

PREPARED BY ERIC WRIGHT

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

EAST ALABAMA REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2025

2026 WORK PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR 2026

EAST ALABAMA RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)



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WORK PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2026

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This Work Program was financed in part by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Alabama Department of Transportation, and local governments, and prepared for the RPO by the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, in partial fulfillment of Task 4.0 of the FY 2025 RPO Work Program and requirements set forth in Title 23 USC 134 and 135 (as amended by the Infrastructure Investment Act and Jobs Act Section 11201, November 2021,

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EAST ALABAMA RPO REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE - VOTING MEMBERS

The Regional Policy Committee's voting members are all current members of the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission Board of Directors.

REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE – NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration

Transportation Planning Engineer, Alabama Department of Transportation

Region Engineer of North Region, Alabama Department of Transportation

Region Engineer of East Central, Alabama Department of Transportation

Chair, Calhoun Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Chair, Gadsden-Etowah Metropolitan Planning Organization

Resolution 2025-6653

*The East Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO)
adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Work Program*

WHEREAS, the East Alabama RPO was established to serve as the decision-making body and to provide guidance to local governments in conducting the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation, for portions or all of Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa Counties in Alabama, as established in 23 USC 134 and 135 (as amended by the Infrastructure Investment Act and Jobs Act Section 11201, November 2021); and

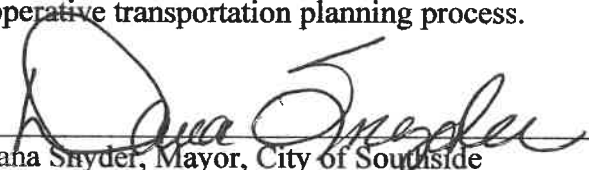
WHEREAS, the RPO is interested in the continued development of the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process, as described in 23 CFR 450.210(b), through on-going public involvement and data collection of the rural transportation needs and issues of the citizens in the aforementioned counties; and

WHEREAS, the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, serving as staff to the RPO, is required to provide guidance to local governments in conducting the non-metropolitan planning process as a cooperative effort with the Alabama Department of Transportation as established in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking June 13, 2014; and


WHEREAS, the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission has prepared an FY 2026 Work Program outlining the tasks necessary to accomplish the goals of the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process and the Rural Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, the RPO Work Program has been duly reviewed, discussed, and approved by the RPO;

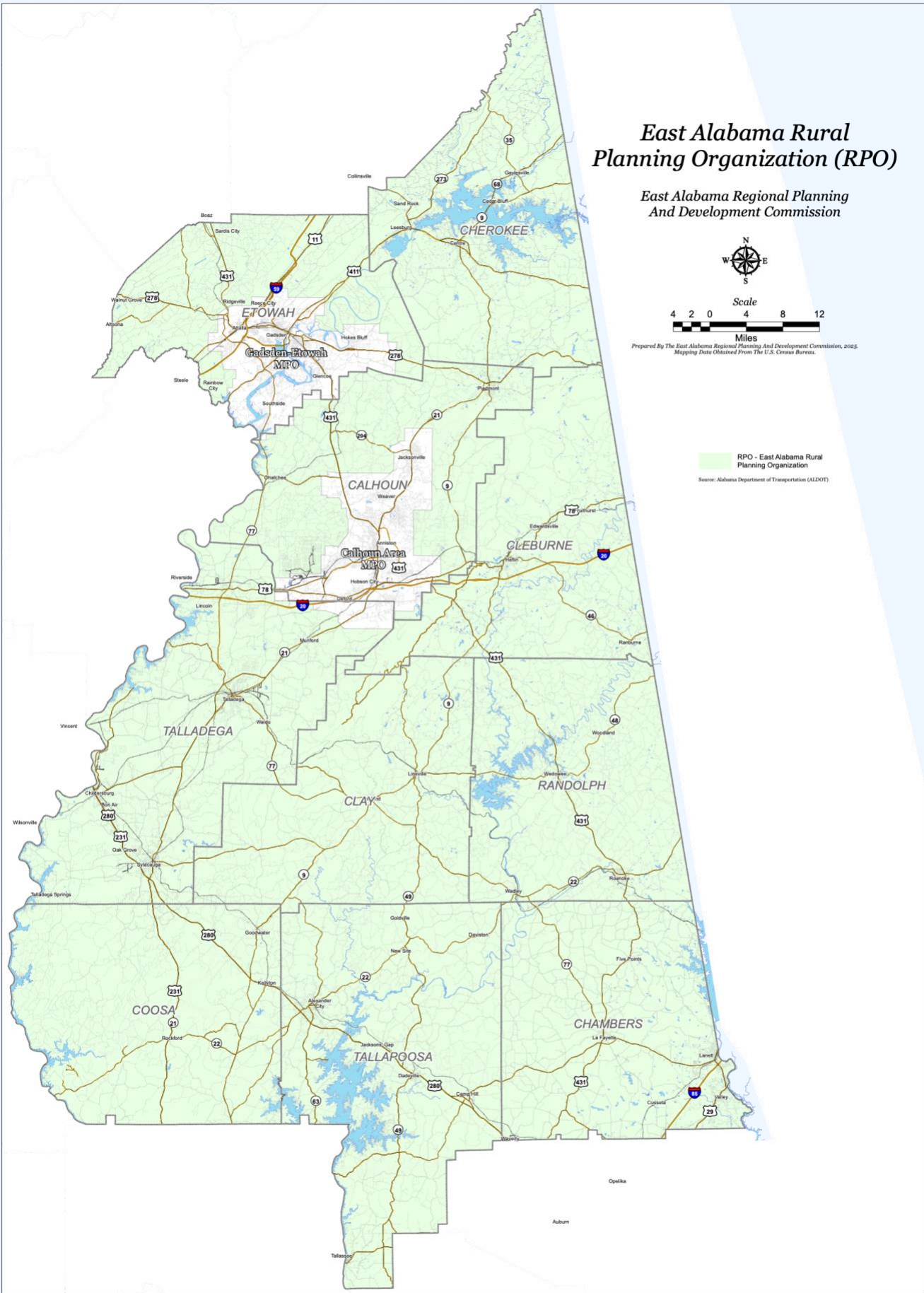
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 24th day September 2025 that the East Alabama RPO does hereby adopt and endorse the FY 2026 Work Program as the guide for tasks to be completed for the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process.


