



MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA



Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 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, Mark Maloney, Dan Joling, 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: December 9, 2025, MPO Planning Commission Meeting**
- 4. Policy Issues, Discussion, and Possible Commission Action**
 - A. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment
 - B. Surface Transportation Program (STP-Urban) 2026-2031 Program Cycle Project Rankings
 - C. Wausau MPO Bike/Ped Sub-Committee Bicycle Passport
- 5. Educational Presentations and Commission Discussion**
 - A. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant - Update
 - B. 2025 Local Match Invoices
 - C. 2026 Meeting Calander
- 6. Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements, and Future Agenda Items**
 - A. Next Meeting Date and Time – Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, at 2:00 PM
 - B. Future Agenda Items
- 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 one business day before the meeting.

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

EMAILED BY: AA

DATE: 1/6/2026

EMAIL TIME: 2:00pm


SIGNED: _____
PRESIDING OFFICER OR DESIGNEE

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:

BY: _____

DATE & TIME: _____



**MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
December 9th, 2025**

Meeting Attendance: Randy Fifrick, Chair; Aaron Anklam, Laurie Miskimins, MaKayla Galecki, Darryl Landeau, Dave Meuret, Ryan VanDeWalle, Brad Lenz, Allen Wesolowski, Mark Thuot, Sydney Turner, David Phelps, Gaylene Rhoden, Michael Wodalski

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 2:02 p.m. in the Wisconsin Room, 1000 Lake View Drive, Wausau, WI 54403 and virtually via WebEx.

2. Public Comment

Discussion: No Public Comment Given or Received.

3. Approval of Minutes: November 11, 2025, MPO Commission Meeting

Action: Motion/Second by VanDeWalle/Thuot to approve November 11, 2025, MPOC Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

4. Policy Issues, Discussion, and Possible Commission Action

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

Discussion: Anklam reviewed the proposed TIP amendment, put forth by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). Not a project but rather a performance measure update. This is typically updated every year during the annual TIP update. This is located on page 15 of the packet.

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

B. Surface Transportation Program (STP-Urban) 2026-2031 Program Cycle Project Rankings Discussion

Discussion: Met with TAC to discuss. City of Wausau meeting is set for Thursday to discuss if they will accept the current offer. At TAC, WisDOT informed us we can extend this to mid-January before making a decision. No action was taken.

Action: Motion/Second by Rhoden/Thuot to approve the Surface Transportation Program (STP-Urban) 2026-2031 Program Cycle Project Rankings as presented and recommended by the MPO TAC. Motion carried by voice vote, one dissent, one abstention.

5. Educational Presentations and Commission Discussion

A. Wausau MPO Website

Discussion: Federal website accessibility standards must be met this coming April. Miskimins reviewed two paths to bring the MPO site into compliance including:

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Pay to bring website to compliance.
2. Bring the MPO website under Marathon County website, allowing us to access their accessibility tools to achieve compliance.

We can move MPO to county website rather easily. Staff recommended to migrate to the county website. Clarifying questions were asked regarding remnant links on websites and documents leading to the old website. Staff clarified a redirect would be put in place.

B. Bike/Ped Sub-Committee Update (Bicycle Passport)

Discussion: Bike Map and information for the BFC application are being sought from the municipalities. Miskimins gave an overview of the bike passport initiative and highlighted the goal of active transportation and highlighting communities within the MPO and supporting local tourism. Miskimins noted that a larger scale program had low participation initially but grew over time. Fifrlick asked if it would be geared towards locals or tourists. Miskimins noted it would be for both groups.

C. 2027 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Discussion: Anklam noted the Wausau MPO has typically adopted their LRTP in the first quarter of the year it is due. Anklam presented a relative timeline of the LRTP update due in 2027. More work will come in future meetings. No questions were offered.

D. Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

Discussion: Anklam received a phone call from WisDOT about the availability of CRP funding for shovel ready projects. Anklam highlighted that the CRP may not be coming back in the future funding cycles. Members are being asked for last-minute proposals by this Friday. Example projects are included within the packet. Fifrlick asked how a community would bring forth a project they may have. Anklam informed the committee they would need to get in touch with him, and he would then connect the prospective communities with WisDOT.

