

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023 AT 10:30 AM; *DRAFT*

ENTITY	MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	DOUG TAPP	X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER (TRACY BACKS)	X	
BENTONVILLE	DENNIS BIRGE DAN WEESE	X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT	X	Tim Reavis
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS		
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	Aaron Boehmler
FAYETTEVILLE	JONATHAN CURTH PAUL LIBERTINI CHRIS BROWN	X X X	
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	JEREMY JOHNSON		
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY	X	
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	Nicole Gibbs
LOWELL	KAREN DAVIS		
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE	X	Elizabeth Bowen
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN	X	
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK		
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE SHAWN GRINDSTAFF JOHN MCCURDY	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS (VICE CHAIR) KEVIN MOORE	X	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE (CHAIR) RYAN CARR	X X	
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL		
WASHINGTON CO.	BRIAN LESTER SAM ATA JEFF CROWDER	X X	Bridget Russell
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
NWARPC	TIM CONKLIN	X	Elizabeth Bowen
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	CODY HUDSON		
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)	X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNNEYCUTT)	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMM. BRYAN HALL		
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER (MARVIN MORRIS)	X	Britni O'Connor
NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT	AARON BURKES	X	
ARDOT PLANNING AND DISTRICT 9	CHRIS DILLAHA (SUNNY FARMAHAN) STACEY BURGE	X X	

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NWARPC STAFF: Cristina Scarlat (*others listed as proxies above*)

OTHERS: Megan Workman (Bella Vista); Olivia Moore (XNA); Anthony Hunter (ARDOT); Jared Draper (Toole Design); Prentis Grayson (Trailblazers); Andy Brewer (Olsson); Anna Stamps and Connor McKenzie (CEI); and Ron Wood (NWADG).

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY; VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED AS NWARPC REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The in-person and virtual NWARPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting was called to order by Chair Patsy Christie at 10:31 a.m.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

In-person attendees named themselves with Elizabeth Bowen naming the virtual attendees. Nicole Gibbs recorded member names and tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

(3) APPROVAL OF THE MAY 18, 2023 TAC MEETING MINUTES

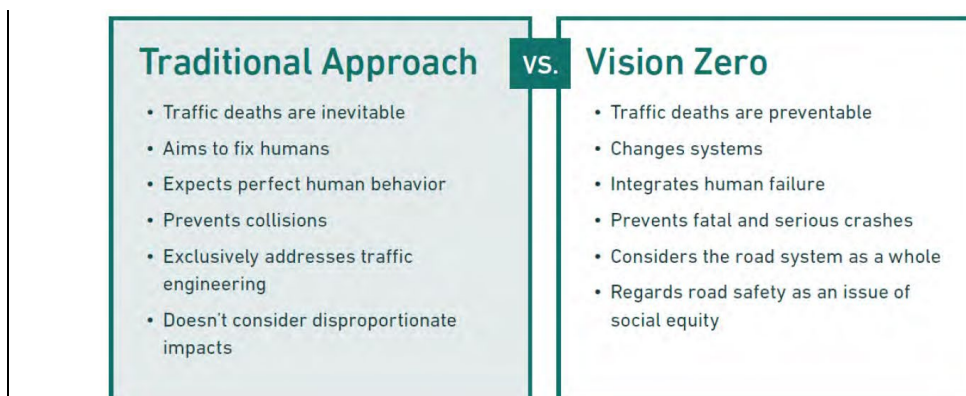
Chair Christie asked the Committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the May 18, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Jonathan Curth made a motion to approve the May 18, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes. Ryan Carr provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) DRAFT SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) REGIONAL “VISION ZERO” COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN (CSAP) PRESENTATION BY TOOLE DESIGN – Recommendation to RPC/Policy Committee

Patsy Christie introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen introduced Jared Draper with Toole Design, saying he will present the draft Plan and summary of comments received. She said we will also go over next steps and the USDOT grant for the project.

Jared Draper said the Plan is focused on eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes on our roadways by 2038; “15 years to zero” and he presented the Vision Zero Plan purpose; report contents; the Safe System Approach, including principles, elements, and framework; safety needs including the High Injury Network (HIN) and equity analysis; summary of engagement and comments received; goal and actions; and next steps. He said the plan represents a change to the way we approach safety in the region and presented the following:



The Safe System Approach

- Aims to eliminate fatal and serious injuries for all road users by:
 - accommodating human mistakes
 - keeping impacts on the human body at tolerable levels



Principles



Death/serious injury is unacceptable



Humans make mistakes



Humans are vulnerable



Responsibility is shared



Safety is proactive



Redundancy is crucial

Elements



Safe road users



Safe vehicles



Safe speeds



Safe roads



Post-crash care



Source: FHWA

Draper showed the following and said the framework used in the plan is to anticipate human error by separating users in space and time and increasing attentiveness and awareness of all users; and to accommodate human injury tolerances to ensure that when conflicts occur, it is not a fatal or serious injury crash by reducing speeds and impact forces:

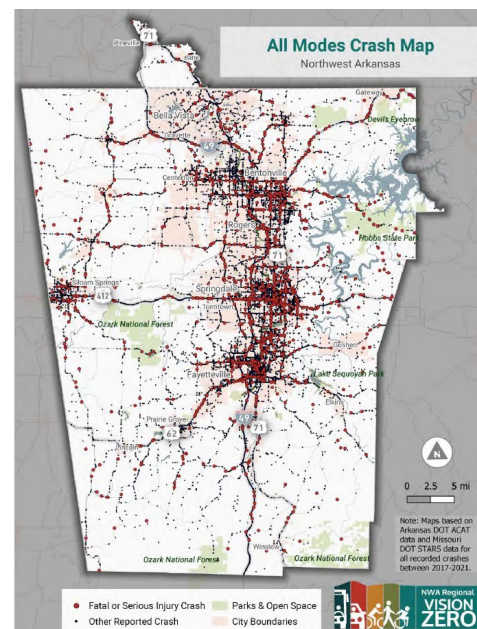
Framework



Draper said the plan looks at the crashes across the entire region and presented the following:

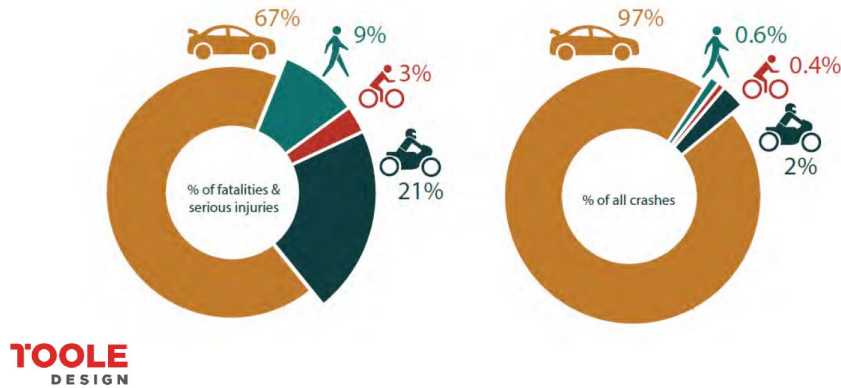
Crashes in NWA

- 5-year period: 2017-2021
- 220** fatal crashes
- 1,149** serious injury crashes
- 58,896** total crashes



Draper showed the following and said while vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists, account for about 3% of all crashes in the region, they disproportionately account for about 33% of fatal and serious injuries:

Vulnerable Road Users



Draper said speeding crashes resulted in a fatality or serious injury for vulnerable users 43% of the time and said speed is a major issue that must be addressed to increase safety in the region.

Speed Changes Crash Severity



Data Citation: Tofft, B.C. (2011). *Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death* (Technical Report). Washington, D.C.: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

Draper described the methodology used to develop the region's High Injury Network (HIN) and showed the following HIN map for all modes, and equity framework:

