

RESOLUTION #2023-01

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NWARPC) 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) TO INCLUDE NEW FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require an areawide multi-modal transportation plan and a continuing planning process for urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, said mandated planning process, known as the “3C” (Continuing, Cooperative and Comprehensive) planning process, must be carried out by a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and is necessary for transportation projects to qualify for federal transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO urbanized area, is responsible for the development of a long-range, multi-modal transportation plan for the area and its future environs; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan was approved on March 24, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law on November 15, 2021 and includes provisions for new federal funding programs including the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program; and

WHEREAS, NWARPC, in conformance with federal requirements, has prepared an amendment to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to incorporate the new federal funding programs into the long-range plans.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

That the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Chapter 9. Transportation Projects and Funding, Summary of Federal Aid Programs and Funding, is hereby amended as shown in Exhibit A.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023.

Chairperson

ATTEST: _____

**NWARPC 2045 MTP AMENDMENT #2 – EXHIBIT A
PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO**

CHAPTER 9. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND FUNDING SUMMARY OF FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS AND FUNDING

PROMOTING RESILIENT OPERATIONS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE, EFFICIENT, AND COST-SAVING TRANSPORTATION (PROTECT) FORMULA PROGRAM

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which was signed into law on November 15, 2021, establishes the new **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program** to help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure. The PROTECT Program includes both formula funding distributed to States and competitive grants.

A State may only use its PROTECT Formula Program funds for eligible activities and eligible costs associated with:

- highway projects eligible under Title 23, U.S.C.;
- public transportation facilities or services eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, U.S.C.; or
- port facilities, including facilities that connect ports with other modes of transportation, improve the efficiency of evacuations and disaster relief, or aid transportation. [§ 11405; 23 U.S.C. 176(c)(3)(B)]

The FFY 2023-2026 TIP/STIP shows the following funding totals for the PROTECT Program in Arkansas:

2023	\$24.2 million
2024	\$24.7 million
2025	\$25.2 million
2026	<u>\$25.7 million</u>
Total	\$99.8 million

PROTECT Estimated Funding (Federal, plus match, 2 percent inflation/year):

Time Period (FFY)	PROTECT Statewide
2025 to 2030	\$159.0
2031 to 2035	\$147.8
2036 to 2045	\$343.3
Total	\$650.1

(Millions of dollars of estimated obligation limitation)