

RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		X James Boston
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MAYOR ERNIE PENN	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	MAYOR LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X	Chris Brown
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	X	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE		X Karen Davis
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK		
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY SHAWN GRISNDSTAFF	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION		X Don Clark
SPRINGDALE	MAYOR DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X	Ryan Carr Tim Conklin
SPRINGTOWN	MAYOR TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	MAYOR SHANE WEBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL		X Mark Latham
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE PATRICK DEAKINS BRIAN LESTER SAM ATA	 X	
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB CHAD ADAMS (DISTRICT 4)		X Chris Dillaha
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER		
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: Tim Conklin, Elizabeth Bowen; Nicole Gibbs; Tim Reavis; Cristina Scarlet

OTHERS: Melissa McCarville (Farmington); Ron Wood (NWADG) and Rob Smith (NWA Council)

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 1:32 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 FEBRUARY 22, 2023

Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the February 22, 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Judge Barry Moehring made a motion to approve the February 22, 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT/CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT

Tim Conklin thanked everyone in person for coming to the Northwest Arkansas Council location today and said our building renovation is almost complete with new flooring and walls painted, which is included in the new lease agreement. He said we plan to update our Audio/Video equipment with three large tv monitors in our conference room. He said we plan to replace our exterior freestanding sign that is currently falling down, update our lobby furniture, and add display areas for work products and regional photography. He said our current 2023 budget that was approved last year does have available funds to complete the rest of the renovations to our building.

Conklin said since we last met, we have filed a \$25 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant and a \$540,000 FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Grant. He thanked the NWA Council for their support of the RAISE grant, and the Walton Family Foundation and Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) for their support in preparing and filing the AoPP grant. It involved all of us working together, staff and our planning partners, to get those entered into Grants.gov to meet the aggressive deadlines. He said NWARPC received a grant from the Walton Family Foundation to send two delegations to the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Conference May 15-18, 2023 in Denver, CO and the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) Conference May 31-June 3, 2023 in Charlette, NC. He said we have been reaching out to members to potentially attend those trips. He said we are the regional clearinghouse for federal grants and showed the February and March reports.

Conklin said some of our members are receiving MS4 invoices for the stormwater education outreach and training that goes through NWARPC and the County Cooperative Extension Service. He said these dues are based on the 2010 Census populations, however, next year dues will be based

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on 2020 Urban Area population and a committee has been formed to discuss how those dues are calculated for cities in the Urban Area.

Conklin said the 2022 Audit is almost complete and will be distributed next month to our chief elected officials, filed in our federal clearinghouse, and sent both to ARDOT and MoDOT. He said we are in the process of completing our check signers for the Commission and thanked the new signers for helping with that process. He said he has met with several new chief elected officials, explained we have nine new mayors, one new county judge, and one new presiding commissioner in McDonald County. He said if any members would like to meet, send him an email and he is happy to come to you to learn more about your community and your needs, along with sharing information on our funding programs.

He thanked everyone for their understanding during the last four weeks of building renovation.

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

(5) NWARPC PROPERTY CONTROL MANUAL

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that NWARPC has been in our building for 20 years and have been around for 57 years – we have some furniture and equipment that is outdated and has met its useful life. He said we have developed a policy about how we inventory, surplus and dispose of our equipment and property. He said the approved methods of disposal include making surplus property available to our members. He said ARDOT has reviewed the policy and has recommended an inventory control form. He said any items that we would bring to you in April would be under \$1,000 and no federal interest in them. He thanked ARDOT for their prompt review of our policy and getting back to us.

A. RESOLUTION #2023-05 – Adopting the NWARPC Property Control Manual

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-05 Adopting the NWARPC Property Control Manual.

MOTION: Mayor Jeff Van Sickler made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-05 Adopting the NWARPC Property Control Manual. John McCurdy provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) FY 2023 CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) PROJECT SELECTION

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen explained we were authorized to issue a second call for projects and summarized the following 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
- 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, with the final ranking by the selection committee through the scoring process shown to the right of the table:

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2023 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Applications (2nd Call)

Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP Requested
2023	Benton	Decatur	Rooster St to Hill Ave Sidewalk Improvements	Construction	\$183,000
2023	Benton	Siloam Springs	W Elgin St Sidewalk Extension	Plng/Design/ROW/Const ruction	\$112,361
2023	Benton	Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Trail Project	Plng/Design/ROW/Const ruction	\$100,000
2023	Washington	Goshen	Mill Creek Park Trail	Construction	\$217,000
2023	Benton	Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements	Construction	\$622,033
2023	Benton	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks	Construction	\$511,600
2023	Washington	Springdale	Dean's Trail Phase 3A	Construction	\$500,000
Total					\$2,245,994
Available					\$ 689,306
Difference					-\$1,556,688

4
6
7
5
3
2
1

Bowen briefly reviewed the approved program focus areas and summarized other program requirements, which were discussed with the Selection Committee.

Bowen summarized the activities and discussions as follows:

- Selection Committee - James Boston (Decatur), Kevin Moore (Siloam Springs), Alan Craighead (Centerton), Chuck Jacobus (Goshen), Kent Laughlin (Rogers), Mike Peters (Springdale), and Paul Libertini (Fayetteville)
- Site visits – visited all 7 sites
- Score projects – all projects were considered
- Discussed max (about \$550,000) / min (\$125,000) awards per application
- Reviewed LPA Manual process and timeline
- Developed recommendation for TAC

Bowen said they discussed in detail where each project is in the process to determine which ones would be able to obligate the funding before the deadline. She further summarized the following committee discussion items:

- Selection Committee discussion included:
- Siloam Springs application withdrawn
 - Centerton application reduced to \$25,000 *
 - Roger’s projects #1 and #2 were combined for bid
 - Projects that could be awarded in 1-3 months
 - Projects that were seeking to reach 80% federal
 - Providing funding to project 1 and remaining to project 2
 - Providing funding to smaller city projects
 - Discussed if amount of carbon reduction a consideration

Bowen summarized the projects being recommended for funding.

Bowen explained that \$50,000 of FY 2023 STBGP-A funding was set aside to produce a Carbon Reduction Strategy. She said the state is required to create a strategy by November 2023 and staff feels we should delay completing a regional plan until after ARDOT’s plan is complete, during FY 2024. She said staff made the recommendation to the Selection Committee to consider how to re-allocate the \$50,000 of 2023 funding should the Policy Committee agree to move the work to FY 2024.

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Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve reallocating the FFY 2023 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) set-aside for a Regional CRP Strategy Plan.

MOTION: Judge Barry Moehring made a motion to approve reallocating the FFY 2023 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) set-aside for a Regional CRP Strategy Plan. Mayor John Flynn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Bowen summarized the Selection Committee rankings and recommendations as follows:

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	1
2023	Benton	Rogers (#2)	Hwy 94 Sidewalks	Construction	\$240,653	2
2023	Benton	Rogers (#1)	Rogers Ped Improvements	Construction	\$0	3
2023	Benton	Decatur	Rooster St to Hill Ave Sidewalk Improvements	Construction	\$183,000	4
2023	Washington	Goshen	Mill Creek Park Trail	Construction	\$0	5
2023	Benton	Siloam Springs	W Elgin St Sidewalk Extension	Planning/Design/Construction	Withdrawn	6
2023	Benton	Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Trail Project	Planning/Design/Construction	\$25,000	7
					Total	\$689,306

The selection committee made the following recommended contingencies:

- 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.

Bowen said the TAC voted on March 16, 2023 to recommend the Selection Committee’s award and contingency recommendations, noting that the Roger’s Hwy 94 Sidewalks project total is \$290,653 including the \$50,000 discussed in the previous motion.

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve the FFY 2023 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) projects to be funded in accordance with the funding allocation table and contingencies.

MOTION: Mark Latham made a motion to approve the FFY 2023 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) projects to be funded in accordance with the funding allocation table and contingencies. John McCurdy provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) FY 2024 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP TIMELINE & CALL FOR PROJECTS

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen explained that we estimate around \$13.8 million in FY 2024 suballocated funding, which we would like to issue a call for projects. She summarized the estimated funding as follows:

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FY 2024 Estimated Funds –Assumption: 20% increase over published 2023 levels

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program	\$11,253,000
Transportation Alternatives Program	\$ 1,247,000
Carbon Reduction Program	\$ <u>1,345,000</u>
Total	\$13,845,000

Bowen explained that in the past, we have issued our call for projects in April. She said we discussed with TAC the possibility of putting our applications online, however they chose to continue with the paper applications, and recommended issuing the call for projects a month early. She summarized the proposed timeline as follows:

Call for Projects	March 23, 2023
Application Deadline (Resolution Required)	July 14, 2023, at 4:00pm
Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee	July 20, 2023 at 10:30am
Selection Committee Site Visits, Scoring, & Recommendation	TBD
Project Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC	August 17, 2023 at 10:30am
Project Selection Recommendation to RPC/Policy	August 23, 2023 at 1:30pm

Conklin reminded everyone that the application requires a resolution from your City Councils and encouraged everyone to begin those discussions to ensure the resolutions get passed in time for the application deadline.

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to authorize giving notice for a Call for Projects for FY 2024 NWARPC STBGP-A, TAP and CRP funding.

MOTION: Judge Barry Moehring made a motion to authorize giving notice for a Call for Projects for FY 2024 NWARPC STBGP-A, TAP and CRP funding. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(8) 2025-2028 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP/TIP) DEVELOPMENT

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that we just adopted our current 2023-2026 TIP, and we are now getting ready to update the TIP/STIP again. He said ARDOT has provided the following timeline:

DRAFT 2025-2028 Development Schedule

- March 31, 2023 –Proposed projects from MPO’s due to ARDOT
- February 2024 –Initial draft STIP/TIP
- June 2024 –DRAFT STIP/TIP for public comment
- July/August 2024 –TIP Approval
- November 2024 –FHWA/FTA Approvals

Conklin said they are looking for our listed projects for our region by March 31, 2023. He said what we have done in the past is to provide what was voted on by TAC and RPC/Policy Committee as part of our long-range transportation plan since that had robust public involvement and numerous meetings through committees. He showed the following and highlighted some of the listed projects:

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NWARPC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

CONSTRAINED PROJECT LIST ARKANSAS

State Highway	County	Project	From	Dir.	To	Miles	est. Cost	Year of Expenditure	Funding Source
Hwy 12	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	Shell Rd.	South	Regional Dr.	5	\$ 38,000,000	2025	Fed_State
Hwy 12	Benton	Widen 4-lane divided (pre Eng. ROW, Const Eng)	2nd St.	East	City Limits (Roge	1.89	\$ 2,600,000	2025	Fed_State
US 412 Bypass (612)	Benton/Wash.	New Freeway (4 Lanes)	Hwy 112	West	US 412 (Tontitow	6.2	\$ 128,700,000	2025	CAP II
XNA Airport Access Road	Benton	New Freeway	Hwy 112	North	XNA	4	\$ 86,000,000	2025	CAP II
I-49	Washington	Widen to 6 lanes	Hwy 265	North	US62	1.4	\$ 9,500,000	2026	Fed_State
Hwy 112	Washington	Widen 4-lane Divided	Howard Nickell	North	Don Tyson Parkw	2.7	\$ 21,000,000	2026	CAP II
Hwy 72	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	I-49	East	Little Sugar Cree	1.87	\$ 14,000,000	2026	Fed_State
Hwy 72	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided (pre Eng. ROW, Const Eng)	Little Sugar Creek	East	Curtis Ave	6.24	\$ 16,000,000	2026	Fed_State
Hwy 72	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided (Const Only)	Little Sugar Creek	East	Curtis Ave	6.24	\$ 48,500,000	2027	Fed_State
Hwy 112*	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	US 612	North	Pleasant Grove Road		\$ 37,000,000	2027	CAP II
Hwy 265	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided (3 to 4)	1st Street/Pleasant	North	Hwy 94/New Ho	2	\$ 21,000,000	2028	Fed_State
Hwy 12	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided (Const Only)	2nd St.	East	City Limits (Roge	1.89	\$ 8,000,000	2028	Fed_State
US 71	Benton	Various Imps. per Study Rec.	US 71B	North	AR-MO State Line		\$ 5,000,000	2028	Fed_State
Hwy 264	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	Goad Springs Rd.	West	Bellview Rd.	0.91	\$ 9,000,000	2028	Fed_State
Hwy 102-62 Centerton	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided (3 to 4)	Hwy 102B	East	2nd Street	9.47	\$ 20,000,000	2029	Fed_State
Hwy 102B	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	Hwy 102	North	Hwy 72	1.76	\$ 17,500,000	2029	Fed_State
Hwy 102	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	Hwy. 279 N	East	Hwy 279 S	1.26	\$ 9,000,000	2030	Fed_State
Hwy 94	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	U.S. 71	East	1st Street	0.66	\$ 2,800,000	2030	Fed_State
US 412 Bypass (612)	Benton	New Freeway (4 Lanes)	I-49	East	Hwy 265		\$ 127,300,000	2030	CAP II
Hwy 45	Washington	Widen to 3 Lanes	Lisa Lane	East	Starr Rd.	1.07	\$ 15,000,000	2030	Fed_State
Hwy 45	Washington	Widen to 3 Lanes	Starr Rd.	East	Oakland Zion Rd	0.76	\$ 11,000,000	2030	Fed_State
Hwy 265	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided (3 to 4) Ph. 2	Hwy 264	North	1st Street/Pleas	4	\$ 41,000,000	2031	Fed_State
Hwy 45	Washington	Safety and Capacity Improvements	Oakland Zion Rd.	East	White River	5.37	\$ 32,400,000	2032	Fed_State
US 412	Benton	Widen to 6 lanes	Siloam Springs City Limits	West	Existing 6 lanes	3.1	\$ 18,700,000	2033	Fed_State
Hwy 279	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	Hwy. 102	South	Hwy 12	2.96	\$ 30,000,000	2033	Fed_State
Hwy 264	Benton	Widen to 3 Lanes	Bellview Rd.	West	Hwy 112	3.25	\$ 24,000,000	2034	Fed_State
Hwy 265	Washington	Widen to 5 Lanes (4 to 5)	Hwy 412	North	Mountain St.	1.25	\$ 10,000,000	2034	Fed_State
Hwy 43	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	Cheri Whitlock Parkway	West	Dawn Hill Rd.	0.21	\$ 1,500,000	2035	Fed_State
Hwy 43	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	Dawn Hill Rd	West	Sycamore Heigh	0.92	\$ 9,000,000	2035	Fed_State
Hwy 16	Washington	Widen 4-lane Divided	E. Roberts Road	East	Middle Fork -Wh	3	\$ 27,000,000	2035	Fed_State
Hwy 72	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	US 71B	West	Hwy 102B	3.7	\$ 43,100,000	2036	Fed_State

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Hwy 279	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	Hwy. 102	North	Hwy 549 (Future	5.39	\$ 48,000,000	2037	Fed_State
Hwy 72	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	Hwy 59	East	Hwy 549	5.27	\$ 52,000,000	2038	Fed_State
US 62	Benton	Widen 4-lane Divided	S. Wimpy Jones	East	Hwy 37	4.5	\$ 26,100,000	2039	Fed_State
Hwy 16	Washington	Widen to 4 Lanes	Middle Fork -W	East	Hwy 74	3.04	\$ 21,000,000	2039	Fed_State
US 412 Bypass (612)	Benton	New Freeway (4 Lanes)	I-49	East	412 East (Sonora	6.7	\$ 252,200,000	2040	CAP II
I-49	Benton	Widen to 6 lanes	Hwy 72	North	US 71 North Wal	3.62	\$ 24,000,000	2041	Fed_State
AR 59	Benton	Widen 2-5 Lanes	3rd St/Gentry	North	Y City Rd	3.33	\$ 46,800,000	2042	Fed_State
AR 59	Benton	Widen 2-5 Lanes	Y City Rd	North	Hwy 102/Decatu	2.4	\$ 27,000,000	2043	Fed_State
AR 59	Benton	Widen 2-5 Lanes	102/Decatur	North	Bethlehem Rd	2.11	\$ 23,700,000	2043	Fed_State
AR 59	Benton	Widen 2-5 Lanes	Hodge Rd/Eldred	North	AR 72	3.05	\$ 35,000,000	2044	Fed_State
AR 59	Benton	Widen 3-5 Lanes	Bethlehem Rd	North	Hodge Rd/Eldred	1.21	\$ 13,400,000	2044	Fed_State
AR 72	Benton	Widen 4 Lanes Divided	71B	West	102B	3.73	\$ 39,000,000	2045	Fed_State
							Total	\$ 1,491,800,000	

9-12 2045 MTP - Chapter 9

Conklin said obviously the amount of money that is available for our region during the four-year STIP/TIP period cannot fund the whole list. He said this is the list that we plan to submit to ARDOT next week and asked whether there were any questions and there were none.

(9) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

A. FY 2023 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP Project Development

Tim Conklin said he spoke with ARDOT yesterday about the triparty agreements for projects that were awarded last fall, and they said the agreements are all drafted and are currently being reviewed. He said we will continue to work with our planning partners to make progress and keep projects moving forward faster.

B. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) (aka IIJA)/USDOT Grants Updates

Tim Conklin summarized various programs, deadlines, and resources for discretionary grant programs. 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-notice-funding-opportunity>
- <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

Conklin said last week USDOT announced a new Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) discretionary grant program due May 30, 2023. He said we plan to pull our EV Working Group together again on April 28, 2023.

