

TO: RPC/Policy Committee
FROM: Elizabeth Bowen, Project Manager
DATE: March 16, 2023
SUBJECT: FFY 2023 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Review Committee Recommendation (2nd Call)

BACKGROUND - OVERVIEW

NWARPC will receive suballocated Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, aka BIL) for five (5) years beginning in FFY 2022. The RPC/Policy Committee approved CRP focus areas on May 25, 2022, as well as an application and scoring matrix on August 24, 2022.

NWARPC has been allocated \$2,221,154 in CRP funding for FFY 2022 and FFY 2023. The approved FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) reserves \$50,000 for the development of a Carbon Reduction Strategy, and \$1,481,848 was awarded by the RPC/Policy Committee on December 7, 2022 to projects with the initial call for projects, leaving \$689,306 of FFY 2023 CRP funding available.

FFY 2022 Carbon Reduction Funding	\$ 1,099,581
FFY 2023 Carbon Reduction Funding	\$ 1,121,573
CRP Plan Development	-\$ 50,000
CRP Funds Awarded December 7, 2022	<u>-\$ 1,481,848</u>
	\$ 689,306

BACKGROUND – 1st CALL FOR PROJECTS

NWARPC issued the initial call for projects on August 28, 2022 with applications being due on October 17, 2022. Eight (8) project applications were received and reviewed by the selection committee on November 4, 2022. Two projects were awarded ARDOT 2022 TAP grants, and one project was withdrawn, leaving a difference of approximately \$690,000 remaining in estimated FY 2023 CRP Funding. The RPC/Policy Committee awarded the first round of projects as shown below and authorized a second call for projects for the remaining FY 2023 CRP funding on December 7, 2022.

FY 2022-2023 CRP Awards (First Call for Projects)

Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP
2022/23	Benton	Cave Springs	W Wallis Rd & Sands Rd Sidewalk Extension	Construction	\$10,784
2022/23	Benton	Centerton	McKissic Trail Phase 2	Construction	\$500,000
2022/23	Washington	Fayetteville (1)	LED Lighting and Video Detection of Major Intersections	Construction	\$400,000
2022/23	Washington	Johnson	Razorback Greenway Lighting	Construction	\$339,300
2022/23	Benton	Lowell	Traffic Signal Improvements	Construction	\$131,764
2022/23	Washington	Springdale	Trail Plan and Design	Plan/Design	\$100,000

Total	\$1,481,848
FFY22/23 Funding	\$2,171,154
Difference	\$689,306

2nd CALL FOR PROJECTS

NWARPC issued the second call for projects on December 11, 2022 with applications being due on February 14, 2023. Seven (7) project applications were received, and project sponsors presented their proposals to the TAC on February 16, 2023.

FY 2023 CRP Applications (Second Call for Projects)

Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP
2023	Benton	Decatur	Rooster St to Hill Ave Sidewalk Improvements	Construction	\$183,000
2023	Benton	Siloam Springs	W Elgin St Sidewalk Extension	Planning/Design/Construction	\$112,361
2023	Benton	Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Trail Project	Planning/Design/Construction	\$125,000
2023	Washington	Goshen	Mill Creek Park Trail	Construction	\$217,000
2023	Benton	Rogers (#1)	Rogers Ped Improvements	Construction	\$622,033
2023	Benton	Rogers (#2)	Hwy 94 Sidewalks	Construction	\$511,600
2023	Washington	Springdale	Dean's Trail Phase 3A	Construction	\$500,000
				Total	\$2,270,994
				Available	\$689,306
				Difference	-\$1,581,688

The selection committee met on February 27, 2023, toured the project sites, discussed and scored projects, discussed LPA Manual and timelines and developed a recommendation for TAC consideration. The committee discussed the level of carbon reduction being achieved by the projects; the desire to spread funding across multiple communities; and the need and ability of projects to meet the required timeline for obligating funds. The following changes to requests were made by project sponsors based on the discussion:

- The Siloam Springs project was withdrawn due to concern of not being able to meet the required timeline for obligating funds in this application cycle with the intent to re-apply for FY2024 funding.
- The Centerton project requested reducing the scope of work to engineering only to meet the required timeline for obligating funds in this application cycle. This request reduced the application from \$125,000 to \$25,000. The group discussed the requirement of the minimum application threshold of \$125,000.

The TAC met on Thursday, March 16, 2023 and considered the selection committee’s recommendation. They voted to recommend approval to the RPC/Policy Committee.

RECOMMENDED FUNDING ALLOCATION TABLE AND CONTINGENCIES

FFY 2023 CRP Recommended Funding Allocation (Second Call for Projects)

Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP
2023	Washington	Springdale	Dean's Trail Phase 3A	Construction	\$240,653
2023	Benton	Rogers (#2)	Hwy 94 Sidewalks	Construction	\$240,653
2023	Benton	Rogers (#1)	Rogers Ped Improvements	Construction	\$0
2023	Benton	Decatur	Rooster St to Hill Ave Sidewalk Improvements	Construction	\$183,000
2023	Washington	Goshen	Mill Creek Park Trail	Construction	\$0
2023	Benton	Siloam Springs	W Elgin St Sidewalk Extension	Planning/Design/Construction	Withdrawn
2023	Benton	Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Trail Project	Planning/Design/Construction	\$25,000
				Total	\$689,306

The following contingencies were recommended:

- Should any of the smaller projects be unable to meet the obligation timeline, their award(s) would be split between the Springdale Dean’s Trail Phase 3A project and the Rogers #2 Hwy 94 Sidewalks project.
- Should the RPC/Policy Committee decide to allocate the \$50,000 reserved in FFY2023 for the development of a Carbon Reduction Strategy, the funds will be awarded to the Rogers #2 Hwy 94 Sidewalks project.

RECOMMENDED RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommended motion: Move to approve the FFY 2023 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) projects be funded in accordance with the above funding allocation table and contingencies.