

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022, 2:30 PM *(Immediately following the NWA RPC/Policy Committee)*
NWARPC, 1311 CLAYTON, SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

“The mission of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Mobility Authority is to provide leadership in the implementation of regionally significant highway and transit transportation projects and initiatives to meet the present and future mobility needs of the region.”

OFFICERS

Chair Mayor Sprouse
Vice Chair Judge Moerhing
Secretary/Treasurer Mayor Hudson

BOARD MEMBER	JURISDICTION	ATTENDANCE	PROXY
Judge Barry Moerhing	Benton County	Proxy	Josh Beam
Judge Joseph Wood	Washington County		
Mayor Peter Christie	Bella Vista	X	
Mayor Stephanie Orman	Bentonville	X	
Mayor Bill Edwards	Centerton		
Mayor Ernie Penn	Farmington	X	
Mayor Lioneld Jordan	Fayetteville	Proxy	Chris Brown
Mayor Kevin Johnston	Gentry		
Mayor Doug Hutchens	Lincoln		
Mayor Chris Moore	Lowell	X	
Mayor Jackie Crabtree	Pea Ridge	Proxy	Nathan See
Mayor Sonny Hudson	Prairie Grove	X	
Mayor Greg Hines	Rogers	Proxy	Lance Job
Mayor Judy Nation	Siloam Springs	X	
Mayor Doug Sprouse	Springdale	X	
Mayor Heith Caudle	West Fork		

NWARPC SERVING AS RMA STAFF: Jeff Hawkins, Tim Conklin, Elizabeth Bowen

OTHER ATTENDEES: Rob Smith (NWA Council), John McCurdy (City of Rogers), Randall Noblett (City of Cave Springs), Ron Wood (Democrat Gazette)

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF NWA RMA MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 26, 2021
4. APPLICATIONS FOR ARDOT TAP FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED HWY 112 SIDEPATH
 - A. RESOLUTION #2022-01 – A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE NWA RMA TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FUNDS
5. OTHER BUSINESS
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. ADJOURN

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The hybrid, in-person and virtual NWA RMA Committee meeting was called to order by Chair, Mayor Doug Sprouse at 2:25pm.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

A quorum was declared.

(3) APPROVAL OF NWA RMA MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 26, 2021

Chair Mayor Sprouse asked the Committee whether there were any corrections or amendments to the May 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes from a year ago and hearing none, requested a motion to approve.

MOTION: Mayor Peter Christie made the motion to approve the May 26, 2021 NWA RMA Committee meeting minutes as presented. Mayor Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) APPLICATIONS FOR ARDOT TAP FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED HWY 112 SIDEPATH

RMA Staff Bowen stated the request and provided background information:

Staff is proposing the NWA Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) pass a resolution authorizing the filing of ARDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants on programmed ARDOT STIP/TIP Hwy 112 projects to help fund the region’s portion of the Hwy 112 side path costs.

Bowen shared the approved FFY 2021-2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) includes several Hwy 112 projects. NWARPC, through coordination with cities along the corridor, has adopted a regional vision to design the facility with access management, a raised median, and also requested a 12-foot side path as the desired facility design between Fayetteville and Bentonville as opposed to 8’ of roadway for bike lanes, and construct with a 6-foot greenspace, where feasible. The proposed Hwy 112 side path is shown in the adopted NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and is also listed as a catalyst project (Resolution #2020-11). It is understood that constrained locations will require less greenspace and/or trail width and the 12-foot sidewalk/side path will continue through the bridges and overpasses.

2021-2024 STIP

JOB	COUNTY	ROUTE	TERMINI	LENGTH	TYPE WORK	ESTIMATED COST Funding Breakdown (in thousands)	AGENCY CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT	FFY	MPO
040720	Washington	112	Poplar St. – Drake St. (Fayetteville) (S)	1.57	Major Widening	7,800 - TOTAL 6,240 - STBGP 1,560 - State	Local	2022	NARTS
Partnering project. City to accept ownership of a segment of Highway 112 upon completion of project.									
040746	Washington	112	Truckers Dr. – Howard Nickell Rd. (Fayetteville) (S)	1.42	Major Widening	16,000 - TOTAL 280 - STBGP >200K 15,650 - CAP 70 - Local	State	2022	NARTS
Partnering Project. City to contribute \$350,000 towards project costs and take ownership of a portion of Highway 71B.									
040860	Washington	112	Don Tyson Pkwy. Extension – Hwy. 412 (S)	1.70	Major Widening	11,000 - TOTAL 8,800 - STBGP 2,200 - State	State	2024	NARTS
012305	Benton & Washington	112	Hwy. 412 – Springdale Bypass (S)	4.00	Major Widening	29,000 - TOTAL 29,000 - CAP	State	2023	NARTS
This project includes intersection improvements at Hwy. 112/Hwy. 412.									
090636	Benton	112	Pleasant Grove Rd. – Hwy. 12 (S)	3.43	Major Widening	27,000 - TOTAL 27,000 - CAP	State	2023	NARTS

