

# **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

## **FISCAL YEAR 2012**

**This Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines the planning activities of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission serving as the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.**

### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

<b>Avoca</b>	<b>Greenland</b>
<b>Bella Vista</b>	<b>Highfill</b>
<b>Benton County</b>	<b>Johnson</b>
<b>Bentonville</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>
<b>Bethel Heights</b>	<b>Little Flock</b>
<b>Cave Springs</b>	<b>Lowell</b>
<b>Centerton</b>	<b>Pea Ridge</b>
<b>Decatur</b>	<b>Prairie Grove</b>
<b>Elkins</b>	<b>Rogers</b>
<b>Elm Springs</b>	<b>Siloam Springs</b>
<b>Farmington</b>	<b>Springdale</b>
<b>Fayetteville</b>	<b>Springtown</b>
<b>Garfield</b>	<b>Sulphur Springs</b>
<b>Gateway</b>	<b>Tontitown</b>
<b>Gentry</b>	<b>Washington County</b>
<b>Goshen</b>	<b>West Fork</b>
<b>Gravette</b>	<b>University of Arkansas</b>
<b>Razorback Transit, Inc.</b>	<b>Ozark Regional Transit, Inc.</b>

**Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department**  
**Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission**

#### **IN COOPERATION WITH:**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**  
**FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION**

This document was funded in part through grant(s) from the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and/or the United States Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of the NWARPC expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Department of Transportation.

#### **NWARPC Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the NWARPC's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479-751-7125, (Voice/TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-285-1131) or the following email address: [cscott-silkwood@nwarpc.org](mailto:cscott-silkwood@nwarpc.org). This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille.

## SAFETEA-LU FACTORS CONSIDERED BY PROGRAM ELEMENT

On August 10, 2005, the President signed into law (Public Law 109-59), the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users, which is referred to as SAFETEA-LU. This law requires, under Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5303, that plans and programs address the eight factors listed below. The factors, which apply to each element of the Unified Planning Work Program, are listed in the table below.

In general: The metropolitan transportation planning process for a metropolitan area under this section shall provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will:

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

<b>SAFETEA-LU FACTORS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>100: Data Collection/Analysis</b>	X			X	X	X	X	X
<b>200: Short Term Planning and Technical Support</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>300: Long Range Planning</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>400: Transportation Improvement</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>500: Administration</b>					X			X

## 100: DATA COLLECTION/ANALYSIS

### WORK TASKS

- A. NWARPC staff will maintain files that indicate demographic and infrastructure elements within the NARTS Area. Census data (including the 2010 Census data when available) and other information will be utilized and incorporated into reports, thematic maps, and TAZ boundaries. Examples of data to be maintained include: changes in population, population shifts within the region, new building permit and construction activity, new industrial development and new or expanding employers. Data collected may also include socio-economic characteristics, land use developments, changes in political and economic structures, master street plans, and capital improvement projects.

This data will be utilized to develop the demographics of the forecast years for the NWA travel demand model. Collection and reporting of regional development data from units of government will continue. Staff will assist cities as needed for census boundary updates. The TAZ geography developed for the NWA Travel Demand Model will be supplied for the Census 2010 TAZ update.

- B. NWARPC staff will maintain files for traffic count data at locations determined by AHTD. Traffic counts will be supplied by AHTD.

#### END PRODUCTS

#### COMPLETION DATES

A. Demographic and Development Data for the NARTS area will be published in NWARPC’s publication “Regional Development Data” maintained on the NWARPC website. Products will also include thematic maps by Census boundaries and data outputs by TAZ boundaries for transportation planning, forecasting, and analysis.	Regional Development Data Report June 2012. On-going maintenance of data on website.
B. Traffic data files showing most recent traffic counts and changes relative to previous counts will be maintained in cooperation with AHTD.	On-going

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** NWARPC, AHTD, Arkansas State Data Center, local governments.

#### COST DATA

Federal	\$ 83,000
Local (MPO)	\$ 20,750
Total	\$103,750
Element Percent	20.39 %

## 200: SHORT TERM PLANNING and TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### WORK TASKS

- A. Staff will assist counties, cities, citizens, and the media in understanding the process of MPO transportation planning and the impact of transportation projects both short term and long term.
  - 1. NWARPC staff will update, as necessary, a brochure and web site outlining transportation planning procedures for the NARTS Technical Advisory Committee and the NWARPC/Policy Committee, and the general public. This brochure and web site will detail how regional plans are implemented and who to contact for questions and answers.
  - 2. Staff will work with cities to create an understanding of the work and role of the MPO.
  - 3. Staff will revise the NARTS Agreement of Understanding and Bylaws.
  - 4. Staff will attend transportation planning sessions hosted by AHTD, cities, other agencies, and professional organizations.
- B. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS: Review area FTA and FHWA funding applications.
- C. OZARK REGIONAL TRANSIT, INC: Staff will continue to work with Ozark Regional Transit's management providing transit assistance as they seek to improve and provide additional transit services for Northwest Arkansas.
- D. RAZORBACK TRANSIT: Staff will continue to monitor and respond to the needs of Razorback Transit and support their activities.
- E. AHTD/ARKANSAS TRANSIT ASSOCIATION/SOUTHWEST TRANSIT ASSOCIATION: Continue to support AHTD, ATA, and SWTA by assisting their efforts in providing local, state, and federal public transportation services, assistance and information. Pertinent meetings and training seminars will be attended.
- F. PUBLIC TRANSIT- HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN:  
The human service provider database developed as a part of the Plan will be monitored and updated as needed. Staff will assist public transit operators and human services providers as specified in the Plan.
- G. MAPPING/GIS: Provide mapping and GIS assistance to participating units and maintain county and regional maps. Coordinate Regional GIS efforts in three primary types of data and information: (1) Vector files (roads, county boundary, annexations, contours, etc.) (2) Raster files (aerial imagery) (3) File sharing and workflow strategies.
- H. PLANNING ASSISTANCE: Staff will assist counties and cities, as well as the Northwest Arkansas Regional Mobility Authority, in utilizing transportation resources by disseminating information regarding transportation programs. Staff will also assist counties and cities regarding transportation planning, updating Master Street plans, and utilization of the travel demand model.
- I. UPDATE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION: Staff will assist counties and cities in updating Functional Classification maps to current federal guidelines and provide copies to AHTD, including the development of the new urban/rural boundary.

**END PRODUCTS****COMPLETION DATES**

A. Shared Database Information: NWARPC website, and other pertinent data, news releases, relevant technology transfer information and informational brochure.	On-going
B. Application Reviews	On-going
C. NARTS participation	On-going
D. NARTS participation	On-going
E. NARTS participation	On-going
F. Updated Human Service Provider database/Notification of NARTS activities	On-going
G Maps and digital data sets	On-going
H. Informational memos and assistance	On-going
I. Functional Classification Update	On-going

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** NWARPC, AHTD, FHWA, FTA, NWA Regional Mobility Authority, Ozark Regional Transit, Inc., Razorback Transit, area human service agencies and local jurisdictions.

**COST DATA**

Federal	\$ 90,000
Local (MPO)	\$ 22,500
Total	\$112,500
Element Percent	22.11%

**300: LONG RANGE PLANNING****WORK TASKS****A. ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS:**

1. Work with the jurisdictions to further define project priorities and explore funding options.

**B. TRANSPORTATION MODELING:**

1. Work in conjunction with AHTD and the Western Beltway consultant in developing future year forecasts for the travel demand model.
  - a. Continue development of the 2035 forecast year.
  - b. Utilize the forecast years of 2015 and 2035 to develop and analyze various road project scenarios.
  - c. Allocate improved population and employment data forecasts to the TAZ structure for 2015 and 2035 based on new Census data and new employment data.
  - d. Info USA employment data will be purchased for not more than \$3000.00.
2. Train staff on maintenance and use of the model.
3. Utilize the model to refine and prioritize the regional arterial network.
4. Assist cities with model scenarios.
5. Develop procedures for sharing the model with consultants.
6. Utilize the Travel Demand Model to further the 2035 Long Range Plan recommendations.
7. Utilize the Travel Demand Model for TIP development.
8. Staff will participate in the TAZ delineation program with the US Census Bureau.

