

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION/POLICY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 27, 2016/APPROVED MARCH 23, 2016**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	DIANE BOWEN		
BELLA VISTA	PETER CHRISTIE	X	
BENTON COUNTY	JOHN SUDDUTH	X	
BENTONVILLE	BOB McCASLIN TROY GALLOWAY SHELLI KERR	X X X	
BETHEL HEIGHTS	CYNTHIA BLACK	X	
CAVE SPRINGS	TRAVIS LEE	X	
CENTERTON	BILL EDWARDS		
DECATUR	BOB THARP JAMES BOSTON		
ELKINS	BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	JEREMY PATE	X	
GARFIELD	GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	FRANK HACKLER JR.	X	
GENTRY	KEVIN JOHNSTON	X	
GOSHEN	JOE BENSON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	BILL GROOM	X	
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT		
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR X DOTSON		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR DARRELL TRAHAN		
JOHNSON	CHRIS KEENEY		
LINCOLN	ROB HULSE		
LITTLE FLOCK	BUDDY BLUE		
LOWELL	ELDON LONG	X	
PEA RIDGE	JACKIE CRABTREE		
PRAIRIE GROVE	SONNY HUDSON	X	
ROGERS	STEVE GLASS BOB CRAFTON	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS JOHN TURNER	X X	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X	X PATSY CHRISTIE
SPRINGTOWN	PRESTON BARRETT		
SUPHUR SPRINGS	GREG BARBER		
TONTITOWN	PAUL COLVIN, JR		
WASHINGTON CO.	JULIET RICHEY	X	
WEST FORK	CHARLIE ROSSETTI		
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	ALAN FORTENBERRY	X	
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH	X	
U OF A	MIKE JOHNSON		X GARY K. SMITH
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER		
McDONALD COUNTY	KEITH LINDQUIST		
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
AHTD PLANNING	JESSIE JONES		X ANDREW BREWER
AHTD TRANSIT			
AHTD DISTRICT 4	CHAD ADAMS		X BASHAR QEDAN
FHWA	AMY HEFLIN		
AR HWY COMMISSIONER	DICK TRAMMEL	X	

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NWARPC STAFF: Jeff Hawkins, Donna Lange, Tim Conklin, AICP, Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP, Elizabeth Bowen

OTHERS: Chafer Stanley and Seth Segovia, Senator Cotton's office; Zach Foster, AR Parks and Tourism; Delia Haak, IRWP; Ron Wood, NWADG

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Eldon Long called the meeting to order.

**2. APPROVE NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE DECEMBER 1, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Chair Eldon Long asked for a motion to approve the December 1, 2015 Minutes. Alan Fortenberry made the motion. Bill Groom provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

**3. CLEARINHOUSE REVIEWS**

Jeff Hawkins stated that each member was emailed the list of applications through January 16, 2016 for their review and comment. There were no comments or questions as this time.

**4. APPROVAL OF NWA OPEN SPACE PLAN**

Elizabeth Bowen stated that the NWA Open Space Plan was presented to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission/Policy Committee at their December 1, 2015 meeting. A public notice for adoption was put in the paper with no comments received. There are several implementation items that need to be addressed once it is adopted: 1) set-up a steering committee; 2) continue outreach and education; and 3) consult with the Trust for Public Lands or similar organization.

**MOTION**

Chair Eldon Long asked for a motion to adopt the NWA Open Space Plan and to make it a part of the 2040 MTP. Bill Groom made the motion. Steve Glass provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

**5. NW ARKANSAS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) GRANT**

Elizabeth Bowen stated that six statements of qualification were received for the NW Arkansas Geographic Information System (GIS) Grant. Three RFP's were received and the process of negotiating a contract should be concluded by the end of next week. She said that all requirements of the grant are expected to be fulfilled.

**6. NWA INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT PROJECT**

Elizabeth Bowen stated that the NWARPC will work with Northwest Arkansas Council (NWAC) to complete an inventory and low level assessment for the region. Nine statements of qualification were received and a request for proposals sent to four contractors. The proposals are due by February 5, 2016. A contract will be issued in late February or early March. She stated that the firm will begin contacting local organizations to begin their inventory of infrastructure information. Patsy Christie requested that the list be provided as soon as possible, in order for the entities to begin gathering their information.

**7. 2040 NWA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) PRESENTATION**

Tim Conklin presented the 2040 NWA Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):

- 2040 Northwest Arkansas Metropolitan Transportation Plan
  - The plan was structured into 12 chapters

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- Plans and studies incorporated
  - Congestion Management Process
  - Alternatives Analysis
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
  - Cave Springs Karst Conservation Study
  - Open Space Plan
- Planning also for transit, freight rail and air transportation
- It's an update to the 2035 Long Range Plan published in April 2011 and must be approved by RPC/Policy in March 2016
- Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary
  - 2 Counties in Arkansas: Benton and Washington
  - 34 Cities in Arkansas
  - Portion of McDonald County, City of Pineville and City of Jane in Missouri
- Chapter 1 Introduction
  - MAP-21 replaced SAFETY-LU
  - FAST Act – Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act was passed on December 4, 2015
  - As part of FAST-STP and STP-A were renamed to Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP)
- Chapter 2 Vision, Goals, MTP Framework
  - The MTP has been structured to match the AHTD and National goals and overall framework
    - Preserve and Maintain Infrastructure
    - Improve Safety
    - Reduce Congestion Improve Reliability
    - Improve Regional Mobility
    - Protect the Environment
- Chapter 3 Population and Land Use
  - Forecasting continued growth based on past trends and adopting the control totals for Benton and Washington Counties from the Arkansas Census Data Center for 2020, 2030, and 2040. The same forecast is used for travel forecasting
- Chapter 4 Public Involvement
  - Community Outreach – the official kick-off was in September 2014, with community meeting starting in January 2015
  - Survey Results – 444 survey responses in English and 7 in Spanish
  - Wiki Map
- Chapter 5 Environmental Justice
  - Gathering and analyzing the 2010 Census Bureau's data
  - Overlaying the 2040 MTP future road network with the population distribution estimates
- Chapter 6 Environment
  - Cave Springs Area Karst Conservation Study
  - NWA Open Space Plan
  - Water Quality
- Chapter 7 Travel Patterns
  - Travel patterns from the ACS database that show travel time, modes of transportation to work, daily vehicles miles traveled (from AHTD), annual vehicles miles traveled (AHTD), annual daily traffic counts (AHTD)
  - Travel demand forecasting update – 2005 base year was updated to 2010 base year (calibrated and validated)

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- Added the transit component – forecasted traffic for 2040 (with 2020 and 2030 interim forecasts)
- Chapter 8 Transportation Facility Design, Management and Operations, and System Preservation
  - Complete Streets
  - Access Management
  - Congestion Management Process
  - Context Sensitive Solutions
  - Transit Oriented Development
  - Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Chapter 9 Transportation Projects and Funding
  - Constrained Project Listing
  - Unconstrained Project Listing
  - Transit Projects
  - STP-A and TAP Projects
  - Major Corridors
- Chapter 10 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
  - NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
    - Regional Plan
    - Community Plans
    - Catalyst Projects
  - Heritage Trail Plan
- Chapter 11 Public Transportation
  - Ozark Regional Transit
  - Razorback Transit
  - Ridership
  - Routes and Service
  - Alternative Analysis (Fixed Guideway)
  - Future of Public Transportations – Next Steps:
    - Prepare a transit development plan for the region. The transit development plan should include both ORT and Razorback Transit
    - Recommend ORT conduct a public Relations Campaign/Rebrand Ozark Regional Transit
    - Recommend ORT continue and expand ORT route testing with NWA businesses and municipalities
    - Establish region-wide transit oriented design (TOD) best practices
- Chapter 12 Intermodal, Freight, Rail and Air
  - In order to attain the transportation system as envisioned in the MTP, it will be necessary for State and local officials, industry leaders, and citizens to work together to advance the goals, principles and objectives of the MTP, such as:
    - To increase transportation mobility and accessibility thereby promoting economic vitality in the region;
    - To develop an integrated system with efficient connections between transportation modes;
    - To enhance commerce; and
    - To make improvements that facilitates the efficient movement of freight and enhances regional and global competitiveness.

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➤ **AHTD FFY 2016-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROPOSED PROJECTS**

Tim Conklin stated that NWARPC received the 2016-2020 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) which will be incorporated into the MTP and also used to develop NWARPC FFY 2016-2020 TIP. He stated that in order to receive Federal funding, all projects (road, bridge, trail, etc.) must be in the 2040 MTP. Tim Conklin discussed several of the projects listed in the STIP and stated that the adoption schedule for the FFY 2016-2020 TIP was as follows:

- Thursday, February 18, 2016 – Review at TAC meeting
- Thursday, February 18, 2016 – Public Forum from noon to 6:00 PM
- Friday, February 18, 2016 through Thursday, March 3, 2016 – Public Comment period
- Thursday, March 17, 2016 – at TAC meeting – recommend approval to the RPC/Policy Committee
- Wednesday, March 23, 2106 – Approval by the RPC/Policy Committee at its meeting

**8. RAZORBACK REGIONAL GREENWAY WAYFINDING SIGNAGE PROJECT**

Elizabeth Bowen stated that approximately \$235,000 was left over from the Razorback Regional Greenway project and will be used to create a master sign plan. ALTA and NWARPC are working with 6 cities to get a complete package. The goal is to have signs installed by May 2016 prior to RRG anniversary and the Square2Square event.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Andy Brewer, AHTD, stated that a Minute Order had been adopted to launch a formal study along the Highway 72 Corridor between I-49 and the City of Pea Ridge. It has been determined that a study is required to identify the need for and feasibility of improvements.
- b. Jeff Hawkins stated:
  - The City State-Aid Committee is meeting in Little Rock today. There are approximately 105 projects that are eligible with only 50% being approved.
  - The NWARPC can advise on how to get a cost estimate due to the Special Census. Goshen is requesting a Special Census.
  - The Arkansas National Heritage Commission closed on 680 acres (Devil's Eyebrow) in late December 2015.
  - Assisting Pea Ridge, Centerton and Little Flock annexation proposals with new annexation procedures and assisting Garfield with annexing islands.
  - Discussed developing a planning commissioners training program and to use local planners as trainers.
  - EPA has developed a model to determine a TMDL of the Illinois River Watershed which is under review. Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) has a contract with Wright Water Engineering to send two people to train on the EPA model that formulated the TMDL.
  - Jeff stated he was appointed to an Arkansas taskforce to look into forming a DOT to get all modals administrations under one umbrella.

**10. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.