

RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT*

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	MAYOR ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	MAYOR JOHN FLYNN	X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON	X X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP	X	
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED	X	
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MAYOR ERNIE PENN	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	MAYOR LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X X	
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	MAYOR CHERYL TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	MAYOR RUSSELL STROUD		
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT	X	
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE CASEY		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR TRAVIS DOTSON		
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (CHAIR)	X	
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER		
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE		
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE	X	Jessica Grady
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK		
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY SHAWN GRISNDSTAFF	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION PHILLIP PATTERSON		X Kevin Moore
SPRINGDALE	MAYOR DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X	X Ryan Carr
SPRINGTOWN	MAYOR TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	MAYOR SHANE WEBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL		
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE PATRICK DEAKINS BRIAN LESTER		
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB CHAD ADAMS (DISTRICT 4)	X	X Sunny Farmahan
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMMISSIONER BRIAN HALL		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR (BRITNI O'CONNOR)		
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES	X	
PINEVILLE, MO	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)	X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNEYCUTT)	X	
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER (NON-VOTING)		
ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)		
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)		

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NWARPC STAFF: Jeff Hawkins, Tim Conklin, Elizabeth Bowen; Nicole Gibbs, Cristina Scarlat
OTHERS: Dennis Birge (Bentonville); Alisha Willis (Goshen); Joseph DeMotte (Elkins); Jessica Hart (Jacobs); Steve Starrett (HALFF); and Ron Wood (NWADG)

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY; VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED AS NWARPC REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The hybrid, in-person and virtual NWARPC/Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Chair, Mayor Chris Keeney at 1:33 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

In-person attendees introduced themselves and Tim Conklin named the virtual attendees. Nicole Gibbs recorded member names and tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

(3) APPROVE RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 7, 2022

Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the December 7, 2022 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mayor Ernie Penn made a motion to approve the December 7, 2022 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Phillip Patterson provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tim Conklin said we have entered into a new lease at this location and the owner is going to be painting and laying new flooring. He said hopefully this does not interrupt our TAC and Policy Committee meetings next month. He said FY 2023 federal funding has been fully approved by Congress, signed by the President and the apportionment tables have been released. He said the federal funding that NWARPC receives is on the books and we will discuss amounts later on the agenda. He said there is a new person at the state doing the Clearinghouse review documentation, and we will be getting that information out to the Board.

Chair Keeney asked whether there were any questions and there were none.

(5) NWARPC 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) AMENDMENT #2

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL/IIJA) introduced new federal funding programs that we are working to identify in our 2045 MTP. He said the Board approved amendment #1 in October 2022 to include the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program. He said amendment #2 includes the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program. He reviewed the public hearing and comment period and said we did not receive any comments. He said he is happy to answer any questions.

A. RESOLUTION #2023-01 – Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to Include New Federal Funding Programs

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Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-01 Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to Include New Federal Funding Programs.

MOTION: Jim Ulmer made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-01 Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to Include New Federal Funding Programs. Mayor Stephanie Orman provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) 2023 ARDOT & MoDOT PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR PAVEMENT AND BRIDGE CONDITION, AND TRAVEL TIME RELIABILITY

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that both ARDOT and MoDOT have provided us their two- and four-year targets for pavement and bridge condition, and system performance. He reviewed our MPO requirements to establish targets and said we have typically chosen to support the state DOT's targets rather than create our own. He summarized the ARDOT and MoDOT targets and showed the following table:

