

RESOLUTION #2023-22

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT
FOR THE RAZORBACK TRANSIT BUS STOP ENHANCEMENT PLAN & MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM
FOR THE ENHANCING EQUITABLE TRANSIT CONNECTIONS IN NWA PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Commission (NWARPC) adopted a ten-year Transit Development Plan (TDP), Connect Northwest Arkansas, on October 28, 2020 to serve as a “blueprint” for improving and expanding transit systems in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, NWARPC is the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) urban grant funding programs and is responsible for transit planning and programming in the NWARPC Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA); and

WHEREAS, the NWARPC was awarded \$180,000 (90%) Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Grant by the FTA for the Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections in NWA Project, including design, engineering, and environmental work, with the \$20,000 (10%) local match being split by Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) and Razorback Transit; and

WHEREAS, a Bus Stop Enhancement Plan was completed in 2022 for Ozark Regional Transit (ORT); and

WHEREAS, the Walton Family Foundation awarded NWARPC \$108,800 (80%) to complete a Bus Stop Enhancement Plan for Razorback Transit, with the local match of \$27,200 (20%) being provide by the City of Fayetteville and Razorback Transit; and

WHEREAS, the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan for Razorback Transit will be used alongside the ORT Bus Stop Enhancement Plan as a tool to guide selection of bus stops to be improved with the AoPP grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the Walton Family Foundation awarded NWARPC a one-to-one matching grant of up to \$200,000 (50%) towards the Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections in NWA Project, to be matched at the option of local communities.

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

SECTION 1. That the NWARPC hereby accepts the Walton Family Foundation’s grant funding for the Razorback Transit Bus Stop Enhancement Plan as well as the one-to-one matching grant for the Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections in NWA Project.

SECTION 2. That the Director is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the NWARPC in matters concerning these grants and projects, including: (1) the execution of the grant agreement(s) and/or agreements of understanding with the Walton Family Foundation; and (2) carrying out all necessary actions to administer this grants and projects in accordance with the approved application, and with all applicable requirements and procedures.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023

Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____