

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022 AT 10:30 AM; *DRAFT*

ENTITY	MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	DOUG TAPP	X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER (TRACY BACKS)		
BENTONVILLE	DENNIS BIRGE DAN WEESE	X	Ellen Norvell
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT	X	
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X	
ELKINS	MAYOR BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	JONATHAN CURTH PAUL LIBERTINI CHRIS BROWN	X X	
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR BILL GROOM		
HIGHFILL	MAYOR MICHELLE RIEFF	X	
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE		X Richard Stone
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR JACKIE CRABTREE	X	
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR SONNY HUDSON	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE SHAWN GRINDSTAFF JOHN MCCURDY	X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS (VICE CHAIR) KEVIN MOORE	X X	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE (CHAIR) RYAN CARR	X X	
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL		X Mark Latham
WASHINGTON CO.	BRIAN LESTER SAM ATA JEFF CROWDER		
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
NWARPC	JEFF HAWKINS	X	
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	CODY HUDSON		
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)	X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNNEYCUTT)		X Todd Furgason
McDONALD COUNTY	BILL LANT		
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER (MARVIN MORRIS)	X	
NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT	AARON BURKES	X	
ARDOT PLANNING AND DISTRICT 9	CHRIS DILLAHA (SUNNY FARMAHAN) STACEY BURGE	X	

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NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin; Elizabeth Bowen; Cristina Scarlat; Nicole Gibbs; Tim Reavis

OTHERS: Mike Peters (Springdale); David Keck (Cave Springs); Britni O'Connor (MoDOT); Aaron Boehmler (Burns McDonnell); Landon Miller and Mike Stengel (Michael Baker); Zach Moore and Ron Petrie (Garver); and Jessica Hart (Jacobs).

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY DUE TO THE 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 10:31 a.m.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

(3) APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2022 TAC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Christie asked the Committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the October 20, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Ryan Carr made a motion to approve the October 20, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes. Mark Latham provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) NWARPC 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) AMENDMENT #2 – Public Hearing and Recommendation for 30-Day Public Comment Period

Chair Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that we have been working with planning partners to identify funding sources in the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that may not be currently identified in our 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). He said these new programs are a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) approved about a year ago. He said Amendment #1, approved in October, added the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program and we are proposing an additional amendment to include the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program. Conklin highlighted the PROTECT Program and the proposed amendment. He said our Public Participation Plan (PPP) calls for a Public Hearing and a 30-day public comment period, which is proposed for November 18, 2022 to December 19, 2022.

Chris Brown asked whether there is any indication of how the funds will be administered. Tim Conklin and Nicole Gibbs explained that the program is currently shown in the draft TIP as general line items that have not been allocated to specific projects yet. They said there are a couple projects in other areas of the state that have been allocated PROTECT funding on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), but we have not yet heard how projects are being selected. ARDOT was not able to confirm.

Chair Christie asked the Committee whether there were any other questions and hearing none, requested a motion to enter a 30-day Public Comment Period.

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MOTION: Mayor Jackie Crabtree made a motion to approve entering a 30-day public comment period for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment #2. Mark Latham provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(5) NWARPC FFY 2022/2023 CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) PROJECT SELECTION –

Recommendation to RPC/Policy Committee

Chair Christie introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen explained that NWARPC has about \$2.2 million in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding to award for FFYs 2022 and 2023. She said we received eight project applications, several of which also applied for ARDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. She said the Cave Springs and Siloam Springs projects were awarded ARDOT TAP funding, and our project list was adjusted accordingly. She summarized the CRP program requirements as follows:

- Availability of the funds are subject to Congressional action
- Fund amounts are estimated for 2023
- Federally funded 80% federal/20 local matching (in cash)
- This is a reimbursable program
- Follow ARDOT Local Public Agency (LPA) federal-aid process for reimbursement
- Funds must be used for eligible projects
- Funds must be obligated by Sep 2023

Bowen summarized the review committee process and said after accounting for the ARDOT TAP awards, the committee decided not to score projects since all projects could be funded with available CRP funding. She summarized other committee discussions as follows:

- Could any CRP projects be reduced?
- Which CRP projects were over-matched at more than 80%?
- Fair and equitable distribution of CRP funds (e.g. Fay \$900K/2.2M)
- Project did not lead to construction/requested a determination/clarification from ARDOT – (Note: Meeting set for this afternoon to discuss all CRP projects and the LPA process)
- ARDOT announced/posted 2022 TAP awards that funded two CRP projects
- Committee decided not to score projects since all projects could be funded with available CRP funding

Bowen said the committee identified the Fayetteville LED Lighting and Video Detection of Major Intersections projects to be able to accept less funding if apportionment amounts were less than estimated, or it could take additional funding if more than estimated.

