

NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022, @ 1:30 PM; DRAFT

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	PETER CHRISTIE (VICE CHAIR)	X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON	X X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	ERNIE PENN (MELISSA McCARVILLE)	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X	
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN	X	ELIZABETH BOWEN
GATEWAY	MAYOR ANDREW TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON	X	
GOSHEN	MAYOR MAX POYE		
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX	X	MALLORY WEAVER
GREENLAND	MAYOR BILL GROOM		
HIGHFILL	MAYOR MICHELLE RIEFF	X	
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		
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	
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)	X	
ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)		
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)		

NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022, @ 1:30 PM; *DRAFT*

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

OTHERS: Amy Heflin (FHWA), Lauren Harrison (Beaver Watershed District), Ron Wood (NWADG), Ethan Hunter and MaryRobin Casteel (Runway Group), Anthony Hunter (ARDOT), Gary Berger (TOCA), Rob Smith (NWA Council), Greg Weeks (Jacobs)

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 JANUARY 26, 2022

Chair Mayor Keeney asked the Committee whether there were any corrections or amendments to the January meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the January 26, 2022 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mayor Peter Christie made a motion to approve the January 26, 2022 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mayor Doug Sprouse 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 there were only three applications since the last meeting. He said today he received notice from the State Clearinghouse that there were ten (10) more applications filed for over \$68 million. He said a lot of that was Washington Regional Medical Center, NW Technical Institute, City of Fayetteville, Accelerate Foundation and several for UAMS. He said those have been filed and we will be reviewing those and reporting on them at the next meeting.

Hawkins said the redistricting efforts are drawing to a close. He said most city ward maps have been sent out to the Mayors and City Officials. He said the County Election Commissions and Clerks Offices are getting precincts ready, and we have been working closely on the descriptions, and detailing every block that is in every new precinct, which require new precinct assignments and notifications to thousands of voters.

Hawkins said the audit is underway and should be ready to distribute to the Chief Elected Officials for the next Policy Committee meeting. He said the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certification Review, which is every four years, is scheduled for June and will involve the Board and the Public.

Mayor Christie asked when the rest of the Census data will come out. Hawkins said they are working on summary reports and most of what has come out so far is the public law numbers, although they do have racial and age breakdowns and number of housing units in the apportionment redistricting

data. He said there are all kinds of related reports with additional detail that will be coming out in the next couple months. He said one thing that will affect the region is going to be the Urban Area Boundary and Population. He said early next year they should come out with a new delineation of MSA's, which may bring McDonald County back into the MSA. He said we will keep everyone updated as information comes out.

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

(5) OZARK REGIONAL TRANSIT (ORT) ADOPTED 2021 TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT (TAM) PLAN PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that in 2018 both transit agencies for the first time under the FTA Final Rule, prepared a Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan. He said since then, ORT has contracted a consultant to update their plan. He said the State of Good Repair (SGR) Performance Measures mandated by FTA include revenue vehicles (age, mileage, condition), non-revenue equipment, and facilities. He said they have a substantially new fleet of vehicles due to the fire in 2017 and they received grants to build a new administration office at their campus, and therefore much of their current capital assets are at 0% of their useful life benchmark (ULB). He said as part of the FAST Act, which was continued by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the MPO must support or adopt performance measures for the region, and will go into our Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and into our TIP.

Joel Gardner with ORT said we are always keeping our equipment in a state of good repair, and reiterated that this report is a requirement of the FTA and once it is approved, we will report to the national transit database that it has been approved by both the ORT Board and this Board.

A. RESOLUTION 2022-04 – Approving the Ozark Regional Transit 2021 Transit Asset Management Plan State of Good Repair Performance Targets

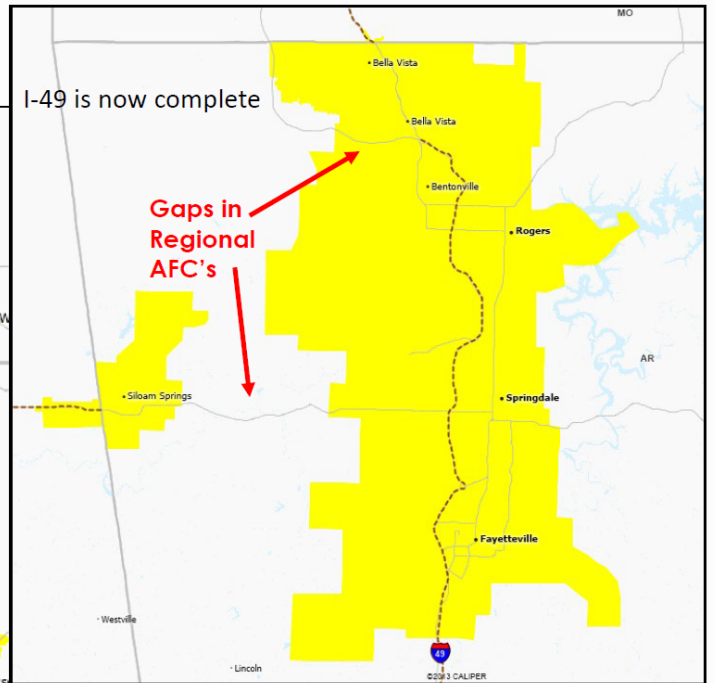
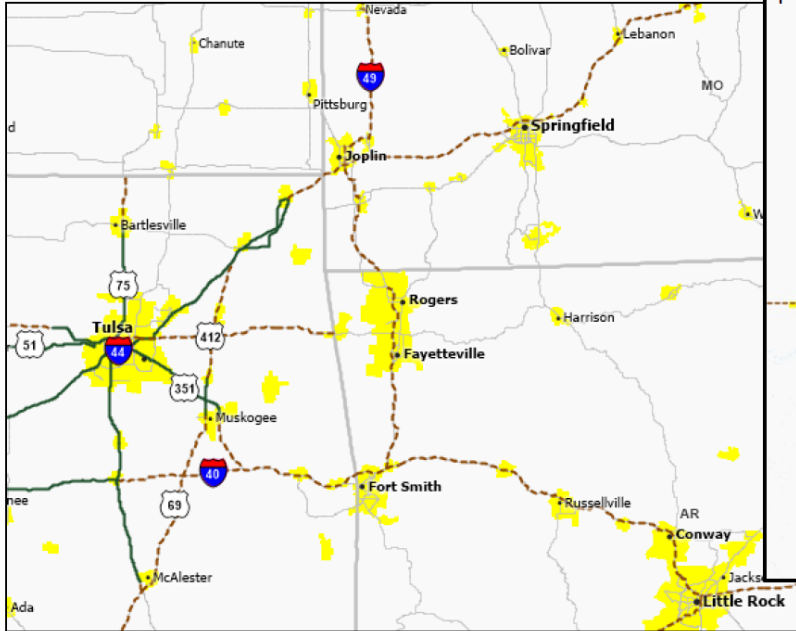
Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2022-04 to approve the ORT 2021 TAM Plan SGR Performance Targets.

MOTION: Mayor Peter Christie made a motion to approve Resolution #2022-04 to Approve the Ozark Regional Transit 2021 Transit Asset Management Plan State of Good Repair Performance Targets. Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF FUTURE INTERSTATE US 412 AS AN ALTERNATIVE FUEL CORRIDOR (AFC)

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that over the last few months we have been discussing electric vehicle charging infrastructure and he highlighted a map of what has previously been designated as Alternative Fuel Corridors in rounds 1-5:

AFC MAP (EV-ROUND 1-5)

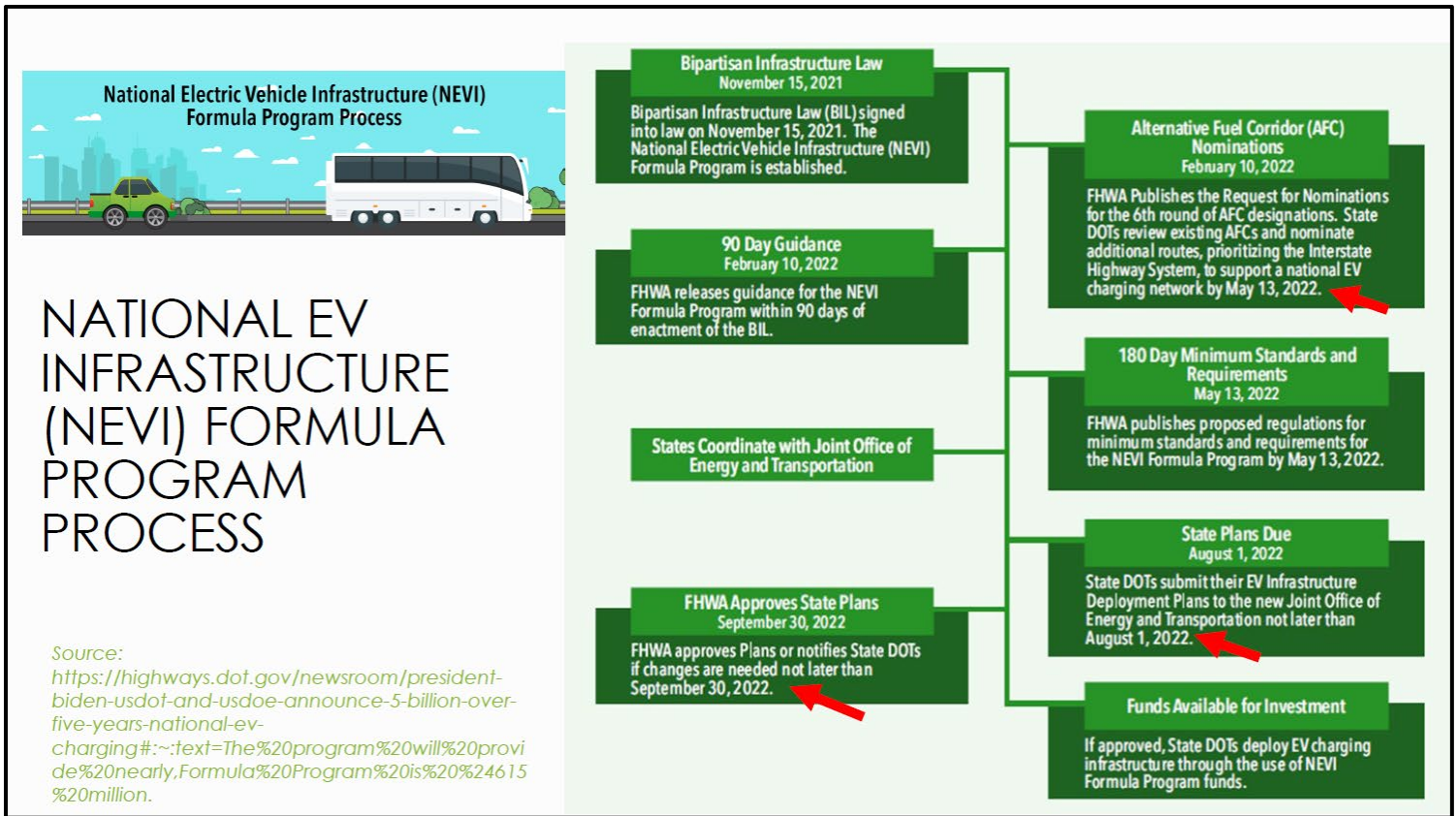


Source: [https://hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov/fhwagis/ViewMap.aspx?map=Highway+Information%7CElectric+Vehicle+\(EV-Round+1,2,3,4+and+5\)#](https://hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov/fhwagis/ViewMap.aspx?map=Highway+Information%7CElectric+Vehicle+(EV-Round+1,2,3,4+and+5)#)



He said all of I-44, I-49 and I-40 is currently designated on the map. He said additionally, US 412 is designated from Tulsa to the Oklahoma-Arkansas state line, with a 22-mile gap from the state line to I-49 in Springdale, Arkansas. He said USDOT has issued a Round 6 Request for Nominations.

Conklin said Arkansas is expected to receive about \$54 million over five years for the National EV Infrastructure (NEVI) formula program, along with the opportunity to apply for \$2.5 billion in discretionary grant programs. Additionally, he summarized important dates and deadlines for the NEVI Program, stating there are very short deadlines to get routes nominated, to get state plans submitted, and have Federal Highway Administration approve those, and he showed the following timeline:



Conklin explained that the federal funding will initially be directed to designated AFCs and it is important that routes within our region are designated so we have the opportunity to access funds as they become available. He reiterated that being on the map is critical to participating in the federal funding programs. He explained that it is estimated that 80-90% of charging happens at home, however there are considerations for charging at the workplace, and alleviating “range anxiety” for travel and tourism in the area. He said we are trying to prepare ourselves as a region so that as the shift to EV occurs, we have the opportunity to deploy this public infrastructure.

He said this portion of US 412 is designated a critical freight corridor (Tier 2) as well as a Future Interstate on the National Highway System (NHS), and explained that it is already designated as an AFC in Oklahoma. He said once again, we are trying to complete the 22-mile gap in the AFC designation from the state line to I-49 in Springdale. He said the NWA Council has provided a support letter for the designation.

City Administrator, Phillip Patterson, asked for verification that the intent of the resolution is to request ARDOT and the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E) to make the nomination. Conklin confirmed that is the request, however, should the state agencies decide not to make the nomination, NWARPC as MPO, is also able to submit the nomination, however, we do not have a separate motion on the agenda directing NWARPC staff to submit the nomination in that circumstance. He said we are hopeful that our planning partners would nominate this corridor, however, we have not received anything in writing. He asked ARDOT representatives if they would like to speak to this question.

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Brad McCaleb with ARDOT said he intends to abstain from voting on the resolution with the reason being that the E&E and ARDOT have been coordinating on this issue. He said they are moving forward with preparing the State's EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan and are looking for that plan to be comprehensive and transparent, coordinating with MPO's, other agencies, and the general public in that process, and to form the approach for implementing the EV charging program through that process. He said their position at this point is that we would not be submitting any additional corridors under Round 6 for nomination because the program guidance specifies a priority on interstates, and we have I-30, I-40 and I-49 already designated. He said the intention through this planning process is to identify additional corridors to nominate in future rounds as we move forward with the program.

Conklin said he still recommends the group consider the resolution, however, it being stated publicly that there is no intention for the State of Arkansas, through ARDOT or E&E, to submit anything for Round 6, the Policy Committee may direct NWARPC staff to fill out the nomination paperwork by May 13, 2022. He said he has discussed this with the Indian Nations Council of Government (INCOG) and they are very supportive of the nomination and will provide a letter of support, and also hopes that our planning partners, ARDOT, ODOT, and AR E&E, would also provide letters of support.

There was a question as to whether adding the 22-miles of US 412 would dilute or delay other designated highway progress. Brad McCaleb said he does not believe designating this portion of US 412 would dilute or delay other designated highway progress. He further explained as a state agency, we are looking at this as a state-wide plan and we are trying to follow the guidance that we have received to date from our federal partners. He said our focus is on the interstate highway network and getting that built out, as well as developing this plan in a way that is comprehensive and transparent so that the entire state has an opportunity to understand how it is going to work, and to move forward in a planned-out process instead of a piecemeal approach.

Patterson asked whether the decision to not support the designation was one by the Executive Director, or one that the Highway Commission makes. McCaleb said he has not been part of the discussions, but his understanding was that this was a decision reached in conversations between ARDOT and the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment.

Rob Smith with NWA Council said the Council has created an infrastructure work group and a subgroup focused on EV Charging. He said there is more enthusiasm for EV Charging in NWA than probably any other component of the effort. He said we are 20% of the state's population and 39% of the registered electric vehicles. He said while 80-90% of EV charging happens at home, NWA is a tourism place, and people who drive across the country have something called "range anxiety", which means you worry that you will not be able to "fuel up", so to speak. He said if we can help eliminate "range anxiety" for tourists, it helps all of our cities who rely so heavily on tourism to be successful. He said in addition, Canoo plans to have their headquarters and research center here and it certainly fits that we want to be a center of excellence in EV in every possible way. He said he hopes the Highway Department would reconsider their position and submit the nomination, but hopes that the Regional Planning Commission will make sure it happens if they do not.

Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there was any other discussion.

A. RESOLUTION 2022-05 – Supporting the Designation of U.S. 412, from I-49 in Springdale, AR to

the Oklahoma State Line, as an Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC)

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve Resolution #2022-05 Supporting the Designation of U.S. 412, from I-49 in Springdale, AR to the Oklahoma State Line, as an Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC). City Administrator Phillip Patterson provided the second; Brad McCaleb abstained from voting. Motion passed.

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion that staff be directed to submit the nomination should the State Agencies decline to do so. Mayor Peter Christie provided the second. Motion passed.

(7) PROJECTS 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, including project initiation meetings with ARDOT and quarterly reports, as well as the \$8.6M awarded to NWA projects in August 2021.

B. BIL “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” (aka IIJA) Updates

Tim Conklin explained that the apportionment notices were issued late last month and the full year 2022 funding was approved by Congress, so there is now funding through this fiscal year that ends on September 30, 2022. The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Urbanized Area have been apportioned the following programs:

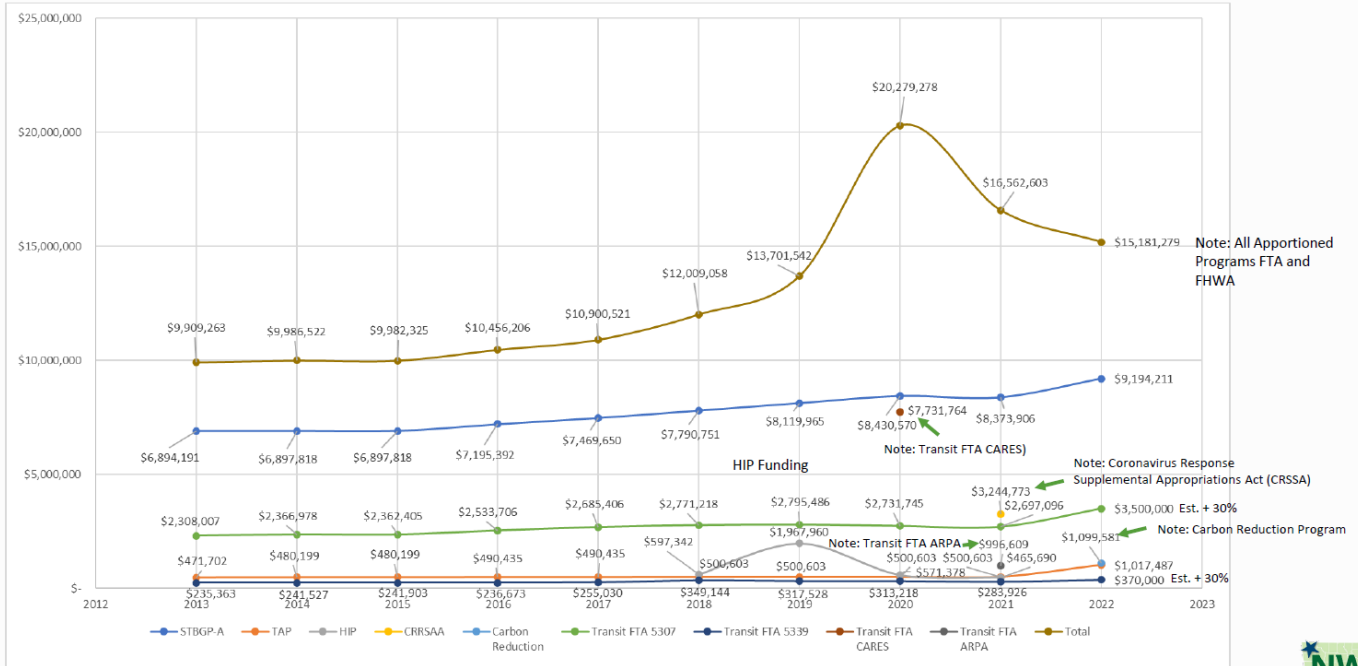
- FY 2022 STBGP-A: \$9,194,211
- FY 2022 TAP: \$1,017,487
- FY 2022 Carbon Reduction Program: \$1,099,581
- FY 2022 FTA 5307 Transit: \$ 3,500,000 (*Estimate*)
- FY 2022 FTA 5339 Transit: \$ 370,000 (*Estimate*)

He noted that FTA apportionment tables have not yet been published, and those numbers are estimated. He also said to keep in mind that these numbers are based on the 2010 Census population, and once the new Urban Area populations come out, the numbers should be increasing. Overall, the Commission will have around \$15 million to award to different transportation modes in NWA. He said these numbers are publicly accessible through the FHWA and FTA websites.

Conklin said there are a wide range of eligible projects for the Carbon Reduction Program, however, Fact Sheets and guidance have not yet been published. He said we will need to determine how to utilize those funds as a region, but we do have a backlog of bike-ped projects in our Master Trails Plan that the funds can go towards.

Conklin showed a chart showing the history of apportioned funding for our area and said back in 2013 we received around \$9.9 million, going up to as much as \$20 million in 2020 when we received \$7.7 million in additional transit money through the CARES Act. He said he believes we will land around \$15 million in 2022, including all FTA and FHWA apportionments.

NWARPC URBANIZED AREA FUNDING HISTORY 2013 TO 2022



Conklin said there is an emphasis on targeting federal funding toward historically disadvantaged communities and showed an image of the USDOT’s Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts mapping tool and described the Justice40 initiative that targets 40% of certain federal investments to historically disadvantaged communities.

Conklin said for the NWARPC FY 2023 STBGP-A and TAP process, we plan to do a call for projects in May and June and select and approve those projects in July and August.

Conklin said this morning USDOT announced a combined \$2.9 billion Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) “to make it easier for communities to apply to one, two, or three major discretionary grant programs with a single application and common set of criteria.” The combined programs are the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA), Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA), and Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL), which is a new program. He said the deadline to submit is May 23, 2022.

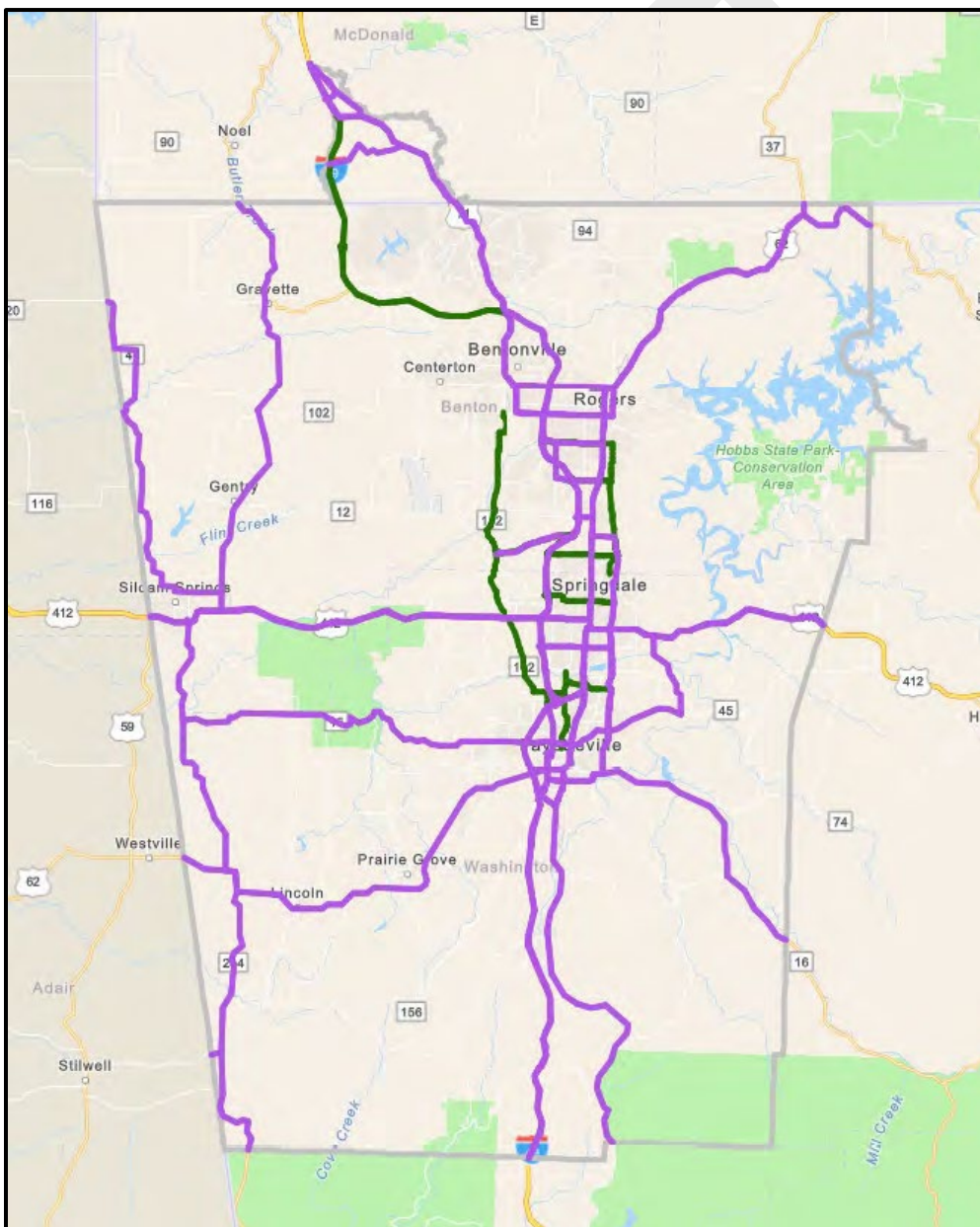
Phillip Patterson clarified that the E Kenwood Street widening project awarded for 2022 was for engineering and not construction, and asked about the difference between the two FTA Programs. Conklin said Section 5307 can be used for capital, operating and planning, and Section 5339 can be used for capital bus and bus facilities. He said NWARPC has asked ARDOT over the last six months to update the Functional Classification Map for E Kenwood, however we have not yet heard anything back. He said the funding cannot be obligated for that project until that is done and asked ARDOT to please look into the request as we are running up to the deadline.

C. Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented the following updates on the Congestion Management Process (CMP) project:

- Cambridge Systematics is Vendor
- Committee Update Meeting –Mar 15 1:00
- Review Congested Segments on Network
- Draft Toolbox of Strategies Document

Bowen showed and discussed the following CMP Network map, with items in purple being the current CMP network, and items in green being the future CMP network that the committee has requested to be added:



Bowen said the formula we have adopted at NWARPC is the national formula for Level of Travel Time Reliability (LOTTR). She said the LOTTR metric is calculated for standard time periods (AM Peak, Mid-day, PM Peak, and Weekends), which may dilute our data as our actual Peak times are shorter than the standard times (e.g. 2-hour peaks compared to 4-hour peaks). She said the Committee has requested Cambridge Systematics to adjust the peak period criteria, as follows:

- Committee Discussion on Peak Period Criteria Possibilities:
 - AM Peak 7-9
 - Mid-Day Peak 11-1
 - PM Peak 4-6
 - Weekend 11-2
- Cambridge will run models on these times and produce maps for further discussion and decision.

Judge Moehring asked whether counts are used, or modeling; and whether the modeling considers the 2021 changes for commuting patterns? Bowen said the data is based on modeling. Conklin said we have asked Cambridge Systematics to consider the impact of Covid-19 and work-from home trends. Bowen said we will continue looking at the data, anomalies, and discussing other ways we can look at this data to consider congestion in our region. Mayor Christie asked what data Cambridge is using. Conklin said they use the National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS), which comes from millions and millions of scrubbed data sets from devices of people moving throughout the system within various intervals. He said USDOT has made this data available to State DOTs and MPOs to utilize so we are all on the same page. There were some questions regarding accuracy of the data and Conklin said there is a margin of error on small segments with low volumes and we have discussed with Cambridge about filtering out the outliers or anomalies. Mayor Orman requested that the group look at data from the City's traffic center to account for changes since Walmart Corporate offices returned to the office. Conklin and Bowen said Dennis Burge did provide data to that end earlier last week, which should capture the return of Walmart employees to the office.

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

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

Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented updates on the Transportation Systems Maintenance and Operations (TSMO)/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). She said our schedule is aligned with the State's Plan. She said Cambridge Systematic shared TSMO and ITS Peer Review documents along with a Best Practices Report for review. She showed and summarized the next steps for these projects as follows:

- Finalize Task 2 documents based on NWARPC review
- Develop TSMO/ITS Vision (1.4) **April Workshop**
- Develop TSMO Strategic Framework (3.1)
- Develop ITS Architecture (4.1)

She said there will be a strategic planning workshop in April 2022 for Task 3.1 and 4.1 that will be a full day (or two half-day) commitment for you or your staff.

She asked whether there were questions and there were none.

E. NWA Regional Assessment of Stormwater Management

Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented the following updates on the project:

- Send out RFP –Feb 2022 **COMPLETE**
- Corps of Engineers Funding Partnership –October 12, 2021, January 19, 2022 –**IN PROCESS**
- Apply for Funding - **IN PROCESS**
- Negotiate/Award contract –**IN PROCESS**
- Begin work on priority watersheds - TBD
- Complete project – TBD

Bowen said in January we were authorized to send out the Request for Proposals (RFP) to the top three highest ranking firms, with the Committee selecting HALFF. She said the Corps of Engineer has recently stated their national funds have increased from \$7 million to \$30 million. She said they will be meeting with the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission (ANRC) and the Corps of Engineers on Monday to discuss available funding opportunities. She said we will continue to apply and gain those funds, and negotiate a contract with our top-ranking vendor.

Lane Crider with the Beaver Watershed District said there is a lot more to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) than just transportation. He said there are regional issues we need to recognize and think more about, and there is a lot of money being made available, specifically through ANRD. Conklin agreed that we have primarily focused on transportation programs, and that we have jumped into stormwater a little with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, but we have not yet gotten into other BIL programs outside of USDOT. He said Regional Planning is happy to assist in helping to disseminate information and coordinate efforts, but we will need to lean on the water and sewer folks to help with that effort. Crider said the NWA Council Infrastructure Working Group is focusing on this issue as well and said if Arkansas doesn't consume this money, it will go somewhere else. He said ANRD is reaching out in a broad manner to water facilities and encouraging organizations to submit shovel ready plans for projects as they will be distributing the ARPA funds and the IJA/BIL funds throughout the state. Conklin said we are happy to arrange a presentation and host them if they want to present to this group.

(8) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (Act)

Elizabeth Bowen briefly presented the following updates on the committee's working projects:

- NWA Regional Bicycle And Pedestrian Master Plan
- Active Transportation Discussion Items
- City/County Organization Reports
- Razorback Greenway Alliance Update
- Funding –ARDOT TAP, NWARPC TAP, Etc
- Heritage Springs Trail
- Butterfield Stage Experience Trail
- FFY 2022 STBGP-A & TAP Update
- ARDOT Bike Ped
- MODOT Bike Ped

Bowen said the primary project she wants to update the Policy Committee on is the NWA Bicycle

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and Pedestrian Master Plan update, including updates to community plans. She said they have developed online, in-person and intercept surveys as part of the Public Outreach work, which will take place during April and May.

Bowen said “Bike Friendly Community” (BFC) applications are due in May 2022. She said a number of local projects have received 2022 Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism Outdoor Recreation Grants. She said ARDOT TAP/RTP 2022 applications are due June 1, 2022. She said we will be requesting the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) to consider applying again for a 2022 ARDOT TAP grant for all five Highway 112 Heritage Springs Trail projects.

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.

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Nicole Gibbs summarized and presented the following updates:

- **Last Met:** February 16, 2022 @ 10:30am
- **Annual Reports** have been distributed to members
 - The deadline for cities to submit to DEQ is **March 31, 2022**
- **FY 2022 MOUs** were sent out to all the MS4 jurisdictions
 - Sign and return to NWARPC at soonest convenience with your payments if you have not done so
- **Anticipated 2022 Audit Schedule –**
 - Regular Rotation: Elm Springs, Centerton, Elkins, and Bella Vista
 - Never been Audited: Johnson, Little Flock, Pea Ridge, and Prairie Grove

Gibbs briefly showed and said we will share the following in a follow up email since we are running short on time:

- **“Don’t Blow It!” Campaign** –litter bags, bucket lids and stickers available at both Counties Extension offices
- **U of A Extension New URL** – KnowTheFlowNWA.com
 - Update links from your websites!
- **NEW! “Dealing with Drainage Issues” Webpage** –assist with requests for homeowner site visits: <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/environment-nature/water/stormwater/nwastormwater/drainage-issues/>
 - Point public to this resource if a common problem in your jurisdiction (link from your website)
- **Next meeting:** April 20, 2022 @ 10:30am (every two months on the third Wednesday)

D. NWA GIS User Group

Nicole Gibbs said we will share the following links in a follow up email since we are running short on time:

- **2021-2022 Washington County aerial imagery** available for download from our office -let us know if you need a copy.

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- **2021-2022 Benton County aerial imagery** completed in January 2022, not yet available for download
- Upcoming conferences and events:
 - **MAGIC Symposium 2022**, Branson, MO, April 11-April 14, 2022 | <https://www.magicgis.org/event-4315101>
 - **ARGISUsers Forum Spring Meeting**, Benton AR, April 6, 2022 | <https://www.argisusers.org/post/2022-arkansas-gis-spring-meeting>
 - **ESRI Midwest User Conference**, Chicago, IL, March 17-18, 2022 | <https://www.esri.com/en-us/about/events/esri-midwest-uc/overview>
 - **Register with the ARGISUsers Forum** mailing list for early access to upcoming free workshops and other educational opportunities | <https://www.argisusers.org/maillinglist>

(9) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if any comments had been received prior to the meeting. Nicole Gibbs stated we did not receive public comment prior to the meeting. No additional comments were made.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

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

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, April 27, 2022 @ 1:30 PM
- **EV Working Group Meeting** – Next meeting tentatively scheduled for June
Everyone will be invited to meeting in June – TBD

B. Draft 2022 Missouri State Freight and Rail Plan (SFRP) available for public review and comment through March 31 at www.modot.org/draft-documents

Tim Conklin said Missouri has updated their State Freight and Rail Plan (SFRP), which is available for comment, and ARDOT is starting the process to update their SFRP.

C. Funding Opportunities:

Tim Conklin went over current funding opportunities as follows:

- **ARDOT 2022 TAP & RTP Application Cycle, Open until June 1, 2022 at 4:00pm** | ardot.gov/tap | Virtual Seminars Scheduled March 17 and April 6, 2022
- **FTA FY 2022 Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs, Open until May 31, 2022** | <https://www.transit.dot.gov/notices-funding/low-or-no-emission-and-grants-buses-and-bus-facilities-competitive-programs-fy2022>
- **USDOT FY 2022 RAISE Grant Program, Open until April 14, 2022** | <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>

Conklin said the only RAISE grant in the region he is aware of being submitted is Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas to connect the Razorback Greenway along Maple Street up to the campus. Conklin explained that NWARPC did request that ARDOT consider submitting Highway 112 for a RAISE Grant. He said ARDOT hired a consultant to process RAISE grant potential projects, and they did not select Highway 112, but selected Highway 5 in Saline County and are only submitting one application. He said at this time, Regional Planning is not considering submitting a RAISE grant for

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Highway 112, however, we have included consultant services in our FY 2023 budget to assist in the preparation of benefit cost analysis for the filing of discretionary grant applications under BIL.

Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there was any other business.

(11) ADJOURN

With no other business, Chair, Mayor Chris Keeney adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022:

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

ATTEST:
