

RESOLUTION 2024-17

**AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION
WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A
FY 2024 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATOR (RIA) PROGRAM GRANT**

WHEREAS, The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, enacted in December 2015, authorized the establishment of a Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA) Demonstration Program to assist entities in developing improved infrastructure priorities and financing strategies for the accelerated development of a project that is eligible for funding under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program under Chapter 6 of Title 23, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for up to \$10 million in no-match grants for the Regional Infrastructure Accelerators Program (RIA) has been announced to fund technical resources, planning, and project development to expedite regional transportation infrastructure through innovative financing and delivery methods, including public-private partnerships; 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 Urban Area and is an eligible applicant; and

WHEREAS, NWARPC will request technical assistance in the preparation of the RIA grant by the USDOT's Build America Bureau to apply for a \$1 million RIA grant to hire a consultant capable of delivering financial analysis and a series of recommendations regarding the use of innovative financing techniques to accelerate regionally significant transportation projects.

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

SECTION 1. That authorization is hereby granted to file an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for a FY 2024 Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Program Grant to support technical resources, planning, and project development to expedite regional transportation infrastructure through innovative financing and delivery methods.

SECTION 2. That the Director is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Commission in matters concerning this project application, including subsequent administration of the grant should it be approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024

Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____