About NWARPC

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) was formed in 1966 through a cooperative agreement between Benton County, Washington County, and the cities of Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers, Siloam Springs, and Springdale. In 1983, NWARPC was designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under U.S. DOT regulations for transportation planning purposes. The MPO is designated by the Governors of Arkansas and Missouri to conduct the federally mandated 3C (Comprehensive, Continuing and Cooperative) planning process necessary for transportation projects to qualify for federal transportation funds.

Transportation Management Area (TMA) status was recognized after 2010 Census Bureau data indicated the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urbanized Area (UZA) had grown from 172,585 in 2000 to 285,083 in 2010. The 200,000 population mark is the threshold for an area to become a TMA. With the new UZA boundary extending into Missouri, the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) for transportation planning now extends into McDonald County, Missouri. Today, NWARPC's membership includes 35 units of government in Benton, Madison, and Washington Counties, Arkansas; McDonald County and Pineville, Missouri; the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD); the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT); transit agencies; and Beaver Water District.

The MPO has five permanent committees, the Regional Planning Commission/Policy Committee (RPC/Policy Committee), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Active Transportation Committee (ACT), the Open Space Committee and the Northwest Arkansas GIS Users Group. The RPC/Policy Committee is the chief decision-making body for the MPO and consists of the jurisdictions' chief elected official and/or other appointed representatives. The TAC develops the technical aspects of plans and reports and makes recommendations to the RPC/Policy Committee. The NWARPC is a multi-modal transportation planning agency for the region.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC’s programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC’s hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the NWARPC’s nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voice/TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-285-1131; Para llamadas en espanol, marques el 866-656-1842; para llamadas en ingles, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131) or the following email address: cscott-silkwood@nwarpc.org

This report was funded in part through grants from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S.DOT). The views and opinions of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.
Upon being installed as Chair of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, I learned, to my surprise, the Commission has existed for 50 years. It would be impossible to enumerate how many communities, organizations and individuals have benefited from advice and guidance given by the Commission. We, as members, should not forget those who founded the Commission, as well as those who were stewards throughout 50 years. They are the foundation of our efforts. The one thing that most of these people share is they were and now are “ahead of their time”.

Please take a few minutes to peruse this Annual Report to learn about five decades of devoted work to make our region a great place to live and work in.

This report summarizes each of the five decades. Take some time to get acquainted with our past. It’s good stuff! Many changes have occurred in that 50 years. And, by the way, an “open space” plan was discussed in 1971!

In closing, I would like to remind all our members what an outstanding staff we have. Every one of them is intelligent, articulate and helpful. They all care about and believe in what they do. These people take on impossible tasks and organize action to make them happen. They manage an unbelievable number of programs simultaneously.

The question that begs for an answer is “what would our two-county region be today without 50 years of planning?”

We are doing good things. Thank you for your cooperative efforts as a region!

Mayor Bill Groom, Greenland
Chair, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
1966 - 1975

On September 29, 1966, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission held its organizational meeting with Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville, Siloam Springs and Washington and Benton Counties.

Plans and studies:

1967 - 1970

- Study Design Program
- A Program for Planning 1968-1977 - Ten year planning program for Washington and Benton Counties
- Short Range Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plans
- Land Use Mapping
- Resource Inventory of Northwest Arkansas
- Open Space and Recreation Study
- Commercial Land Use Plan
- Storm Drainage Study
- Regional Housing Reports
- Land Resource Management Plan

1971 - 1975

- Short Range Water and Sewer Plan
- Northwest Arkansas Capital Improvement Programming Study
- Annual Transportation Report
- Soil Interpretations for Resource Planning and Development
- The Regional Airport Authority initiative development
- Various land use and housing studies
- Upper White River Basin Study
- Development of the Water Quality Management Program
- Support of the Traffic Operations Programs to Increase Capacity and Safety (TOPICS)
- Completing 4-lanes to major portions of Hwy 71
- County road numbering and signage system implementation

"Northwest Arkansas is relatively undeveloped at this point and can maintain a quality and balanced environment through the adoption and application of regional standards. These standards must be uniformly applied for each development proposal."

