



MEMO

TO: Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
FROM: NWARPC Staff
DATE: May 16, 2024
RE: FFY 2025 NWARPC Funding Program Recommendations

FFY 2025 TIMELINE AND ACTION

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) issued a call for projects on January 7, 2024 with the application deadline being April 4, 2024 at 11:59 p.m., CDT for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 NWARPC formula funding programs, including the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

The selection committee was formed using one representative from each of the applying entities and any volunteers who wished to participate. The committee included:

Bentonville	Dennis Birge
Centerton	Mayor Bill Edwards
Elm Springs	Matt Casey
Fayetteville	Paul Libertini
Lowell	Mayor Chris Moore
Pea Ridge	Jessica Grady
Rogers	Kent Laughlin
Springdale	Ryan Carr (Ben Peters)
Tontitown	James Clark
Washington County	Bridget Russell

The selection committee toured and scored projects and discussed award recommendations on May 1, 2024. On May 16, 2024 the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) voted to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the FFY 2025 NWARPC Funding Program (STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP) project awards as shown in the funding allocation table, with the included contingency (page 3).

FFY 2025 FUNDING ESTIMATES

The assumptions for the FFY 2025 funding estimates are based on FFY 2024 published apportionments with an assumed 100% obligation limitation (OL), including additional funds not awarded in FFY 2024. FFY 2025 apportionment funding requires Congressional action.

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A)	\$12,086,192
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)	\$ 1,505,332
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	<u>\$ 1,404,724</u>
	\$14,996,248

FFY 2025 PROJECT REQUESTS

NWARPC received a total of twenty-four (24) project applications. Seven (7) applications are for existing STBGP-A projects “in the pipeline”; four (4) applications are for new STBGP-A projects; seven (7) applications were received for CRP funding; and six (6) applications are for TAP funding. Five (5) projects were submitted for consideration in two funding programs.

Excluding the duplicate application requests across the three funding programs, nineteen (19) projects were submitted for consideration, for a **total funding request of \$16,692,436, a difference of \$1,696,188 over the total FFY 2025 funding estimate.**

SELECTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee discussed and considered the following:

- The balance of supporting existing projects already in the “pipeline” that have not reached 80% federally funding, and the anticipated total project cost over new projects’ life cycle once they get into the “pipeline”.
- Existing STBGP-A projects, in the “pipeline”, are assumed to be priority projects since they have previously been awarded NWARPC funding by the Board; the committee agreed existing projects did not need to be re-scored and re-ranked.
- The implications of awarding regional funding to a major ARDOT State Highway improvement project without a cost-sharing agreement with ARDOT in place.
- The increased costs of construction being a factor in cities needing to come back for additional federal funding.
- Program parameters, including the min. and max. award amounts for each program and the requirement for projects to be on the FHWA Functional Classification Map as a collector or above.
- The ARDOT Local Public Agency Manual, status of projects, and timelines for project development, including the need and ability of projects to meet the required timeline for obligating funds (i.e. September 2025).
- The desire to spread funding across as many communities as possible.
- The point distribution and rankings of the projects.

Additionally, it was discussed that any projects that did not receive funding or did not receive their full request, are encouraged to be submitted again for the FFY 2026 NWARPC Funding Cycle, which is anticipated to begin in January 2025.

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

- **STBGP-A Requests** – all existing and new projects were awarded at the requested amounts, with the exception of the two (2) largest project requests – Bentonville I-49/J Street Interchange was reduced by \$500,000 to \$2,500,000; and Hwy. 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment was reduced to the remaining amount, \$2,481,309.
- **CRP Requests** – the highest ranked projects were awarded at the requested amounts (prioritizing CRP funding over TAP funding for projects that were submitted under both programs that made requests for both construction and non-construction phases); the third ranked project, Hwy 62 (Hudson Rd) Sidewalk Impvts. was awarded an additional \$81,355 to reach the total project cost estimate (80% federal) after being awarded the maximum amount for TAP funding of \$700,000; the remaining funds were awarded to the lowest ranked project, \$315,193.
- **TAP Requests** – the four (4) projects that were requesting funding for only the construction phase were funded in TAP, with the balance of funding being awarded to the lowest ranked construction-only project, of \$94,955.

Contingencies – The committee discussed and agreed to add a contingency to the award recommendation for the Hwy 264 Widening project, included in the below recommendation. NWARPC, the City of Lowell, and ARDOT have met since the selection committee’s decision to discuss the concern; all parties have been made aware of the proposed award contingency being recommended to the RPC/Policy Committee.

FFY 2025 NWARPC FUNDING RECOMMENDATION:

The review/selection committee developed the following funding recommendations, which were reviewed and recommended by TAC on May 16, 2024:

Recommended RPC/Policy Committee Motion: to approve the FFY 2025 NWARPC Funding Program (STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP) project awards as shown in the funding allocation table below, **with the contingency that approval of the STBGP-A award of \$504,000 to the City of Lowell for the Arkansas Highway 264 Widening Project – Goad Springs Rd to Bellview St is subject to ARDOT agreeing to partner with the city to carry out and fund future phases of the project and to program the project in the 2025 to 2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).**

STBGP-A Project Applications (EXISTING)						
Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A Request	Total Score*	Rank*	Award Recommend.
Bentonville-Centerton	Greenhouse Road	ROW/Utilities	\$ 461,928	NA	NA	\$ 461,928
Fayetteville	Millsap Rd / College Ave Intersection Impvts.	Construction	\$ 1,900,000	NA	NA	\$ 1,900,000
Lowell	Hwy. 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment	Construction	\$ 3,392,000	NA	NA	\$ 2,481,309
Rogers	Hwy 265 & W. Pleasant Grove Rd Roundabout	Design/Enviro	\$ 36,984	NA	NA	\$ 36,984
Rogers	Hwy 265 and Hwy 94/New Hope Rd Roundabout	Design/Enviro	\$ 50,536	NA	NA	\$ 50,536
Tontitown	US412 and Klenc Road Traffic Signal Installation	Construction	\$ 501,436	NA	NA	\$ 501,436
Washington County	Wheeler Rd. Bridge Replacement-Clabber Creek Str. & Apprs.	Design/Enviro	\$ 200,000	NA	NA	\$ 200,000
<i>*Existing projects, in the "pipeline", are not re-scored/re-ranked - priority is assumed since they have previously been awarded NWARPC funding</i>			Total EXISTING	\$6,542,883		\$5,632,192

STBGP-A Project Applications (NEW)						
Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A Request	Total Score	Rank	Award Recommend.
Bentonville	I-49/ J Street Interchange - Tiger Blvd to I-49	ROW/Utilities	\$ 3,000,000	237	1	\$ 2,500,000
Springdale-Lowell	Apple Blossom Ave Impvts.	Design/Enviro	\$ 2,800,000	230	2	\$ 2,800,000
Fayetteville	Stephen Carr Memorial Dr / I-49 Interchange Impvts.	Design/Enviro	\$ 650,000	204	3	\$ 650,000
Lowell	Hwy. 264 Widening - Goad to Bellview Rd.	Design	\$ 504,000	192	4	\$ 504,000
			Total NEW	\$ 6,954,000		\$6,454,000
			TOTAL STBGP-A	\$13,496,883		\$12,086,192

CRP Project Applications						
Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP Request	Total Score	Rank	Award Recommend.
Rogers	Hwy. 94/US71B Pedestrian Impvts. (P1)	Construction	\$ 109,769	939	1	TAP
Lowell	Honeysuckle Street Sidewalk (ARDOT TAP)	ROW/Utility/Const	\$ 389,591	915	2	\$ 389,591
Rogers	Hwy. 62 (Hudson Rd) Sidewalk Impvts. (P2)	Construction	\$ 750,000	908	3	\$ 81,355
Rogers	US-71B Pedestrian Impvts. (P3)	Design/Enviro	\$ 328,000	908	3	\$ 328,000
Centerton	City Wide Sidewalk Infill (2)	Construction	\$ 227,000	901	5	\$ 227,000
Pea Ridge	Hwy. 94 (Pickens Rd) Sidewalk Connection	ROW/Utility/Const	\$ 164,193	866	6	\$ 164,193
Fayetteville	Rupple Trail Lighting	Construction	\$ 500,000	823	7	\$ 315,193
			TOTAL CRP	\$ 2,468,553		\$1,505,332

TAP Project Applications						
Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	TAP Request	Total Score	Rank	Award Recommended
Lowell	Honeysuckle Street Sidewalk (ARDOT TAP)	Construction	\$ 207,991	926	1	CRP
Rogers	Hwy. 94/US71B Pedestrian Impvts. (P1)	Construction	\$ 109,769	926	1	\$ 109,769
Fayetteville	Drake St. Trail Connections	Construction	\$ 500,000	904	3	\$ 500,000
Rogers	Hwy. 62 (Hudson Rd) Sidewalk Impvts. (P2)	Construction	\$ 700,000	902	4	\$ 700,000
Centerton	City Wide Sidewalk Infill (1)	Construction	\$ 227,000	898	5	\$ 94,955
Pea Ridge	Hwy. 94 (Pickens Rd) Sidewalk Connection	Construction	\$ 146,593	873	6	CRP
			TOTAL TAP	\$ 1,891,353		\$1,404,724

Yellow = projects submitted for application in more than one funding program