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

A. Next Meeting Date and Time – Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, at 2:00 PM

B. Future Agenda Items

7. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business before the members, Motion/Second by Thuot/VanDeWalle to adjourn the meeting of the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission at 2:21pm 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)**

January 13, 2026

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING

COMMISSION RESOLUTION #1-26

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 *Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (5310) amendments*, and the *USH 51 NB/SB Concrete Joint Replacement and Panel Replacement Projects*, and attaches the *2025-2028 TIP Amendment Table 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 13th day of January 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Fifrick'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'R' and a series of horizontal strokes for the 'F'.

Randy Fifrick, Commission Chairman

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

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

2025 - 2028 TABLE 1 AMENDMENT
TIP PROJECT LISTING (\$)
Amendment 1/13/2026

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 Additions

81	City of Wausau and Village of Maine	Concrete Joint Replacement and Pannel Replacement USH 51 NB Bridge Street to Decator Drive 373-26-006	PE ROW CONST TOTAL							\$115,200	\$28,800	\$144,000								Let Date: 8/10/2032 State Project ID: 1170-02-30/60 P Total improvement cost: \$3,513,600. This total includes current and future project phases which may be outside of the four-year TIP cycle and is for illustrative purposes only.
82	City of Wausau and Village of Maine	Concrete Joint Replacement and Pannel Replacement USH 51 SB Bridge Street to Decator Drive 373-26-007	PE ROW CONST TOTAL							\$115,200	\$28,800	\$144,000								Let Date: 8/10/2032 State Project ID: 1170-02-31/61 P Total improvement cost: \$3,513,600. This total includes current and future project phases which may be outside of the four-year TIP cycle and is for illustrative purposes only.

TABLE 2
Assessment of Available Funding for the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program
 Amendment January 13 2026

Funding Source		Programmed Expenditures				Estimated Available Funding			
Agency	Program	2025	2026	2027	2028	2025	2026	2027	2028
Federal Highway	NHPP	\$23,632,389	\$14,283,400	\$0	\$13,927,389	\$23,632,389	\$14,283,400	\$0	\$13,927,389
Administration	STBG	\$0	\$1,212,247	\$2,634,977	\$6,092,270	\$0	\$1,212,247	\$2,634,977	\$6,092,270
	BR	\$0	\$2,025,208	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,025,208	\$0	\$0
	IM	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TAP	\$2,326,717	\$847,937	\$0	\$0	\$2,326,717	\$847,937	\$0	\$0
	CRP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	HSIP	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0
	WEVI	\$885,428	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$885,428	\$0	\$0	\$0
	OCR	\$178,265	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$178,265	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals		\$27,202,799	\$18,548,792	\$2,814,977	\$20,019,659	\$27,202,799	\$18,548,792	\$2,814,977	\$20,019,659
Totals	Inflated by 2.93% Annually	\$27,202,799	\$19,092,272	\$2,979,935	\$21,779,387	\$27,202,799	\$19,092,272	\$2,979,935	\$21,779,387

Federal Transit Administration	Section 5307 -- Wausau Urbanized Area	\$1,418,551	\$1,461,107	\$1,490,329	\$1,621,329	\$1,418,551	\$1,461,107	\$1,490,329	\$1,621,329
	Section 5310	\$603,435	\$511,568	\$0	\$0	\$603,435	\$511,568	\$0	\$0
	Section 5339	\$3,570,424	\$2,834,955	\$0	\$0	\$3,570,424	\$2,834,955	\$0	\$0
	Section 5307 - Other	\$109,681	\$111,875	\$114,112	\$124,142	\$109,681	\$111,875	\$114,112	\$124,142
Totals		\$5,702,091	\$4,919,505	\$1,604,441	\$1,745,471	\$5,702,091	\$4,919,505	\$1,604,441	\$1,745,471
Totals	Inflated by 2.93% Annually	\$5,702,091	\$5,063,646	\$1,698,461	\$1,898,898	\$5,702,091	\$5,063,646	\$1,698,461	\$1,898,898

Wausau CY2026 Section 5310 Specialized Transit Projects

Subrecipient	Counties Served	Project Type	Project Detail	Award	Local Match	MPO
Center for Independent Living -	Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Grant, Iowa, Iron, Jackson, La Crosse, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Monroe, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Price, Richland, Rusk, Sauk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Vilas, Washburn, Wood	Mobility Management	Call-center; mobility management	\$ 132,196	\$ 33,049	Duluth-Superior, Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire, Wausau, La Crosse
		Operating Assistance	Volunteer Drivers; Travel Coordination	\$ 256,838	\$ 256,838	

The Center has grown geographically to one of the largest volunteer driver and voucher program in the nation. The program currently staffs, 1 full time Transportation Director/Regional Mobility Manager, 1 full time Transportation Program Coordinator, 1 Transportation Program Assistant, 5 full time Transportation Specialist who do dispatching and information and referral in a 42 county service area in North Western and Central Wisconsin. The Center's transportation programs operate 7 days a week 24 hours a day. (Which would include weekends and holidays) These hours insure that all riders get their unmet needs taken care of when other programs are closed. The Center has found that the riders need flexible transportation options and provides these services to meet their ever-changing needs. The Center can also provide rides that cross state lines and boundaries that other programs cannot.

Opportunity of North Central WI., Inc.	Marathon, Wood	Vehicle - Replacement	Medium Roof Transit Bariatric Rear Load	\$ 65,254	\$ 21,751	Wausau
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Opportunity Inc. provides accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities to and from their homes, to places of employment, to medical/dental appointments, to the pharmacy, to the store so they can purchase their necessities and for socialization and recreational opportunities to prevent isolation and loneliness. Our entire fleet is aging. We have only five vehicles newer than 2015 and the majority of our fleet is made up of vehicles from 2010, 2009, and 2008. We have increased our efficiencies to utilize our current fleet, however, we anticipate that we will have to continue to retire vehicles due to severe rusting problems.

Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers	Lincoln, Oneida, Marathon	Mobility Management	One Call Center	\$ 24,491	\$ 6,123	Wausau
		Operating Assistance	Volunteer Drivers	\$ 32,789	\$ 32,789	

The Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers (TAIV) is a private non-profit organization and strictly a volunteer service. The transportation program enables seniors and individuals with disabilities to fully participate independently in their communities. Our Mission and vision is to deploy our volunteer into action, building relationships, and working together to fill the gap between family and other resources for our seniors and those with disabilities in our community.

Wausau MPO STP-Urban 2026-2031
Funding Recommendations - Jan 2025

Municipality	Project	Rank	Construction Cost*	80%	75%	70%
City of Wausau	S. 17th Ave	1	\$ 2,209,800	\$ 1,767,840	\$ 1,657,350	\$ 1,546,860
City of Schofield	Grosvonts Drive	3	\$ 918,974	\$ 735,179	\$ 689,230	\$ 643,281
Village of Weston	Schofield Ave	2	\$ 1,660,410	\$ 1,328,328	\$ 1,245,308	\$ 1,162,287
Available			\$ 1,875,166	* Participating Roadway Cost and State Review Cost Only		

Scenario 1 (70%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,546,860	70%
Camp Phillips & Ross (2023)	\$	2,480,306	79.77%

Scenario 2 (75%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,657,350	75%
Camp Phillips & Ross (2023)	\$	2,569,816	76.48%

Scenario 3 (80%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,767,840	80%
Camp Phillips & Ross (2023)	\$	2,459,326	73.19%

Scenario 4 (70%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,546,860	70%
Ross Ave Metro-Alderson (2022)	\$	2,963,103	81.99%

Scenario 5 (75%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,657,350	75%
Ross Ave Metro-Alderson (2022)	\$	2,852,813	77.51%

Scenario 6 (80%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,767,840	80%
Ross Ave Metro-Alderson (2022)	\$	2,742,323	78.47%

Scenario 7 (72%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,591,056	72%
Camp Phillips & Ross (2023)	\$	2,550,818	76.18%
Ross Ave Metro-Alderson (2022)	\$	2,711,288	77.58%

