DRAFT NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021, @ 1:30 PM

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	PETER CHRISTIE (VICE CHAIR)	Х	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING	Х	
	JOSH BEAM		
	JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON		
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN	Х	
	SHELLI KERR	х	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS		
	MAYOR BOB THARP		
DECATUR ELKINS			
ELM SPRINGS FARMINGTON	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON		X	
	(MELISSA McCARVILLE)	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	LIONELD JORDAN	X	
		X	
	JONATHAN CURTH	X	
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN	Х	
GATEWAY	MAYOR ANDREW TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	MAYOR MAX POYE		
	ALBERT SKILES		
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR BILL GROOM		
HIGHFILL	MAYOR MICHELLE RIEFF		
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR X DOTSON		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR DARRELL TRAHAN		
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (CHAIR)		
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	Х	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE		
	(RICK STONE)		
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR JACKIE CRABTREE (TREASURER)	Х	(ACTING CHAIR)
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR SONNY HUDSON (SECRETARY)	Х	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE	Х	
	JOHN McCURDY	х	
	BOB CRAFTON		
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION		
	PHILLIP PATTERSON	Х	
SPRINGDALE	DOUG SPROUSE	Х	
	PATSY CHRISTIE	х	
	JIM ULMER	Х	
SPRINGTOWN	TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	SHANE WEBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR PAUL COLVIN	Х	
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE JOSEPH WOOD		
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER	X	RAY AVERY
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH	Х	
	ADAM WADDELL		
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY		
	(JAY HUNEYCUTT)	Х	
McDONALD COUNTY	BILL LANT		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR	Х	
	BRITNI O'CONNOR	Х	
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES		
ARDOT PLANNING +	BRAD McCALEB	X	SUNNY FARMAHAN
DISTRICTS	CHAD ADAMS (DISTRICT 4)	X	
	JOEL GARDNER	(NON-VOTING)	
UZAKK KEG, TRANSH			
OZARK REG. TRANSIT ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION	(NON-VOTING)	

NWARPC STAFF: Jeff Hawkins; Tim Conklin, AICP; Nicole Gibbs, AICP; Elizabeth Bowen, Cristina Scarlat

OTHERS: Joel Gardner (ORT), Doug Tapp (Bella Vista), Madelyn Parker (Tontitown), Ron Wood (NWADG)

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 Acting Chair, Mayor Jackie Crabtree 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 AUGUST 25, 2021

Chair Crabtree asked the Committee whether there were any corrections or amendments to the August meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the August 25, 2021 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

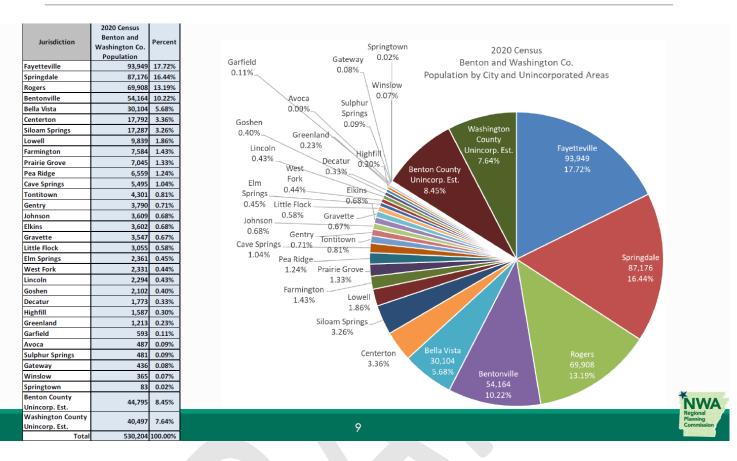
<u>MOTION:</u> Mayor Sonny Hudson made a motion to approve the August 25, 2021 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. City Administrator Phillip Patterson provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jeff Hawkins gave the director's report saying the Clearinghouse Report was sent out and shown on the screen. He stated that the audit preparatory work will be starting in about two weeks. He said ARDOT will be considering CAP-2 priorities in the very near future and NWARPC plans to emphasize that there needs to be an equitable distribution of those funds to meet the needs of the region, including those projects that are already identified in the long-range 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He said there will be more information coming out on that in the future.

Tim Conklin summarized 2020 Census population changes in the region, saying the two-county area grew by 105,800 people from the 2010 Census, with the largest four cities, Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville, growing by 67,540, which is 63.84% of the two-county growth. He noted that the entire state of Arkansas with the growth and losses throughout the state grew by 95,606 people. He said we have four of the ten largest cities in the state, being Fayetteville (2nd), Springdale (4th), Rogers (6th), Bentonville (9th), and compared their combined population of 305,197 people with Little Rock and North Little Rock's combined population of 267,182 people. He said the two-county area total population of 530,204 people, represents 17.6% of the total state population of 3,011,524 people. He also showed and explained that the largest City, Fayetteville, only accounts for 17.72% of the two-county population, which shows that we do not have one core city, but are a polycentric region with multiple jurisdictions that have to work together to connect trails, transit, and roads. He described and showed the following table and graph visually:

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Conklin described the Urbanized Area (UZA) and showed comparisons of the region's UZA between 1990, 2000, and 2010 demonstrating a northward growth pattern in the urbanized area, as well as a more pronounced polycentric distribution of the population. He showed and explained that in 1990, Fayetteville and Springdale accounted for 96% of the Urbanized Area, and the UZA was entirely within Washington County. He said by 2000, Fayetteville had about a third of the population, with Benton County cities being added into the UZA; and by 2010, Fayetteville dropped down below a quarter of the population, with the population evenly split between Benton and Washington Counties.

Conklin said while the 2020 UZA has not been published yet, the Urbanized Area population is utilized in many of the Federal funding formulas, including STBGP-A and TAP, as well as transit funding, and largely determines the amount of Federal money that comes to the area.

(5) 2022 ARDOT + MODOT SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Chair, Mayor Crabtree introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that both ARDOT and MoDOT have set their safety performance targets for 2022. He said we look at three (3) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Performance Measures (PMs): Safety, Pavement and Bridges, and System Performance. He said today we are considering five (5) Safety Performance Targets from ARDOT and MoDOT. He said Federal law requires MPO's to pass a resolution within 180 days supporting the State DOT's annual targets, or we as an agency can set our own targets. He said we have opted to support both ARDOT and MoDOT's established targets. Conklin said that we are also required to report our baseline condition and performance in our 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which

we did last year with the adoption of that plan. He described and presented the following targets visually:

EXHIBIT A												
NWARPC SUPPORTED ARDOT AND MODOT TARGETS												
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - September 26, 2018 - Res. No. 2018-13												
	Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - 2020 Safety Targets - January 22, 2020 - Res. No 2020-01											
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - 2021 Safety Targets And Mid-Performance Report Target Adjustments - December 2, 2020 - Res. No. 2020-07 Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission - 2022 Safety Targets - October 27, 2021 Res. No. 2021-12												
Northwest Arka	nsas Regiona MoDOT	MoDOT	MoDOT	n - 2022 Safe MoDOT	ety Targets MoDOT	- October MoDOT	27, 2021 Res ARDOT	. No. 2021 ArDOT	-12 ArDOT	ARDOT	ARDOT	ARDOT
SAFETY	Baseline	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	2013-2017		CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
JAFEIT	Dasenne	CT 2010	012015	CT 2020	CT 2021		Baseline	012010	01 2015	01 2020	01 2021	CT 2022
Number of Fatalities	910.0	857.7	872.3	859.3	871.6	877	514.4	555	543	541.2	536.3	631.5
Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT	1.213	1.163	1.160	1.130	1.119	1.126	1.474	1.662	1.615	1.595	1.560	1.808
Number of Serious Injuries	4,681.2	4,559.3	4,433.8	4,505.4	4,463.9	4,299.0	2,991.2	3,470.0	3,637.0	3,201.4	3,103.8	2,996.9
Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million VMT	6.241	6.191	6.168	5.953	5.829	5.520	8.584	10.419	10.824	9.441	9.043	8.608
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	462.2	431.9	445.4	437.4	462.2	485	149	149	170	300.3	220.3	229.2

Chair Mayor Crabtree asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2021-12 to Support the ARDOT and MoDOT Established Performance Targets for Safety.

<u>MOTION:</u> Mayor Jeff Van Sickler made a motion to approve Resolution #2021-12 to Support the ARDOT and MoDOT Established Performance Targets for Safety. Mayor Peter Christie provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Phillip Patterson asked about the change in ARDOT's number of fatalities between 2021 and 2022. Tim Conklin explained that the DOT's are allowed to make adjustments based on changed or unknown conditions and some of the justification for the increase with ARDOT was raising the speed limit to 75mph, medical marijuana, the ongoing integration of the e-crash system throughout the state, and an increase in speeding during the pandemic.

(6) FFY 2022 STBGP-A AND TAP PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Chair Crabtree introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained in August the RPC/Policy Committee voted to award funding to the 2022 projects. He said in order to get the new projects going, you will need to have a project initiation meeting with ARDOT and provide them with the award letter from NWARPC. He said there is also a new ARDOT requirement for quarterly progress reports on TAP projects. Conklin summarized and presented the list of 2022 projects as follows:

Jurisdiction	Project	Funding Amount
Benton County	Wagon Wheel Road Bridge Replacement	\$500,000
Bentonville	SW Regional Airport Blvd/S Vaughn Road Intersection	\$500,000
Bentonville-Centerton	Greenhouse Road - Hwy 12 to Hwy 102	\$112,000
Fayetteville	College Avenue Complete Street - North to Township	\$1,500,000
Fayetteville	Hwy 62 Interchange Improvements	\$1,500,000
Fayetteville	Heritage Springs Trail and Tunnel (Hwy 112)	\$250,000
Gentry	Hwy 12/59 Signal and Intersection Improvements	\$250,000
Lowell	US-71B/HWY264 Intersection Improvements	\$730,000
Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview /Spring Creek Road Intersection	\$150,000
Siloam Springs	E Kenwood Street (widening, incl. side path)	\$220,000
Siloam Springs	N Mt Olive Side path (between Dawn Hill Rd. and Carl St.)	\$376,000
Springdale	Gene George S. Ph III	\$909,050
Springdale	Gene George S. Ph I	\$1,663,269
	Total	\$8,660,319

FFY 2022 STBGP-A / HIP AND TAP AWARDED PROJECTS

Conklin reminded the cities to follow the 14 steps for success outlined by ARDOT to get your money obligated and please copy Regional Planning on correspondence. He showed an example of the LPA Project Quarterly Report Form and shared contact information for the Local Project Administrator.

Conklin explained further that the 2022 funding allocation is dependent on Congress acting and whether the new Infrastructure Bill gets passed.

(7) SENIOR TRANSIT PLANNER POSITION + ACCEPTANCE OF WFF GRANT

Chair Crabtree introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that last year we completed the Connect NWA 10-Year Transit Development Plan and this past August we discussed an opportunity for a grant through the Walton Family Foundation to potentially receive funding to hire a full-time Transit Planner who would be dedicated to the implementation of Connect NWA. He summarized and presented the following information visually:

- Full-time Transit Planner
- Dedicated to implementation of Connect NWA
- \$321,933 Total Grant Over 3 Years
- Coordination with Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit
- Coordination with Human Service Organizations
- FTA Designated Recipient Funding Programs 5307, 5339, and 5310 \$3M + per year

Conklin asked whether there were any questions. Patsy Christie asked whether after three years, the Commission would be expected to fund the position. Conklin responded that we currently have a vacant position, which would become this Transit Planner position, and that we will be getting additional funding with the adjusted 2020 Census numbers through FTA and FHWA so there should be adequate funding for the position beyond year three. Jeff Hawkins added that we will likely have the adjusted Urbanized Area population by March of 2023, which should bring an increase in funding and likely an increase in responsibilities.

Chair Mayor Crabtree asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2021-13 Accepting the Walton Family Foundation Grant for a Senior Transit Planner.

<u>MOTION</u>: Mayor Sunny Hudson made a motion to approve Resolution #2021-13 Accepting the Walton Family Foundation Grant for a Senior Transit Planner. Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(8) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES

A. Redistricting Information

Jeff Hawkins explained that NWARPC is working on redistricting right now, with the work for all School Districts being completed. He said that all 15 School Districts in the two-county area will have elections by zones going forward, six for the very first time. He said there are 79 school zones in the two-county area and 32 of them are new. He said NWARPC has also begun on the Quorum Court Districts with Washington County growth being largely across the board, whereas Benton County saw a shift in population growth to the west-central part of the County. He said courts have said 10% deviation is the threshold to be legal under the equal protection clause, whereas the deviation in Benton County is over 94% and he gave an example that one of the JP districts in Benton County went from 14,500 to over 32,000 in population. He continued, both counties are waiting to see where the House and Senate lines will fall within the next week to determine opportunities to follow those lines where possible. He said the next effort will be the City wards, with Siloam Springs already underway due to the differences with redistricting and election timelines in the City Administrator form.

B. Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Elizabeth Bowen explained we are in the process of updating our 2015 Congestion Management Plan (CMP) and summarized and presented the following updates:

- Notice to Proceed –July 29
- Kick-Off Meeting –August 10
- Bi-Weekly Meetings –Sep 28, Oct 6, Oct 15
 Data to CS (ARDOT, NWARPC, Cities)
- NEXT STEP (b & c) (Oct 28 12-1p):
 - Develop Regional Objectives
 - Define CMP Network

Bowen asked whether there were questions and there were none.

C. Transportation Systems Maintenance and Operations (TSMO)/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Elizabeth Bowen said we are using the same contractor as the CMP, Cambridge Systematics and summarized and presented the following updates:

- Task Order Issued and NTP–August 12
- Kick-Off Meeting –September 28
- Bi-Weekly Meetings Aug 20, Oct 6, Oct 15
- NEXT STEPS: (Next Meeting Oct 28 12-1)

- \circ ~ Agree on a timeline that works with ARDOT's TSMO Project, ITS, and NWARPC CMP Project ~
- Data to CS
- New TSMO
- Update 2007 ITS Plan

Bowen asked whether there were questions and there were none.

D. NWA Regional Assessment of Stormwater Management

Elizabeth Bowen said we have made a lot of progress with this project in the last two months. She summarized and presented the following updates on the project:

- Form Steering Committee Aug 2021 COMPLETE
- Issued out Letter of Interest Sep 2021 COMPLETE
- State Water/Wastewater State Advisory Committee (WWAC) Application Sep 2021 COMPLETE
- LOI Scoring Oct 2021 (4/5 Complete)
- Create Scope of Work Oct 2021 2nd DRAFT COMPLETE
- Corps of Engineers Model Review October 8, 2021
- Corps of Engineers Funding Partnership October 12, 2021
- Send out RFP Nov 2021
- Award contract Jan 2022
- Begin work on priority watersheds Feb 2022-Dec 2023
- Complete project Dec 2023

ARF - Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and Expended December 31, 2026 Goal is to have Project complete by Dec 2023

Bowen said we have been communicating with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and also the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission (ANRC) about funding, in addition to the potential funding from the American Rescue Plan. She said we are now to the point of sending out the Request for Proposal (RFP), and we need to know whether the Commission would like us to continue with that process and whether there were any comments or suggestions to move forward. Patsy Christie asked if we have a timeframe in which we might have a better idea for funding. Bowen said the timeframe for the American Rescue Funds are unknown; the ANRC has funding for at least the Illinois River Watershed at this time; and the Corps of Engineers have approximately \$1M to contribute to a region-wide project. She said she recommends proceeding with one project for the region in a priority order if needed. There was discussion regarding holding the RFPs until we have a better idea of funding sources and total costs.

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

(9) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (Act)

Chair Mayor Crabtree introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented the following updates:

NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

• Last met October 21, 2021

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- Expanded timeline to complete by Dec 2022
- Working on survey
- Meeting with Cities regarding individual Plan updates (Garfield, Elkins, Goshen, Huntsville, Rogers, Centerton)
- Looking at regional network and catalyst projects, gravel grinding routes, local individual plan data
- Updating GIS data trails, sidewalks, amenities
- CAST updated trails map
- Next Meeting Nov. 18 1:30pm

Butterfield Stage Experience Route (update on progress through communities)

- Pea Ridge National Military Park -Yes
- Garfield -Yes
- Avoca –Yes
- Rogers -Yes
- Lowell -Yes
- Springdale Discussed Routes
- Fayetteville Discussed Routes
- Greenland
- West Fork
- Benton County -Yes
- Washington County -email

Bowen asked whether there were any questions. Mayor Peter Christie asked about the planned bicycle highway going up 71 to Joplin and whether that was still being proposed, saying that the NWA Trailblazers are still interested in going up 71. Bowen said she has spoken with Erin Rushing, and is also working with MoDOT to submit a request for funding to take the Razorback Greenway from the state line to Jane, and a second project from Jane to Pineville. She said Rushing is getting her figures on what that might cost. She said we have also looked at US Bike Route 51 that was approved in Arkansas and ends at the state line on 71, and taking that all the way up to Joplin as well, so we are looking at two different opportunities in that area.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented the following updates:

- Last met October 26, 2021
- Discussing advancing OS through City Council adoption of resolution, nutrient trading, infrastructure impacts to natural resources, funding, open space project wins, membership
- Education Task Force Sept 13, Sep 28
 - Working on information to present to all City Councils ordinance template, PPT, Video, documents
- Next meeting scheduled for December 28, 2021 @ 10:00am

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

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Nicole Gibbs summarized and presented the following updates:

- Last met September 15, 2021
- "Pick where you play" program and "Don't Blow It!" education campaign that targets highway

littering

- The FY 2022 budget split table was distributed to MS4 participants
- MOU letters for MS4 will be sent in the next few weeks
- Next meeting scheduled for November 17, 2021 @ 10:30am

D. NWA GIS User Group

Nicole Gibbs summarized and presented the following updates:

- Last met October 12, 2021
- Current and future aerial imagery projects, trail database upgrade, bike and pedestrian plan update and the Census redistricting status.
- Next meeting scheduled for December 14, 2021 @ 10:30am

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

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

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Officer Elections in December – Form Nominating Committee or Re-elect Officers

Chair Mayor Crabtree introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs explained that according to Bylaws, the current slate of officers can serve another term and the Commission may choose whether or not they want to form a Nominating Committee this year. If a committee is formed, they will either choose a new slate of officers or re-elect the current slate of officers. Crabtree commented that due to the pandemic, the people currently in office have not been able to function as they normally would, and would like to recommend re-electing the current slate of officers. Others stated their agreement.

<u>MOTION:</u> Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to re-elect the current slate of officers to a second term. Phillip Patterson provided the second. None were opposed. Motion passed.

B. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair, Mayor Crabtree went over the future meeting dates as follows:

- TAC Meeting Thursday, November 18, 2021 @ 10:30 AM
- RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Wed., Dec. 1, 2021 @ 1:30 PM (combined Nov/Dec Mtg)
- **TAC Meeting** Thursday, December 16, 2021 @ 10:30 AM (*tentatively scheduled*)
- APAC3*21 Cross-Chapter Collaborative November 1-3, Virtual and In-Person, Fort Worth, TX – <u>https://web.cvent.com/event/6e160f8b-1738-4934-a3ee-6fbae527f405/summary</u>

C. ARDOT XNA Access Road (Job 090069) | <u>https://xnaaccess.transportationplanroom.com/</u>

- Public Hearing was held yesterday evening
- ARDOT accepting comments until 4:30pm on Wed, Nov. 10, 2021

Tim Conklin stated that ARDOT held the Public Officials Meeting and Public Hearing yesterday. He said ARDOT stated in the meetings that both the US 612 extension to Hwy 412 in Tontitown and the XNA Access Road are planned to begin within the next five (5) years. He said the XNA Access Road

will come off US 612 west of the Hwy 112 interchange and will be a four-lane, fully controlled access road with no interchanges. He said it will taper down to a two-lane road to connect to the existing XNA entrance with a traffic signal. Conklin also described how the access road is planned to coincide with continued construction of US 612 and provided links for the ARDOT project websites:

- <u>https://xnaaccess.transportationplanroom.com/</u>
- <u>https://www.ardot.gov/divisions/environmental/assessments/impact-statements-eis-</u>
- assesments-ea/springdale-northern-bypass-highway-412/

He advised the Cities in the area that they will likely be getting more and more questions as these projects continue.

Mayor Crabtree asked whether the XNA Access Road would eventually continue north to connect to the I-49/Bella Vista Bypass. Conklin said that there is a separate ARDOT study called the Western North-South Connector Study to look at different alignments from I-49/Bella Vista Bypass to US 612, which is still in the planning/study stage. He said there is a proposed alternative in the study that would potentially connect to the Airport Access Road. He said once again, they are two separate projects.

(12) ADJOURN

With no other business, Chair, Mayor Jackie Crabtree adjourned the meeting at 2:18 PM.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS	_DAY OF, 2022:
	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY, CHAIR, OR MAYOR PETER CHRISTIE, VICE CHAIR
ATTEST:	