

RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024, AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT*

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	MAYOR ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	MAYOR JOHN FLYNN TAYLOR ROBERTSON	X X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING (CHAIR) JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON	X X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS (SEC'Y) LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MAYOR ERNIE PENN (VICE CHAIR)	X	Melissa McCarville
FAYETTEVILLE	MAYOR LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X X	
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	MAYOR CHERYL TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	MAYOR RUSSELL STROUD		
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX	X	Ami Murray
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT	X	Tim Conklin
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE CASEY		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR TRAVIS DOTSON	X	Brandi Holt
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (TREASURER)	X	
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	Nicole Gibbs
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE	X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		Jessica Grady
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY QUNITON HARRIS	X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION ALLAN GILBERT	X	Ben Rhoads
SPRINGDALE	MAYOR DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X	
SPRINGTOWN	MAYOR TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	MAYOR SHANE WEBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL	X	Mark Latham
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE PATRICK DEAKINS BRIAN LESTER SAM ATA	X	Bridgett Russell
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB JASON HUGHEY (DISTRICT 4)	X	X Sunny Farmahan
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMMISSIONER BRIAN HALL		
MoDOT	MARVIN MORRIS (Ezekiel Hall)	X	
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES	X	
PINEVILLE, MO	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)		
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNEYCUTT)		
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER (NON-VOTING)		
ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)		
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)		

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NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin; Nicole Gibbs; Tim Reavis; Cristina Scarlat, and Luke Aitken
OTHERS: Truett Smith (FHWA); Jackie Crabtree & Phillip Patterson (ARML); Rob Smith (NWA Council); Doug Thompson (NWADG-Press); Sandi Formica (WCRC); Bernadette Rhodes & Casey Covington (MetroPlan); Doug Tapp (Bella Vista); David Criswell & Prentis Grayson (Trailblazers); Becky Roark (BWA); Holly Wren (Beaver H2O); Leif Kindberg (IRWP); Chris Herrera (Springdale); Leif Olson (Fayetteville); Mark Latham (Tontitown); Dennis Birge & Becky Pinson (Bentonville); Ezekiel Hall (MoDOT); David Siskowski (ARDOT).

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 hybrid, in-person and virtual NWARPC/Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Judge Barry Moehring at 1:31 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

In-person attendees introduced themselves and Tim Conklin named the virtual attendees. Nicole Gibbs recorded member names and tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

(3) APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 24, 2024 & MAY 22, 2024, RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and requested a motion for the approval of the April 24 and May 22, 2024, RPC Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve the April 24, 2024 & May 22, 2024 RPC/Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Jim Ulmer provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT/CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT

Chair Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin outlined the federal funding requests shown in the July Clearinghouse Report. Conklin stated that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) completed their Triennial Review of NWARPC Compliance and found no deficiencies across 16 areas that apply to our agency.

(5) EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) \$99.99 MILLION ARKANSAS TRI-REGION AWARD - \$36.25 MILLION TO NWA PROJECT PARTNERS

Chair Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin started by congratulating and thanking staff and project partners across the state (our own staff, the ADEE and WCRC staff, and staff in the City of Fort Smith and Metroplan offices) and explained all the hard work and cross-agency collaboration that made this grant application a success. He said this grant award is unprecedented for the region and is excited to see the funding bring 18 different projects to life across NWA.

Nicole Gibbs provided a timeline of the work leading up to the application for the \$99.9 Million CPRG Implementation Grant award. She said this funding will help implement a variety of projects in the state of Arkansas and the NWA region, and that the work in NWA will focus on implementing our Open Space Plan and Regional Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. Gibbs said the coalition of three metro regions in the state, NWA, Ft. Smith, and Little Rock, all working together, made the application much more competitive at the national level. Gibbs outlined the NWA portion of the

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Implementation Grant and the “NWA Green Network”, which strives to identify and preserve the region’s natural open spaces and protect green space corridors in tandem with further developing the regions safe and connected Active Transportation network, helping connect communities to natural spaces, jobs, education, and essential services while incentivizing a mode shift toward cycling to reduce environmental impacts.

Casey Covington, Executive Director – Metroplan (Little Rock MPO) joined the meeting virtually to congratulate the Commission on the CPRG grant award and thank staff for their collaborative efforts. He stated his team is awaiting a final agreement from the EPA, and that they are looking to hire a Grant Administrator to manage the large grant. Covington also expressed thanks to the Arkansas Governor’s office as well as the Arkansas federal delegation, who supported the coalition’s efforts along the way. He also mentioned the 5 -year scope of the grant and stated project partners need to keep detailed records and emphasized communication with NWARPC and Metroplan throughout the process to ensure full funding reimbursements.

Sandi Formica of the Watershed Conservation Resource Center (WCRC) thanked Casey and Bernadette of Metroplan for their efforts in securing this funding. Sandi stated that the grant’s projects will address many of the priorities of our region as a whole. She said preserving open spaces and restoring streams and wetlands will help protect nature and wildlife in our area while maintaining the high quality of life and access to nature for future generations.

David Criswell of Trailblazers said he was impressed with the level of collaboration on the grant application. He said he is excited to address the needs of the community and activate our active transportation network through their e-bike incentive program funded by this grant. He said their program aims to reduce barriers to transportation and accelerate active transportation as a viable travel mode across the state’s three largest metros.

Before moving on to the next item, Chair Judge Barry Moehring thanked all involved for their hard work in securing this monumental grant for our state.

(6) NWA NARTS FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #8 – RAZORBACK TRANSIT FTA-5339

Chair Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs provided a summary of the proposed TIP Amendment. She stated that this change was requested by Razorback Transit to support their FFY 2024 FTA 5339 grant application. She said a required two-week public comment period for this amendment was held from July 8 - July 22, 2024, as required by the Public Participation Plan. Gibbs said the changes consist of adjustments to FTA 5339 apportioned funds shown in the TIP to fall within 20% of their 2021 apportionment, supporting their upcoming FTA 5339 grant application.

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2023-2026 NARTS TIP - AMENDMENT #8 PROPOSED CHANGES

JOB	COUNTY	ROUTE	TERMINI	LENGTH	TYPE WORK	ESTIMATED COST	AGENCY		
						Funding Breakdown (in thousands)	CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT	FFY	MPO
WAS:									
NARTS10			Bus and Bus Facilities	-	Transit	222 - TOTAL 178 - FTA-5339 44 - Local	Local-UofA	2024	NARTS
CHANGED TO:									
NARTS10			Bus and Bus Facilities	-	Transit	167 - TOTAL 142 - FTA-5339 25 - Local	Local-UofA	2024	NARTS
FFY 2021 funds used in FFY 2024									

A. RESOLUTION #2024-12 – Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Chair Judge Barry Moehring asked if there were any questions or comments on the item and hearing none requested a motion from the Committee to approve the proposed TIP Amendment #8.

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse motioned to approve Resolution #2024-12 Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Lance Jobe provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

(7) RAZORBACK GREENWAY CORRIDOR PLAN GRANT AUTHORIZATION

Chair Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and Tim Reavis provided an overview of the grant opportunity and progress made around the project so far. He said the commission had been invited to apply for a Design Excellence Planning Grant from the Walton Family Foundation to support development of a regional land use framework for the Razorback Greenway Corridor. The vision for the framework is to promote the greenway corridor as a transportation and recreation asset that can be leveraged by the region as it grows in population. He said that the regional framework would be a collaborative effort, and that each city would then have the opportunity to develop a subarea plan for their portion of the corridor. Reavis said all seven cities along the greenway will be represented on the selection committee, which will interview five (5) different design and planning firms to then select the top three (3) firms invite to submit project proposals.

Chair Judge Barry Moehring asked Tim Reavis if the possible grant amount is known at this time. Tim responded that the potential grant amount is currently unknown.

A. RESOLUTION #2024-13 – Authorizing NWARPC to apply for and accept the Walton Family Foundation Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program Planning Grant for the Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan

Judge Moehring asked whether there were any other questions or comments and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2024-13 Authorizing NWARPC to Apply for and accept the Walton Family Foundation Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program Planning Grant for the Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan.

MOTION: Jim Ulmer made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-13 Authorizing NWARPC to Apply for and accept the Walton Family Foundation Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program Planning Grant for the Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan. The second was provided by Mayor Stephanie Orman. The motion passed unanimously.

(8) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES

A. DRAFT NARTS FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Tim Conklin provided a summary of projects included in the current draft NARTS 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Conklin stated that ARDOT's draft 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has been released, and MoDOT's 2025-2029 STIP has been approved. He stated the NARTS 2025-2028 TIP is anticipated to be brought to the Board for approval in August 2024, and the 2025-2028 ARDOT STIP is anticipated to be approved by October 2024. Conklin said almost \$200 million will come to the region by 2028 with \$10 million going to fund transit projects.

Conklin gave an overview of the key elements of the TIP and highlighted notable projects including the Hwy 612 Bypass, which will be a segment of I-42, a designated future interstate from I-35 in Oklahoma to I-49 in Springdale; Hwy 112 Improvements; and Hwy 102 Improvements, providing insight to each project's context and regional significance. Conklin reminded members that ARDOT is accepting public comments on their STIP through July 22, 2024.

B. NWARPC Funding Programs (STBGP-A/TAP/CRP) – Project Development & Obligation Plan

Nicole Gibbs shared the current FFY 2024 obligation plan scenario and noted the importance of jurisdictions staying on top of their federal aid projects and keeping NWARPC in the loop for their quarterly reporting. She said the plan highlights projects awarded FFY 2024 funding, and older projects that are anticipated to be ready for obligation by the September deadline. She said ongoing projects that were awarded FFY 2025 funding in May by the Board are also on the obligation plan if they could feasibly obligate those funds by the deadline as well. She showed the below and said dark orange indicates the projects that have already been obligated, and light orange is anticipated to obligate this federal fiscal year.

Tim Conklin said that some projects need to provide additional documentation of progress to ARDOT soon, to avoid any complications with reimbursement of funds, and that ARDOT or NWARPC staff may reach out to cities soon for clarification on project timelines. He mentioned that it is always a good idea to reference the ARDOT Local Public Agency (LPA) Manual before taking major steps to ensure that your project funding can be reimbursed in the future. Conklin also stated we are working with ARDOT to obligate funding in ways that maximize our funding so we do not see any federal funding allocated to our region go unspent.

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FFY 2024 Obligation Plan Scenario (v3)