C. 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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2-week public comment period is March 17-March 31, 2023

Next Steps – DRAFT Timeline

- Review/respond to public comments –April 1-7
- Make any needed changes to Draft Plans April 1-13
- Finalize Plans and send to TAC –April 13
- Presentation by CS and ATG to TAC April 20, 2023
- TAC motion to recommend to RPC for adoption
- **Presentation by CS and ATG to RPC April 26, 2023**
- **RPC motion to adopt –April 26, 2023**

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

D. Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) Update

Bowen said we are using Toole Design Group to develop the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) 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
 - Where to implement safety counter measures
- Second working group meeting Feb 10 at 2-3:30pm
- Made available the high injury network for Committee/City Staff review
- High Injury Network Draft comment period ended March 14
- Logo, website, review crash data, draft high-risk network -complete
- First Safety Webinar March 15, 2023

Next Steps:

- Listening sessions continue to be scheduled with Communities
- Stakeholder meetings and public meetings will begin in March
- Public survey –Begins March 16
- Schedule demonstration projects –TBD
- Third working group meeting -TBD/1stWeek May
 - Equity Analysis Methodology and Preliminary Maps
 - Descriptive Analysis Memo and Tables
 - High Injury Network
 - 1 month of public data to review
 - Draft list of projects

She asked that the public survey be shared widely and shared the link:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/e71adbc7a28d419da485bf84f02ce301>. She said the survey can also be found on the project story map, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5333eabee244383b2ec4c70af467f17>, which can also be accessed through our website, <https://www.nwarpc.org/transportation/vision-zero-plan/>.

Tim Conklin said once this plan is approved by this Board, communities can apply for SS4A implementation Grants. Bowen said the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is projected to come out April 15, with the deadline being September 15, 2023.

There was discussion regarding the application of the safety plan to unpaved roads, particularly bicycle travel and event routes turning into everyday routes.

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

Bowen explained that we had set aside \$400,000 in STBGP-A funding and have a matching grant from the Walton Family Foundation. She said on January 31, 2023, we were awarded a \$300,000 SS4A CSAP Grant. She said the award agreement has been drafted and we are waiting for signatures. She said she wanted to make the Board aware that it looks like we will be using more of our local funds while we wait for the agreement to finalize with FHWA and ARDOT, though our planning partners are working hard to get us through the process.

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 Bike/Ped Plan Update Subcommittee as follows:

Last Met: March 16, 2023

- City of Rogers Bike Friendly Community Application –Public Survey
- Sub-committee for NWARBPMP March 16, 2023
 - Additional Cities/UofA have decided to modify their plans
 - Adding Level of Traffic Stress based on People for Bike BNA
 - Approved NWA Active Transportation Facilities Data Dictionary updated from Nov 2014

Next Meeting:

- ACT May 18, 2023 at 1:30
- Subcommittee NWARBPMP April 20, 2023 at 1:30
- Map will go to public comment –TBD / Est April

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

Last Met: January 17, 2023

Next Meeting Scheduled: March 27, 2023 @ 10:00 am.

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

Last Met: February 15, 2023

Invoices for 2023 fees were mailed – please return payment to NWARPC

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

D. NWA GIS User Group

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

Last Met: February 14, 2023

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 anyone present wishing to comment and there were none.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

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

A. Election – CY 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Officers - Nominating Committee Recommendation

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Melissa McCarville explained that the committee is recommending the following slate of officers for calendar year 2023:

Chair (Benton County) – Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County
Vice Chair (Washington County) – Mayor Ernie Penn, Farmington
Treasurer (Washington County) – Mayor Chris Keeney, Johnson
Secretary (Benton County) – Mayor Bill Edwards, Centerton

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none called for a motion to approve the recommended slate of officers for calendar year 2023. There was discussion of Judge Moehring’s additional service as chairperson of the Benton County Solid Waste District before the motion was made.

MOTION: John McCurdy made a motion to approve the recommended slate of officers for calendar year 2023. Mark Latham provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Tim Conklin thanked Chair Mayor Keeney for Chairing the Board.

B. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Mayor Keeney announced upcoming meetings as follows:

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, April 20, 2023 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, April 26, 2023 @ 1:30 PM

Tim Conklin said the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) Community Placemaking Grant applications are due March 27th by midnight. He said the ARDOT 2023 TAP & RTP Grant Application window is now open and closes June 1st at 4:00 p.m. and an informational session scheduled April 4th at 10AM. He said NWARPC will be working with the Regional Mobility Authority to apply for another ARDOT TAP application for the Heritage Springs Trail along Highway 112. Bowen said the RMA is being proposed to meet following the April 26th RPC/Policy Committee meeting. Conklin shared information on a university honors thesis research survey on perceived safety on hard surface trails in Fayetteville, AR.

(13) ADJOURN

With no other business, Chair Mayor Chris Keeney adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023.

Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____