphasis Area: Data in Transportation Planning) GRPC will begin work on the 2050 LRTP. The planning effort will not be completed during the FY 2023 & FY 2024 UPWP, but meetings and preparation will begin.
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**Deliverables - SS4A Action Plan, studies, GRPC Analysis Reports**

**Projected Cost**

Task	PL funds	Local match	PL TOTAL	FTA-flex	MDOT match	FTA TOTAL
B-1	\$153,974	\$38,494	\$192,468	\$0	\$0	\$0

Item	PL-SATO	Local	Total SATO
B-1	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000



## B.2 TRANSIT PLANNING PROGRAM

### Responsible Party and Contact Information:

Name/Title: Kenneth Yarrow, Executive Director  
Telephone Number: 228-864-1167  
Email: [kyarrow@grpc.com](mailto:kyarrow@grpc.com)

### Purpose and Scope:

Provide transit planning assistance to Coast Transit Authority. Consultants may be used for various tasks.

### Accomplishments during the Previous Work Program Period:

Service review plans, impact analyses, and Transit Stops Access Plan.

### Planned Activities for this Work Program:

1. Transit Stops Access Plan. This analysis for transit stop pedestrian access, bicycle access, and ADA considerations was completed in FY 2022. The next step is to develop projects from the planning work. Equity considerations will be added to the analysis to help with project prioritization.
  2. FY 2023 NTD Survey Process  
MPO staff will conduct the FY 2023 NTD Sampling process for the fixed route and demand response systems. Final data analyses and reports will be submitted to CTA.
  3. Plan Updates. GRPC will work with CTA on updates to various plans required by FTA, including the Coordinated Transportation Plan, CTA's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan, and Asset Management Plan.
  4. Public Review. (Planning Emphasis Area: Equity and Justice<sup>40</sup>) Perform equity analyses and public review for major changes proposed to the system. GRPC will work with CTA on all required public review and outreach efforts
  5. Service Review Plan. (Planning Emphasis Area: Data in Transportation Planning) The Service Review Plan, which takes place annually, provides for a general evaluation of all transit services considering changes in the local environment (funding, population, development). The Plan identifies new transit services or significant changes to existing services for the following year. The Plan identifies changes that are designed to achieve specific service goals and opportunities for service expansion and improvement. The Service Review Plan provides a process with which to measure and evaluate system performance on a year-to-year basis. When planning for transit service expansion or reduction, an evaluation process should be followed to determine if service reduction or expansion is warranted. GRPC will work with CTA on a plan to establish a 30-minute/60-minute system. This Plan consists of formalizing stop locations, eliminating the hail system, implementing transit signal preemption, and route adjustments. GRPC will study each route to determine existing travel times and headways and
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make determinations on the impacts of TSP and hail system elimination on the travel time. Once this is clear, route adjustments will be considered. Microtransit services will be considered to supplement fixed-route services. The evaluation process guidelines considered will include but are not limited to:

- Local funding availability from the entity where the service is located.
  - Service or portion of the service is not performing to an acceptable ridership level.
  - Unserved areas identified as transit-supportive based on population density.
  - New or unserved trip generators including employment centers, shopping venues, educational facilities, medical institutions, government/community facilities, and tourist attractions.
  - Travel time adjustments to improve failing on-time performance.
  - Consider opportunities for headway reduction.
  - Consider impacts on those areas served created by a reduction or loss of service.
  - Consider the role the route may play in connecting to the larger transit network. Important transfer points and mobility routes should be given additional review.
  - Consider existing duplication in services from the overlap of service areas from two or more routes.
6. Carbon Reduction Plan. GRPC will develop a Carbon Reduction Plan to identify projects and strategies to reduce emissions. This plan will highlight projects from other GRPC planning to identify and prioritize strategies to improve infrastructure for non-motorized travel, speed management strategies, reducing single occupancy vehicle travel, alternative forms of transit including microtransit services.

**Deliverables**

*Transit Stop Access Study, Service review plans, impact analyses, Coordinated Transportation Plan*

**Projected Cost**

Task	PL funds	Local match	PL TOTAL	FTA-flex	MDOT match	FTA TOTAL
B-2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$286,382	\$71,596	\$357,978

## **B.3 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

### **Responsible Party and Contact Information:**

Name/Title: Armendia Pierce, Transportation Planning Manager  
Telephone Number: 228-864-1167  
Email: apierce@grpc.com

### **Purpose and Scope:**

This section contains activities related to the Active Transportation Program for pedestrians and bicyclists. 23 U.S.C. 217 (g) provides that bicyclists and pedestrians shall be given due consideration in the comprehensive transportation plans developed by each MPO under U.S.C. 134. In addition, 24 CFR 450.306 sets forth the requirement that the scope of the metropolitan planning process will increase the safety of non-motorized and motorized users. Bicyclists and pedestrians are equal stakeholders in the Gulf Coast transportation planning area, and a permanent “Active Transportation” program will be developed, in accordance with federal regulations, to address the specific needs of these vulnerable road users.

### **Accomplishments during the Previous Work Program Period:**

GRPC completed an Active Transportation Plan.

### **Planned Activities for this Work Program:**

1. Bicycle Safety Education Activities. GRPC will work with stakeholders to develop Public Safety Announcements and Advertising Campaigns for Bicycle Safety. This will include the development of a Local Bicycle Safety Education Toolkit for Member Local Public Agencies.
2. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocacy Groups. (Planning Emphasis Area: Public Involvement) GRPC will identify and coordinate with bicycle and pedestrian groups in the three-county Region. GRPC will coordinate with the Heritage Trails Partnership for data collection.
3. Mapping and Data Collection. (Planning Emphasis Area: Data Utilization in Transportation Planning) Data collection will include identification, ranking, and evaluation of road conditions. Organize data collection projects for the roadway suitability mapping. Development of bikeway networks with bicycle lanes for different roadway volumes and speeds that are safe for people of all ages and abilities.
4. Complete Streets Policy. (Planning Emphasis Area: Complete Streets) GRPC will work with the MPO to update the Complete Streets Policy.

### **Deliverables**

*Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure Projects, Bike Lane and Trail Maps, Bicycle Safety Education Toolkits.*

### **Projected Cost**

Task	PL funds	Local match	PL TOTAL	FTA-flex	MDOT match	FTA TOTAL
B-3	\$50,848	\$12,712	\$63,560	\$0	\$0	\$0

## C.1 PLANNING TOOLS AND DATA DEVELOPMENT

### Responsible Party and Contact Information:

Name/Title: Ken Holland, GIS Manager  
Telephone Number: 228-864-1167  
Email: kwholland@grpc.com

### Purpose and Scope:

This section contains activities needed to maintain data used in MPO planning and project development.

### Accomplishments during the Previous Work Program Period:

CTA mapping support, land use data, mapping support, GIS support, street centerline file, modeling support.

### Planned Activities for this Work Program:

1. GIS Support. (Planning Emphasis Area: Data Utilization in Planning) GIS staff will provide support to the transportation planning process through activities such as the development of data related to the 2020 census, maintaining demographic data, mapping of planned and programmed transportation projects and services, and updating and developing new GIS data layers. GRPC provides GIS support to MPO members. GRPC provides mapping support to CTA, including updates to their rider's guide.
2. MPO Modeling Activities. (Planning Emphasis Area: Data Utilization in Planning) GRPC will perform transportation modeling activities to forecast future demand on the Region's transportation system. This includes GRPC planning, local project traffic forecasts for LPAs, and transportation needs assessments.
3. Stormwater Inventory. (Planning Emphasis Area: Data Utilization in Planning) Staff will continually map locations on roadways that experience stormwater inundation. This inventory is used by transportation planners to address stormwater issues on roadways throughout the Region.
4. Gulf Coast Street Centerline. Maintain GIS coverage of centerline streets and roadway classifications.
5. MPO Member Maps. GRPC will utilize in-house mapping programs, GIS data, and the Agency's plotter to develop maps for MPO member cities and counties for display as they see fit.
6. Urban Areas and Federal Roads Update. Utilizing Census 2020 urban area boundary data, GRPC will update the planning area boundaries and Federally Functionally Classified Roads in the Region.

### Deliverables

*Street centerline file, CTA maps, GIS data files, planning visualization*

### Projected Cost

Task	PL funds	Local match	PL TOTAL	FTA-flex	MDOT match	FTA TOTAL
C-1	\$329,184	\$82,296	\$411,480	\$82,296	\$20,574	\$102,870

## D.1 TRAFFIC DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM

### Responsible Party and Contact Information:

Name/Title: Ryan Frazier, Traffic Data Technician  
Telephone Number: 228-864-1167 Email: rfrazier@grpc.com

### Purpose and Scope:

Provide a traffic counting program to meet MDOT requirements and Local Public Agency needs.

### Accomplishments during the Previous Work Program Period:

2021 and 2022 traffic counting program, 2019 AADTs

### Planned Activities for this Work Program:

1. Traffic Count Program. (Planning Emphasis Area: Data in Transportation Planning) Perform traffic volume counts according to an annual and monthly schedule. The schedule will be determined on an alternating cycle between 1 and 3 years. Submit raw numbers to MDOT.
2. Quality Control. Download and review traffic counts to determine accuracy. Maintain a spreadsheet reflecting historical and current data for all traffic data locations. Reschedule counts if needed.
3. Equipment. Maintain equipment and traffic count van. Research and purchase new equipment to advance the capabilities of the traffic count program. Roadside data collection units will be purchased to augment and maintain the current inventory of equipment. Miovision Scout equipment will provide much needed turning movement counts, pedestrian counts, and vehicle class counts.
4. Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) Coordinate with MDOT on AADT development. Update the AADT on an annual basis in the aforementioned spreadsheet.
5. Website. (Planning Emphasis Area: Public Involvement) Place traffic counts on the GRPC website.
6. Special Counts. Perform special volume, speed, and classification counts as well as turning count movements and travel time studies as needed to support needs in the Region.
7. Speed Surveys. Take regular speed counts on functionally classified roadways. This will be coordinated through the scheduled volume counts. Radar equipment will be purchased to help with this effort. This data will be used in the GRPC Speed Management Program.

**Deliverables** – 2023 & 2024 traffic counts

### Projected Cost

Task	SPR funds	MDOT match	TOTAL
D-1	\$240,000	\$60,000	\$300,000

## **E.1 SPECIAL PROJECTS, SUPPORT, AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Responsible Party and Contact Information:**

Name/Title: Kenneth Yarrow, Executive Director  
Telephone Number: 228-864-1167  
Email: kyarow@grpc.com

### **Purpose and Scope:**

Development of MPO projects, outreach, and studies. Consultants will be used for various tasks.

### **Accomplishments during the Previous Work Program Period:**

North Swan Study, website updates, BCAs

### **Planned Activities for this Work Program:**

1. Staff travel. Staff travel expenses for workshops, statewide MPO meetings, and training.
  2. Memberships. Staff membership fees for planning and engineering organizations.
  3. Technical Support. Consultants will be used to maintain and update office IT infrastructure, including server, phone systems, employee workstations, and software packages.
  4. Project Support. GRPC may purchase or subscribe to programs such as TREDIS, Grammarly, GIS, desktop publishing, email marketing, and virtual meeting platforms for project support.
  5. GRPC Studies. GRPC will use consultants for small studies. Studies may include traffic circulation studies, traffic impact analyses, intersection studies, traffic studies, conceptual engineering, and roadway safety audits. This is an effort to develop more ready projects for implementation. These studies may be done for MPO members or to support GRPC Project Development. Pre-construction activities for projects and strategies will be undertaken and then implemented.
  6. Translation Services Spanish and Vietnamese translation services for GRPC planning documents. Deaf interpretive services as required.
  7. MPO Expense. Costs associated with food, rentals, speakers, advertisements, and other materials for the MPO planning program, meetings, and training. Office supplies, computer, and printer expenses.
  8. MPO Promotion. Consultants will maintain and update the website, social media, and develop promotional campaigns to disseminate information and reach the public and stakeholders. Subscription services may be used to provide enhanced public outreach. This may include a virtual meeting platform.
  9. Local Plans. GRPC may provide the resources necessary for Local Public Agencies to perform Comprehensive Plans, ADA Transition Plans, and Health Impact Analyses. Consultants may be used for this task.
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10. Retroreflectivity. Retroreflectivity of a sign is measured with a handheld or mobile retroreflectometer and directly compared to the minimum level appropriate for that sign. GRPC may purchase this tool and provide services to local public agencies. Consultants may be used for this task.
  11. Streetlight Management Plan. Responsibilities for streetlight planning, design, construction, and maintenance are split between MDOT, cities, and counties. This Plan would develop a comprehensive streetlight capital improvement plan for each LPA that includes the inventory of existing lighting, replacement of incandescent lighting, repair of existing street lights, and the installation of new lighting in areas without suitable lighting. Agency obligations will be established to ensure that funding, streetlight design, purchase, construction, maintenance, operations, and storage responsibilities are clear. Consultants may be used for this task.
  12. Pedestrian Crossing Plan. This study will evaluate existing conditions in and around many pedestrian hot spots on the Gulf Coast. Recommendations will be made to improve conditions for safe crossings. Mitigation measures, including accessible public transportation stops, safe and accommodating crossing options, median islands, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, crosswalk striping, pedestrian signals, and ADA considerations, will be used to improve the safety of both walking tourists and locals. US 90 will be of particular interest in this study. Consultants may be used for this task.
  13. Biloxi Beach Connector Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. (Planning Emphasis Area: PEL) This study will evaluate a new linkage from the existing Woolmarket interchange to Popp's Ferry Road, providing a consistent connection between I-10 and US 90 in East Harrison County and West Biloxi. This improved corridor would reduce congestion on adjacent north-south corridors, improve hurricane evacuation, and provide enhanced tourism through improved access to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center.
  14. Fort Bayou Interchange and Connector Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. (Planning Emphasis Area: PEL) Consider a new interchange and corridor at Fort Bayou Road between the existing MS 609 and MS 57 exits. This would provide much needed access and mobility for St. Martin, Vancleave, and Ocean Springs communities. This proposed interchange would be located in a rural area and a Transportation Disadvantaged Area.
  15. Railroad Crossing Elimination Study. Complete a study that identifies railroad crossings in the urbanized planning area that are a safety risk in order to create a list of prioritized projects for grade separation or crossing closure. The project will include a survey of the sites for condition, a geospatial description and mapping of each crossing, a ranking of the safety risk of each site, and a report that identifies high-risk sites that warrant separation or closure.
  16. Interstate Alternative Transportation Study. (Planning Emphasis Area: Tackling the Climate Crisis – Clean Energy) Alternative transportation is an alternative form of commuting other than single-occupancy vehicle travel. This study will look to provide ways for non-motorized modes to get across the barriers caused by the interstate either by improvements to underpasses, overpasses, interchange
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improvements, or standalone pedestrian overpasses. Infrastructure for transit, electric vehicles, and carpooling will also be considered in this effort. GRPC will coordinate this effort with MDOT’s Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation Plan. Having suitable infrastructure will encourage people to use these modes for their travel. Transit centers will be located near some interchanges to provide comfortable transfer and access to the transit system. The park and ride lots would be used to support carpooling and access to the fixed-route transit system. GRPC staff or consultants will be used to accomplish this task.