### C. REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK:

1. Continue the development of a broad on and off-road regional bicycle and pedestrian system plan that will enhance the full connectivity of non-motorized transportation throughout Northwest Arkansas and provide for a well-planned, safe and efficient system for pedestrians and bicyclists that will connect local jurisdictions and destinations such as employment, shopping, health and education centers.
  - Evaluate the region's topography and natural environment, including greenway corridors, for logical locations and connections.
  - Evaluate individual jurisdictions' bicycle and pedestrian plans for connectivity to the regional system.
  - Share the information and regional bicycle and pedestrian plans with potential consultants and the general public.
2. Continue to support the regional development of the Active Transportation Network and the NWA Heritage Trail Plan.
  - Staff will offer informational assistance to citizen groups formed to promote the Heritage Trail and the full regional bicycle and pedestrian system plan.
  - Efforts will be made to promote proper signage for the Heritage Trail and the broader system.
  - Additions to the full network and the Heritage Trail Plan will be evaluated.
3. Staff will offer assistance to participating jurisdictions in development of their respective bicycle and pedestrian plans.
4. This new comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian system plan has been included in the 2035 NWA Regional Transportation Plan. The system plan, as it changes, will be included in the Plan.
5. NWARPC is the recipient of a TIGER II grant award of \$15 million to design and construct a trail project known as the Razorback Regional Greenway. Staff time associated with Phase One of this task will be charged to the Federal Grant.

Phase One will consist of Preliminary Engineering and ROW clearance for the entire project. A consultant or team of consultants will be hired to perform the survey work needed for all location and design work. ROW needs will be established and ROW procurement procedures will follow all federal guidelines. Design and Engineering services will be produce a document for the PS & E Package

Staff duties will include:

1. Provide aerial imagery and 2 foot contours for the project area
2. Provide standard, available, base map GIS data layers such as city limits, street centerlines, parcels, etc
3. Provide designated staff person assigned to the project
4. Participate on the Executive Team
5. Provide NWARPC Conference room for Executive Team and Stakeholder meetings
6. Provide office space for a local office
7. Assist consultant with selection of public meeting locations.
8. Provide information from AHTD regarding ROW plans
9. Provide from AHTD: Control Survey (CTL) available in the area of the 16 mile corridor
10. Provide administrative duties to insure all federal requirements are met.

\*See funding information In the Financial Summary.

D. 2035 NWA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

1. The NWARPC/Policy Committee adopted the 2035 Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Plan on April 7, 2011. Plan recommendations call for continued efforts by the MPO including but not limited to:
  - Explore alternative funding sources.
  - Promote access management concepts.
  - Utilize ITS technologies to maximize infrastructure efficiency.
  - Continue a regional commitment to bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
  - Adhere to the Active Transportation Plan.
  - Support development of the Razorback Regional Greenway.
  - Encourage and explore transportation alternatives, including rail, transit and fixed guide way service.
  - Establish a regional arterial network.
  - Maintain regional unity toward funding of large regional projects.
2. Staff will assist AHTD in the Department-led East-side North/South Corridor Analysis.

E. CONTINUE THE TAC WORK GROUP AND SUBCOMMITTEES:

Topics including but not limited to:

1. ITS Regional Architecture Deployment.
2. Regional Active Transportation Network/Heritage Trail.
3. Travel Demand Modeling.
4. Long Range Plan Implementation.
5. Regional Access Management Policy.
6. Community Involvement.
7. Transit Development Plan Implementation.
8. Sustainable Mobility Options.
9. Regional Arterial Network.
10. Begin research and data gathering toward the development of a Congestion Management Plan and Performance-based Planning.

F. ITS REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE and DEPLOYMENT PLANNING:

Staff will work with AHTD and local governments to coordinate and facilitate ITS deployment projects that meet the criteria of the adopted ITS Regional Architecture.

G. EVALUATE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES FOR NW ARKANSAS:

The 2035 NWA Regional Transportation Plan recommends the pursuit of an analysis of the public transportation needs of the region. To evaluate these needs staff will pursue these strategies:

- A grant application will be made for 49 USC 5339 Alternative Analysis Program funds to conduct an analysis of modal alternatives for addressing N/S corridor travel needs and demands.
- Continue integration of the Transit Development Plan into the analysis of the public transportation needs of the region.

