



## MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA



Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 2:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Wisconsin Room, 1000 Lake View Drive, Wausau, WI 54403**

**Members:** Randy Fifrick – Chair, Allen Opall (Designee, Gaylene Rhoden – Vice Chair), Dan Helgeson, Betty Hoenisch, Steve Hagman, Doug Diny, Tim Buttke, Matt Lee Baer, David Phelps, David Baker, Mark Maloney, Kregg Hoehn, Pete Nievinski, Matthew Bronson

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. Instead of in person attendance, Metropolitan Planning Commission members and the public may attend this meeting by telephone and video conference. **Persons wishing to attend the meeting virtually may call into the telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

**PHONE NUMBER:** 1-408-418-9388

**ACCESS CODE:** 2488 427 8963

**Please Note:** If you are prompted to provide an "Attendee Identification Number" press the # symbol. No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference.

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Approval of Minutes: August 12, 2025, MPO Commission Meeting**
- 4. Policy Issues, Discussion, and Possible Commission Action**
  - A. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment
- 5. Educational Presentations and Commission Discussion**
  - A. Draft 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
  - B. Upcoming Salt Wise Trainings
- 6. Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements, and Future Agenda Items**
  - A. Next Meeting Date and Time – Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:00 PM
  - B. Future Agenda Items – STP-U and TAP projects, Final 2026 UPWP
- 7. Adjournment**

*Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or email [countyclerk@marathoncounty.gov](mailto:countyclerk@marathoncounty.gov) one business day before the meeting.*

**EMAILED TO:** Courthouse, WDH, City Pages, and other Media Groups

**EMAILED BY:** AA

**DATE:** 9/3/2025

**EMAIL TIME:** 12:00pm

**SIGNED:**   
**PRESIDING OFFICER OR DESIGNEE**

**NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE & TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_



**MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Meeting Attendance:** Randy Fifrick – Chair, Gaylene Rhoden – Vice Chair, Aaron Anklam, Laurie Miskimins, MaKayla Galecki, Darryl Landeau, Dave Meurett, Ryan VanDeWalle, Ron Schenke, Brad Lenz, Jeff Gates, Michael Wodalski, Jason Nordberg, Allen Wesolowski, Mark Thuot

1. Call Meeting to Order

In the presence of a quorum, with the agenda being properly signed and posted, the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Fifrick at 2:00 p.m. in the Wisconsin Room, 1000 Lake View Drive, Wausau, WI 54403 and virtually via WebEx.

2. Introductions

3. Public Comment

Discussion: No Public Comment Given or Received.

4. Approval of Minutes: June 10, 2025, MPO Commission Meeting

**Action: Motion/Second by VanDeWalle/Thuot to approve June 10, 2025, MPOC Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

5. Policy Issues, Discussion, and Possible Commission Action

A. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Discussion: Anklam reviewed the TIP amendment and reasoning as included in the MPO packet.

**Action: Motion/Second by Thuot/Rhoden to approve the 2025-2028 TIP Amendment as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

B. Wausau MPO Functional Classification System Map

Discussion: Anklam and Meurett provided overview of changes to how functional classification is done, including the new criteria that considers AADT, land use, and spacing between roadways to determine functional classification. Twenty roads within the MPO boundary are proposed for reclassification, with most going to a lower classification, however all but three would still remain eligible for STP-Urban funding. The adoption of the updated Functional Classification System was recommended to the MPO Planning Commission by the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), however Meurett noted that one correction was needed. Item number 11 needs to be corrected to say STH 52. It was listed as Scott Street incorrectly.

**Action: Motion/Second by Lenz/Thuot to approve the Wausau MPO Functional Classification System update as proposed with the correction to number 11, changing it from STH 52 to Scott Street. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

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- C. Letter of Support – Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership and Visit Wausau application for a Destination Marketing Grant for the Wisconsin Gravel Roads Project

Discussion: Miskimins and Fifrick provide background on the request for the letter of support, noting the funding would be for signage and marketing of the gravel road bicycling routes, the connection of the routes to the MPO and its communities, and the potential for positive impact this new experience/system can have to tourism and local economy. It was also noted that the Partnership is coordinating with the partners listed in the brief in the packet and is also pursuing a letter of support from the Marathon County Board of Supervisors.

