

RESOLUTION 2023-14

**AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION
WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR
THE HIGHWAY 612 SPRINGDALE NORTHERN BYPASS PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the 2045 Northwest Arkansas Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), identifies the construction of Highway 612 from Highway 412 to Highway 112 as a constrained high priority project for the region; and

WHEREAS, the construction of Highway 612 has been programed in the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and Northwest Arkansas Transportation Study (NARTS) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Programs (STIP/TIP); and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Congestion Management Process identifies the interchange of Highway 412 and I-49 as the most congested segment of road in Northwest Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the unfinished 6.15-mile western segment of Highway 612 will complete the connection of the Highway 612 corridor from Highway 412 in Tontitown to I-49, giving users an additional travel option built to interstate standards to access I-49; and

WHEREAS, Congress has designated US 412 as a high priority future interstate corridor between I-35 and I-49; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the availability of funds for nationally and regionally significant projects through the FY 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) opportunity; and

WHEREAS, NWARPC is applying for a \$25 million MPDG to complete a project of national and regional significance; and

WHEREAS, NWARPC is in the process of seeking ARDOT support of NWARPC's application for the FY 2023 MPDG and agreement, if awarded, to match any awarded federal funding with non-federal state funding and to carry out the project.

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 a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG), the approval of which will support the construction of the planned 6.12-mile western segment of Highway 612 from Highway 412 to Highway 112, a project of national and regional significance, is hereby acknowledged.

SECTION 2. That the Executive 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

Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____