

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION/POLICY COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 26, 2016**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	DIANE BOWEN		
BELLA VISTA	PETER CHRISTIE	X	
BENTON COUNTY	BOB CLINARD JOHN SUDDUTH JAY FRASIER	X	DEAN KLINGMAN
BENTONVILLE	BOB McCASLIN SHELLI KERR	X	
BETHEL HEIGHTS	CYNTHIA BLACK		
CAVE SPRINGS	TRAVIS LEE	X	
CENTERTON	BILL EDWARDS RICK HUDSON	X	
DECATUR	BOB THARP JAMES BOSTON		
ELKINS	BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	JEFF HAWKINS
FAYETTEVILLE	JEREMY PATE		
GARFIELD	GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	FRANK HACKLER JR.		
GENTRY	KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	JOE BENSON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	BILL GROOM		
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT	X	
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR X DOTSON		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR DARRELL TRAHAN		
JOHNSON	CHRIS KEENEY		
LINCOLN	ROB HULSE		
LITTLE FLOCK	BUDDY BLUE		
LOWELL	ELDON LONG (CHAIR)	X	
PEA RIDGE	JACKIE CRABTREE	X	
PRAIRIE GROVE	SONNY HUDSON	X	
ROGERS	NATHAN BECKNELL BOB CRAFTON	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	PHILLIP PATTERSON BEN RHOADS	X	
SPRINGDALE	DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X X	JEFF HAWKINS JEFF HAWKINS
SPRINGTOWN	PRESTON BARRETT		
SUPHUR SPRINGS	GREG BARBER		
TONTITOWN	PAUL COLVIN, JR		
WASHINGTON CO.	JULIET RIGHEY	X	ELIZABETH BOWEN
WEST FORK			
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	ALAN FORTENBERRY		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH	X	
U OF A	MIKE JOHNSON	X	
MoDOT	DARIN HAMELINK		
McDONALD COUNTY	KEITH LINDQUIST		
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
AHTD PLANNING	JESSIE JONES	X	CHAD ADAMS
AHTD TRANSIT			
AHTD DISTRICT 4	CHAD ADAMS	X	
FHWA	AMY HEFLIN		
AR HWY COMMISSIONER	DICK TRAMMEL	X	

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NWARPC STAFF: Jeff Hawkins, Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP, Tim Conklin, AICP, Elizabeth Bowen

OTHERS: Ron Wood, NWADG; Morgan Farmer, Senator Cotton's office; Hugh Earnest

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Eldon Long called the meeting to order.

**2. APPROVE NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE AUGUST 28, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Chair Long asked for a motion to approve the August 28, 2016 Minutes as distributed. Mike Johnson made the motion. Jim Ulmer provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

**3. CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Jeff Hawkins gave the following report:

- Clearinghouse Reviews – All Federal-Aid applications received in October have been reviewed. He pointed out that XNA is applying for a combined \$3M for snow removal equipment and design for taxiway rehab.
- Wayfinding Signage for XNA – A contract has been signed with AGI for the provision of wayfinding signs to the airport. NWARPC will be managing the contract for the NWA Council.
- FY 2016 audit will begin on Monday, October 24, 2016 and be performed by Timothy Bunch, CPA, PA.
- NWARPC has been notified that it will be the subject of a FTA Triennial Review. Staff will be gathering all required documents and attend a workshop on December 1 and 2, 2016 designed to assist recipients in completing the Grantee Information Request and Review Package. A site visit will be conducted by FTA officials on March 14 and 15, 2017.
- NWARPC is working with AHTD to develop a new Cost Allocation Plan for indirect costs that will comply with the super-circular issued by OMB.
- Mathias Properties and NWARPC have signed a new three-year lease for the NWARPC office building at \$4200.00 per month beginning October 1, 2016.

**4. 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).**

Tim Conklin explained Proposed Amendment #2:

- 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.
- 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. MoDOT has not identified the required \$30M at this time.

**MOTION**

Chair Long asked for a motion to approve Amendment #2 to the FFY 2016-2020 TIP. Peter Christie made the motion. Sonny Hudson provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

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**5. 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 RPC/Policy Committee that the NWA 2040 MTP, adopted last spring, included a list containing potential projects over a ten-year period from 2021 to 2030. The TAC at its October 20, 2016 meeting prioritized this list, based on project readiness, phasing, and available funding in FFY 2021, and recommended the following projects to the RPC/Policy Committee for their consideration:

- 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.

Tim noted that AHTD has Job #BB0410 shown in the STIP in FFY 2022 so that recommendation should be removed from the above list (bullet 4).

**MOTION**

Chair Long asked for a motion to submit the following projects to AHTD for inclusion, in no particular order of prioritization, in FFY 2021 of the STIP update –

- 1) IN BENTON COUNTY – WIDENING HWY 102 TO 5 LANES BETWEEN HWY 279 N AND HWY 102B;
- 2) IN BENTON COUNTY – WIDENING HWY 264 IN LOWELL TO 5 LANES BETWEEN GOAD SPRINGS RD. AND BELLVIEW RD.;
- 3) IN WASHINGTON COUNTY – WIDENING RAZORBACK RD. IN FAYETTEVILLE TO 5 LANES FROM LEROY POND RD. TO MAPLE ST.; AND
- 4) RECOMMEND THAT ALL STUDIES CONTINUE AND IF A PROJECT AND/OR PROJECT PHASES BECOME AVAILABLE TO START, THE LIST SHOULD BE ADDED TO.

Sonny Hudson made the motion, with Jim Ulmer providing the second. Motion passes unanimously.

**6. TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN – RESOLUTION #16-5**

Tim Conklin said that a work task identified in the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program is to update the 2010 Transit Development Plan (TDP). A request for letters of intent (RLOI) was developed and advertised and only one LOI was received by the due date of October 21, 2016 from the consulting firm of Nelson/Nygaard. Nelson/Nygaard is under contract currently with Fayetteville to develop the Fayetteville Mobility Plan and recently completed the Campus Transportation Plan for the U of A.

NWARPC has asked and is waiting for guidance from FTA as to whether the RLOI needs to be re-advertised or whether a request for proposal can be taken from Nelson/Nygaard.

Depending on the response from FTA, the Review Committee will meet on November 1, 2016 to discuss the options. Regardless of the response from FTA, a resolution is needed to authorize the Director to proceed with contract negotiations with the consulting firm selected.

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**MOTION**

Chair Long asked for a motion to approve Resolution #16-5 authorizing negotiations for, and execution of, a contract for consulting services for an update to the 2010 Transit Development Plan for the 2-County region, within the budget set for FY 2017. Travis Lee made the motion, with Gary Smith providing the second. Motion passes unanimously.

**7. NWARPC PROJECTS UPDATE**

- Active Transportation Committee
  - The ACT met on October 20, 2016. They continue to discuss the need to standardize trail crossings, signage, policies, etc. The Driveway/Commercial Crossing Subcommittee has developed a draft plan including guidelines for regional standards for commercial and residential driveway crossing and signage cross-sections. The draft is out for comment.
  - The Bike/Ped Safety Task Force “Travel with Care” campaign has put up four billboard signs stressing the travel with care message; has had numerous newspaper articles; will soon have flyers inserted into area utility bills.
  - The City of Avoca is currently working toward development and adoption of a city bicycle and pedestrian plan.
  - Staff and the Walton Family Foundation are continuing to coordinate efforts to hold a 5 Es Summit in April/May 2017 that will involve non-motorized transportation training for engineers and planners.
- Razorback Regional Greenway Mile Markers And Wayfinding Signs
  - The project was closed out by FHWA in September 2016.
  - The final report was finished October 14, 2016 on the Trail Intercept Surveys/Trail Counts.
  - Anticipating the federal audit of the project, but no time frame yet.
  - Wayfinding Sign Project #2 – The thermoplastic signs have been installed; the fabricated signs will be installed by December 2016.
  - There have been 3 trail closures due to highway construction projects. AHTD has provided good maps of detours.
- Grants
  - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) (State) – 23% of the 2016 awards were granted to jurisdictions in Washington and Benton Counties.
  - Recreational Trails grant – Fayetteville received \$56,000 for a trail rehabilitation project.
  - NWA Bicycle Pilot Project grant – 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. The project installation began this week. These are temporary projects and will be dismantled when the project duration is up. Each project was budgeted \$10,000.
  - People For Bikes “Big Jump Project” grant – 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 annual budget is \$150,000 with a \$50,000/year local match. The local match for the NWA region will come from local jurisdictions along the Greenway and private entities. The objective is to connect to the Greenway within ½ mile on either side. The grant application is due October 28, 2016 and Cristina Scarlat is the grant writer. Finalists will be notified January 2017.

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- NWA Regional GIS System – Interactive GIS maps are posted on the website [gis.nwarpc.org/arcgis/rest/services/](http://gis.nwarpc.org/arcgis/rest/services/).
- LiDAR – A contract has been signed to produce a 1 foot contour development project. Also, a planimetric development project is in the works.
- NWARPC website has been updated. Interactive maps are available, as well as a “rest service” that local jurisdictions can link to.
- NWA Open Space Plan
  - The Steering Committee has met with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) officials several times, though no clear path has been identified on whether or not to use TPL services.
  - The Framework Committee, the Education and Outreach Committee, the Priority Project Selection Committee, and the Funding Committee – all are continuing to explore different ideas for implementing an open space preservation plan.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Long asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2017 RPC/Policy Committee officers: Travis Lee, Committee Chair, Jackie Crabtree, Sonny Hudson, Peter Christie. Celia Scott-Silkwood said she would coordinate with the Committee before the next meeting.

**9. ADJOURN** – A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes.