

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023 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)	X	
BENTONVILLE	DENNIS BIRGE DAN WEESE	X	Ellen Norvel
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP	X	
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	JONATHAN CURTH PAUL LIBERTINI CHRIS BROWN	X X X	
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	JEREMY JOHNSON		
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER		
LOWELL	KAREN DAVIS		
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK	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	X	
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
NWARPC	JEFF HAWKINS		
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	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMM. BRYAN HALL		
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; Nicole Gibbs; Tim Reavis

OTHERS: David Keck (Cave Springs); Aaron Pile (Lowell); Dustin Phy (Pea Ridge); Ken Smith and Chuck Jacobus (Goshen); James Boston, Kim Wilkins (Decatur); Kent Laughlin (Rogers); Mike Peters (Springdale); Britni O'Connor (MoDOT); Luke Jost (Crafton Tull); Aaron Boehmler (Burns McDonnell); AJ Cook, Anna Negrete, Anna Stamps (CEI); and Jessica Hart (Jacobs).

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY; VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED AS NWARPC REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(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 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 JANUARY 19, 2023 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 January 19, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Lance Jobe made a motion to approve the January 19, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes. Paul Libertini provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) FY 2023 CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) – Proposed Project Presentations by Applicants

Chair Christie introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen explained that NWARPC has been allocated about \$2.2 million in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding for FFYs 2022 and 2023. She said we reserved \$50,000 for the development of a CRP Plan, and awarded about \$1.5 million in December 2022, leaving about \$690,000 of funding still available:

FFY 2022/23 CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM AWARDED PROJECTS

Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP
2022/23	Benton	Cave Springs	W Wallis Rd & Sands Rd Sidewalk Extension	Construction	\$10,784
2022/23	Benton	Centerton	McKissic Trail Phase 2	Construction	\$500,000
2022/23	Washington	Fayetteville (1)	LED Lighting and Video Detection of Major Intersections	Construction	\$400,000
2022/23	Washington	Johnson	Razorback Greenway Lighting	Construction	\$339,300
2022/23	Benton	Lowell	Traffic Signal Improvements	Construction	\$131,764
2022/23	Washington	Springdale	Trail Plan and Design	Plan/Design	\$100,000
Total					\$1,481,848
FFY22/23 Funding					\$2,171,154
Difference					\$689,306

Bowen said we were authorized to issue a second call for projects and summarized the following estimated timeline:

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(5) FY 2023 FTA AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY (AoPP) PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION – Discussion

Chair Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained this is a new Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant program. He said we have been meeting with Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit along with cities who have areas of persistent poverty and historically disadvantaged census tracts. He said the application would include engineering and design services to implement the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan recently completed by ORT. He said we are working to apply for a \$540,000 grant with ORT and Razorback Transit splitting the \$60,000 local match (90/10 program). He said the application is due March 10, and Olsson Engineering is preparing the application material and the plan is for NWARPC to be the applicant, assuming RPC/Policy Committee gives authorization next week.

Conklin highlighted some of the findings and recommendations of the Bus Stop Enhancement Plan. Christie asked whether this grant is anticipating the construction of stops in the future. Conklin said there are additional discretionary grant opportunities such as FTA 5339 for bus and bus facilities that this work gets us one step closer to.

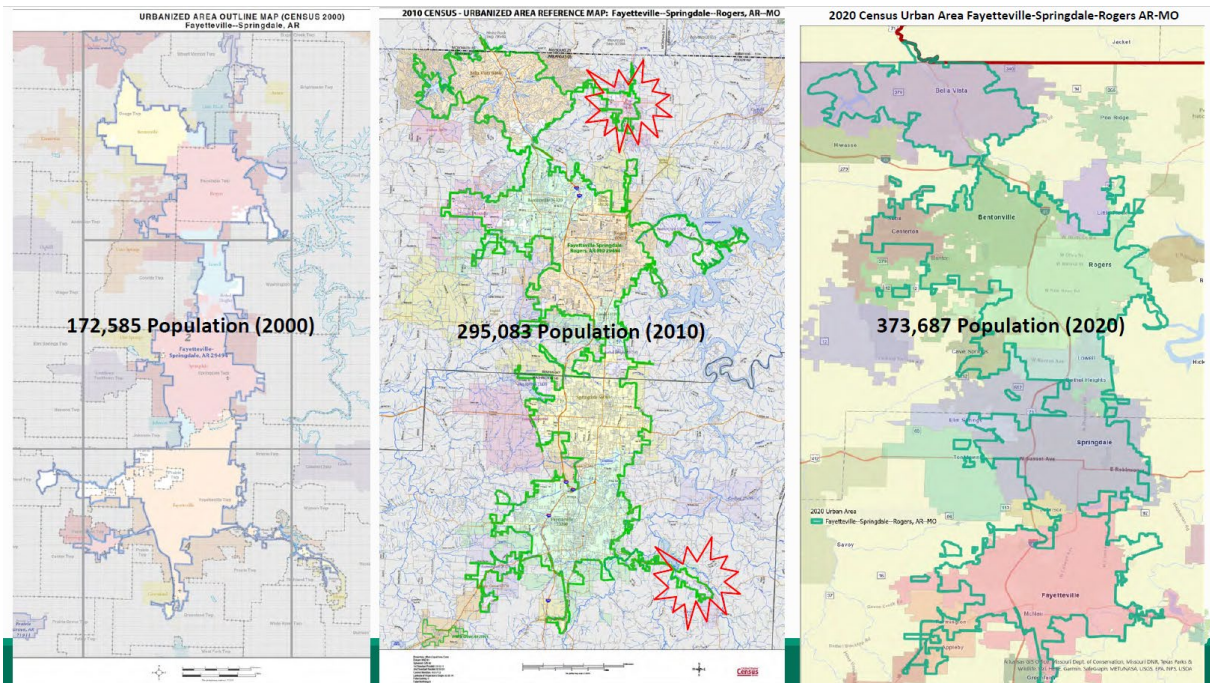
Chair Christie asked whether there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

