

RESOLUTION #2023-15

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF SUBALLOCATED
EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) FUNDING FOR
NWA ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION ACTION PLANNING**

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urban Area; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment's Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received a \$3 million action planning grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program; and

WHEREAS, the DEQ desires to suballocate \$440,000 (100% federal funds, no local match required) over four (4) years to NWARPC to perform regional CPRG action planning for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA including Benton, Washington and Madison counties in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector contributes 29% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the NWA Energy and Environment Innovation Action Planning will target regional priority measures for future implementation investments in climate pollution reduction and sequestration; and

WHEREAS, the completion of the State CPRG Action Plans meeting EPA requirements would enable all jurisdictions in the NWA region to subsequently qualify for consideration of EPA CPRG Implementation Grants; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the NWARPC has adopted the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the NWA Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, the NWA Open Space Plan, the NWA Congestion Management Process, the NWA Intelligent Transportation System Architecture Plan, the NWA Transportation System Management and Operations Plan, Connect Northwest Arkansas Transit Plan, and the Heritage Trail Plan that establish a regional commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the NWARPC supports the NWARPC's partnership with DEQ and the EPA's goal to assist states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.

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

SECTION 1. That authorization is hereby given for the utilization of suballocated funding (100% federal funds with no local match requirement) for NWA Energy and Environment Innovation Action Planning to meet the project deliverables as agreed upon with the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment's Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

SECTION 2. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute all appropriate agreements and contracts necessary to expedite the implementation of the above stated project.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023

Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____