H. EVALUATE THE SAFETY OF THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM:

The MPO will evaluate the usefulness of TransCad to store and display crash data.

I. SAFETEA-LU COMPLIANCE:

The 2035 NWA Regional Transportation Plan is based upon SAFETEA-LU. The Plan will be evaluated and amended as needed and required by SAFETEA-LU.

J. WESTERN BELTWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY:

The principal objectives of the project are to assess the feasibility of the Western Beltway alternative. The Feasibility Study will include economic justification, environmental and social considerations, and financial feasibility. As a part of this study the NWA TransCad Model is being refined and upgraded to the 2035 forecast horizon. This model is being used to analyze the need for the Western Beltway and to study the potential relief it might provide to other N/S routes such as the current I-540. The Feasibility Study will also include a forecast of potential freight traffic resulting from a completed I-49 project from Shreveport to Kansas City.

A consulting firm, retained in July 2009, has been carrying out a significant portion of the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program funded project. NWARPC has utilized some project funding for collection of data to be provided to the consultant(s), and for specific travel demand model assistance. NWARPC staff has coordinated the study. Total project costs are an estimated \$755,912.

This project is anticipated to take approximately 18 months and therefore will span two UPWP cycles, FY 2011 and FY 2012. (\*See funding note for TCSP funding specifics.)

A mid term report will be provided to NWARPC in mid June of 2011, and by mid July, 2011 a decision will be made regarding the completion of the full Study.

**END PRODUCTS**

**COMPLETION DATES**

END PRODUCTS	COMPLETION DATES
A. NARTS participation	On-going
B. Transportation Model	On-going
C. A Regional Active Transportation Network Plan	On-going
D. NWA Regional Long Range Plan implementation and updates	On-going
E. TAC Work Group Recommendations	On-going
F. ITS Regional Architecture	On-going
G. Transit Analysis	On-going
H. Crash Data Storage and Display Recommendations	On-going
I. Plan Amendments	On-going
J. Western Beltway Feasibility Study*	On-going

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** NWARPC, AHTD, Razorback Transit, Ozark Regional Transit, Inc., Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport Authority, NWA Regional Mobility Authority, and local governments.

**COST DATA**

Federal	\$ 130,000
Local (MPO)	\$ 32,500
Total	\$ 162,500
Element Percent	31.94%

Up to \$6,000.00 of Element 300 PL funds may be spent for support and maintenance on the TransCad software, and technical support for the NWA Travel Demand Model. The contract for technical support for the model may need approval as a single source provider.

Up to \$3000.00 may be spent on data from Info USA

\* Northwest Arkansas Western Beltway Study funds:

Federal TCSP Funds	\$604,729
Local Matching Funds/In kind Services Value	\$151,183
Total TCSP-related Project Costs	\$755,912

Regional Planning Commission costs associated with the Western Beltway Study funds will be \$113,400 for Data Collection, GIS Activities, Long Range Planning Model Work, and Administration.

\*See funding information for the TIGER II Project In the Financial Summary.

## 400: TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

### WORK TASKS

- A. The current TIP (FY 2010 - 2013) will be monitored and amended as necessary.
- B. An Annual Listing of Projects for which Federal highway and transit funds have been obligated will be published. The Annual Listing of Projects is published on the NWARPC website every December.
- C. The FY 2013 – 2016 TIP will be developed.

### END PRODUCTS

### COMPLETION DATES

A. FY 2010 – 2013 TIP amendments	On-going through September 2012
B. Published Annual Listing of Projects	December 2011
C. Adopt FY 2013 – 2016 TIP	August 2012

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** NWARPC, AHTD, FHWA, FTA, Razorback Transit, Ozark Regional Transit, Inc., and local governments.

