



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tim Conklin

Phone: 479-751-7125

Email: tconklin@nwarpc.org

\$25 million awarded to Highway 112 Projects, advancing safety, connectivity, and accessibility in Northwest Arkansas

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (January 10, 2025) — The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission has been awarded a \$25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to enhance the Highway 112 corridor. The grant was awarded through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program to support projects designed to improve safety, reduce travel times, and expand transportation options along the 17.5-mile stretch between Fayetteville and Bentonville.

This funding enables the realization of a shared vision for the future of Highway 112, developed by the eight communities along the corridor: Fayetteville, Johnson, Springdale, Tontitown, Elm Springs, Cave Springs, Rogers, and Bentonville. This united approach was formalized with the adoption of a 2019 resolution by the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors.

The grant ensures the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is supported in delivering the Highway 112 projects as envisioned. The shared vision calls for a “complete streets” approach, prioritizing safety, connected communities, and accessibility for all users, with a focus on roadway upgrades and active transportation infrastructure.

Planned improvements include:

- Expansion to four travel lanes: upgrading from two to four travel lanes to improve traffic flow and safety.
- Roadway safety enhancements: adding a center median and roundabouts to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes and enhance roadway reliability and efficiency.
- Bicycle and pedestrian path: constructing a separated 12-foot-wide multi-use sidepath to improve active transportation options and accessibility.

“These changes to Highway 112 will help advance the region’s goal of providing transportation choice,” said Tim Conklin, executive director of Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission. “The corridor improvements include several proven safety countermeasures designed to enhance safety for all roadway users, while also reducing travel time and improving reliability.”

Conklin noted that the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission adopted the NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 2015 to develop a safe, efficient system. “This grant validates the progress our region is making toward goals for providing active transportation options and improved connectivity, and it further establishes Northwest Arkansas as a leader in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure planning and implementation,” Conklin said.

ARDOT will supplement funding already allocated to the Highway 112 improvement projects with this grant award. Construction for some segments may begin as early as this year, 2025.

About the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is a governmental organization formed through a cooperative agreement in 1966. It has since grown to include 38 units of government and other public agency partners across Benton, Madison, and Washington counties in Arkansas, as well as a portion of McDonald County in Missouri. NWARPC serves as a forum for cooperative decision-making, develops federally mandated transportation plans, convenes stakeholders to address shared planning challenges, and provides information and staff resources to our member agencies and the public. Designated the region’s Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in 1983, NWARPC oversees the 3C transportation planning process, ensuring comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous planning necessary for regions to qualify for federal transportation funding.