

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED MAY 25, 2022**

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 X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT	X	
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	
FAYETTEVILLE	LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	 X 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)	Proxy	Nathan See
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		
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB CHAD ADAMS (DISTRICT 4)	X X	
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER(RAY AVERY)	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	BILL LANT		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR (BRITNI O'CONNOR)		
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES		
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)		

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ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)		
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)		

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

OTHERS: Amy Heflin (FHWA), Ray Avery (Beaver Water District), Ron Wood (NWADG), Brad McCaleb (ARDOT), Rob Smith (NWA Council)

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. Elizabeth Bowen recorded member names and tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

(3) APPROVE RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 23, 2022

Chair Mayor Keeney asked the Committee whether there were any corrections or amendments to the March 23, 2022 meeting minutes. Ray Avery, Beaver Water District, requested that the minutes be corrected to state Beaver Water District instead of Beaver Watershed District on page 2 and page 11. The Chair requested a motion to approve the March 23, 2022 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes with the noted corrections.

MOTION: Mayor Ernie Penn made a motion to approve the March 23, 2022 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented with the noted correction. 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 shown on the screen. The Report includes 13 projects and noted that nine of the applications involve several different UAMS health related projects totaling upwards of \$90 million.

Hawkins stated the redistricting efforts were wrapping up. The counties are complete, as well as the 14 school districts and NWACC with just 3 or 4 cities left.

Hawkins stated that as the Designated Recipient for FTA programs, NWARPC has to determine the distribution of federal funds for capital and operating assistance to the two fixed-route transit operators in our urbanized area—ORT and Razorback. The split in the funds is included in the approved TIP/STIP and the Program of Projects is being derived from the TIP. NWARPC is waiting on Razorback breakdowns to finalize the categorical breakdowns. The systems will split \$3,383,850 in Sec. 5307 funds for capital and operating assistance, with 55% to ORT and 45% to Razorback. \$100,000 would be reserved for comprehensive planning here at regional planning. They'll also split

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FTA Section 5339 funds which is for buses and bus facilities. The POP, along with a split letter will go to FTA, as soon as we learn from Razorback the amounts that they plan to use for operating assistance, preventative maintenance, ADA paratransit, and bus procurement.

These funds are for the Urbanized Area for FY 2022 which started last October 1st, but didn't get the full year funding notification until last month.

NWARPC also learned last month that the word "urbanized" is being retired by the Census Bureau. Census had categorized UZA's since 1950, but that's ending when they implement their new definition of "urban." That definition change will change the delineation of what we currently call the urbanized area. Maps will change, and what's currently called urban may not be urban anymore and federal agencies will have to address how the maps and data will affect their federal programs. NWARPC STBGP-A funds could be impacted, and HUD's CDBG entitlement program among others could be affected. Hawkins stated they are retiring the term "urban clusters" as well but that doesn't affect any funding that is known at this time.

(5) NWARPC 2021 AUDIT

Hawkins informed the Commission that the NWARPC 2021 Audit has been completed and was sent to the chief elected officials of our NWARPC members for their review. The Audit was uploaded to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse by the April 1 deadline. NWARPC has not received any comments or questions. There were no adverse findings and found to be in compliance in all respects. The Audit is considered a single-audit and was prepared by Timothy Bunch, CPA. The audit establishes a new indirect cost rate of 13.61%, which is down slightly from 15.29% the year before. This rate is a percentage of direct costs (salaries and fringe benefits), and is used for collecting each grants' fair share of overhead costs.

MOTION: Mayor Ernie Penn made the motion to accept the Audit. The second was provided by Mayor Doug Sprouse. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) DRAFT FFY 2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Chair Chris Keeney introduced the item, with Tim Conklin explaining that each year we are required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for NWARPC that outlines the work we will perform over the next twelve (12) months. The public comment period ran from April 6, 2022 to April 20, 2022 and NWARPC did not receive any comments. Conklin stated the UPWP outlines Regional Planning Commission's planning activities in our Planning Area, which includes all of Benton and Washington Counties, and a portion of McDonald County.

Conklin said the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) continues the Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP) with joint oversight by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). He summarized notable changes in the MPP that have been included in this year's UPWP, including a 2.5% set aside of Planning funds to be used on Complete Streets, a policy for travel demand data and modeling, and housing coordination in transportation planning efforts. Conklin said FHWA and FTA have updated their Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) and listed those as follows:

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- Tackling the Climate Crisis –Transition to a Clean Energy, Resilient Future
- Equity and Justice⁴⁰
- Complete Streets
- Public Involvement
- Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination
- Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination
- Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)
- Data in Transportation Planning

Conklin added that NWARPC had worked with ARDOT to address the 2.5% set aside for Complete Streets in the UPWP. Conklin provided an overview of the UPWP program’s five (5) work areas. The Long-Range Transportation Planning element will include up to \$50,000 in STBGP-A funds, plus match, to be utilized for consultant assistance in developing analysis required for BIL discretionary grant applications; up to \$50,000 in Carbon Reduction funds may be utilized to address climate change provisions; and we are carrying forward \$100,000 in STBGP-A funds, plus \$25,000 state match will be utilized to partner with ARDOT to complete the NWA Regional TSMO/ITS plans. Conklin stated overall we are programming \$1.372 million in federal funding, matched by local and state funding.

Conklin stated a motion was needed to approve Resolution #2022-06 approving the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NART) FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that covers the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Conklin asked if there were any questions.

Chair Chris Keeney asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution 2022-06 approving the NWARPC FY 2023 UPWP.

MOTION: Mayor Peter Christie made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-06. Phillip Patterson provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) RAZORBACK TRANSIT TAM PLAN UPDATE

Chair Chris Keeney introduced the item. Conklin discussed the request by Razorback Transit for NWARPC to update their 2018 TAM Plan. The LOI has already been issued with a due date of April 29, 2022. NWARPC has FTA 5307 funding available to be matched with Razorback Transit. The Razorback Transit TAM plan update is also included in the FY 2023 UPWP that was just adopted.

MOTION: Mayor Peter Christie made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-07. Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(8) FFY 2023 STBGP-A & TAP – Policy, Procedure, and Application Discussion

Chair Chris Keeney introduced the item, with Tim Conklin beginning by congratulating Bella Vista on their groundbreaking of the Mercy Way Bridge project, a STBGP-A project that will extend the Razorback Greenway into the City, making Bella Vista the seventh city to own and operate the Greenway. Conklin stated that the application forms have been updated for NWARPC FFY 2023 STBGP-A and TAP funds. Conklin stated NWARPC will issue a call for projects after the RPC/Policy Committee tomorrow with the deadline for applications being June 15, 2022, and we will follow the

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same process used last year for project selection. Conklin said the critical thing for jurisdictions to consider is that if you plan to apply for funding, you will have two or three (3) Council meetings to get your required resolutions approved.

Conklin said we anticipate having close to \$10 million for STBGP-A and around \$1.4 million in TAP funds, and showed the following breakdown:

TAP CALL FOR PROJECTS – FFY 2023 ESTIMATE BASED ON FFY 2022		
FFY 2022 TAP Awarded Aug 2021	\$ 626,000	
FFY 2022 TAP Actual	<u>\$1,017,487</u>	
FFY 2022 TAP Remaining	\$ 391,487	
FFY 2022 TAP Remaining	\$ 391,487	
FFY 2023 TAP Est. (based on FFY 2022)	<u>\$1,017,487</u>	
Total Available TAP FFY 2022 & 2023	\$1,408,974	
STBGP-A FFY Awarded Aug 2021	\$8,034,319	Use of Carbon Reduction Funding? \$1,099,581 Per Year
FFY 2022 STBGP-A Actual	<u>\$8,994,211</u>	
FFY 2022 STBGP-A Remaining	\$ 959,892	
FFY 2022 STBGP-A Remaining	\$ 959,892	
FFY 2023 STBGP-A Est.	<u>\$8,994,211</u>	
Total Available STBGP-A FFY 2022 & 2023	\$9,954,103	



Conklin said the Carbon Reduction program is brand new as of FY 2022 and the region is receiving \$1.099 million in funds and will have a discussion on how to use those funds at a future meeting.

Conklin gave examples of eligible projects described in the BIL, and showed the following:

(c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—

- Traffic monitoring, management, and control facility or program
- Public transportation
- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities
- Advanced transportation and congestion management technologies
- Intelligent transportation systems capital improvements
- Street lighting and traffic
- Control devices with energy-efficient alternatives
- Congestion pricing, electronic toll collection, and travel demand management strategies and programs;
- Freight movement;
- Alternative fuel vehicles
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure or hydrogen, natural gas, or propane vehicle fueling

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- infrastructure zero-emission construction equipment and vehicles
- Diesel engine retrofit
- Transportation emissions at port facilities

Christie stated we have developed policies for how to handle STBGP-A and TAP funding and that we should set up a TAC subcommittee to discuss developing a policy on how to handle this new Carbon Reduction funding. TAC agreed to setup a subcommittee with Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, and Farmington volunteering to be on the committee.

Conklin reiterated that the big take away is that if you plan to apply for funding, you will need to adopt a Resolution from your City Councils. If needed a sample resolution can be provided. He said because this is a reimbursable program, you pay for the project up front with your own funds, and if you do not manage the project and follow the required steps for federal funding, you may not get your money back.

(9) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

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

Tim Conklin stated we need to obligate the FFY 2022 projects. Conklin stated it is important for the Regional Planning Commission to know whether you are going to make your deadline for these projects. Additional funding project request forms will be distributed, which will update us on what your existing project needs are, so we will have a much better understanding in mid-June where projects are at in their progress as well.

B. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) (aka IJA) Updates

Tim Conklin gave an overview of the recent notices of funding availability within the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) programs and showed the following:

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO A RANGE OF RECIPIENTS		State	MPO	Local	Tribe	PA*	Territory	FLMA*
<i>FFY 2022 Funded</i>	Apportioned programs (formula)	✓						(For NWARPC: STBGP-A, TAP, Carbon Reduction)
<i>Guidance Issued 1-14-22</i>	Bridge Program (formula)	✓			✓			(Watch for: Off-system Bridges)
<i>Guidance Issued 2-10-22</i>	National Electric Vehicle Formula Program	✓		✓				(For NWA: US 412 Nomination Due May 13!)
<i>Anticipated May 2022</i>	Safe Streets and Roads for All program		✓	✓	✓			(Watch for: May 2022)
	PROTECT Grants (discretionary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Guidance Issued 2-10-22</i>	Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Congestion Relief Program	✓	✓	✓				
	Bridge Investment Program (discretionary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Rural Surface Transportation Grants (Rural)	✓		✓	✓			
<i>Due May 23!</i>	INFRAs Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Nat'l Infra. Project Assistance (Mega)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Due April 14!</i>	Local and Regional Project Assistance (RAISE)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(For NWA: Fayetteville/Maple Street)

Note: This table does not include all BIL programs or eligible entities, and there are additional nuances not represented in this table. Additional programmatic information is provided in later slides. FHWA will administer most, but not all, programs listed.
* "PA" means a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function; FLMA means Federal Land Management Agency

Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) - combined Mega/ INFRAs/ Rural

Authorized Funding: Buses and Bus Facilities Formula, Competitive, and Low-No Program (Section 5339)

Program Component	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2022 (in millions)	FY 2023 (in millions)	FY 2024 (in millions)	FY 2025 (in millions)	FY 2026 (in millions)
Formula	\$582.61	\$603.99	\$616.61	\$632.71	\$645.78	\$662.20
Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive	\$414.04	\$375.70	\$383.54	\$393.56	\$401.69	\$411.90
Low or No Emissions Competitive	\$180.00	\$1,121.56	\$1,123.06	\$1,124.96	\$1,126.51	\$1,128.46
5339 Program TOTAL	\$1,176.65	\$2,101.25	\$2,123.21	\$2,151.23	\$2,173.98	\$2,202.56

5X + Increase!

“The Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (5339(b)) authorizes FTA to award grants to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects including:

- Replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing, or leasing buses or related equipment
- Rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing bus-related facilities”

“The LowNo Program (5339(c)) provides funding for the purchase or lease of zero emission and low emission transit buses as well as for the acquisition, construction or leasing of supporting facilities and equipment.”

Applications Due 11:59pm EST May 31, 2022



Conklin discussed the upcoming NWA Broadband meeting and the recent April 2022 Arkansas Report on Broadband. Judge Barry Moehring asked if NWARPC got into programs like Broadband. Conklin stated that NWARPC had no experience in planning for and building out broadband networks. Conklin suggested that the region participate with the NWA Council at the next NWA Council Infrastructure Work Group where Steven Porch, Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Commerce and Executive Broadband Manager for the AEDC Arkansas Rural Connect program.

NWARPC also offered to help coordinate a regional meeting on Broadband if the NWA Council working group does not work because of room size limitations.

Broadband

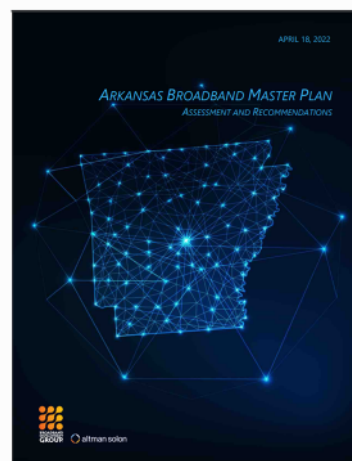
Save the Date!

NWA Council Infrastructure Work Group
 June 3, 2022, 11:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Steven Porch, Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Commerce and Executive Broadband Manager for the AEDC Arkansas Rural Connect program.



Arkansas Department of Commerce Broadband Office



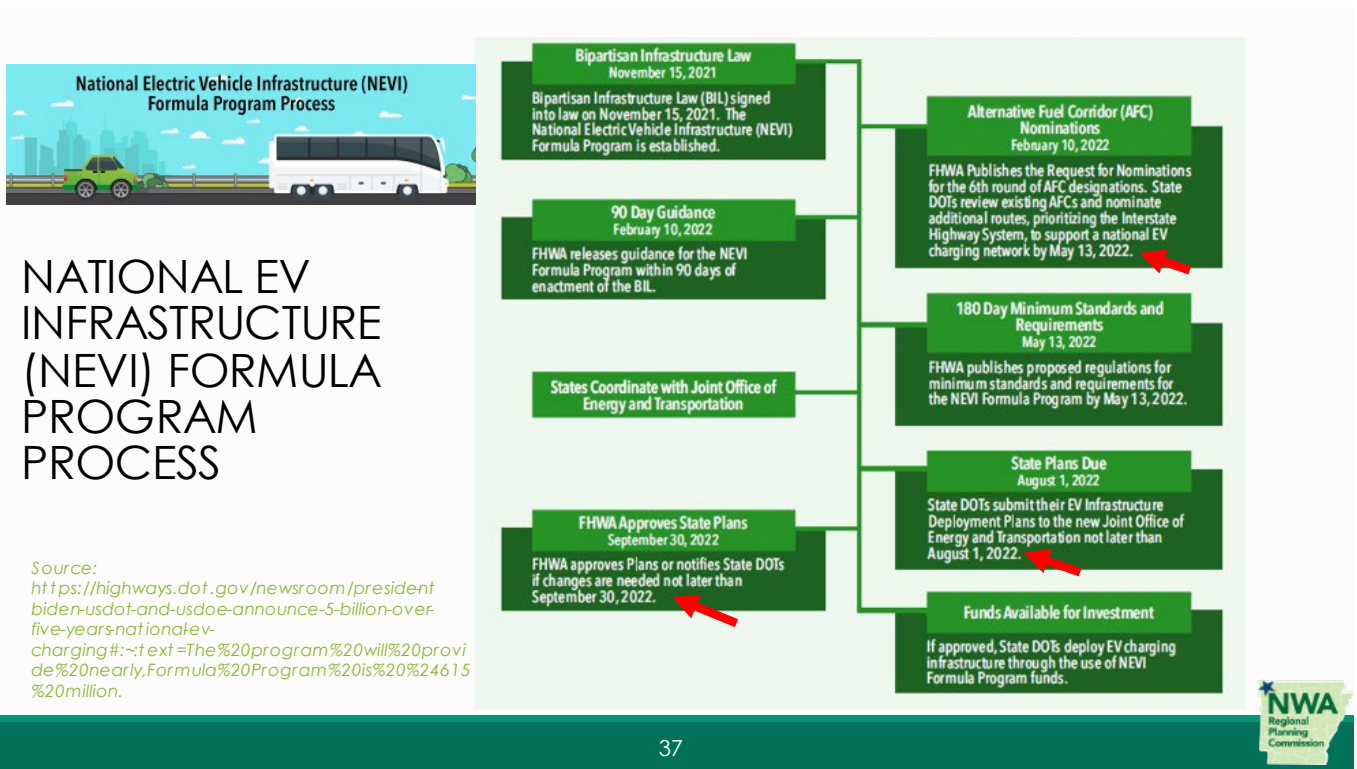
<https://broadband.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Arkansas-Broadband-Master-Plan.pdf>



Conklin stated the Regional Planning Commission is doing a nomination for US 412 as an Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC) and would like to thank the Governor’s office for their support letter, along with Cities, Counties and Chambers who provided letters. He said the Safe Streets and Roads for All program is a Vision-Zero program and there are webinars being offered to Cities, Counties, Transit Agencies, and MPO’s. He said the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) that combines the RURAL, INFRA, and MEGA programs into one application is due May 23, 2022. The deadline for the RAISE application has passed, but Fayetteville was the only RAISE grant application the region has submitted. Conklin said some of these notices have very short timeframes from announcement to due date.

Conklin said USDOT has an interactive map for disadvantaged census tracts and many of the programs look to target federal funding toward historically disadvantaged communities. He said Community Project Funding is now back for earmarks.

Conklin summarized the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) formula process, saying the Regional Planning Commission will submit the AFC nomination for US 412 by May 13, 2022. MODOT and ARDOT are doing their State Plans. Conklin said the State of Arkansas has been apportioned just over \$8 million in Electric Vehicle Infrastructure formula funds (NEVI) in FY 2022.



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Conklin shared the Arkansas Department of Agriculture email received from Wes Ward which shows BIL funding amounts coming to Arkansas for Water, Waste Water, and Stormwater. He mentioned that Ryan Benefield, ANRD, will be at the May 25, 2022 RPC/Policy Committee meeting. He also mentioned that ANRD plans to have future regional meetings this year around the state regarding these programs.



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Wes Ward, Secretary of Agriculture, Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Email 4-21-2022)

Natural Resources Division has been allocated funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support water and wastewater infrastructure across the State of Arkansas. These funds will be distributed through the existing Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan funds administered by the Natural Resources Division. We anticipate that the following amounts of additional funding will be available this year:

**Ryan Benefield,
Deputy
Director, ANRD
Presents at May
25th meeting!**

Drinking Water	Funding
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) General Funding	\$27,070,000 (This includes \$13,264,000 in Principal Forgiveness/Grant Funds)
DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement	42,653,000 (This includes \$20,899,970 in Principal Forgiveness/Grant Funds)
DWSRF Emerging Contaminants	\$11,367,000 (This includes up to \$11,367,000 in Principal Forgiveness/Grant Funds)
Wastewater and Stormwater	Funding
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) General Funding	\$11,642,000 (This includes \$5,704,580 in Principal Forgiveness/Grant Funds)
CWSRF Emerging Contaminants	\$612,000 (This includes up to \$612,000 in Principal Forgiveness/Grant Funds)

Contact: Debra Dickson at debra.dickson@arkansas.gov or (501) 682-0548 with questions you may have about applying for financial assistance for your water and wastewater infrastructure or to help determine if you may qualify for funding under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.



Conklin described the funding history to the region over time from 2013 to 2022, noting the peak of 2020 with around \$20 million with the additional CARES Act funds and this year we are landing around \$15 million with all apportioned programs to the Urban Area. He described some discretionary grant successes in the region. He said the applications are complex, lengthy, and take time, and you are not guaranteed to get funding.

FY 2022 NWARPC APPORTIONMENTS

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Urbanized Area
(Population: 295,083)

- FFY 2022 STBGP-A: **\$ 9,194,211**
 - FFY 2022 TAP: **\$ 1,017,487**
 - FFY 2022 Carbon Reduction Program: **\$ 1,099,581**
 - FFY 2022 FTA Section 5307 Transit Operating and Capital: **\$ 3,483,850**
 - FFY 2022 FTA Section 5339 Transit Capital: **\$ 272,444**
- \$15,067,573**



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C. Congestion Management Process (CMP)

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

- Draft CMP to NWARPC April 25
- NWARPC reviews and comments by April 29
- CMP final report to NWARPC by May 3rd
- NWARPC begins public notice process May 5
 - Post to web
 - Two-week comment period May 6-May 20
- Cambridge Systematics present final Plan to TAC May 19
- Cambridge Systematics present final Plan to Policy May 25 for adoption
- Cambridge Systematics finalize model for future congestions
 - Issue no cost time extension to finish by end of June

Bowen said part of the contract is to provide a model that can update future congestion with the RITIS data. Bowen said NWARPC has not received the draft CMP that was due on Tuesday.

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

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

Elizabeth Bowen summarized and presented updates on the Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO)/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). Bowen said staff and the committee continue to meet with Cambridge Systematics on the projects, and there will be a combined Capability Maturity Model (CMM) assessment on May 3 and May 4, 2022 from 9-12 both days. Please plan to attend or have staff in charge of transportation initiatives attend. Bowen said ATG is a subcontractor of Cambridge Systematics, and they will begin holding stakeholder interviews in May along with a workshop in August.

Bowen asked whether there were questions and there were none.

E. NWA Regional Assessment of Stormwater Management

Elizabeth Bowen said that this is a project the Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP) brought to the Regional Planning Commission last year in June. She summarized and presented the following updates on the project:

- Corps of Engineers Funding Partnership –October 12, 2021, January 19, 2022 and April 2022 –IN PROCESS
- Negotiate/Award contract –IN PROCESS
- Apply for Funding: IN PROCESS
- Begin work on priority watersheds -TBD
- Complete project(s) –TBD

Bowen said we are meeting with the Corps of Engineers as a funding partner and looking at how they can update their model. Bowen said Halff Associates was chosen through our contracting

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process and are beginning the negotiation process to look at refining a scope for the project based on funding availability. She summarized the following:

- Selected consultant is Halff Associates, Inc.(Halff)
- Working with Halff and Corps of Engineers on scope for Corps to do work with their funding
- Working with ANRD to refine scope to meet potential funding opportunities
- Requested a laundry list of data from cities to help with refining costs
- Scope refinement meeting May 10, 2022 at 1:00-3:00 at NWARPC with:
 - Halff, ANRD, Corps of Engineers, IRWP, Committee, NWARP Staff
 - Corps of Engineers Funding Partnership – October 12, 2021, January 19, 2022 and April 2022 – IN PROCESS
 - Negotiate/Award contract – IN PROCESS
 - Apply for Funding(ANRD): TBD
 - Begin work on priority watersheds - TBD
 - Complete project(s) – TBD

Bowen said the Arkansas Natural Resources Division (ANRD) and the Corps of Engineers are looking at a watershed management model scope versus a very detailed scope as was initially prepared, and will work with cities to determine how best to meet their needs with a refined scope based on available funding. Bowen shared that a meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2022 from 1-3pm to finalize a refined scope.

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

(10) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Elizabeth Bowen said the committee met March 17, 2022 and the subcommittee met March 17, 2022 and April 21, 2022. She said “May is Bike Month” and May 20th is bike to work day. She said the Trailblazers are encouraging NWA to sign up for the National Bike Challenge. Bowen shared the funding opportunities that were discussed and shared that the group was interested in NWARPC Carbon Reduction Funds being used for active transportation for trails. Bowen shared that the Regional Mobility Authority was meeting directly after the NWARPC meeting to discuss a resolution to allow RMA staff to apply for ARDOT TAP funds for Heritage Springs Trail/Hwy 112 projects for the 12’ sidepath that ARDOT would not pay for as part of the project. Bowen shared RMA ARDOT TAP applications were submitted last year and a \$500,000 was awarded to the RMA.

“Bike Friendly Community” (BFC) applications are due in May 2022. She said May is Bike Month, May 20th is Bike to Work Day, and ETHIC is encouraging participation in the National Bike Challenge. She said ARDOT TAP/RTP 2022 applications are due June 1, 2022 and NWARPC is revising our TAP application to be more similar to ARDOT’s application. She said we will be requesting the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) to consider applying again for a 2022 ARDOT TAP grant for five Highway 112 Heritage Springs Trail projects. Conklin said these funds would be matched by ARDOT who will be carrying out the project for Hwy 112.

Bowen said the subcommittee met on updating the Arkansas Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, including updates to community plans. Bowen described the progress being made with various cities

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on their plans. Several entities did not have their plans updated but would be reaching out to them. The sub-committee has made progress, including:

NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update

- Public Outreach Plan
- Local Plan Updates
- Catalyst Projects
- Regional Network
- Next Steps:
 - Outreach
 - Meet with Cities
 - Goals/Performance Measures
 - Complete Streets/Vision Zero
 - Photos for Plan

Bowen said they have developed online, in-person, and intercept surveys as part of the Public Outreach work. She shared the cities that were participating in the intercept surveys and that Bella Vista and Rogers had completed theirs. She shared there was a short form and a long form. Bowen said we are going to the people on the trails to get their input. Bowen stated that there is a public survey that has started and will continue through April and May, 2022, and the public survey is being distributed to better understand the wants and needs in the region in relation to active transportation. Bowen asked the group to share this survey. Bowen shared some preliminary survey results.

Bowen asked whether there were any comments or questions. Judge Moerhing asked that the survey information be mailed out in a separate email.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Elizabeth Bowen summarized:

- Group met April 8, 2022 at the Corps of Engineers
- Corps provided a program – Recreation, shoreline management, Draft Beaver Lake Mgmt Plan and purchase of land around lake.
- Discussed progress of template resolution to cities

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Elizabeth Bowen summarized:

- Group met April 8, 2022 at the Corps of Engineers
- Corps provided a program – Recreation, shoreline management, Draft Beaver Lake Mgmt Plan and purchase of land around lake.
- Discussed progress of template resolution to cities

D. NWA GIS User Group

Elizabeth Bowen shared that the NWA GIS User Group did not meet in April.

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Elizabeth Bowen asked if there were any questions on the Committee updates, and there were none.

(11) 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 Chris Keeney asked if any comments had been received prior to the meeting.

Tim Conklin read a comment from Randy Cook regarding the slow progress on the Springdale Bypass.

Tim Conklin read a comment from Julian Buchynski regarding the “increase in traffic noise levels near the newly completed Bella Vista bypass. I live near the bypass and have noticed a significant increase in noise levels recently. I believe the noise may be at least partially caused by the high volume of truck traffic and corresponding engine “Jake braking” and acceleration and deceleration near the bridge/exits. Would it be possible to add “No Engine Braking” signs and/or add more barriers along the sides of the highway, especially where noise seems to travel down the valleys where there is no road barrier or vegetation on the side of the road? Particularly near where they are building the “Castle” just south of the bypass. Including barriers and trees/shrubs along the road in these areas would also improve safety as it will reduce people being distracted. Please let me know if there is another process, I should follow to try to have something done about the noise.”

Tim Conklin read a comment from Karen Cox “Your trail survey is fundamentally flawed. Survey asks if we use trails 1. Year-round or 2. Only in warm months. We only use trails when temp is < 70°, humidity.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Chris Keeney went over the future meetings as follows:

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, May 25, 2022 @ 1:30 PM
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, May 19, 2022 @ 10:30 AM

Conklin said the Getting Ready for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program - Counties, Cities, Towns, Transit Agencies Webinar is scheduled Monday, May 2, 2022 at 1:00-3:00 p.m. (EDT), with instructions available at this website: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A/webinars>.

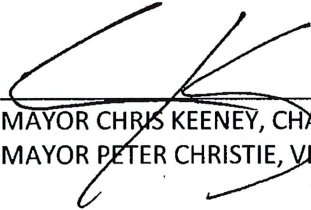
Conklin said there are funding opportunities to develop and implement a plan.

13. ADJOURN

With no other business, Chair, Mayor Chris Kenney adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

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PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25 DAY OF MAY, 2022:



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

ATTEST:

