

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021 AT 10:30 AM – APPROVED AUGUST 19, 2021**

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

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

**OTHERS:** Amy Heflin (FHWA); Ryan Carr (Springdale); Luke Jost (Crafton Tull); Andy Brewer (Olsson); Dawn Warrick, Keith Beatty, Erica Craycraft, and Thomas Haster (Freese and Nichols); Chis Hoover (Senator Cotton’s Office); Jason James (ARDOT); Britni Oconnor (MoDOT); Nathan Becknell (TEC).

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

**(2) APPROVE TAC MAY 20, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Patsy Christie asked the Committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the May meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the May 20, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION: Jackie Crabtree made a motion to approve the May 20, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes as distributed. Paul Libertini provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**(3) ARDOT FFY 2023-2026 STIP DEVELOPMENT – MPO PROJECT SUBMISSION**

Tim Conklin gave an overview of what was submitted to ARDOT on June 23, 2021 for the FFY 2023-2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Conklin explained that every project from the 2024 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Constrained Project List was submitted to ARDOT for consideration of being programmed in the next STIP. He explained that the next STIP will be developed next summer and adopted late summer or early fall. ARDOT Planning representative, Chris Dillaha, confirmed this timeline.

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

• **FFY 2021 OBLIGATION PLAN**

Tim Conklin explained that every summer we need to obligate our funds from last year and we can carry up to a maximum of one million dollars into the next year. He stated that last July we awarded \$11,636,680 of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A), Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds to multiple projects, and we also awarded \$3,244,773 of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act HIP funding.

Tim Conklin showed and summarized the FFY 2021 Obligation Plan sent to ARDOT on June 23, 2021. He reminded project awardees that **all requirements for obligation must be met by August 2021.** He explained that if one or more projects do not meet their deadlines in the next few weeks, we will juggle qualified projects between federal fiscal years as they are ready to be obligated. Conklin reminded the committee that it is the project sponsor’s responsibility to make sure the requirements are met by the deadline.

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		Already Obligated										
		Anticipated to be Obligated										
		Proposed Carry Over										
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		LOI closed May 27, 2021
2021	Benton	090630	Bentonville	Razorback Greenway Relocation I-49 SPUI CAP Reconnect Razorback Greenway	Construction	\$ 250,000				\$ 250,000		60% Plans to ARDOT 6-21-21
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		ROW in Process
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	\$ 6,246,680	\$ 1,930,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 360,000	
<small>Funding Assumptions: FFY 2021 funding at 100% OL after August 2021 redistribution (Current OL is at 89%)            Note: Obligation of NWARPC Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funding from FFY 2018, 2019, and 2020 total is \$3,136,680            FAST ACT Obligation Authority FFY 2021 \$8,373,906 STBGA, \$500,603 TAP at assumed 100% OL</small>												

**• FFY 2022 PROPOSED PROJECT PRESENTATIONS BY APPLICANTS**

Tim Conklin gave an overview of the FY 2022 schedule, as follows:

- Call for Projects May 27, 2021 (after Policy Committee)
- Deadline to Submit June 30, 2021
- TAC Presentations July 15, 2021
- TAC Recommendation August 19, 2021
- NWARPC Policy Committee August 25, 2021

Conklin briefly reviewed the estimate of funding based on the FFY 2021, as follows:

- 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**

Tim Conklin showed the list of projects submitted and explained that applicants will be presenting their requests to the Committee. He said that a total of \$8.6 million of projects were submitted and this is the first year that we have had just about the same amount of funding requests as estimated funding. He continued, that we anticipate still following the ranking procedure with the Review Committee, and pending review of any application deficiencies, it will be up to the RPC/Policy Committee to decide whether to award funding to all the projects.

Applicants gave brief presentations of their requests according to the order on the agenda, with application deficiencies or contingencies noted during their presentations:

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

Tim Conklin recapped the total amounts requested and discussed the anticipated process for the review committee. He stated that we anticipate having a meeting to go through applications and rank them within the next two or three weeks, prior to the August TAC and Policy Committee meetings. He showed the anticipated review committee on the screen and invited others to contact him if they want to be involved in the review. There was discussion of including a tour, and it was agreed by the committee that this would be desirable.

**(5) CITY OF SILOAM SPRINGS REQUESTED FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP AMENDMENTS**

Tim introduced the item stating that in order to apply for Federal aid funds for STBGP-A, the street needs to be on the Functional Classification Map. He stated that a couple years ago, NWARPC asked the Cities what amendments they needed to the map and then the pandemic slowed activity. He said that Siloam Springs had previously requested several amendments, and their current STBGP-A request for Kenwood Street is contingent on a map amendment. Conklin explained that ARDOT has requested that map amendments be limited until after the 2020 Census, at which time a comprehensive update to the two-county functional classification map will be undertaken. He stated Siloam Springs Master Street Plan currently reflects the requested map revisions, and explained that NWARPC supports their request.

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Chair Patsy Christie asked the Committee whether there were any questions or comments on this item. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee the Functional Classification Map Amendments:

- E. Kenwood Street - Proposed Major Collector between Hwy 16 and Bruce Rutherford Dr.
- Bruce Rutherford Dr. - Proposed Major Collector between Kenwood St. and Gum Springs Rd.
- Gum Springs Road - Proposed Major Collector between Bruce Rutherford Dr. and US 412

**MOTION:** Brad Baldwin made a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the Functional Classification Map amendments. Dennis Birge provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

**(6) HWY 112 – UPDATE AND PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION**

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the topic and Tim Conklin explained that a Public Officials meeting was held on Monday of this week. He said coming up next week, ARDOT will hold Public Involvement Meetings from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, July 19, 2021 – Highway 412 – Springdale Bypass (Job 012305) – [Link: https://vpiph02-job-012305-hwy-412-springdale-bypass-hwy-11-481af-ardot.hub.arcgis.com/](https://vpiph02-job-012305-hwy-412-springdale-bypass-hwy-11-481af-ardot.hub.arcgis.com/)
- Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – Springdale Bypass to West Wallis Road (Job 090513) – [Link https://vpiph02-job-090513-springdale-bypass-w-wallis-rd-hw-13eab-ardot.hub.arcgis.com/](https://vpiph02-job-090513-springdale-bypass-w-wallis-rd-hw-13eab-ardot.hub.arcgis.com/)
- Thursday, July 22, 2021 – West Wallis Road to Highway 12 (Job 090514) – [Link https://vpiph02-job-090514-w-wallis-rd-hwy-12-hwy-112-202107-ardot.hub.arcgis.com/](https://vpiph02-job-090514-w-wallis-rd-hwy-12-hwy-112-202107-ardot.hub.arcgis.com/)

Tim Conklin gave a brief review of the regional vision adopted in 2019 and thanked ARDOT for incorporating that into the design of Hwy 112 from Fayetteville to Bentonville. Chair Patsy Christie raised a concern that the bridge over Hwy 612 does not accommodate the bike trail. Conklin requested that the committee comment on this deficiency before ARDOT’s August 6 comment deadline. Chair Patsy Christie asked whether we have received a cost calculation. Conklin responded that we have not. He said that our letter was sent to ARDOT on January 11, 2021 and on Monday ARDOT said they are still working on their response. ARDOT Planning representative, Chris Dillaha, confirmed that is still the case.

Tim Conklin showed images and stated that NWARPC is in continuous conversation with ARDOT about understanding what our financial responsibilities will be. He stated that the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) applied in May for just under two (2) million dollars of ARDOT TAP Grants for the ARDOT Hwy 112 project, as a significant regional project. He explained that the RMA is an eligible entity to apply for ARDOT TAP monies.

Chair Patsy Christie asked if there were any questions on Hwy 112. Hearing none, she stated that ARDOT did listen to a lot of our requests, but there are just a few more things still to work out.

**(7) NWA BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN – UPDATE**

Elizabeth Bowen presented the update stating that in the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) we requested funding to allow staff to update the 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. 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 local communities on

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adopting their local Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans. She said we are looking at a 12-month project, including updating the regional bicycle network and the catalyst projects. She said this will primarily be an activity the Active Transportation Committee (ACT) will take on and they will be meeting this afternoon to start discussions.

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

**(8) BUTTERFIELD STAGE EXPERIENCE TRAIL**

Elizabeth Bowen stated we have several regional trails, and presented them visually. Bowen explained that there is an opportunity to make a new designation for a Butterfield Stage Experience Trail from Springfield, MO to Ft Smith. She said this has been discussed along with the US Bike Route since 2017 and the process of coordinating this designation was started in April, including conversations with MoDOT and ARDOT. She stated that it will consist of an additional 250 designated routes through our communities and NWARPC and Frontier MPO's are talking with cities, counties, and organizations along the proposed route in Arkansas. Bowen explained further that this is a National, high-adventure trail proposed eventually to go all the way to San Francisco where it will loop into the Pony Express Route and come all the way back. She said this project does not involve building new trails in NWA but will primarily be a new designation along existing trails with potential signage in some places. She explained the Heritage Trail Partners group has been able to sign about 90% of the Heritage Trail, and if we stay on that trail, the signage will already be in place. She said there are people reviewing the route options and we hope to have a finalized route that we would take to the Commission in December 2021.

**8. 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, Tim Conklin, and Elizabeth Bowen stated that none had been received. Chair Christie asked if there was anyone at the meeting that wished to comment. No additional comments were made.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

- **UPDATES ON:**
  - **CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS**
  - **TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS (TSMO)/INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ITS)**

Elizabeth Bowen gave a brief update stating that on the CMP, 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 on the TSMO/ITS, we have advanced quite a bit more; we have a signed agreement obligating the funds, a signed AOU with ARDOT, an approved statement of work, an approved fee schedule, and a subcontract agreement that has already gone to the contractor. We are just waiting on some very final signatures on that project. Chair Patsy Christie requested that a timeframe be sent to the committee on how all that is going to work. Bowen agreed.

Chair Patsy Christie asked whether there were any questions on those items and there were none.

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- **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

Chair Patsy Christie went over the future meetings as follows:

- **RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021 @ 1:30 PM**
- **TAC MEETING – THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021, @ 10:30 AM**
- **RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021 @ 1:30 PM**

Chair Patsy Christie asked if anyone had anything else; hearing none she thanked everyone for coming and asked whether the Zoom option would be continued next month. Tim Conklin responded that it will be offered next month, and we will likely decide month by month for now. Chair Christie encouraged people to come to the meetings in person if at all possible.

**10. ADJOURN**

The meeting was ended at 11:27 a.m.