

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED AUGUST 23, 2023**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	MAYOR ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	MAYOR JOHN FLYNN	X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING (CHAIR) JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON	X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS (SECRETARY) LORENE BURNS	X	Nicola Hoofard
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED	X	
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MAYOR ERNIE PENN (VICE CHAIR)	X	Melissa McCarville
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		
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX	X	
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT		
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE CASEY		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR TRAVIS DOTSON		
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (TREASURER)	X	
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE	X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY SHAWN GRISNDSTAFF	X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION CHRISTINA PETRICHES	X 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	Bridget Russell
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB JASON HUGHEY (DISTRICT 4)	X X	Sunny Farmahan Marcus Rainwater
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER		
MCDONALD COUNTY	COMMISSIONER BRIAN HALL		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR (BRITNI O'CONNOR)		
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES	X	
PINEVILLE, MO	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)	X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNEYCUTT)	X	
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER (NON-VOTING)	X	
ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)		
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)		

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NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin, Elizabeth Bowen; Nicole Gibbs; and Tim Reavis

OTHERS: Dennis Birge and Wade Tomlinson (Bentonville); Dan Weitkamp (FTA); Olivia Moore (XNA); Tricia Treece (ADEE); and Rob Smith (NWA Council)

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 1:30 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 JUNE 28, 2023 RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the June 28, 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve the June 28, 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mayor John Flinn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT/CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin said we were not successful in our application for the \$25 million RAISE grant for Highway 112: Complete Streets. Connected Communities. He said later on in the agenda is an item to authorize us to file Highway 112 for a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG). He said USDOT designated the Highway 112 RAISE grant project as a Project of Merit and encouraged us to apply for future rounds of USDOT funding. He said they also gave us priority debriefing and we have applied for that debriefing.

Conklin said this past week, NWARPC was notified of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) grant in the amount of \$180,000. He said the Commission originally applied for \$540,000 and Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) and Razorback Transit will be matching that federal award. He said we are excited to help move forward the implementation of the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan.

Conklin thanked everyone involved in helping get the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) and Vision Zero Policy adopted by this Board last month. He said that plan enabled three cities in our region to apply for \$70 million of potential SS4A Implementation Grants. He said together we are all working non-stop to make sure we meet future grant requirements by having the required plans adopted and in place.

Conklin said we received approximately \$20 million in requests for Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

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Conklin said the Clearinghouse Report was distributed to the Board and no action is required.

A. Procurement for Certified Public Accountant (CPA) – Auditor Selection

Conklin said we received one letter of interest for our audit procurement for CPA services for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). He said our policy does allow us to move forward with one response and we are just bringing this to your attention. He said he did discuss this with Treasurer, Mayor Chris Keeney, and he agreed that we should move forward with the firm that provided the letter of interest. Conklin said this is the same firm that completed the FY 2022 audit last year. He asked if there were any objections to using the same auditor as last year and there were none. He said staff would like to begin negotiations and bring an agreement and feedback to the Board in August.

B. 2024 Membership Fee Request

Conklin said we do not discuss raising membership fees often, maybe once every five to ten years. He said we have been preparing for an increase in federal funds, not only for our program, but also for the suballocated funding that is awarded to our member jurisdictions. He said as part of the Board packet sent last week and based on our anticipated fiscal year budget for FY 2025 (starting July 1, 2024), he is requesting the Board consider raising the membership dues from 70 cents per capita to 85 cents per capita based on the 2020 census population data for the 10 member jurisdictions that have full time planning staffs. He said the remaining 25 smaller jurisdictions currently pay \$1 per capita and would remain at that rate.

Conklin said the 2020 Census Urban Area population increased by 87,604 to 373,687 and additional federal funding will come to NWARPC (approximately \$126,000). He said additional local matching requirements will start in FY 2025 (i.e. July 1, 2024). He said this discussion is necessary now because your local budgets for 2024 must be approved prior to the end of this year, so bringing this up for discussion after the first of the year will be too late.

Conklin said the NWARPC FY 2024 adopted Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) budget (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) required approximately \$400,000 of non-federal funding sources to match approximately \$1.6 million in federal funding. He said membership dues currently provide \$398,430 of non-federal local matching funds leaving little funding for non-transportation related activities to be conducted. He also acknowledged and expressed gratitude for the other local sources utilized, including Walton Family Foundation grants for various projects. He said the Commission must be able to match federal funds, which are restricted to transportation purposes, and still have funds available for other regional planning activities. He said if dues are not raised, we will need to minimize the federal funds that we program next year to ensure that we have enough local funds to match federal dollars and also to enable activities outside of transportation planning. He gave examples of current non-transportation related activities.

Conklin said as a matter of comparison with other MPO's designated as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) in Arkansas with regional planning commissions, Metroplan members in Central Arkansas currently pay a minimum of 92 cents per capita per year. He said, also as a matter of comparison, it should be noted that our fee structure in 1996 was 85 cents/capita/year.

Conklin said we typically send our annual budget requests out in early August for you all to consider in your budgets. He said as you know, the approval of membership fees rests with the governing

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bodies of member governments and as such, unless there are objections, he would like to proceed with 2024 budget requests of 85 cents/capita/year for members with professional planning staff (up from 70 cents); and continue with a \$1/capita/year for the remaining members.

Conklin said Washington County indicated that they were not prepared to vote today, and Mayor Orman had questions that he responded to yesterday regarding how many services outside of transportation are provided to Bentonville. He said larger cities have more capacity; we often spend more time with smaller cities, and they are still paying a higher rate per capita. He said overall we hope that everybody is brought up to a level of comprehensive planning, zoning, subdivision, annexation, etc. that benefits the entire region. He said he does understand that larger cities do not have as much non-transportation attention as do the smaller cities.

There was discussion regarding how resources are allocated to provide planning services to communities; the trends of requests with the level of growth in the region; the alternating nature and scalability of those services to jurisdictions over time; the capacity of the organization to serve increasing numbers of requests and fill many needs; the many different initiatives being discussed at public meetings and the increasing requests coming to NWARPC to facilitate those initiatives at the regional level.

There was discussion regarding the federal mandate to do transportation planning in order for the region to be eligible for federal funding; the benefit to larger cities including the greater allocation of federal aid transportation projects; the benefit of regional consistency in land use planning; the return on investment of the collective dues, including planning services provided to smaller cities; the benefit to the citizens of NWA; and the benefit to having more flexibility to branch out into other regional initiatives.

There was discussion regarding the interconnectivity of transportation, housing, land use, stormwater, energy and environment, etc.; and the possibility of the region becoming a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) nonattainment or maintenance area in the near future, after which, the MPO will have additional responsibilities.

A request was made to review the organizing bylaws to ensure those services are within the scope of the organization. There was discussion regarding the correlation with regional planning goals and the services being offered; the scope of services being to assist all communities to assume best management practices throughout the region and making improvements to local codes and programming so that we are not having to inefficiently allocate federal dollars to correct issues that have occurred over the years (e.g. sidewalk standards, subdivision standards; stormwater standards, etc.).

There was discussion regarding considerations given for other funding structures; the reality that costs have gone up with inflation and everyone is paying more for the same service than in the past; the significance of the proposed vote including potential scenarios if governing bodies do not approve the budget request; and the stipulation that you need to be a member to be awarded NWARPC federal funds.

A concern was raised regarding whether the whole Board would vote to raise a specific subset of the Board's fee structure.

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A request was made to provide a letter to affected communities that they can bring to their governing bodies and budget team that explains the issues, what the change would represent in dollars, what the services to the communities include, or might include, and indicate that the Board will vote on the fee structure change in August.

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there were any other questions or comments and there were none.

(5) FY 2023 MULTIMODAL PROJECT DISCRETIONARY GRANT (MPDG) HIGHWAY 612 SPRINGDALE NORTHERN BYPASS AND HIGHWAY 112: COMPLETE STREETS. CONNECTING COMMUNITIES. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that we would like to submit Highway 112 and Highway 612 for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG). He said we sent a letter to ARDOT requesting their support and match of those federal funds. He thanked Rob Smith and the NWA Council for their support in the preparation of the Benefit Cost Analyses, which are being completed for Highway 112 and Highway 612. He said we are looking at how to advance our regional priority transportation projects. He said we are seeking authorization to apply for those two grants.

- A. RESOLUTION #2023-13** – Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Highway 112: Complete Streets. Connecting Communities. Project

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-13 Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Highway 112: Complete Streets. Connecting Communities. Project.

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-13 Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Highway 112: Complete Streets. Connecting Communities. Project. Sunny Farmahan provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. RESOLUTION #2023-14** – Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Highway 612 Springdale Northern Bypass Project

Chair Judge Moehring called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-14 Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Highway 612 Springdale Northern Bypass Project

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-14 Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Highway 612 Springdale Northern Bypass Project. Jim Ulmer provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) FOR NWA ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION ACTION PLANNING – Agreement with Arkansas Energy & Environment (AEE)

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen explained the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment (ADEE) received a \$3 million EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Formula

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Grant for Planning. She said we submitted a notice of intent to participate (NOIP). She said ADEE has invited us to partner with them on the Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation Plan, which will enable our communities to apply for CPRG Implementation Grants, which are expected to be due April 1, 2024. She said the EPA is expected to award a total of \$4.6 billion nationwide in competitive implementation grants in this single funding cycle, with individual grants ranging from \$2 million to \$500 million. She said Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is proposing to suballocate \$440,000 to NWARPC to complete planning for Greenhouse Gas (GHG), carbon reduction/sequestration in our region.

Bowen said we will utilize projects and recommendations in our current plans that we are implementing regionally to compile into an Action Plan for this project (e.g. the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, NWA Open Space Plan, NWA Vision Zero Plan, Connect NWA, Congestion Management Process, NWA Transportation Systems Management and Operations, NWA Intelligent Transportation System, and the STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP funding programs).

Bowen introduced Tricia Trecee, Deputy Associate Director of ADEQ, to present the project further. Trecee detailed the EPA CPRG Planning Grants and Implementation Grants. She said you cannot apply for an implementation grant unless it is covered by a CPRG. She said ADEQ wants to enable access to and enhance Arkansas's competitiveness for federal funding for energy infrastructure and support investment in technologies that reduce pollutant emissions, create high-quality jobs, and spur economic growth in the state.

Trecee said there are three primary deliverables:

- Priority Action Plan – due March 1, 2024 (Implementation Grants due exactly one month later)
- Comprehensive Action Plan – due two years from award (est. summer/fall 2025)
- Status Report – due four years from award (est. summer/fall 2027)

Trecee said ADEQ reached out to Metroplan, NWARPC, and the City of Fort Smith because they submitted NOIPs, and together those three organizations account for half of the state's population. She said due to the tight timeline, the partnerships allow ADEQ to focus in the other areas of the state, while the three entities can cover their own regions. She said NWARPC knows better than we do regarding your priorities and goals and has closer relationships with local jurisdictions.

Trecee described proposed engagement, further details of the three deliverables, and next steps. She said the important thing they are thinking about for the Priority Plan is designing project concepts and model project designs so local government agencies can pull out the model projects from the plan and plug it into the grant applications.

Trecee said there is no local match requirement for these funds.

Bowen said we will be setting up a steering committee where you can designate staff to help us get this Action Plan together. She said we are working through an agreement with the state and she further outlined the deliverables within the draft agreement.

Bowen asked whether there were any questions or comments.

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A. RESOLUTION #2023-15 – Authorizing the Use of Suballocated EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Funding for NWA Energy and Environment Innovation Action Planning

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-15 Authorizing the Use of Suballocated EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Funding for NWA Energy and Environment Innovation Action Planning.