EXHIBIT A														
NWARPC SUPPORTED ARDOT AND MoDOT TARGETS														
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - September 26, 2018 - Res. No. 2018-13														
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - 2020 Safety Targets - January 22, 2020 - Res. No. 2020-01														
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - 2021 Safety Targets And Mid-Performance Report Target Adjustments - December 2, 2020 - Res. No. 2020-07														
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - 2022 Safety Targets - October 27, 2021 Res. No. 2021-12														
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - 2023 Safety Targets - October 26, 2022 Res. No. 2022-14														
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - 2023 PM2 & PM3 - January 25, 2023 Res. No. 2023-02 (DRAFT)														
SAFETY	MoDOT							ARDOT						
	Baseline	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023	2013-2017 Baseline	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
Number of Fatalities	910.0	857.7	872.3	859.3	871.6	877	948.2	514.4	555	543	541.2	536.3	631.5	704.9
Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT	1.213	1.163	1.160	1.130	1.119	1.126	1.212	1.474	1.662	1.615	1.595	1.560	1.808	1.895
Number of Serious Injuries	4,681.2	4,559.3	4,433.8	4,505.4	4,463.9	4,299.0	4,848.7	2,991.2	3,470.0	3,637.0	3,201.4	3,103.8	2,996.9	2,790.1
Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million VMT	6.241	6.191	6.168	5.953	5.829	5.520	6.205	8.584	10.419	10.824	9.441	9.043	8.608	7.815
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	462.2	431.9	445.4	437.4	462.2	485	499.2	149	149	170	300.3	220.3	229.2	274.4
PAVEMENTS	MoDOT 2017-2021*				MoDOT 2021-2025*			ARDOT 2018-2022*				ARDOT 2022-2026*		
	Baseline (2017)	2019 Target (2-year)	2021 Target (4-year)	2021 Target (Revised)	2021 Baseline	2023 Target (2-year)	2025 Target (4-year)	(IRI Only)** Baseline (2018)	2020 Target (2-year)	2022 Target (4-year)	2022 Target (Revised)	Baseline (2022)	2024 Target (2-year)	2026 Target (4-year)
Percentage of Interstate Pavements in Good Condition	77.5%	N/A	77.5%	77.5%	79.9%	77.5%	77.5%	77.0%	N/A	79.0%	79.0%	65.2%	54.0%	48.0%
Percentage of Interstate Pavements in Poor Condition	0.1%	N/A	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	4.0%	N/A	5.0%	5.0%	1.3%	5.0%	5.0%
Percentage of non-Interstate NHS Pavements in Good Condition	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.1%	61.3%	61.1%	61.1%	52.0%	48.0%	44.0%	59.0%	35.0%	41.0%	45.0%
Percentage of non-Interstate NHS Pavements in Poor Condition	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	8.0%	10.0%	12.0%	7.0%	5.3%	4.0%	4.0%
BRIDGE	MoDOT 2017-2021*				MoDOT 2021-2025*			ARDOT 2018-2022*				ARDOT 2022-2026*		
	Baseline (2017)	2019 Target (2-year)	2021 Target (4-year)	2021 Target (Revised)	2021 Baseline	2023 Target (2-year)	2025 Target (4-year)	Baseline (2018)	2020 Target (2-year)	2022 Target (4-year)	2022 Target (Revised)	Baseline (2022)	2024 Target (2-year)	2026 Target (4-year)
Percent of NHS bridges by deck area classified as Good condition	34.0%	30.9%	30.9%	26.4%	27.2%	22.8%	19.2%	50.3%	50.0%	50.0%	42.0%	43.6%	39.0%	40.0%
Percent of NHS bridges by deck area classified as Poor condition	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	8.2%	7.1%	7.7%	7.8%	3.9%	4.0%	6.0%	6.0%	3.5%	6.0%	8.0%
TRAVEL TIME RELIABILITY	MoDOT 2017-2021*				MoDOT 2021-2025*			ARDOT 2018-2022*				ARDOT 2022-2026*		
	Baseline (2017)	2019 Target (2-year)	2021 Target (4-year)	2021 Target (Revised)	Baseline	2023 Target (2-year)	2025 Target (4-year)	Baseline (2018)	2020 Target (2-year)	2022 Target (4-year)	2022 Target (Revised)	Baseline (2022)	2024 Target (2-year)	2026 Target (4-year)
Interstate Travel Time Reliability Measure: Percent of Reliable Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate	91.6%	88.9%	87.1%	87.1%	98.4%	87.1%	86.0%	95.0%	91.0%	89.0%	93.0%	98.5%	93.0%	93.0%
Non-Interstate Travel Time Reliability Measure: Percent of Reliable Person-Miles Traveled on the Non-Interstate NHS	92.3%	N/A	87.8%	87.8%	95.5%	87.8%	87.0%	96.0%	N/A	90.0%	92.0%	95.6%	92.0%	92.0%
Freight Reliability Measure: Truck Travel Time Reliability Index	1.25	1.28	1.30	1.45	1.18	1.45	1.45	1.21	1.45	1.52	1.40	1.24	1.35	1.35

*MoDOT refers to data years; ARDOT refers to report years

**ARDOT: Non-Interstate NHS data analysis transitioned from IRI-only to full distress in 2020; Interstate analysis transitioned in 2018

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A. RESOLUTION #2023-02 – Supporting the ARDOT and MoDOT Established Performance Targets for Pavement and Bridge Condition, and Travel Time Reliability
Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-02 Supporting the ARDOT and MoDOT Established Performance Targets for Pavement and Bridge Condition, and Travel Time Reliability.

MOTION: Patsy Christie made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-02 Supporting the ARDOT and MoDOT Established Performance Targets for Pavement and Bridge Condition, and Travel Time Reliability. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) FY 2023 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT APPLICATION FOR HIGHWAY 112 PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that the NWARPC approached ARDOT about supporting the Commission applying for a \$25 million RAISE discretionary grant for the Highway 112 project. He said ARDOT has agreed to support and carry out the project. He said the deadline for the RAISE application is February 28, 2023. He said the project is designed with 26 roundabouts, access management, raised medians, and a separated 12-foot trail, and the entire project from Fayetteville to Bentonville is fully funded within the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP/TIP). He said we adopted a Regional Vision in 2019 to establish a uniform design across the eight municipalities and two counties, and there have been numerous public involvement meetings for the design of the project. He thanked the communities who have provided letters of support and said this should be a very competitive project. He said the Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) is about 90% complete, and benefits to reduce Killed and Serious Injury (KSI) crashes over the next 30 years is significant, which makes the BCA ratio very high. Conklin said he is happy to answer any questions.

A. RESOLUTION #2023-03 – Supporting the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the *Highway 112: Complete Streets. Connecting Communities.* Project

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-03 Supporting the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the *Highway 112: Complete Streets. Connecting Communities.* Project.

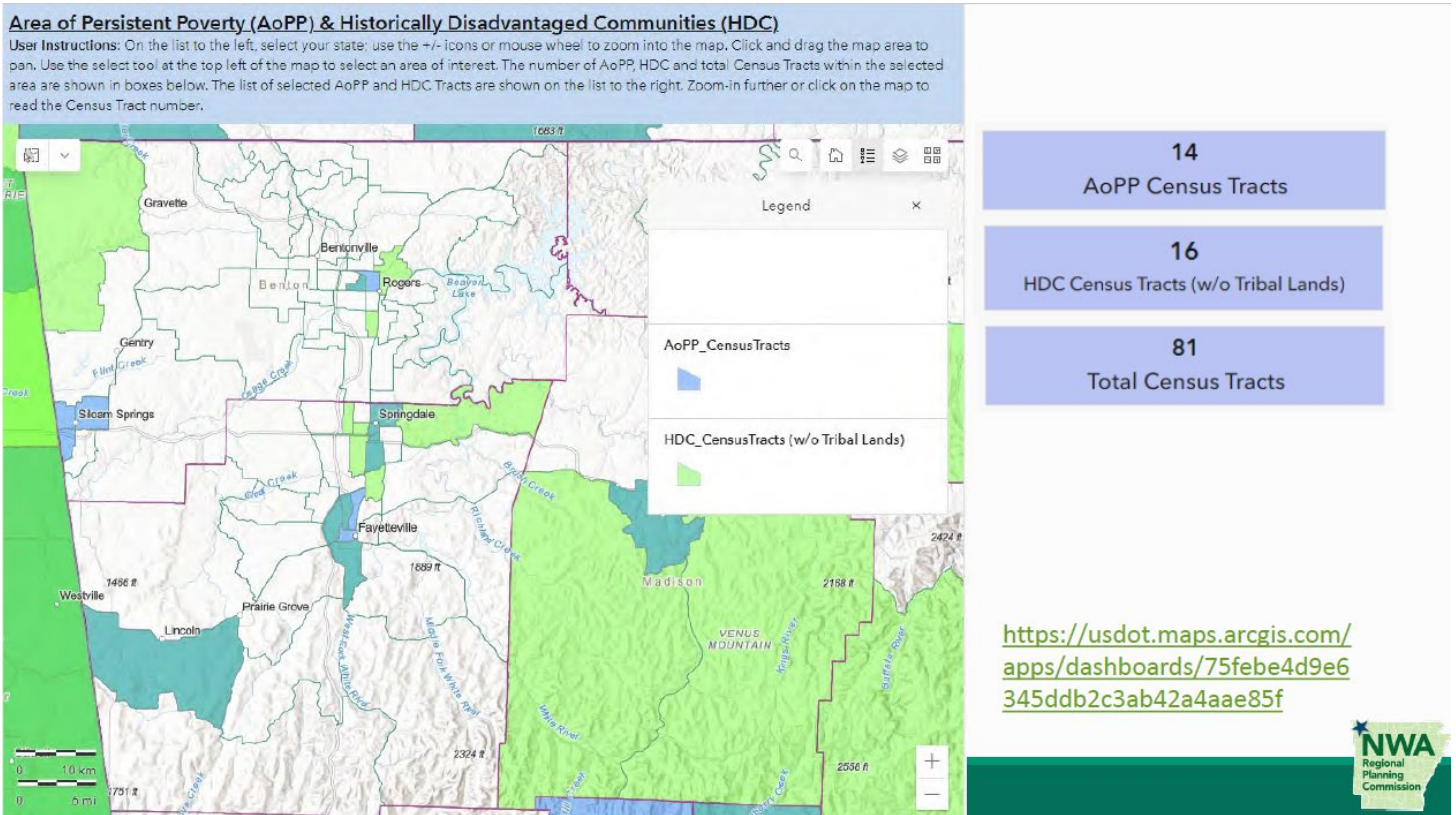
MOTION: Mayor Ernie Penn made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-03 Supporting the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the *Highway 112: Complete Streets. Connecting Communities.* Project. Patsy Christie provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(8) FY 2023 AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY GRANT APPLICATION FOR BUS STOP ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that Regional Planning, Ozark Regional Transit (ORT), and Razorback Transit have been meeting over the last few weeks to discuss applying for the FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Discretionary Grant Program for engineering and design to begin implementation of the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan that was prepared last year. The NWARPC would be the applicant for a \$540,000 (90%) federal grant, with the local match of \$60,000 (10%) being split by ORT and Razorback Transit, for a \$600,000 project. He said the deadline is March 10, 2023 and Olsson is preparing the grant application. Conklin explained the Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) and Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC) parameters and

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showed the following, explaining that we are working with cities who have areas that fall into those categories:



Conklin highlighted some of the findings and recommendations of the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan. He said he is happy to answer any questions. There was discussion regarding co-using the stops for school bus use. There was discussion regarding there being room in the grant to refine the design and locations of bus stops being considered.

Conklin said the idea is that this grant would allow us to complete the engineering and design portions, which would then allow us to apply for additional FTA grants in the future to perform the bus stop improvements.

There was discussion about what constitutes Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP). Conklin said all the discretionary grant programs consider project locations and the administration's Justice40 program is focused on 40% of federal funds going to projects in these designated locations.

A. RESOLUTION #2023-04 – Supporting the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan Project

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-04 Supporting the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan Project.

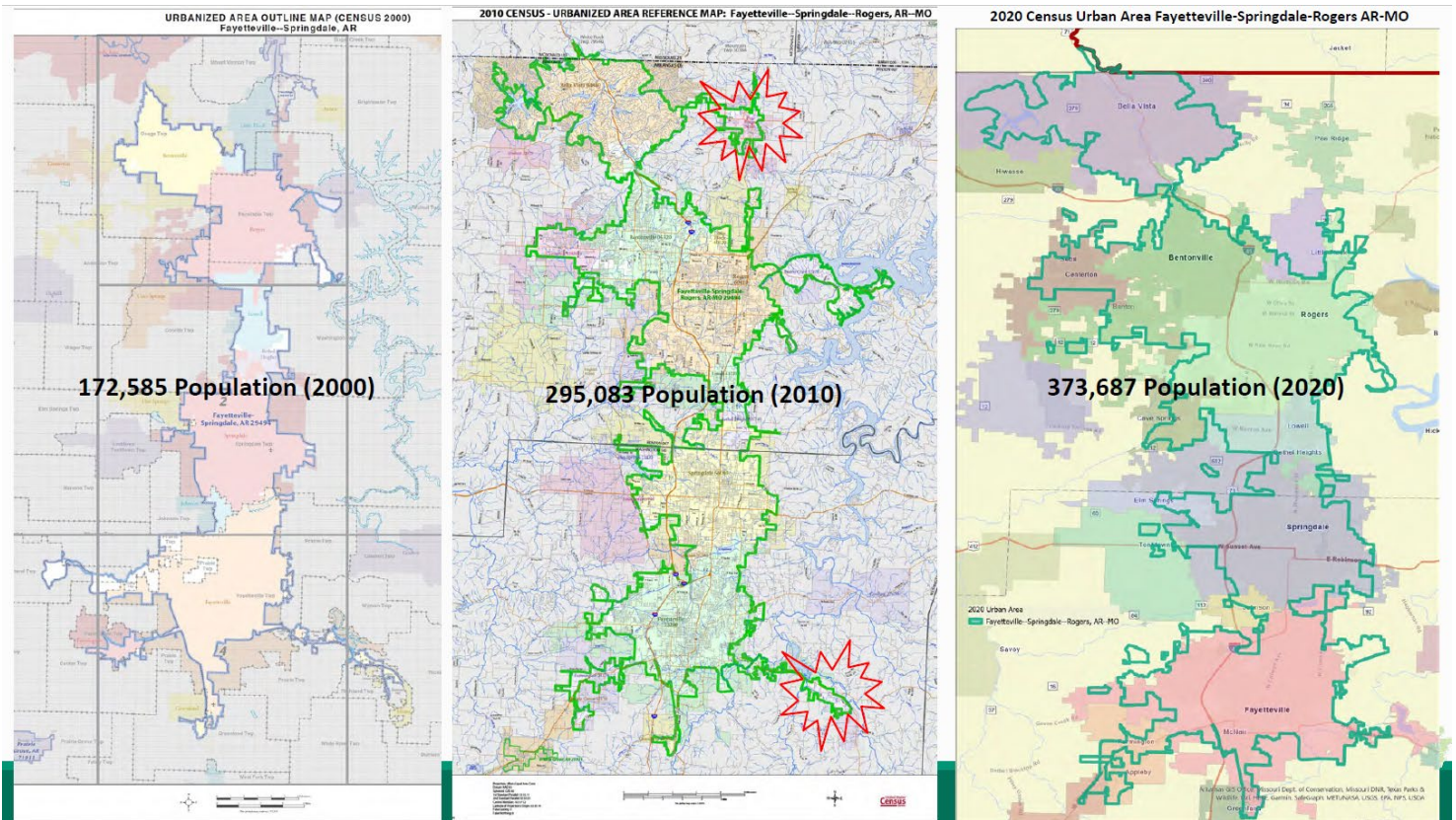
MOTION: John McCurdy made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-04 Supporting the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan Project. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(9) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