**Action: Motion/Second by Thuot/Lenz to provide the Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership and Visit Wausau a MPO Letter of Support for there Destination Marketing Grant Application. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

### 6. Educational Presentations and Commission Discussion

#### A. Wausau MPO Bike/Ped Sub-Committee Update

Discussion: Anklam shared that the Wausau MPO Bike/Ped started meeting again in July, agreeing to meet about every three months, and has discussed some initial work to include updating the Wausau MPO Bicycle Map, looking into getting the Fix-it-Stations updated, and locations and need for bicycle counts. At the next meeting, in October, TAP projects will be discussed and a early draft of a new Wausau MPO Bicycle Map.

Still missing representatives from a few committees, including the City of Mosinee. Please contact MPO staff if you have any questions or staff/representatives that you would like to include in the group.

Commission asked for more information on the Fix-it-stations, and it was explained that the MPO staff is going to conduct an inventory on the condition of the stations, try to identify who is responsible for maintaining, and identify opportunities to upgrade/repair existing and maybe add new stations.

There was also discussion on a UW group that may have a bicycle counting or engineering project they would like to work with the MPO on. They may want assistance getting some bicycle count data. Meurett noted that communities should coordinate with the MPO to get bicycle count data, as it can assist in TAP applications.

#### B. 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Discussion

Discussion: Anklam shared that the Wisconsin DOT is going to continue amending their current 2025-2028 TIP through 2026 based on updated guidance received from FHWA. They have strongly recommended that the MPOs do the same. This will be done to allow Wisconsin DOT and MPOs to have more time to evaluate changes that may be coming from the Federal level.

It is not a requirement to do a TIP update every year. It only must be updated every 4 years. Wausau MPO staff is going to follow Wisconsin DOT and not update the TIP this year.

## MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

### C. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Change

Discussion: Anklam shared an Administration change requiring no MPO action. The BUS-51 Bicycle/Trail/Bridge project is being pushed back due to conflicts with the railroad. The let date is being pushed back to August of 2026 and the construction is moving to 2027. The construction dollars are just moving from 2025 to 2027.

### D. USDOT SAFE ROADS Initiative

Discussion: Anklam shared that on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the USDOT Secretary sent a Safe Arterials for Everyone directive/initiative to states asking that within 60 days State DOTs, in coordination with the MPOs use available safety data, analysis, and assessments to develop a list of arterial segments, including intersections, with the highest safety, operational, or compliance concerns that will be addressed by the end of Fiscal Year 2026. Wisconsin DOT has identified one project in the Wausau MPO that meets the criteria of the directive.

There were links in the MPO packet to provide more background on the initiative but at this time MPO staff is unsure where this initiative is headed.

### E. 2026-2031 Local Bridge Program Cycle

Discussion: Anklam shared that the Local Bridge Improvement Assistance Program is accepting applications through October 31, 2025. The criteria for applying/receiving funding was also shared.

### F. Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Funding 2027-2029 Cycle

Discussion: Miskimins shared with the recent designation of the Wisconsin River as a National Recreational Trail, this will likely open up the opportunity for the MPO communities to apply for Federal Lands Access Program dollars. In speaking with FHWA staff, the recommendation was that projects directly on and accessing the rivers, like docks, launches, and adjacent parking and signage would be the most relevant and competitive. There is a call for projects open now, but it closes at the end of August and requires an 18.89% match, with cash match preferred. This just may be a future funding opportunity for the MPO to keep on the radar.

