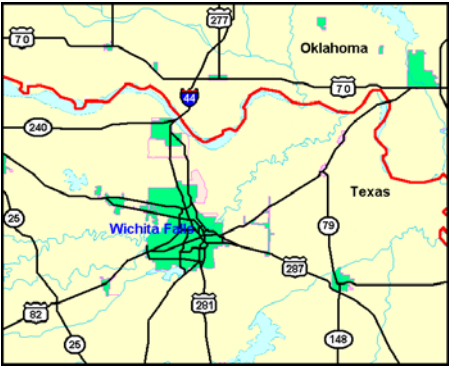


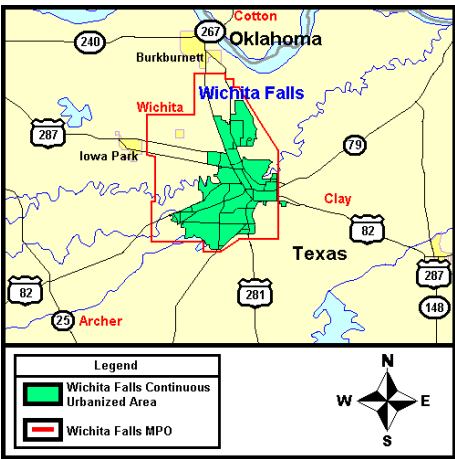


Figure 1.1: Map of Wichita Falls and Environs



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1.2: Wichita Falls MPO



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

¹SAFETEA-LU changes this requirement to every 4 years.

Figure 1 presents a map of Wichita Falls and Environs. Figure 2 presents a map of the MPO. The Wichita Falls MPO takes in the City of Wichita Falls and surrounding area.

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a three-year¹ schedule of all transportation projects, including major streets and highways, public transportation, pedestrian walkways, bicycle facilities, and transportation enhancement projects proposed for federal funding and carried out within the Wichita Falls Metropolitan Planning Area. Regionally significant locally funded projects are included as well. Requisite to receiving federal funding, all FHWA and/or FTA supported transportation projects in the Wichita Falls Metropolitan Area must be listed in the TIP and in the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan – 2025.

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP is the annual implementation document for the 25-Year MTP. All transportation and transportation-related planning within the MPO planning area is coordinated by the UPWP, and gives details of Federal and State funded activities proposed for completion during that fiscal year. Features of the UPWP include a budget for the utilization of funds, and a project-by-project breakdown of which agency is responsible for which task. By providing this level of detail, the UPWP is able to be a vehicle for grant application and project management.

The UPWP is Federally mandated and is part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) that continued the section of federal law (initially adopted in 1962) defining the responsibilities of a Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Seven broad planning areas were identified in TEA-21. The work tasks contained in each UPWP address all seven areas.

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
2. Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
3. Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and for freight;
4. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life;
5. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
6. Promote efficient system management and operation; and
7. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

Previous plans listed in the FY 2005 UPWP are:

1. Studies and presentations to TxDOT / Texas Transportation Commission in support of and prioritizing the completion of US 82/277 (Kell Freeway), and its connection to US 287/US 281/SH79/IH-44 elevated freeway via a four-direction interchange, and completion of