Dana Snyder, Mayor, City of Southside
Chairman

Attest:



Louis Davidson, City of LaFayette
Secretary



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to describe the work that will be performed by the East Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) in Fiscal Year 2026. The Rural Planning Organization has been organized to conduct the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process with the Alabama Department of Transportation in the ten East Alabama counties (Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, Tallapoosa). The planning process will be a one-year program sponsored by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission.

GOALS

The goals of the RPO are:

- A well-managed non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process.
- An effective transportation committee structure.
- A comprehensive data library and distribution source.
- Reports that are useful to the ALDOT and the local governments.
- A well-informed public actively participates in the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process.

FORMAT

The work program is divided into six tasks. The tasks outline the non-metropolitan transportation planning work that the staff at the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission will perform over the one-year period (Fiscal Year 2026). The description of each task includes the objective, methodology, products, staffing, and schedule.

TITLE VI IN THE PREPARATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM

The East Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is committed to ensuring public participation in the development of all non-metropolitan transportation plans and programs. It is the goal of the RPO that the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process be accessible, transparent, and inclusive. The RPO is and will be compliant with all Title VI programs, processes and procedures including, but not limited to, 42 USC 2000d-1. Anyone with disabilities or limited English capabilities may request special assistance to participate in the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process.

Tasks

1.0 - ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE

To effectively manage the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process.

PROPOSED WORK

1. The Regional Commission will manage the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process.
2. The Regional Commission employees will maintain time sheets and activity logs.
3. The Regional Commission will prepare and submit invoices as required by the ALDOT.
4. The Regional Commission will prepare monthly progress reports.
5. The Regional Commission will prepare annual progress reports.
6. Regional Commission staff will participate in ALDOT-approved training as needed. Out-of-State travel will be approved by ALDOT.
7. The Regional Commission will assist in coordinating ADA Transition Plan activities among the local governments, the state, and FHWA.
8. Purchase equipment, supplies, and software as needed

PRODUCTS

1. A well-managed planning process
2. Employee time sheets
3. Monthly invoice reports
4. Monthly progress reports
5. Annual progress reports
6. Training session reports

STAFFING

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

SCHEDULE

FY 2026 annual report (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026)

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Funding Source	Amount
SPR	\$ 12,390.00
EARPDC	\$ 3,097.50
Total	\$15,487.50

2.0 - COMMITTEE SERVICES

OBJECTIVE

To effectively conduct Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meetings

PROPOSED WORK

1. The Regional Commission will maintain Regional and District Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee mailing lists.
2. The Regional Commission will prepare and distribute meeting notices for the Regional and District Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meetings.
3. The Regional Commission will hold the Regional and District Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meetings.
4. The Regional Commission will take minutes at the Regional and District Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meetings.
5. The Regional Commission will supply speakers to give presentations on topics of interest to local government participants.

PRODUCTS

1. Regional and District Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee mailing lists
2. Timely meeting notices
3. Well-organized Regional and District Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meetings
4. Well-written minutes of the Regional and District Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meetings
5. Informative handouts about topics of concern to participating local governments.

STAFFING

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

SCHEDULE

Not applicable

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Funding Source	Amount
SPR	\$20,685.00
EARPDC	\$ 5,171.25
Total	\$25,856.25

3.0 - DATA MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE

To gather, maintain, and distribute data related to the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process

PROPOSED WORK

1. The Regional Commission will gather the necessary data to conduct the committee meetings and produce the transportation planning documents.
2. The Regional Commission will maintain the transportation data within databases, spreadsheets, and GIS files.
3. The Regional Commission will distribute the transportation data as required by the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process and by request.

PRODUCTS

1. An organized method for researching transportation data
2. Transportation databases, spreadsheets, and GIS files
3. Distribution systems and methods for transportation data

STAFFING

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

SCHEDULE

Not applicable

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Funding Source	Amount
SPR	\$24,952.20
EARPDC	\$ 6,238.05
Total	\$31,190.25

4.0 - REPORTS

OBJECTIVE

To prepare reports for the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process committees and ALDOT

PROPOSED WORK

1. The Regional Commission will prepare a document that summarizes the long-range transportation needs of the region based on input received from the committees and the general public.
2. The Regional Commission will prepare a prospectus that summarizes the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process.
3. The Regional Commission will prepare a list of safety suggestions based on input gathered during the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process and provide the list to the ALDOT and local engineers.
4. The Regional Commission will prepare the FY 2027 Work Program.

PRODUCTS

1. A document that summarizes the long-range transportation needs of the region
2. A prospectus that summarizes the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process
3. Safety suggestion list
4. The Draft and Final FY 2026 Work Program

STAFFING

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

SCHEDULE

Draft FY 2027 Work Program – June 2026

Final FY 2027 Work Program – August 2026

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Funding Source	Amount
SPR	\$12,448.80
EARPDC	\$ 3,112.20
Total	\$15,561.00

5.0 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (RPO)

OBJECTIVE

To inform the public of the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process and to actively seek public involvement.

PROPOSED WORK

1. The Regional Commission will maintain a mailing list of members of the public who wish to be notified directly of public involvement meetings.
2. The Regional Commission will prepare and distribute notices for public involvement meetings.
3. The Regional Commission will hold public involvement meetings.
4. The Regional Commission will make reports of the public involvement meetings.
5. The Regional Commission will develop and maintain a news release mailing list.
6. The Regional Commission will distribute news releases for all non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process meetings.
7. The Regional Commission will implement the public involvement plan.
8. The Regional Commission will prepare a record of public involvement.

PRODUCTS

1. A public involvement mailing list
2. Timely meeting notices
3. Well-organized public involvement meetings
4. Well-written reports of the public involvement meetings
5. A news release mailing list
6. Local media contacts and special interest groups that are well notified
7. A record of public involvement
- 8.

STAFFING

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

SCHEDULE

Not applicable

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Funding Source	Amount
SPR	\$ 11,949
EARPDC	\$ 2,987.25
Total	\$14,936.25

6.0 – REGIONAL SAFETY STUDY

OBJECTIVE

To identify, analyze, and recommend strategies to improve transportation safety across the ten-county East Alabama RPO region.

PROPOSED WORK

1. Collect and analyze crash data, traffic incident reports, and roadway safety statistics from local, state, and federal sources.
2. Identify high-crash locations, safety concerns, and trends through data analysis and stakeholder input.
3. Conduct field reviews and site assessments at identified high-risk locations.
4. Engage local governments, law enforcement, emergency responders, and the public to gather input on safety issues and potential solutions.
5. Review and incorporate best practices and proven safety countermeasures from state and national sources.
6. Develop a prioritized list of safety improvement recommendations for roadways, intersections, and corridors.
7. Prepare a comprehensive Regional Safety Study report summarizing findings, analysis, and recommendations.
8. Present study results to the RPO committees and local governments for feedback and implementation planning.

PRODUCTS

1. Regional crash and safety data analysis
2. List and maps of high-crash and high-risk locations
3. Stakeholder and public input summaries
4. Prioritized safety improvement recommendations
5. Comprehensive Regional Safety Study report
6. Presentations and handouts for committees and local governments

STAFFING

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission along with consultant support

SCHEDULE

Complete by the end of FY2026

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Funding Source	Amount
SPR	\$40,000.00
EARPDC	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$50,000.00

FINANCIAL TABLES

Summary of Work Program Budget by Task – FY 2026

TASK		SPR	EARPDC	TOTAL
1	Administration and Management	\$12,390.00	\$3097.50	\$15,487.50
2	Committee Services	\$20,685.00	\$5,171.25	\$25,856.25
3	Data Management	\$24,952.20	\$6,238.05	\$31,190.25
4	Reports	\$12,448.80	\$3,112.20	\$15,561.00
5	Public Involvement - RPO	\$11,949.00	\$2,987.25	\$14,936.25
6	Regional Safety Study	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$50,000.00
Totals		\$84,425	\$20,606.25	\$103,031.25