Recommended Land Resource Management Plan - 1973

"...Transportation facilities are among the most critical to be considered in the total development of the region."

"...Through the long-range planning program we have developed a vehicle which will allow us to consult, cooperate, and coordinate so that we may continue to lead Arkansas as the most desirable area in which to live, work and play." Dr. C. Garland Melton Jr., Chairman
1976 -1985

Plans and studies:

1978 -1981:  Housing Summary
Prevention of Adverse Impacts on Endangered, Threatened & Rare Animal Species in Benton and Washington Counties
Fayetteville Public Parks & Recreational Needs
Fire Planning/Management Materials
Transportation Improvement Report (first TIP)
Land Use Inventory and Update
Funding for planning for the majority of the local government units
Planning Area Amendments
Master Street Plans development
HUD grants development
Community Development Grants development
Solid Waste plan
Parks and Recreation studies
Multi-Modal Transportation Projects
Construction Improvements: Hwy 71, Hwy 62
Community parking facilities development
Mapping and graphics development

1982 -1985: Official Urbanized Area status for Fayetteville/ Springdale area by US Department of Commerce, Census Bureau
Transportation System Management (TSM) Report
Hwy 71 relocation
Regional Development Data reports and housing and development reports
Small Urbanized Area Case Study - planning procedures for small newly urbanized areas
Urban Transportation Planning Package - tabulation of census data - leading to traffic analysis zones delineation
Hwy 412 realignment and lanes addition, Improvements on Hwy 112
During this decade NWARPC provided data, assistance and coordination to the MIS (Major Investment Study) group for developing a feasibility analysis of an E-W corridor for Hwy 412, a N-S corridor east of Hwy 265 from Fayetteville to Rogers, and a western corridor for a bypass of Bella Vista. NWARPC continued to develop the Quarterly Regional Development Data Reports and the Regional Housing Reports. NWARPC worked with Mack Blackwell National Rural Transportation Center at the University of Arkansas in the areas of land use inventory and database support.

Plans, studies and activities:

1986-1995: 2020 Regional Transportation Plan
Fayetteville Trails Advisory Committee participation
Assistance with Transportation Enhancement Grants
Development of the region’s first cell tower ordinance
1990s Census assistance
Special Census packages for several communities
Attended Planning Commission, Planning Board,
Subdivision Committee and other land use committees
Local Land Use Plans
Comprehensive Plans
Parks Plans
Zoning Ordinances
Subdivision Regulations
Master Street Planning Area Boundaries
Data migration to AutoCAD
Roads functional classification inventory and updates
Initial 911 addressing for Benton and Washington Counties
1996 - 2005

Plans, projects and studies:

1996-2000: Bobby Hopper Tunnel on I-540
          Trail Advisory Committee meetings

2001-2003: NWA Public Transportation
          Expansion Feasibility Study
          and Implementation Plan

2004-2005: Interstate 540 Improvement
          Study - Washington and Benton Counties
          Northwest Arkansas Regional Development Reports
          Northwest Arkansas Travel
          Demand Model
          Northwest Arkansas Heritage Trail Plan

Bobby Hopper Tunnel - Courtesy of Garver Engineering

Elkhorn Tavern
2006 -2015

Plans, projects and studies:

2007: NWA Regional ITS Architecture and Deployment Plan

2008: Regional Mobility Authority establishment and staffing

2010: I-540 Study and Improvements NWA Intergovernmental Working Group on Water and Wastewater Discharge Issues

2011: Western Beltway Feasibility Study NWA Transit Development Plan Transportation Management Area (TMA) Designation for NWARPC

2012: Northwest Arkansas Transportation Alternatives Analysis Northwest Arkansas Travel Demand Model - Transit Component Northwest Arkansas Heritage Trail Plan

2013: Designated Recipient for FTA Programs

2014: Bella Vista Bypass construction began


2016: 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan Hwy 412 Northern Bypass construction began

Six Livability Principles:
(1) Provide more transportation choices
(2) Promote equitable affordable housing
(3) Enhance economic competitiveness
(4) Support existing communities
(5) Coordinate policies and leverage investment
(6) Value communities and neighborhoods
2016

Many exciting projects and events occurred in 2016 in the region. The following pages feature some of the highlights and accomplishments made possible through the hard work and dedication of the NWA Regional Planning Commission’s members.