YEAR	JOB	JURISDICTION	PROJECT	PHASE	STBGP-A	TAP	CRP	FFY 2023 Obligated	FFY 2024 Obligated	ANTICIPATED TO OBLIGATE - 2024			TOTAL ANTIC. OBL. 2024
										STBGP-A	TAP	CRP	
2024 AWARDED PROJECTS													
2024	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview/Spring Creek Rd Inters. Impvts. **	Construction	\$ 891,850								\$ -
2024	040717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext	Construction	\$ 3,000,000			\$ 3,000,000					OBLIG. 2023
2024	090628	Bentonville-Centerton	Greenhouse Road Improvements	ROW/Utilities	\$ 3,333,396					\$ 3,333,396			\$ 3,333,396
2024	040943	Fayetteville	Millsap, College, N Hemlock	ROW/Utilities	\$ 1,300,000					\$ 1,300,000			\$ 1,300,000
2024	090601	Lowell	US-71B/Hwy264 Intersection Improvements **	ROW/Utilities/Co	\$ 250,000					\$ 250,000			\$ 250,000
2024	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Const/ConstEng	\$ 640,000			\$ 640,000					OBLIG. 2023
2024	090436	Bella Vista	Wetzy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases	\$ 130,354			\$ 130,354					OBLIG. 2023
2024	090708	Gravette	Hwy 598/72 Intersection Improvements **	Construction	\$ 1,000,000								\$ -
2024	090722	Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	ROW/Utilities	\$ 404,400				\$ 4,000				\$ -
2024	040957	Tontitown	N Barrington Rd and US 412 Inters Impvts	Design/Enviro	\$ 360,000				\$ 4,000	\$ 356,000			\$ 356,000
2024	040958	Washington County	Wheeler Rd. Bridge Replacement-Clabber Creek Str. & Apprs.	Design/Enviro	\$ 200,000				\$ 200,000				OBLIG. 2024
2024	040955	Fayetteville	Drake Street Trail Connection	Construction		\$ 500,000				\$ 4,000	\$ 496,000		\$ 496,000
2024	090716	Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Vendor Blvd	Construction		\$ 400,000				\$ 4,000			\$ -
2024	090631	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks PH1 (existing ARDOT TAP)	Construction		\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000					OBLIG. 2023
2024	090564	Rogers	Hwy 94/US71B Sidewalks PH1 (existing ARDOT TAP project)	Construction		\$ 220,948		\$ 511,601					OBLIG. 2023
2024	040956	Fayetteville	Safe Routes to School Planning Grant	Planning		\$ 100,000			\$ 4,000		\$ 96,000		\$ 96,000
2024	090721	Rogers	Hwy62/Hwy 94/Hwy12 (Hudson Rd) Sidewalks Impvts	Design/Enviro		\$ 260,000			\$ 4,000		\$ 256,000		\$ 256,000
2024	090718	Pea Ridge	Lee Town Road Multi-Use Trail	ROW/Utilities		\$ 386,180			\$ 4,000				\$ -
2024	090719	Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	Construction		\$ 332,872			\$ 4,000			\$ 328,872	\$ 328,872
										\$ 5,239,396	\$ 496,000	\$ 680,872	\$ 6,416,268
EXISTING/ONGOING PROJECTS (UNOBLIGATED)													
2023	040917	Farmington	Creekside Park Trail	Construction		\$ 500,000					\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000
2023	090238	Centerton	Hwy 102 Sidewalk **	Construction	\$ 600,000								\$ -
2023	040943	Fayetteville	Millsap, College, N Hemlock	Enviro/ROW	\$ 320,000		\$ 103,014			\$ 216,986			\$ 216,986
2023	090675	Rogers	W Pleasant Grove Rd & Hwy 265 Roundabout	Design/Env	\$ 168,000				\$ 4,000	\$ 164,000			\$ 164,000
2023	090674	Rogers	Hwy 265 and Hwy 94 New Hope Rd Roundabout	Design/Env	\$ 200,000				\$ 4,000	\$ 196,000			\$ 196,000
2023	090601	Lowell	US-71B/Hwy264 Intersection Improvements **	Construction	\$ 240,000					\$ 240,000			\$ 240,000
2023	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview/Spring Creek Rd Inters. Impvts. **	Construction	\$ 560,000								\$ -
2023	090709	Lowell	Monroe Extension from Oak St to Hwy 265	Utilities/Eng/Con	\$ 439,258				\$ 4,000	\$ 435,258			\$ 435,258
2023	090679	Decatur	Rooster St to Hill Ave Sidewalk Improvements (ARDOT TAP-22)	Construction			\$ 183,000						\$ -
2023	090715	Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Trail Project	Design			\$ 25,000						\$ -
2022	090678	Cave Springs	W Wallis Rd & Sands Rd Sidewalk Extension (ARDOT TAP)	Construction			\$ 10,784						\$ -
2022	090706	Centerton	McKissic Trail Phase 2	Construction			\$ 500,000		\$ 4,000		\$ 496,000		\$ 496,000
2022	040946	Fayetteville	Lighting and Video Detection Impvts.	Construction			\$ 400,000		\$ 4,000		\$ 396,000		\$ 396,000
2022	040947	Johnson	Razorback Greenway Lighting	Construction			\$ 339,300		\$ 339,300				OBLIG. 2024
2022	090707	Lowell	Traffic Signal Improvements	Construction			\$ 131,764						\$ -
2022	040948	Springdale	Watkins Ave. - S Pleasant St Trail Feasibility Plan and Design	Plan/Design			\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000				OBLIG. 2024
2021	040852	Springdale	Watkins Ave. Bike-Ped Bridge over I-49	Construction		\$ 125,000							\$ -
NOTE: \$1M carry over limitation per ARDOT policy; in the past, ARDOT partner projects (PP)** did not count toward carry over limitation										\$ 1,252,244	\$ 500,000	\$ 892,000	\$ 2,644,244
** partner project total not counting toward CO limitation													

