



# Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

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## Notice of Public Hearings/ Availability for Review and Comment

Notice is hereby given of the availability of the following draft amendments and draft document for public review and comment:

- Draft Amendment #2 to the MVMPO Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Unified Planning Work Program
- Draft MVMPO Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a federally-required document that details work anticipated to be undertaken by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff in support of a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) regional planning process. These public hearings provide opportunities for comment on changes to the ongoing federal fiscal year 2023 program and the proposed federal fiscal year 2024 work program.

Two (2) VIRTUAL public hearings on the draft amendment and document will be held, one in the early afternoon, and one in the evening:

### Public Hearings (Virtual)

Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Times: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Hearing #1); 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Hearing #2)

Location: Virtual Meeting (see meeting link below).

The above referenced documents are available for review on the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) website ( [www.mvpc.org](http://www.mvpc.org) ) for the twenty-one (21) day review period beginning on June 7, 2023, and ending on June 27, 2023.

MVMPO staff will accept emailed written comments on the draft documents through June 27, 2023. Public comments must be submitted to: [preed@mvpc.org](mailto:preed@mvpc.org) or through the "Provide Comments Now" button on the [mvpc.org/news](http://mvpc.org/news) website where you will find this notice with links to the draft document and the comments button.

The MVMPO expects to act on the above documents at its June 28 meeting, which begins at noon (check [www.mvpc.org](http://www.mvpc.org) toward the end of the review period for recent news regarding the MPO VIRTUAL meeting). Members of the public are invited to JOIN the VIRTUAL meeting. Comments on the draft documents will also be accepted orally at this meeting. In the event that further amendments to the documents are recommended, the draft documents will be re-released for public comment in accordance with the MVMPO Public Participation Plan.

### Meeting Link – 1:00pm Public Hearing:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88250959545?pwd=OXlTa0lmdjYyYjI4MTFZcnpibms3UT09>

Meeting ID: 882 5095 9545

Passcode: 449187

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,88250959545# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

### Meeting Link – 6:00pm Public Hearing:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88374512539?pwd=K09mNEozYjIiNVhM4anpWOHtQVRRdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 7451 2539

Passcode: 863354

One tap mobile  
+16469313860,88374512539# US

Dial by your location  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

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For additional information, language service requests, or reasonable accommodations please visit <https://mvpc.org/title-vi>

## What is the Unified Planning Work Program?

The Unified Planning Work Program, (UPWP) is the federal certification document that details the anticipated work of Merrimack Valley's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO) over the course of a single year. Because MVMPO's primary funding sources are federal aid, the document must show the tasks and subtasks that MVMPO staff intend to perform, how many hours will be dedicated to those tasks, and any projected direct cost expenditures that support MVMPO's work. Staff typically prepare the document in the spring and summer of each year, aiming for MVMPO Board approval by mid-summer. Following endorsement, the work program becomes effective at the start of the new federal fiscal year on October 1.

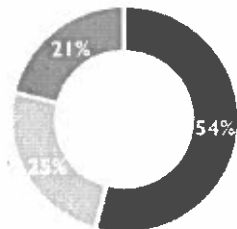
## Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Sources and Uses

### Sources

Four different federal aid sources fund 18 subtasks allocated across four different tasks. As is typical, federal Metropolitan Planning Program (PL) funds are the primary source of support of MVMPO work. MVMPO staff also hold a contract with Merrimack Valley Transit (MeVa), the region's transit authority, which passes Section 5307 funds—and in this cycle, potentially American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds—to the MVMPO to support short-term planning work. While \$450,000 of ARPA funding has been programmed in previous UPWP cycles and remains programmed in this cycle, MeVa has not yet determined what percentage of those funds will be passed to the MVMPO for short-term planning. Finally, the FY24 UPWP programs Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program funding, which will result in the development and endorsement of a comprehensive safety action plan. Figure 1 and Figure 2 summarize the FFY24 UPWP's percentage of funding sources, with and without potential ARPA funds.

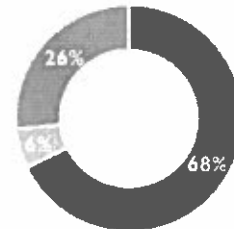
Figure 1 - Program Sources incl. ARPA and Figure 2 - Program Sources excl. ARPA

Program Sources, including ARPA Funds



- Metropolitan Planning (PL)
- Section 5307 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Program Sources, excluding ARPA Funds



- Metropolitan Planning (PL)
- Section 5307 Only
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

***Uses: Tasks, Subtasks and Deliverables***

The FFY24 UPWP programs four tasks—3C Program Management, Data Collection and Analysis, Transportation Planning, and Other Planning Support—and 18 total associated subtasks, as listed below. Detailed descriptions of each subtask can be found in Section V. under the "Tasks" header.

*Subtask 1.1 – Program Management, Support, and Growth*

*Subtask 1.2 – Public Participation*

*Subtask 1.3 – Unified Planning Work Program*

*Subtask 1.4 – Transportation Improvement Program*

*Subtask 1.5 – Title VI, Environmental Justice and Equity*

***Task 2 - Data Collection and Analysis***

*Subtask 2.1 – Supportive Field Services*

*Subtask 2.2 – Asset Management Program Development*

*Subtask 2.3 – Supportive GIS and Information Technology*

*Subtask 2.4 – Travel Time Reliability and Competitiveness*

*Subtask 2.5 – Benchmarks and Performance Measures*

***Task 3 - Transportation Planning***

*Subtask 3.1 – Active Transportation and Complete Streets*

*Subtask 3.2A – Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)*

*Subtask 3.2B – Safe Systems Planning and SS4A Supplemental Work*

*Subtask 3.3 – Transit Planning*

*Subtask 3.4 – Regional Vitality*

*Subtask 3.5 – Network Sustainability and Resilience*

***Task 4 - Other Planning Support***

*Subtask 4.1 – County & State Planning Support*

*Subtask 4.2 – Local Technical Assistance and Grants Coordination*

Work on performed in support of these tasks will generate the following deliverables:

- Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (Task 3.2A/3.2B)
- Active Transportation Plan (Task 3.1)
- Fare Free Report for MeVa (Task 3.3)
- Capital Purchase Program (Task 3.4)
- FFY25-29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP, Task 1.4)
- FFY25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP, Task 1.3)
- Revised Transportation Evaluation Criteria Scoring Process (Task 1.4)
- Regional Analysis of Performance Measure One (Task 2.5)

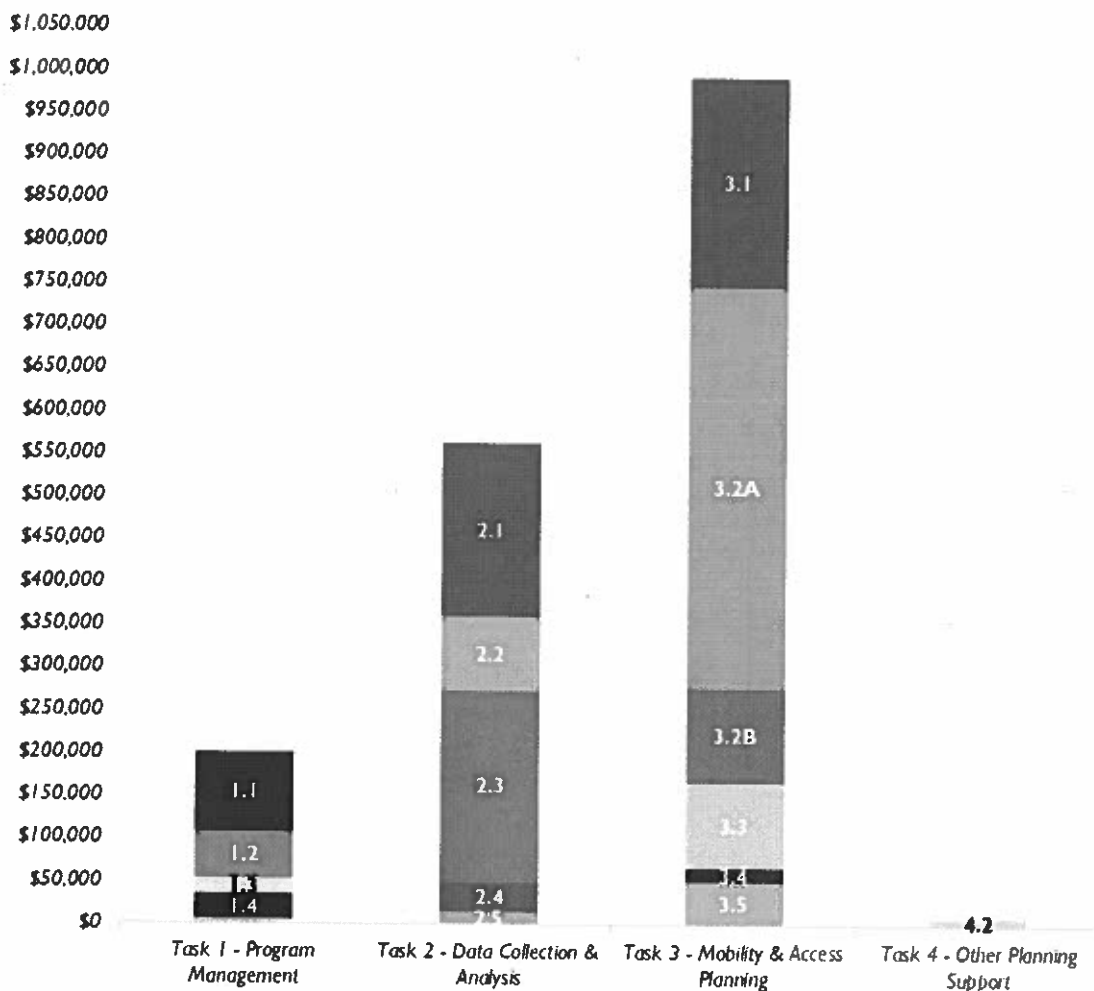
- Traffic Counting for the MS2 Program (to be integrated into a regional web viewer, Tasks 2.1 and 2.3)
- Local and Regional Traffic Counting (to be integrated into a regional web viewer, Tasks 2.1 and 2.3)
- Updated Equity Maps (to be integrated into a regional web viewer, Task 1.5)
- Automatic Passenger Counter Validation for MeVa (Task 3.3)
- American with Disabilities Act Third Party Review for MeVa (Task 3.3)
- Local Technical Assistance Menu (Task 4.2)

The FY24 UPWP also includes resources for continued prospecting and exploration of programs, services, and topics that could potentially support the region. These deliverables are not concrete, but include:

- Pavement and Asset Management Exploration (Task 2.2)
- Bus Stop Planning for MeVa (Task 3.3)
- Interactive Transit-Vehicle Mode Share Competitiveness Mapping (Tasks 2.3 and 2.4)

Figure 3 depicts task expenditures by task and subtask for the purposes of comparison regarding level of effort.

Figure 3 - Comparison of Expenditures by Task and Subtask





## FFY2023 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #2 – Summary

June 7, 2023

This amendment proposes additional support in the amount of \$65,000 for Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Task 3 Subtask 3.2 – Transit Planning. Merrimack Valley Transit (MeVa) is providing these resources to the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC), via contract amendment, to support additional automatic passenger counter and bus stop planning work. The \$65,000 is comprised of \$52,000 in Section 5307 Federal Aid and \$13,000 of Regional Transit Authority Capital Assistance from the state.

Since shifting to a fare free system, MeVa has used automatic passenger counters to determine how many passengers ride particular bus routes. These counters must be validated through real-world observation and cross reference.

MeVa is also in the process of positioning bus route/stop signage along its routes. Today's buses run on the flag system, but the signage is intended to help riders and potential riders identify where buses run and ideal boarding/alighting locations.

MVPC is providing planning assistance for both efforts.

