

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	MAYOR ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	MAYOR JOHN FLYNN	X	
BENTON COUNTY	<b>JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING (CHAIR)</b> JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON	X X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	<b>MAYOR BILL EDWARDS (SECRETARY)</b> LORENE BURNS	X X	Nicola Hoofard
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	<b>MAYOR ERNIE PENN (VICE CHAIR)</b>	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	MAYOR LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X X	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		
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE CASEY		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR TRAVIS DOTSON		
JOHNSON	<b>MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (TREASURER)</b>	X	
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE		
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY SHAWN GRISNDSTAFF	X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION	X	
SPRINGDALE	MAYOR DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X X	Tim Conklin 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	Bridget Russell
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB CHAD ADAMS (DISTRICT 4)	X X	X Sunny Farmahan
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMMISSIONER BRIAN HALL		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR (BRITNI O'CONNOR)	X	
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES		
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)		

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

**NWARPC STAFF:** Tim Conklin, Elizabeth Bowen; Nicole Gibbs; Tim Reavis

**OTHERS:** Dennis Birge (Bentonville); Rob Smith, Duke McLarty, and Isabel Gamarra (NWA Council); Phillip Patterson; Praveen Pasumathy and Peter Rafferty (Cambridge Systematics); Bill Loudon (ATG); 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, Judge Barry Moehring 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 MARCH 22, 2023**

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

**MOTION: Mayor Chris Keeney made a motion to approve the March 22, 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**(4) NWA WORKFORCE HOUSING CENTER PRESENTATION – Executive Director, Duke McLarty**

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin introduced Duke McLarty, Executive Director NWA Workforce Housing Center, saying he is going to update the Commission on all the work he has been doing this past year and what the future holds over the next year. McLarty thanked the Commission for having him and said he wants to start by offering to be a resource to your communities as they continue to grow and gave a presentation on the NWA Workforce Housing Center’s initiatives.

McLarty ended by encouraging communities to reach out to him and offered his email, [duke@nwacouncil.org](mailto:duke@nwacouncil.org), and website [nwacouncil.org/housing](http://nwacouncil.org/housing), saying he would love to engage with each of you more directly in the days to come.

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any comments or questions and there were none.

**(5) DIRECTOR’S REPORT/CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT**

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin said there are four applications on this month’s clearinghouse report. He said there is no action needed by the board on this report, but you can see which regional governmental and non-profit entities are applying for federal aid.

**A. 2022 NWARPC Audit**

Conklin said the 2022 Audit has been completed, distributed to Chief Elected Officials for their review, and uploaded to the federal clearinghouse by the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. He said we have not received any comments or questions, there were no adverse findings, and the auditor found it to be

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

in compliance in all respects. He said the audit is considered a single audit and was prepared by Harris CPAs LLC. He said the audit does establish a new indirect cost rate of 16%, up from 13.61% from last year.

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to accept the NWARPC 2022 Audit.

**MOTION: Mayor Ernie Penn made a motion to accept the NWARPC 2022 Audit. Lane Crider provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Procurement for Certified Public Accountant (CPA)**

Tim Conklin explained that we need to go out for procurement to select a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to prepare the 2023 Audit. He said Mayor Keeney has volunteered as Treasurer of the Commission to sit on the selection committee with staff. He said this process is similar to how we do the selection of professional engineering consultants with a letter of interest (LOI) and request for proposals (RFP). He said the selected CPA, along with the agreement will be brought back to the full Commission for action.

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to authorize the procurement of a Certified Public Account (CPA).

**MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to authorize the procurement of a Certified Public Account (CPA). Mayor Stephanie Orman provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**C. Disposal of Property Announcement**

Tim Conklin explained last month you approved our Property Control Manual Policy, which included in the approved methods of disposal the distribution of items to member jurisdictions. He said we have a list of surplus items that was sent out in the board packet, and property is on a first-come, first-served basis to our members. He said we will have you fill out a transfer form and once you receive it, it becomes your public property. He said we recently remodeled our building, and this is property accumulated over the last 57 years that we are no longer using, valued under \$1,000. He said if none of our members claim the property, we are planning to donate it to a nonprofit. He thanked ARDOT again for reviewing the policy before the Board adopted it last month.

