

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION/POLICY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 24, 2016//APPROVED OCTOBER 26, 2016**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	DIANE BOWEN		
BELLA VISTA	PETER CHRISTIE	X	
BENTON COUNTY	BOB CLINARD JOHN SUDDUTH JAY FRASIER	X	TERESA SIDWELL
BENTONVILLE	BOB McCASLIN SHELLI KERR	X X	
BETHEL HEIGHTS	CYNTHIA BLACK		
CAVE SPRINGS	TRAVIS LEE		
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.		
GENTRY	KEVIN JOHNSTON	X	
GOSHEN	JOE BENSON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX	X	
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 (CHAIR)	X	
PEA RIDGE	JACKIE CRABTREE	X	
PRAIRIE GROVE	SONNY HUDSON		
ROGERS	STEVE GLASS BOB CRAFTON	X	NATHAN BECKNELL
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS	X	
SPRINGDALE	DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X	DOUG SPROUSE
SPRINGTOWN	PRESTON BARRETT		
SUPHUR SPRINGS	GREG BARBER		
TONTITOWN	PAUL COLVIN, JR		
WASHINGTON CO.	GEORGE BUTLER	X	
WEST FORK	CHARLIE ROSSETTI		
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	ALAN FORTENBERRY	X	RAY AVERY
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH	X	
U OF A	MIKE JOHNSON	X	
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER		
McDONALD COUNTY	KEITH LINDQUIST		
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
AHTD PLANNING	JESSIE JONES		
AHTD TRANSIT			
AHTD DISTRICT 4	CHAD ADAMS	X	
FHWA	AMY HEFLIN		
AR HWY COMMISSIONER	DICK TRAMMEL	X	

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

OTHERS: Jeremiah Thompson and Dean Klingman, Benton County Road Department; Richard Booth, Benton County Assessor office; Darin Hamelink, MoDOT; Ron Wood, NWADG; Kathryn Gough, Senator Boozman's office; Morgan Farmer, Senator Cotton's office; Patrick Hall, Gravette

NOTE: Tim Conklin was out of town attending a conference and delivered all his presentations via video conferencing.

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Eldon Long called the meeting to order.

**2. APPROVE NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MAY 25, 2016 MEETING MINUTES
MOTION**

Chair Long asked for a motion to approve the May 25, 2016 Minutes as distributed. Bill Groom made the motion. Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

3. CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS: Jeff Hawkins stated all Federal-Aid applications have been reviewed.
- Jeff Hawkins distributed a list of COUNTY/CLASSIFICATION, 2010 POPULATION, AND TAX LEVIES FOR 2016.

4. NWA BICYCLE PILOT PROJECT GRANT

Tim Conklin explained that this grant involved an opportunity to work with three NWA cities to implement a pilot project featuring "protected bike lanes" on local city streets. He said that protected bike lanes were in keeping with the NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan goals and objectives. The object of the demonstration project is to deliver quick, easily installed items (such as planters, temporary bollards, tape striping) to form a protected bike lane. These are temporary projects and will be dismantled when the project duration is up. The pilot project involves measuring conditions before the installation, collection of data during the time the project is up, and evaluation after the protected lanes are dismantled. The three cities (Bella Vista, Bentonville, Rogers) requested that NWARPC administer the grant and work with the selected consultant.

MOTION

Chair Long asked for a motion to approve Resolution #16-2 authorizing grant acceptance for, and management of, a proposed bicycle pilot/demonstration project to test protected bike lane concepts. Jim Ulmer made the motion. Kevin Johnston provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

5. NWARPC PROJECTS UPDATE

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

NWA REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

- 17 Trail Catalyst Projects – 10 projects have some type of progress being made in Fayetteville, Springdale, Cave Springs, Rogers, Bella Vista, and Bentonville.
- The City of Avoca is currently working toward development and adoption of a city bicycle and pedestrian plan.
- Staff and the Walton Family Foundation are continuing to coordinate efforts to hold a 5 Es Summit in April/May 2017 that will involve non-motorized transportation training for engineers

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and planners.

- The NWA Active Transportation Committee has been discussing the need to standardize trail crossings, signage, policies, etc. The Driveway/Commercial Crossing Subcommittee has developed a draft plan including guidelines for regional standards for commercial and residential driveway crossing and signage cross-sections. The draft is out for comment.
- The Bike/Ped Safety Task Force “Travel with Care Campaign” has put up four billboard signs in the last four weeks; has had numerous newspaper articles; will soon have flyers inserted into area utility bills.

RAZORBACK REGIONAL GREENWAY MILE MARKERS AND WAYFINDING SIGNS

- A map of the Greenway is in its final draft form and out for comment. This map will be commercially printed and available to the public.
- A final report will be issued soon on the Trail Intercept Surveys/Trail Counts.
- Wayfinding Sign Project #2 – The thermoplastic signs will be installed in September before the Square to Square event; the fabricated signs will be installed October 13 – 23, 2016.

NWA OPEN SPACE PLAN

- The NWA Open Space Plan was approved by the RPC/Policy Committee at their January 27, 2016 meeting. It contains several implementation items: 1) set-up a steering committee; 2) continue outreach and education; and 3) consult with the Trust for Public Lands or similar organization.
- The Steering Committee met with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) officials several times. The TPL assists local and state governments in researching, designing, passing, and implementing ballot measures and legislation to dedicate new public funds for parks and land conservation. The quote for their services is \$65,000.
- Framework Committee – developed a NWA Open Space Program Application form.
- Education and Outreach Committee – developed purpose and mission; created informational handouts.
- Priority Project Selection Committee – looking at areas that would be a priority within the five categories identified in the Plan and how to rank these areas.
- Funding Committee – continuing to explore different ways to establish sustainable funding.

NWA REGIONAL GIS SYSTEM

- AOS has installed the hardware and the Enterprise GIS software.
- Two interactive maps are available at gis.nwarpc.org/arcgis/rest/services/.
- The NWARPC website has been updated to include the GIS component as well as a new site look and organization for RPC information. Blue Zoo Creative was hired to update the site, and staff put many hours in before and after the new site was created.

LiDAR

- Washington County received LiDAR data last year; Benton County data was delivered in August 2016.

Tim Conklin reported on the status of FFY 2016 STBGP-A and TAP projects. The information he provided is summarized in the following table:

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FFY 2016 STBGP-A and TAP	AHTD Job Number	Location	Project Type	STP-A	Match	Total
Rogers	090338	Walnut Street/US 71B (Dixieland Rd to 8th St.)	ROW, utilities and construction (Add two-way center left-turn lane)	\$3,250,000	\$812,500	\$4,062,500
Fayetteville	040657	Rupple Road (Starry Night View to Mt. Comfort)	Env. ROW, Utilities (New Location)	\$680,000	\$170,000	\$850,000
Springdale	012007	Hwy. 265 (Randal Wobbe to Hwy. 264)	ROW, utilities and construction (5 lane road, traffic signals)	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$1,250,000
Bentonville		SW I St. and Hwy. 102 Intersection	Design and Environmental (Right-turn lane southbound on SW I St.)	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$125,000
Springdale	040717	Don Tyson Parkway Ext. (S. 56th St. to Hwy. 112)	Design and Environmental (Extension)	\$300,000	\$75,000	\$375,000
Centerton	090471	Hwy 102B/Seba Rd. Intersection Improvements	Design and Env. (North and south left-turn lane and traffic signal)	\$80,000	\$20,000	\$100,000
Razorback Transit and ORT		Rolling Stock for Public Transit Operations	New Buses (Razorback and ORT)	\$704,000	\$176,000	\$880,000

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Bentonville	090421	US 71B (N. Walton Blvd.) and 12th St. Intersection	Construction (Left-turn lanes on 12th St./Tiger Blvd.)	\$500,000	\$125,000	\$1,250,000
Rogers		New Hope Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge	Construction of new bridge	\$225,000	\$1,025,000	\$1,250,000
Springdale		Deans Trail Ph. 1	Construction of Trail	255,199	\$1,475,855	1731054

6. XNA/CITY WAYFINDING PROJECT CONTRACT

Jeff Hawkins explained that NWARPC provided financial management and coordination for the wayfinding signage pilot project funded by the Walton Family Foundation. Subsequently, the project was expanded to include other local jurisdictions. Now, in an effort to provide adequate wayfinding signage to XNA, the NWA Council and XNA want to provide funding for that signage and have asked that NWARPC continue to manage and coordinate the wayfinding signage initiative with XNA as a destination. He said that a resolution was necessary to facilitate this action.

MOTION

Chair Long asked for a motion to approve Resolution #16-3 regarding management of the XNA/City Wayfinding Signage Project. Bob McCaslin made the motion, with Bill Groom providing the second. Motion passes unanimously.

7. 2018-2021 TIP/STIP PROJECTS – 2021 PROJECTS

Tim Conklin reported that the following is for informational purposes at this time:

- AHTD has requested a project list from the RPC/Policy Committee that includes the years 2018-2021. This timeframe corresponds to the next (annual) STIP update timeframe.
- Significant work went into the development of the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Constrained List. Both the TAC and RPC/Policy Committee had input and approved the final List.
- The Constrained List provides a planning estimate of how much federal and state/local match may be available, what roadway improvements were identified, and the time period in which the project may be completed. A table of constrained projects may be found on page 9-11 of the MTP.
- It may be necessary to further refine this List – projects listed in the current TIP that have not been started or given a job number should be at the top of the list submitted; projects that have environmental or design work finished should also come forward.
- AHTD has asked that the project list be submitted by October 28, 2016.

Discussion:

- The construction costs/estimates might need to be updated.
- AHTD did not seem to be too concerned with fiscal restraint at this time.
- Staff will update the cost estimates and present the results at the next RPC/Policy Committee meeting.

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8. PEOPLE FOR BIKES “BIG JUMP PROJECT” GRANT

Tim Conklin said:

The Big Jump Project is a three-year effort to help 10 places achieve a big jump in biking by building a network of safe and comfortable places to ride and engaging the community. The Project is sponsored by the national bicycling organization *PeopleForBikes*. *PeopleForBikes* support for Big Jump Projects includes data collection and analysis, travel support for local leaders, local outreach, and technical workshop support. The annual budget is \$150,000 with a \$50,000/year local match. The local match for the NWA region will come from local jurisdictions and private entities. Northwest Arkansas bicycling organizations and interests have indicated that funding for technical assistance and support is available for up to 10 areas in the U.S. A grant application would need to be submitted. Finalists will be notified January 2017. This project will assist in meeting the goals and objectives recommended in the NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

MOTION

To approve Resolution #16-4 authorizing the filing of a regional application for a “Big Jump Project” from the national bicycling organization People for Bikes. Jeremy Pate made the motion. Kevin Johnston provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

9. CONTOUR PROJECT CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION

MOTION

To authorize the selection of a vendor for the contour project and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contracts and any subsequent documents to satisfy the requirements of the project. Jim Ulmer made the motion, with Bob McCaslin providing the second. Motion passes unanimously.

10. TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Tim Conklin said:

- Today’s discussion centers on the process to update the 2010 NWA Transit Development Plan (TDP). A Scope of Work has been developed that will be presented to the transit agencies for their input before being advertised.
- NWARPC is the designated recipient for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urbanized Area FTA Formula Grants. It plans and programs transit projects in the MTP and the TIP.
- The 2010 TDP included –
 - a) On-Board Surveys
 - Razorback Transit (RT) – September 14 and 15, 2010
 - Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) – September 16, 2016
 - Coverage – All routes; RT about 50% of all trips; ORT 100% of all trips
 - Yield – RT – 841 completed surveys; ORT – 185 completed surveys
 - Rider Profiles were compiled for both agencies
 - b) Eight Technical Memorandums
 - c) Final Report
- The Scope of Work includes –
 - Define and identify service areas
 - Identify and document travel characteristics
 - Identify and document socio-economic characteristics
 - Identify and document land use characteristics
 - Analyze and document current transit ridership based on these characteristics
 - Conduct an operational analysis – efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity
 - Conduct a benchmarking transit survey to other regions – Austin, TX, Des Moines, IA,

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Madison, WI, Raleigh-Durham, NC

- Provide an inter-operational analysis for connections and routes between ORT and RT
- Develop Performance Measures and Targets for the NWARPC MTP, ORT and RT
- Discuss opportunities and challenges to include directness of route; travel time by route compared to auto, bike, and walk; sense of security; comfort, image, and experiences
- Examine unserved and underserved and formulate recommendations for expanding transit service for these areas
- Identify/forecast future fixed route service areas for expanding transit service
- Develop a service delivery plan for existing and future unserved and underserved areas
- Identify methods that will improve the operating efficiency
- Recommend changes in vehicle size and identify capital and operating costs associated with the plan
- Review the use of alternative fuels in fleets and identify capital and operating costs associated with the use of alternative fuels
- Review fare structure and fare box recovery
- Review and commentary of how any changes will impact Title VI and ADA issues
- Review downtown master plans for Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers and Bentonville
- Analyze major corridors (Hwy 71B, I-49, Hwy 265) and the need for limited stop express buses (or commuter express) to determine the level of service needed to facilitate ridership
- After review and concurrence from the transit agencies a Letter of Interest will be issued; a Stakeholder Committee will be formed; the Committee will select a consultant and plan development can move forward.
- Suggestion from the RPC/Policy Committee – integrate the use of bikes and transit – consider bike parking that is safe and secure, ease of getting bike on and off the bus.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff Hawkins reported:

CAVE SPRINGS AREA KARST RESOURCE CONSERVATION STUDY (KARST STUDY)

- The Karst Study is complete and the analysis is finished and recommendations are included in the final report.
- It was determined that the City of Rogers’ Drainage Criteria Manual would form the basis for regulations to protect water quality in the Direct and Indirect Recharge Areas. An additional “Chapter 10” was developed that provided criteria and guidance for compliance with the *Cave Springs Area Karst Resource Conservation Regulations (CSK Regulations)*. This Chapter 10 is not a stand-alone chapter and must be used in conjunction with Chapters 1-9 of the Drainage Criteria Manual. Chapter 9 provides criteria for many BMPs including swales, buffers, ponds, etc. that can be used to comply with the *CSK Regulations* with modifications and enhancements as noted in Chapter 10.
- Chapter 10 contains sections on:
 - Water Quality Protection Zones
 - Disturbance Permit Requirements
 - Buffer Requirements
 - Stormwater BMP Requirements
 - Wastewater BMP Requirements, and
 - BMPs for Industrial Discharges and Other Contaminant sources.
- Rogers and Lowell have formally accepted the Karst Study and adopted the Drainage Criteria Manual. Cave Springs and Springdale are in the process of reviewing the Karst Study and the Manual with eventual adoption.

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- The complete Drainage Criteria Manual with Chapter 10 can be found at <http://rogersar.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5065>

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP (IWG)

- Wright Water Engineers/Geosyntec have completed and provided to the IWG a high level review/report of the EPA's Illinois River Watershed and Tenkiller Ferry Lake water quality models. The report is being used as a basis for NWA's comments to the EPA once they open their 30-day comment period.

12. ADJOURN – A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes.