

**RESOLUTION 2023-04**

**AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION FOR THE BUS STOP ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under federal regulations for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urbanized Area and the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urban Programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Connect Northwest Arkansas (NWA), a ten-year Transit Development Plan (TDP), was adopted by the NWARPC Policy Committee in 2020, to serve as a “blueprint” for improving and expanding transit in the region in conformance with the Northwest Arkansas 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the 2045 MTP and Connect NWA Plan, a Bus Stop Enhancement Plan was developed in 2022, defining and prioritizing bus stop improvements throughout the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s FTA announced the availability of funding through the Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Discretionary Grant Program, and an AoPP application is being prepared in cooperation with area transit agencies, Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) and Razorback Transit; and

**WHEREAS**, grant approval of \$540,000 Federal (90%) with \$60,000 local match (10%) to be split between ORT and Razorback Transit, for a total project cost of \$600,000 would enable design and engineering activities for bus stop enhancements to support access to public transportation services in underserved areas of Northwest Arkansas, including the evaluation of individual bus stop locations identified for each transit agency and needs related to recommended improvements.

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

**SECTION 1.** That confirmation of authorization to file an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for an Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Program Discretionary Grant, the approval of which will support the implementation of Connect NWA and the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan and improve equitable access to safe and comfortable public transportation services in underserved areas of the region, is hereby acknowledged.

**SECTION 2.** That the Director is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Commission in matters concerning this project application, and subsequent administration of the grant should it be approved.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Chris Keeney, Chair, NWARPC

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