**D. Resolution #2023-08 – Authorizing the Filing of Applications with the Federal Transit Administration**

Conklin explained that FTA reached out to the Commission and asked us to pass another resolution designating the Executive Director to file and execute applications for federal assistance, to file annual certifications and assurances and other required documents, and to execute grant and cooperative agreements with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on behalf of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commissions.

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-08 Authorizing the Filing of Applications with the Federal Transit Administration.

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

**MOTION:** Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-08 Authorizing the Filing of Applications with the Federal Transit Administration. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Conklin said he wanted to update the Board that last week at Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), we presented the draft fiscal year (FY) 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which was also sent to ARDOT, MoDOT, and FHWA for review, and TAC voted to send to a two-week public comment period starting May 3, 2023 through May 17, 2023. He said this will be back to our TAC on May 18, 2023 and for Board approval on May 24, 2023. He said after approval, we will have grant agreements from ARDOT and MoDOT to execute, which helps fund the Regional Planning Commission.

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there were any questions and there were none.

**(6) FTA SECTIONS 5307 & 5339 FY 2023 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP) APPROVAL**

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that we are the designated recipient for FTA programs, and each year FTA publishes apportioned amounts for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urban Area. He said each year, and for many years, the FTA Section 5307 funds are split with 55% to Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) and 45% to Razorback Transit. He said the capital money, Section 5339, is split 50-50 between the two agencies. He said these apportioned numbers, based on our population, are published on USDOT website. He said we coordinate with the transit agencies to understand how they plan to use their funds. He said no public comment was received, and summarized the proposed split table for Section 5307 and 5339 programs:

<b>FAYETTEVILLE-SPRINGDALE-ROGERS, AR-MO FTA URBANIZED AREA FORMULA FFY 2023 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP)</b>				
<b>FTA SECTION 5307 POP FFY 2023</b>				
<b>OZARK REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY</b>				
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Federal Share</b>	<b>Local Share</b>
Operating Assist.	Operating	\$ 2,164,902	\$ 1,082,451	\$ 1,082,451
Preventative Mtn.	Capital	\$ 607,590	\$ 486,072	\$ 121,518
ADA Paratransit Service	Capital	\$ 345,998	\$ 276,798	\$ 69,200
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 3,118,490</b>	<b>\$ 1,845,321</b>	<b>\$ 1,273,169</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – RAZORBACK TRANSIT</b>				
Operating Assist.	Operating	\$ 119,616	\$ 59,808	\$ 59,808
Preventative Mtn.	Capital	\$ 437,500	\$ 350,000	\$ 87,500
Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 1,117,647	\$ 950,000	\$ 167,647
ADA Paratransit Service	Capital	\$ 187,500	\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 1,862,263</b>	<b>\$ 1,509,808</b>	<b>\$ 352,455</b>
<b>NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION</b>				
Comp. Planning	Capital	\$ 125,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000
<b>SUMMARY – ALL PROVIDERS</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 5,105,753</b>	<b>\$ 3,455,129</b>	<b>\$ 1,650,624</b>

