

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NWARPC)

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A) FFY 2026 Project Application

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NWARPC DISCLAIMER: This notice is in accordance with the NWARPC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in cooperation with local agencies, the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration. Documents are funded in part through grant(s) from the FHWA, FTA, and/or the U.S. Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of the NWARPC expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP): The public participation procedures outlined in the NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP) with respect to TIP development serve as the public participation process required for the development of transit projects as per FTA Circular 9030.1E. Specifically, the public participation procedures outlined in the PPP will serve to satisfy the Program of Projects (POP) requirements of the Section 5307, Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program for the University of Arkansas/Razorback Transit and Ozark Regional Transit. The NARTS and any and all public transit operators will address the POP requirements as per FTA Circular 9030.1E. Additionally, any and all public transit operator's capital projects and operational costs are included in the NARTS TIP which is developed through a cooperative and collaborative process with interested parties and other private and public transportation providers.

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Section 1. Policy

FFY 2026 STBGP-A Project Application Timeline:

Call for Projects:	<u>January 5, 2025</u>
Project Application Deadline:	<u>April 3, 2025 at 11:59 PM, CT</u>
Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee:	<u>April 17, 2025</u>

STBGP-A Funding Background:

In 2012, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) designated the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO urbanized area as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). This TMA designation provides Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A) funds to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) based on the 2010 Census Urbanized Area population of 295,083. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58 (Nov. 15, 2021) provides federal apportioned suballocated funding to the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urbanized area. Under current BIL, STBGP-A funds can be utilized for all eligible transportation projects at the discretion of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission/Policy Committee (NWARPC).

Availability of approximately \$12 million is anticipated. Availability of FFY 2026 and subsequent years funds are subject to Congressional action.

The STBGP-A is a federally funded, 80% Federal/20% local, reimbursable program and projects must meet and follow the ARDOT Local Public Agency (LPA) federal-aid process for reimbursement. Funds must be used for eligible projects that are submitted by eligible entities and chosen through a competitive process. The LPA Manual can be found at: www.ardot.gov/divisions/local-programs/local-public-agency-project-manual/.

Guidelines:

The MPO will use the following guidelines to allocate STBGP-A funds:

- 1.1 Staffing.** Up to \$200,000 may be utilized for MPO staffing purposes.
- 1.2 Project Types.** (<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/stbg.cfm>)
 - 1.2.1 Projects of Regional Significance.** From the remaining funds after staffing, STBGP-A funds will be utilized for Projects of Regional Significance. Plans and Studies may be included as regionally significant projects.

“Regional Significance” is defined as an improvement to major routes such as north/south corridors, east/west corridors, and frontage roads that improve access, reduce crash rates, and/or relieve congestion.
 - 1.2.2 Other Projects.** From the remaining funds after staffing, up to 20% may be utilized for other eligible projects that increase capacity.
 - 1.2.3 In the case of emergency** for full obligation of funds, the Policy Committee can authorize funding for any eligible projects.
- 1.3 Project Selection and Scoring.** All projects will be scored utilizing the same criteria. Project selection will be based on the overall number of projects submitted, availability of funding, and demonstrated need.

- 1.4 Minimum Project Size.** The proposed project shall be a minimum of \$125,000 for engineering design projects and \$1,250,000 for construction projects. An exception may be made to these minimum amounts to ensure the obligation of funds.
- 1.5 Maximum Amount Per Project Sponsor.** A goal is to allocate no more than 50% of the Regionally Significant funds to a single project sponsor in one year. There is the understanding that Regionally Significant funding should be equitably distributed within the Urbanized Area over time.
- 1.6 Funding of Phased Projects.** When the first year of project funding includes engineering funding (design, engineering and environmental), there will typically be at least a one-year gap before receiving funding for ROW, utilities, and construction.
- 1.7 Application and Deadline Requirement.** All project sponsors must submit an application for funding and meet the required deadline, as noted above.
- 1.8 Obligation of Funds.** All projects awarded must meet the **obligation deadline of September 30, 2026.** (Note: The project will need to be through the ARDOT process and submitted to FHWA by the end of August to obligate funds before the September deadline).
- 1.9 Project Selection Criteria.** Projects will be evaluated and scored based on the following categories:
- Congestion Management
 - Regional Significance/Connectivity
 - Safety
 - Overall Improvement to the Transportation System
 - Project Design
 - Project Continuation, Partnership, Cost-Sharing
- 1.10 Federal-Aid Project Requirements.** Projects are required to be designed to AASHTO and Federal Standards/Guidelines - PE/Environmental, Engineering/Design, ROW, and Utility Relocation.
- 1.11 Other Considerations.** Projects will be evaluated in consideration of Board-adopted regional plans, policies, and initiatives. Applications are encouraged to demonstrate implementation of regional plans [e.g. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) and Vision Zero Policy; Congestion Management Process; Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture; Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO); NWA Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan; Connect NWA Transit Development Plan; NWA Transportation Alternatives Analysis; NWA Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan; NWA Open Space Plan; and Cave Springs Area Karst Resource Conservation Study].
- 1.12 Application Submittal.** Submit electronic applications to ngibbs@nwarpc.org or submit paper applications to NWARPC, 1311 Clayton St., Springdale, AR 72762. For more information on this program or questions related to the application process, please contact Nicole Gibbs, Transportation Programs Manager/Regional Planner, (479) 751-7125 x105, or visit www.nwarpc.org/funding-programs/.
- 1.13 Resolution.** A signed resolution from the Applicant's governing body is **required to be submitted with the application.** See sample resolution at the end of this document.

