

RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 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	X	
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	
FAYETTEVILLE	MAYOR LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X	
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	MAYOR CHERYL TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	MAYOR RUSSELL STROUD	X	
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX	X	Ami Murray
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT	X	
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 X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION ALLAN GILBERT	X	Ben Rhoads
SPRINGDALE	MAYOR DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X X	Doug Sprouse
SPRINGTOWN	MAYOR TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	MAYOR SHANE WEBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL		
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE PATRICK DEAKINS BRIAN LESTER SAM ATA	X X	Catherine Baker
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB JASON HUGHEY (DISTRICT 4)	X	Sunny Farmahan
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER		
McDONALD COUNTY	COMMISSIONER BRIAN HALL		
MoDOT	MARVIN MORRIS (BRITNI O'CONNOR)	X	
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES		
PINEVILLE, MO	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)		
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNEYCUTT)	X	
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: Lacie Lawson (Goshen); Mark Latham (Tontitown), Dennis Birge (Bentonville); Nicola Hoofard (Centerton); Minghua Qiu Miller & David Siskowski (ARDOT); Dan Weitkamp (FTA); Truett Smith (FHWA); Phillip Patterson (ARML); Andy Brewer (Olsson)

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, RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and stated that the approval of the April 24, 2024 RPC Meeting Minutes will be deferred to the Committee's next regularly scheduled meeting.

(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT/CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT

Chair Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin outlined the state funding requests in the May Clearinghouse Report.

A. CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2023 NWARPC ANNUAL REPORT

Conklin summarized the Commission's recently published 2023 Annual Report, outlining the notable achievements and work products of the NWARPC over the past Federal Fiscal Year.

B. FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025 NWARPC BUDGET APPROVAL

Tim Conklin summarized major additions to the Proposed NWARPC FFY 2025 Budget which are shown below. He stated one year ago, the budget was a little over \$2 million and that the Commission is adding about \$1.2 million to this year's budget as a result of multiple grants, and also the federal funding that increased for the commission based on the 2020 Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers urban area funding, which the commission receives based on the region's population, to carry out our program. The new budget also includes funds for upgrading Information Technology to better support staff and annual pay raises for all employees ranging from 2-4%.

- **NWA Energy and Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan**
EPA CRPG Planning Grant (\$440,000 Federal / no local match) –
Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E) Subaward
- **Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Phase II**
SS4A Planning Grant (\$300,000 USDOT Federal / \$75,000 WFF)
- **Design and Environmental - Bus Stop Enhancements**
FTA AoPP Grant (\$180,000 Federal / \$20,000 Local split between ORT
and Razorback Transit)
- **Bus Stop Inventory** (\$108,800 WFF / \$27,200 Local split between
Fayetteville and U of A)
- **NWA Mobility Strategic Communications Plan** (\$165,000 WFF)
- **2050 NWA Travel Demand Model and Transit Alternatives Study**
(\$400,000 FTA / \$100,000 Local)

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REVENUE & CARRYOVER

Membership Fees	\$ 468,256	\$ 468,256
FHWA & FTA (AR Federal PL/5303)	\$ 1,046,046	\$ 1,136,318
FHWA & FTA (MO Federal PL)	\$ 5,000	\$ 11,000
FHWA STBGP-A (Planning)	\$ 200,000	\$ -
DOT SS4A Regional Action Plan Ph. 1 and Ph. 2 (USDOT Grant)	\$ 375,000	\$ 250,000
FTA Sec. 5307 (Metro Planning)	\$ 100,000	\$ 400,000
AR DF&A (State)	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,500
EPA Phase II Stormwater	\$ 235,000	\$ 235,000
AR Dept E and E - Action Plan CPRG Grant	\$ 250,000	\$ 190,000
Bus Stop AOPP FTA	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
WWF Bus Stop Matching Grant with ORT and RT + RT Inventory	\$ 213,800	\$ 213,800
WWF Communication Grant	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000
Transit Capacity Bldg. (WWF)	\$ 58,910	\$ -
Remix Software - Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit Match	\$ 22,445	\$ 19,445
Bank Accounts & Certificate of Deposits Interest	\$ 30,000	\$ 45,000
Other	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
TOTAL	\$ 3,394,458	\$ 3,358,820

