

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016 at 10:30 AM**

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

NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin, AICP; Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP; Cristina Scarlat; Elizabeth Bowen; Stephanie Shaw

OTHERS: Ron Wood, NWA Democrat-Gazette; Steven Beam, Garver; Travis Rapp, Burns and McDonnell; Kathryn Gough, Senator Boozman's office;

1. CALL TO ORDER

Sonny Hudson chaired in the meeting in the absence of Chair Patsy Christie. He called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

2. APPROVE TAC MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 15, 2016

MOTION

Chair Hudson asked for a motion to approve the May 15, 2016 TAC Minutes. Nathan Becknell made the motion. Bill Groom provided the second. Motion passes.

3. FFY 2016-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2 – TO SHOW THE ADDITION OF SEVERAL PROJECTS IN THE MISSOURI AREA OF THE NWARPC METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA (MPA)

Frank Miller, MoDOT, explained that the Missouri Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is updated every year, and it will include these various projects in the SW District. Since these projects will be included in the STIP, it is necessary to include them in the NARTS TIP. He also mentioned that job number 7P0601 shows partial funding for the Missouri portion of the Bella Vista Bypass. This is essentially a place holder for the Bypass project until such time as Missouri has the funding to complete the portion from Pineville to the state line.

MOTION

Chair Hudson asked for a motion to recommend approval of the Proposed Amendment #2 to the RPC/Policy committee. Mike Churchwell made the motion. Chris Brown provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

4. STIP/TIP LIST FOR SUBMITTAL TO AHTD – 2021 PROJECTS

Tim Conklin explained that the Highway Commission and AHTD will be updating the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) on an annual basis beginning next year. Therefore, a list of projects is being requested from the MPOs. He reminded the TAC that the NWA 2040 MTP, adopted last spring, included a list containing potential projects over a ten-year period from 2021 to 2030. The task for the TAC is to prioritize this list, based on project readiness, phasing, and available funding in FFY 2021, and then recommend those projects to the RPC/Policy Committee for their consideration.

He said that the projects being discussed on the MTP list all are state highway projects, and all these projects are a priority for the region. He suggested the following criteria to consider when discussing project prioritization:

- 1) Select state highway projects that were removed from the current 2016-2020 TIP/STIP during development last spring;
- 2) Select state highway projects that are already programmed for PE and environmental phases that are either complete or underway;
- 3) Select state highway projects that already have job numbers with design and environmental phases either complete or underway;
- 4) Select state highway projects on roadways that are currently being studied.

Tim Conklin presented a Powerpoint that illustrated the traffic volumes and other attributes on each road project listed in the NWA 2040 MTP List for FFY 2021-2030. The TAC discussed each project with the jurisdiction it was located in, and with AHTD officials. Following are some points made during the discussion:

- Hwy 412 Bypass and the airport access road – funding is needed to do the environmental work on both these projects.
- Hwy 112 – Commissioner Trammel indicated that this is a high priority project. He said that this project (finishing up the studies and bringing corridor alternatives forward) needs to keep moving forward.
- Hwy 265 – from south Fayetteville north through Rogers to Hwy 12 – need to fill in the gap between Randall Wobbe and Hwy 264.
- Hwy 72 – AHTD is conducting a study of this corridor.
- Chris Suneson asked about the status of the Hwy 71 Corridor study – AHTD has run into a problem with the consultant, in that AHTD has asked them repeatedly for some low cost implementation actions and the consultant has yet to provide these. Everyone agrees that this section of Hwy 71 through Bella Vista has among the worst congestion in peak times in the region.
- The funding figures shown on the list were provided by AHTD, and cannot be changed at this time.
- Commissioner Trammel said that AHTD uses funding effectively around the state. He said that the state legislature determines the amount of funding the Department ultimately has. He said that since the legislature seems unlikely to vote for increased taxes, the money needed for maintenance, let alone new builds, will need to come from elsewhere.
- Chris Brown said that Hwy 112 from Truckers Drive to Van Asche has been widened to 5 lanes.
- Tim Conklin said that Razorback Boulevard and the I49/Hwy 62 interchange were dropped from the adopted TIP/STIP, however they are on the 2040 MTP list.
- Any Hwy 112 projects that will be ready to go in 2021 should be included in the priority list.
- There are two ways to submit projects – 1) submit the entire list and let AHTD/Commission pick what to include in 2021; 2) pick projects that are close to being ready to go.
- **NWA 2040 MTP 2021-2030 PROJECTS – Discussion and Prioritization Process**
 - 1) #090238 – Hwy 102 in Benton Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Hwy. 279 N East to Hwy 102B – 2.23 miles for \$22,017,673 **(NO RECENT ACTIVITY)**
 - 2) Hwy 16 in Washington Co. – Widen to 4 lanes from Stonebridge Rd. East to West fork of the White River Bridge – 0.93 mile for \$9,155,983 **(NO RECENT ACTIVITY)**
 - 3) US 71 – Benton Co. – Various improvements per Study from US 71B North to the State Line for \$5,000,000 **(UNDER STUDY)**
 - 4) Hwy 112 – Washington Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Truckers Dr. (start from Van Asche) North to Greathouse Springs Rd. – 2.79 miles \$32,206,098 **(UNDER STUDY)**
 - 5) Hwy 112 – Washington Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Greathouse Springs Rd. North to Hwy 412 – 2.51 mile for \$17,000,000 **(UNDER STUDY)**
 - 6) Hwy 112 – Washington Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Hwy 412 North to Scott St. – 2.39 miles for \$24,500,000 **(UNDER STUDY)**
 - 7) Hwy 112 – Benton Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Wallis Rd. North to Hwy 12 – 2.3 miles for \$37,000,000 **(UNDER STUDY)**
 - 8) Hwy 112 – Benton Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Hale St. North to Wallis Rd. – 4.88 miles for \$70,000,000 **(UNDER STUDY)**
 - 9) Hwy 264 – Benton Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Goad Springs Rd. West to Bellview Rd. –

0.91 mile for \$9,000,000 **(WORKING ON A STRATEGY WITH AHTD – CONCEPT WORK HAS BEEN ENGINEERED – AHTD IS PERFORMING THE ENGINEERING)**

- 10) Hwy 102B – Benton Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Hwy 102 North to Hwy 72 – 1.76 miles for \$17,500,000 **(NO ACTIVITY)**
- 11) Hwy 12 – Benton Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Shell Rd. South to Regional Dr. – 5 miles for \$49,000,000 **(STILL HAS CAPACITY – DOESN'T NEED TO BE WIDENED AT THIS TIME)**
- 12) Hwy 94 – Benton Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes (4 to 5) from U.S. 71 East to 1st Street – 0.66 mile for \$4,200,000 **(NO ACTIVITY)**
- 13) Hwy 72 – Benton Co. – Widen to 5 lanes from I-49 East to Little Sugar Creek – 1.85 miles for \$18,000,000 **(UNDER STUDY)**
- 14) Hwy 265 (Future) – Benton Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Oak St. North to Hwy 62 – 2.15 miles for \$24,760,001 **(STILL A LONG WAY AWAY)**
- 15) #040677 – Hwy 112 – Washington Co. – Widen to 5 Lanes from Leroy Pond Rd. to North Maple St. 0.67 \$6,500,000 **(CURRENTLY UNDER DESIGN)**

Total: 30.36 miles for \$345,839,754

- The TAC determined that #1, #9, and #15 were the projects that were the most likely to be ready for construction by 2021, and also include Job #BB0410 I-49/Hwy 62 Interchange Improvements (an Interstate Rehabilitation Program project).
- The NARTS 2016-2020 TIP will be amended to include whatever projects are chosen by the RPC/Policy Committee and AHTD/Highway Commission for inclusion in the STIP.

MOTION

Chair Hudson asked for a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the following projects for submittal to AHTD for the FFY 2021 STIP:

- In Benton County – Widening Hwy 102 to 5 lanes between Hwy 279 N and Hwy 102B;
- In Benton County – Widening Hwy 264 in Lowell to 5 lanes between Goad Springs Rd. and Bellview Rd;
- In Washington County – Widening Razorback Rd. in Fayetteville to 5 lanes from Leroy Pond Rd. to Maple St;
- (from the IRP funding category) In Washington County – Job #BB0410 I-49/Hwy 62 Interchange improvements; and
- Recommend that all studies continue and if a project becomes available to start it should be added to the list.

Nathan Becknell made the motion. Chris Suneson provided the second. Discussion: The Razorback Road project could be finished before 2021 if a deal can be worked out between Fayetteville, the U of A, and AHTD. Chair Hudson called for the vote. Motion passes unanimously.

5. TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE – INFORMATIONAL

Tim Conklin said that LOIs from interested consultants were due in the NWARPC office by 4:00 pm Friday, October 21, 2016. A resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sign a contract with the chosen consultant will be before the RPC/Policy Committee on October 25, 2016. The Review Committee is scheduled to meet on November 1, 2016 to review and rank the LOIs. The Request for Proposal/Scope of Work will be issued to the 3 firms chosen by the Review Committee. Those RFPs are due in the NWARPC office by 4:00 pm November 23, 2016 and the Review Committee is scheduled to review those and select a consultant on December 6, 2016. A contract should be executed by the end of December 2016. The update process will begin in January 2017.

6. NWARPC PROJECTS UPDATE

- **NWA BICYCLE PILOT PROJECT GRANT**

Tim Conklin explained that this grant involved an opportunity to work with Rogers, Bentonville, and Bella Vista to implement a pilot project featuring “protected bike lanes” on local city streets. 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 projects are moving forward and are anticipated to be completed by November 3, 2016, stay up for 1 month, and then be dismantled.

- **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 has been 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.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business.

8. MEETING DATES

- TAC MEETING – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016 – IF NEEDED
- RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016 AT 1:30 PM – NOTE: THIS IS THE 1ST WEDNESDAY IN DECEMBER, NOT THE USUAL 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.
- Chris Suneson volunteered to Chair the TAC Nominating Committee. The TAC will need to elect officers in early 2017 for a two-year term, 2017 and 2018.

9. ADJOURN

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