2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The FFY 2016 - 2020 TIP includes all transportation improvements planned or programmed within the MPA that will utilize federal funding for all or part of their implementation costs. The purpose of the TIP is to assist in coordinating the use of these funds for area-wide transportation improvements and to ensure that the projects that are the recipients of these federal funds are in conformance with the 2040 NWA Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) adopted on March 23, 2016.

TIME PERIOD.
This TIP identifies the projects planned and projected from Federal Fiscal Year 2016 through Federal Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2020).

SELECTION PROCESS.
The TIP is consistent with the 2040 Northwest Arkansas Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Full funding is anticipated to be available for each project within the time period contemplated for completion of the project.

2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

In March 2016, NWARPC adopted the 2040 MTP in collaboration with the public, the TAC and the RPC/Policy Committee, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Missouri Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, as well as many organizations, agencies and individual experts. The MTP functions as a framework for continued regional awareness and cooperation between the region’s governments. The plan includes twelve chapters and outlines transportation plans that include roads, active transportation, public transportation, the environment, intermodal, air, freight and rail travel patterns and travel forecasting to the horizon year 2040. The plan can be found on the NWARPC website at nwarpc.org.

Puppy Creek Bridge - Hwy. 412 Bypass (Courtesy AHTD)

“The choices we make today are affecting who we become tomorrow…” Public Comment from the 2040 MTP
The FAST Act and previous transportation authorizations apportions Federal funds for use in specific areas within the State. The Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers AR-MO Urbanized Area receives funds in the following programs: STBGP GT 200K, TAP Attributable, FTA 5307, and FTA 5339. Projects that utilize these funds are selected by the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission/Policy Committee.

Northern Bypass - Bridge over 149 (Courtesy AHTD)

Gordon Long Park Trailhead Amenities Ribbon Cutting

### NWA Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan and Active Transportation

The Bike/Ped Plan was adopted in December 2014 when 25 communities in the two-county area adopted individual community plans. In 2016, the City of Avoca joined them in developing their community bicycle and pedestrian draft plan. The draft is expected to be adopted in the spring of 2017.

In 2016, the Catalyst Projects outlined in these plans were given priority and work has started on several projects. Trail marking systems have started to be implemented and a Bike/Ped Safety Group and an Emergency Response Committee have formed to address safety and emergency response on the trail system. Completed projects in 2016 include: Lake Atalanta Park and trail system, Gordon Long trailhead bathroom, Walton Tunnel, Town Branch Trail, Kessler Mountain trail system, Back Forty natural surface trail.

### FFY 2016 STBGP-A and TAP Projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STBGP-A PROJECT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bentonville</td>
<td>US 71B (N Walton Blvd) and 12th Street Intersection</td>
<td>Construction (Left-turn lanes on 12th St/Tiger Blvd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SW &quot;T&quot; Street and Hwy 102 Intersection</td>
<td>Construction (Right-turn lane southbound on SW &quot;T&quot; St)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayetteville</td>
<td>Rupple Road (Starry Nite View to Mt Comfort)</td>
<td>Construction (New location)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springdale</td>
<td>HWY 265 (Randal Wobbe to Hwy 264)</td>
<td>Construction, ROW and Utilities (five-lane road, traffic signals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don Tyson Parkway Extension (S 56th St to Hwy 112)</td>
<td>Design and Environmental (Extension)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centerton</td>
<td>Hwy 102 and Seba Road Intersection Improvements</td>
<td>Construction, ROW and Utilities (North and southbound left-turn lane and traffic signal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Walnut Street and Hwy 71B Intersection (Dixieland Rd to 8th St)</td>
<td>Construction, ROW and Utilities (Add two-way center left-turn lane)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Razorback Transit and ORT</td>
<td>Rolling Stock for Public Transit Operations</td>
<td>New Buses (Razorback and ORT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAP PROJECT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Razorback Regional Greenway New Hope Road Bridge</td>
<td>New Bike and Pedestrian Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springdale</td>
<td>Dean's Trail Phase I</td>
<td>12’ Shared Use Trail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NWA Trails and Bikeways Phone APP was launched