*** Camp Phillips & Ross receives - \$207,818 ***
*** Metro-Alderson receives - \$76,292 ***

Scenario 8 (73%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,591,056	72%
Camp Phillips & Ross (2023)	\$	2,486,110	73.99%
Ross Ave Metro-Alderson (2022)	\$	2,788,992	79.69%

*** Favors giving Metro-Alderson more \$ due to being over budget ***
*** Camp Phillips & Ross receives - \$134,110 ***
*** Metro-Alderson receives - \$150,000 ***
*** Increases both 2022 and 2023 projects by ~4% ***

Scenario 9 (74%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,635,252	74%
Camp Phillips & Ross (2023)	\$	2,502,000	74.46%
Ross Ave Metro-Alderson (2022)	\$	2,724,914	77.97%

*** Camp Phillips & Ross receives - \$150,000 ***
*** Metro-Alderson receives - \$89,914 ***

Scenario 10 (76%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,679,448	76%
Camp Phillips & Ross (2023)	\$	2,472,080	73.57%
Ross Ave Metro-Alderson (2022)	\$	2,716,428	77.50%

*** Camp Phillips & Ross receives - \$120,000 ***
*** Metro-Alderson receives - \$75,718 ***

Scenario 11 (75%)		Funding Level	Amount Remaining
Total Funding Available	\$	1,875,166	
S. 17th Ave (2023)	\$	1,657,350	75.00%
Camp Phillips & Ross (2023)	\$	2,520,000	75.00%
Ross Ave Metro-Alderson (2022)	\$	2,684,813	76.82%

*** Wausau project receives 75% ***
*** Camp Phillips & Ross receives \$168,000 bringing it up to 75% ***
*** Ross Ave Metro-Alderson receives remaining \$49,816 bringing it up to 76.82% ***

*** Camp Phillips & Ross originally funded at 70% or \$2,352,000 ***
*** Camp Phillips & Ross tied for the #1 project during the previous cycle ***
*** The other #1 project (Ross Ave - River Bend/Paul's Ave) received 75% ***
*** Both projects scored a 14/22 ***
*** Construction slated for 2028 ***
*** Camp Phillips & Ross project cost - \$3,360,000 ***

*** Ross Ave Metro-Alderson originally funded at 75.39% or \$2,634,997 ***
*** Ross Ave Metro-Alderson was the #1 project two cycles ago ***
*** Construct slated for 2027 ***
*** Project is currently over budget ***
*** Ross Ave Metro-Alderson project cost - \$3,494,710 ***



WAUSAU MPO BIKE PASSPORT INITIATIVE BRIEF

OVERVIEW

The Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in collaboration with Visit Wausau, Wausau and Marathon County Parks & Recreation, Forestry, is hoping to launch a community-wide initiative for promoting active transportation and regional tourism. The initiative is focused on encouraging biking and walking while enhancing community safety, connecting local assets, and fostering a stronger sense of place within the Wausau MPO communities. This "Bike Passport" initiative will serve to raise awareness of bike-pedestrian safety, available resources, and the infrastructure that supports sustainable transportation and recreation throughout the region.

PARTICIPATING PARTNERS

- **Visit Wausau:** Will support promotion of the initiative and provide key tourist information.
- **City of Wausau and Marathon County Parks & Recreation Department:** Will support local events and help promote the program.
- **Local Businesses:** Will be encouraged to provide incentives (e.g., discounts or perks) to passport holders. The first year will focus on businesses close to MPO or family friendly routes, typically offering some water or bathroom access too.
- **Municipal Parks** Will ensure the inclusion of surrounding communities and connect users to local recreational assets.

CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVE

The primary goal of the Bike Passport initiative is to endorse active transportation, specifically biking and walking, across the Wausau MPO communities. In addition to increasing safety and encouraging pedestrian and cyclist-friendly infrastructure, the initiative will also highlight regional attractions, parks, & local businesses. By increasing participation in active transportation, we aim to build awareness of the benefits of sustainable transit, foster regional tourism, and highlight the scenic and recreational opportunities available in our communities.

Even for participants not interested in walking or bicycling but still interested in joining the passport and visiting businesses, the campaign would provide them with exposure to bicycle and pedestrian regulations, safety, and build awareness amongst all modes.



LOGISTICS OVERVIEW

The management of the Bike Passport campaign will be a joint effort between the MPO staff and Visit Wausau. The program will be available in both **digital** and **paper** formats, allowing participants to choose the most convenient option for their needs. Participants will sign up to receive their passport; the digital option will be on an online platform that uses the participants' location to check into stops. This initiative is **passive**: there will be no active monitoring of whether participants are walking or biking, so the focus will remain on building awareness and fostering positive community engagement.

This effort would be piloted in 2026 with the goal to expand in future years. Visit Wausau may also pursue concurrent modules (e.g. a passport focused on area restaurants) to increase participation and promote the regional economy.

OUTCOMES

1. **Increased Awareness for Bike-Pedestrian Safety:** The initiative will raise public consciousness about the importance of bike-ped safety and the available resources for cyclists and pedestrians in the Wausau MPO region.
2. **Promotion of Local Resources and Infrastructure:** By highlighting parks, recreational paths, and other infrastructure, the program will draw attention to the investments already made in transportation options within the community. These types of stops will also be ideal places to provide resources, like bike maps and safety reminders. MPO staff will work with stops in the passport to make educational materials available, and encourage them to update or pursue bicycle parking.
3. **Boost to Regional Tourism:** By promoting local assets, the program will serve as a tool to attract visitors to the region, boosting local businesses and tourism-driven economic development.
4. **Community Engagement:** The initiative will create an opportunity for local businesses, organizations, and community groups to engage with the program, which fosters collaboration across local stakeholders.

DATA COLLECTION AND PARTICIPATION

- **Sign-up and Tracking:** Participants will register for the passport online or via paper form, and they will track their progress through a simple sign-up and stamp system. The data collected will include:
 - The number of participants who sign up.
 - The number of completions (people who collect a certain number of stops/points/pick up reward).



- Feedback from participants and any improvements that could be made.
- **Participation Growth:** Previous initiatives have shown that participation can initially be low, but with consistent promotion and engagement, the program is likely to grow over time. We will track these trends to determine the success and scalability of the initiative.

MPO COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND PROMOTION REQUEST

The support of local communities is essential to the success of the Bike Passport initiative. We are asking for:

- **Promotion:** The program will require broad promotion via:
 - Social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
 - Newsletters from community organizations, including park systems and local businesses.
 - Press releases to local media outlets.

The MPO and Visit Wausau would partner to create materials for the communities to use in promotional efforts.

- **Endorsement:** We will be taking this initiative to the MPO Planning Commission on January 13, 2026, to affirm desire to move forward with the initiative. We request that you share this brief with your municipal officials and/or local bicycle and pedestrian committees to gather additional feedback or questions. This will help ensure the initiative has the support and visibility it needs to succeed.

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

There is no major financial investment required for this program. The costs associated with the Bike Passport are minimal due to the initiative depending on the in-kind contributions of partners for promotion, distribution, and engagement. No formal funding requests are being made. Instead, we are focused on leveraging existing resources and collaborations to promote the initiative as an easy, low-cost way to improve local transportation infrastructure, enhance public health, and boost tourism.

CONCLUSION

The Bike Passport initiative represents an opportunity to engage our local communities in promoting active transportation, enhancing bike-pedestrian safety, and boosting regional tourism. With the cooperation of local organizations, businesses, and municipal partners, this initiative will foster a more active, engaged, and connected region. We look forward to partnering with you all on this initiative and promoting it across the Wausau MPO communities.



2025 SS4A Award List –

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/2025-full-award-list>

“On **December 23, 2025**, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced \$982,231,998 in awards for the FY25 SS4A program to develop comprehensive safety action plans, conduct supplemental planning and demonstration activities, and implement projects at the local level. The award announcements and a list of selected projects can be found at

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A/2025-awards>. The amount of funding requests submitted during the FY25 SS4A application period significantly exceeded the funds available. As a result, over 75% of applications submitted for this round were not selected for a funding award.”



2026



January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Wausau MPO Commission meetings are held at 2:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month as indicated by the highlighted dates.