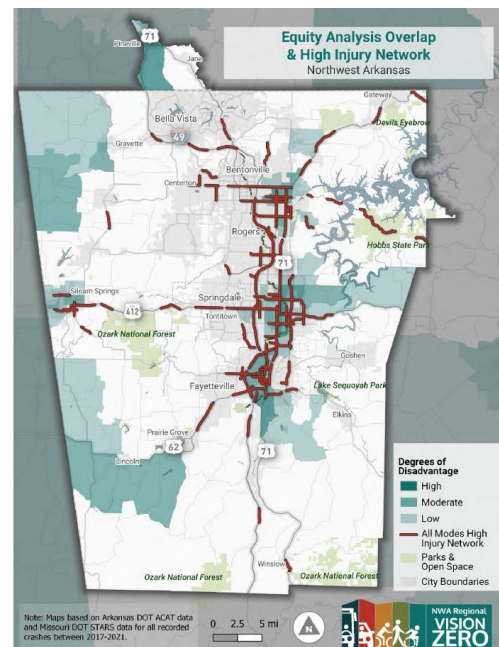
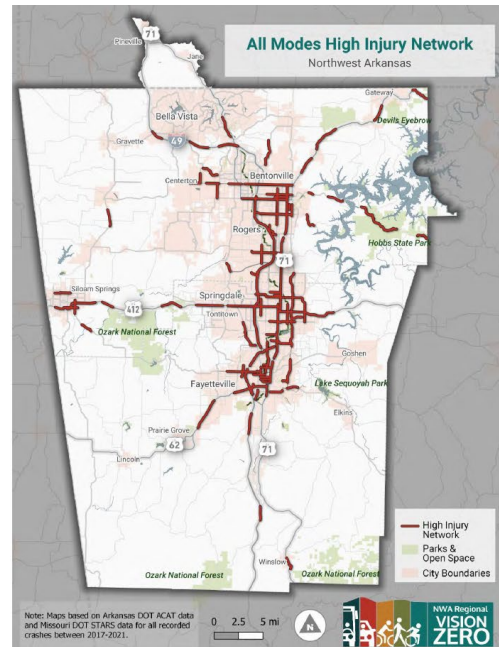
HIN Mapping

- Maps include:
 - Pedestrian HIN
 - Bicyclist HIN
 - Motorcycle HIN
 - Motor Vehicle HIN
 - Combined Regional HIN



Equity Framework

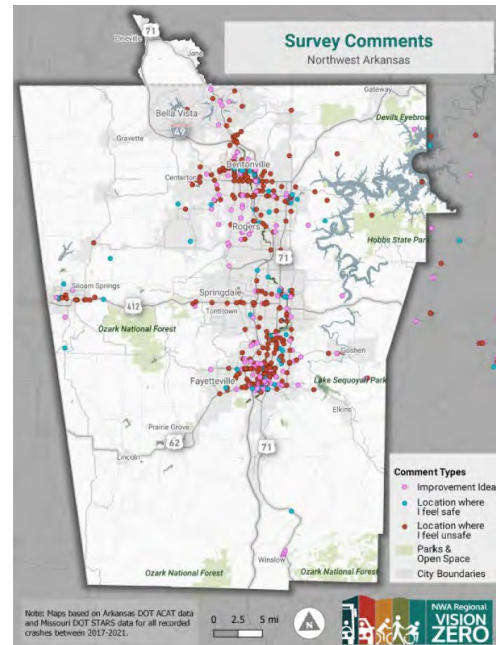
- Identify communities that have experienced historic:
 - Marginalization
 - Disenfranchisement
 - Disinvestment
- Three layers of analysis to distinguish populations that have been underserved and under-resourced



Draper said the goal is that the plan begins the conversation around the approach to safety in your communities, with the conversation continuing regionally and at the local level beyond this plan. He described the various outreach conducted during the plan development, and showed the following:

Starting the Conversation

- Listening Sessions with Municipal Staff
- In-person Tabling Events
- Safety Demonstration Site Walks
- Regional Working Group Meetings
- Safety Webinars
- Online Project StoryMap
- Online Survey and Interactive Map



Draper described the four (4) goals of the plan and highlighted various associated actions with the following overview:

Goals Leading to Action

1. Promote a culture that prioritizes people's safety
2. Reduce conflicts between roadway users
3. Establish policies, practices, and programs that focus on safety at all levels
4. Slow vehicle speeds

Actions

- Organized into timeframes:
 - Immediate: 0-2 years
 - Short: 2-5 years
 - Medium-Long: 5-10 years
- Safe System Elements supported
- Action Leader and Supporting Partners

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Draper said the draft is out for public comment, which closes on Monday, June 19, 2023. He said we have received comments and have begun incorporating comments into the draft including the following:

- New action items related to:
 - Develop a Vision Zero dashboard to track progress
 - Report annually on crashes and other safety characteristics
 - Ongoing safety analyses for intersections
 - Install intersection treatments that are proven to reduce conflicts
 - Conduct routine walking audits to review safety needs for roadway projects during scoping phase
 - Use effective Access Management strategies
 - Develop equitable traffic calming policies
 - Create local education programming for practitioners, boards, and elected officials
 - Emphasize transit to reduce vehicle trips

There was discussion regarding the term 'Complete Streets' or 'Safe Streets' and whether there will be a list of priority projects. Draper said one of the Appendices includes the HIN broken into priority corridors. He said the purpose behind the HIN is to elevate locations to begin for capital projects. He said the Vision Zero or Safety Action Plan is to make systemic changes and to be ongoing, beyond immediate funding opportunities. He said some of the priorities are not high dollar projects, but for capital projects there are various grant programs to pursue, including Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grants, which have a July 10, 2023 deadline. He said this is the second year of the five-year funding.

There was discussion regarding ARDOT facilities and incompatibility with existing ARDOT policies. Draper said the plan identifies areas where policy changes can be made around safety and hopefully will be used as a conversation starter. There was discussion regarding whether ARDOT is developing a Safety Action Plan. NOTE: ARDOT has a Toward Zero Deaths Strategic Highway Safety Action Plan, adopted in 2022, that was shared with the committee following the meeting (www.ardot.gov/divisions/planning/traffic-safety/shsp/).

Chair Christie asked the Committee whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to recommend approval of the Regional Vision Zero Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) to the RPC/Policy Committee.

MOTION: Chris Brown made a motion to recommend approval of the Regional Vision Zero Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) to the RPC/Policy Committee. Sam Ata provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following next steps:

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**SS4A IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS DUE JULY 10
GOAL IS TO ADOPT PLAN BY JUNE 28, 2023**

NEXT STEPS:

- Working Group Meeting #4 Meeting – TBD June 14-16, 2023
- 2-week public comment period to be held Monday, June 5 – Monday, June 19, 2023
- TAC Meeting – June 15, 2023
- RPC/Policy Committee – June 28, 2023
- Amend Plan to add Huntsville when complete

Bowen said we still do not have a Grant Agreement for the USDOT SS4A Action Planning Grant. She said we began to discuss with our FHWA Project Manager ways to keep these funds to use for supplemental and demonstration projects. She summarized supplemental planning activities and demonstration activities that could be eligible within the Action Plan Grant if USDOT allows us to do so. She said the key is that we have already used most of the Walton Family Foundation matching funds and will need to come up with additional match if we are able to proceed, and that in this case it can be in-kind. She said details will be shared in the follow-up email. She said we have 18 months to obligate funds and four (4) years to complete the project. She said there is nothing to decide at this time, but she wanted to share communication of what the opportunity could be going forward to use the USDOT grant funds. She said this will be brought back for further discussion once more is known.

(5) TRAILBLAZERS NWA TRAILS AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY REPORT – Presentation by Prentis Grayson

Chair Christie introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen said we have Prentis Grayson with Trailblazers here to present their recent *NWA Trails & Active Transportation Equity Report*. Grayson explained that he leads advocacy and outreach efforts for Trailblazers, who advocate for trails and active transportation in the region. He said the purpose of this report was to understand perceptions and barriers to accessing paved trails and on street infrastructure in the region. He gave an overview of the report and map.

There was discussion regarding the other active transportation engagement and survey efforts in the region, particularly the annual intercept surveys done by communities on the trails, and the need to coordinate efforts to avoid ‘survey fatigue’.

(6) NARTS FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #1 – Recommendation to RPC/Policy Committee

Chair Christie introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen explained that MoDOT requested we add two system preservation jobs to our TIP/STIP and she summarized the request and showed the following changes:

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JOB	COUNTY	ROUTE	TERMINI	LENGTH	TYPE WORK	ESTIMATED COST	AGENCY	FFY	MPO
						Funding Breakdown (in thousands)	CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT		
ADD:									
7I3512	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	On-call work zone enforcement at various locations in the rural Southwest District.	0	System Preservation	100 - TOTAL 90 - <i>Safety</i> 10 - <i>State</i>	MoDOT	2024	NARTS
SR0117	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	Job Order Contracting for concrete repairs in the rural Southwest District.	0	System Preservation	1,151 - TOTAL 921 - <i>AC-STBG</i> 230 - <i>State</i>	MoDOT	2024	NARTS

Chair Christie asked the Committee whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to recommend approval of the NARTS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1 to the RPC/Policy Committee.

MOTION: Chris Dillaha made a motion to recommend approval of the NARTS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1 to the RPC/Policy Committee. Chris Brown provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

A. FY 2023 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP – Project Development

Chair Christie introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen said we have triparty agreements coming out with some completed and some in various states of being signed, but many projects are still awaiting agreements. There was discussion regarding updates to a few project statuses shown.

B. FY 2024 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP – Application Cycle Update

Elizabeth Bowen said there is a call for projects out with the deadline being July 14, 2023 at 4:00pm. She said send applications to her or drop them at our office. She reminded potential applicants that a resolution is required with the application and said to check the original resolution for existing projects requesting additional funding to ensure your request does not exceed any amounts mentioned in the resolution. She summarized available funding expected as follows:

NWARPC FY 2024 Programs:

- Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A)- approx. \$11M
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)- approx. \$1.2M
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)- approx. \$1.3M

Applications and more information available at www.nwarpc.org/funding-programs

There was discussion regarding how we plan to obligate funds given that many projects do not have agreements yet. Bowen said Tim is communicating with ARDOT regularly regarding the \$1 million carry over requirement and is preparing an obligation plan to submit to ARDOT at the end of the month. It was expressed that communities are ready, they just need the go-ahead.

C. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Bowen said there are no new Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) from the last update, and she summarized current grant opportunities as follows:

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USDOT Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs):

- [FY 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) - deadline July 10, 2023 @ 5:00 PM EDT
- [FY 2022/2023 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation \(PROTECT\) Program](#) - deadline August 18, 2023 @ 11:59 PM EDT

Arkansas State Grant Programs

- [FY 2023 ARDOT Transportation Alternatives \(TAP\) and Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\)](#) - deadline June 1, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
- [ARDOT Intersection Improvement Program \(IIP\)](#)
- [ARDOT Local Bridge Program \(LBP\)](#)
- [AR Dept. of Parks, Heritage, & Tourism -Outdoor Recreation Grants Program](#)

Bowen said the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment (ADEE) submitted an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Formula Grant for Planning and they were awarded the \$3 million state funds. She said we submitted a notice of intent to participate (NOIP), along with Metroplan and Ft. Smith, and have since learned that ADEE included those top three most populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in their proposal. She said NWARPC was contacted by ADEE on May 23 and there is another meeting scheduled on June 23 with the three MSAs to discuss their intent for the funding and next steps. She said it is 100% federal funding and there is a very specific timeline to participate. She said at this point it does look to be beneficial to participate.

Gibbs said USDOT released a NOFO this morning for the Technical Assistance Grants for Transportation Projects in Rural and Tribal Communities, which do not require a local match. She said we will review and distribute with the presentation slides following the meeting.

Bowen said Fayetteville and Springdale were awarded a grant to do a Rail Corridor Safety Study, which was just announced.

(8) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen summarized the recent meetings of the Committee and Bike/Ped Plan Update Subcommittee as follows:

Last Met: May 30, 2023

- Bike Friendly Community-Rogers, NACTO, Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail Association, LovetoRide,, LoTS, Tunnel Standards, E-bike rebate program pilot, AR Bike/Ped Coalition, Grants
- Sub-committee for NWARBPMP May 30, 2023
 - Cities/UofA have continue to make progress on Plans
 - Cities/UofA working to finalize proposed trails so map can go to public comment – Possibly June ????

Next Meeting –

- ACT - July 20, 2023 at 1:30
- Subcommittee NWARBPMP - July 20, 2023 at 2:30
- Map out for public comment – May 12, 2023

Bowen Congratulated the City of Rogers for their successful Bike Friendly Community Application and moving up to the Silver Award.

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- (9) PUBLIC COMMENT** – *Any public comment received via email will be provided to TAC members prior to the meeting and will become part of the meeting record.*

Chair Patsy Christie asked whether there were any public comments received and Nicole Gibbs summarized one comment received prior to the meeting and said it was distributed in the Committee’s meeting packets. Bowen said we also have been receiving public comments for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) and those have also been shared with the Committee and discussed previously. There were no other comments made.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Christie went over the future meetings as follows:

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, June 28, 2023 @ 1:30 PM
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, July 20, 2023 @ 10:30 AM

B. Beaver Watershed Alliance, Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forums #4 – July 13, 2023 @11:30am, Fayetteville Public Library, [more information here](#)

C. Save the Date - FutureIsNow Workforce Housing Speaker Series – Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 5:00 PM | [Register Here](#)

Chair Christie asked whether there is any other business. Bowen said the University of Arkansas released a report on June 12, 2023 showing that Northwest Arkansas’ cycling industry, covering Benton and Washington counties, contributed \$159 million to the economy in 2022 through cycling-related jobs, tourism revenue and taxes (<https://talkbusiness.net/2023/06/study-biking-generates-159m-in-economic-impact-in-northwest-arkansas/>).

ARDOT announced the 2023 Arkansas Transportation Planning Conference (ATPC) will be held September 19-21, 2023 in North Little Rock and said more information will be distributed soon. There was discussion regarding whether NWARPC would support registration costs; more information will be forthcoming.

(11) ADJOURN

The meeting was ended at 11:33 am.