7th International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) World Summit in Bentonville

NWARPC receives Henry Award for the Razorback Greenway Governor’s Tourism Conference

Outsideline.com ranked Bentonville as second best travel destination

More information about the Bicycle and Pedestrian program at nwarpc.org

Interactive map: https://trails.cast.uark.edu

BIKE NWA PILOT PROJECTS
Sponsored by the Walton Family Foundation, Bike NWA was a series of month-long demonstration projects implemented by the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, the Bicycle Coalition of the Ozarks, and three cities in Northwest Arkansas: Bella Vista, Bentonville, and Rogers.

### NWA Trails and Bikeways

Phone APP was launched at 7th International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) World Summit in Bentonville

NWARPC receives Henry Award for the Razorback Greenway Governor’s Tourism Conference

Outsideonline.com ranked Bentonville as second best travel destination

More information about the Bicycle and Pedestrian program at nwarpc.org

Interactive map: https://trails.cast.uark.edu
NWA Regional Razorback Greenway

Saturday May 14, 2016 marked the one-year anniversary of the Razorback Greenway with a full day of events and activities at locations along the Greenway and a Square to Square bike ride (Fayetteville Square to Bentonville Square). Thousands of people participated in the celebration as part of the Northwest Arkansas Artsosphere Festival and enjoyed a day full of sunshine, music, food and an overall good outdoors time. In 2016 the mile markers project was completed (thirty eight mile markers were installed on the Greenway) and the thermo signs were also installed. A new trailhead was completed in Johnson and the Gordon Long trailhead bathroom was also completed. New paper maps of the Greenway were developed and made available to the public.

NWA Open Space Plan

The Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan was adopted by the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission in January 2016.

After the adoption of the NWA Open Space Plan, NWARPC took the lead in forming and leading the NWA Open Space Committee and the following sub-committees:

- Framework
- Outreach
- Education
- Funding
- Priorities Properties.

In addition to maintaining the Open Space website at http://www.nwaopenspace.com/, NWARPC developed an interactive map of the Open Space results.

More information can be found at: nwarpc.org/environment

Dr. Delia Haak, Illinois Watershed Conservation Partnership at the Cave Springs Watershed Sanctuary Center
Stormwater Management

Since 2004, the NWA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4s), currently involving 22 jurisdictions, have contracted jointly with the NWARPC and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service (UACES) to provide the NWA Stormwater Education Program. The NWARPC plays a key role in administering the contract and coordinating regular meetings of the MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group (SCG). The SCG, composed of the local MS4 representatives, the UACES and NWARPC staff meet monthly to discuss regional coordination of stormwater protection efforts, local stormwater education program needs and accomplishments, target audiences, program methods, and provide annual input and evaluations.

The Education Program began in 2016 with a NWA Stormwater Forum for MS4 elected officials and staff. This event served as a reminder to elected officials of the importance of stormwater runoff management and the need to continue to develop individual stormwater programs. 2016 also saw increased public awareness and understanding of stormwater runoff through a stepped-up presence in mass media and outreach. Examples of this effort include: numerous newspaper articles, television PSAs, month-long segments on local radio programs, to-the-trade newsletter features, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

The Education Program also included a broader public presence at events such as:

- Artosphere Trail Mix
- Local farmers’ markets
- County fairs
- Secchi Day on Beaver Lake, and
- Bats and Bluegrass Festival.

