

## RESOLUTION 2024-16

### **AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A FFY 2024-2026 PROMOTING RESILIENT OPERATIONS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE, EFFICIENT, AND COST-SAVING TRANSPORTATION (PROTECT) PROGRAM DISCRETIONARY GRANT AND ACCEPTING THE WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF THE APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58, also referred to as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" or "BIL") authorized and appropriated funds for FFY 2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the PROTECT Planning Grants are funded at 100 percent federal funding and may be used to develop Resilience Improvement Plans in accordance with 23 U.S.C § 176(e)(2) for States and MPOs; resilience planning, predesign, design, or the development of data tools to simulate transportation disruption scenarios, including vulnerability assessments; technical capacity building to facilitate the ability of the eligible entity to assess the vulnerabilities of its surface transportation assets and community response strategies under current conditions and a range of potential future conditions; or evacuation planning and preparation. (23 U.S.C. § 176(d)(3)); and

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under federal regulations for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urbanized Area and is an eligible applicant; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past three years, the NWARPC Board has discussed funding opportunities and has actively pursued funding for a regional stormwater assessment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Walton Family Foundation has invited a grant of \$25,000 to assist in the preparation of the PROTECT planning grant; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to meet the grant application deadline, the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) has authorized NWARPC to utilize the ARDOT on-call planning services consultants to hire a consultant to prepare the grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, the NWARPC has determined that regional resilience and stormwater management planning will have far reaching benefits to the region, enhance resilience to extreme weather events; improve the overall infrastructure and safety of the region; and enable jurisdictions within the region to compete for discretionary grant opportunities.

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

**SECTION 1.** The Board affirms its commitment to improving regional transportation resilience, stormwater management, and infrastructure planning to strengthen the region's ability to adapt to future challenges and natural hazards.

**SECTION 2.** The Board hereby authorizes the filing of a grant application with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FFY 2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program Discretionary Grant for regional resilience and stormwater management planning.

**SECTION 3.** The Board hereby accepts the grant funding from the Walton Family Foundation to hire a consultant to prepare the PROTECT Program grant application.

**SECTION 4.** The Board authorizes the utilization of ARDOT's on-call planning services consultants to assist in the preparation of the grant application to ensure the submission meets the required deadlines.

**SECTION 5.** The Board authorizes the Executive Director to act on behalf of the Commission regarding the following matters: (1) the acceptance of the Walton Family Foundation funding (2) contracting with a consultant; (3) the USDOT grant application and subsequent administration of the grant, should it be approved; and (4) the execution of all necessary actions to administer the grants and projects in accordance with approved agreements, as well as all applicable requirements and procedures.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2024**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_