## 7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting Date

A. Next Meeting Date and Time – Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:00 PM

B. Future Agenda Items – Members are asked to bring items for future discussion.

## 8. Adjournment

**Action: There being no further business before the members, Motion/Second by Lenz/Rhoden to adjourn the meeting of the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission at 2:29pm Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

Submitted by:  
Aaron Anklam, Transportation Planner  
Wausau MPO

**AMENDMENT  
TO THE  
2025-2028  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM (TIP)**

**FOR THE  
MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
COMMISSION/WAUSAU AREA METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

**September 9, 2025**

**MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING**

**COMMISSION RESOLUTION #5-25**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AMENDMENT TO THE  
2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
FOR THE WAUSAU METROPOLITAN AREA**

**WHEREAS**, the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission was designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Wausau Urbanized Area; and

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with Metropolitan Transportation Planning Regulations by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission has developed a four-year transportation improvement program (TIP) for the Wausau Metropolitan Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Improvement Program identifies transit, pedestrian/bicycle, and highway improvement projects and programs consistent with current transportation plans;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission endorses the *Long Range Transportation Plan for the Wausau Metropolitan Area* and the *Transit Development Program for the Wausau Area Transit System*, which will be continually updated and maintained as part of the urban transportation planning process;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission approves the *Bridge Deck Polymer Overlay Project in the Village of Rib Mountain on USH 51/STH 29 East Interchange*, and attaches the *2025-2028 TIP Amendment Tables 1 and 2 Spreadsheets* as part of this amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the Wausau Metropolitan Area; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in accordance with 23 CFR 450.336, the Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Wausau, WI urbanized area hereby certifies that the metropolitan transportation planning process is addressing the major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

1. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
2. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
3. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;

4. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
5. Section 1101(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST Act) (Pub. L. 114-357) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in the US DOT funded projects;
6. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
7. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;
8. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
9. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C. regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
10. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission certifies that the Transportation Improvement Program contains only projects that are consistent with the transportation plan for the urban area and recommends that this document be submitted to the appropriate federal and state agencies for approval.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Fifrick'. The signature is stylized with a large 'R' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

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Randy Fifrick, Commission Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurie Miskimins'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Laurie Miskimins, MPO Director, Marathon  
County Metro Planning Commission Secretary

**2025 - 2028 TABLE 1 AMENDMENT**  
TIP PROJECT LISTING (\$)  
Amendment 9/09/2025

Red text indicates changes

PRIMARY JURISDICTION/ PROJECT LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF COST	2025				2026				2027				2028				COMMENTS FOS# & Let Date P=preservation E=expansion
			FED	STATE	LOCAL	TOTAL													

**Highway Section - Project Changes**

77	Village of Rib Mountain	Bridge Deck Polymer Overlay USH 51/STH 29 East Interchange  STH 29 WB ramp over USH 51 (B-37-337); STH 29 EB ramp over STH 29 WB to USH 51 SB ramp (B-38-338); STH 29 EB ramp over USH 51 (B-37-339)  373-25-038	PE ROW CONST TOTAL	\$103,880			\$103,880											Let Date: 12/12/2028 State Project ID: 1053-04-38/68 P  Total improvement cost: \$1,163,880. This total includes current and future project phases which may be outside of the four-year TIP cycle and is for illustrative purposes only.
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**TABLE 2**

**Assessment of Available Funding for the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program - Amendment September 9 2025**

Funding Source		Programmed Expenditures				Funding Source		Estimated Available Funding			
Agency	Program	2025	2026	2027	2028	Program	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Federal Highway	NHPP	\$23,632,389	\$14,283,400	\$0	\$13,927,389	NHPP	\$23,632,389	\$14,283,400	\$0	\$13,927,389	
Administration	STBG	\$0	\$1,212,247	\$2,634,977	\$4,711,534	STBG	\$0	\$1,212,247	\$2,634,977	\$4,711,534	
	BR	\$0	\$2,025,208	\$0	\$0	BR	\$0	\$2,025,208	\$0	\$0	
	IM	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	IM	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	TAP	\$2,326,717	\$847,937	\$0	\$0	TAP	\$2,326,717	\$847,937	\$0	\$0	
	CRP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	CRP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	HSIP	\$351,703	\$180,000	\$832,590	\$0	HSIP	\$351,703	\$180,000	\$832,590	\$0	
	WEVI	\$885,428	\$0	\$0	\$0	WEVI	\$885,428	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	OCR	\$178,265	\$0	\$0	\$0	OCR	\$178,265	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Totals		\$27,374,502	\$18,548,792	\$3,467,567	\$18,638,923	Totals	\$27,374,502	\$18,548,792	\$3,467,567	\$18,638,923	
Totals	Program Expenditures Inflated by 2.93% Annually	\$27,374,502	\$19,092,272	\$3,670,766	\$20,277,284	Estimated Available Funding Inflated by 2.00% Annually	\$27,374,502	\$18,871,541	\$3,588,238	\$19,611,875	