(6) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

A. Urban Area Boundary and Population Update

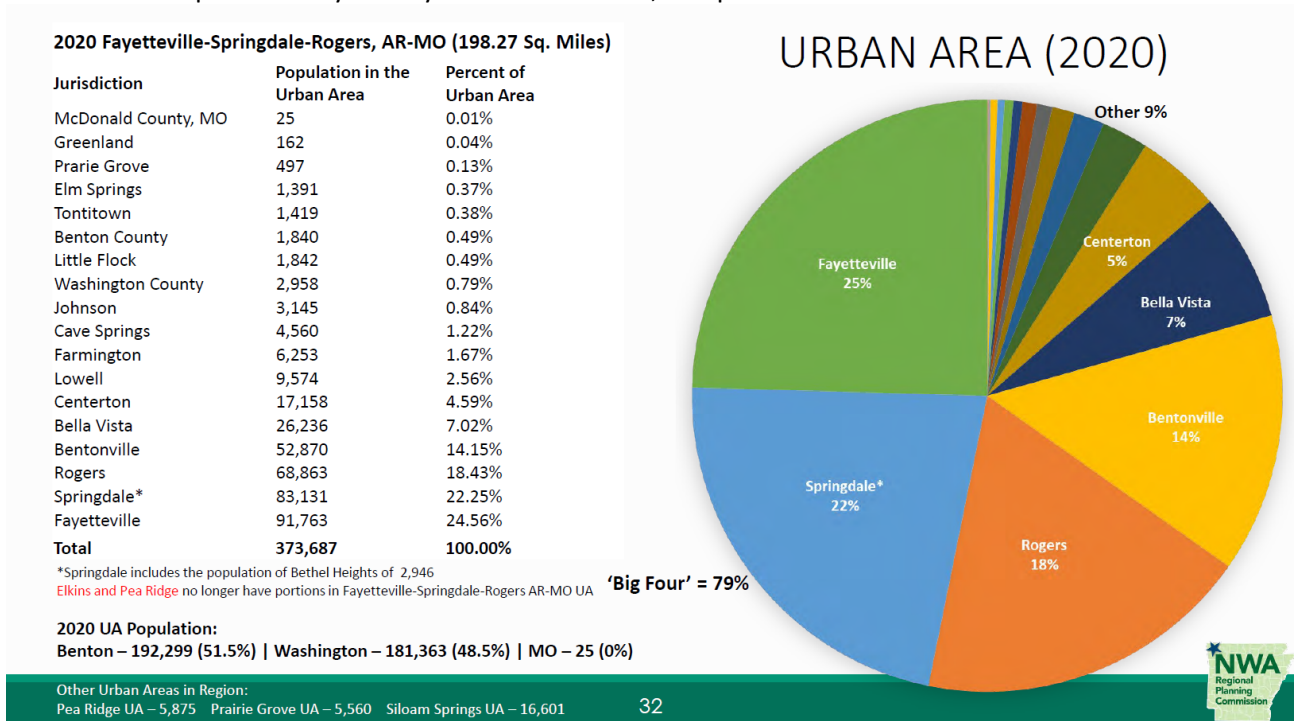
Chair Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that we shared most of this information in the January meeting. He said we compared our Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urban Area to others such as Little Rock, Fort Smith, Jonesboro, AR; Springfield, MO; Tulsa, OK; Wichita, KS and we had the highest numeric increase (78,604) as well as the highest percent population change (26.6%) and population density change (313). He said it is no surprise that we are growing rapidly.

