

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NWARPC)

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A) FFY 2026 *Existing Project* Additional Funding Request

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.

NWARPC NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY: The NWARPC complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the NWARPC's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voice/TTY 711 or 1-800-285-1131) or ngibbs@nwarpc.org; Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842; para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131 o ngibbs@nwarpc.org. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille. If information is needed in another language, contact NWARPC. Si se necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con NWARPC.

FFY 2026 STBGP-A Existing Project Funding Request Timeline:

Call for Projects:	<u>January 5, 2025</u>
Project Submittal 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. Regional Significance is defined as an improvement to major routes such as north/south corridors and the east/west corridors and frontage roads that improve access, reduce crash rates, and/or to relieve congestion to the north/south routes. Plans and Studies may be included as regional projects.
 - 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 expenditure 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 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. Once a project has been selected for NWARPC STBGP-A funding, it will be reviewed again when resubmitted for funding of subsequent phases.
- 1.7 Application and Deadline Requirement.** All project sponsors must submit a request 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 paper applications to NWARPC, 1311 Clayton St., Springdale, AR 72762 or submit electronic applications to ngibbs@nwarpc.org. 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) FFY2026 Existing Project Funding Request

Project Sponsor Data:

Sponsor Jurisdiction: _____ Phone Number: _____

Primary Contact: _____ E-mail: _____

Partners: _____

General Project Data:

Project Title: _____ ArDOT Job No. _____

Project Funding and Future Needs:

Total NWARPC Federal Funds Awarded to Project to Date \$ _____

Updated Total Project Cost Estimate \$ _____

FFY 2026 Funding Request: Phase _____ Federal (80%) Amount \$ _____

FFY 2027 Future Need: Phase _____ Federal (80%) Amount \$ _____

FFY 2028 Future Need: Phase _____ Federal (80%) Amount \$ _____

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

Project Authorization: Verify the current request is supported by the original resolution submitted for the existing project (e.g. funding amount, local match, and funding source) – attach a copy.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____