MOTION: Jonathan Curth made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-15 Authorizing the Use of Suballocated EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Funding for NWA Energy and Environment Innovation Action Planning. Bridget Russell provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

A. FY 2023 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP Project Development

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs said in the interest of time she would try to be brief and thanked the Board’s staff who have been working closely with us over the last few weeks, helping us work toward the obligation deadline in September. She showed the 2023 awards and highlighted the projects that we anticipate meeting the obligation deadline. She said we need all projects to continue working towards obligation even if you are not represented in our obligation scenario.

COUNTY	JOB	JURISDICTION	PROJECT	PHASE	TAP	STBGP-A	CRP	Notes	AoU Rec'd
2023 AWARDED PROJECTS									
Benton		Cave Springs	W Wallis Rd & Sands Rd Sidewalk Extension	Construction			\$ 10,784		7/17
Benton	090706	Centerton	McKissic Trail Phase 2	Construction			\$ 500,000		4/10
Washington		Fayetteville	LED Lighting and Video Detection of Major Intersections	Construction			\$ 400,000		
Washington	040947	Johnson	Razorback Greenway Lighting	Construction			\$ 339,300		4/10
Benton	090707	Lowell	Traffic Signal Improvements	Construction			\$ 131,764		6/19
Washington		Springdale	Trail Plan and Design	Plan/Design			\$ 100,000		revising
Washington	040917	Farmington	Creekside Park Trail	Construction	\$ 500,000				6/21
Benton	090504	Gravette	Gravette Trail System Phase II	Construction	\$ 408,974			Supp.Agr.	6/1
Benton	090630	Bentonville	I49 Razorback Greenway Relocation	Construction	\$ 500,000			Supp.Agr.	4/10
Washington	040717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext.	Construction		\$ 4,500,000		Supp.Agr.	6/5
Benton	090436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases		\$ 326,845		Supp.Agr.	
Benton	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Utilities/Eng/Constr		\$ 800,000		Supp.Agr.	6/5
Washington	040887	Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to Township St) **	Construction		\$ 1,800,000		Supp.Agr.	5/23
Benton	090238	Centerton	Hwy 102 Sidepath **	Construction		\$ 600,000		Supp.Agr.	6/5
Washington	040943	Fayetteville	Millsap, College, N Hemlock	ROW/Environ	\$ 320,000				1/30
Benton	090675	Rogers	W Pleasant Grove Rd & Hwy 265 Roundabout	Design/Env		\$ 168,000			3/24
Benton	090674	Rogers	Hwy 265 and Hwy 94 New Hope Rd Roundabout	Design/Env		\$ 200,000			3/23
Benton	090601	Lowell	US-71B/HWY264 Intersection Improvements	Construction		\$ 240,000		Supp.Agr.	6/22
Benton	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview/Spring Creek Rd Inters. Impvts. **	Construction		\$ 560,000		Supp.Agr.	5/22
Benton	090709	Lowell	Monroe from Oak St to Hwy 265	Utilities/Eng/Constr		\$ 439,258		missing res.	3/23
Benton/Washington	012450	NWARPC	Comprehensive Safety Action Plan - Vision Zero	Planning		\$ 400,000			
Washington	040809	Springdale	Dean's Trail Phase 3A	Construction			\$ 240,653	Supp.Agr.	city rec'd
Benton	090564	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks (existing ARDOT TAP project)	Construction			\$ 240,653	Supp.Agr.	
Benton	090679	Decatur	Rooster St to Hill Ave Sidewalk Improvements	Construction			\$ 183,000	Supp.Agr.	
Benton		Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Trail Project	Design			\$ 25,000		
2023 Projects Awarded by RPC/Policy Committee:									
STBGP-A and TAP – August 2022									
CRP (1 st Call) – December 2022									
CRP (2 nd Call) – March 2023									
					\$ 1,408,974	\$ 10,354,103	\$ 2,171,154		
					TOTAL AWARDED 2023			\$ 13,934,231	