Bowen said since the review committee met, the City of Fayetteville has withdrawn their \$500,000 request for the Trail Tunnel under MLK Jr Blvd with the I-49/Hwy 62 Interchange project and the review committee's recommended funding allocation table that was included in a Memo to TAC was adjusted and presented as follows:

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FFY 2022-2023 Carbon Reduction Program Scoring Sheet						
Year	County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP
2022	Benton		Cave Springs	W Wallis Rd & Sands Rd Sidewalk Extension	Construction	\$10,784
2022	Benton		Centerton	McKissic Trail Phase 2	Construction	\$500,000
2022	Washington		Fayetteville (1)	LED Lighting and Video Detection of Major Intersections	Construction	\$400,000
2022	Washington		Fayetteville (2)	Trail Tunnel under MLK Jr Blvd with the 149/Hwy 62 Interchange	Construction	\$500,000 withdrawn
2022	Washington		Johnson	Razorback Greenway Lighting	Construction	\$339,300
2022	Benton		Lowell	Traffic Signal Improvements	Construction	\$131,764
2022	Benton		Siloam Springs	Progress Ave Sidepath	Construction	\$0
2022	Washington		Springdale	Trail Plan and Design	Plan/Design	\$100,000
					Total	\$1,981,848 \$1,481,848
					Available	\$1,099,122
					Available	\$1,122,000
					Plan	-\$50,000
					Difference	-\$189,374 \$689,274

Bowen said with the reduction in requested funding, approximately \$690,000 remains in unawarded CRP funding. She said staff recommends that we do another call for projects for the available funding. She showed the estimated timeline as follows:

- Call for Projects – December 11, 2022
- Project Application Deadline – February 14, 2022, at 4:00pm
- Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee – February 16, 2022
- Selection Committee Site Visit, Scoring, Recommendation – TBD
- Project Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC – March 16, 2022
- Project Selection Recommendation to RPC/Policy – March 22, 2022

Bowen said we are proposing two separate motions, one recommending the projects in accordance with the revised funding allocation table, and another recommending a call for projects for the remaining funds. She said all of this is up for discussion as there is a lot of new information than what has been previously discussed at the last meeting or at the review committee meeting.

Chair Christie asked whether there were any questions or comments to start with. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the FFY2022 and FFY2023 Carbon Reduction Program projects be funded in accordance with the funding table, as revised and shown.

MOTION: Mayor Bill Edwards made a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the FFY2022 and FFY2023 Carbon Reduction Program projects be funded in accordance with the funding table, as revised. Ryan Carr provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Christie said regarding the balance left over, her concern with a call for projects this late is whether projects will be able to be obligated in time. Tim Conklin confirmed that ARDOT only allows \$1 million to be carried forward for each of our suballocated programs, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP-A), TAP, and CRP. He said we now have around \$1 million in TAP, \$1 million in CRP, and about \$9-10 million in STBGP-A funding. He said he would like to continue being somewhat aggressive in doing a call for projects due to the timeframe it takes to get project development initiated and ready to obligate. He explained that every year it becomes more and more difficult to meet that \$1 million carryover requirement. There was further discussion on project readiness, the

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confidence in cost estimates for the current requests, and whether city labor is a reimbursable expense in the CRP program. Conklin explained that we have a meeting with ARDOT scheduled this afternoon to explore some of the unknown details of this program, as the LPA Manual currently only addresses TAP and STBGP-A programs.

Jeff Hawkins said that the current Continuing Resolution (CR) ends on December 14, 2022, so we should have a better idea of funding levels during the timeframe of the proposed call for projects.

Christie asked whether there were any other comments. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to recommend a call for projects for the remaining FFY 2023 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding.

MOTION: Mark Latham made a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee a call for projects for the remaining FFY 2023 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding. Chris Brown provided the second. There was one no vote. Motion carried.

(6) NARTS FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – Recommendation to RPC/Policy Committee

Chair Christie introduced the item with Tim Conklin explaining that MoDOT recently completed their State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), ARDOT has completed their draft STIP, and we have a draft TIP that includes a list of projects within our region, a financial plan, and descriptions. He summarized the contents of the TIP and highlighted some of the significant projects in the current STIP/TIP, including the various Hwy 612 projects, XNA Access Road, and the various Hwy 112 projects. He said there is an interactive map available for the TIP: www.nwarpc.org/transportation/transportation-improvement-program/. He noted the development schedule as follows:

- **Public Forum:** Held Thursday, October 20
- **Public Comment Period:** Held October 20, 2022 through November 4, 2022
- **TAC Recommendation:** Thursday, November 17, 2022
- **RPC/Policy Committee Consideration:** Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Chair Christie read a public comment received during the comment period regarding moving the proposed date for improvements to the Bellview and Monroe intersection sooner.

Chair Christie asked whether there were any other comments. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to recommend approval of the NARTS FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

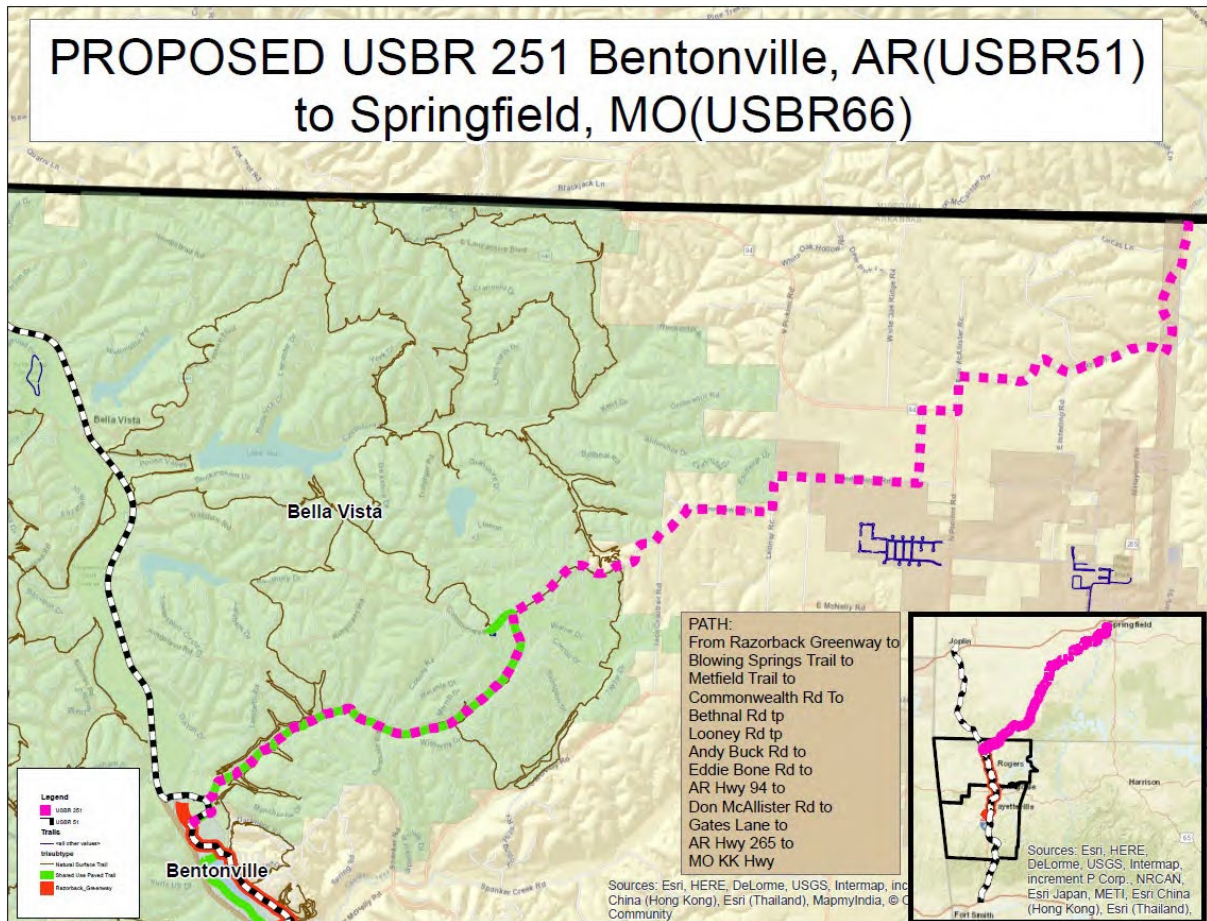
MOTION: Mayor Jackie Crabtree made a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee approval of the NARTS FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ryan Carr provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) US BIKE ROUTE (USBR) 251 SPRINGFIELD, MO TO BENTONVILLE, AR – Recommendation to RPC/Policy Committee

Chair Christie introduced the item with Elizabeth Bowen explaining that there is a national corridor plan for US Bike Routes across the nation. She said USBR51 from Joplin, Missouri to Louisiana was approved and supported by NWARPC in 2019 from Joplin, Missouri to Alma, Arkansas. She said we are now looking to add a spur to that route, USBR251, from Bentonville, Arkansas to Springfield, Missouri. She summarized the route to the Missouri state line and the discussion and review process

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completed by the communities and showed the following:



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

Chair Christie requested a motion to recommend approval of US Bicycle Route 251 to the RPC/Policy Committee.

MOTION: Mayor Jackie Crabtree made a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee approval of US Bicycle Route 251. Mark Latham provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(8) CY 2023-2024 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTION

Chair Christie introduced the item with Nicole Gibbs explaining that it was discussed and recommended at the last meeting that Patsy Christie and Ben Rhoads would potentially remain in office. Both have agreed to continue unless others would like to make a different nomination.

MOTION: Mayor Jackie Crabtree made a motion to re-elect Patsy Christie as Chair and Ben Rhoads as Vice-Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for Calendar Years (CY) 2023 and 2024. Ryan Carr provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Christie and Rhoads were congratulated.

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(9) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

A. FY 2023 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP Project Development

Tim Conklin explained there may be cities that have not been through the Local Public Agency (LPA) process in a while and said in order to get your Agreement of Understanding and job number assigned, you need to initiate your project with ARDOT. He highlighted some of the recent project awards that will need to be initiated, if not done so already. He said there is a 14-step process to make sure you get your money reimbursed and he shared the contact information for Minghua Miller, the ARDOT LPA Staff Program Management Engineer. He also shared a sample letter that cities can use to initiate the process with ARDOT. He said it is very important to get ARDOT review, approval, notice to proceed, etc. throughout the project development process. He said ARDOT has recently implemented a quarterly progress report and asked cities to copy NWARPC on the reports so we also know where you are in the process. He said this afternoon we have a call scheduled with ARDOT to better understand how this process will be used for the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) projects.

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

Tim Conklin said we have submitted our Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program grant and we expect to hear back in January. He highlighted the Local Infrastructure Hub website (<https://localinfrastructure.org/>) and said it is a great website if you are interested in looking at all kinds of grants.

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

Elizabeth Bowen said there was a Strategic Planning Workshop on September 22-23 and said the committee and consultants continue to make progress on the two plans.

D. NWA Regional Assessment of Stormwater Management

Bowen said the call for projects for the Arkansas American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was available on September 16, 2022. She said the cost share requirements were set at a 50% match and maximum amount was set at \$5 million per organization, per project type. She said we were able to submit an application for the Illinois River Watershed by the November 4, 2022 deadline and we expect the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) to make a determination on December 2, 2022. She described the work coming up with the 50% match, including partnering with the Corps of Engineers (USACE) on a Planning Assistance (PAS) grant. She said the application included \$350,000 in ARPA funding, \$400,000 in USACE PAS funding, and \$50,000 in-kind match. If awarded, we will continue working with the Corps and our consultant on the scope of the project. She said the Stormwater Committee will meet after December 2 and continue that process if we are awarded the funds, or choose to seek other options.

E. Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Update

Bowen said as previously mentioned, we have applied for a Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant, and have set-aside STBGP-A funding and a Walton Family Foundation Grant for the local match to begin the process. She said we have received the Notice to Proceed from ARDOT and held a kick-off meeting on November 14, 2022 with consultant, Toole Design Group. She said we have a tight timeline in order for NWARPC and cities to be able to apply for the next round of SS4A funding, anticipated in September 2023, and we will be asking for a lot of participation and will need pretty quick responses as that project moves forward.

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(10) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the recent meetings of the Committee and Bike/Ped Plan Update Subcommittee. She said there will be an ACT meeting and subcommittee meeting this afternoon at 1:30pm and said we will be reviewing each of the Community Plans and how they connect with one another. She summarized other progress of the plan update.

(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 Patsy Christie asked whether there were any other public comments received, or anyone present or online with comments and there were none.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Christie went over the future meetings as follows:

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, December 7, 2022 @ 1:30 PM
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, December 15, 2022 @ 10:30 AM (*Tentative*)
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, January 19, 2023 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, January 25, 2023 @ 1:30 PM

B. ARDOT Highway 112 Location and Design Public Hearings (Phase III)

- **Howard Nickell Rd to Hwy 412 (Jobs 040752, 040758, 040860) – Thursday, December 1, 2022 @4:00pm-7:00pm**, Mount Comfort Church of Christ, 3249 West Mount Comfort Road, Fayetteville, AR 72704 | (11/01/2022-12/30/2022) <https://vpiph03-job-040751-hwy-112-040752-040758-040860-en-ardot.hub.arcgis.com/>
- **Hwy 412 to Springdale Bypass (Job 012305) – Tuesday, December 13, 2022 @4:00pm-7:00pm**, Elm Springs United Methodist Church, 118 N. Elm Street Elm Springs, AR 72728 | (11/13/2022-1/13/2023)
- **Springdale Bypass to Hwy 12 (Jobs 090513, 090514, 090636) –Thursday, December 15, 2022 @4:00pm-7:00pm**, Bentonville Community Center, 1101 SW Citizens Circle Bentonville, AR 72712 | (11/13/2022-1/13/2023) www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings

Chair Patsy Christie asked if there was any other business; hearing none she thanked everyone for their participation.

(13) ADJOURN

The meeting was ended at 11:26 am.