Bowen shared the 2005 ARDOT Bicycle Accommodation Policy requires the local jurisdictions to pay for the cost of a side path.

“6. Shared use paths (joint pedestrian/bicycle facilities separated from the roadway) are used primarily for recreational purposes, and as such will not normally be considered for bicycle accommodation on the state highway system. Exceptions will be considered when the local jurisdiction specifically requests the shared use path. In such cases, the minimum shared use path width shall be 10 feet and the local jurisdiction shall bear any additional right-of-way and construction costs required for the shared use path and shall assume all future maintenance of the facility. “

<https://www.ardot.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/AR-bike-ped-policy.pdf>

Bowen stated the NWARPC requested ARDOT calculate the cost difference of constructing a five-lane roadway with paved center-turn lane and two 5-foot bike lanes (four-foot asphalt + 1-foot gutter pan) on each side of the road to the region’s preferred alternative of constructing a four-lane boulevard, with a 15-foot raised median and a 12-foot sidewalk/trail with a six-foot greenspace, where feasible. NWARPC has requested an update to the ARDOT Policy and has requested that ARDOT follow AASHTO guidelines and pay for the side path.

Bowen shared ARDOT's current estimate for construction of the side path is over \$5M to the region. Additional funding will be needed for the additional ROW and utility relocations based on the information provided by ARDOT staff member, Travis Brooks - Staff Transportation Planning Engineer – Multimodal Planning.

Bowen shared ARDOT TAP funds can be requested for ROW/Utilities and construction as a “regionally significant project”.

**Highway 112 Shared-Use Path
Approximate Lengths and Construction-Only Cost Estimates by Job**

Job Termini	Approximate Length (mi)	Construction-Only Cost Estimate	Jurisdictions
040752 Howard Nickell Rd. - Greathouse Springs Rd.	1.37	\$ 740,000	Fayetteville
			Johnson
			Tontitown
			Washington Co.
040758 Greathouse Springs Rd. - Hwy. 412	2.96	\$ 670,000	Springdale
			Tontitown
012305 Hwy. 412 - Springdale Bypass	3.93	\$ 1,210,000	Elm Springs
			Springdale
			Tontitown
090513 Springdale Bypass - W. Wallis Rd.	3.88	\$ 1,340,000	Cave Springs
			Springdale
090514 W. Wallis Rd. - Hwy. 12	4.33	\$ 1,580,000	Benton Co.
			Bentonville
			Cave Springs
			Rogers
TOTAL	16.47	\$ 5,540,000	

Notes:

1. Construction-only cost estimates represent differential construction costs from typical 3' berm and 5' sidewalk versus 5' berm and 10' shared-used path. Additional berm or shared-use path width (e.g. , 6' berm and 12' path), barrier walls, or other added design features would increase construction costs. Refined construction cost estimates pending final alignment, design development, etc.
2. Cost estimates include a planning-level construction cost of \$225,000 per mile for additional path width, plus a separate planning-level cost estimate for additional bridge width. Additional costs would be incurred for other phases, such as right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation.
3. Lengths based on original job limits. Job limits may change or overlap as jobs develop.

Bowen shared images of the typical ARDOT section with 4' bike lanes, the AASHTO section that requires 5 additional feet of sidewalk and 2 additional feet of green space and the NWARPC adopted 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan image that requires 7 additional feet of sidewalk, 3 additional feet of green space and 3 additional feet of ROW. Bowen also shared the 2019 FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide recommendations based on speed and volume that shows a "separated bike lane or shared use path" as the recommended preferred type. Bowen also shared the Guide's Bicyclists Design User Profile. Bowen share the ARDOT Policy will not pay for the construction of a shared use path off-street. Bowen also shared the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law recommends complete streets.

Bowen shared the NWARPC and ARDOT are not eligible applicants for TAP; however, the RMA is an eligible applicant, and the RMA was utilized in 2018 to apply for an ARDOT TAP grant to fund a region-wide Safe Routes to School Program (which was not funded by ARDOT). The Maximum ARDOT TAP application is \$500,000, with a 80% federal- 20% local match. The ARDOT TAP grants would be applied for with the understanding that the State/ARDOT would match the federal funds as part of the overall Hwy 112 Project funding that is programmed with non-federal funds – the permanent 1/2 cent sales tax similar to the NWARPC STBGP-A federal funds that were placed on Hwy 265 (no local match was required from local jurisdictions) to pay for costs that are determined to be beyond constructing a five-lane road with 5-foot bike lanes to a four-lane raised median Blvd. with a 12-foot side path. Currently, ARDOT has programmed \$71,650,000 in Connecting Arkansas Program 1/2 cent sales tax funds on three of the Hwy 112 projects in the STIP/TIP.

Bowen shared the NWA RMA Resolution #2021-01 was adopted on May 27, 2021. The RMA Staff made 4 applications totaling \$1,785,271.20. An award for ARDOT TAP totaling \$500,000 was made on Dec 10, 2021. A required kick-off meeting was attended on Jan 18, 2022 by NWA RMA Staff. Bowen shared ARDOT is managing the project and providing matching funds.

Bowen shared a list of the ARDOT projects and shared the first two are funded and the other three are the projects that need additional funding. Bowen shared the projects will be applied for as phased projects so maximum grant funding can be applied for to reduce costs to the affected cities. Bowen shared the applications are recommended for the maximum \$500,000 for ROW, utilities and construction phases.

- 040720 Poplar St – Drake St, 1.57 Miles 2022 – (DID NOT APPLY FOR ARDOT TAP IN 2021)
- 040746 Truckers Dr – Howard Nickell Rd, 1.42 Mi 2022-Application \$285,271.20 (ARDOT/NWARPC TAP)
- 012305 Hwy 412 – Springdale Bypass, 4.0 Mi 2023–Application \$500,000 Phase I
- 090636 Pleasant Grove Rd – Hwy 12, 3.43 Mi 2023–Application \$500,000 Phase I
- 040860 Don Tyson Pkwy Ext – Hwy 412, 1.70 Mi 2024–Application \$500,000 Phase I

APPLICATIONS TOTAL : \$1,500,000

A. RESOLUTION #2022-01 – A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (RMA) TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (ARDOT TAP) FUNDS TO IMPROVE HIGHWAY 112 WITH A 12-FOOT SIDE PATH

MOTION: Mayor Penn made a motion to approve Resolution #2022-01. Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(5) OTHER BUSINESS

(6) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Mayor Sprouse asked if any comments had been received prior to the meeting. Bowen stated we did not receive public comments prior to the meeting. No additional comments were made.

(7) ADJOURN

With no other business, Chair, Mayor Doug Sprouse adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023

SIGNED: _____
RMA CHAIR

ATTEST: _____

NOTE: See attached, on the following page, a copy of the signed Resolution #2022-01.

RESOLUTION #2022-01

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (RMA) TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (ARDOT TAP) FUNDS TO IMPROVE HIGHWAY 112 WITH A 12-FOOT SIDEPATH

WHEREAS, the RMA understands Federal-aid Transportation Alternatives Program Funds are available at 80% federal participation and 20% match to develop or improve Highway 112 with a 12-foot side path; and

WHEREAS, the RMA understands that ARDOT has significant non-federal funds, specifically Connecting Arkansas Program ½ cent sales tax funding, programmed in the ARDOT STIP for Highway 112 improvements and requests ARDOT match the required 20% non-federal match with state funds; and

WHEREAS, the RMA understands ARDOT will be handling all phases of the project and that Federal-aid Funds are available for this project on a reimbursable basis, requiring work to be accomplished and proof of payment prior to actual monetary reimbursement, and

WHEREAS, the Highway 112 planned 12-foot side path, using federal TAP funding, will be open and available for use by the general public and maintained by local government for the life of the project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY THAT:

SECTION I: That the Northwest Arkansas Regional Mobility Authority pledges its full support and hereby authorizes the Arkansas Department of Transportation to initiate action to implement these projects.

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this 27th day of April, 2022.

Signed: _____

Doug Sprouse
Chair, Mayor Doug Sprouse

ATTEST: _____

Jeff Hawkins