

**DRAFT NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021 AT 10:30 AM**

ENTITY	MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	DOUG TAPP	X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER (TRACY BACKS)	X	
BENTONVILLE	DENNIS BIRGE DAN WEESE	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS (RICK HUDSON)		
ELKINS	MAYOR BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE		
FAYETTEVILLE	JONATHAN CURTH PAUL LIBERTINI CHRIS BROWN	X X X	
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON	X	
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX (MALLORY WEAVER)		
GREENLAND	MAYOR BILL GROOM		
HIGHFILL	MAYOR MICHELLE RIEFF		
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY	X	
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE RICK STONE	X X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR JACKIE CRABTREE (NATHAN SEE)		
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR SONNY HUDSON		
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN MCCURDY	X	
SILAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS (VICE CHAIR) JUSTIN BLAND	X	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE (CHAIR) BRAD BALDWIN	X X	
TONTITOWN	PAUL COLVIN NATHAN CROUCH	X	
WASHINGTON CO.	JEFF CROWDER		X SITA NANTHAVONG
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
NWARPC	JEFF HAWKINS		
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	CODY HUDSON	X	
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER	X	
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH ADAM WADDELL	X X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY		X MICHELA CUPELLO
McDONALD COUNTY	BILL LANT		
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER LLANS TAYLOR	X	
NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT	AARON BURKES		
ARDOT PLANNING AND DISTRICT 9	CHRIS DILLAHA SUNNY FARMAHAN STACEY BURGE	X	X JASON JAMES

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NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin, AICP; Nicole Gibbs, AICP; Elizabeth Bowen; Cristina Scarlat; Stephanie Shaw.

OTHERS: Andy Brewer (Olsson); Dawn Warrick (Freese and Nichols); Britni O'Connor (MoDOT); Ron Wood (NWADG), Zach Moore and Jeff Webb (Garver), Kevin Weston (ARDOT), Greg Weeks (Jacobs).

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

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The in-person and virtual NWARPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting was called to order by Chair, Patsy Christie at 10:30 a.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 TAC JULY 15, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Patsy Christie asked the Committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the July meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the July 15, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mayor Chris Moore made a motion to approve the July 15, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes as distributed. Dan Weese provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) ARDOT BRIDGE INTERACTIVE MAP TOOL DEMONSTRATION – Kevin Weston, ARDOT

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item, with Elizabeth Bowen introducing Kevin Weston with ARDOT. Weston gave the TAC an overview of the ARDOT interactive web tools available at ardot.maps.arcgis.com. Weston provided the following links to access the various tools:

- **Arkansas Bridge Dashboard:**
<https://ardot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/63012da0cd0c44559a18aaead3cbd018>
- **Locally Owned Bridge Tool:**
<https://ardot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0de1110c51944e408fcf5313867d65bd>
- **Arkansas Bridge Tool:**
<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiaWJk3YzMQ0ZWMTMTQxMi00ZjY5LTNmNjMtMmQ3MzhmZjc1YjI1liwidCI6Ijk4OTg4ZDkzLWYxZWUtNDFlOC04YWVhLWZmNzNiMDA1Yjg3ZCJ9>

(5) STBGP-A AND TAP – FFY 2021 OBLIGATION STATUS

Tim Conklin explained that a few more projects have been obligated since we last met and he summarized the status on the projects not yet obligated. He said there will potentially be \$1.1M in carry-over. Conklin thanked everyone for working with himself and ARDOT, and thanked ARDOT program management for helping us over the last few weeks to get these projects obligated. He explained that if one or more projects do not meet their deadlines, we will juggle qualified projects between federal fiscal years to ensure that we obligate all available money. The following table was presented visually:

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Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - FFY 2021 Obligation Plan - June 30, 2021									
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
Siloam Springs	Lake Francis/Washington St. Sidewalks	Construction	\$ 125,000		\$ 125,000				Obligated TAP
Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	Construction + All Phases		\$ 2,509,710	\$ 2,509,710				Obligated STBGP-A
Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview Road Intersection Imps. Roundabout ARDOT Partnership Project	ROW-Utilities-Const.-CENG		\$ 750,000				\$ 750,000	Plans sent ARDOT @ 30%
Springdale	Watkins Ave. Bike-Ped Bridge over I-49	Construction	\$ 125,000				\$ 125,000		
Bentonville-Centeron	Greenhouse Road Improvements	Design and Environmental		\$ 850,000			\$ 850,000		Consultant Selected
Bentonville	Razorback Greenway Relocation I-49 SPUJ CAP Reconnect Razorback Greenway	Construction	\$ 250,000				\$ 250,000		Environmental Approved 7-2-21 Need Ownership on ROW Plans
Tontitown	US 412 and Klenc Rd Signalization ARDOT On-Call Project	All Phases		\$ 360,000				\$ 360,000	Tontitown Agreement/Check to ARDOT
Farmington	Hwy 170 (Hwy. 62 to Clyde Carnes Road)	Construction + All Phases		\$ 1,930,000		\$ 1,930,000			Obligated HIP
Fayetteville	Sain Street Ext. (N. Front St. to Vantage Blvd.)	Construction + All Phases		\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000				Obligated STBGP-A
Springdale	Gene George Blvd Phase II	Row and Utilities		\$ 1,036,970	\$ 1,036,970				Obligated STBGP-A
Benton County	Wagon Wheel Road	Construction		\$ 1,200,000			\$ 1,200,000		Environmental Approved ROW Almost Complete - CTA Bridge
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
NWARPC	Planning	FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program		\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000				Obligated STBGP-A
		Total	\$ 500,000	\$ 11,536,680	\$ 6,571,680	\$ 1,930,000	\$ 2,425,000	\$ 1,110,000	

(6) STBGP-A AND TAP – FFY 2022 PROPOSED PROJECTS – Recommendation to RPC/Policy Committee

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin summarized the STBGP-A and TAP FFY 2022 Proposed Projects. The following information was presented visually:

- NWARPC received thirteen (13) project applications with a total request of \$8,660,319.
- Five projects are existing projects “in the pipeline” and eight (8) applications are for new projects.
- The Review Committee toured and scored projects on August 9, 2021.
- The assumptions for the FFY 2022 funding estimate is based on FFY 2021 FAST ACT actual apportionments with an assumed 100% obligation limitation (OL) (Note: FFY 2021 OL is currently at 89%).

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	\$ 500,603
Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A)	\$ 8,173,906
Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP)	\$ 465,690
	\$ 9,140,199

- The estimated available federal funding for FFY 2022 is adequate to fund all project submittals for FFY 2022.

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Tim Conklin showed and summarized the rankings of the new projects by the Review Committee as follows:

STBGP-A and TAP FFY 2022 Project Score Sheet										
Federal Fiscal Year 2022 - STBGP-A - New Projects Only										
Year	County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A-FEDERAL	Required Local Match	TOTAL (Fed + Local Match)	Total Points	Rank (formula)
2022	Benton	090xxx	Bentonville	SW Regional Airport Blvd. / S. Vaughn Rd. Intersection Impr.	Design and Environmental	\$ 500,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 625,000	180	1
2022	Benton	090xxx	Lowell	US-71B/HWY264 Intersection Improvements	Construction + All Phases	\$ 730,000	\$ 182,500	\$ 912,500	178	2
2022	Benton	090xxx	Gentry	Hwy 12/59 Signal and Intersection Improvements	All Phases	\$ 250,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 312,500	175	3
2022	Washington	040xxx	Fayetteville	Hwy 62 Interchange Improvements	Design, Env., Utilities, and ROW	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 1,875,000	172	4
2022	Washington	040xxx	Fayetteville	College Ave. Safety, Complete St. (North St to Township St)	Construction + All Phases	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 1,875,000	163	5
2022	Benton	090xxx	Siloam Springs	E Kenwood St. Improvements (widening, incl. sidepath)	Design and Environmental	\$ 220,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 275,000	121	6
Total						\$ 4,700,000	\$ 1,175,000	\$ 5,875,000		
Federal Fiscal Year 2022 - TAP Project Applications										
Year	County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	TAP-FEDERAL	Required Local Match	TOTAL (Fed + Local Match)	Total	Rank (formula)
2022	Washington	040746	Fayetteville	Heritage Springs Trail and Tunnel (Hwy 112)	Construction	\$ 250,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 312,500	185	1
2022	Benton	090xxx	Siloam Springs	N Mt Olive Sidepath (between Dawn Hill Rd. and Carl St.)	Construction	\$ 376,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 470,000	127	2
Total						\$ 626,000	\$ 156,500	\$ 782,500		

Tim Conklin explained that the Review Committee did not have a formal vote, but the discussion with the Committee and the general consensus was to move them all forward for approval as submitted since we anticipate having the funds for all projects requested for FFY 2022. Conklin further explained that ordinarily we have awarded around \$500K of TAP money, which is typically split between two projects. However, we do show \$626K being awarded to TAP projects. He said

year Infrastructure Bill. He said the other thing that will change our funding in the future is our increased population. He said if there is additional funding with the new Infrastructure Bill, we envision likely needing to do another call for projects in order to obligate any new funds that become available.

Chair Patsy Christie stated that now is the time to get projects ready because hopefully there will be additional funds that we all need to be ready to start using.

Chair Christie asked the Committee whether there were any questions or comments on this item. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to move this forward by recommendation to the RPC/Policy Committee, who will be meeting next week.

MOTION: Dennis Birge made a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee approval of the FFY 2022 STBGP-A and TAP projects as shown in the funding allocation table. Brad Baldwin provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP AMENDMENT #2 – Approval to Enter into Public Comment Period

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that we are required to add a discussion of Transit Safety Targets into the TIP if we touch our TIP after July, and the Section 5310 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funds have to be added to the TIP and STIP. He said our region receives about \$38K for 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds.

Tim Conklin stated that we need a recommendation from TAC to send this to public comment and that we anticipate doing a ballot vote on this amendment.

Chair Christie asked the Committee whether there were any questions or comments on this item. Chris Dillaha with ARDOT stated that the total shown on the screen was an old total, and the correct total should be \$590K.

Chair Christie asked for a motion to send this to a two-week public comment period.

MOTION: Kevin Johnston made a motion to approve entering into a two (2) week public comment period for to the FFY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #2 as presented. Chris Dillaha provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(8) ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (ACT) UPDATES

A. NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen explained that the update to the 2014 NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan was introduced to the Committee at last month's meeting. Bowen said there is a lot of information that needs to be updated in the plan, including around eight amendments that will be incorporated, plus additional federal and state guidelines that will go into the plan. She said the Existing Conditions, Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Network, and Individual Community Action Plans chapters will all have significant change. She said the update will take place over the next eleven months, with the kick off meeting being this afternoon. She asked each City and County to send a representative to that meeting so that we can explain the process and find out

whether you want to do a full update to your local plan, or amend it according to plan recommendations.

B. Butterfield Stage Experience Route

Elizabeth Bowen said last month we discussed designating this new route with TAC and RPC/Policy Committee. She showed and summarized the communities that have approved the route through their communities and those that are still reviewing the routes.

Chair Patsy Christie asked whether there were any questions or comments and there were none.

(9) CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP)

Elizabeth Bowen explained that we are under federal requirements to update our CMP and we have received a Notice to Proceed as of July 29. She said we are using ARDOT's consultant contracting process. She stated that a kick-off meeting was held on August 10, which started the seven-month process. She explained the contract originally described an end date by the end of this year, however, the contract will need to be amended to extend to the end of February based on when we received the Notice to Proceed.

(10) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS (TSMO)/INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ITS)

Elizabeth Bowen explained the 2007 ITS is being updated, and the TSMO is a new plan. She said we received our Task Order and Notice to Proceed on August 12, and next steps include holding a kick-off meeting and agreeing on a timeline for the TSMO and ITS projects, which are both 18-month processes. She said we are coordinating with ARDOT as they are updating their TSMO and ITS at the same time.

Elizabeth Bowen asked whether there were any questions or comments and there were none.

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT – *Any public comment received via email will be provided to TAC members prior to meeting, and will become part of the meeting record.*

Chair Patsy Christie asked if any comments had been received prior to the meeting. Nicole Gibbs stated that two comments were received pertaining to the Razorback Greenway and that they were forwarded to the Razorback Greenway Alliance to address.

Chair Christie asked if there was anyone at the meeting that wished to comment. No additional comments were made.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Water + Wastewater Grant Opportunity (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021)

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen explained that the Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP) approached NWARPC a couple months ago about doing a regional stormwater assessment for the watershed. She said we brought the request to the RPC/Policy Committee in July and were approved to continue developing the project proposal and to include other watersheds within the Benton and Washington County areas. Bowen explained that during this process we found that there are other opportunities for funding. The following information was

presented visually:

- 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)
- IRWP NWA Stormwater Program –June 30, 2021 –Action Plan
 - Assessment
 - Infrastructure/Implementation/Conservation
 - Regulation/Policy
 - Project Funding
- Funding Possibilities (ARF, ANRC)
- Executive Order 21-08, established the Arkansas American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Steering Committee -\$1.57B Arkansas
 - State of Arkansas is requesting assistance in identifying water and wastewater infrastructure projects for funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- NWA Stormwater Project Discussion -August 10, 2021
- Met with Corps of Engineers Potential Model Update/Funding Partnership –August 10, 2021
- Water/Wastewater Needs Survey completed Thursday, August 12, 2021 –Submitted \$6,000,000 Project

Bowen described the proposed timeline for the project, with the following presented visually:

- Form Steering Committee – [Aug 2021](#)
 - Send out Letter of Interest – [Sep 2021](#)
 - State Water/WasterwaterState Advisory Committee (WWAC) Application – [Sep 2021](#)
 - Create Scope of Work – [Oct 2021](#)
 - If funding is awarded send out RFP – [Nov 2021](#)
 - Award contract – [Jan 2022](#)
 - Begin work on priority watersheds
 - Complete project – [Dec 2023](#)
- ARF - Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and Expended December 31, 2026
[NWARPC's goal is to have Project complete by Dec 2023](#)

Bowen explained that NWARPC submitted a \$6M request for this project in the Department of Agriculture's Needs Survey, including all seven watersheds. She said the preliminary scope of work can be adjusted based on the amount of funding that can be made available.

Bowen asked whether there were any questions. Chris Brown asked when there will be an ask from the Cities. Bowen stated that currently there is no funding request from the Cities or Counties for this project. We are just asking for your participation at this time in order to achieve the best product and end result.

B. Census data

Tim Conklin stated that NWARPC sent out 2020 Census data to our members and you can also find census data at <https://arstatedatacenter.youraedi.com/census-2020/>. Conklin said that Benton and Washington Counties grew by 105,800 people in the last decade and were the fastest growing counties in the state. He also summarized other growth information for the region and said that Regional Planning will be working with jurisdictions and school districts to help with the redistricting process. If you have any questions or requests for help, please get with us; Jeff Hawkins and other

staff can assist.

Chair Patsy Christie asked for clarification on whether the data is out in a form that redistricting can start. Conklin explained that they are pulling the legacy data and processing it for redistricting and that data has been used in the past.

C. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Patsy Christie went over the future meetings as follows:

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, August 25, 2021 @ 1:30 PM
- **TAC Meeting** – September TAC Business will be by ballot only.
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 @ 1:30 PM (TBD: ballot only)
- **APA AR Chapter Fall Conference** – Wed., Sept. 15 & Thur., Sept. 16, 2021 – more information at www.ArkansasAPA.org
- **APAC3*21 Cross-Chapter Collaborative** – November 1-3, Virtual and Fort Worth Texas– <https://web.cvent.com/event/6e160f8b-1738-4934-a3ee-6fbae527f405/summary>

Elizabeth Bowen stated that the AR GIS Conference that is scheduled for September 15-16 is now going to be virtual.

Tim Conklin also stated the Bella Vista Bypass ribbon cutting is scheduled for September 30, 2021.

Chair Patsy Christie asked if anyone had anything else; hearing none she thanked everyone for coming.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was ended at 11:19 a.m.