The Education Program also partnered with private industry to spread the stormwater message. One such program involved the Boomerang Car Wash. The public took selfies while getting their car washed in the Boomerang Car Wash, posted the picture on Facebook and were entered into a sweepstakes to win free car washes for a year.

Numerous workshops were held throughout the year including rain barrel building and the popular “Blue Pathways” series of workshops promoting rainwater harvesting and low impact landscaping designs. Another popular outreach and education tool was the UpStream Art program which now includes 50 painted storm drain inlet structures. Additionally, the Education Program reached numerous youth and adult audiences, as well as conducting construction industry and MS4 employee training.

NWARPC continues the work of assisting the NWA MS4s in the development of their stormwater management programs as well as the education of the public at large on the importance of stormwater runoff management.
Public Transportation

NWARNPC is providing support to two public transit providers that currently operate in the urban and rural areas of the region and include Ozark Regional Transit, Inc. (ORT) and University of Arkansas Razorback Transit.

Razorback Transit

In 2016 Razorback Transit had a fleet of 25 buses and 6 paratransit vans.

Razorback Transit provides fare-free transportation to on-campus locations and major off-campus living and shopping areas from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday on 10 Fixed Routes during the Fall and Spring semesters.

Reduced service is provided from 6:00 PM to 10:30 PM, Monday through Friday and 7:00 AM to 10:30 PM on Saturdays during the Fall and Spring semesters.

Complimentary paratransit service is provided during the same hours as fixed route service.

Approximately 21% of the total fixed route ridership was generated by non-students in 2016.

The total ridership for Razorback Transit in 2016 was 1,769,495. There were approximately 18,364 bicycles transported on buses in 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Ridership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>254,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>396,847</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>52,335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>48,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>319,543</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tan</td>
<td>176,597</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>201,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>88,297</td>
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<tr>
<td>Route 56</td>
<td>67,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 13</td>
<td>68,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>57,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>50,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>4,708</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT Van</td>
<td>8,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,769,495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ozark Regional Transit, Inc. (ORT)

In 2016 ORT traveled 1,402,609 miles and carried 337,360 passengers, including charters.

During the year, ORT operated 14 Fixed Routes with 15 buses and 11 paratransit routes. The number of passengers on the Fixed Routes was 288,602, a 0.4% increase compared to the previous year. The number of paratransit passengers was 56,758, an increase of 1.6% compared to 2015.
GIS and Mapping

NWARPC continues to provide mapping and GIS assistance to its members and maintains county and regional maps. Staff continues to update map information for cities and counties throughout the Northwest Arkansas region, as well as the transit agencies.

» Assisted in municipal annexation analysis, creation, and descriptions.

» Produced cartographic products and interactive maps that were published on the newly upgraded nwarpc.org website.

» Continued to lead the Northwest Arkansas GIS Users Forum and organized regular meetings for the GIS professionals in the region.

» Received and distributed the newly acquired Lidar data and products for Benton County as part of the USGS 3DEP program.

» Contracted for the development of 1 foot contours data based on the Lidar data for Washington County and the urban areas of Benton County.

» Continued to support the annual high resolution aerial photography acquisition project for both Benton and Washington Counties.

» Continued to provide access for its members to online imagery through the subscription to the Pictometry Connect online account.

» Organized and assisted the Pictometry training session.

Travel Demand Model Forecasting

The NWA travel forecasting model is continuously being improved and was used during the 2040 MTP and TIP planning effort. The transit component has been upgraded and new validation and calibration work has been performed.

» Utilized the Travel Demand Forecasting Model to refine and prioritize the regional arterial network.

» Assisted various cities and consultants by running travel demand model scenarios and provided the requested information derived from model runs.

» Staff continued to disseminate model based counts for various future road projects.

» Utilized the Travel Demand Model to assist both transit agencies with route optimization.

