



## NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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**MARCH 4, 2021**

*Via email*

Chris Dillaha and Sunny Farmahan, ARDOT  
Frank Miller, Dave Taylor, Britni O'Connor, MoDOT  
Jeff Hawkins, Tim Conklin, AICP, Cristina Scarlet, NWARPC

### **RE: NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #1 APPROVAL**

All:

NWARPC, in conjunction with ARDOT, determined an amendment to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was necessary to reconcile the NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP with the FFY 2021-2024 Arkansas State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Arkansas STIP and NARTS TIP:

- The Arkansas State Highway Commission released the FFY 2021-2024 STIP for public comment through March 9, 2021, see: <http://www.ardot.gov/STIP>.
- The NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP was approved by the RPC/Policy Committee on December 2, 2020, with Resolution #2020-09, see: <https://www.nwarpc.org/transportation/transportation-improvement-program/>.
- Note: Funding from the Transportation Sales Tax Continuation Amendment of 2020 is not included in the documents.

Both the NARTS TIP, and the Arkansas STIP, list projects for roadway, bridge, safety, intersection improvement and transit projects. The NARTS TIP is consistent with the NWA 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Arkansas STIP is consistent with the state's Long-Range Plan.

The purpose of Proposed Amendment #1 was to reconcile the NARTS TIP with the Arkansas STIP. The NARTS TIP is a component of the STIP, and as such, must match the STIP. Additionally, several tables must be updated to incorporate changes coming from the STIP.

Proposed Amendment #1 had three elements:

- A. Differences between the Current TIP and the New ARDOT STIP/TIP.
- B. Financial Report Table – Summary of Federal, State and local funds in the MPA.
- C. Completed and Under-Construction Projects from FFY 2019-2022 TIP Table – Lists the projects in ARDOT Districts 4 and 9 that are in the NARTS area that are completed, under-construction, removed, or reprogrammed by 2021.

These elements have been incorporated into the body of the NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:** In accordance with NWARPC's Public Participation Plan, notification was published in the Democrat Gazette on Sunday, February 7, 2021 and in the La Prensa and McDonald County Press on Thursday, February 11, 2021. A public comment period for the proposed TIP Amendment #1 began on Friday, February 12, 2021 and ran until 5:00 pm, Thursday, February 25, 2021. Written comments were encouraged via email using the comment tab on the NWARPC website. No public comment was received. A ballot was mailed via email to TAC and RPC/Policy Committee members on Friday, February 26, 2021. The ballots were returned by noon, Thursday, March 4, 2021. After a tally of the votes submitted, it was determined that both the TAC and the RPC/Policy Committee members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendment #1 to the NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

Please go to <https://www.nwarpc.org/transportation/transportation-improvement-program/> to view the complete NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

Thank you for your assistance in this endeavor. If you require additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

*Celia Scott-Silkwood*

Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP  
Regional Planner, NWARPC