

DRAFT NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022, @ 1:30 PM

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	PETER CHRISTIE (VICE CHAIR)	X	DOUG TAPP
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON	X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS		
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	
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	MAYOR ANDREW TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	MAYOR MAX POYE		
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)	X	
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE (RICK STONE)	X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR JACKIE CRABTREE (TREASURER)	X	
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR SONNY HUDSON (SECRETARY)	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY BOB CRAFTON	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION PHILLIP PATTERSON	X X	
SPRINGDALE	DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X X	
SPRINGTOWN	TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	SHANE WEBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR GENE MCCARTNEY	X	
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE JOSEPH WOOD BRIAN LESTER	X	
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB CHAD ADAMS (DISTRICT 4)	X	X SUNNY FARMAHAN
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	BILL LANT		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR (BRITNI O'CONNOR)	X	
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES	X	
PINEVILLE, MO	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)	X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNEYCUTT)	X	
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER (NON-VOTING)		
ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)		
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)		

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

OTHERS: Brenda Peacock (Benton County), Ron Wood (NWADG), Mike Stengel (Michael Baker Int), Shawn Strate and Andy Brewer (Olsson), Landon Miller (MBI), Rob Smith (NWA Council), Kayvan Afrasiabi

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 OCTOBER 27, 2021

Chair Mayor Keeney asked the Committee whether there were any corrections or amendments to the October meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the October 27, 2021 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Brian Lester made a motion to approve the October 27, 2021 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mayor Sunny Hudson provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jeff Hawkins gave the director's report saying the Clearinghouse Report was sent out. He described federal aid submissions requested for Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Disabled, known as Section 5310 selection and said once we hire someone in the new Transit Planner position, NWARPC will be responsible for 5310 project selection. He said speaking of that hire, we are having a difficult time getting applicants and have re-advertised for the position.

Hawkins said NWARPC has finished Quorum Court redistricting, working with the Election Commissions and County Clerk Offices, and have finished the School District zoning and redistricting. He said we assisted 14 districts in the two-county area at no charge and the 15th, Springdale, paid a consultant. He said eight (8) were redistricting, and six (6), because the minority percentage exceeded 10%, had to go to zone plans for the first time. He said we have begun analyzing city wards with the 2020 Census numbers to determine if redistricting is necessary. He said if city wards are not of "substantially equal" population, we will notify cities and unless the city says otherwise, we will prepare one or more alternative ward redistricting plans. He said the "substantially equal" threshold that the courts have generally used is a 10% population deviation among wards. He said Fayetteville will prepare their own plans and possibly Bentonville as well. He said Garfield and Decatur will not have to redistrict because their wards are within an acceptable population range, but most cities will need to redistrict because of the growth that we have had. This work should move quickly and if you have not heard from us, we should be in touch shortly about your wards.

Hawkins said we are scheduling the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit

Administration (FTA) planning certification reviews for this June and believes they will want Board Member participation to some degree during that time as well. He said this is different than the FTA Triennial Review that was done last year, which involves Transit 5309 funds.

In addition, Hawkins said the CPA firm, Timothy A. Bunch, is working on our annual audit right now.

Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there were any questions, and there were none.

(5) OZARK REGIONAL TRANSIT (ORT) BUS STOP ENHANCEMENTS PLAN

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that we have Olsson and Associates here, project manager, Shawn Strate, and Andy Brewer, to share with the Commission their project with Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) to look at our bus stops. Strate said they are working with ORT on a Bus Stop Enhancement Plan and wanted to spend a few minutes today talking through the project at a high level: what it is, what we will need for feedback and stakeholder support, and to answer any questions. He discussed the project overview, project teams, bus stop inventory, data collection, technical and operations interviews, and next steps. He said they will be looking to engage stakeholders at multiple points in the process and will be reaching out to communities throughout the process.

Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there were any questions, and there were none.

(6) NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP PROPOSED AMENDMENT #3 FAYETTEVILLE COLLEGE AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

Tim Conklin explained that TAC recommended approval of the proposed TIP Amendment #3 to the Policy Committee, which includes \$1.5M in FFY 2022 STBGP-A funds that NWARPC awarded last August to Fayetteville towards this College Avenue project. He said additionally, ARDOT and Fayetteville entered into an agreement as part of the Hwy 112 project for the City to take ownership of College Avenue (previously US 71B) and ARDOT to provide \$1.5M towards the College Avenue project. He said all voter approved bond projects in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, and Bentonville were included in the NWARPC Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), including this project, so the MTP will not need to be amended. He said the public comment period was held January 7, 2022 to January 21, 2022 for this amendment and no comments were received. He said we do have a resolution prepared to be voted on today.

Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2022-01 to amend the NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

MOTION: Jonathan Curth made a motion to approve Resolution #2022-01 to amend the NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP. Jim Ulmer provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) PROCUREMENT MANUAL AND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATE

Chair Keeney introduced the item and Jeff Hawkins explained that these items are necessitated by the FTA Triennial Review and were originally addressed last July. He said at that time, we updated and the Commission approved the procurement procedures suggested by the FTA consultant and then those procurement procedures were incorporated into the Employee Handbook. He explained the consultant retired and his replacement indicated the recommendations did not quite check all the boxes of the FTA procurement requirements. Hawkins said for consideration today is a revised

version of the procurement procedures that do check all the FTA boxes and the second item is the updated Employee Handbook that incorporates the revised procurement procedures as Appendix B. Conklin said FTA has closed out their review of NWARPC and Chair Mayor Keeney received that notification last week. Mayor Keeney confirmed.

Conklin said there are two resolutions that the Board will need to vote on to adopt the revised Procurement Procedures and the updated Employee Handbook.

A. RESOLUTION #2022-02 – A Resolution Adopting the Revised NWARPC Procurement Procedures

Chair Mayor Keeney requested a motion to approve Resolution #2022-02 adopting the revised NWARPC Procurement Procedures.

MOTION: Administrator Phillip Patterson made a motion to approve Resolution #2022-02 adopting the revised NWARPC Procurement Procedures. Mayor Stephanie Orman provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

B. RESOLUTION #2022-03 – A Resolution Approving an Updated NWARPC Employee Handbook

Chair Mayor Keeney requested a motion to approve Resolution #2022-03 Approving an Updated NWARPC Employee Handbook.

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve Resolution #2022-03 Approving an Updated NWARPC Employee Handbook. Administrator Phillip Patterson provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(8) BIL “BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW” OVERVIEW (AKA IJJA “INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT”)

Chair Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was passed late last year and shared a website from FHWA to learn more about the BIL: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>. He gave background information on previous authorization of transportation programs and key terms and said BIL is funding more than just Highway projects, however we primarily focus on FHWA programs, which include \$351.3B of guaranteed funding through BIL. He showed the following breakdown by agency/mode:

Total Guaranteed Funding by Agency/Mode (totals rounded)

	2021 (FAST Act)	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total IJJA
FHWA/Highways	\$49B	\$68B	\$69B	\$70B	\$72B	\$73B	\$351.3B
NHTSA/Safety	\$1B	\$1B	\$1B	\$1B	\$1B	\$1B	\$6.7B
FMCSA/Safety	\$676M	\$1B	\$1B	\$1B	\$1B	\$1B	\$5.1B
FTA/Transit	\$13B	\$18B	\$18B	\$18.8B	\$19B	\$19B	\$91.1B
Office of the Secretary (Grant Programs)		\$4B	\$4B	\$4B	\$4B	\$4B	\$19.2B
FRA/Rail	\$3B	\$13B	\$13B	\$13B	\$13B	\$13B	\$66B
FAA/Airports	NA	\$5B	\$5B	\$5B	\$5B	\$5B	\$25B
MARAD/Ports PHMSA/Pipeline Safety	NA	\$675M	\$650M	\$650M	\$650M	\$650M	\$3B
Total	\$67B	\$110B	\$112B	\$115B	\$115B	\$117B	\$567.5B

Source: AMPO, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IJJA) Resource Guide



Conklin explained there are five years of authorizations (FFY2022-2026) and there are more than a dozen new highway programs with more opportunities for local governments and other non-traditional entities to access new funding. He said the majority of the funding continues to be formula apportionment going to the state with a portion being suballocated to MPO's. He said he is not aware of formula funding going directly to cities and counties.

Conklin highlighted some of the programs that may be of interest to the region including the Electric Vehicle Programs, Safe Streets and Roads for All, PROTECT grants, Bridge Investment, and Local and Regional Project Assistance, the last mentioned being the codified version of TIGER/BUILD/RAISE programs. He said the RAISE grant notice will be coming out any day with applications due April 14, 2022. He noted that NWARPC has already met with some of the utilities and larger cities regarding Electric Vehicle programs and said to contact him if interested in being added to the interest group list. He also mentioned that Carbon Reduction funding may be suballocated to MPO's. He gave further details of the various BIL programs.

He said we will also be sharing a "25 Competitive Infrastructure Funding Opportunities for Local Governments" handout after this meeting that summarizes programs and anticipated application release dates.

Conklin offered some thoughts on how best to position the region to compete for discretionary programs, including continuing discussions on EV charging infrastructure, reviewing existing NWARPC and locally adopted plans to see how various priorities may fit into these new funding programs, and continuing to review Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO's) and guidance as they are released. He mentioned a few regional projects like Hwy 112 and US 71B corridors that meet

many of the stated BIL focus areas, such as complete street, safety and vision zero strategies, carbon reduction, etc., that may be strong candidates for discretionary funds. He gave a history of the region’s past successes with similar discretionary programs (e.g. TIGER, BUILD, FTA5339 grants).

Conklin said we will continue monitoring information as it is released and keep everyone informed, and will continue to think through how the region can position itself to compete.

(9) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES

A. FFY 2022 STBGP-A & TAP Update – Request for Project Development

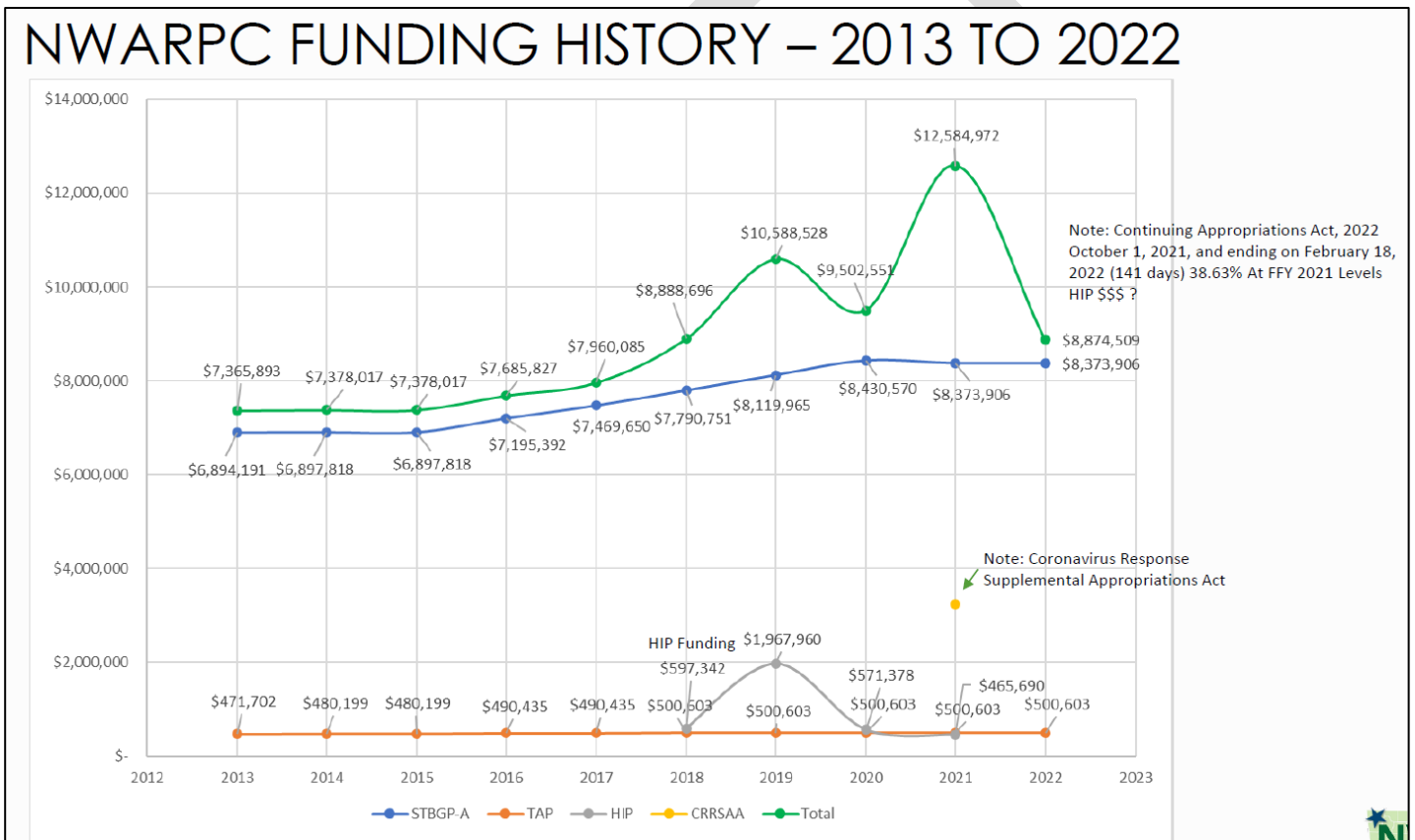
Tim Conklin reminded the committee of the FFY 2022 STBGP-A and TAP Project Development requirements and the \$8.6M awarded to NWA projects. He emphasized that cities must have an initiation meeting with ARDOT and must follow the Local Public Agency Project Manual and project development process steps carefully, paying close attention to the milestones or “stop” points that you must meet before moving on in order to receive federal funding. The following link was shared for the LPA Project Manual and the following figure was shown:

https://www.ardot.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FINAL_LPA-Manual_v26-14-21.pdf



He said ARDOT is requiring a quarterly report for all TAP and STBGP-A projects and requested jurisdictions to copy Regional Planning, as we can help keep track of where you are with your project and assist when needed. He shared information on the ARDOT Local Project Administration (LPA) and said not to hesitate to contact them if you are not sure what step you are on or if you think you went past “go” without asking.

Conklin said that within the BIL, there is a continuation of our suballocated STBGP-A and TAP funding for our urbanized area, however, as of today, the 2022 apportionment tables are not yet published. He said we do not intend to do a special call for projects, but to follow our normal process beginning in May or June 2022, and to select and approve FFY 2023 projects in July and August based on published FFY 2022 BIL Apportionment funding levels, which we hopefully will have by that time. He said we think there may be a 20% increase in funds for STBGP-A and possibly a 40% increase for TAP. He said in the past, we have always used 100% obligation limitation, however the current obligation limitation is 71.8%, funded through February 18th of 2022. He showed the following graph to illustrate NWARPC funding history from 2013 to 2022:



Conklin gave further background on recent construction bids and said as we know, we have seen significant increases in bid openings. He said even with the additional anticipated funding, we are going to be challenged as a region to deliver the projects that we already have in process.

B. US 412 Designation as Future Interstate Update

Tim Conklin explained that under BIL, US 412 has been designated as a Future Interstate on the National Highway System from I-35 in Noble County, Oklahoma to I-49 in Springdale, Arkansas. He

said it will utilize the US 612 Bypass that is being constructed, not the existing US 412 through Tontitown. Conklin explained that Oklahoma DOT has released a scope of work for Preliminary Engineering Study for the proposed corridor, which ARDOT may be participating in as well. Hawkins said that item will be under discussion at the February 2, 2022 ARDOT Commission meeting.

Conklin asked whether there were any questions and there were none.

C. Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented the following updates:

NEXT STEP:

- Committee Meeting - Feb 9 1:00
- Define CMP Network
- Contact HERE for new network requests
- Analyzing NPMRDS Data
- Develop Regional Objectives
- Analyze Congestion Problems and Needs

Bowen asked whether there were questions and there were none.

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

Elizabeth Bowen said we are using the same consultant as the CMP, Cambridge Systematics, and combine the bi-weekly meetings. She summarized and presented the following updates:

- Committee Meeting - Feb 9 1:00
- Bi-Weekly Meetings
- Review RPC Documents
- TSMO and ITS Peer Review Document
- Agree on a timeline that works with ARDOT's TSMO Project, ITS, and NWARPC CMP Project

Bowen asked whether there were questions and there were none.

E. NWA Regional Assessment of Stormwater Management

Elizabeth Bowen said this is a project that we brought to you back in the summer at the request of the Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP) to provide assistance in doing an assessment of that watershed. She said at that time, the RPC/Policy Committee requested that we look at all seven (7) watersheds in Benton and Washington County, which is what we have done so far. She summarized and presented the following updates:

- 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 COMPLETE
- Create Scope of Work – Oct 2021 2nd DRAFT COMPLETE
- Corps of Engineers Model Review – October 8, 2021 COMPLETE
- Corps of Engineers Funding Partnership – October 12, 2021, January 19, 2022
- If funding is awarded send out RFP – Nov 2021 (DO WE WANT TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS ITEM?) NO
- Award contract – Jan 2022

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- 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](#)

She said we were notified that the Arkansas American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds we were pursuing were not going to become available any time soon, so the RPC/Policy Committee chose not to issue the RFP last fall. She said since then we have learned that we likely will not hear anything until June or July 2022 regarding the ARPA funds. She further summarized and presented the following:

- Arkansas American Rescue Plan Act Steering Committee has not acted on the request for ARP funds
 - Survey identify over \$5 Billion in water and wastewater needs from across the state
 - Natural Resources Division of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture will be receiving additional funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
 - BIL Funds will be distributed through the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan funds.
 - Arkansas Department of Agriculture encourages entities to start the application process for funding at any time - financial assistance at the following link: <https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ANRC-Funding-Application-DRAFT-07-30-2021-NEW-Format-SAVABLE-FILLABLE.pdf>
 - Financial assistance will be subject to application review, and implementation criteria for the State Revolving Loan program.
-
- Natural Resources Division of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is willing to fund a project for the Upper Illinois River Watershed - AR
 - The US Army Corps of Engineers is willing to work with NWARPC on a scope and request matching funding from HQ to assist the project (any, all watersheds).
 - How to move forward with NWA Stormwater project?

Bowen said we do have the Arkansas Natural Resource Division (ANRC) that has stated they have funds to start the process on the Illinois River Watershed. She said additionally, the Corps of Engineers are willing to work with Regional Planning to apply for money through their headquarters program to assist in moving forward with a stormwater project as well. She said what it looks like is that we would only be moving forward with the Illinois River Watershed at this time and then seek additional funding at a later time for the other watersheds, as opportunities become available.

Bowen said we feel it would be prudent that since we have two agencies that are sharing with us that they have funding available for the project, to go ahead and issue the RFP and when we get the prices back and negotiate the scope of work, to then apply for ANRC funding. She asked whether there were any objections to continuing the process or whether there were any questions or comments. Lane Crider asked for feedback as to why ANRC was only willing to fund a project in the Illinois River Watershed. Bowen responded that IRWP brought this project to us back in June and were already in communication with ANRC at that time. She said they do not object to looking at the other watersheds, but they are ready to move forward with this one based on the communication we have had so far.

Bowen said hearing no other questions or concerns, we will proceed with issuing the RFP as soon as we can get the committee back together and she will continue to update the Commission at future meetings.

(10) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (Act)

Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented the following updates:

NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

- Expanded timeline to complete by Dec 2022
- Working on survey
- Meetings with Cities regarding individual Plan updates (Bella Vista, Bentonville, Cave Springs, Centerton, Elkins, Fayetteville, Garfield, Gentry, Goshen, Gravette, Huntsville, Johnson, Little Flock, Lowell, Rogers, Siloam Springs, Springdale)
- Looking at regional network and catalyst projects, gravel grinding routes, local individual plan data
- Updating GIS data –trails, sidewalks, amenities
- Next Meeting February 17, 2022 1:30pm

Bowen said the Regional Mobility Authority was awarded a \$500K ARDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for the Heritage Springs Trail project along Hwy 112. Bowen also summarized and shared the other 2021 ARDOT TAP and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) awarded projects in Benton and Washington Counties as follows:

2021 Awarded Projects – Benton & Washington Counties			
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)			
County	Sponsor	Project Name	Federal Funding Award
Washington	Fayetteville	Hwy. 112 Clabber Creek Trail Tunnel	\$ 500,000
Washington	Springdale	Dean's Trail Ph. 3	\$ 100,000
Benton	Gravette	Gravette Trail System Ph. 3	\$ 300,000
Benton	NWA Regional Mobility Authority	Heritage Springs Trail	\$ 500,000
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)			
County	Sponsor	Project Name	Federal Funding Award
Washington	Elkins	Active Transportation Route Ph. 1: Commercial District Trailhead	\$ 20,000
Washington	Fayetteville	Kessler Mountain Trail Enhancements	\$ 75,000

Bowen said ARDOT held a 2022 TAP Projects Kick-off Meeting January 18, 2022 and described changes in ARDOT staffing. She said they plan to open the application cycle in March and they are anticipating a 40% increase in TAP funds.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Elizabeth Bowen said the NWA Open Space Coalition met yesterday and she summarized and presented the following updates:

- Continues to look for open space opportunities.
- Continues to work with cities to adopt a resolution supporting the NWA Open Space Plan.
- Fayetteville adopted a resolution

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: November 17, 2021
- Meghan Post replacing Trish Oueiat UA Cooperative Extension Services (UACES)
- The “Pick Up Where You Play” program was a great success.
- “Don’t Blow It!” Campaign – litter bags, bucket lids and stickers now available at both counties’ extension offices
- FY 2022 MOUs sent out to all the MS4 jurisdictions - please make sure your representative signs it and returns it to NWARPC asap
- Invoices will be sent out once the MOUs are received, starting in March 2022
- Annual Reports -will be sent to cities by the end of February 2022
- Cities will need to submit them to DEQ by March 31, 2022
- Next meeting: February 16, 2022 @ 10:30 am. (every two months on the third Wednesday)

D. NWA GIS User Group

Nicole Gibbs said there are no updates for the GIS User Group at this time. She said Christina Scarlet is the contact for MS4 and GIS User Groups and to reach out to her with any questions.

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if any comments had been received prior to the meeting.

Nicole Gibbs stated we did receive a public comment in November that was also read at the TAC meeting last week, from Mike Fisk of Tontitown regarding support for an interchange at Javello Rd when Hwy 612 is extended to Hwy 412.

No additional comments were made.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

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

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, February 17, 2022, @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, February 23, 2022 @ 1:30 PM

Tim Conklin shared ARDOT traffic counts from before and after the opening of the Bella Vista Bypass, which demonstrates the significant changes in car and truck traffic from US 71 to the new interstate. He noted a couple substantial areas of change, including a significant increase in truck traffic on Hwy 72 toward Hwy 59, with Mayor Maddox commenting in the newspaper about trucks having a difficult time turning onto Hwys 72 and 59 in Gravette. He said when you look at traffic counts and travel demand in Benton County, it continues to increase rapidly year over year and this illustrates how much demand we have for improved facilities in Benton County.

B. ARDOT Hwy 112 Improvements – Additional Alternatives for Consideration <https://hwy-112-job-090514-december-2021-ardot.hub.arcgis.com/>

- **Alternative B3** – Cave Springs/ Bentonville Area
- **Alternative C3 Modified** – Cave Springs

Tim Conklin said ARDOT has sent out new alternatives for Hwy 112 and are planning for another public meeting sometime in the spring or early summer. He described the proposed changes and asked those who are interested to go to the website and send any comments to ARDOT.

Conklin said Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment (E&E) will be hosting a webinar on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 1:30pm on their electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure funding program. He said if anyone is interested in EV charging infrastructure, to contact Tim or Nicole to be added to a list for future meetings.

(13) ADJOURN

With no other business, Chair, Mayor Chris Keeney adjourned the meeting at 2:42 PM.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022:

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

ATTEST:
