

**FY 2026 UPWP: Admin Mod #1**

<b>Section of UPWP</b>	<b>Work Element</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Table of Contents; Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs)	N/A	Updated language and fixed fiscal year typos at the request of GDOT Planning.



**GAINESVILLE-HALL**  
Metropolitan Planning Organization

# **FY 2026**

# **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

*Adopted: February 11, 2025*



*In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination laws, public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, familial, or in income status.*

*Prepared by the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization in coordination with the City of Gainesville, City of Oakwood, City of Flowery Branch, Town of Braselton, City of Hoschton, Hall County, Jackson County, Hall Area Transit, Jackson County Transit, the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.*

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## C. Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs)

~~The FHWA and FTA have outlined Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs), which include transition to performance based planning and programming as per the IIJA, cooperation and coordination across MPO boundaries and across State boundaries where appropriate to ensure a regional approach to transportation planning, and access to essential services in which the transportation planning process identifies transportation connectivity gaps and solutions to address these gaps.~~

This section outlines Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs), which include transition to performance-based planning and programming as per the IIJA, cooperation and coordination across MPO boundaries and across State boundaries where appropriate to ensure a regional approach to transportation planning, and access to essential services in which the transportation planning process identifies transportation connectivity gaps and solutions to address those gaps.

The GHMPO transportation planning process will include the following planning emphasis areas addressed in the UPWP work elements as listed below:

- Tackling the Climate Crisis – Metropolitan Planning Organizations are working ~~with the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Authority~~ to ensure that our transportation plans and infrastructure investments help achieve national greenhouse reduction goals. GHMPO has worked to realize these goals by executing the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which seeks to reduce greenhouse emissions through various roadway projects designed to increase capacity and reduce delay, and by funding Special Transportation Studies, which seek to explore multi-modal transportation options. Additionally, GHMPO has been proactive in adopting Performance Measures (found in Appendix A), which set 2 and 4-year targets for greenhouse gas emissions, congestion management, and air quality. GHMPO will continue to address this Planning Emphasis Area more specifically in the following Work Elements:
  - *4.3 Long Range Plan* - Develop and update a long-range, multi-modal MTP for the GHMPO planning area. This is a continuing work element.
  - *4.5 Special Transportation Studies* - Integrate land use planning activities with transportation planning.
  - *4.5 Special Transportation Studies* – Continue work on and complete the Hoschton Transportation Plan.
  - *4.6 Air Quality* – Continue to coordinate and cooperate with the Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division, Environmental Protection Agency, and other interagency partners in air quality management.
- Equity and Justice – Federal, State, and local planning authorities are always working to advance racial equity and support for underserved and disadvantaged communities. GHMPO recently adopted a 2024 update to both the Title VI Environmental Analysis and Participation Plan, which seeks to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in the policy process and carefully analyzes the demographic diversity of the GHMPO planning area. Additionally, GHMPO seeks to specifically address this Planning Emphasis Area in the following Work Elements:
  - *3.1 Socioeconomic Models, Data, and Analysis* - Collect and prepare socioeconomic data for the development of long-range transportation plan and transportation studies.
  - *4.2 GIS & Model Development and Applications* - Apply GIS to develop maps for transportation plans and studies that highlight potential impacts on areas with higher minority populations or households with lower income levels.

- Strategic Highway Network/US Department of Defense Coordination – The national highway infrastructure is imperative to our national defense and a coordinated response in times of peace and war. GHMPO plays a part in maintaining and developing the Dwight E. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, and works with Federal and State partners to plan to meet future travel demand through the development of MPO planning documents. GHMPO plans to address that goal specifically in the following Work Elements:
  - *4.3 Metropolitan Transportation Plan* - The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) provides the basis for transportation investment of regionally significant projects and programs within the planning area. The MTP addresses various modes of transportation as well as the safety and security of the region's transportation system.
  - *4.4 Transportation Improvement Program* - Undertake transportation planning activities that will lead to the development/implementation of a transportation improvement program (TIP) and other related transportation studies.
  
- Federal Land Management Agency – GHMPO is coordinating with local and state agencies in transportation planning endeavors in order to ensure that connectivity needs along major access routes are met. Within the GHMPO planning boundary in particular, staff coordinates long range planning efforts with the US Army Corp of Engineers, which own property along and manage Lake Lanier. GHMPO will specifically address this goal in the following work elements:
  - *4.3 Long Range Plan* - Develop and update a long-range, multi-modal MTP for the GHMPO planning area. This is a continuing work element.
  - *4.4 Transportation Improvement Program* - Created and amended the 2024-2027 TIP document with the input of GDOT, the public, and the three GHMPO committees.
  
- Planning and Environmental Linkages – Federal, regional, and local planning entities seek to use Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) in the transportation decision-making process. This process considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the transportation process, and uses the information, analysis, and products developed during planning to inform the environmental review process. GHMPO seeks to incorporate this process in the following Work Elements:
  - *4.2 GIS & Model Development and Applications* - Apply GIS to develop maps for transportation plans and studies.
  - *4.3 Long Range Plan* - Continue to manage the implementation of the transportation projects in the 2055 MTP.
  
- Complete Streets – A complete street is safe, and feels safe, for everyone using the street. A complete street will provide opportunities for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, micro-mobility users, freight delivery services, and more. GHMPO will address this planning emphasis area by coordinating and collaborating with ~~GDOT, FHWA, and FTA~~state and federal partners to coordinate federal aid and establish safe facilities for everyone on the road. GHMPO is currently working on a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update concurrently with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update, which will provide an outline of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as future needs. GHMPO is also a recipient of the Safe Streets for All Grant, which seeks to identify potential safety improvements in underserved census tracts. In addition, GHMPO will address this planning emphasis area through the implementation of the following UPWP work elements:
  - *4.1 Intermodal Planning* – Work with local jurisdictions on Highlands to Islands trail expansions.
  - *4.5 Special Transportation Studies* – Complete the Hoschton Transportation Plan.