

TO: RPC/Policy Committee
FROM: Elizabeth Bowen, Project Manager
DATE: August 17, 2023
SUBJECT: FFY 2024 STBGP-A, TAP, & CRP Review Committee and TAC Recommendation

FFY 2024 TIMELINE AND ACTION

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) issued a call for projects on March 23, 2023 with the application deadline being July 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., CST for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) suballocated formula funding programs, including the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

The review committee toured and scored projects on August 2, 2023, and discussed award recommendations on August 9, 2023. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the review committee’s recommendations on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. and recommended to the RPC/Policy Committee the funding shown on the funding allocation tables on page (4).

Recommended RPC/Policy Committee Action

Recommended motion: Move to approve the FFY 2024 STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP project awards as shown in the funding allocation tables (page 4).

FFY 2024 FUNDING ESTIMATES

The FFY 2024 federal aid formula programs are anticipated to be calculated using the new 2020 Urban Area population. The 2020 Census Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urban Area population increased by 87,604 to 373,687. The assumptions for the FFY 2024 funding estimates are based on FFY 2023 actual apportionments with an assumed 100% obligation limitation (OL) and have accounted for the increased population. Final apportionment funding requires Congressional action for FFY 2024.

FFY 2024 Funding Estimates

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A)	\$11,500,000
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	\$ 1,200,000
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)	<u>\$ 1,300,000</u>
	\$14,000,000

FFY 2024 PROJECT REQUESTS

NWARPC received a total of thirty-five (35) project applications. Eight (8) applications are for existing STBGP-A projects “in the pipeline”; seven (7) applications are for new STBGP-A projects; nine (9) applications are for TAP funding; and eleven (11) projects were received for CRP funding. Nine (9) projects were submitted for consideration in two or more funding programs. Excluding the duplicate application requests across the three funding programs, twenty-five (25) projects were submitted for consideration, for a **total funding request of \$19,138,189.**

The following tables represent project applications received and the review committee’s score and overall ranking within each funding category.

PROJECT REQUESTS AND RANKINGS (highlights signify funding requested in multiple categories)

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - STBGP-A (Existing Projects)							
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking
Benton	90524	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellevue/Spring Creek Int Impvts	Construction	\$891,850	187	1
Washington	40717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext	Construction	\$5,020,000	182	2
Benton	90628	Bentonville/ Centerton	Greenhouse Rd	ROW/Utilities	\$3,799,532	182	2
Washington	40943	Fayetteville	Millsap Rd/College Ave Inters Impvts & N Hemlock Ave Impvts	ROW/Utilities	\$1,600,000	174	4
Benton	90601	Lowell	Hwy 71B/Hwy Int. Improvements	Construction	\$250,000	174	4
Benton	90524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Const/Const Engr/Utilities	\$640,000	159	6
Benton	90436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354	139	7
Benton	90606	Siloam Springs	East Kenwood	Design/Enviro	\$295,233	121	8
Total					\$12,616,969		

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - STBGP-A (New Projects)							
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking
Benton		Gravette	Hwy 59&72 Intersection Improvements	Construction	\$1,000,000	182	1
Benton		Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	Construction	\$404,400	155	2
Washington		Tontitown	N Barrington Rd and US 412 Inters Impvts	Design/Enviro	\$360,000	145	3
Washington		Washington County	Wheeler Rd Bridge	Design/Enviro	\$200,000	142	4
Benton		Siloam Springs	Hwy 412 and Hwy 16 Intersection Impvts	Design/Enviro	\$216,000	117	5
Benton		Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Widening Project	Design/Enviro	\$200,000	115	6
Washington		Washington County	Jackson Highway Bridge Lincoln Lake	Design/Enviro	\$200,000	105	7
Total					\$ 2,580,400		

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - TAP Projects							
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking
Washington		Fayetteville	Drake Street Trail Connection	Construction	\$500,000	720	1
Benton		Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Vendor Boulevard	Construction	\$650,000	694	2
Benton	90436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354	668	3
Benton	90631	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph 1	Construction	\$500,000	658	4
Benton		Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I	Construction	\$220,948	634	5
Benton		Pea Ridge	Lee Town Rd Trail	Construction	\$600,000	562	6
Benton		Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	Construction	\$332,872	546	7
Benton		Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	Construction	\$227,000	527	8
Benton	90584	Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements	Construction	\$500,000	523	9
Total					\$ 3,651,174		