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

<b>FTA SECTION 5339 POP FFY 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 &amp; 2023</b>					
<b>OZARK REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY</b>					
<b>FFY Funding</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Federal Share</b>	<b>Local Share</b>
2019	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 186,781	\$ 158,764	\$ 28,017
2020	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 184,246	\$ 156,609	\$ 27,637
2021	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 167,015	\$ 141,963	\$ 25,052
2022	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 160,107	\$ 136,091	\$ 24,016
<b>2023</b>	<b>Bus Procurement</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>\$ 159,912</b>	<b>\$ 135,925</b>	<b>\$ 23,987</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – RAZORBACK TRANSIT</b>					
2019	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 186,781	\$ 158,764	\$ 28,017
2020	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 184,246	\$ 156,609	\$ 27,637
2021	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 167,015	\$ 141,963	\$ 25,052
2022	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 160,107	\$ 136,091	\$ 24,016
<b>2023</b>	<b>Bus Procurement</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>\$ 159,912</b>	<b>\$ 135,925</b>	<b>\$ 23,987</b>
<b>SUMMARY – FFY TOTALS (ORT + RAZORBACK TRANSIT)</b>					
FFY 2019	FTA Section 5339	Capital	\$ 373,562	\$ 317,528	\$ 56,034
FFY 2020	FTA Section 5339	Capital	\$ 368,492	\$ 313,218	\$ 55,274
FFY 2021	FTA Section 5339	Capital	\$ 334,030	\$ 283,926	\$ 50,104
FFY 2022	FTA Section 5339	Capital	\$ 320,214	\$ 272,182	\$ 48,032
<b>FFY 2023</b>	<b>FTA Section 5339</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>\$ 319,824</b>	<b>\$ 271,850</b>	<b>\$ 47,974</b>

4/5/18 ORT – \$3.6 million Sec. 5339(b) Bus grant approved.  
9/25/18 ORT – \$2.9 million Sec. 5339(b) Facility grant approved.  
3/27/20 – Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding: Total \$7,731,764 – ORT: \$4,252,470/Razorback: \$3,479,294  
3/11/21 – American Rescue Plan Act Funding: Total \$996,609 – ORT: \$548,135/Razorback: \$448,474

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 FTA Program of Projects (POP).

**MOTION: Sunny Farmahan made a motion to approve the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 FTA Program of Projects (POP). Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**(7) DRAFT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS (TSMO)/INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ITS) PLANS APPROVAL**

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen explained that over the last 18 months, we have been working with many of your organizations to develop a Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan and an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan. She said the documents have been out for review for about a month and we held a two-week public comment period from March 17, 2023 to March 31, 2023. She said we did not receive any public comment on either plan. She said we have Cambridge Systematics and Alliance Transportation Group (ATG) to present the Plans today.

Praveen Pasumarthy with Cambridge Systematics gave an overview of the Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan. There was discussion regarding the Regional Transportation Management Center (TMC) recommended action item, with Springfield, MO cited as a comparative example and performance measures including travel time and safety improvements.

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

Tim Conklin said the regional TMC in Springfield, MO was a 50-50 partnership with the state DOT, which made a huge difference.

Bill Loudon with ATG gave an overview of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Plan and said this is an update to the 2007 architecture plan.

Bowen said last year we adopted the Congestion Management Plan (CMP) and now we are looking to adopt the TSMO and ITS. She thanked the Commission and their staff for their support in developing these plans, saying development and implementation of these plans is impossible without you all. She said these plans are federally required documents to spend federal dollars, as well as being important tools for regional collaboration to make the best transportation system possible.

**A. Resolution #2023-06 – Approving the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2023 Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan**

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-06 Approving the NWARPC 2023 Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan.

**MOTION: Mayor Chris Keeney made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-06 Approving the NWARPC 2023 Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan. Mayor Stephanie Orman provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Resolution #2023-07 – Approving the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2023 Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Plan**

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-07 Approving the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2023 Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Plan.

**MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-07 Approving the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2023 Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Plan. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**(8) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES**

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

Elizabeth Bowen explained that NWARPC is now part of the triparty agreement of understanding for all projects awarded through the Commission. She said the agreements require quarterly reports to be sent to ARDOT and to NWARPC. She summarized the status of the FFY 2023 awarded projects, saying we are having trouble receiving agreements of understanding from ARDOT. She said we need to have all of these funds obligated by August 15, 2023 to not lose any of these funds. She said we will continue to work with our planning partners to make progress and keep projects moving forward as best as we can.

**B. FY 2024 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP – Application Cycle Update**

Elizabeth Bowen said we estimate around \$13.8 million coming to the region in FY 2024 through these suballocated formula programs. She said the call for projects was issued on March 23, 2023

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

and applications are on our website. She said the deadline for all programs, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), is July 14, 2023 at 4:00 PM. She said do not wait until the last minute as you will need a resolution from your legislative bodies to apply. She said applicants will need to present their projects to TAC on July 20, 2023. She said a selection committee will visit and review the applications, and their recommendation will come to TAC on August 17, 2023, who will make a recommendation to the RPC/Policy Committee on August 23, 2023.

Conklin reminded those with existing projects to assess whether additional funding is needed to get the project up to be 80% federally funded. He said we anticipate several existing projects to come back this cycle due to increases in construction costs.

**C. Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) Update**

Elizabeth Bowen said we are working with Toole Design Group to create a Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). She summarized the following:

**IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS DUE JULY 10:**

- Listening sessions, stakeholder meetings, public outreach -May
- Public survey –Began March 16
- Schedule demonstration projects –Week of May 1
- Third working group meeting –May 4, 1-2:30pm
  - 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 said we originally believed the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant application deadline to be September 15, 2023, which is what it was last year and what FHWA had been telling us; however, the actual deadline has been released for July 10, 2023. She said we are moving very quickly to have a plan in place so that communities and/or the region can submit grant applications by the deadline.

Bowen said in addition to the working group meeting, next week will kick off the in-person public outreach events, starting on May 1. She said we will be making arrangements to attend events in your communities the week of May 1, including Square2Square on May 6. She said the outreach is a big component of this plan.

Bowen explained that we had originally set aside STBGP-A funding and have a matching grant from the Walton Family Foundation. She said we were awarded a \$300,000 USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan Grant and we still do not have our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). She said we are still spending our STBGP, and not the SS4A award.

Bowen said we must get the plan reviewed, approved, and adopted by June 28, 2023. Tim Conklin said we often do not meet in June, however, it will be necessary to get this plan adopted and a quorum will be critical at those meetings.

Bowen asked if there were any questions. There was discussion regarding whether our Highway Commissioner has been contacted. There were no other questions.

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

**D. US Army Corps of Engineers - Illinois River Flood Study**

Elizabeth Bowen said the US Army Corps of Engineers presented their Illinois River Flood Study at a public meeting in Siloam Springs on April 11, 2023. She said they shared their perspective on land use and urban development impacts and indicated that the impervious surface was not the significant contributor to our stormwater and flooding issues. She said they presented various scenarios, one relying on detention basins throughout the area and another hybrid method primarily utilizing riparian buffers, which they recommended. She said many comments and questions were made during the meeting and they are modifying the report based on the comments received at the meeting. We have invited them to make a presentation of the report to TAC at the May 18, 2023 meeting.

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

**E. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) (aka IJA)/USDOT Grants Updates**

Bowen summarized information pertaining to an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. She explained there is a formula grant for planning, with \$3M going to every state, and \$1M to the largest 67 MPOs, and \$27M to tribes and other agencies. She said we are ranked 105<sup>th</sup> and quite a way from being issued that formula funding, however the EPA has encouraged MPOs to submit a notice of intent to participate (NOIP) for instances where states or larger MPOs do not claim their grant. She said we plan to submit our NOIP by the end of the month as recommended by the EPA.

Elizabeth Bowen summarized additional state grant opportunities as follows:

**Arkansas State Grant Programs**

- [FY 2023 ARDOT Transportation Alternatives \(TAP\) and Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\)](#) - deadline June 1, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
- [AR Dept. of Parks, Heritage, & Tourism -Outdoor Recreation Grants Program](#) - Application Workshop, April 27, 2023 @ 11:00 AM, Harrison, AR
- [ARDOT Intersection Improvement Program \(IIP\)](#)
- [ARDOT Local Bridge Program \(LBP\)](#)

Tim Conklin described the USDOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant, which is due May 30, 2023. He said there are two funding categories, Corridor Grants and Community Grants. He said on the Corridor Grants, for private entities to access the grant, they must seek out eligible public agencies to be the applicant, and the grant requires the private entities to provide the 20% local match. He explained that Regional Planning has been contacted by two private entities to partner on the grant, Francis Energy and ChargePoint. He said ORT intends to apply for the CFI grant for 17 areas in the region and has requested a letter of support from Regional Planning.

Conklin said in talking with TAC and individual members, he has not seen any interest as a region to apply for a CFI grant. He asked whether anyone is actively working on or interested in a joint CFI grant. There was discussion regarding the public agency's responsibility as the grantee, including ensuring that all federal aid requirements are being met. Conklin said his recommendation at this time is to support the ORT grant and not to seek out another regional application – unless multiple cities were interested in partnering. There was general agreement.



**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

**(9) 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

- LovetoRide, BFC-Rogers, LoTS, Tunnel Standards, E-bike rebate program pilot, AR Bike/Ped Coalition
- Sub-committee for NWARBPMP March 16, 2023
  - Cities/UofA have continue to make progress on Plans
  - Cities/UofA working to finalize proposed trails so map can go to public comment

**Next Meeting –**

- Subcommittee NWARBPMP April 20, 2023 at 1:30
- ACT May 18, 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:** March 27, 2023

- New bi-monthly schedule, third Monday, (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)
- 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:** May 15, 2023 @ 10:30 am.

**C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group**

Nicole Gibbs summarized the following:

**Last Met:** April 19, 2023

Discussion Items:

- Annual Report Submissions and E-portal Issues
- January-March Stormwater Education Report
- Landscape Professional Postcard Campaign
- Soil testing Drop-off Summary

**Next meeting scheduled:** June 21, 2023 @ 10:30 am, via Zoom (every two months on the third Wed.)

**D. NWA GIS User Group**

Nicole Gibbs summarized the following:

**Last Met:** February 14, 2023

**Next meeting scheduled:** June 13, 2023 at 10:30am, virtual

**(10) PUBLIC COMMENT**

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether any comments had been received. Nicole Gibbs read a comment received and said it was distributed in the meeting packets. There were no other comments made.

**(11) OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:**

Chair Judge Moehring announced upcoming meetings as follows:

- **Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) Meeting** – Wednesday, April 26, 2023, *immediately following RPC*
- **NACTO Conference, Denver, Colorado** – May 15-18, 2023
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, May 18, 2023 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, May 24, 2023 @ 1:30 PM
- **CNU Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina** – May 31-June 3, 2023

Tim Conklin said we received a grant from the Walton Family Foundation to take a delegation of about 25 to the NACTO Conference in Denver, CO, and about 25 to the CNU Conference in Charlotte, NC.

**B. Beaver Watershed Alliance Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Public Forum #1** – April 27, 2023 @ 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, NWARPC Office | [Register Here](#)

**C. ARDOT Public Involvement Meeting (Phase III) – Hwy 112 (Truckers Dr. - Howard Nickell Rd., Fayetteville) – Job 040746** – Thursday, April 27, 202 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Mount Comfort Church of Christ, 3249 West Mount Comfort Road, Fayetteville, AR 72704

**D. NWA Electric Vehicle (EV) Quarterly Working Group Meeting** – April 28, 2023 @ 10:30 AM, NWARPC Office

**E. Special Census Program Resumes**

Tim Conklin said if you have a lot of population growth or significant annexations, you can now request a Special Census, at the city's cost, more information here:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/specialcensus.html>

Conklin said the July 1, 2022 population estimates came out and just in Benton and Washington Counties, we added over 12,888 people in one year. He said from 2020 to 2022, Benton and Madison counties both had growth over 5%.

There was discussion regarding the program to adjust geographic boundary annexations, which has not yet been opened.

Sunny Farmahan said the next Policy Board meeting conflicts with the May 24<sup>th</sup> ARDOT Transportation Research Committee (TRC) Conference in Hot Springs. There was discussion regarding the audited indirect cost rate and effects moving forward on ARDOT claims.

Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) Board members were asked to stick around for the meeting immediately following.

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there was any other business.

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

**(12) ADJOURN**

With no other business, Chair Judge Moehring asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION: Mayor Chris Keeney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_