She shared the current obligation plan scenario, which includes 2023 awards; older projects that are in shape to obligate this fiscal year; and 2024 assumptions, contingent on the Board’s approval next month, for large ongoing projects that are requesting more funding in the 2024 funding cycle. She said again, this is a scenario snapshot of what could happen based on how the variables fall into place:

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DRAFT OBLIGATION PLAN SCENARIO

YEAR	JOB	JURISDICTION	PROJECT	PHASE	TAP	STBGP-A	CRP	Notes	AoU Rec'd	ANTICIPATED TO OBLIGATE - 2023				TOTAL ANTIC. OBL. 2023	
										TAP	STBGP-A	CRP	HIP		
2023 AWARDED PROJECTS															
2023	090504	Gravette	Gravette Trail System Phase II	Construction	\$ 408,974			Supp.Agr.	6/1						OBLIGATED
2023	090630	Bentonville	I49 Razorback Greenway Relocation	Construction	\$ 500,000			Supp.Agr.	4/10	\$ 500,000					\$ 500,000
2023	040717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext.	Construction		\$4,500,000		Supp.Agr.	6/5						OBLIGATED
2023	090436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases	\$ 326,845			Supp.Agr.							OBLIGATED
2023	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Utilities/Eng/Constr	\$ 800,000			Supp.Agr.	6/5						OBLIGATED
2023	040887	Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to Township St) **	Construction		\$1,800,000		Supp.Agr.	5/23		\$1,800,000				\$ 1,800,000
2023	012450	NWARPC	Comprehensive Safety Action Plan - Vision Zero	Planning	\$ 400,000				X						OBLIGATED
2023	040809	Springdale	Dean's Trail Phase 3A	Construction		\$ 240,653		Supp.Agr.	city rec'd			\$ 240,653			\$ 240,653
2023	090564	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks (existing ARDOT TAP project)	Construction		\$ 240,653		Supp.Agr.				\$ 240,653			\$ 240,653
										\$ 500,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 481,306	\$ -	\$ 2,781,306	
EXISTING/ONGOING PROJECTS (UNOBLIGATED)															
2019	090338	Rogers	Walnut Street/US 71B Sidewalks	Construction	\$ 212,047					\$ 212,047					\$ 212,047
2021	040852	Springdale	Watkins Ave. Bike-Ped Bridge over I-49	Construction	\$ 125,000					\$ 125,000					\$ 125,000
2022	040887	Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to Township St) **	Construction		\$1,500,000					\$1,500,000				\$ 1,500,000
2022	090163	Bentonville	SW Regional Airport Blvd. / S. Vaughn Rd. Intersection Impr.	Design and Enviro		\$ 500,000					\$ 500,000				\$ 500,000
										\$ 125,000	\$ 2,000,000	N/A	\$ -	\$ 2,337,047	
EXISTING/ONGOING PROJECTS TO REQUEST FFY 2024 FUNDING* (PROJECTED)															
2024*	040717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext.			\$5,020,000					\$4,742,932	\$ 277,068	\$ 5,020,000		
2024*	090436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases	\$ 120,354							\$ 120,354	\$ 120,354		
2024*	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Constr/Eng/Utilities	\$ 640,000							\$ 640,000	\$ 640,000		
										\$ -	\$ 4,742,932	N/A	\$ 1,037,422	\$ 5,780,354	
										NET POTENTIAL OBLIGATION 2023	\$ 625,000	\$8,542,932	\$ 481,306	\$ 1,037,422	\$ 10,898,707
										FUNDS OBLIGATED 2023	\$ 408,974	\$6,026,845	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,435,819

NOTES:

- *2024 amounts are projected; subject to Board approval
- TAP and CRP funds need to be carried over due to delay in receiving LPA Agreements of Understanding
- \$1M carry over limitation per ARDOT policy; in the past, ARDOT partner projects (PP)** did not count toward carry over limitation
- GOAL:** obligate min. of \$9.5M of the \$12.7M remaining FY 2023 obligation limitation

TOTAL AWARDED 2023	\$ 13,994,231
STBGP-A AWARDED 2023	\$ 10,354,103
TAP AWARDED 2023	\$ 1,408,974
CRP AWARDED 2023	\$ 2,171,154

Conklin said this is important because ARDOT must tell FHWA how much money they can obligate as a state. He said depending on how much they can obligate effects August redistribution, which allows additional federal funds to flow to each state. He said Missouri lost about \$130 million in one year, and \$180 million in another year. He said we told ARDOT we feel we can obligate \$9.5 million before the September 2023 deadline. He said these values go up and down and it is very important to work to obligate as much as possible every year.

Gibbs said we believe we have built in some flexibility, so as the moving pieces continue to move, we should be able to meet that goal. She said one moving piece is that some projects are currently inactive and must become active through the submittal of reimbursement requests. She said we have been working very closely with your staff and said thank you again to those who are working hard to get these projects in shape to obligate funds. She said ARDOT needs about four weeks to process the reimbursement requests, so it is important that they be submitted this week. She said please feel free to reach out with questions.

B. FY 2024 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP – Application Cycle Update

Elizabeth Bowen summarized available funding anticipated for the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Project (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) as follows:

NWARPC FY 2024 Programs:

- Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A)- approx. \$11.0M
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)- approx. \$ 1.2M
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)- approx. \$ 1.3M
approx. \$13.5M

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Bowen summarized the FY 2024 funding programs timeline as follows:

Timeline:

- Call for Projects March 23, 2023
- Application Deadline July 14, 2023, at 4:00pm
- Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee July 20, 2023 at 10:30am
- Selection Committee Site Visits, Scoring, & Recommendation **August 2, 2023 at 8am-5pm**
- Project Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC August 17, 2023 at 10:30am
- Project Selection Recommendation to RPC/Policy August 23, 2023 at 1:30pm

Bowen summarized the applications received as follows and noted that nine (9) projects were submitted for consideration in two or more funding programs, with highlighted project request amounts signifying funding that was requested in multiple categories:

Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	TAP-FEDERAL	STBGP-A-FEDERAL/HIP	CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM	TOTAL FEDERAL
Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354			\$ 120,354
Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases		\$120,354		\$ 120,354
Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases			\$120,354	\$ 120,354
Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Construction/Cost Eng/Utilities		\$640,000		\$ 640,000
Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Ventdor Boulevard	Construction	\$650,000			\$ 650,000
Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Ventdor Boulevard	Construction			\$650,000	\$ 650,000
Bentonville/Centerton	Greenhouse Rd	ROW/Utilities		\$3,799,532		\$ 3,799,532
Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	Construction			\$227,000	\$ 227,000
Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	Construction	\$227,000			\$ 227,000
Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Widening Project	Design/Environmental		\$200,000		\$ 200,000
Fayetteville	Millsap Rd/College Ave Inters Impvts & N Hemlock Ave Impvts	ROW/Utilities		\$1,600,000		\$ 1,600,000
Fayetteville	Safe Routes to School Planning Grant	Planning			\$100,000	\$ 100,000
Fayetteville	Drake Street Trail Connection	Construction	\$500,000			\$ 500,000
Gravette	Hwy 59&72 Intersection Improvements	Construction		\$1,000,000		\$ 1,000,000
Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	Design/Environmental		\$404,400		\$ 404,400
Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	Design/Environmental			\$404,000	\$ 404,000
Lowell	Hwy 71B/Hwy Int Imp	Construction		\$250,000		\$ 250,000
Lowell	Hwy 264/Belleview/Spring Creek Int Imp	Construction		\$891,850		\$ 891,850
Pea Ridge	Lee Town Rd Trail	Construction	\$600,000			\$ 600,000
Pea Ridge	Lee Town Road Multi-Use Trail	Construction			\$650,000	\$ 650,000
Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	Construction			\$332,872	\$ 332,872
Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	Construction	\$332,872			\$ 332,872
Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements (priority 3)	Construction	\$500,000			\$ 500,000
Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I (priority 1)	Construction	\$220,948			\$ 220,948
Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph 1 (priority 2)	Construction	\$500,000			\$ 500,000
Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements (priority 6 of 6)	All Phases			\$500,000	\$ 500,000
Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph II (Priority 4 of 6)	Design/Environmental			\$92,000	\$ 92,000
Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I (priority 1 of 6)	Construction			\$220,948	\$ 220,948
Rogers	Hwy 12 Sidewalk Imp (Priority 5 of 6)	Design/Environmental			\$88,000	\$ 88,000
Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph II (priority 3 of 6)	Design/Environmental			\$80,000	\$ 80,000
Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph I (priority 2 of 6)	Construction			\$500,000	\$ 500,000
Siloam Springs	Hwy 412 and Hwy 16 Intersection	Design/Environmental		\$216,000		\$ 216,000
Siloam Springs	East Kenwood	Design/Environmental		\$295,233		\$ 295,233
Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext	Construction		\$5,020,000		\$ 5,020,000
Tontitown	N Barrington Rd and US 412 Inters Impvts	Design/Environmental		\$360,000		\$ 360,000
Washington County	Jackson Highway Bridge Lincoln Lake	Design/Environmental		\$200,000		\$ 200,000
Washington County	Wheeler Rd Bridge	Design/Environmental		\$200,000		\$ 200,000
			\$3,651,174	\$15,197,369	\$3,965,174	\$22,813,717

Bowen said 35 applications were received, totaling \$22.8 million:

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- (15) Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP-A) Projects - \$15,197,369
 - (8) Existing STBGP STBGP-A projects requesting additional funds - \$12,616,969
 - (7) New STBGP STBGP-A projects requesting - \$2,580,400
- (9) Transportation Alternative Projects (TAP) - \$3,651,174
- (11) Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) - \$3,965,174

TOTAL REQUEST WITHOUT DUPLICATE APPLICATIONS: \$19,137,789

Bowen described the review committee and asked if there were any questions and there were none.

C. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant Update

Bowen said the plan was adopted last month and described some next steps. She said we have spent \$330,000 to get us to this point and there are still a number of items in the scope of work that we will be continuing, and she briefly summarized the following:

- Continue strategies in Scope of Work
- Huntsville Plan is being finalized
- Cities/Counties adopt Plan and Vision Zero Goal
- Implement
- Apply for grants

Bowen said NWARPC, Bentonville, Fayetteville, and Rogers have adopted Vision Zero Goals. She said Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers have applied for SS4A Implementation Grants.

Bowen said we had previously announced that since we had already adopted the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) prior to USDOT getting the agreement of understanding to us, that we may be able to complete supplemental planning and demonstration projects with that funding. She said we have since heard that USDOT plans to rescind the funds. She said we followed up stating that although we did adopt a plan, there were many aspects of our scope of work that were not completed, including:

- Individual Plans for “up to 6 of the largest cities if needed”
- Systemic Safety Webinars – 2
- Video/Storytelling
- Safety Demonstration Projects
- Community engagement strategies
- Action Plan Communication Materials

She said USDOT responded that they would review and let us know if they will approve the use of the funds.

D. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following grant opportunities:

USDOT Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs):

- [FY 2022/2023 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving transportation \(PROTECT\) Program](#) - deadline August 18, 2023@11:59PM EDT
- [Thriving Communities Technical Assistance \(TCTA\) program](#) (on a rolling basis)
- NEW [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program](#) - deadline August 21, 2023 @ 11:59 PM EDT (INFRA: \$3-3.1 billion • Mega: \$1.8 billion • Rural: \$650-675 million)

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- NEW [Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods \(RCN\) and Neighborhood Access and Equity \(NAE\) Combined Program](#) – deadline September 28th, 2023 @ 11:59 PM EDT

Arkansas State Grant Programs

- [ARDOT Intersection Improvement Program \(IIP\)](#)
- [ARDOT Local Bridge Program \(LBP\)](#)
- [AR Dept. of Parks, Heritage, & Tourism -Outdoor Recreation Grants Program](#) - August 25, 2023

Conklin said we already mentioned the FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) NWARPC Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections was awarded \$180,000. He said ORT and Razorback Transit will be matching that federal award.

Bowen said there will be a new FY 2024 RAISE grant opportunity anticipated to open this fall.

Bowen shared other grant resources, including www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity, and the www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator.

(8) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item.

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the recent meetings of the Active Transportation Committee (ACT) and the NWA Regional BikePed Master Plan Update Subcommittee as follows:

Last Met: July 20, 2023

- Bike Friendly Community-Rogers – Silver Award, NACTO attendees discussion, Razorback Greenway Alliance is in final stages of wayfinding signage (thermals complete, mile markers wrapped), grant opportunities, SS4A – Vision Zero, LoTS, Tunnel Standards, E-bike rebate program pilot, AR Bike/Ped Coalition, Grants
- Sub-committee for NWARBPMP July 20, 2023
 - Bike Parking/racks/rooms/model development regs
 - Cities/UofA working to finalize proposed trails so map can go to public comment – Possibly June????
 - Vision Zero Draft Plan discussion
 - NWA Chapter of Association of Pedestrian & Bicycle Professionals

Next Meeting –

- ACT - September 21, 2023 at 1:30
- Subcommittee NWARBPMP - August 17, 2023 at 2:30

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

Last Met: July 17, 2023

Discussion Items:

- Status of City/County Resolution update from members
- NWALT protects 200 acres
- USACE IR Flood Study
- Grants
- BWA Smart Growth Series
- Updating the NWA Open Space Plan in 2024
- Tour of Mt Hebron Park, Rogers

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| **Next Meeting:** September 18, 2023 @ 10:30 am

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

| **Last Met:** June 21, 2023 (update given at previous meeting)
| **Next meeting scheduled:** August 16, 2023 @ 10:30 am, virtual (every two months on the third Wed.)

D. NWA GIS User Group

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

| **Last Met:** June 13, 2023 (update given at previous meeting)
| **Next meeting scheduled:** August 8, 2023 at 10:30am, virtual

(9) PUBLIC COMMENT

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

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Judge Moehring announced upcoming meetings as follows:

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, August 17, 2023 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, August 23, 2023 @ 1:30 PM

B. ARDOT State Rail Public Input Session – Thursday, July 27, 2023 @ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, NWARPC Conference Room, 1311 Claydon St, Springdale

C. Beaver Watershed Alliance, Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forums #5 – August 17, 2023 @11:30am, U of A Washington Co Extension Office, Fayetteville, <http://www.beaverwatershedalliance.org/events/>

D. ARDOT Public Involvement Meetings Hwys. 59 & 72 Corridor Study (Benton Co.), Meeting #1 – Tuesday, August 29, 2023 @ 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Gravette High School (Commons Area), 325 Lion Drive South, Gravette, AR 72736
Meeting #2 – Thursday, August 31, 2023 @ 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Gentry Public Library (McKee Community Room), 105 East Main St. Gentry, AR 72737
<http://www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings>

E. ARDOT Transportation Planning Conference – September 19-21, 2023, Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock, AR, <https://www.ardot.gov/divisions/transportation-planning-policy/2023-transportation-planning-conference/>

Tim Conklin said in the past we have authorized RPC to pay for the registration fee for a member from your organization to attend the ARDOT TPC. He said we need a motion to authorize us to offer that to our membership.

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MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to authorize NWARPC to cover registration costs for one TAC or RPC member per member entity. Mayor Stephanie Orman provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

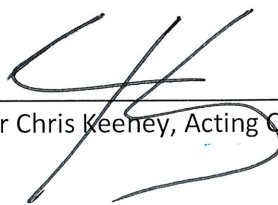
Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there was any other business.

(11) ADJOURN

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 23RD DAY OF AUGUST, 2023

ATTEST:



Mayor Chris Keeney, Acting Chair/Treasurer, NWARPC