

**DRAFT NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021, @ 1:30 PM**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	<b>PETER CHRISTIE (VICE CHAIR)</b>	X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON	X X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	ERNIE PENN MELISSA McCARVILLE	X X	
FAYETTEVILLE	LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X	X PAUL LIBERTINI
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	MAYOR ANDREW TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON	X	
GOSHEN	MAYOR MAX POYE ALBERT SKILES		X TIM CONKLIN
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR BILL GROOM		
HIGHFILL	MAYOR MICHELLE RIEFF/ROB HOLLAND JC BRENAMAN		
JOHNSON	<b>MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (CHAIR)</b>	X	
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR TRACY ENGLEBRECHT		
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE RICK STONE	X X	
PEA RIDGE	<b>MAYOR JACKIE CRABTREE (TREASURER)</b>		
PRAIRIE GROVE	<b>MAYOR SONNY HUDSON (SECRETARY)</b>	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY BOB CRAFTON	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION PHILLIP PATTERSON	X	
SPRINGDALE	DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X X	
SPRINGTOWN	TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	GREG BARBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR PAUL COLVIN ANTHONY APPLE	X	
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE JOSEPH WOOD NATHAN CROUCH		
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER	X	
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH ADAM WADDELL	X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY/JAY HUNEYCUTT	X	
REG. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR BRITNI O'CONNOR		
McDONALD COUNTY	BILL LANT		
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB CHAD ADAMS (DISTRICT 4)	X	
ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION	(NON-VOTING)	
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO	(NON-VOTING)	

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**NWARPC STAFF:** Tim Conklin, AICP, Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Elizabeth Bowen

**OTHERS:** Sunny Farmahan (ARDOT), Chris Dillaha (ARDOT); Ron Wood (NWADG); Kelsey Kelton (AEDC); Andy Brewer (Olsson), Rebecca Wood (Olsson), Mike Wiederkehr (Fayetteville PC)

**NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.**

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The hybrid, in-person and virtual NWARPC/Policy Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair, Mayor Chris Keeney at 1:30 p.m.

**(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

In-person attendees introduced themselves and Tim Conklin named the virtual attendees. Nicole Gibbs recorded member names and tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

**(3) APPROVE RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 26, 2021**

Chair Keeney asked the Committee whether there were any corrections or amendments to the May meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the May 26, 2021 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve the May 26, 2021 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. John McCurdy provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

**(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Tim Conklin presented the item on behalf of Executive Director, Jeff Hawkins, saying that the Clearinghouse Report was sent out with the agenda as an informational item and explained that it represents a list of grants being applied for by agencies in Benton and Washington Counties. Conklin explained that the grants are sent through NWARPC; we review for potential conflicts between projects and write letters of support.

Tim Conklin also brought a potential grant opportunity to the Board's attention for water and wastewater projects. He said that at the June 30, 2021 Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP) NWA Stormwater Program, they discussed the Action Plan and the possibility for a regional study in Northwest Arkansas. Conklin explained that part of the discussion was regarding potential funding sources for the study, including through the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission (ANRC), the Corps of Engineers, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. He said the State of Arkansas has established a Steering Committee to determine how to use and distribute funds allocated to the State under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (\$1.57B). He said they launched a Needs Survey to help identify water and wastewater infrastructure projects, with responses due by Friday, August 13. He stated that the Arkansas Department of Agriculture will also be hosting a series of webinars in the coming weeks to explain the Needs Survey and answer questions.

Tim Conklin explained that in the last few weeks, the Illinois River Watershed Partnership has approached NWARPC to discuss the possibility of submitting some type of regional grant. He said the next steps will be for NWARPC to reach out to our planning partners to understand the regional needs and to begin to coordinate a regional grant application. Conklin explained that this is new information and more information with links to the needs survey and webinars will be emailed to

the Board this afternoon. The following information was presented visually:

**NWARPC& Illinois River Watershed Partnership –Potential Regional Stormwater Grant Funding**

- NWA Stormwater Program –June 30, 2021 –Action Plan
  - Assessment
  - Infrastructure/Implementation/Conservation
  - Regulation/Policy
  - Project Funding
- Arkansas Natural Resource Commission Potential Funding
- Corps of Engineers Potential Funding
- State of Arkansas is requesting assistance in identifying water and wastewater infrastructure projects for funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- Executive Order 21-08, established the Arkansas American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Steering Committee -\$1.57B Arkansas
- State Working Group for Water and Other Infrastructure Projects
- Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP) has approached NWARPC about applying for funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for a Regional Stormwater Study/Project (Scope TBD)
- Water/Wastewater Needs Survey is due Friday, August 13, 2021
- Link to Survey:  
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/ArkansasAgriculture1/WaterWastewaterNeedsSurvey>
- The Arkansas Department of Agriculture will be hosting a series of webinars
  - Thursday, July 29, 2021 from 11:00 to 12:00 - <https://arkansas-gov.zoom.us/j/84298980965?pwd=cUZwVkJEwK2lORjBHN25PRU4rK1hvZz09>
  - Wednesday, August 4, 2021 from 2:00 to 3:00 - <https://arkansas-gov.zoom.us/j/84386679183?pwd=QUtCMHpMZ0oreS91UzhmdkRWMnZ6Zz09>
  - Wednesday, August 11, 2021 from 2:00 to 3:00 - <https://arkansas-gov.zoom.us/j/81858309553?pwd=YTN3c1RHNWhjUVBuc1BYRDhsRHVydz09>

John McCurdy asked whether there was any opportunity to widen the scope to include the Beaver Watershed. Tim Conklin said there has been discussions about that and there certainly is a possibility to look at both Benton and Washington Counties since the watershed does divide many of the cities. McCurdy explained that Rogers is knee-deep in stormwater issues and would welcome a regional approach. He recommended that we seek Federal or State funding to complete that level of study to include modeling and survey, ordinance review, policy recommendations, and infrastructure improvement recommendations. He discussed the various impacts that Rogers and the region are experiencing and stated that it behooves everyone to broaden the scope of this and make it as comprehensive as possible if we do have funding to support it. Patsy Christie stated that Beaver Watershed has looked at it, but the study would need to incorporate Madison and Carol Counties because that is where the majority of that watershed is located. There was discussion around rural and urban implications for the scope of the study.

Conklin stated that NWARPC plans to pursue this funding opportunity and it sounded from the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting that there was optimism about the availability of potential money that could come to NWA to make this happen. He said NWARPC will be in contact with the cities to coordinate.

Tim Conklin presented another potential grant opportunity for a three-year transit planning capacity grant to potentially have a position fully dedicated to transit within our office. Conklin explained that the position would primarily be looking at transit planning and implementation of Connect

**DRAFT NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021, @ 1:30 PM**

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NWA, coordinating with Ozark Regional Transit Authority (ORT), Razorback Transit, along with our planning partners and communities. He said NWARPC is already the designated recipient of Urbanized Area FTA Funds and the position would be responsible for administering program requirements and identifying and assisting with USDOT competitive grants. He said we have been talking with ARDOT about assuming the role for the project selection process for FTA 5310, for which this position would also be responsible.

Patsy Christie asked whether the new position would be a new person. Tim Conklin responded that we currently have a vacant FTE and that it would be a new person as a transit planner. He said the current funding consideration is for a portion of the cost over three years (75/25, 50/50, 25/75). The following information was presented visually:

**Potential Transit Grant Opportunity**

- Three-year Transit Planning Capacity Grant-Position
- Primary focus on transit planning and implementation of Connect NWA
- Work with Ozark Regional Transit Authority and Razorback Transit
- Work with planning partners and communities
- NWA Urbanized Area FTA Funding Programs and FTA Requirements
  - FTA 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Grants
  - FTA 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Grants
  - Identify and assist with USDOT and FTA Competitive Grants
  - FTA 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Grants
    - NWARPC FTA 5310 project selection process (New)
    - NWARPC Local Coordinating Committee for Transit (New)

Tim Conklin explained on behalf of Executive Director, Jeff Hawkins, that the Census Data in the legacy format will be released by August 16, 2021 and we should know city and county populations at that time. He said we have in the past utilized the legacy data format for redistricting, so we may be able to begin the process of assisting jurisdictions with redistricting at that time.

**(5) UPDATE TO PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES AND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

Tim Conklin explained that the update to the NWARPC procurement procedures and employee handbook is a result of our FTA triennial review. Conklin stated that every three (3) years FTA reviews how we are handling our federal grants. He said there were specific items that needed to be put into our procurement procedures, and explained further. He said both documents have been reviewed and accepted by our FTA reviewer. Conklin stated that we do have resolutions for the Commission's consideration and asked whether there were any questions.

**A. RESOLUTION #2021-09 – A Resolution Adopting the NWARPC Procurement Procedures**

Hearing no questions, Chair Mayor Chris Keeney requested a motion to approve Resolution #2021-09 Adopting the NWARPC Procurement Procedures.

**MOTION: Mayor Paul Colvin made a motion to approve Resolution #2021-09 Adopting the NWARPC Procurement Procedures. Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**B. RESOLUTION #2021-10 – A Resolution Approving an Updated NWARPC Employee Handbook**

Tim Conklin stated that the changes to procurement also required updates in our employee handbook, and explained further. He said these changes are complying with FTA review items and we do have a resolution for the Commission's consideration.

Chair Keeney asked whether there were any questions, and hearing none, he requested a motion to approve Resolution #2021-10 Approving the Updated NWARPC Employee Handbook.

**MOTION: Jim Ulmer made a motion to approve Resolution #2021-10 Approving an Updated NWARPC Employee Handbook. Mayor Paul Colvin provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**(6) AMENDMENT TO FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP**

**A. RESOLUTION #2021-11 – A Resolution Supporting the Proposed Functional Classification Map Amendment to Classify E. Kenwood Street, Bruce Rutherford Drive, and Gum Springs Road as Major Collector Streets**

Tim Conklin explained that the City of Siloam Springs has requested several amendments to the Functional Classifications Map this past year, they also submitted a STBGP-A project application, which requires them to have their streets be functionally classified as a major collector or above. He said ARDOT requested that we limit amendments to as few as possible right now. This has been submitted to ARDOT to begin their six-month process to review and approve through the FHWA. Conklin briefly detailed reason for this amendment and said this is on Siloam Springs' Master Street Plan as a collector. We have a resolution of support prepared for the Commission's consideration. The following information was presented visually:

- Last year the City of Siloam Springs requested several amendments to the 2015 approved map.
- To expedite the E. Kenwood Street map amendment, NWARPC is limiting the request to three segments
- The three amendments will provide continuity of the Major Collector network already classified to the west and the proposed amendments will tie back the corridor into US 412 to the east.
- This area of Siloam Springs is experiencing rapid development with traffic increasing 60% over the past two years on the corridor. A planned school is also proposed on the corner of Kenwood Street and Bruce Rutherford Dr.
- The Major Collector designation on the corridor is warranted in this area of Siloam Springs and is supported by the NWARPC.

Phillip Patterson gave further details for the request and asked the Commission for their support of this amendment in order to provide a through major collector connection.

Chair Mayor Keeney requested a motion to approve Resolution #2021-11 Supporting the Proposed Functional Classification Map Amendment to Classify E. Kenwood Street, Bruce Rutherford Drive, and Gum Springs Road as Major Collector Streets.

**MOTION: Phillip Patterson made a motion to approve Resolution #2021-11 Supporting the Proposed Functional Classification Map Amendment to Classify E. Kenwood Street, Bruce**

**DRAFT NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021, @ 1:30 PM**

**Rutherford Drive, and Gum Springs Road as Major Collector Streets. Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**(7) ARDOT FFY 2023-2026 STIP DEVELOPMENT – MPO Project Submission**

Tim Conklin explained that the ARDOT STIP submission was due June 23, 2021 and we provided the constrained project list from our 2045 Plan. He said they just wanted the construction costs submitted, which all together was around \$700 million of projects. Conklin asked whether there were any questions, and there were none.

**(8) STBGP-A AND TAP**

**A. FFY 2021 Obligation Plan – Update**

Tim Conklin stated that we submitted an obligation plan for FFY 2021 on June 23, 2021. Conklin reminder the committee that we can carry up to a maximum of \$1 million into the next year and last July we awarded about \$11.6 million of funds that everyone is working hard to get obligated, in addition to about \$3.2 million of Coronavirus funds that came out after the first of the year. The following information was presented visually:

**FFY 2021 STBGP-A and TAP Obligation Schedule**

- ARDOT Obligation Plan Due –June 30, 2021-For 2021 Projects (submitted June 23, 2021)
- NWARPC may carry up to a max \$1,000,000 into the next year
- NWARPC Policy Committee Awarded \$11,636,680 (STBGP-A/HIP and TAP) July 2020
- NWARPC Policy Committee Awarded \$3,244,773 (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act)

Conklin showed the FFY 2021 Obligation Plan to the Commission and summarized the projects.

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - FFY 2021 Obligation Plan - June 30, 2021												
Year	County	ARDOT Job No.	LPA	Project	Phase	Awarded TAP FFY 2021	Awarded FFY 2021 STBGP-A + HIP (HIP 18,19,20)	Obligated TAP and STBGP-A	Obligated HIP Funding (FFY 2018-20)	Anticipated STBGP-A and HIP to be Obligated by Sept. 30, 2021	\$1M Max Carry Over	Status
2021	Benton	090626	Siloam Springs	Lake Francis/Washington St. Sidewalks	Construction	\$ 125,000				\$ 125,000		Plans sent to ARDOT 30%
2021	Benton	090436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	Construction + All Phases		\$ 2,509,710	\$ 2,509,710				Obligated STBGP-A
2021	Benton	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview Road Intersection Imps. Roundabout ARDOT Partnership Project	ROW-Utilities-Const.-CENG		\$ 750,000			\$ 750,000		Plans sent ARDOT @ 30%
2021	Washington	040852	Springdale	Watkins Ave. Bike-Ped Bridge over I-49	Construction	\$ 125,000				\$ 125,000		
2021	Benton	090628	Bentonville-Centerton	Greenhouse Road Improvements	Design and Environmental		\$ 850,000			\$ 850,000		RFP Due 8/5/21
2021	Benton	090630	Bentonville	Razorback Greenway Relocation I-49 SPU CAP Reconnect Razorback Greenway	Construction	\$ 250,000				\$ 250,000		Environmental Approved Need Ownership on ROW Plans
2021	Washington	040854	Tontitown	US 412 and Klenc Rd Signalization ARDOT On-Call Project	All Phases		\$ 360,000				\$ 360,000	Tontitown Agreement/Check to ARDOT
2021	Washington	040683	Farmington	Hwy 170 (Hwy. 62 to Clyde Carnes Road)	Construction + All Phases		\$ 1,930,000		\$ 1,930,000			Obligated HIP
2021	Washington	040688	Fayetteville	Sain Street Ext. (N. Front St. to Vantage Blvd.)	Construction + All Phases		\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000				Obligated STBGP-A
2021	Washington	040680	Springdale	Gene George Blvd Phase II	Row and Utilities		\$ 1,036,970	\$ 1,036,970				Obligated STBGP-A
2021	Benton	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Road	Construction		\$ 1,200,000			\$ 1,200,000		Environmental Approved ROW Almost Complete
2021	Benton & Washington	012370	NWARPC	Regional Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSMO) Plan and intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Plan	Task Order P-002		\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000				ARDOT Reviewing Agreement
2021	Benton & Washington	012193	NWARPC	Planning	FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program		\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000				Obligated STBGP-A
					<b>Total</b>	\$ 500,000	\$ 11,536,680	\$ 6,446,680	\$ 1,930,000	\$ 3,300,000	\$ 360,000	
												Already Obligated
												Anticipated to be Obligated
												Proposed Carry Over

**DRAFT NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021, @ 1:30 PM**

Conklin explained that he has been in contact with individual project managers for projects not yet obligated and they are making progress. He said that if we need to flex projects that are not ready for this fiscal year, Springdale can use money on the Gene George project and we can balance funds between fiscal years. He reminded everyone to be laser focused on getting things submitted to ARDOT and said to let staff know if they have any issues so we can try to help.

**B. FFY 2022 Proposed Projects – Update and Next Steps**

Tim Conklin stated that next month we will have a recommendation from TAC on what to fund for FFY 2022. He said we estimate that we will have around \$9.1 million available to our region. The following information was presented visually:

**FFY 2022 Funding Assumptions – Available for Projects**

- FFY 2022 Estimate is based on FFY 2021 Apportionments at 100% Obligation Limitation (FFY 2021 OL is currently at 89%)
  
- Transportation Alternatives Program \$ 500,603
- Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable \$ 8,173,906
- Highway Infrastructure Program \$ 465,690
- \$9,140,199**

Conklin showed the list of projects submitted for FY 2022 and summarized the applications.

County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	TAP-FED	STBGP-A & HIP FED	Urbanized Area?
Benton	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd. Bridge Replacement	Construction		\$ 500,000	N
Benton		Bentonville	SW Regional Airport Blvd. / S. Vaughn Rd. Intersection Impr.	Design and Environmental		\$ 500,000	Y
Benton	090268	Bentonville-Centerton	Greenhouse Road Improvements - Hwy 12 to Hwy 102	Design		\$ 112,000	Y
Washington		Fayetteville	College Ave Streetscape (North St to Township St)	Construction		\$ 1,500,000	Y
Washington	040846	Fayetteville	Hwy 62 Interchange Improvements	Design, Env., Utilities, and ROW		\$ 1,500,000	Y
Washington		Fayetteville	Heritage Springs Trail and Tunnel (Hwy 112)	Construction	\$ 250,000		Y
Benton		Gentry	Hwy 12/59 Signal and Intersection Impvts. (formerly Job# 09X324)	All Phases		\$ 250,000	N
Benton	09X198	Lowell	US-71B/HWY264 Intersection Improvements	Env., ROW, Utilities, Construction		\$ 730,000	Y
Benton	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview/Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts.	Construction		\$ 150,000	Y
Benton		Siloam Springs	E Kenwood St. Improvements (widening, incl. sidepath)	Design and Environmental		\$ 220,000	N
Benton		Siloam Springs	N Mt Olive Sidepath (between Dawn Hill Rd. and Carl St.)	Construction	\$ 376,000		N
Washington	040849	Springdale	Gene George S. Ph III	ROW and Utility		\$ 909,050	Y
Washington	040680	Springdale	Gene George S. Ph I	Construction		\$ 1,663,269	Y
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$ 626,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,034,319</b>	

Conklin showed the review committee and said they would be meeting in the coming weeks to go over and rank the projects for recommendation to the Commission in August. The following was the information presented visually:

**Review Committee FFY 2022 Projects**

- Bella Vista -Doug Tapp
- Bentonville -Dennis Birge
- Rogers -Lance Jobe
- Springdale -Brad Baldwin
- Tontitown –Mayor Paul Colvin Jr
- Lowell –Mayor Chris Moore
- Farmington -Melissa McCarville
- Benton County -Josh Beam
- Fayetteville -Paul Libertini
- Siloam Springs -Ben Rhoads
- Gentry –Mayor Kevin Johnston

**(9) HWY 112 UPDATE**

Tim Conklin stated the three ARDOT Public Involvement Meetings have now been complete. The following information was presented visually:

**HWY 112 IMPROVEMENTS –UPDATE**

Phase II:

- Highway 412 to Springdale Bypass(Job 012305)
- Springdale Bypass to West Wallis Road(Job 090513)
- West Wallis Road to Highway 12(Job 090514)
  
- ARDOT held Public Officials meeting July 12, 2021
- ARDOT held Public Involvement meetings July 19 –22, 2021

Conklin reminded the Commission of the regional vision and summarized various points and showed images of an existing portion in Bentonville south of Hwy 12. The following information was shown visually:

**NWARPC Regional Vision for Hwy 112**

- Design Hwy 112 with access management, a raised median, and the use of roundabouts for intersection control, where feasible
- Construct a 12-foot sidewalk/side path with a 6-foot greenspace (Heritage Springs Trail)
- Meet AASHTO Guidelines for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (2012) for a side path – along the road and across bridges and overpasses
- Calculate the cost difference of constructing a five-lane roadway with paved center-turn lane and two 4-foot bike lanes (8-feet of asphalt) compared to the regional vision of adding 7 feet of concrete to the sidewalk
- Design the project(s) to meet Federal-aid requirements to allow federal aid to be placed on the projects
- Request that ARDOT match TAP and STBGP-A federal funds

Patsy Christie asked whether we still do not have the cost calculation. Conklin confirmed that we still do not have the cost calculation.



**(10) NWA BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Elizabeth Bowen presented the item stating that the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) included an update to the 2014 adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. She said the Active Transportation Committee (ACT) will do the update, with the work being done in-house by staff. Bowen stated there will be several time-consuming components to the update, including to *Chapter 6: Individual Community Action Plan*, which includes working with each of the 32 local communities on adopting their local Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans. She said there are numerous amendments that will be incorporated into the update and we are looking at this being a 12-month project.

**(11) BUTTERFIELD STAGE EXPERIENCE TRAIL**

Elizabeth Bowen stated we have several existing regional trails, and presented them visually. Bowen explained that there is a new opportunity to make a designation for a Butterfield Stage Experience Trail from Springfield, MO to Ft Smith. She said the region is looking to follow the historic route as closely as possible, however, in some areas where that may not be feasible, alternate, parallel routes may be chosen. Staff is working with communities to finalize the route with the goal for designation and adoption by December of this year. She also added that this opportunity expands into a national trail to San Francisco (2500 miles) where it will link to the Pony Express Trail and loop back from there (2500 miles).

Mayor Peter Christie asked how the change in the USB51 Route occurred? Bowen responded that the route has not been determined in Missouri yet, there is still an option to go to Joplin or to Springfield. Mayor Christie explained that Bella Vista's long term trail plan has the route going up to the state border along Hwy 71B. Bowen responded that that is also what our current MTP shows, as well as what the Pineville and Jane plans show. She said nothing has changed for Regional Planning or the local cities at this time, but that Missouri has not yet determined which route to take.

**(12) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair, Mayor Chris Keeney asked if any comments had been received prior to the meeting. Nicole Gibbs stated that none had been received. Chair Keeney asked if there was anyone at the meeting that wished to comment. No additional comments were made.

**(13) OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. UPDATES ON:**

- **Congestion Management Process (CMP)**

Elizabeth Bowen gave a brief update stating that our goal with the CMP was to use an ARDOT on call consultant contract, Cambridge Systematics. She said we have an approved scope of work, an approved negotiated fee schedule, and we have a task order that has been submitted to ARDOT. She said the contract clauses have been signed by NWARPC and by Cambridge and this week NWARPC signed the Agreement of Understanding with ARDOT. She explained that we are just waiting on the Task Order to be issued and the Notice to Proceed. She said our goal was to have the CMP finished by December of this year to meet some of our FTA goals, however, Cambridge expressed early on that they would be nine months, which would be a March-April timeframe if we get notice to proceed this month.

- **Transportation Systems Maintenance and Operations (TSMO)/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)**

Bowen explained that the Master Plan Agreement has been executed in May and a subconsultant agreement has been submitted to Alliance Transportation for the ITS portion, as consultant to Cambridge. She said we have signed the agreement for the funds, and the Agreement of Understanding, and we are waiting on the task order and notice to proceed. She stated that we are looking at an 18-month timeframe and will be coordinating with the ARDOT TSMO/ITS update for the state. She asked if there were any questions and there were none.

**B. FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

Chair Keeney went over the future meeting dates as follows:

- **TAC Meeting – Thursday, August 19, 2021, @ 10:30 AM**
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting – Wednesday, August 25, 2021 @ 1:30 PM**
- **TAC Meeting – Thursday, September 16, 2021, @ 10:30 AM**
- **APA AR Chapter Fall Conference – Wednesday, Sept. 15 & Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 – more information will be made available at [www.ArkansasAPA.org](http://www.ArkansasAPA.org).**
- **Arkansas Department of Agriculture Webinars** (for potential water and wastewater projects and eligibility for funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021):
  - Thursday, July 29, 2021 from 11:00 to 12:00
  - Wednesday, August 4, 2021 from 2:00 to 3:00
  - Wednesday, August 11, 2021 from 2:00 to 3:00

Chair Keeney asked whether there was any other business.

John McCurdy explained that he is interested in developing an inter-local agreement with ARDOT to prevent future signalized intersections from going anywhere on Highway 265, to follow what we are advocating for on Hwy 112.

Patsy Christie asked about the limits of the existing signed access management plan. Conklin responded that Fayetteville has the access management from Township north to the city limits and Randall Wobbe Ln to Hwy 264 has the controlled access plan in place. Beyond that, we can coordinate with ARDOT and have that conversation because this corridor provides regional connectivity.

Patsy Christie asked about the planned extension to Hwy 265 in Lowell. Mayor Chris Moore stated that it has not been decided whether the intersection will be signalized or a roundabout yet.

Conklin thanked ARDOT for designing Hwy 112 with access management and roundabouts, acknowledging their Toward Zero Deaths policy to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, along with our own policy to try to make our roads safer. He said roundabouts versus signalized intersections will reduce fatalities and serious injuries by around 80 percent, and there is a great public benefit to designing our roads with proven safety counter measures.

**DRAFT NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021, @ 1:30 PM**

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**(14) ADJOURN**

With no other business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn and Chair Chris Keeney adjourned the meeting.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2021:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY, CHAIR, OR  
MAYOR PETER CHRISTIE, VICE CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR PETER CHRISTIE, VICE CHAIR, OR  
MAYOR SONNY HUDSON, SECRETARY, OR  
JEFF HAWKINGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NWARPC