

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES Approved 5-21-15
10:30 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015**

ENTITY	MEMBER	PROXY
BELLA VISTA		
BENTON COUNTY	JOHN SUDDUTH	KEVIN GAMBRILL
BENTONVILLE	MIKE CHURCHWELL BEAU THOMPSON	
BETHEL HEIGHTS	CYNTHIA BLACK	
CAVE SPRINGS		
CENTERTON	BILL EDWARDS RICK HUDSON	
ELKINS		
ELM SPRINGS		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	
FAYETTEVILLE	JESSE FULCHER PAUL LIBERTINI CHRIS BROWN	
GENTRY		
GREENLAND	BILL GROOM	
HIGHFILL		
JOHNSON	CHRIS KEENEY	
LINCOLN		
LITTLE FLOCK		
LOWELL		
PEA RIDGE	JACKIE CRABTREE	
PRAIRIE GROVE	SONNY HUDSON	
ROGERS	STEVE GLASS NATHAN BECKNELL	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS JUSTIN BLAND	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE	
TONTITOWN		
WASHINGTON CO.	JULIET RICHEY	PATSY CHRISTIE
WEST FORK		
NWARPC	JEFF HAWKINS	
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	RAY AVERY	BOB MORGAN
OZARK REG. TRANSIT		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY SMITH	
U OF A	MIKE JOHNSON	GARY SMITH
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER	
McDONALD COUNTY		
PINEVILLE		
AHTD PLANNING	PAUL SIMMS	
AHTD TRANSIT		
AHTD DISTRICT 9	MITCHELL ARCHER	

NWARPC STAFF: John McLarty; Cristina Scarlet; Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP; Elizabeth Bowen
CONSULTANTS: Steve Taylor, CoPlan; via telephone Shawn Turner, Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI).

OTHERS: Gerry Russell, Johnson; Lorene Burns, Centerton; Jared Peters, Benton County; Susan Anders, Johnson; Kathryn Gough, Senator Boozman’s office; David Blakeney, Arkansas-FHWA; Ron Wood, NWA Democrat-Gazette; Jason James, AHTD

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Patsy Christie called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

2. APPROVE TAC MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 19, 2015

MOTION

Chair Patsy Christie asked for a motion to approve the TAC March 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes as distributed. Bill Groom made the motion. Sonny Hudson provided the second.

Motion passes unanimously.

3. DRAFT FY 2016 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

John McLarty explained the UPWP:

- The metropolitan transportation planning process provides for consideration of projects and strategies that will fulfill the MAP-21 Planning Factors. A table is provided on page 3.
- 100: Collection/Analysis
 - Very similar to FY 2015; collection and analysis of data is on-going.
- 200: Short Term Planning and Technical Support
 - STP-A and TAP applications will be taken in summer 2016.
 - Congestion Management Process is on-going.
 - The Cave Springs Area Karst Resource Conservation Study is on-going.
 - Performance-Based Approach to planning – AHTD and NWARPC will coordinate on the establishment of a “performance-based approach” and the establishment of MPO “performance measures and performance targets”.
 - Coordination with MoDOT is on-going.
- 300: Long Range Planning
 - Transportation modeling is on-going.
 - The regional bicycle and pedestrian plan will be adopted into the 2014 MTP; continue to work with local jurisdictions on adding new connections to the system.
 - The update of the 2035 NWA Regional Transportation Plan to the 2040 NWA Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be complete in FY 2016.
- 400: Transportation Improvement Program
 - The FY 2016-2019 TIP will be completed in summer 2016.
- 500: Administration
 - Much the same as FY 2015.

4. **MoDOT'S "TOUGH CHOICES AHEAD"**

Frank Miller, MoDOT, explained the MoDOT funding direction and how it impacts McDonald County:

- With declining funding from state sources, it became apparent that providing the matching funds for projects would be impossible, and therefore federal money would be left on the table. There will only be a \$325M construction program in 2018.
- The primary system will be maintained with projects in the construction program. Supplementary routes will be maintained by MoDOT forces. All state roads will continue to be mowed and plowed.
- Route 71/I-49 – Continue construction funding; Hwy 59 – Continue construction funding.
- MoDOT forces will do pothole patching and chip seals on Route 90 and Route OO (near Jane) to keep them in the best condition possible.
- \$18.4M is still in the STIP toward the Bella Vista Bypass – but no new money will be going toward that project and it will have to be delayed until the remaining necessary funding can be identified. (The total project estimate is about \$50M.)
- MoDOT has had to triage the system; have proposed a 2+2+2+ scheme – which will be an incremental gas tax increase enabling the Department to maintain routes. Basically, this would allow MoDOT to take care of the system in a way that it could leverage the existing funds for special funding sources such as TIGER. Though it is not known when MoDOT would be ready to pursue special federal funds for Bella Vista, the 2+2+2+ concept could at least put the Department in a position to apply for some of these funding programs.

5. **AHTD REPORT**

Paul Simms, AHTD, reported that the FY 2015 STP-Attributable projects are listed below along with their current status. If anyone is waiting on the Department for any reason, let Paul know:

- **Job 040688 (Preliminary Engineering and Environmental work on the Sain Street connection from Front Street to Vantage Boulevard in Fayetteville)** – The City has advertised their Letter of Interest for a consultant and should have responses by April 20, 2015.
- **Job 040683 (Preliminary Engineering and Environmental work on Highway 170 from Highway 62 to Clyde Carnes Road in Farmington)** – In a letter dated February 20, 2015 the City was notified that a job had been established and directed to our Consultant Contracts Administrator for any questions in regard to selecting a consultant.
- **Job 090440 (Traffic Safety Study at the intersections of Highways 62 and 94 and of Highways 62, 94 and 12 in Rogers)** - In a letter dated March 23, 2015 the City was notified that a job had been established and directed to our Consultant Contracts Administrator for any questions in regard to selecting a consultant.
- **Job 090436 (Preliminary Engineering and Environmental work on the Mercy Way Corridor Improvements in Bella Vista)** – In a letter dated March 2, 2015 the City was notified that a job had been established and directed to our Consultant Contracts Administrator for any questions in regard to selecting a consultant.
- **Job 040657 (Right-of-Way and Utilities on Ruppel Road from Starry Night View to Mount Comfort Road in Fayetteville)** – There is an archeological site on the City's proposed route. There was a meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office on April 14, 2015.
- **Job 090439 (Construction of the New Hope Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge on the Razorback Regional Greenway in Rogers)** – In a letter dated March 19, 2015 the City was advised that their next step is to request SHPO review.

- **Railroad crossing projects at Dixieland Road and at Highway 94 and Easy Street in Rogers** – Waiting on the Railroad to sign the Agreements and to provide plans and estimates.
- **Job 090218 (Highway 62/102 Interchange and 8th street Improvements in Bentonville)** – The MPO and the Department have submitted the FAP request to FHWA so that future expenses on this project are assigned to FY 2015 STP-A funds.

6. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

John McLarty reported on the Draft NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan:

- Alta is incorporating any city changes into the draft and will produce a new document once all the changes are in.
- 20 out of 25 cities have adopted their individual Community Plans and endorsed the Regional Plan.
- The next step for these communities will be to implement some aspect of the 5 Es.

John McLarty reported on the Razorback Regional Greenway:

- The grand opening is planned for Saturday, May 2, 2015.
 - Each community along the trail will hold individual celebrations at 9:00 am.
 - At noon a community wide celebration will be held at Shiloh Square in Springdale. There will be speeches and vendors. Secretary Foxx, Department of Transportation, has been invited to speak, however his appearance has not been confirmed.
 - There are all kinds of activities planned – food trucks, bike rodeo, history tours on the trail, railroad rides.

7. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS PRESENTATION

Steve Taylor (and Shawn Turner on the phone) reported on the draft CMP:

- Would like the TAC to review this draft and submit comments, in order for a complete document to be available to the RPC/Policy Committee at its May meeting. Submit those comments to Tim Conklin.
- The draft CMP is NOT NWARPC's complete CMP; it is the base and foundation – it asks how the region is going to use these current conditions to evaluate new transportation projects on how well they have addressed congestion.
- This is the first phase, or step, in the congestion management process.
- **A Discussion** of the difference between “first phase” and the “completed Plan” ensued. Mr. Taylor explained that congestion management is a Process:
 - Congestion management is the use of strategies to optimize operation of a transportation system through management of the existing system.
 - The CM process is a regional systematic approach that offers current performance measures detailing the transportation systems performance and then evaluates strategies that meet local objectives.
 - Over the past 18 months, congestion management objectives have been formulated by the CMP Committee and approved by the TAC. Additionally, measures of the transportation system performance have been established. The “phase” that the region is currently concerned with is the collection of data and system performance monitoring to define the extent and duration of congestion and determine the causes of congestion.
 - The next “phase” will involve the identification of congestion management strategies and the evaluation of those strategies in relation to the lessening of congestion region-wide.

- **Other discussion:**
 - Still looking for the “Plan”. And is there a time frame for completion of the entire Plan, if it is in “phases”?
 - Will more technical objectives be provided?
 - Metrics will be the next step, which will provide guidance as to what other MPOs do to implement congestion management. There will be multiple decisions along the way, such as the cost/benefit of different strategies and whether local jurisdictions are willing to participate in funding.
 - The data gathering and compilation process which the region is currently involved in, will require local decision making and buy-in on defining thresholds/performance measures. The local jurisdiction asking for funding needs to understand why their project was rejected when graded on congestion management measures.
- Mr. Taylor continued to explain the **Tasks in the Congestion Management Process** as outlined in the CMP Report presented:
 - **Task 1. Develop Regional Objectives for CM** – Complete
 - **Task 2. Define CMP Network** – Complete
 - **Task 3. Develop Multimodal Performance Measures** – This involves developing performance measures that will be used to measure congestion on a regional and local scale and should relate and support the regional objectives. Transit should be factored in here.
 - **Task 4. Collect Data/Monitor System Performance** – Data is collected and analyzed to determine how the transportation system performs. Data collection is on-going and may involve a wide range of data sources and partners.
 - **Task 5. Analyze Congestion Problems and Needs** – Using data and analysis techniques, the CMP should address what congestion problems are present or anticipated and what are the sources of unacceptable congestion. The CMP Committee decided the time periods when congestion was the worst; what was congested versus unacceptable; and decided to use the top 15% of the worst routes as a priority for funding for CM mitigation. The key here is that funding will be awarded first to projects that improve or eliminate congestion without adding capacity.
 - **Task 6. Identify and Assess Strategies** – This involves identifying and assessing potential strategies appropriate to mitigating congestion. Common mitigation categories include: Access Management /Signal Timing/Planned Improvements/Acceptable Delays/Intersection Geometry/Stop Signs/Added Capacity. Some MPOs have established “regional initiatives” to address operation deficiencies such as signal timing.
 - **Task 7. Program and Implement Strategies** – These are items that need to be addressed going forward – how and when will solutions be implemented.
 - **Task 8. Evaluate Strategy Effectiveness** – What has been learned about implemented strategies? This action may be tied to monitoring system performance under Task 4. It should inform future decision making about the effectiveness of transportation strategies.
- **Conclusions:**
 - Assemble detailed data from various sources for more specific mitigation.
 - In general, the transportation system provides sufficient capacity for current demand.
 - Increase focus on managing operations and maintenance.
- **The next step is to send comments on the Report to Tim within a week; move toward TAC approval at the May 21, 2015 meeting; Mr. Taylor will present the Report to the RPC/Policy Committee at their May 28, 2015 meeting.**

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Benton County will have the county-wide cleanup on Saturday, April 18, 2015
- AHTD Transportation Planning Conference – April 29 and 30, 2015
- **TAC meeting – Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 10:30 am**
- MTP Public Input Forum – Fayetteville Library, 3:30 to 6:30 pm – May 21, 2015
- RPC/Policy Committee meeting – Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 1:30 pm
- MTP Public Input Forum – Bentonville Library, 3:30 to 6:30 pm – May 28, 2015

10. ADJOURN

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion passes.