

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES, 10:30 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017
APPROVED 9.21.17**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	MAYOR JORDAN SULLIVAN		
BELLA VISTA	CHRIS SUNESON MAYOR PETER CHRISTIE	X X	
BENTON COUNTY	JOHN SUDDUTH JOSH BEAM DEAN KLINGMON	X	
BENTONVILLE	BRIAN BAHR BEAU THOMPSON DENNIS BIRGE	X	
BETHEL HEIGHTS	MAYOR CYNTHIA BLACK		
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR TRAVIS LEE		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS	X	
ELKINS	MAYOR BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	PAUL LIBERTINI CHRIS BROWN	X X	
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GREENLAND	MAYOR BILL GROOM	X	
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT		
JOHNSON	JERRY MORROW	X	
LINCOLN	MAYOR ROB HULSE		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR BUDDY BLUE		
LOWELL	MAYOR ELDON LONG	X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR JACKIE CRABTREE NATHAN SEE	X	
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR SONNY HUDSON	X	
ROGERS	NATHAN BECKNELL LANCE JOBE	X	
SILAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS	X	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE BRAD BALDWIN	X X	
TONTITOWN	MAYOR PAUL COLVIN, JR		
WASHINGTON CO.	NATHAN CROUCH CHARLES WARD/BRAD PHILLIPS ADM. ASSIT. CARL GALE	X	
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
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	ADAM WADDELL
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER	X	
McDONALD COUNTY			
PINEVILLE			
AHTD PLANNING	PAUL SIMMS EMMILY TIAMPATI	X	
AHTD DISTRICT 4	JASON HUGHEY		
AHTD DISTRICT 9	MITCHELL ARCHER		
FHWA	AMY HEFLIN	X	
AR HWY COMMISSIONER	DICK TRAMMEL		

NWARPC STAFF: Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP; Tim Conklin, AICP; Cristina Scarlat; Elizabeth Bowen
OTHERS: Daniel Byram and Andy Brewer, ARDOT; Ron Petrie and Jeff Webb Garver; Steven Beam, Burns and McDonnell; Sita Nauthavong, Washington County; Angela R. Hicks, Elizabeth Richardson Center (ERC)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patsy Christie called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

2. APPROVE TAC MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 20, 2017

MOTION

Chair Patsy Christie asked for a motion to approve the July 20, 2017 TAC Minutes. Bill Groom made the motion. Paul Simms provided the second. Motion passes.

3. ARDOT PRESENTATION OF THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE HIGHWAY 71 IMPROVEMENT COORIDOR STUDY (BELLA VISTA)

Andy Brewer, with assistance from Daniel Byram, gave a presentation concerning the Highway 71 corridor study that the Department began several years ago:

Congress designated US 71 corridor for future interstate in 1991 (ISTEA).

- Bella Vista Bypass (I-49) – ROD signed 2000.
- Toll Feasibility Study – 2007 & 2009. The study found it was not feasible to toll the bypass and expect the toll to support the construction and/or maintenance of the facility.
- Jobs for portions of Bypass (2 lanes):
 - 090292 (“Hiwasse Bypass”) completed 2014, \$20M.
 - 090293 (extension to Co Rd 34) completed 2015, \$13M.
 - CA0904 substantially completed May 2017, \$53M.

Total investment so far (PE, ROW, construction, etc.) \$129M.

- \$119M shown in ARDOT TIP/STIP for completion of AR portion.
- MO STIP shows \$23M shortfall.

The Arkansas Highway Commission adopted a Minute Order in April 2014 to study the need for and feasibility of improvements to existing Highway 71 through Bella Vista.

- Department utilized on-call planning consultant URS to conduct study: Master Agreement signed August 2014.
- Task Order issued February 2015.
- Kickoff meeting April 2015 (URS was bought out and is now AECOM).
- Project manager left AECOM August 2015.
- AECOM final release was October 2016 and Department staff took over the study, and the following was accomplished:
 - Refinement of crash analysis.
 - Refinement of capacity analysis.
 - Travel demand modeling – additional alternative.
 - Environmental review.
 - Preliminary design.

The Department studied capacity needs, safety needs, and pavement needs

Needs Summary:

- Even with completion of the Bypass, additional capacity on existing Highway 71 is likely needed by 2040.
 - Travel demand modeling results show that anticipated growth in east Bella Vista will continue to use Highway 71 since there are no other attractive options.
- There is a need to enhance safety.

