

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024, AT 10:30 AM; APPROVED AUGUST 15, 2024**

ENTITY	MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	DOUG TAPP TAYLOR ROBERTSON CHRIS BRACKETT	X X X	Megan Workman
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER	X	
BENTONVILLE	DENNIS BIRGE DAN WEESE	X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT	X	
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MATT CASEY	X	
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	JONATHAN CURTH CHRIS BROWN PAUL LIBERTINI	X X	
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX	X	Ami Murray
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	JEREMY JOHNSON		
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	Nicole Gibbs
LOWELL	KAREN DAVIS	X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE	X	Jessica Grady
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK		
ROGERS	JOHN MCCURDY QUINTON HARRIS LANCE JOBE		
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS (VICE CHAIR) KEVIN MOORE	X	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE (CHAIR) RYAN CARR	X X	
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL	X	Mark Latham
WASHINGTON CO.	BRIAN LESTER SAM ATA JEFF CROWDER	X	Bridget Russell
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
NWARPC	TIM CONKLIN	X	
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	CODY HUDSON		
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER	X	
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	ADAM WADDELL (GARY K. SMITH)	X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNEYCU TT)	X	Jay Huneycutt
McDONALD COUNTY	COMM. BRYAN HALL		
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER (ZEKE HALL)	X	
NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT	AARON BURKES	X	
ARDOT PLANNING AND DISTRICT 9	ANTHONY HUNTER SUNNY FARMAHAN ROBERT MOORE	X X	David Bushy

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NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin; Nicole Gibbs; Tim Reavis; Cristina Scarlat, Luke Aitken

OTHERS: Andy Brewer (Olsson); Jason Corral (ARDOT); Aaron Pinedo (ARDOT); Minghua Miller (ARDOT); Bobby Cottam (Burns & McDonnell); Nathan Becknell (TEC); Landon Miller (Michael Baker Intl.); Emma Armendariz (U of A); Bradley Gavrielides (Bentonville); Anthony Hunter; and Robbie Bullis (McClelland Consulting Eng.).

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 in-person and virtual NWARPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting was called to order by Chair Patsy Christie at 10:30 a.m.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

(3) APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18 & MAY 16, 2024, TAC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Patsy Christie presented the items and hearing no comments on either set of minutes, requested a motion to approve the TAC meeting minutes from April 18, 2024 and May 16, 2024.

MOTION: Doug Tapp made a motion to approve both the April 18, 2024 and May 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Ryan Carr. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs provided background on the proposed amendment to the existing Transportation Improvement Program. She said these changes were proposed by Razorback Transit Staff, for this most current TIP to support their FFY 2024 FTA 5339 grant application. She said a required two-week public comment period for this amendment will be held from July 8 - July 22, 2024. Gibbs stated the changes consist of adjustments to FTA 5339 apportioned funds spending amounts shown in the TIP, to fall within 20% of their 2021 apportionment supporting their FTA grant application.

Chair Patsy Christie asked if there were any questions or comments on the item and hearing none requested a motion to recommend the proposed TIP Amendment #8 be sent to the RPC/ Policy Committee.

MOTION: Mark Latham made a motion to recommend approval of the NARTS FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #8 – Razorback Transit FTA-5339 to the RPC/Policy Committee. The motion was seconded by Paul Libertini. Motion passed unanimously.

(5) NARTS DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – Review and Recommendation for Public Comment Period

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin provided a summary of projects included in the current draft of the 2025-2028 TIP. Conklin stated that ARDOT's draft 2025-2028 State TIP has been released, and MoDOT's 2025-2029 STIP has been approved. He stated the NARTS 2023-2026

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TIP is anticipated to be approved in August 2024, and the 2023-2026 ARDOT STIP is anticipated to be approved by October 2024. He said that NWARPC will remain the designated recipient of FTA 5307 and 5339 funds through 2028. Conklin went on to describe the plans key elements and provided an overview of some of the most notable projects including the Hwy 612 Bypass, Hwy 112 Improvements, and Hwy 102 Improvements, providing insight to each project's context and regional significance. He said that staff anticipates the TIP will be ready for a recommendation by TAC to the RPC/Policy Committee on August 15, 2024. The TIP would then be up for approval at the following RPC meeting August 28th. Conklin reminded members that ARDOT is accepting public comments on their State Transportation Improvement Program through July 22, 2024.

Chair Patsy Christie asked whether there were any other questions or comments and hearing none, requested a motion to recommend to the draft NARTS FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be sent to a 2-week Public Comment Period.

MOTION: Paul Libertini made a motion to recommend the draft NARTS FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be sent to a 2-week Public Comment Period. The motion was seconded by Ryan Carr. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) NWARPC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs provided a summary of the changes proposed in the 2024 update to the Public Participation Plan (PPP). She stated the staff plans to incorporate best practices gleaned from recent work developing a Strategic Communications Plan with consultant MHP-SI thanks to a grant from the Walton Family Foundation. She stated a subcommittee of TAC must be formed as required by the current PPP. This subcommittee would consist of member agency volunteers, mainly communications and planning staff, and the group would consist of 5-8 people, which would meet twice between now and December 2024 to review proposed updates to the plan and its public outreach guidelines. Gibbs asked for volunteers to serve on the committee and said staff will send out an email in the following weeks to request participation from our members and their staff.

Chair Patsy Christie asked whether there were any other questions or comments and there were none.

(7) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES

A. FFY 2024 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP – Project Development & Obligation Plan

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs shared the current FFY 2024 obligation plan scenario and noted the importance of jurisdictions staying on top of their federal aid projects. Tim Conklin said that some projects need to provide additional documentation of progress to ARDOT soon, to avoid any complications with funds reimbursement, and that ARDOT or NWARPC staff may reach out to cities soon for clarification on project timelines. Conklin 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. Gibbs shared the images below and asked members to share any updates to the projects shown with NWARPC staff. Gibbs said the first image is of 2024 project awards and older projects with awards that ideally will be ready for obligation soon, and that the second image shows 2025 project awards that could contribute to our obligations limit; with dark orange already being obligated, and light orange anticipated to obligate this federal fiscal year.

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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	090717	Springdale	Don Lyson Parkway Ext.	Construction	\$ 3,000,000			\$ 3,000,000					OBLIG. 2024
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/Const	\$ 250,000					\$ 250,000			\$ 250,000
2024	090529	Benton County	Dragon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Utility/Const	\$ 640,000			\$ 640,000					OBLIG. 2024
2024	090436	Berla Vista	Mersey Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases	\$ 120,394			\$ 120,394					OBLIG. 2024
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					\$ 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. 2024
2024	090664	Rogers	Hwy 94/US71B Sidewalks -PH1 (existing ARDOT TAP project)	Construction		\$ 220,949		\$ 220,949					OBLIG. 2024
2024	040956	Fayetteville	Safe Routes to School Planning Grant	Planning		\$ 100,000			\$ 4,000				\$ 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					\$ 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/Const	\$ 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		\$ 94,955	\$ 227,000						\$ -
2025		Centerton	City Wide Sidewalk Infill (1)	Construction									\$ -
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 - Good 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



B. NWA Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, Phase 2 Update (USDOT-SS4A)

Luke Aitken explained the commission received a \$300,000 USDOT SS4A grant, which was matched by the Walton Family Foundation. This funding will allow the commission to carry out phase 2 of the Safety Action Plan, to include:

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- Regional Complete Streets Design Guide
- 5 Individual Community Safety Action Plans
- 2 Systemic Safety Webinars
- 2 Safety Demonstration Projects
- Communications and Outreach Tools

Aitken stated that progress is being made with Toole Design in Phase 2, with the second Complete Streets Design Guide workshop meeting having been held the week prior. He recapped takeaways from the second working session which focused on Context Sensitive Street Design. He also mentioned that the FY2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) application is still open, with the final planning and demonstration grant deadline being August 29, 2024 and encouraged communities to reach out if they have particular interest in doing safety demonstration projects.

C. NWA Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan (EPA-CPRG)

Nicole Gibbs said the next phase of CPRG work, development of the Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) is now underway. She said the consultant, Olsson, is working with NWARPC staff to create a more comprehensive deliverable for the CPRG Planning Grant, building upon the measures outlined in the Priority Action Plan (PAP), by using funding suballocated to the RPC by Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (ADEE). She 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 planning and funding opportunities for the region, related to environmental quality and emissions reduction. Gibbs stated the deadline for the CAP supplement to ADEE is February 28, 2025. The final CAP will be considered for adoption by the RPC in Spring 2025. She emphasized that both documents will serve as key components in the upcoming development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

D. NWA Mobility - Strategic Communications Plan

Nicole Gibbs introduced the item and stated that NWARPC contracted with the consulting firm MHP-SI, chosen by the selection committee. The plan's purpose is to advance the regional conversation around mobility to respond to the rapid growth of the NWA region. Deliverables will also include a public messaging guide and scientific public opinion survey. She said this plan will help to build awareness for the RPC's work on transportation plans for the region. She mentioned that focus groups have already been conducted, providing 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.

E. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Tim Reavis provided the committee with an overview of recent progress made on the update to the MTP, carried out every five years. Reavis 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 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 be kicked off soon, and that the TDM & TAS will be incorporated into the MTP which is slated to be adopted March 2026.

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F. Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections Project Update (FTA-AoPP)

Tim Reavis reported that there are two active bus stop projects at the commission. The first is the Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections Project. The Federal Transit Administration awarded NWARPC \$180,000 for engineering activities to be applied to area bus stop improvements, including shelters, benches, sidewalk gaps, bike parking etc. He provided an update on this grant program and stated that procurement is now complete, and that NWARPC is under contract with consultant Olsson. He said that the Walton Family Foundation is offering a 1:1 local government match to supplement this work, up to \$200,000. He encouraged interested communities to participate and apply for this funding for transit stops while it is available.

Reavis also provided an update on the Razorback Transit Bus Stop Enhancements Plan, stating that the Selection Committee has met and chosen consultant Toole Design for this work. NWARPC is now negotiating a contract with the firm. Reavis stated that this grant seeks to create a comprehensive inventory of existing bus stops, evaluate the feasibility of improvements, and then draft a plan with recommendations to implement chosen stop improvements for the Razorback Transit system.

G. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Tim Conklin provided information on the ongoing grant opportunities being pushed out by USDOT. He showed the new Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) that have been announced by 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 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 also provided an update on the ARDOT TAP Grant Program application as well as the Highway 112 improvement project. He said the NWA RMA applied for ARDOT TAP and ATIIP funding for this project in addition to their SS4A and RAISE applications to fund the preferred bicycle accommodation of a 12' side path along the entirety of the Hwy 112 project. 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). These applications total \$250 million in USDOT grant funding which has been applied for this year by staff.

(8) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

Tim Conklin congratulated the City of Siloam Springs on their recent \$11.6 Million RAISE Grant award to rebuild E Main St as a Complete Street, and also congratulated ARDOT on their \$25 Million RAISE Grant award from the USDOT, funding an extension of I-49 south from Alma, AR.

Conklin also provided an update on FY2025 Community Project Funding (CPF) Requests recently released by the U.S. House of Representatives - Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Committee. He thanked Representative Steve Womack for his efforts as part of this committee. He stated that numerous regionally significant projects in NWA are shown in the current funding legislation proposed, including Hwy 612, Hwy 112, and future I-49.

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Nicole Gibbs provided an update on the recently announced Urban Land Institute Small Cities Grant program shown below:

Small Cities Grant Application

Eligible Applicants: This program is available to any Northwest Arkansas municipality within Benton or Washington Counties serving a population of 30,000 or less. Unincorporated communities may apply under the representation of the county government in which they are located.

Currently, only communities that have not formerly participated in the Small Cities Initiative are eligible to apply.

Application Deadline: July 29, 2024

Program Match: Communities that are selected for the program must commit a fiscal match in the range of \$10,000 to \$50,000; amount to be determined based on the scale and complexity of the project.

Eligible Projects: This program seeks to support a community in the land use and planning challenge they wish to address. Options include:

- Comprehensive Plan
- Downtown Master Plan
- Parks Master Plan
- Active Transportation Plan
- Corridor Plan
- Small Area Plan
- Other Specialized Plan

<https://arkansas.uli.org/get-involved/small-cities-initiative/2024-program-application/>

A. Active Transportation Committee

Luke Aitken said the ACT Committee will meet this afternoon to discuss new grant opportunities and recent project developments in the region, they last met on May 16, 2024.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Aitken said the group's July meeting was held on July 10, 2024 in Greenland, to visit the site of a future city park along the White River. Aitken said the meeting had a great turnout, generated positive momentum for this project, and raised awareness of other regional efforts to preserve the White River. He said the May coalition meeting was rained out but will be rescheduled for August or the Fall. He said the next meeting will be September 11, 2024 @ Lake Bella Vista in Bentonville.

(9) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Patsy Christie said no public comments were submitted prior to the meeting and asked if anyone present wished to make a public comment. No comments were heard.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Patsy Christie announced the following upcoming meeting dates –

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, July 24, 2024 @ 1:30 PM
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, August 15, 2024 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, August 28, 2024 @ 1:30 PM

B. Fayetteville Library Event: Sustainability & Resilience Planning in NWA – Thursday, July 18, 2024 @ 6:00 PM, Willard & Pat Walker Community Room, 401 West Mountain St, Fayetteville

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

Chair Patsy Christie asked whether there was any other business for the committee, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting.

(11) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.