17. Interstate Frontage Road Study. (Planning Emphasis Area: Tackling the Climate Crisis – Resilience) Consultants may be used to identify alignment and cross-section for the new local parallel roadways that would maintain traffic circulation on the street system next to the interstate and eliminate the need for some traffic to enter the interstate, thereby reducing the number of vehicles entering the overburdened interchanges. Frontage roads add redundancy to the operation of the interstate as temporary ramp closures, crashes, or congestion on the interstate are manageable without seriously affecting the flow of the system as diverted traffic may utilize the frontage road. (Creosote Extension, Cedar Lake Frontage, etc.)

The Plan will examine building a "sense of place" in the corridors created by new frontage roads and connector roads. The study will explore how to remove barriers to employment and overcome existing mobility challenges. The study will look into each new corridor's community and workforce to identify methods to target businesses that would thrive. The assessment will address the interdependencies transportation has on income, equality, and opportunity. GRPC staff or consultants will be used to accomplish this task.

**Deliverables**

*Traffic Studies, PEL Studies, Planning Studies, GRPC website, etc.*

**Projected Cost**

Task	PL funds	Local match	PL TOTAL	FTA-flex	MDOT match	FTA TOTAL
E-1	\$1,221,988	\$305,497	\$1,527,485	\$225,204	\$56,305	\$281,509

Item	PL-SATO	Local	Total SATO
E-1	\$34,322	\$0	\$34,322





Plan Updates	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Public Review	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Service Review Plan		X				X		
Carbon Reduction Plan		X	X					
<b>B-3 Active Transportation Program</b>								
Bicycle Safety Education Activities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocacy Groups	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mapping and Data Collection			X	X				
Complete Streets Policy	X	X						
<b>C-1 Planning Tools and Data Development</b>								
GIS Support	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MPO Modeling Activities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stormwater Inventory	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gulf Coast Street Centerline	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MPO Member Maps		X						
Urban Areas and Federal Roads Update		X	X					
<b>D-1 Traffic Count Program</b>								
Traffic Count Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quality Control	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Equipment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Annual Average Daily Traffic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Website	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Special Counts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Speed Surveys	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>E-1 Special Projects, Support, and Develop</b>								
Staff Travel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Technical Support	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Project Support	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
GRPC Studies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Translation Services								
MPO Expense	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MPO Promotion	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Local Plans	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Retroreflectivity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Streetlight Management Plan			X	X	X			
Pedestrian Crossing Plan			X	X	X			
Biloxi Beach Connector PEL		X	X	X	X			
Fort Bayou Interchange PEL		X	X	X	X			
Railroad Crossing Elimination Study							X	X
Interstate Alternative Transportation Study		X	X	X	X			
Interstate Frontage Road Study		X	X	X	X			





**Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Resolution Approving the  
FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

**Whereas** the Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Gulfport, MS and Pascagoula, MS urbanized areas;

**Whereas** the MPO is required by 23 CFR 450.308 to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP);

**Whereas** a UPWP is a biennial statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within a metropolitan planning area. At a minimum, a UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, who will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, and the source(s) of funds;

**Resolved**, that on August 4, 2022, the Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization approved the FY 2023-2024 UPWP.

  
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Mayor Billy Lewes  
MPO Chairman