FFY 2024 Obligation Plan Scenario (v3)

YEAR	JOB	JURISDICTION	PROJECT	PHASE	STBGP-A	TAP	CRP	FFY 2023 Obligated	FFY 2024 Obligated	ANTICIPATED TO OBLIGATE - 2024			TOTAL ANTIC. OBL. 2024
										STBGP-A	TAP	CRP	
2024 AWARDED PROJECTS										\$ 5,239,396	\$ 496,000	\$ 680,872	\$ 6,416,268
EXISTING/ONGOING PROJECTS (UNOBLIGATED)										\$ 1,252,244	\$ 500,000	\$ 892,000	\$ 2,644,244
2025 REQUESTED PROJECTS (EXISTING) *													
2025	090676	Bentonville	I-49 / J Street Interchange - Tiger Blvd to I-49	ROW/Utilities	\$ 2,500,000					\$ 2,500,000			\$ 2,500,000
2025	90628	Bentonville-Centerton	Greenhouse Road	ROW/Utilities	\$ 461,928					\$ 461,928			\$ 461,928
2025		Centerton	City Wide Sidewalk Infill (2)	Construction			\$ 227,000						\$ -
2025		Centerton	City Wide Sidewalk Infill (1)	Construction		\$ 94,955							\$ -
2025		Fayetteville	Stephen Carr Memorial Dr / I-49 Interchange Impvts.	Design & Enviro	\$ 650,000								\$ -
2025	040943	Fayetteville	Millsap Rd / College Ave Intersection Impvts.	Construction	\$ 1,900,000					\$ 1,900,000			\$ 1,900,000
2025		Fayetteville	Ruppel Trail Lighting	Construction			\$ 315,193						\$ -
2025	040955	Fayetteville	Drake St. Trail Connections	Construction		\$ 500,000					\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000
2025	90680	Lowell	Honeysuckle Street Sidewalk (ARDOT TAP)	ROW/Utility/Const			\$ 389,591				\$ 389,591		\$ 389,591
2025	090722	Lowell	Hwy. 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment	Construction	\$ 2,481,309								\$ -
2025		Lowell	Hwy. 264 Widening - Goad to Bellview Rd.	Design	\$ 504,000								\$ -
2025		Pea Ridge	Hwy. 94 (Pickens Rd) Sidewalk Connection (Res. not signed)	ROW/Utilities/Const			\$ 164,193						\$ -
2025	090631	Rogers	Hwy. 62 (Hudson Rd) Sidewalk Impvts. (P2)	Construction		\$ 700,000					\$ 700,000		\$ 700,000
2025	090631	Rogers	Hwy. 62 (Hudson Rd) Sidewalk Impvts. (P2)	Construction			\$ 81,355					\$ 81,355	\$ 81,355
2025	090675	Rogers	Hwy 265 & W. Pleasant Grove Rd Roundabout	Design & Enviro	\$ 36,984					\$ 36,984			\$ 36,984
2025	090674	Rogers	Hwy 265 and Hwy 94 New Hope Rd Roundabout	Design & Enviro	\$ 50,536					\$ 50,536			\$ 50,536
2025	090564	Rogers	Hwy. 94 Pedestrian Impvts. (P1)	Construction		\$ 109,769					\$ 109,769		\$ 109,769
2025		Rogers	US-71B Pedestrian Impvts. (P3)	Design & Environ			\$ 328,000						\$ -
2025		Springdale-Lowell	Apple Blossom Ave Impvts.	Design & Environ	\$ 2,800,000								\$ -
2025	40854	Tontitown	US412 and Klenc Road Traffic Signal Installation	Construction	\$ 501,436				\$ 722,313				OBLIG. 2024
2025	040958	Washington County	Wheeler Rd. Bridge Replacement-Clabber Creek Str. & Apprs.	Design & Environ	\$ 200,000				\$ 200,000				OBLIG. 2024
										\$ 4,949,448	\$ 1,309,769	\$ 470,946	\$ 6,730,163
NET POTENTIAL OBL. 2024										\$ 11,441,088	\$ 2,305,769	\$ 2,043,818	\$ 15,790,675
													\$ 3,051,850

NOTES:
- \$1M carry over limitation per ARDOT policy; in the past, ARDOT partner projects (PP)** did not count toward carry over limitation
** partner project total not counting toward CO limitation



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C. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Tim Reavis provided the committee with an overview of recent progress made on the update to the MTP, which is required to be updated every five years. He said that NWARPC is now under contract with consultant WSP, which will assist in developing two key components of the MTP: an update to the Travel Demand Model (TDM) and conducting a Transit Alternatives Study (TAS). Reavis outlined the purpose and functions of the Travel Demand Model and mentioned that this update will include three (3) different land use scenarios, showing the function of our regional transportation network in each scenario of future growth. He said that the projects will kick off soon, and that the TDM & TAS will be incorporated into the MTP which is slated to be adopted by March 2026.

Tim Conklin mentioned that the City of Rogers adopted a new Future Land Use Plan recently and said NWARPC will be working with communities to incorporate their current long-range plans into the TDM update to get a more accurate picture of future regional development patterns.

D. Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections Project (FTA-AoPP)

Tim Reavis introduced the item and said that procurement for the grant is now complete, with Olsson chosen to carry out the project. Contract negotiations are now underway. He also reminded attendees of the one-to-one matching challenge grant for this program, provided by the Walton Family Foundation, which will fund cities up to \$200,000 match for the design and engineering of bus stop facilities and access improvements. Reavis also provided an update on the Razorback Transit Bus Stop Enhancements Plan, made possible by funding from the Walton Family Foundation and the City of Fayetteville. He said the selection committee met last week and selected Toole Design as the consultant on the project, and that contract negotiations are ongoing.

E. NWA Vision Zero Safety Action Plan (USDOT-SS4A)

Luke Aitken summarized the Phase 2 SS4A project deliverables, which will include the development of tailored Community Safety Action Plans for Bentonville, Centerton, Rogers, Springdale, and Fayetteville. He said safety demonstration projects will take place in Rogers and Bentonville in October. He provided an overview of the recent Complete Streets Working Group Meeting #2 and reminded attendees of the upcoming deadline for the SS4A Program. Aitken reminded attendees that cities should have vision zero plans adopted prior to applying for funding.

- **August 29, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT):** Deadline #3 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

He said the next Complete Streets Working Group meeting (#3), is anticipated to be in October 2024, and that Toole Design will be in touch with the working group prior to that in-person meeting with other preparation material. He encouraged community municipal staff to attend and be on the lookout for more information from Toole Design.

F. NWA Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) CAP – Phase 2 (EPA-CPRG)

Gibbs said this next phase of CPRG work will be creating a more comprehensive deliverable for the CPRG Planning Grant, using the funding suballocated to us by Arkansas Dept of Engineering and Environment (ADEE). She said the plan is to bring the Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for adoption by the RPC in the Spring, which will build upon the priority measures outlined in the Priority Action Plan (PAP) which was adopted by the Board in May.

Gibbs said the plan is intended to support future environmental planning and funding opportunities for the region, related to preservation, environmental quality, and emissions reductions. She said

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that staff will plan to submit the CAP supplement to the ADEE by February 28, 2025. The final CAP will then be brought to the Board for adoption in the Spring 2025, and that the PAP and CAP will both be components of NWARPC's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

G. NWA Mobility Strategic Communications Plan

Nicole Gibbs provided an update on the NWA Strategic Communications Plan, funded by the Walton Family Foundation, which seeks to advance the regional conversation around mobility to respond to the rapid growth of the region. She said consultant MHP-SI conducted focus groups, which provide the first level of insights from this project, showing overall themes of the public's impressions around transportation planning taking place in the NWA region. She stated a scientific public opinion survey will be conducted next month, and, in the meantime, work will begin with the consultant on interviewing stakeholders and developing a messaging guide around regional mobility.

H. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Tim Conklin said there are new Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) being sent out almost weekly. He provided an overview of some newer grant programs offered by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) from the Key Notices of Funding Opportunity Webpage (<https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity>). He mentioned opportunities for funding electric vehicle charging stations and also highlighted the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program, which aims to support demonstration projects that enhance transportation safety and efficiency through smart technology and information systems. Conklin stated that Ozark Regional Transit will be applying for \$1.5 Million of federal funding from this program for the NWA Dynamic Signal Priority Project, which will allow ORT and NWA communities to evaluate Transit Signal Priority. Conklin also provided an update on the recently opened Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program and encouraged communities to apply by September 30, 2024.

Conklin provided an update on the Highway 112 improvement project. He said the Commission applied for ARDOT TAP and ATIIP funding for the Hwy 112 project in addition to their SS4A and RAISE applications to fund the preferred bicycle accommodation of a 12-foot side path along the entirety of the Hwy 112 Improvement Projects. He also mentioned that the staff has applied for a \$160 million MPDG grant in for US 612, with support from the NWA Council on the required Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA). Conklin said these applications total \$250 million in USDOT grant funding which has been applied for this year by staff. He also provided an overview of approved FFY2025 Congressional Community Project Funding Requests which include large amounts of federal funding earmarked for 612 bypass, Hwy 112, and the I-49 southern extension.

(9) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Luke Aitken gave an update on the last ACT meeting where new and soon to close grant programs such as ATIIP and ARDOPT TAP were discussed, in addition to updates from members on the progress of their ongoing infrastructure projects and bike and pedestrian related planning initiatives.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Luke Aitken said that the coalition met with local leaders in Greenland on site of a future park along the White River to discuss open space preservation and see the land that the region is working to

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preserve. He said this meeting was successful in generating needed momentum for the park project and he encouraged interested attendees to come out to Lake Bella Vista in Bentonville for their next meeting September 11, 2024.

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Nicole Gibbs gave an overview of the most recent MS4 group meeting, on June 20, 2024, where they discussed their website update, the ZIPS Carwash campaign, and their recent Notice of Intent published for their regional Stormwater Management Plan to be developed.

D. NWA GIS User Group

There was no NWA GIS User group meeting in July, but the group plans to meet virtually on August 13, 2024.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there were any public comments for consideration and there were none.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Judge Moehring provided an overview of the upcoming meeting dates below.

A. Future Meeting Dates:

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, August 15, 2024 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, August 28, 2024 @ 1:30 PM

B. APA Quad State Conference – October 7-9, 2024, Fayetteville, AR

Chair Judge Barry Moehring asked whether there was any other business, and hearing none, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

(12) ADJOURN

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 P.M.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2024.

Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____