

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
10:30 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	DIANE BOWEN		
BELLA VISTA	CHRIS SUNESON	X	
BENTON COUNTY	BOB CLINARD		
BENTONVILLE	MIKE CHURCHWELL	X	
BETHEL HEIGHTS	CYNTHIA BLACK	X	
CAVE SPRINGS	TRAVIS LEE	X	
CENTERTON	BILL EDWARDS		
ELKINS	BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	TIM CONKLIN
FAYETTEVILLE	CHRIS BROWN PAUL LIBERTINI	X	
GENTRY	KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GREENLAND	BILL GROOM	X	
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT	X	JEFF HAWKINS
JOHNSON	GERRY RUSSELL	X	
LINCOLN	ROB HULSE		
LITTLE FLOCK	BUDDY BLUE		
LOWELL	KRIS SULLIVAN		
PEA RIDGE	JACKIE CRABTREE NATHAN SEE	X	
PRAIRIE GROVE	SONNY HUDSON	X	
ROGERS	NATHAN BECKNELL	X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS	X	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE	X	
TONTITOWN	PAUL COLVIN, JR		
WASHINGTON CO.	CHARLES WARD BRAD PHILLIPS	X X	
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	
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER	X	
McDONALD COUNTY			
PINEVILLE			
AHTD PLANNING	PAUL SIMMS	X	
AHTD TRANSIT			
AHTD DISTRICT 9	MITCHELL ARCHER	X	
FHWA	AMY HEFLIN		
AR HWY COMMISSIONER	DICK TRAMMEL		

NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin, AICP; Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP; Cristina Scarlat; Elizabeth Bowen; Stephanie Shaw
OTHERS: Ron Wood, NWADG; Steven Beam, Burns and McDonnell; Corey Granderson, Fayetteville; Mayor Kurt Maddox, Gravette

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Patsy Christie called the meeting to order. Stephanie Shaw was introduced as a new employee with NWARPC; Brad Phillips and Charles Ward were introduced as the new Washington County road superintendents.

2. APPROVE TAC MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2016

MOTION

Chair Patsy Christie asked for a motion to approve the February 18, 2016 TAC Minutes. Nathan Becknell made the motion. Bill Groom provided the second. Motion passes.

3. AHTD REPORT

Paul Simms reported:

- The Draft State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will go the Highway Commission for review in April.
- The STIP is available online at <http://arkansashighways.com/>
- <http://www.arkansashighways.com/news/2016/NR%2016-051.pdf> Visit this website to learn more about the **Transportation Alternatives Program and Recreational Trails Program**. Applications are now available; workshops will be held at 1:00 pm at AHTD headquarters in Little Rock on March 31 and April 14, 2016.
- The Highway Commission issued a Minute Order on March 2, 2016 for the following corridor studies:

DISTRICT	COUNTY	ROUTE	APPROXIMATE TERMINI
4	Washington	412	Hwy 112 to East of I-49 (Springdale)
4 & 9	Washington & Benton	71B	Hwy 412 to Hwy 264 (Springdale & Rogers)
9	Benton	102	Hwy 102B to Highway 94 (Centerton, Bentonville, and Rogers)
9	Benton	59	Hwy 72 West to Hwy 72 East (Gravette)
9	Benton	94	Hwy 71B to Old Wire Rd (Rogers)

- Bella Vista Hwy 71 Corridor Study – The time and funding has been used; consultant has been asked to revise the report – the consultant didn’t recommend any low-cost improvement alternatives to be taken in the short run; don’t know how long it will be to get the report back.
- The next bid letting will be on March 23, 2016.
- Mitchell Archer (District 9) said that:
 - Hwy 265 improvements from Hwy 264 north to Rogers have begun.
 - I-49 improvement work continues.
 - \$300M+ work occurring in the region.

4. DRAFT 2040 NWA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

Tim Conklin said:

- The MTP was developed over the past 1 ½ years, including numerous public outreaches and input meetings. <http://nwarpc.org/transportation/2040-mtp/>
- The MTP has 12 chapters that include information on travel patterns and forecasting, facility design, transportation projects and funding, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and public transportation, and more.

- It shows recent projects, major projects, is Fiscally Constrained, and shows listed priorities.
- The 5 years in the FFY 2016-2020 TIP are included in Appendix D.
- Staff wants to include FAST Act references and also incorporate the latest STIP document (which was not available until yesterday).
- The deadline to approve the MTP is April 7, 2016; the RPC/Policy Committee will meet on March 23, 2016 to approve the plan.

DISCUSSION:

- The Draft STIP that was publicized last night shows a missing link in the middle of the U of A campus – Razorback Road by the stadium – and an improvement has been added through the U of A Agri Farm on Garland. The University was not aware of this change and opposes the removal of the improvements to Razorback Road from Leroy Pond Drive to Maple Street.
- Is it easier to make changes now, and postpone approval – or is it better to go through an amendment process? Staff – The MTP must be approved today, in order for the RPC/Policy Committee to approve it on March 23, 2016. The Federal government requires NWARPC to approve the MTP by April 7, 2016.

MOTION

Chair Patsy Christie asked for a motion to recommend approval of the Draft 2040 NWA MTP to the RPC/Policy Committee with the understanding minor edits may be made by staff to reflect:

- Changes based on the FAST Act;
- Changes that originate in the AHTD 2016-2020 STIP; and
- Noting that discrepancies may exist and the MTP may need to be amended to correct any discrepancies.

Chris Suneson made the motion. Mike Johnson provided the second.
Motion passes unanimously.

5. DRAFT FFY 2016-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) REVIEW

Tim Conklin said that the AHTD Draft 2016-2020 STIP was released yesterday (3-16-16). He said that the NARTS Draft TIP could be found at

http://www.nwarpc.org/pdf/Transportation/Long_Range_Transportation_Plan/2040%20MTP%20File/TIP%202016-2020%20NARTS.pdf.

- Tim explained there were several significant changes to the TIP per the STIP:
 - Razorback Road improvements from Leroy Pond Drive to Maple Street – Removed.
 - Hwy 112 improvements from Poplar Street to Van Ashe Drive – Added.
 - Met with ORT and Razorback Transit to better reflect how transit federal funding will be spent in the future.
 - Bridge painting and other generic job funding has moved from STP to NHPP.
- The Highway Commission will be adopting the STIP this summer; it has decided that the STIP will be updated every year which will require local TIPs to be updated every year. In the summer of 2017 the TIP will be updated to 2018-2022.

DISCUSSION:

- AHTD Job #40677 Leroy Pond Drive to Maple Street
 - Funds were never identified for this project?
 - Mayor Jordan asked for a 4 lane from I-49 to Van Ashe Drive; however, it didn't necessarily have to be on Garland and go through the U of A farm.
 - By not having this project in the 2016-2020 time frame constrains the U of A from getting good bids on the Maple to Garland project – it may help in getting reasonable bids to combine these two projects.
 - Fayetteville and U of A officials will be visiting directly with AHTD officials about this.

MOTION

Chair Patsy Christie asked for a motion to recommend approval of the Draft FFY 2016-2020 TIP to the RPC/Policy Committee with the understanding:

- The FTA project allocations for ORT and Razorback Transit will be further clarified;
- Any changes that originate in the AHTD 2016-2020 STIP will be shown in the TIP the RPC/Policy Committee approves; and
- Noting that any discrepancies that may exist may need to be amended into the TIP.

Chris Suneson made the motion. Nathan Becknell provided the second.

Motion passes unanimously.

6. NWA REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

- Jeff Hawkins and John McLarty accepted the Henry Natural State Award at the Governor's Tourism Conference for the Razorback Regional Greenway project. The Razorback Regional Greenway exemplified the Natural State Award which is presented to a community, organization, special event, or attraction which "stands out in a crowd" because of its unique appeal, media coverage, creative approach, and/or enhancement of community pride, thus benefitting the state's quality of life.
- Catalyst Projects – Continue to work with local entities.
- Mile Markers – Continuing to work on an agreement with contractors and the cities along the RRG to have the markers repainted.
- Wayfinding Sign Project – With money left over from the RRG, a wayfinding sign project along the RRG has been advertised. The bid opening on March 6, 2016 had only one bid, and the contractor was not licensed to work with thermoplastics in Arkansas. Will be re-bidding this project soon.
- 5Es Report Card – Working with the Bicycle Coalition of the Ozarks (BCO) to complete report cards for 25 cities. A 2-day conference to be held in June or July will replace the 5Es Summit held last year.
- After the death of a pedestrian along the RRG in Rogers, a group has been formed – the NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Group. Representatives from the Group will be speaking to the Active Transportation Committee at their meeting this afternoon. NWARPC will be involved in an upcoming bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign with area cities and the Walton Family Foundation.

7. NWA OPEN SPACE PLAN

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

- The first committee meeting (as suggested in the Plan) was held March 11, 2016. 29 members are currently on the committee, with representatives from local cities, quorum courts, federal and state agencies, among others.
- 5 subcommittees were created – Framework, Education and Outreach, Project Selection, Landowner, Outreach and Funding.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

- NWARPC is a sub-grantee of the Northwest Arkansas Council and will be managing the Walton Family Foundation-funded project.
- A contract is being negotiated with Burns and McDonnell.
- The consultant will be contacting the cities and counties for infrastructure information.

9. NWA REGIONAL GIS PROJECT

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

- NWARPC received a grant from the Walton Family Foundation to implement a regional GIS system.
- The electrical wiring update in the NWARPC office building has been completed and the equipment should be received by the end of April 2016.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Tim Conklin said that the Management and Operations Committee will be invited to the next TAC meeting (April 21, 2016) for a presentation by John Nelson, MoDOT.

11. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016 AT 1:30 PM
- TAC MEETING – THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016 AT 10:30 AM

12. ADJOURN

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