### COST DATA

Federal	\$ 37,000
Local (MPO)	\$ 9,250
Total	\$ 46,250
Element Percent	9.09%

## 500: ADMINISTRATION

### WORK TASKS

- A. Provide those administrative, budgeting, bookkeeping, and clerical duties required in order to perform work tasks and comply with AHTD, FHWA, and FTA requirements. Progress reports and related documentation will be prepared in conjunction with P.L. activities, as well as the FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program.
- B. Improve office equipment, computer systems, and software as needed to keep pace with state-of-the-art technology currently in use for improved communications, mapping, planning analysis and report production. Train staff on software packages. (The cost of equipment and software will be shared proportionately by all elements.)
- C. Attend planning, transportation, transit meetings, training, workshops and conferences to maintain coordination with other agencies, staff proficiency and professional improvement. Keep informed of AHTD, FHWA, and FTA programs, as well as local issues and trends in order to provide proper assistance to local governments and agencies. Information bulletins and correspondence will be reviewed. Necessary AHTD, AMPO, ATA, TRB meetings and conferences will be attended.
- D. NWARPC will continue public involvement procedures for all aspects of transportation planning as specified in the NARTS Public Participation Plan (PPP). The PPP and procedures will be reviewed and changed if needed to reflect SAFETEA-LU provisions.
- E. NWARPC will comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Staff completed development of the Section 504/ADA Self Evaluation, and will revisit and review the document as needed. Work will continue on the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) assessment, if needed.

### END PRODUCTS

### COMPLETION DATES

END PRODUCTS	COMPLETION DATES
A1. Record keeping, daily correspondence and Progress Reports	Monthly, On-going
A2. Audit Report and Performance Report	August 2011
A3. Committee meetings and planning process coordination	On-going
A4. FY 2013 UPWP	May 2012
B. Computer and software upgrades	On-going
C. Meeting attendance	On-going
D. Documentation of PPP compliance will be kept on file	On-going
E. Section 504/ADA Self Evaluation/LEP Assessment	On-going

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** NWARPC, AHTD, FHWA and FTA.

### COST DATA

Federal	\$ 67,006
Local (MPO)	\$ 16,751.50
Total	\$ 83,757.50
Element Percent	16.46%

## 2012 UPWP FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Program Element	Federal	Local(MPO)	Total	Percent by Element
100-Data Collection/Analysis	\$83,000.00	\$20,750.00	\$103,750.00	20.39%
200-Short Term Planning/Technical Support	\$90,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$112,500.00	22.11%
300-Long Range Planning	\$130,000.00	\$32,500.00	\$162,500.00	31.94%
400-Transportation Improvement	\$37,000.00	\$9,250.00	\$46,250.00	9.09%
500-Administration	\$67,006.00	\$16,751.50	\$83,757.50	16.46%
<i>Total-All Elements</i>	\$407,006.00	\$101,751.50	\$508,757.50	100.00%

Note: The above planning funds represent Federal Highway Administration PL funds and Federal Transit Administration 5303 funds that have been consolidated into one grant.

**\* Northwest Arkansas Western Beltway Study funds:**

Federal TCSP Funds	\$604,729
Local Matching Funds/In kind Services Value	\$151,183
Total TCSP-related Project Costs	\$755,912

Regional Planning Commission costs associated with the Western Beltway Study funds will be \$113,400 for Data Collection, GIS Activities, Long Range Planning Model Work, and Administration.

This project is anticipated to take approximately 18 months and therefore will span two UPWP cycles, FY 2011 and FY 2012.

**\*TIGER II Funding - Phase One: Funding represents 80% federal and 20% local match**

Preliminary Engineering/Design/ And Professional Services	\$3,110,185
ROW	\$925,350
Phase One Sub Total	\$4,035,535

NWARPC will utilize up to \$300,000 of the TIGER II funds for Data Collection and Distribution, GIS Activities, and Administration. These funds will be utilized over three UPWP cycles starting with the 2012 UPWP.

**ADOPTION**

**This Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** was prepared as a part of the *Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study*. Public notice concerning this Program was published in The Springdale Morning News and The Northwest Arkansas Times on May 11, 2011. The Technical Advisory Committee recommended the Program for adoption on May 25, 2011. The NWARPC/Policy Committee reviewed and adopted the Program on May 25, 2011.

I hereby certify the adoption of this UPWP for State Fiscal Year 2012 by the NWARPC/Policy Committee on this 25th day of May 2011.

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Mayor Sonny Hudson, Chair, NWARPC/Policy Committee