



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** Waiver of State Planning and Research
Funds Match for the *Mid-America Freight
Coalition (MAFC) Phase 5* Transportation
Pooled Fund Study

Date: January 26, 2026

From: Kenneth N. Petty, II
Director, Office of Planning

In Reply
Refer to: HEPP-1

To: Emily Biondi
Associate Administrator for
Planning, Environment and Realty

The Office of Planning requests your approval to waive the matching requirement of State Planning and Research (SPR) Subpart A (Planning) funds in support of the Mid-America Freight Coalition (MAFC) Phase 5 Pooled Fund (TPF) Study ([Solicitation #1652](#)).

This project will support the MAFC as they collaborate, innovate, and conduct freight planning, freight policy and operations across the 10-state Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials (MAASTO) region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin). The Coalition's operations are founded and guided by the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Board of Directors of MAASTO and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The MAFC's major emphasis areas support advances in multimodal freight planning practices, freight operations and technology, and freight policy, all in a collaborative framework. Importantly, the emphasis areas are determined by the participating state professionals. The work is completed in service to both the states and the region, as well as towards advancing national freight planning priorities throughout the MAASTO region. The projects and activities of the MAFC support critical linkages between freight movement and services, as well as economic and community development. The freight coordination of the MAASTO region can provide guidance and identify best practices at a national level relating to multistate coordination of freight activities and in support of goals within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Public Law 117-58).

This solicitation is for the fifth iteration of the MAFC pooled fund. Previous iterations were TPF-5 (156), TPF-5 (293), TPF-5 (396), and TPF-5 (509). The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) seeks to continue leadership of the pooled fund that will:

- Provide guidance and solutions for state-defined freight-related research.
- Support the IIJA's goals through multistate collaboration in freight policy, facility

development, and operations harmonization.

- Improve cross-state freight-related coordination and facility development.
- Increase awareness of the importance of freight transportation to support state, regional, and national economies.
- Provide freight-oriented professional development resources and peer to peer networking.
- Maintain and expand the region's reputation as freight friendly.

The results of the MAFC activities continue to support and develop the economic well-being of the industries, businesses, farms, and people of the 10-state region by keeping their products flowing to markets safely, reliably, and efficiently. Participation in this TPF study extends the opportunity for agencies to support research on freight and economic development issues specific to the needs of transportation agencies, advance regional freight-related coordination, assist in national freight priorities, and ultimately allow for the quick implementation of research and development efforts.

Partners are asked to commit a minimum of \$50,400 per year for research, program maintenance, and the annual meeting. Additionally, the five states that voted to continue warehousing Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS) data (Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Wisconsin) will contribute an additional \$8,400 per state per year to support the TPIMS data library. The TPIMS amount has been adjusted to account for only participating states. This TPF study is intended to last 36 months starting in 2026. Future obligations will occur as needed to fund further activities set forth by the MAASTO Board of Directors.

The Office of Planning reviewed the submission and concludes that it is in the best interest of the Federal-aid Highway Program to allow the use of SPR Subpart A funds without matching for this TPF study in order to advance the state-of-the-practice in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning. Therefore, consistent with the provisions in 23 U.S.C. 505(d) and 23 CFR 420.119(d), we recommend your concurrence in this waiver of the SPR non-Federal match requirements.

I Concur:

Emily Biondi
Signature

1/26/2026

Date

I DO NOT Concur:

Signature

Date