A. Urban Area Boundary and Population Update

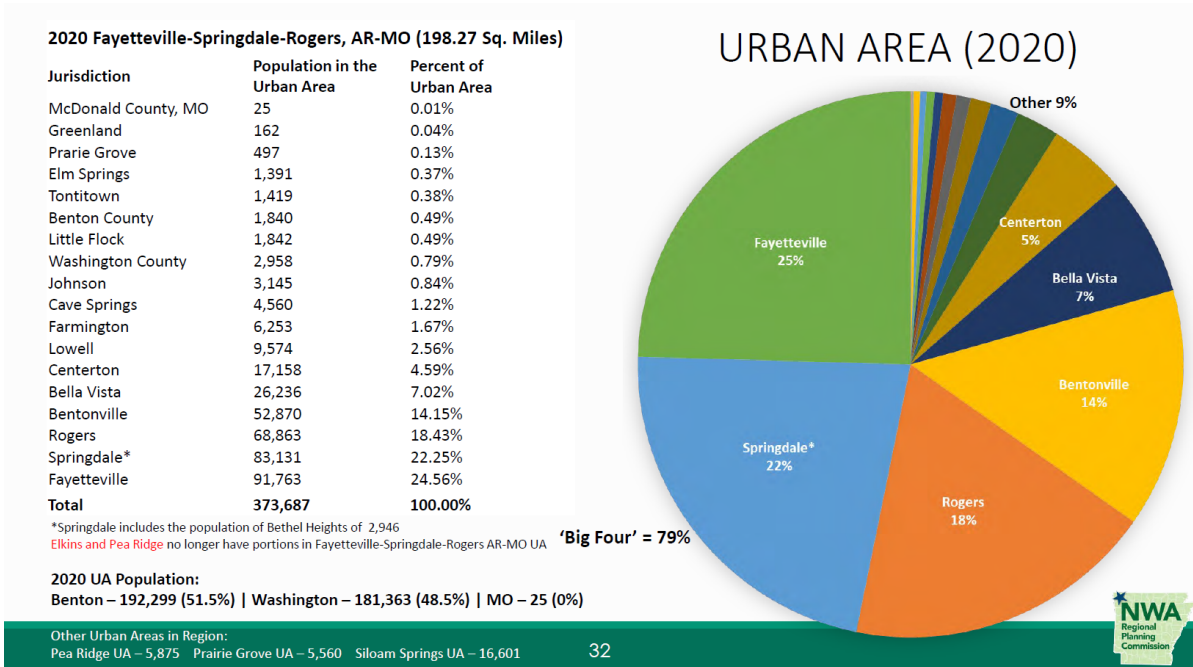
Tim Conklin explained that in December 2022 the US Census Bureau announced the Urban Area population. He said we compared our Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urban Area to others such as Little Rock, Fort Smith, Jonesboro, AR; Springfield, MO; Tulsa, OK; Wichita, KS and we had the highest numeric increase in population (78,604) as well as the highest percent population change (26.6%) and population density change (313). He said there is no relation to city limits; this is a criteria that the Census Bureau considers with regard to housing unit density to distinguish urban and rural areas.

Conklin showed the following graphics illustrating the 2000 and 2010 Urbanized Areas and the 2020 Urban Area, noting that Pea Ridge, Elkins, and parts of Prairie Grove are no longer in the larger Urban Area based on the new criteria:



He said we looked at how the population is distributed across the Urban Area, and the big-four cities make up 79% of the Urban Area population. He noted that this distribution has changed dramatically since the 1990s with more and more smaller cities being included in the Urban Area.

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Conklin said these numbers are important because federal-aid programs use these urban population numbers as part of their funding formulas and the new numbers will affect the suballocation of our STBGP, CRP, and TAP funds for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urban Area. He said working with Metroplan, we believe we will receive an additional \$2 million for our area starting in FY 2024.

There was discussion regarding those communities outside or no longer within the Urban Area. Conklin said that we have awarded NWARPC funding to areas outside the Urban Area. He said ARDOT has an intersection program funding that they do not allow to be spent inside the Urban Area. He also noted that many discretionary programs ask whether the project is urban or rural. He said we do have other Urban Areas under 50,000 in population, for which we do not receive suballocated funding. He said only the population in Urban Areas over 200,000 receive federal formula funding. Jeff Hawkins said the transit funding for capital and operating assistance is also based on the Urban Area population, so that will go up as well in FY 2024.

B. STBGP-A/TAP/CRP Project Development

Tim Conklin explained that your FY 2023 Agreements will be triparty, which will include NWARPC. He said TAC brought up in the meeting last week that many communities are still waiting on their Agreements of Understandings (AoU). He said he spoke with Program Management on Monday, and they assured him they are working to get the Agreements to our communities.

Conklin explained that the apportionment tables have been published and summarized the following:

FFY2023 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program	\$ 9,378,095
FFY2023 Transportation Alternatives Program	\$ 1,039,621
FFY2023 Carbon Reduction Program	\$ 1,121,573
	\$11,539,289

Note: FHWA is using the 2010 Urbanized Area population for FY 2023
Link to tables: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legisregs/directives/notices/n4510876/>

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Conklin said for those that are new to the Commission, we already awarded the FY2023 money back in August 2022. He said we will estimate the FY2024 money and do a project selection beginning this Spring and will vote on projects in August 2023. He said we believe the \$11.5 million total will go up \$2 million in FY2024.

He showed the projects selected for FY 2023:

FFY 2023 STBGP-A /HIP/TAP/CRP AWARDED PROJECT STATUS				
JURISDICTION	PROJECT	TYPE	FUNDING	STATUS
Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	STBG	\$326,845	Obligated
Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	STBG	\$800,000	Open bids 2/8
Centerton	Hwy 102 Sidepath	STBG	\$600,000	AoU Complete
Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to Township St)	STBG	\$1,800,000	
Fayetteville	Milsap, College, N Hemlock	STBG	\$320,000	AoU in process
Lowell	US-71B/HWY264 Intersection Improvements	STBG	\$240,000	
Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview/Spring Creek Rd Inters. Impvts.	STBG	\$560,000	
Lowell	Monroe from Oak St to Hwy 265	STBG	\$439,258	AoU in process
Rogers	W Pleasant Grove Rd & Hwy 265 Roundabout	STBG	\$168,000	AoU in process
Rogers	Hwy 265 and Hwy 94 New Hope Rd Roundabout	STBG	\$200,000	AoU in process
Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext.	STBG	\$4,500,000	Obligated
Bentonville	I49 Razorback Greenway Relocation	TAP	\$500,000	Project let, Funds to be Obligated
Farmington	Creekside Park Trail	TAP	\$500,000	AoU in process
Gravette	Gravette Trail System Phase II	TAP	\$408,974	Obligated
Cave Springs	W Wallis Rd & Sands Rd Sidewalk Extension	CRP	\$10,784	AoU in process
Centerton	McKissic Trail Phase 2	CRP	\$500,000	AoU in process
Fayetteville (1)	LED Lighting and Video Detection of Major Intersections	CRP	\$400,000	AoU in process
Johnson	Razorback Greenway Lighting	CRP	\$339,300	AoU in process
Lowell	Traffic Signal Improvements	CRP	\$131,764	AoU in process
Springdale	Trail Plan and Design	CRP	\$100,000	AoU in process

Conklin said the status of these projects are very important because ARDOT’s policy is that we can only carry over \$1 million in federal funding year to year. He explained that as we get more total funding and more projects in the pipeline, this becomes more difficult to accomplish.

C. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) (aka IIJA) Updates

Tim Conklin summarized various dates and deadlines for discretionary grant programs. He said the RAISE grant application authorized earlier is due February 28, 2023. He said everyone needs to be thinking ahead about projects they believe can compete for these programs. He shared the following links to grant resources:

- <https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity>
- <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

Conklin said there is a new Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) they pushed out this year for projects that connect active transportation networks and spines, such as the Razorback Greenway.

D. NWARPC Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Update

Elizabeth Bowen explained that last year was the first year that CRP funds were available. She said NWARPC has been allocated about \$2.2 million in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding for FFYs

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2022 and 2023. She said we set aside \$50,000 for the development of a CRP Plan, and awarded about \$1.5 million in December 2022, leaving about \$690,000 of funding still available:

FFY 2022/23 CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM AWARDED 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

Bowen said we were authorized to issue a second call for projects and summarized the following estimated timeline:

- Second Call for Projects – December 11, 2022
- Application Deadline (Resolution Required) – February 14, 2023, at 4:00pm
- Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee – February 16, 2023 at 10:30am
- **Selection Committee Site Visit, Scoring, Recommendation – February 27, 2023 8:30-4:30**
- Project Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC – March 16, 2023
- Project Selection Recommendation to RPC/Policy – March 22, 2023

Bowen summarized the following seven (7) applications submitted:

Year	County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP
2023	Benton		Decatur	Rooster St to Hill Ave Sidewalk Improvements		\$183,000
2023	Benton		Siloam Springs	W Elgin St Sidewalk Extension		\$112,361
2023	Benton		Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Trail Project		\$100,000
2023	Washington		Goshen	Mill Creek Park Trail		\$217,000
2023	Benton		Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements		\$622,033
2023	Benton		Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks		\$511,600
2023	Washington		Springdale	Dean's Trail Phase 3A		\$500,000
Total						\$2,245,994
Available						\$689,306
Difference						-\$1,556,688

Bowen explained that we had significantly more funding requested with this call for projects than what we have remaining in this funding cycle. There was discussion regarding where to find information on the programs, and the NWARPC website was referenced: www.nwarpc.org/funding-programs/.

E. Transportation Systems Maintenance and Operations (TSMO)/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the progress and next steps on the projects as follows:

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT*

- Cambridge Systematics (CS)/ATG Subconsultant
- Staff Bi-Weekly Meetings Continue
- TSMO/ITS
 - Committee Meeting Jan 10
 - Finalize ITS Inventory –Feb 2023
 - Develop ITS Implementation Plan Draft Feb 3
 - Develop TSMO Implementation Plan Draft –Feb 8
- Next Steps
 - Draft TSMO and Draft ITS due Feb 28
 - Finalize TSMO Plan and ITS Architecture and Deployment Plan and Executive Summaries – Mar 2023
 - Public Comment Period and Adoption –March/April/May
- ARDOT TSMO Plan

She asked whether there were any questions and there were none.

F. Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) Update

Elizabeth Bowen announced that we were awarded \$300,000 FY 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) CSAP Planning Grant, which will be used in place of the STBGP-A funds that we set aside for this project to get started.

Bowen summarized a breakdown of the FY 2022 program awards, including 473 Action Plan Grants, and 37 Implementation Grants. She said the reason we set aside STBGP-A funds is so that we could get a plan in place to be able to apply for Implementation Grants in the next grant cycle. She said with TAC last week, we did an analysis of the awards to help us strategize future applications. She showed the following information:

The USDOT is awarding **473 Action Plan Grants** and **37 Implementation Grants** in this first round of the program.

Implementation Grants Awarded = 37

- 29 Urban, 8 Rural
- 1 State MD, 1 Special District, 1 Tribe, 1 MPO, 8 County, 25 Cities
- Per state: 7 CA, 3 FL, GA, IA, KY 2 MA, 3 MD, MI, MT, NC, ND, NJ,
- MN, 2 NY, OK, OR, 2 PA, RI, 3 TX, WA, WI
- Ranged from \$2.2M to \$30M and all had matching funds
- 37 Projects Approx \$590M Total, Avg \$16M
- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/2022-full-award-list>

Implementation Grants **NOT** Awarded = 164

- 107 Urban, 57 Rural
- 112 City/Town, 37 Counties, 8 MPO, 2 Tribes, 2 Special Districts, 4 Others
- Ranged from \$480,000-\$50,000,000
- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/2022-awards>

Bowen said we are using Toole Design Group to develop the NWA Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). She summarized the following recent work and next steps for the project:

- NWARPC has contracted with Toole Design Group to develop the NWA Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) –Vision Zero
 - Reduce fatalities and serious injury crashes on our transportation system
 - High Risk Injury Network Draft

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT*

- Where to implement safety counter measures
- Utilize available NWARPC STBGP-A funds to begin the process \$400,000 Federal 80% 100,000 20% Local Match
- Second working group meeting Feb 10 at 2-3:30pm
- Next Steps:
 - Listening sessions are currently being scheduled with Communities
 - Logo, website, review crash data, develop high risk network
 - Stakeholder meetings and public meetings will begin in March
 - Make available the high injury network for City Staff review
 - Third working group meeting TBD

She said Toole Design Group has created a story map, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5333eabee244383b2ec4c70af467f17>, which also can be accessed through our website, <https://www.nwarpc.org/transportation/vision-zero-plan/>. She summarized the draft High Injury Network (HIN) Toole Design developed using a sliding window analysis for each mode. She said this will be out for city review shortly. She said they also asked the committee to come up with any projects that need to be included in this CSAP.

Tim Conklin said the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for SS4A Implementation Grants is expected to come out in April, with the application deadline most likely in September. He said if you anticipate applying for an SS4A Implementation Grant, that work will need to start around May to hit the September deadline. He said the goal is to complete the plan by September.

Conklin thanked the Walton Family Foundation, who provided the local match for this CSAP.

Bowen asked if there were any questions and there were none.

(10) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the recent meetings of the Committee and the Bike/Ped Plan Update Subcommittee as follows:

Last Met: January 19, 2023

- Progress report on City/County projects
- Interactive Map Editing Tool – Cities continue to modified proposed trails, points of interest, catalyst projects, regional network, parks, etc. and update/adopt local plans
- Sub-committee for NWARBPMP January 19, 2023
 - Additional Cities/UofA have decided to modify their plans
 - Adding Level of Traffic Stress based on People for Bike BNA
- Sub-committee for Facilities Document Nov 2, Jan 31, Feb 7

Next Meeting –

- ACT March 16, 2023 at 1:30
- Subcommittee NWARBPMP March 16, 2023 at 1:30
- Map will go to public comment –TBD / Est April

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT*

Last Met: January 17, 2023

- Election of Officers – Elizabeth Bowen Chair, Diane Bryant Secretary
- New bi-monthly schedule, third Monday, (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)
- NWA Democrat Gazette PodCas tNWALT/NWARPC
- Update from members
- City resolution update:
 - Complete –Fayetteville, Gentry
 - In Pipeline -Rogers, Siloam Springs, Pea Ridge, Greenland, Centerton, Springdale, Lincoln, Cane Hill, Gravette

Next Meeting Scheduled: March 20, 2023 @ 10:00 am.

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Nicole Gibbs summarized the following:

Last Met: February 15, 2023

- 2022 Combined Annual Report
- 2022 DEQ Annual Reporting Questions and Concerns
- Ozark Beer Company -"Know the Flow" Amber Lager Release April 22 from 3pm-6pm, Rogers

Next meeting scheduled: April 19, 2023 @ 10:30 am, in person (every two months on the third Wednesday)

D. NWA GIS User Group

Nicole Gibbs summarized the following:

Last Met: February 14, 2023

- Aerial Imagery Projects
- Opportunities for student GIS internships with cities through IGNITE program

Next meeting scheduled: April 11, 2023 at 10:30am, virtual

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Chris Keeney asked whether any comments had been received prior to the meeting or any present wishing to comment and there were none.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Chris Keeney explained that the Commission's original bylaws call for the Executive Director to be appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval from the Commission. He said he elected to follow the process utilized in 2001, the last time there was an opening, which involved the recommendation of an Executive Committee. He said a Committee of elected officials was consulted regarding the process, reviewed resumes received, and made a recommendation to confirm a new Executive Director. He said the committee consisted of himself, Mayor Doug Sprouse, Mayor Ernie Penn, Mayor Stephanie Orman, Judge Barry Moehring, and City Administrator Phillip Patterson. He said in consultation with the members, a decision was made to announce the opening and accept resumes. He said over the past five weeks, postings were made statewide in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, and nationally with the American Planning Association, which is consistent with the advertising processes used previously and is consistent with the Commission's equal opportunity policy. He said the committee arrived at the conclusion in the job candidate search, that Tim Conklin was a clear and decisive choice for Executive Director. He said he uniquely meets the leadership needs of the Commission and the Committee's recommendation was unanimous that Tim be offered the job and that no further action be taken unless Tim chooses not to accept the offer. He asked for a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT*

MOTION: Mayor Bill Edwards made a motion to accept the Committee’s recommendation that Tim Conklin be offered the NWARPC Executive Director position and that no further action be taken unless Tim chooses not to accept the offer. Lane Crider provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Tim Conklin accepted the position.

Conklin said he appreciates the Board’s support, and he thanked Jeff Hawkins saying it has been an honor to work with Jeff over the last decades, acknowledging his commitment and leadership in making policy better, and in making Northwest Arkansas better.

Tim Conklin and Jeff Hawkins were congratulated.

A. 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Officers - Nominating Committee

Chair Mayor Keeney said Mayor Ernie Penn volunteered Melissa McCarville to chair the nominating committee at the last RPC/Policy Committee meeting and Chair Mayor Keeney appointed Chris Brown, Josh Beam, and Mayor Nathan See to that committee as well to recommend the next slate of officers.

B. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Mayor Keeney announced upcoming meetings as follows:

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, March 16, 2023 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, March 22, 2023 @ 1:30 PM

C. Project for Public Spaces Community Placemaking Grants’ NWA Convening –

Save the Date: March 1, 2023 (<https://www.pps.org/community-placemaking-grants>) Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there was any other business.

Tim Conklin said the Walton Family Foundation and Projects for Public Spaces are advertising a new local grant opportunity. He said they will be awarding \$80,000 to three projects in Northwest Arkansas to activate public spaces. He said to learn more, register for the upcoming Convening being held on March 1, 2023.

Conklin said ARDOT held a public involvement meeting last night for Highway 612 from I-49 to Hwy 265. They will be accepting comments through Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 4:30pm.

Conklin said immediately following the meeting, we have Cupcakes to celebrate Jeff’s retirement.

(13) ADJOURN

With no other business, Chair Mayor Chris Keeney adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 22ND DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

Mayor Chris Keeney, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____