

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017 at 10:30 AM  
DRAFT**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	JORDAN W SULLIVAN	X	JEFF HAWKINS
BELLA VISTA	CHRIS SUNESON	X	
BENTON COUNTY	BARRY MOERHING JOHN SUDDUTH DEAN KLINGMON	X	X KEVIN GAMBRILL
BENTONVILLE	MIKE CHURCHWELL BRIAN BARH BEAU THOMPSON	X X X	
BETHEL HEIGHTS	CYNTHIA BLACK	X	
CAVE SPRINGS	TRAVIS LEE LARRY FLETCHER		
CENTERTON	BILL EDWARDS	X	
ELKINS	BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
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	KRIS SULLIVAN	X	
PEA RIDGE	JACKIE CRABTREE	X	
PRAIRIE GROVE	SONNY HUDSON	X	
ROGERS	NATHAN BECKNELL	X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS	X	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE	X	JEFF HAWKINS
TONTITOWN	PAUL COLVIN, JR		
WASHINGTON CO.	JOSEPH WOOD CHARLES WARD BRAD PHILLIPS	X	
WEST FORK	HEITH CAUDLE		
NWARPC	JEFF HAWKINS	X	
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	RAY AVERY	X	
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH ADAM WADDELL	X	
U OF A	MIKE JOHNSON	X	GARY K. SMITH
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER		
McDONALD COUNTY			
PINEVILLE	GREG SWEETEN		
AHTD PLANNING	PAUL SIMMS EMMILY TIAMPATI	X	
AHTD TRANSIT			
AHTD DISTRICT 9	MITCHELL ARCHER	X	
FHWA	AMY HEFLIN	X	
AR HWY COMMISSIONER	DICK TRAMMEL		

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

**OTHERS:** Bashar Qedan, AHTD District 4; Ron Wood, NWA Democrat-Gazette; Ron Petrie, Garver; Travis Rapp and Ryan Castor, Burns and McDonnell; Mandy Bunch and Kent Laughlin, Alta Planning; Kathryn Gough, Senator Boozman's office; Morgan Farmer, Senator Cotton's office

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Tim Conklin called the meeting to order in the absence of Chair Patsy Christie. Introductions and announcements were made. Mike Churchwell, who will be retiring as of January 31, 2017, was recognized for his many years serving on the TAC. John McCurdy, Rogers, Brian Bahr, Bentonville, and Judge Joseph Wood, Washington County were welcomed as new TAC members.

**2. NOMINATION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION OF A SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE TERM OF JANUARY 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER AND ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

In the absence of Chris Suneson, the Nomination Committee Chair, Celia Scott-Silkwood announced the slate of officers as Patsy Christie, Chair, and Ben Rhoads, Vice Chair.

**MOTION**

Celia Scott-Silkwood asked for a motion to approve Patsy Christie as Chair and Ben Rhoads as Vice Chair for the Technical Advisory Committee, commencing January 2017 and serving through December 2018. Sonny Hudson made the motion. Bill Groom provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Patsy Christie was unable to attend the meeting, so Vice Chair Ben Rhoads conducted the remainder of the meeting.

**3. APPROVE TAC MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 20, 2016**

**MOTION**

Vice Chair Rhoads asked for a motion to approve the October 20, 2016 TAC Minutes. Nathan Becknell made the motion. Sonny Hudson provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

**4. FFY 2016-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROPOSED AMENDMENT #3 – TO ADD VARIOUS FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM (FLAY)-TYPE PROJECTS IN ARKANSAS AND REMOVE SYSTEM PRESERVATION FUNDING FROM ONE AHTD JOB AND PROGRAM A NEW AHTD JOB IN BENTON COUNTY**

Note: A Public Notice and Notice of Two-Week Public Comment Period concerning the Proposed Amendment #3 was posted on the NWARPC web site and appeared in a legal notice in the NWA Democrat Gazette and an ad in the La Prensa Libre newspaper on January 5, 2017. The public comment period concluded on January 18, 2017. Individual letters of Public Notice were sent via USPS to private transit providers. No public comment was received.

Tim Conklin explained that this proposed amendment would:

- Remove System Preservation funding from Hwy 102 for pavement maintenance, to Hwy 412 for maintenance. Paul Simms explained that through AHTD district analysis of pavement conditions it was determined that Hwy 412 had a greater need than Hwy 102 at this time, and for this reason the funding needs to be transferred.
- FLAP-type projects – amends FFY 2017 through FFY 2020. The last project done in NWA with FLAP funds was the Hwy 220 improvement project, paving the road.

Mitchell Archer told the group that AHTD is in a transition period resulting in a different method of system management that involves moving money out of construction and into preservation. He said that evaluation of projects is a data driven process having to do with the condition of the road.

## **MOTION**

Vice Chair Rhoads asked for a motion to recommend approval of the Proposed Amendment #3 to the RPC/Policy Committee. Mitchell Archer made the motion. Brian Bahr provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

## **5. PROPOSED FFY 2017 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP)**

Note: A Public Notice and Notice of Two-Week Public Comment Period concerning the Proposed POP was posted on the NWARPC web site and appeared in a legal notice in the NWA Democrat Gazette and an ad in the La Prensa Libre newspaper on January 5, 2017. The public comment period concluded on January 18, 2017. No public comment was received.