- Disproportionate number of crashes occur on sweeping right turn ramps
- Disproportionate number of KA crashes occur northbound Highway 71 at Mercy Way intersection.
(KA – Person Degree of Injury=Killed(K) + Incapacitating injury(A)).
- Pavement
 - Shoulders are not in adequate condition to bear traffic loads – analysis indicated another 5 inches minimum is needed.

Initial screening results of alternatives.

- Innovative intersection treatments or signal re-timings will not address capacity needs in any significant way.
- Hard shoulder running is not possible due to inadequate structure.
- Reversible lanes would address capacity needs at the cost of safety.
- Conventional widening at the southern portion of the corridor would address capacity needs, but is not feasible due to environmental constraints (trail, wetlands, historical structures) and cost.

A summary of the Highway 71 Study findings:

- Congestion issues currently exist and will continue to exist even with the completion of the Bella Vista Bypass.
 - Highway 71 is the primary route to schools and businesses to the south of Bella Vista.
 - The growth in traffic volumes and lack of alternative routes puts a growing pressure on Highway 71.
 - Most residents on the east side of town must use Mercy Way (Dartmoor) or County Road 40 to access Highway 71. This causes the significant bottlenecks in the morning, particularly at County Road 40.
- Safety issues are also present on the corridor.
 - Northbound vehicles attempting to turn left are getting rear-ended at high speeds at Mercy Way (currently an illegal movement). A left-turn bay is currently being supplied.
 - Low-severity, rear-end crashes are happening on the “sweeping” right-turn bays throughout the corridor.
- Four alternatives have been proposed:
 - Alternative 1 – Operational and safety improvements -> Not much improvement over existing conditions.
 - Alternative 2 – Eastern connection and safety improvements -> Possible 30% reduction in delays.
 - Alternative 3 – Auxiliary lane and safety improvements -> Possible 60% reduction in delays.
 - Alternative 4 – Combination of Alternatives 1, 2 & 3 -> Operations may be improved to acceptable conditions.

Staff is working to deliver the study to the Highway Commission by the end of the year. No decisions have been made regarding alternative choice.

4. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM – ATTRIBUTABLE (STBGP-A) AND TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) PROJECTS

● FFY 2017 STBGP-A OBLIGATION UPDATE

Tim Conklin said that all recipients should be working diligently to get their projects obligated. He said that ARDOT has determined that there is still \$6M in FFY 2017 funds that haven’t been obligated for the NARTS area. He asked the recipients to give an update on the status of their projects. [*In a letter NWARPC received from ARDOT on August 9, 2017, it was stated that

\$7,394,919 in obligation limitation (OL) funds was available. The letter also stated that if the state is awarded additional OL through August Redistribution, this amount will increase.]

- Bentonville – Construction of left-turn lanes on 12th Street/Tiger Boulevard
 - Ready to start ROW acquisition
 - Design work almost complete
 - Letter to ARDOT will be submitted next week
 - Ready to go to bid in 90 days
- Bentonville – Construction of right-turn lane southbound on SW I Street
 - 60% designed
 - Submit to ARDOT later today or tomorrow
- Fayetteville – Ruple Road construction
 - Two remaining tracts from which to acquire ROW; expect acquisition by Sept. 15, 2017
 - 100% plans will be submitted to ARDOT after the acquisition
- Fayetteville – Sain Street extension
 - Submitted 60% plans
 - Waiting on the environmental document to be approved by ARDOT; can begin ROW acquisition when that is received
- Lowell – South Dixieland Road extension – ROW, utilities, and construction
 - Design work is complete and in the utility phase now
 - Waiting for a reply from ARDOT to begin
 - City has obligated their requested \$800,000
 - **This is the only project that is obligated at this time**
- Centerton – Hwy 102/Seba Road intersection improvements – ROW, utilities and construction
 - Using ARDOT on-call consultant
 - Plans have gone to the utility companies
 - Have not started ROW acquisition; waiting for approval from ARDOT
 - Will let for bid in October
- Farmington – Hwy 170 ROW acquisition
 - 60% plans have been approved
 - ROW documents were submitted to ARDOT this morning
- Bella Vista – Mercy Way design and environmental – widening to 4 lanes with turn lane
 - RFPs have been short-listed
 - Expect to be negotiating a contract by September 1, 2017
 - ARDOT believes the project is on track to obligate on time
- Transit - \$712,000 has been obligated (the FTA deadline was August 14, 2017)

FFY 2018 PROJECTS

Tim Conklin said the **FFY 2018 Project Applications for STBGP-A and TAP** were submitted and there was about \$17.9M requested for STBGP-A projects and \$880,000 requested for TAP projects. Estimated funding is \$490,000 for TAP and \$7.M for STBGP-A (beginning Oct 2017).

- **FFY 2018 STBGP-A PROJECT APPPLICATIONS**

Tim reminded the TAC of the FFY 2018 projects that were submitted, and the funding history associated with each project.

FFY 2018 STBGP-A and TAP PROJECT APPLICATIONS:

Year	County	AHTD Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	FFY 2018 STBGP-A FEDERAL	Local Match	Total	Total Project STBGP-A Funds (Past and Potential Future Phases)	Total Local Funds	Total Project Cost
2018	Benton	090xxx	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Road	Design and Environmental	\$ 187,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 1,750,000
2018	Washington	040683	Farmington	Hwy 170	Utilities	\$ 800,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,920,000	\$ 1,980,000	\$ 9,900,000
2018	Washington	040657	Fayetteville	Ripple Road	Construction	\$ 2,320,000	\$ 1,068,000	\$ 3,388,000	\$ 5,808,000	\$ 1,940,000	\$ 7,748,000
2018	Benton	090417	Lowell	S. Dixieland Road Extension	Construction	\$ 4,240,000	\$ 1,060,000	\$ 5,300,000	\$ 5,400,000	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 6,750,000
2018	Benton/Wash	Flex	Razorback & ORT	Rolling Stock	Rolling Stock	\$ 720,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 720,000	\$ 930,000	\$ 1,650,000
2018	Benton	090392	Rogers	28th Place Phase 1 (Pleasant Grove Rd. - North)	Construction	\$ 2,280,000	\$ 570,000	\$ 2,850,000	\$ 2,560,000	\$ 640,000	\$ 3,200,000
2018	Benton	090393	Rogers	28th Place Phase 2 (Pauline Whitaker Park to Bellview Rd)	Construction	\$ 3,040,000	\$ 760,000	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 3,520,000	\$ 880,000	\$ 4,400,000
2018	Washington	040680	Springdale/Johnson	56th Street Ext. (Don Tyson to Johnson Mill)	Construction	\$ 4,320,000	\$ 1,080,000	\$ 5,400,000	\$ 14,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 17,500,000
Total						\$ 17,907,500	\$ 4,980,500	\$ 22,888,000	\$ 41,328,000	\$ 11,570,000	\$ 52,898,000

Year	County	AHTD Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	FFY 2018 TAP FEDERAL	Local Match	Total
2018	Washington	040xxx	Fayetteville	Trail Lighting - Cato Springs Trail	Construction	\$ 280,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 350,000.00
2018	Benton	090xxx	Rogers	Sidewalks on Walnut	Construction	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,387,239.00	\$ 1,887,239.00
2018	Benton	090xxx	Siloam Springs	E. Main St Trail Ext	Construction	\$ 108,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 135,000.00
Total						\$ 888,000.00	\$ 1,484,239.00	\$ 2,372,239.00

PROJECT FUNDING HISTORY

Year	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	FFY 2013	FFY 2014	FFY 2015	FFY 2016	FFY 2017	Total Awarded to Date	FFY 2018 Requested	Awarded Plus Requested FFY 18	
2013	090392	Rogers	28th Place Phase 1 (Pleasant Grove to Greens/Blossom Way)	\$ 250,000					\$ 250,000	\$ 2,280,000	\$ 2,530,000	
2013	090393	Rogers	28th Place Phase 2 (Whitaker Park to Bellview)	\$ 357,291					\$ 357,291	\$ 3,040,000	\$ 3,397,291	
2013	040657	Fayetteville	Ripple Road (Starry Night View to Mt. Comfort)	\$ 286,303			\$ 680,000	\$ 2,488,000	\$ 3,454,303	\$ 2,320,000	\$ 5,774,303	
2014	040680	Springdale/Johnson	56th Street Ext. (Don Tyson to Johnson Mill)		\$ 404,000				\$ 404,000	\$ 4,320,000	\$ 4,724,000	
2014	090471	Lowell	S. Dixieland Road Ext. (S. of Hwy. 264 to Apple Blossom)		\$ 358,240			\$ 800,000	\$ 1,158,240	\$ 4,240,000	\$ 5,398,240	
2015	040688	Fayetteville	Sain Street			\$ 320,000		\$ 160,000	\$ 480,000		\$ 480,000	
2015	040683	Farmington	Hwy 170 (Hwy. 62 to Clyde Carnes Road)			\$ 520,000		\$ 600,000	\$ 1,120,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,920,000	
2016	040717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext. (S. 56th St. to Hwy. 112)				\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000	
2017	090	Bella Vista	Mercy Way					\$ 256,000	\$ 256,000		\$ 256,000	
2018	090	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Road						\$ -	\$ 187,500	\$ 187,500	
									\$ 7,779,834	\$ 17,187,500	\$ 24,967,334	
				KEY - PHASES								
				Design & Env.								
				Env. ROW & Utilities								
				Construction								
Report Date: August 9, 2017												

Tim Conklin said the STBGP-A Subcommittee met on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 with the jurisdictions that had continuation projects. NWARPC received \$17.9M in project requests and has estimated \$7.3M in available STBGP-A funding.

The purpose of the Subcommittee meeting was to discuss and develop a capital improvement program for projects “in the pipeline” and to recommend to the TAC and RPC/Policy Committee a list of FFY 2018 projects for consideration. Discussion items included the timing of the existing STBGP-A projects, how the non-federal match was being secured (Local Bond Program, ARDOT, Sales Tax), bidding of projects, and six different funding scenarios developed by NWARPC staff.

SIX FUNDING SCENARIOS

Pnts	Rank	County	AHTD Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	FFY 2018 STBGP-A-FEDERAL	Local Match	Total	Scenario 1 Fund all projects at 40%	Scenario 2 Fund FFY 2013 projects first (First in First out)	Scenario 3 Issue Call for Projects FFY 2019 - Resubmit these projects along with other new potential projects	Scenario 4 Fund Hwy 170, Wagon Wheel Bridge, Split Remaining funds equally on existing road projects	Scenario 5 Fund only one project per jurisdiction up to \$1.5 M Max w/o transit for FFY2017	Scenario 6 Fund by Rank with no more than 50% of funding to one project	Others?
119	1	Washington	040657	Fayetteville	Rupple Road	Construction	\$ 2,320,000	\$ 1,068,000	\$ 3,388,000	\$ 928,000	\$2,320,000		\$ 1,242,500	\$ 1,500,000	\$2,320,000	
114	2	Washington	040680	Springdale/Johnson	56th Street Ext. (Don Tyson to Johnson Mill)	ROW/Utilities	\$ 4,320,000	\$ 1,080,000	\$ 5,400,000	\$ 1,728,000		\$ 4,320,000	\$ 1,242,500	\$ 1,500,000	\$3,500,000	
113	3	Washington	040683	Farmington	Hwy 170	Utilities	\$ 800,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 320,000		\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	
113	3	Benton	090417	Lowell	S. Dixieland Road Ext	Construction	\$ 4,240,000	\$ 1,060,000	\$ 5,300,000	\$ 1,696,000		\$ 4,240,000	\$ 1,242,500	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 600,000	
109	4	Benton	090393	Rogers	28th Place Phase 2 (Pauline Whitaker Park to Bellview Rd)	Construction	\$ 3,040,000	\$ 760,000	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 1,216,000	\$3,040,000		\$ 1,242,500			
108	5	Benton	090392	Rogers	28th Place Phase 1 (Pleasant Grove Rd. - North)	Construction	\$ 2,280,000	\$ 570,000	\$ 2,850,000	\$ 912,000	\$2,280,000		\$ 1,242,500	\$ 1,500,000		
98	6	Benton	090xxx	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Road	Design and Environmental	\$ 187,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 250,000	\$ 75,000		\$ 187,500	\$ 187,500	\$ 187,500		
96	7	Benton/Wash	Flex	Razorback & ORT	Rolling Stock	Rolling Stock	\$ 720,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 288,000		\$ 720,000				
Total							\$ 17,907,500	\$ 4,980,500	\$ 22,888,000	\$ 7,163,000	\$7,640,000	\$ 10,267,500	\$ 7,200,000	\$ 6,987,500	\$7,220,000	

The meeting discussion resulted in the following Subcommittee recommendations to the full TAC:

- **Fayetteville’s Rupple Road construction phase project** should be fully funded because they will be ready to bid the construction phase in Fall 2017 (\$2,320,000). This will complete the project.
- **Springdale** volunteered to defer the **56th Street right-of-way and utility phase project** to FFY 2019 in order to facilitate the construction phase of the Lowell Dixieland Road Extension project.
- **Lowell’s Dixieland Extension project** should be funded at \$3,000,000 instead of \$4,240,000.
- **Rogers** volunteered to delay the construction phase of the 28th Street and JB Hunt Road projects and pursue only the **right-of-way and utility phase for the JB Hunt project** (\$900,000)
- **Farmington’s Hwy 170 project** should receive funding for the utility phase (\$800,000).
- **Benton County’s Wagon Wheel Road project** should receive funding for the design and environmental phase (\$187,000).
- **Transit** – All funds were recommended for the road projects in FFY 2018.
- The Subcommittee also recommended that staff –
 - Issue a FFY 2019 Call for Projects
 - The current application be revised to clarify that existing STBGP-A projects would not have to reapply each funding cycle
 - Existing projects should be considered based on a phasing timeline in the application
 - Existing projects would be reviewed annually.
- The Subcommittee also recommended design funds be made available each funding cycle in order to ensure additional projects are eligible for STBGP-A funding in future years.

These proposed changes by the project sponsors and Subcommittee resulted in a potential program of \$7,207,500.

FFY 2018 STBGP-A SUBMITTED PROJECTS						Estimated Available Funding \$7.2M	
Points	Rank	Year	County	AHTD Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Scenario 7 Sub-committee Recommendation
119	1	2018	Washington	040657	Fayetteville	Rupple Road	\$2,320,000
114	2	2018	Washington	040680	Springdale/Johnson	56th Street Ext. (Don Tyson to Johnson Mill)	
113	3	2018	Washington	040683	Farmington	Hwy 170	\$800,000
113	3	2018	Benton	090417	Lowell	S. Dixieland Road Extension	\$3,000,000
109	4	2018	Benton	090393	Rogers	JB Hunt Road (Pauline Whitaker Park to Bellview Rd)	\$900,000
108	5	2018	Benton	090392	Rogers	28th Place Phase 1 (Pleasant Grove Rd. - North)	
98	6	2018	Benton	090xxx	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Road	\$187,500
96	7	2018	Benton/Wash	Flex	Razorback & ORT	Rolling Stock	
Total							\$ 7,207,500

The Subcommittee also decided to discuss the fallback project at the September 21, 2017 TAC meeting.

Tim Conklin told the group that going forward in the process the applicants for STBGP-A funds need to have a more realistic timeline for their projects and the Subcommittee would be reviewing the timeline.

Discussion:

- It seems that once a project is in the program, it becomes a matter of timing, not a matter of IF it will get funding. The project should stay in the program until it is finished, but still go through the phases of design, environmental, and construction.
- With the Subcommittee recommendations, it seems that the door has been closed on transit. Would like to suggest that transit become the fallback project.
- Transit projects are always completed, so they would have to apply every year.
- Transit receives 5307 and 5339 funding for capital and operating and this is not competitive money.

Tim Conklin asked the TAC for a show of hands in favor of recommending that NWARPC staff proceed with the Subcommittee recommendations, to include an updated application and a FFY 2019 Call for Projects. Hands in favor – all. Hands against – none. Staff should proceed with the recommendations as stated above.

FFY 2018 TAP PROJECTS

Elizabeth Bowen said that the following projects were recommended by the Subcommittee for funding for FFY 2018 TAP:

- Siloam Springs – East Main Street Trail extension – construction
 - Fully fund with a 10' width, instead of 8'
- Fayetteville – Trail lighting on Cato Springs Trail – construction
 - Fully fund
- Rogers – Sidewalks on Walnut Avenue – construction
 - Will receive the remaining funds and be the fallback project

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Joel Gardner said that ORT had applied for a FTA Section 5339 competitive bus and bus facilities grant requesting 15 diesel replacement buses (with the hope that FTA will consider funding these as CNG), construction of a CNG fueling facility, and administrative offices.

6. ADJOURN

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