Federal Transit Administration	Section 5307 -- Wausau Urbanized Area	\$1,418,551	\$1,461,107	\$1,490,329	\$1,621,329	Section 5307 -- Wausau Urbanized Area	\$1,418,551	\$1,461,107	\$1,490,329	\$1,621,329
	Section 5310	\$603,435	\$0	\$0	\$0	Section 5310	\$603,435	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Section 5339	\$3,570,424	\$2,834,955	\$0	\$0	Section 5339	\$3,570,424	\$2,834,955	\$0	\$0
	Section 5307 - Other	\$2,064,530	\$111,875	\$114,112	\$124,142	Section 5307 - Other	\$2,064,530	\$111,875	\$114,112	\$124,142
Totals		\$7,656,940	\$4,407,937	\$1,604,441	\$1,745,471	Totals	\$7,656,940	\$4,407,937	\$1,604,441	\$1,745,471
Totals	Program Expenditures Inflated by 2.93% Annually	\$7,656,940	\$4,537,090	\$1,698,461	\$1,898,898	Estimated Available Funding Inflated by 2.00% Annually	\$7,656,940	\$4,484,635	\$1,660,276	\$1,836,585

The four-year totals indicate that estimated funding is reasonably expected to be available in comparison to programmed expenditures for the 2025-2028 TIP. There are a few instances where programmed funding appears to exceed estimated available funding when comparing amounts from year to year. In general, this can be attributed to differences in applied inflation rates between revenue and expenditures. There are also instances where projects have been selected and programmed in the previous TIP, but have not yet been completed and remain in the TIP but do not require additional funding (such as transit capital projects). For NHPP funding, this could be attributed to larger projects, such as freeway reconstruction projects, programmed by WisDOT in the four years of the TIP that can be authorized using Advance Construction allowance from FHWA or funded through alternate funding sources not indicated within this fiscal constraint report. Additionally, the years in the TIP represent calendar years but the State fiscal year runs from July 1 of a year to June 30 of the following year. Depending on what proportion of available Federal funding is scheduled in the two halves of the State fiscal year, it could appear that more funding is being scheduled for obligation than what is estimated for a particular calendar year.



## **DRAFT 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

[https://wasaumpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2026\\_Wausau\\_MPO\\_UPWP\\_1st\\_DRAFT.pdf](https://wasaumpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2026_Wausau_MPO_UPWP_1st_DRAFT.pdf)



Wisconsin  
**Salt Wise**

# SMART SALTING WORKSHOP

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## WAUSAU

**Oct 2, 2025 | 8-11:30am**

**Our goal is to accelerate the adoption of best practices in snow and ice control.**

Learn how using the right amount of salt can save time, increase profits, and protect our waters.

The training will include: best management practices to keep paved areas safe, guidance on how to determine the right amount of salt, and case studies from local applicators.

Expect peer-to-peer conversations and a show-and-tell of winter maintenance equipment.

**Register online: [www.wisaltwise.com](http://www.wisaltwise.com)**



Wisconsin  
**Salt Wise**  
**EQUIPMENT**  
**OPEN HOUSE**

WAUSAU

**Oct. 3, 2025 | 9-11am**

**A winter equipment open house aimed at accelerating local adoption of best practices in snow and ice control.**

We will discuss current practices and facilitate conversations around next steps through a show-and-tell of winter maintenance equipment. Expect peer-to-peer conversations among public and private sector equipment operators, policy discussions with elected officials, and lots of learning for all.

**Learn more at [www.wisaltwise.com](http://www.wisaltwise.com)**