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$ 727,734	\$ 799,446
Fringe Benefits	\$ 254,707	\$ 279,806
Office Rent	\$ 59,621	\$ 62,533
Communication Costs	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500
Utilities, Supplies, & Maintenance	\$ 21,500	\$ 21,500
Printing & Publications	\$ 13,600	\$ 13,600
Software Maintenance	\$ 40,200	\$ 40,200
Subscription Fees	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500
Travel	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000
Fixtures & Equipment	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Professional & Other Fees	\$ 38,000	\$ 38,000
Bonds & Insurance	\$ 9,200	\$ 9,200
Accrued Leave	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000
REMIX Transit Routing & Scheduling Software	\$ 42,500	\$ 39,500
Travel Demand Model and Alternatives Update	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000
DOT SS4A Regional Action Plan	\$ 375,000	\$ 250,000
EPA Phase II Stormwater (UA)	\$ 228,000	\$ 228,000
AR Dept E and E - Action Plan CPRG Grant	\$ 250,000	\$ 190,000
Bus Stop AOPP FTA	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
WWF Bus Stop Matching Grant with Cities and RT Inventory	\$ 213,800	\$ 213,800
WWF Communication Grant	\$ 10,000	\$ 155,000
Regional Mobility Authority	\$ 12,893	\$ 12,893
Quadrivium IT Services	\$ 37,550	\$ 21,000
Server Upgrades - Hardware and Software to Hosted Servers	\$ -	\$ 45,000
Intergovt. Work Group-Wastewater (C)	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Travel Demand Model (TA & Fees)	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,817,305	\$ 3,307,478

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse of Springdale made a motion to approve the proposed FFY 2025 NWARPC Budget. Judge Deakins of Washington County provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(5) FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2025 NWARPC FUNDING AWARDS (STBGP-A, TAP, CRP)

Chair Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs explained the Commission’s annual competitive funding programs to include Surface Transportation Block Grants, the Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Carbon Reduction Program. Gibbs said there were 11 applications submitted for STBGP-A funding, totaling \$13.5 Million in requests, five new projects and six existing projects. There were six Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications submitted, totaling \$1.9 Million in requests, and seven Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) applications submitted, totaling \$2.5 Million in requests. She stated that the total project funding requests were ~\$16.5 million, with 5 projects submitting projects for multiple funding programs.

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This is a \$1.5 million excess of requests, which the committee had to take into account when deciding which projects will receive full funding. The selection committee met on May 1st to tour all of the proposed project sites in person, with the help of Razorback Transit, and scored projects after the tours to come up with a recommended funding scenario. Gibbs said the selection committee focused on balancing funding between new and existing projects, awarding funding to state highway projects only once cost-share agreements are in place, and the overall cost increases of existing projects via inflation. The committee was clear they wanted to spread funds across as many communities as possible.

In the proposed STBGP-A awards scenario recommended by the selection committee, all new and existing projects were awarded at the requested amounts, with the exception of the two largest project requests, the Bentonville I-49/J Street interchange, which was reduced by \$500,000 to \$2.5 million and the Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway trail tunnel and trail realignment, which was reduced by \$910,000 to the remaining amount of just under \$2.5 million. The proposed awards are below.

STBGP-A Project Applications (<i>EXISTING</i>)						
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 (<i>NEW</i>)						
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

Gibbs then showed the next table below, which illustrates both the TAP and CRP programs highest scored projects being fully funded and prioritizing existing projects and those with multiple phases outside of construction within CRP. Lower scoring projects in TAP and CRP were awarded the remaining funds after higher scoring projects were fully funded.

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CRP Project Applications						
Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP Request	Total Score	Rank	Award Recommended.
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

Gibbs stated that a contingency has been proposed by the selection committee, to make the \$504,000 award of STBGP-A funds for the City of Lowell’s AR Hwy 264 Widening Project – Goad Springs Rd to Bellview St, contingent on ARDOT agreeing to partner with the city to fund and carry out future phases of the project and program it in their 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Tim Conklin reiterated concerns of the NWARPC and selection committee, that funding such a large project in its early phases could be risky without a cost-sharing agreement with ARDOT in place. He said ARDOT will need to agree to share the project’s cost before anymore funding is obligated to the project in the future, so that the impacts of our regions STBGP-A program are not diluted by one larger, more costly, ARDOT state highway improvement project. Conklin stated he hopes by the time these funds are being obligated next year, that there would be an agreement in place between ARDOT and the City of Lowell to provide funding for the project.

Mayor Chris Moore, of Lowell stated he disagreed with the recommended motion because it would be difficult to get this project placed on the 2025-2028 STIP for future funding. Moore stated that the city is actively collecting fees from ongoing development nearby to fund this project which will address the safety concerns of nearby properties. Moore said that the State Police Headquarters and new driver training center nearby necessitate immediate action on the project to improve safety in the Hwy 264 corridor. Tim Conklin reiterated the importance of ARDOT coming to the table to program state funding for state roadways which flow through many of our major cities in the region. Conklin said that the STBGP-A Program must balance funding priorities each year to ensure that regionally significant local road projects are receiving their fair share of funding from the Commission. Mayor Doug Sprouse of Springdale agreed with Conklin and stated that a contingency

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like this puts ARDOT in a position to respond to Mayor Moore and the State Police's concern, and takes pressure off of NWARPC to lead the charge with funding for major improvements of a state highway.

Mayor Jeff Van Sickler, of Little Flock stated he thinks the contingency is punitive because Lowell is a smaller city with multiple state roads running through it compared to other small towns such as his that have more locally owned and maintained streets. Chair, Judge Barry Moehring asked if there was a timeline anticipated for the overall project design being completed if the funding is awarded with the stated contingency, even if the project does not get placed on an upcoming STIP. Tim Conklin stated that the project would need to be carried out to completion if the STBGP-A funding is awarded to the project, and if it is not funds would need to be paid back by the member agency. Mayor Chris Moore said that his intention is to make any progress at all on this project so that ARDOT is encouraged to program the Hwy 264 project on an upcoming STIP, reiterating that the road project would be carried out by ARDOT in the end since Hwy 264 is owned by the state. Lance Jobe, of Rogers asked if the contingency could be amended to remove the stated year (2025-2028) of the STIP mentioned.

There is additional discussion amongst members, and it was decided by the group and stated by Nicole Gibbs that the "2025-2028" STIP year will be struck from the contingency. Mayor Doug Sprouse amended his motion to approve the modified version of the contingency.

Judge Barry Moehring asked whether there were any other questions or comments and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the FFY 2025 NWARPC Funding Program (STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP) project awards as shown in the funding allocation table, *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 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).*

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse of Springdale made a motion to approve the FFY 2025 NWARPC Funding Programs (STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP) project awards as shown in the funding allocation table, 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 -Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Melissa McCarville provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) NWA ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION (EEI) PRIORITY ACTION PLAN (PAP) – Recommendation to RPC/Policy Committee

Chair Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs provided a summary of recent efforts to form a Statewide Coalition and apply for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Implementation Grant. She highlighted aspects of the program's structure that incentivizes coalition-building and said NWARPC has partnered with Metroplan (Little Rock MPO) and the City of Fort Smith to submit a Tri-Region Coalition application, representing over 50% of the state's total population, with the goal of making the most impact possible across low income and disadvantaged communities in Arkansas. Metroplan was the lead applicant and successfully submitted the complete Tri-Region Coalition application to the EPA on

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March 29, 2024. 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). The NWARPC will develop a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for adoption by the RPC, building upon the priority measures outlined in the Priority Action Plan (PAP) which was completed earlier this year and is up for approval here today.

Gibbs said the content in the PAP mirrors that of the action plan supplement, which was submitted to ADEE earlier this year, specifically the five priority measures. The PAP identifies top priority areas for the region, which the CAP will expand upon, outlining actionable steps toward regional implementation of the priority actions. She 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 that staff will plan to submit the CAP supplement to the ADEE by February 28th, 2025. The final CAP will be considered for adoption by the RPC upon its completion in Spring 2025.

A. RESOLUTION #2024-10 – Approving the Northwest Arkansas Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Priority Action Plan (PAP)

Judge Barry Moehring asked whether there were any other questions or comments and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2024-10 Approving the Northwest Arkansas Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Priority Action Plan (PAP).

MOTION: Judge Patrick Deakins made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-10 approving the Northwest Arkansas Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Priority Action Plan (PAP). Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) NARTS FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #7 – FTA-5307 CHANGES

Nicole Gibbs provided a summary of the changes proposed in the amendment. These changes came at the request of Razorback Transit and the FTA, including creating separate line items in the program for FAST-ACT funding (2019-2021) and IJA funding (2022-2023), related to the Travel Demand Model update and Transit Alternatives Study. The second change is a correction of the 2024 Operating Assistance monetary amounts shown in the program from TIP Amendment #6.

A. RESOLUTION #2024-11 – Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Judge Barry Moehring asked whether there were any other questions or comments and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2024-11 Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOTION: Judge Patrick Deakins made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-11 Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The second is provided by Mayor Stephanie Orman. Motion passed unanimously.

(8) FTA SECTIONS 5307 & 5339 FY 2024 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP) APPROVAL

Judge Barry Moehring introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs provided an overview of the tasks

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within the POP and the purpose of FTA 5307 & 5339 FFY 2024 funding. She stated the NWARPC is the designated recipient for FTA funds for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urbanized Area Formula Grant. These funds go toward regional transit to including planning, capital costs, operating assistance, ADA paratransit and more. NWARPC receives \$100,000 in 5307 funding for transit planning, while additional 5307 funding is split 55% to ORT and 45% to Razorback Transit. She said the FTA 5339 funds are split 50-50 between the two transit agencies. The FFY 2024 urban area apportionment tables are publicly available, with \$4.1 million being allocated to the Urban Area for Section 5307 funding and \$327,640 for Section 5339 funding.

The draft FFY 2024 Program of Projects (POP) is shown below for the 5307 & 5339 sections.

FTA SECTION 5307 POP FFY 2024					
OZARK REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY					
Project Description	Project Type	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share	
Operating Assist.	Operating	\$ 2,603,330	\$ 1,301,665	\$ 1,301,665	
Preventative Mtn.	Capital	\$ 717,019	\$ 573,615	\$ 143,404	
ADA Paratransit Service	Capital	\$ 413,665	\$ 330,932	\$ 82,733	
TOTAL		\$ 3,734,014	\$ 2,206,212	\$ 1,527,802	
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – RAZORBACK TRANSIT					
Operating Assist.	Operating	\$ 50,166	\$ 25,083	\$ 25,083	
Preventative Mtn.	Capital	\$ 125,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000	
Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 1,858,824	\$ 1,580,000	\$ 278,824	
ADA Paratransit Service	Capital	\$ 125,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000	
TOTAL		\$ 2,158,990	\$ 1,805,083	\$ 353,907	
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION					
Comp. Planning	Capital	\$ 125,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000	
SUMMARY – ALL PROVIDERS					
TOTAL		\$ 6,018,004	\$ 4,111,295	\$ 1,906,709	

FTA SECTION 5339 POP FFY 2020 - 2024					
OZARK REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY					
FFY Funding	Project Description	Project Type	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
2020	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 184,246	\$ 156,609	\$ 27,637
2021	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 167,015	\$ 141,963	\$ 25,052
2022	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 160,107	\$ 136,091	\$ 24,016
2023	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 159,912	\$ 135,925	\$ 23,987
2024	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 192,729	\$ 163,820	\$ 28,909
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – RAZORBACK TRANSIT					
2020	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 184,246	\$ 156,609	\$ 27,637
2021	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 167,015	\$ 141,963	\$ 25,052
2022	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 160,107	\$ 136,091	\$ 24,016
2023	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 159,912	\$ 135,925	\$ 23,987
2024	Bus Procurement	Capital	\$ 192,729	\$ 163,820	\$ 28,909
SUMMARY – FFY TOTALS (ORT + RAZORBACK TRANSIT)					
FFY 2020	FTA Section 5339	Capital	\$ 368,492	\$ 313,218	\$ 55,274
FFY 2021	FTA Section 5339	Capital	\$ 334,030	\$ 283,926	\$ 50,104
FFY 2022	FTA Section 5339	Capital	\$ 320,214	\$ 272,182	\$ 48,032
FFY 2023	FTA Section 5339	Capital	\$ 319,824	\$ 271,850	\$ 47,974
FFY 2024	FTA Section 5339	Capital	\$ 385,458	\$ 327,640	\$ 57,818

Hearing no other questions on the item, Chair Judge Barry Moehring asked for a motion to approve the FFY 2024 Program of Projects (POP).

MOTION: Judge Patrick Deakins made a motion to approve the FFY 2024 Program of Projects (POP). Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(9) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES

A. FY 2024 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP Project Development

Tim Conklin stated NWARPC and ARDOT are working with member organizations/cities to complete the obligation process for the FY 2024 funds by the September 30, 2024, obligation deadline. He shared the draft Obligation Plan Scenario for FY 2024 funds with the group and said the application timeline for the funding award programs were moved up this year to give staff more time to work toward the obligation deadline.

B. NWA Safety Action Plan Update (USDOT-SS4A)

Conklin 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. She encouraged communities to reach out if they have particular interest in doing safety demonstration projects with the help of SS4A funding and Toole Design.

Conklin reminded attendees of the upcoming deadlines for this program, including the new deadline for this year's SS4A implementation grant applications of May 16, 2024, and reminded attendees that cities should have vision zero plans adopted prior to applying for funding.

- **May 16, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT):** Sole deadline for Implementation Grants; Deadline #2 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.
- **August 29, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT):** Deadline #3 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

He said the next Complete Streets Working Group meeting (#2), will be held on June 5, 2024, from 11AM-1PM here at the NWARPC office, and that Toole Design will be in touch with the group prior to that in-person meeting with other preparation material and information requests. He encouraged communities' staff to attend and be on the lookout for more information from Toole Design.

C. Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections Project Update (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. Both of these transit projects will be kicked off soon.

D. 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 procurement is now complete, with MHP-SI to carry out the project from their Bentonville office. She also thanked the communications staff of our member

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agencies, who make up the selection committee for this project, for providing their time and expertise during the procurement process.

Tim Reavis provided an update on the Travel Demand Model (TDM) Update & Transit Alternatives Study. Reavis stated that in preparation for the required 2050 MTP update NWARPC will be updating their TDM and studying transit alternatives. The TDM will be modified to show three different land use scenarios, forecasting those scenarios' impact on transportation demand through 2030, 2040, and 2050. He said that procurement is underway for the projects and the interested consultants have all been sent RFP's which are due back by May 7th.

E. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Luke Aitken provided an overview of the new Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program grant. He said ATIIP is a new competitive grant program for this year, which seeks to fund spines and greenway networks that allow connected networks of active transportation to flourish in communities. He said the program is seeking to award \$45 million in funding and the application deadline is June 17, 2024, and mentioned the RPC will be applying to this program, requesting funding for the Hwy 112 side path and an accompanying bike/ped bridge over US612.

Tim Conklin said there are new Notices of Funding Opportunity being sent out almost weekly. He provided an overview of some newer grant programs offered by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) including funding for 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 said NWARPC has submitted a \$25 Million Safe Streets for All SS4A implementation grant application this year for the HWY 112 side path. This project was also submitted for RAISE grant funding and was designated a project of merit in the 2023 funding cycle but was not awarded funds. He thanked ARDOT for their support of the application.

Conklin also reminded attendees that ARDOT TAP and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) applications are now open with a deadline of May 31st. He said that cities who have applied for FY2025 TAP funds should also do so through ARDOT's program.

(10) 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.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Luke Aitken said that the last meeting was the first of its kind, where the coalition met on site with local leaders to discuss open space preservation and see the land that the region is working to preserve. He encouraged attendees to come out to WOKA in Siloam Springs for their next meeting in May.

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C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Nicole Gibbs gave an overview of the most recent MS4 group meeting, where they held a Q & A with AR DEQ staff, discussed their Q1 2024 Education Program Report and the 2024 education plan emphasis of automotive maintenance/ household hazardous waste.

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

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

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Judge Moehring provided an overview of the upcoming meeting dates below, emphasizing that the June TAC & RPC meetings may be canceled if there is no new business to be considered.

A. Future Meeting Dates:

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, June 20, 2024 @ 10:30AM (*TBD*)
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, June 26, 2024 @ 1:30PM (*TBD*)
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, July 18, 2024 @10:30AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, July 24, 2024 @ 1:30 PM

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

(13) ADJOURN

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 P.M.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____