» Additional tasks leading to improvement of the transit component of the Travel Demand Model were completed during 2016.

New NWARPC Website

In 2016 NWARPC completed and launched a newly improved website. The new website has improved functionality, new look, better organization of the information and features, and a Data Catalog which includes documents, maps and interactive maps organized by topic. The website is also integrated with social media, email updates, calendar for meetings and events, and is mobile friendly.
Financial Report

### Income

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<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>$295,209</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>$920,886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loc. Con. Projects</td>
<td>$520,882</td>
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<td>State Funds</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
<td>$1,156</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$58,487</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,819,120</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Related Benefits</td>
<td>$775,281</td>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>$580</td>
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<td>Printing and Publ.</td>
<td>$11,472</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
<td>$10,445</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect Cost</td>
<td>$111,253</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>$5,827</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loc.Con. Projects</td>
<td>$777,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,692,221</strong></td>
</tr>
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Clearinghouse Reviews

NWARPC is the federally designated regional clearinghouse for Northwest Arkansas region.

The purpose of this designation, which is made pursuant to Executive Order 12372, is to insure that requests for federal funding are reviewed to determine compatibility with local and regional plans, and that such funding will not be used for duplicative purposes.

In 2016, federal-aid grants with a total value of $74 million were submitted and were cleared in order to insure that proposed uses were consistent with, and in furtherance of, the goals, objectives and planned development for the region.

Conferences, Workshops, and Training

Sessions attended by Staff in 2016

- **March 10-11**: Arkansas Chapter American Planning Association (APA) Spring Conference in Conway, AR.
- **March 31**: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) training workshop presented by AHTD in Little Rock, AR.
- **April 13**: Spring GIS meeting in Little Rock, AR.
- **April 27**: 2016 Road Conference on Pavement Management offered by Center for Training Transportation Professionals (CTTP) at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville campus.
- **May 18-20**: National Highway Institute (NHI) Training on Performance Measures and Safety Target Setting sponsored by MoDOT in Jefferson City, MO.
- **June 15-17**: Arkansas Municipal League Conference in Little Rock, AR.
- **August 17-18**: Transit Asset Management MoDOT Conference, Kansas City, MO.
- **August 24-25**: FHWA Transportation Performance Management (TPM) Capacity Building Program Workshop sponsored by MoDOT in Jefferson City, MO.
- **December 1-2**: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Triennial Review Workshop in Fayetteville, AR.

Recognition

Since 1973, Donna Lange has been a loyal employee of NWARPC and we are taking this opportunity to recognize her contribution to not only the well-being of the organization, but to the NWA region in general. When asked, Donna stated that “because of having wonderful coworkers and the best bosses in Ken Riley, Larry Wood and Jeff Hawkins, the Regional Planning Commission has been a very pleasurable place to work for 44 years”. Donna began working for NWARPC as a secretary/receptionist. During her career, Donna typed all office reports and managed the office books by hand, until the office administrative duties were computerized making her job a little easier. On top of Donna’s regular duties as office manager, bookkeeper, payroll and answering the phone, she administered the financial coordination of the very successful 2006 EPA Region 6 MS4 Stormwater Conference and recently maintained the NWA Razorback Regional Greenway financial records.

During her 44 years, Donna has seen the changes that NWARPC and the region have experienced and has met and worked with countless local and state officials, consultants and citizens ensuring that the mission of NWARPC has endured throughout the years.

A warm shout-out to Donna with the hope she will continue to work and support NWARPC and for being the cheerful and dedicated employee everyone knows and appreciates.

Thank You, Donna!!
NWARPC Staff:

Jeff Hawkins - Executive Director
Tim Conklin, AICP - Assistant Director/NARTS Study Director
Donna Lange - Office Manager
Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP - Regional Planner
Cristina Scarlat - GIS Coordinator/ Travel Demand Modeler
Elizabeth Bowen - Project Manager
Stephanie Shaw - Transportation GIS Analyst
Brandon Ives - IT/GIS Analyst

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission