



CASPER AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Casper - Mills - Evansville - Bar Nunn - Natrona County

FY24 UPWP

Quarterly Report Quarter 1

October 1- December 31, 2023

Casper Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
In Cooperation with the
Wyoming Department of Transportation
and the
Federal Transit Administration

January 29, 2024

Introduction

Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 420.117 (November 2017) requires the State to submit a performance and expenditure report from each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). These reports must be submitted annually. The purpose of this report is to compare programmed activities, as described in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with actual accomplishments

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The MPO Policy Committee approved the FY 2024 UPWP with a final total budget of \$962,608 for FY24. On December 21, 2023 the MPO Policy Committee approved a budget of \$322,400 for rollover from previous years.

| | Federal Share 90.49% | Local Match 9.51% | Total Funds |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| FY24 Allocation | \$871,064 | \$91,544 | \$962,608 |
| Previous Years | <u>\$291,740</u> | <u>\$30,660</u> | <u>\$322,400</u> |
| Rollover | | | |
| Total Allocated Funds | \$1,162,804 | \$122,204 | \$1,285,008 |

Work elements contained in the FY 2024 UPWP are divided into three program categories: Administration, Programs, and Projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee met on October 19, 2023. The meeting agenda included: updates on the Casper Area Transit System, updates on Regional GIS, updates on current MPO Projects, updates on upcoming projects, approval of the North Platte River Park No.2 Simple Master Plan, and a discussion of the FY24 UPWP Rollover Revision. The Committee met on December 21, 2023. The meeting agenda included: updates on the Casper Area Transit System, updates on Regional GIS, updates on current MPO Projects, updates on upcoming projects, approval of the Westwinds Road Extension Study, and approval of the FY24 UPWP Rollover Revision

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee met on October 19, 2023. The meeting agenda included: updates on the Casper Area Transit System, updates on Regional GIS, updates on current MPO Projects, updates on upcoming projects, approval of the North Platte River Park No.2 Simple Master Plan, and a discussion of the FY24 UPWP Rollover Revision. The Committee met on December 21, 2023. The meeting agenda included:

updates on the Casper Area Transit System, updates on Regional GIS, updates on current MPO Projects, updates on upcoming projects, approval of the Westwinds Road Extension Study, and approval of the FY24 UPWP Rollover Revision.

Citizens Committee

The Citizens Committee met on October 24, 2023. The meeting agenda included an update on current and upcoming projects. The committee did not meet for its December 12, 2023, meeting due to a lack of attendance.

FY24 Traffic Counts

Proposed Timeline: January '24-May '24

Contract End Date: June 30, 2026

Contractor: All Traffic Data Services

Project Summary: Traffic Count data is used for various analyses, including pavement management and land use planning. Each year the MPO collects traffic counts at various locations for WYDOT's Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS). The HPMS is federally mandated. The MPO takes this opportunity to do count updates for the entire arterial and collector system located in the Casper Metropolitan Boundary Area. The counts are performed on one-third of the system each year. The MPO members recognize that an updated and complete count on all arterials and collectors is an important addition to the UPWP. Traffic counts may also include some local streets of importance to additional studies.

% Completion: 0

Q1 Progress: The MPO released an RFP for 2024-2026 traffic counts on September 1. Three firms submitted proposals and All Traffic Data was selected. The MPO entered into a contract in December. FY 24 traffic counts will be performed through the month of May. The MPO will receive the counts at the end of June.

Long Range Transportation Plan

Proposed Timeline: February '24-June '25

Contract End Date: June 30, 2025

Contractor: Nelson/ Nygaard

Project Summary: The Long Range Transportation Plan will provide a plan for the development of transportation facilities for the next thirty (30) years, to the year 2055. The LRTP will include both long-range and short-range strategies/actions that lead to the development of an integrated multimodal transportation system to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in addressing current and future transportation demands.

% Completion: 0

Q1 Progress: The MPO released an RFP for the LRTP on October 12 with proposals due on November 9. Four consultants submitted proposals

and after consultant interviews, Nelson/Nygaard was selected. The MPO will enter into a contract in February '24.

Aerial Flight Reserve

Proposed Timeline: 2025

Contractor: N/A

Project Summary: In preparation for the next iteration of the Aerial Flight, the MPO will reserve \$95,000 of its programmable funds to help offset the cost of the project.

% Completion: NA

Q4 Progress: NA

Casper Area Transit Fare Study

Proposed Timeline: February '24-June '24

Contract End Date: June 15, 2024

Contractor: Nelson/Nygaard

Project Summary: The Casper Area Transit Fare Study will provide a fare rate model to the MPO and Casper Area Transit. This model will examine the effects of fares, including a no cost option, cost recovery, and ridership. The purpose of the study is to give decision makers tools and information on how possible increases and decreases to the fare structure will impact the transit system.

% Completion: 0

Q1 Progress: The MPO released an RFP for the LRTP on October 26 with proposals due on November 30. Two consultants submitted proposals and Nelson/Nygaard was selected. The MPO will enter into a contract in February '24.

FY24 Non-Motorized Travel Counts

Proposed Timeline: February '24-September '24

Contract End Date: September 30, 2025

Contractor: IDAX (Innovative Data Acquisitions, LLC)

Project Summary: Many of the MPO's guiding documents including the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Casper Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the Casper Complete Streets Plan all articulate the need for inclusion of non-motorized travel needs in both planning and construction projects. Additionally, the ability of pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized traffic to move easily to and from their destinations depends greatly on factors such as congestion, vehicular conflicts, condition, and availability of routes. With this in mind, the MPO is embarking on a new non-motorized travel count program to further include non-vehicular traffic in our planning efforts, as well as promote the safety and ease of use of both new and existing multi-modal facilities.

%Completion: 0

Q1 Progress: The FY 24 counts will be held before school dismisses for the summer.

FY 23 and Prior UPWP Project Update

Mills Platte River Trail Connectivity Study (Formerly Mills Riverfront Bridge Study)

Proposed Timeline: February '23- July '23

Contract End Date: November 30, 2023

Contractor: CEPI

Project Summary: The Mills Platte River Trail Connectivity Study will determine how to proceed with a proposed pedestrian bridge crossing over the North Platte River, a safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the river along Wyoming Boulevard, and additional connectivity and access to existing trails along the river near downtown Mills and other future development in the area. The recommended option will serve residents and visitors with links to increased recreational opportunities, extend low-stress transportation networks, and improve all residents' health and safety.

% Completion: 98

Q1 Progress: CEPI released the draft report for public comment on December 20th. The 30-day comment period will end on January 19, 2024.

Westwinds Extension and Land Use Study

Proposed Timeline: October '22- July '23

Contract End Date: August 31, 2023

Contractor: T-O Engineers (name changed to Ardurra)

Project Summary: The purpose of the study is to design a plan for the extension of Westwinds Road from its terminus in Bar Nunn to the Natrona County International Airport, supporting additional access and freight capacity. The study will examine cost estimates, right-of-way acquisition, access management standards, adjacent land use, and provide recommendations to the MPO, Natrona County, and the Town of Bar Nunn. The MPO previously identified this project as a near-term priority in the most recent update of the Long Range Transportation Plan: Connecting Crossroads and was requested by Natrona County to support larger transportation goals for the community.

% Completion: 100

Q1 Progress: The draft report was released for public comment on November 6, 2023. The 30-day public comment period ended on December 6th. The Technical and Policy committees approved the report at their respective meetings on December 21, 2023.

Western Gateway Corridor Enhancement Study Phase II (Formerly West Yellowstone Corridor Study and Beautification Plan)

Proposed Timeline: November '23-June '24

Contract End Date: June 30, 2024

Contractor: CEPI

Project Summary: The main components of the West Yellowstone Corridor Study and Beautification Plan will be a corridor study and a comprehensive landscape plan. Phase 2 will run from the West Belt loop to the Natrona County International Airport, 4.0 miles. This study will examine improvements that reflect the latest trends in transportation safety, landscape design, and structural improvements including the following: signal warrants, intersection improvements, streetscape lighting design, storm-water improvements, islands and medians, and the addition of curb and gutter. This study will help meet the goals set forth in the most recent update of the Long Range Transportation Plan: Connecting Crossroads including increasing transportation options for all modes, enhancing the region's distinct character, and supporting the region's diversifying economy.

% Completion: 5%

Q1 Progress: The MPO entered into a contract with CEPI on November 21, 2023.

A kick-off meeting was held on December 18 and the consultant is preparing to perform traffic counts.

Other Activities

- The MPO hired a new GIS Technician, James Cochran, to replace Renee Hardy.
- The MPO completed its Annual Performance Report.
- The MPO worked with the City of Casper Finance (fiscal agent) to complete an accurate accounting of rollover funds. The Policy Committee approved Amendment 1 to the FY24 UPWP which allocates these funds.

MPO Goals for FY 2023-2024

- Complete FY 21-22 UPWP projects (Phase II of the Western Gateway Corridor Study).
- Continue a robust training and development program for MPO staff.
- Complete the 2024-25 UPWP.
- Redraft and approve the MPO Master Agreement.
- Substantially complete work on the Long Range Transportation Plan.
- Continue to execute the goals of the Public Participation Plan and Transit Strategic Development Plan.