**NWARPC Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A)
FFY 2026 Project Application**

Project Sponsor Data:

Sponsor Jurisdiction: _____ Phone Number: _____

Primary Contact: _____ E-mail: _____

Partners: _____

General Project Data:

Project Title: _____

Project Description: _____

Project Purpose: _____

Please attach a project site plan, vicinity map, proposed cross-section, and other supporting materials.

Project Overview:

General Project Overview and Description (500-character limit)

Section 2. Project Requirements

- 2.1 Required Match/Local Support.** Project sponsors must provide a minimum of 20% local funding match for all projects. (Note: This is a reimbursable program through ARDOT LPA.) Required City/County Resolution or Resolution for the City/County adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP) with proposed project shown in CIP. **Attach copy of required resolution authorizing the project.**

Resolution number: _____ Approval Date: _____

As applicable, please provide a copy of a current CIP showing the project programmed.

What source of funds will be used to match the federal funds? _____

What is the project phase for this request? _____

Type Funds	Project Cost (This Phase)		Total Project Cost (All Phases)	
STBGP-A Funds	\$	%	\$	%
Local Match	\$	(20% Minimum) %	\$	(20% Minimum) %
Project Cost	\$	%	\$	%

Federal Fiscal Year (Oct. to Sept. 30)

	FFY 2025				FFY 2026				FFY 2027				FFY 2028			
	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept
Design																
Environment																
Utilities																
Right-of-Way																
Construction																

Note: Place X in each period for the duration of each phase

2.2 Roadway Projects.

2.2.1 What is the classification of the street on the Local Master Street Plan?

2.2.2 What is the classification of the street on the Functional Classification Map - NWARPC/ARDOT?

Note: Functionally Classified Streets Major Collector and above qualify for STBGP-A Funding per Federal requirements.

Data Source: <https://gis.ardot.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=4d1c6142f10d47febea0ebdd998a7d24>

2.3 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Is the project individually listed with an ARDOT Job Number in the FFY 2025-2028 TIP?

Yes No

If yes, project name listed in the (TIP):

Data Source: <https://www.nwarpc.org/transportation/transportation-improvement-program/>

2.4 Adjusted Urban Area Boundary. Is the project located within the Adjusted Urban Area Boundary?

Yes No

Data Source: NWA Adjusted 2020 Census Urban Area layer, <https://nwarpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e97a6d576ae64de897408c07635f0458>

2.5 Existing Roadway Conditions.

2.5.1 Number of existing lanes? _____

2.5.2 What is the width of the existing street? _____

2.5.3 Does the existing street have Bike/Pedestrian accommodations?

Yes No

2.6 Proposed Improvements.

What improvements are proposed?

2.7 Historical Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) Counts - Roadways.

What are the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) Counts shown?

2011 _____

2016 _____

2019 _____

2023 _____

Data Source: <https://gis.ardot.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7c81a313f4174b99b2a01713c328bb7a>

2.8 Growth and Projected Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)- Roadways.

2.8.1 What percent growth in AADT has occurred in the last ten years? _____%

Data Source: <https://gis.ardot.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7c81a313f4174b99b2a01713c328bb7a>

2.8.2 What is the forecasted 2045 Daily Volume? _____

Data Source: NWARPC 2024 Travel Demand Model Network <https://nwarpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e97a6d576ae64de897408c07635f0458>

2.9 Safety.

Please describe how this project will improve the safety of the transportation system. Please cite any studies that show a reduction in crash rates and/or reduction in serious and fatal injuries based on the type of project proposed. Please describe how safety will be improved for all users of the facility: motorists/drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Section 3. Project Selection/Scoring Criteria

Please answer the following questions. Scores and ranking of applications will be determined by the committee after the review of each application.

3.1 Congestion Management (Maximum of 3 points)

3.1.1 Annual Average Daily Traffic Estimate (ARDOT) – 24-hour volume?

Source: <https://gis.ardot.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7c81a313f4174b99b2a01713c328bb7a>

24-hour street capacity? _____ (See table below)

Generalized Average Daily Estimated Capacity on Arterial Roadways	
Level of Service	D (Design Level)
Two-lane Road	16,000
Four-Lane Road	32,000

3.1.2 For new streets and/or streets classified as a collector or below, please provide an estimated volume and capacity.

24-hour estimated volume? _____

24-hour estimated capacity? _____

3.1.3 Is the project on the NWARPC Congestion Management Process (CMP) Network?

Yes No

If yes, what is the posted speed _____ (MPH)

What is the Average Peak Period Speed _____ (MPH)

Data Source: <https://www.nwarpc.org/transportation/congestion-management-process/>

3.2 Regional Significance/Connectivity (Maximum of 5 points)

3.2.1 Is the project a new overpass/underpass which provides an alternative route to travel across I-49 without using an existing interchange? (1 point)

Yes No Comments:

3.2.2 Is the project a "frontage road" along I-49 that provides connectivity/access between interchanges and overpasses/underpasses? (1 point)

Yes No Comments:

3.2.3 Does the project meet the definition of a Project of Regional Significance (defined above in Section 1. Policy)? (1 point)

Yes No Comments:

3.2.4 Is the project located on the 4-lane network grid shown as the 2045 Proposed Network in the 2045 NWA Metropolitan Transportation Plan? (1 point)

Yes No Comments:

3.2.5 Does the project connect multiple jurisdictions? (1 point)

Yes No Comments:

3.2.6 Is the project a Plan and/or Study that is needed to advance a regional project? (up to 5 points)

Yes No Comments:

3.3 Safety (Maximum 3 points)

3.3.1 Is the project on the NWA Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) High Injury Network (HIN)?

Yes No Comments:

Data Source: <https://www.nwarpc.org/transportation/vision-zero-plan/>

3.3.2 Does the project address an identified safety issue based on the crash rate being higher than the state average for a similar facility, bridge sufficiency rating, and/or at-grade rail crossing rating?

Yes No Comments:

3.3.3 Projected percent reduction in fatal and serious crash rates based on proposed improvements: _____ %

Comments:

Data Source: FHWA Proven Safety Counter Measures, <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures>; FHWA Everyday Counts and other studies and counter measures based on improvement type.

3.4 Overall Improvement to the Transportation System (Maximum of 3 points)

Amount of additional roadway capacity to be added (AADT)? _____

Data Source: NWARPC, ARDOT, Local Traffic Studies

3.5 Project Design (Maximum of 3 points)

Does the project generally meet and/or exceed the street cross section design standards in the 2045 Plan with regard to “multi-modal” and “Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations?”

Yes No Comments:

Data Source: 2045 NWA Metropolitan Transportation Plan; NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan; NWA Complete Streets Design Guidelines (to be adopted in Q1 2025)

3.6 Project Continuation, Partnership, Cost-Sharing (Maximum of 3 points)

3.6.1 Does the project have multiple partners? (1 point)

Yes No Comments:

3.6.2 Is the project a continuation of a multi-phase project? (1 point)

Yes No Comments:

3.6.3 Is the local match more than the 20% required? (1 point)

Yes No Comments:

Sponsor Authorization and Certification

To be completed by the chief executive officer (Mayor, City Manager, County Judge, etc.)

By checking the box below, I attest that the information contained in this application is truthful and correct to the best of my knowledge and that the provision of false or misleading information can lead to the withdrawal of STBGP-A funding. I do hereby certify that I will comply with all federal, state, and ARDOT regulations for submittal of plans and specifications and follow the [ARDOT Local Public Agency \(LPA\) manual](#). Additionally, I certify that local matching funds are available for the project.

I agree a resolution has been adopted for this project. I Agree

Authorized Signatory:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Title: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

FEDERAL-AID PROJECT SAMPLE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF [INSERT SPONSOR NAME] TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID FUNDS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:
[INSERT PROJECT NAME]

WHEREAS, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission has issued a call for projects to be funded with Federal-Aid funds suballocated to Northwest Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the funding for selected projects will be at the following Federal and Local participating ratios, up to the maximum Federal-aid available:

Type Work	Work Phase	Federal %	Local %
Projects that reach construction	Preliminary Engineering	80	20
	Right-of-Way	80	20
	Utilities	80	20
	Construction	80	20
	Construction Engineering	80	20
Projects that never progress to construction	All Phases	-0-	100

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE [INSERT SPONSOR'S GOVERNING BODY] OF [INSERT CITY/COUNTY], ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION I: [INSERT SPONSOR NAME] authorizes the application submittal for [INSERT PROJECT NAME].

SECTION II: The [INSERT SPONSOR NAME] will participate in accordance with its designated responsibilities in this project, including providing of the local match requirement.

SECTION III: The [SPONSOR'S CEO TITLE] or their designated representative is hereby authorized and directed to execute all appropriate agreements and contracts necessary to expedite the construction of this project.

SECTION IV: The [INSERT SPONSOR NAME] pledges its full support and hereby authorizes the Arkansas Department of Transportation and Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission to initiate action to implement this project.

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this _____ day of _____, _____.

[SPONSOR CEO NAME]
[SPONSOR CEO TITLE]

ATTEST: _____
(SEAL)