Jeff Hawkins explained:

- Every year the NWARPC submits a Program of Projects (POP) to FTA.
- This proposed POP is based on 2016 funding levels as a best estimate until Congress approves a full year appropriation.
- Partial funding amounts were published in the Federal Register this morning.
- The transit agencies can not apply for FFY 2017 funding until the POP is approved and submitted to FTA.
- Currently the funding split is 55% ORT and 45% Razorback Transit. This split has been in effect for a number of years and was arrived at through dialog with the transit agencies and NWARPC members. FTA is now expecting that this split be arrived at due to need, and the transit agencies and the TAC and RPC/Policy Committee will need to take this issue up in the near future.

## **MOTION**

Vice Chair Rhoads asked for a motion to recommend approval of the proposed FFY 2017 Program of Projects (POP) to the RPC/Policy Committee. Gary Smith made the motion. Bill Edwards provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

## **6. 2017 NWARPC UPCOMING PROJECTS**

Tim Conklin discussed the following projects:

- FFY 2017 STBGP-A and TAP PROJECTS UPDATE
  - The FFY 2017 projects were selected in September 2015.
  - All the projects are moving along through the process, and expect to be obligated by September 31, 2017.
  - Remember that TAP projects receive funding for construction only.
  - Important to note that NWARPC does not actually receive this funding, it goes to AHTD and the jurisdictions with projects work with AHTD toward completion.
  - Note: At the September 25, 2015 RPC/Policy Committee meeting – the motion to approve the FFY 2017 projects included the following caveat: “Transit will receive full funding if the funds are available.” So far, no extra funds have become available.
- FFY 2018 STBGP-A AND TAP PROJECTS
  - These projects will need to be selected by September 2017.
  - The application process has not changed for several years; staff is planning on asking for volunteers to serve on a committee to revisit the process spring 2017 in order to have it ready for a call for projects in June 2017 (see Selection Committee below).
  - Staff is operating on the assumption that FFY 2018 funding will be at a level at least as much as FFY 2017, about \$7.5M for STBGP-A and about \$490,435 for TAP. This actual amount is not actually known until September 2017.

- Remember that these are reimbursable programs and participants must follow AHTD procurement procedures and all Federal laws.
- Elizabeth Bowen will be overseeing the TAP FFY 2018 program, while Tim Conklin will continue to manage the STBGP-A program.
- STBGP-A and TAP Application update and timeline:
  - Committee volunteers to update the application and serve on the Selection Committee:
 

Chris Brown	Paul Libertini
Melissa McCarville	Chris Suneson
Ben Rhoads	Nathan Becknell
Bill Groom	Jerry Morrow
  - Issue a Call for Projects – estimate around June 1, 2017.
  - Project Application Deadline – August 10, 2017.
  - Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC – probably at the August 17, 2017 meeting.
- AHTD TAP/RTP 2018 – Elizabeth Bowen reported:
  - Applications – February through May, 2017
  - Info sessions in Little Rock on March 31 and April 14, 2017. Have requested a session be held in NWA.
- FFY 2017-2021 TIP
  - AHTD will begin the STIP update date process in February 2017.
  - NARTS FFY 2016-2020 TIP will be updated this spring to FFY 2017-2021.
- FTA TRIENNIAL REVIEW
  - The FTA will conduct a Triennial Review site visit to NWARPC on March 14 – 15, 2017. Staff particularly Cristina Scarlat and Celia Scott-Silkwood, have put in an enormous amount of time and effort getting ready for this visit. Additionally, staff attended a two-day workshop sponsored by FTA on December 1 and 2, 2016 in order to learn how to better complete the questionnaire required by FTA.

## 7. CURRENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Elizabeth Bowen reported:

- ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
  - Met December 12, 2016 and discussed Driveway/Commercial Crossing standards and the Protected Bike Lane Pilot Demo Project results.
  - Trail Markings/Signage for users and emergency services – the group will meet this afternoon (January 19, 2017) to discuss markings/signage
- NWA REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN
  - Avoca has adopted a new Walk/Bike Action Plan.
  - Avoca is the 26<sup>th</sup> jurisdiction to adopt a plan.
  - Trail Count/Intercept Surveys
    - Fayetteville, Johnson, and Rogers are complete.
    - Springdale and Bentonville still working on theirs.
- RAZORBACK REGIONAL GREENWAY
  - The Federal government closed out the project in September 2016; a Final Report was completed in October 2016; working on 1 year warrant item in Springdale.
  - Wayfinding Sign Project #2
    - Thermos have been installed and corrections completed.
    - Fabricated sign installations from January 30 – February 7, 2017.
    - Fabricated Large/Medium Kiosks installations scheduled for the end of March 2017.

- 1 FOOT CONTOUR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
  - Data received December 12, 2016; QAQC work by staff completed; requested a smaller footprint; any jurisdiction that has paid may pick up the data at the NWARPC office.
- 2017 PLANIMETRIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
  - Local jurisdictions that have expressed interest will meet at NWARPC office on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 9:00 am.
- The OPEN SPACE PLAN committees continue to meet to advance the Plan.
- BIG JUMP – PEOPLE FOR BIKES PROJECT
  - The application that was submitted for NWA made it into the final 20, but ultimately was not selected.
- PROTECTED BIKE LANE PILOT DEMO PROJECTS – Tim Conklin reported:
  - Bella Vista, Bentonville, and Rogers – implemented projects featuring “protected bike lanes” on local city streets. The object of the demonstration projects was to deliver quick, easily installed items (such as planters, temporary bollards, tape striping) to form protected bike lanes. The project involved measuring conditions before the installation, collection of data during the time the project was up, and evaluation after the protected lanes were dismantled. The final report has been submitted to the WFF.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

- RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017 AT 1:30 PM
- TAC MEETING – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017 AT 10:30 AM
- Paul Simms announced that the AHTD TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE will be held April 18 & 19, 2017. More details will follow when available.

**9. ADJOURN**

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