

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 AT 10:30 AM; APPROVED JANUARY 20, 2022**

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

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

**OTHERS:** Andy Brewer (Olsson); Dawn Warrick and Keith Beatty (Freese and Nichols); Ron Wood (NWADG), Lorene Burns (Centerton), Leslee Bohannon (Tontitown), Greg Weeks (Jacobs), Madison Kienzle (Benton County), Chelsea Marlow (ARDOT), Mike Johnson (Guest), Mike Stengel and Landon Miller (Michael Baker).

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

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

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

**(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

**(3) APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2021 TAC MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Patsy Christie asked the Committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the July meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the August 19, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** Mayor Jeff Van Sickler made a motion to approve the August 19, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes as distributed. Mayor Bill Edwards provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

**(4) 2022 ARDOT + MoDOT SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS – Recommendation to RPC/Policy Committee**

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item, with Tim Conklin explaining that we look at three (3) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Performance Measures (PMs): Safety, Pavement and Bridges, and System Performance. We also consider two (2) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) PM's: Transportation Asset Management (TAM) and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). 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:

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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												
SAFETY	MoDOT	MoDOT	MoDOT	MoDOT	MoDOT	MoDOT	ARDOT	ARDOT	ARDOT	ARDOT	ARDOT	ARDOT
	Baseline	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	2013-2017 Baseline	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 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

Conklin further explained that there is a process that both State DOT's go through to engage the MPO's in the Spring and over the Summer to set these targets now adopted by the respective DOT Commissions. He said if anyone is interested in how these targets are set and what assumptions are used, NWARPC does have documentation.

Chair Patsy Christie asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to make a recommendation to the RPC/Policy Committee for these Safety Performance Targets.

**MOTION: Mayor Chris Keeney made a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee approval of the CY 2022 MoDOT and ARDOT Safety Performance Targets. Mayor Jeff Van Sickler provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**(5) FFY 2022 STBGP-A AND TAP PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item, with Tim Conklin explaining 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:

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Federal Fiscal Year 2022 - All Projects										
Year	County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	TAP-FED	STBGP-A & HIP FED	Total		DRAFT Funding Recommendation
2022	Benton	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd. Bridge Replacement	Construction		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	Existing STBGP-A	\$ 500,000
2022	Benton		Bentonville	SW Regional Airport Blvd. / S. Vaughn Rd. Intersection Impr.	Design and Environmental		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	New STBGP-A	\$ 500,000
2022	Benton	090268	Bentonville-Centeron	Greenhouse Road Improvements - Hwy 12 to Hwy 102	Design		\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	Existing STBGP-A	\$ 112,000
2022	Washington		Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North to Township)	Construction		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	New STBGP-A	\$ 1,500,000
2022	Washington	040846	Fayetteville	Hwy 62 Interchange Improvements	Design, Env., Utilities, and ROW		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	New STBGP-A	\$ 1,500,000
2022	Washington	040746	Fayetteville	Heritage Springs Trail and Tunnel (Hwy 112)	Construction	\$ 250,000		\$ 250,000	New TAP	\$ 250,000
2022	Benton		Gentry	Hwy 12/59 Signal and Intersection Impr.	All Phases		\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	New STBGP-A	\$ 250,000
2022	Benton	09X198	Lowell	US-71B/HWY264 Intersection Improvements	Env., ROW, Utilities, Construction		\$ 730,000	\$ 730,000	New STBGP-A	\$ 730,000
2022	Benton	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview /Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impr.	Construction		\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	Existing STBGP-A	\$ 150,000
2022	Benton		Siloam Springs	E Kenwood St. Impr. (widening, incl. sidepath)	Design and Environmental		\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	New STBGP-A	\$ 220,000
2022	Benton		Siloam Springs	N Mt Olive Sidepath (between Dawn Hill Rd. and Carl St.)	Construction	\$ 376,000		\$ 376,000	New TAP	\$ 376,000
2022	Washington	040849	Springdale	Gene George S. Ph III	ROW and Utility		\$ 909,050	\$ 909,050	Existing STBGP-A	\$ 909,050
2022	Washington	040680	Springdale	Gene George S. Ph I	Construction		\$ 1,663,269	\$ 1,663,269	Existing STBGP-A	\$ 1,663,269
					Total		\$ 626,000	\$ 8,034,319		\$ 8,660,319

Conklin mentioned that Congress will need to act in order to have any of these funds in 2022. He said the total funding is estimated based on 2021 funding, and we are not certain at this point what the results of the proposed Infrastructure Bill will be on the actual funds coming to our region.

Conklin said that everyone should be aware that there is a Local Public Agency (LPA) Project Manual with steps you need to take for your projects ([https://www.ardot.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FINAL\\_LPA-Manual\\_v26-14-21.pdf](https://www.ardot.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FINAL_LPA-Manual_v26-14-21.pdf)). He asked that project managers review this manual and be aware that you are not to move forward without ARDOT approving your projects, bids, environmental, etc. He showed an example of the LPA Project Quarterly Report Form and shared contact information for the Local Project Administrator.

Chair Patsy Christie asked whether there were any questions and there were none. She wished those starting new projects good luck.

**(6) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES**

**A. Census and Redistricting Information**

Tim Conklin explained that NWARPC has offered to do redistricting for the School Districts, Counties, and Cities and you can still contact Jeff Hawkins if you would like our help. Tim summarized 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 growing by 67,540 people, which is 63.84% of the two-county growth. 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 also 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. He said while the 2020 UZA has not yet been published, the Urbanized Area population is utilized in many of the Federal funding formulas, including STBGP-A and TAP, as well as transit funding.

Patsy Christie asked Jeff Hawkins how soon cities would be getting new ward information. Hawkins explained that there are a lot of moving parts, and common lines can be used if there is an order of who does what and when. He explained the Congressional Districts are done by the legislature and they have adopted a Bill; the House and Senate Districts are done by the State Board of Apportionment, which are expected to be posted by the end of this month, with a 30-day review period before becoming final. He said it was not possible to wait until the House and Senate districts were approved to start the School Zone redistricting, and plans have been prepared for all nine (9) districts that previously had zones, with an additional six (6) School Districts having to use zones for the first time. He explained that it is possible to wait for the draft House and Senate map to follow some of their lines for the Justice of the Peace Districts, which are done by the County Board of Election Commissions. He said NWARPC has a couple drafts done in one county and starting to work on the other one now, noting significant population changes in Benton County JP districts in particular. He explained that redistricting is done based on total population, *not* voting age population.

Hawkins said the schedule for City Wards is different by law than School Zones and Quorum Court Districts, with the authority to redistrict resting with the City Council, and with no statutorily specific time requirement after the Decennial Census. He mentioned, however, the law does say that it is the Council's duty to see to it that the wards are of substantially equal population, and mentioned scenarios in which Councils may decide to redistrict apart from the Decennial Census. He said they will begin working on City Wards as soon as we finish up with the Counties, likely in November. He said Siloam Springs will be first because they are on a different election cycle with the City Administrator form, and the other cities will follow. NWARPC will prepare alternate plans to equalize the population for Cities, unless they tell us they will be doing their own redistricting.

Chair Christie asked whether there were other questions and there were none.

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**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)
  - 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 staff met with the Illinois River Watershed Partnership in June regarding a potential project and received notice from the RPC/Policy Committee in August that we could move forward with the Stormwater project. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> DRAFT COMPLETE
- Corps of Engineers Model Review – October 8, 2021
- Corps of Engineers Funding Partnership – October 12, 2021
- If funding is awarded send out RFP – Nov 2021 (DO WE WANT TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS ITEM?)
- Award contract – Jan 2022
- Begin work on priority watersheds Feb 2022-Dec 2023
- Complete project – Dec 2023

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

Bowen asked whether there were questions and there were none.

**(7) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES**

**A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)**

Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented the following updates:

NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

- Last met August 19, 2021
- Expanded timeline to complete by Dec 2022
- Working on survey
- Meeting with Cities regarding individual Plan updates (Garfield, Elkins, Goshen, Huntsville)
- 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 October 21, 2021 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

**B. NWA Open Space Coalition**

Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented the following updates:

- Last met August 24, 2021
- Discussing advancing OS through City Council adoption of ordinance, 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 October 26, 2021 @ 10:00am

**C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group**

Nicole Gibbs summarized and presented the following updates:

- Last met September 15, 2021

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- "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
- 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

**(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 stated we did not receive any comments prior to the meeting.

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

**(9) OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:**

Chair Patsy Christie went over the future meetings as follows:

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, October 27, 2021 @ 1:30 PM
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, November 18, 2021 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wed., Dec. 1, 2021 @ 1:30 PM (combined Nov/Dec Mtg)
- **APAC3\*21 Cross-Chapter Collaborative** – November 1-3, Virtual and Fort Worth TX – <https://web.cvent.com/event/6e160f8b-1738-4934-a3ee-6fbae527f405/summary>

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

- Public Hearing –Tuesday, October 26 @ 5:30-6:30pm
- ARDOT accepting comments until 4:30pm on Wed, Nov. 10, 2021

Chair Patsy Christie asked if there was any other business; hearing none she thanked everyone for joining us today.

**10. ADJOURN**

The meeting was ended at 11:00 a.m.