

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES, 10:30 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016  
APPROVED 2-18-16**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	DIANE BOWEN		TIM CONKLIN
BELLA VISTA	CHRIS SUNESON		
BENTON COUNTY	JOHN SUDDUTH JEFF CLARK		KEVIN GAMBRILL
BENTONVILLE	MIKE CHURCHWELL		
BETHEL HEIGHTS	CYNTHIA BLACK		
CAVE SPRINGS	TRAVIS LEE		
CENTERTON	BILL EDWARDS		
ELKINS	BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	JESSE FULCHER PAUL LIBERTINI	X X	
GENTRY	KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GREENLAND	BILL GROOM	X	
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT		
JOHNSON	GERRY RUSSELL	X	
LINCOLN	ROB HULSE		
LITTLE FLOCK	BUDDY BLUE		
LOWELL	ELDON LONG		
PEA RIDGE	JACKIE CRABTREE		
PRAIRIE GROVE	SONNY HUDSON		
ROGERS	NATHAN BECKNELL STEVE GLASS	X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS		
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE	X	
TONTITOWN	PAUL COLVIN, JR		
WASHINGTON CO.	JULIET RICHEY		
WEST FORK	CHARLIE ROSSETTI JAMES SCANLON		
NWARPC	JEFF HAWKINS		TIM CONKLIN
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	RAY AVERY	X	
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH ADAM WADDELL	X X	
U OF A	MIKE JOHNSON	X	
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER		
McDONALD COUNTY			
PINEVILLE			
AHTD PLANNING	PAUL SIMMS	X	
AHTD TRANSIT			
AHTD DISTRICT 9	MITCHELL ARCHER		JASON JAMES
FHWA	AMY HEFLIN		
AR HWY COMMISSIONER	DICK TRAMMEL	X	

**NWARPC STAFF:** Tim Conklin, AICP; Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP; Elizabeth Bowen; Cristina Scarlat  
**OTHERS:** Steven Beam, Burns and McDonnell; Kaci Surgeon, Office of Senator Cotton; Kathryn Gough, Office of Senator Boozman; Ron Wood, NWADG

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Patsy Christie called the meeting to order.

**2. APPROVE TAC MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2015**

Chair Patsy Christie said that a quorum had not been reached at the meeting, therefore the November 19, 2015 Minutes could not be approved. She said that the Minutes would be on the February 18, 2016 TAC meeting agenda for approval.

**3. STP-A AND TAP FFY 2016 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – UPDATES BY JURISDICTION**

Tim Conklin said an email was sent to the jurisdictions that have been awarded FFY 2016 projects reminding them to send a letter signed by the Mayor requesting AHTD to initiate action on the project.

**ROGERS** – Nathan Becknell said that both STP-A projects are the second phase of previous projects, and the projects should be in the pipeline. He will confirm whether or not the City needs to send a letter. The New Hope bridge TAP project will be advertised soon.

**FAYETTEVILLE** – Paul Libertini said that environmental clearance was currently being worked on.

**BENTONVILLE** – No report as no one from Bentonville attended the TAC meeting.

**SPRINGDALE** – Patsy Christie said that letters have been sent for both of the City’s projects.

**CENTERTON** – No report as no one from Centerton attended the TAC meeting.

**TRANSIT** – Tim Conklin said that the apportionment process would occur under the FAST Act, and the transit agencies will be communicating with AHTD as soon as the apportionment number is received.

**4. AHTD REPORT**

Paul Simms reported:

The FAST Act was signed into law on December 4, 2015. MPOs will not see significant changes, but STP-A and MPO planning funds will increase slightly over the life of the FAST Act.

In December 2015 the Arkansas State Highway Commission approved \$2.5 million in funding to applicants for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program, and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) projects in Northwest Arkansas.

**STATE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) 2015 AWARDED PROJECTS**

Benton County	War Eagle Bridge	\$500,000
City of Bella Vista	Dartmoor Road HAWK Crossing	\$ 50,000
City of Bentonville	SW 41 <sup>st</sup> Street Trail	\$ 49,500
City of Cave Springs	Cave Springs/IRWP Improvements	\$ 97,150
City of Centerton	Traffic Signal and Crosswalk Installation	\$240,000
City of Decatur	Highway 102 Sidewalk Project	\$130,144
City of Rogers	New Hope Bicycle & Pedestrian Bridge- Razorback Greenway	\$500,000
City of Siloam Springs	City Lake Wildlife Trail	\$ 67,705
City of Springdale	Pride of Springdale Trail	\$500,000
City of West Fork	Riverside Park Connection and Safe Routes to School	\$179,231

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM (SRTS) 2015 AWARDED PROJECTS**

City of West Fork	McKnight Street Safe Routes Connection	\$ 94,995
Prairie Grove Schools	Prairie Grove Comes Together Sidewalks	\$ 77,388

**RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) 2015 AWARDED PROJECTS**

City of Bentonville	Community Center Fitness Trail	\$ 75,000
City of Fayetteville	Lake Fayetteville Nature Trail Boardwalk and Realignment	\$ 56,000

In the week of January 11, 2016, the Department awarded a contract for the Hwy 45/Old Wire Road Signal and Intersection Improvements project in Fayetteville (Job 040642) and the Department provided the list of STIP projects to all the MPOs.

**5. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

- A notice for a two-week public comment period concerning the Draft Regional Open Space Plan was placed in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette on January 10, 2016.
- The Final Draft Plan will go to the RPC/Policy Committee on January 27, 2016 for approval.
- The Open Space Plan will also become part of the MTP when that document is approved. Visit [www.nwaopenspace.com](http://www.nwaopenspace.com)

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

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

- \$235,000 left from the Razorback Regional Greenway construction project.
- Contracted with Alta Planning and Design to develop a master sign plan.
- The project will result in all wayfinding signs being installed by May, prior to the Square 2 Square bike event.
- The total project cost is estimated to be \$350,000. It is expected that the six cities that the trail goes through will make up the difference.
- Hope to issue an installation contract very soon.

**7. NWA REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

- The RPC/Policy Committee adopted the Plan on December 1, 2015.
- The implementation of the Plan will involve completing 10 catalyst projects by 2017.
- Recently met with Cave Springs officials for discussion on the trail that will tie together the springs and the Illinois River Watershed Partners building.

**8. TRAVEL FORECASTING MODEL UPDATE**

Cristina Scarlat reported:

- The consultants completed the final report/technical memo, which becomes a blueprint for further modeling.
- 2010 base year has been calibrated/validated.
- The 2020 and 2030 forecast years are currently being worked on.
- The consultants did not attach a price (cost) to their recommendations.
- The model is capable of “what if” scenarios.
- It has a transit component to forecast future systems.

## 9. 2040 METROPOLITIAN PLAN OVERVIEW

### • 2016-2020 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (STIP) AND NARTS FFY 2016-2020 TIP DISCUSSION

Tim Conklin led the TAC through the 12 chapters of the Northwest Arkansas 2040 Metropolitan Plan (MTP) with a PowerPoint presentation:

- MTP incorporated the Congestion Management Process; Alternative Analysis Study; Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, Cave Springs Karst Conservation Study, and the Open Space Plan.
- Incorporated the Eastern north-south Corridor Study; Hwy 112 Study; Hwy 412, Airport Access road, and Hwy 549 (Bella Vista Bypass).
- It also incorporated transit, freight, rail and air.
- MTP covers the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) – Washington and Benton Counties, AR; a portion of McDonald Count, MO; 32 cities in AR; Pineville and Jane, MO.
- Chapter 1 Introduction
  - Federal Legislation
  - Major Accomplishments throughout the region
  - The MTP Recommendations
- Chapter 2 Vision, Goals, MTP Framework
  - Sets out the MTP Vision, Goals, Principles, and Objectives
  - Aligns the MTP Goals, etc. with State and Federal Goals
- Chapter 3 Population and Land Use
  - Will find population and land use trends
  - Continue to have robust growth in NWA – estimate 800,000 population by 2040
  - Tying the travel demand model to the State model
- Chapter 4 Public Involvement
  - Held 70 public input events
  - Over 400 surveys
  - Used the Wiki map online to gather input
- Chapter 5 Environmental Justice
  - Gathered and analyzed Census Bureau data
  - Overlays 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 – MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group and education program
- Chapter 7 Travel Patterns
  - Travel patterns – 11 million miles per day are traveled in the 2 counties – 22 miles/capita
  - Travel Demand Forecasting
- Chapter 8 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 and Unconstrained Project Lists
  - 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
  - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Chapter 11 Public Transportation
  - Ozark Regional Transit
  - Razorback Transit
  - Ridership, Routes and Service
  - Alternative Analysis (Fixed Guideway)
- Chapter 12 Intermodal, Freight, Rail and Air
  - Discussion of each

Tim Conklin explained changes that were occurring in Chapter 9:

- NWARPC received the 2016-2020 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) on January 15, 2016.
- Modifications are being made to the Constrained and Unconstrained Lists to dovetail with the STIP; the updated lists will be put into Chapter 9.
- In order to receive Federal funding, all projects (road, bridge, trail, etc.) must be in the 2040 MTP.
- The NWARPC 2016-2020 TIP is derived directly from the STIP.
- Distributed the STIP/TIP – Discussion –
  - The FAST Act changed STP to STBGP (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program)
  - Job #BB0410 (Fay) – does not show the Hwy 62 interchange.
  - Fayetteville – request Hwy 16 improvements from Stonebridge Road to the White River Bridge be moved into the 2016-2020 timeframe.
  - University of Arkansas – Job #040677 – Leroy Pond to Maple Ave – Afraid that the cost amount is not valid anymore.
  - AHTD is planning on beginning to re-validate cost figures each year to make sure that costs are still in line.
  - Job #040582 – make sure this project is in the TIP
- Review the Constrained/Unconstrained Lists as distributed – notify Tim if any projects are not included.

Adoption schedule for the 2016-2020 TIP:

- Thursday, February 18, 2016 – Review at TAC meeting
- Thursday, February 18, 2016 – Public Forum from noon to 6:00 PM
- Friday, February 19, 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, 2016 – Approval by the RPC/Policy Committee at its meeting

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

- NWARPC received a GIS grant from the Walton Family Foundation for a regional GIS system. Contractors will be interviewed on January 22, 2016. The system should be online by the end of April 2016.
- An inventory and assessment of regional infrastructure, in conjunction with the NWA Council, will be beginning as soon as a contract is let. At that time, the consultants will be contacting the local jurisdictions for needed data.
- LiDAR – Washington County will be delivered next week; Benton County will be delivered in September 2016. Training workshops are being set up through CAST at the U of A.

## **11. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- **RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016 AT 1:30 PM**
- **TAC MEETING – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016 AT 10:30 AM**

## **12. ADJOURN**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion passes.