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - CRP Projects							
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking
Benton	90564	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I	Construction	\$220,948	707	1
Washington		Fayetteville	Safe Routes to School Planning Grant	Planning	\$100,000	704	2
Benton	90436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354	662	3
Benton		Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Vendor Boulevard	Construction	\$650,000	653	4
Benton	90631	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph I	Construction	\$500,000	648	5
Benton		Rogers	Hwy 94/Hudson/Hwy12 Sidewalks	Design/Enviro	\$260,000	631	6
Benton		Pea Ridge	Lee Town Road Multi-Use Trail	Construction	\$650,000	612	7
Benton		Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	Construction	\$404,400	605	8
Benton		Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	Construction	\$332,872	600	9
Benton		Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	Construction	\$227,000	551	10
Benton	90584	Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements	All Phases	\$500,000	500	11
Total					\$ 3,965,574		

DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee had in depth discussion and consideration of the following topics:

- program parameters, including the minimum and maximum award amounts for each program;
- the requirement for projects to be on the FHWA Functional Classification Map as a collector or above;
- the policy for funding to be utilized for projects of regional significance, and up to 20% may be utilized for other eligible projects that increase capacity;
- the ARDOT Local Public Agency Manual, status of projects, other federal or state funding received for projects, and timelines for project development, including the need and ability of projects to meet the required timeline for obligating funds (i.e. September 2024);
- the desire to spread funding across as many communities as possible and to fund projects in communities that have not received funding in the past;
- the rankings and point distribution of the projects;
- the balance of supporting existing projects already in the “pipeline” that have not reached 80% federally funding, and for new projects, the total project cost over its life cycle once it gets into the “pipeline”;
- the equitable distribution of funding over time (2013 to present) to jurisdictions within the Urban Area, including discussion of the changes between the previous 2010 Urbanized Area and the new 2020 Urban Area; and
- finally, which program to fund projects that applied to multiple programs.

During and as a result of the discussions, the following changes were made to requests (highlighted in recommendation tables):

- several projects changed the phase(s) associated with their request due to timeline concerns;
- some projects reduced the request to the maximum amount allowed in the program; and
- some project sponsors discussed the priority of their community’s projects.

Additionally, it was discussed that all projects who did not receive funding or did not receive their full request this funding cycle, are encouraged to apply again for the FFY 2025 funding cycle, which is anticipated to begin in January 2024.

Due to the funding requests greatly exceeding the estimated available funding, the committee used the following to derive their recommendations:

- **Existing STBGP-A Projects** – the larger cities made provisions to reduce the amount requested for their larger project requests (projects requesting over \$1 million), and all smaller funding requests were recommended except for the lowest ranked project.
- **New STBGP-A Projects** – the four highest ranked projects were recommended at their full request.
- **TAP Projects** – the three highest ranked projects were awarded \$500,000, \$400,000, and \$300,000 respectively (note: Bella Vista Mercy Way Project was ranked 3, but recommended under STBGP-A).
- **CRP Projects** – once projects that were recommended under other funding programs were removed from consideration, the next highest ranked projects were recommended in the CRP category.

Tim Conklin expressed his concern to the TAC regarding not recommending funding for an existing federal-aid project that was previously approved by the RPC/Policy Committee. This year, all existing projects that applied for additional funding are being recommended for some level of funding except for the Siloam Springs Kenwood Street STBGP-A project. In the past, members’ general expectation has been, once approved by the Board, that the project would be supported at some level through project development. Starting a federal-aid project requires the project to be completed to avoid the payback of federal funds. If this project is not going to be funded in the future with NWARPC STBGP-A funds, the city will need to understand its local commitment to complete the project if they decide to move forward.

The review committee developed the following funding recommendations for consideration, which were recommended by TAC on August 17, 2023:

Legend for funding tables

Yellow highlight = requested phase change; changed to funding max.

Shades of tan highlights = funding requested in multiple categories

Strikethrough = Requested removal of project from funding category

RECOMMENDED FUNDING ALLOCATION TABLES

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - STBGP-A (Existing Projects)								
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking	Award Rec.
Benton	90524	Lowell	Hwy 264/Belleview/Spring Creek Int Imp	Construction	\$891,850	187	1	\$891,850
Washington	40717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext	Construction	\$5,020,000	182	2	\$3,000,000
Benton	90628	Bentonville/ Centerton	Greenhouse Rd	ROW/Utilities	\$3,799,532	182	2	\$3,333,396
Washington	40943	Fayetteville	Millsap Rd/College Ave Inters Impvts & N Hemlock Ave Impvts	ROW/Utilities	\$1,600,000	174	4	\$1,300,000
Benton	90601	Lowell	Hwy 71B/Hwy Int. Improvements	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$250,000	174	4	\$250,000
Benton	90524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Const/Const Engr/Utilities	\$640,000	159	6	\$640,000
Benton	90436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354	139	7	\$120,354
Benton	90606	Siloam Springs	East Kenwood	Design/Enviro	\$295,233	121	8	\$0
Subtotal					\$12,616,969			\$9,535,600

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - STBGP-A (New Projects)								
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking	Award Rec.
Benton		Gravette	Hwy 59&72 Intersection Improvements	Construction	\$1,000,000	182	1	\$1,000,000
Benton		Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	ROW/Utilities	\$404,400	155	2	\$404,400
Washington		Tontitown	N Barrington Rd and US 412 Inters Impvts	Design/Enviro	\$360,000	145	3	\$360,000
Washington		Washington County	Wheeler Rd Bridge	Design/Enviro	\$200,000	142	4	\$200,000
Benton		Siloam Springs	Hwy 412 and Hwy 16 Intersection Improvements	Design/Enviro	\$216,000	117	5	\$0
Benton		Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Widening Project	Design/Enviro	\$200,000	115	6	\$0
Washington		Washington County	Jackson Highway Bridge Lincoln Lake	Design/Enviro	\$200,000	105	7	\$0
Subtotal					\$ 2,580,400			\$ 1,964,400
							TOTAL STBGP-A	\$ 11,500,000

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - TAP Projects								
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking	Award Rec.
Washington		Fayetteville	Drake Street Trail Connection	Construction	\$500,000	720	1	\$500,000
Benton		Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Vendor Blvd	Construction	\$600,000	694	2	\$400,000
Benton	90436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354	668	3	STBG
Benton	90631	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph 1	Construction	\$500,000	658	4	\$300,000
Benton		Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I	Construction	\$220,948	634	5	CRP
Benton		Pea Ridge	Lee Town Rd Trail	ROW/Utilities	\$600,000	562	6	CRP
Benton		Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$332,872	546	7	CRP
Benton		Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$227,000	527	8	\$0
Benton	90584	Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements	Construction	\$500,000	523	9	\$0
Total					\$ 3,601,174			\$ 1,200,000

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - CRP Projects								
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking	Award Rec.
Benton	90564	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I	Construction	\$220,948	707	1	\$220,948
Washington		Fayetteville	Safe Routes to School Planning Grant	Planning	\$100,000	704	2	\$100,000
Benton	90436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354	662	3	STBG
Benton		Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Vendor Blvd	Construction	\$650,000	653	4	TAP
Benton	90631	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph I	Construction	\$500,000	648	5	TAP
Benton		Rogers	Hwy 94/Hudson/Hwy12 Sidewalks	Design/Enviro	\$260,000	631	6	\$260,000
Benton		Pea Ridge	Lee Town Road Multi-Use Trail	ROW/Utilities	\$650,000	612	7	\$386,180
Benton		Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	ROW/Utilities	\$404,400	605	8	STBG
Benton		Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$332,872	600	9	\$332,872
Benton		Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$227,000	551	10	\$0
Benton	90584	Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements	All Phases	\$500,000	500	11	\$0
Total					\$ 3,965,574			\$ 1,300,000