Conklin showed the following graphics illustrating the 2000, 2010 Urbanized Areas and the 2020 Urban Area, noting that Pea Ridge, Elkins, and parts of Prairie Grove are no longer in the larger Urban Area:



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Conklin said it is important to understand that the Urban Area designation does not follow city limits; there are portions of your city considered urban, and portions considered rural.



Conklin said these numbers are important because federal-aid programs use these urban population numbers as part of their funding formulas and the new numbers will affect the suballocation of our STBG, CRP, and TAP funds. He said working with Metroplan, we believe we will receive an additional \$2 million for our area starting in FY 2024.

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

Tim Conklin explained that your FY 2023 Agreements will be a triparty agreement, which will include NWARPC. Included in the agreement is a requirement to send your quarterly reports to NWARPC. He said Program Management is in the process of issuing Agreements of Understandings (AoU) for a number of projects. There was discussion regarding how cities are contacting ARDOT frequently for status, and cannot make progress toward the project until those are issued.

C. FY 2023 Highway 112 RAISE Grant Application Update

Tim Conklin said on February 28, we will be turning in our \$25 million RAISE Grant Application for *Highway 112: Complete Streets. Connecting Communities.*

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

Tim Conklin updated the TAC on dates and deadlines for discretionary grant programs. He said everyone needs to be thinking ahead about projects they believe can compete for these programs. He said you usually cannot wait until the NOFOs are issued, because it takes a lot to complete the benefit-cost analysis. He shared the following links to grant resources:

- <https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity>
- <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

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Conklin said there is a new Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) they pushed out this year for projects that connect active transportation networks and spines, such as the Razorback Greenway.

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

Elizabeth Bowen said there was a Strategic Planning Workshop in September and said the committee and consultants continue to make progress on the two plans, summarizing the following:

- Cambridge Systematics(CS)/ATG Subconsultant
- Staff Bi-Weekly Meetings Continue
- TSMO/ITS
 - Committee Meeting – Jan 10
 - Finalize ITS Inventory –Feb 2023
 - Develop ITS Implementation Plan Draft Feb 3
 - Develop TSMO Implementation Plan Draft –Feb 8
- Next Steps
 - Draft TSMO and Draft ITS due Feb 28
 - Finalize TSMO Plan and ITS Architecture and Deployment Plan and Executive Summaries – Mar 2023
- ARDOT TSMO Plan

F. Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) Update

Bowen said we are using Toole Design Group to develop the NWA Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). She said we held our second working group meeting last Friday, February 10.

She described the next steps for the project as follows:

- Listening sessions are currently being scheduled with Communities
- Logo, website, review crash data, develop high risk network
- Stakeholder meetings and public meetings will begin in March
- Make available the high injury network for City Staff review
- Third working group meeting TBD

Bowen announced that we were awarded the FY 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) CSAP grant, which will be used instead of the STBGP-A funds that we set aside for this project. There was discussion about the STBGP-A funds going into the FY 2024 cycle of applications. Tim Conklin said USDOT will be administering the grant with NWARPC, and the first part is being administered as an LPA project through ARDOT, so we will have two different entities administering the project.

Bowen summarized a breakdown of the program awards to understand what types of projects and entities are competing within this program, what is being awarded, and the competition we can reasonably anticipate in the upcoming application cycle. She summarized and showed the following:

The USDOT is awarding **473 Action Plan Grants** and **37 Implementation Grants** in this first round of the program.

Implementation Grants Awarded = 37

- 29 Urban, 8 Rural
- 1 State MD, 1 Special District, 1 Tribe, 1 MPO, 8 County, 25 Cities

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- Per state: 7 CA, 3 FL, GA, IA, KY 2 MA, 3 MD, MI, MT, NC, ND, NJ,
- MN, 2 NY, OK, OR, 2 PA, RI, 3 TX, WA, WI
- Ranged from \$2.2M to \$30M and all had matching funds
- 37 Projects Approx \$590M Total, Avg \$16M
- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/2022-full-award-list>

Implementation Grants **NOT** Awarded = 164

- 107 Urban, 57 Rural
- 112 City/Town, 37 Counties, 8 MPO, 2 Tribes, 2 Special Districts, 4 Others
- Ranged from \$480,000-\$50,000,000
- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/2022-awards>

She said Toole Design Group has created a story map, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5333eabee244383b2ec4c70af467f17>, which also can be accessed through our website, <https://www.nwarpc.org/transportation/vision-zero-plan/>. She summarized the draft High Injury Network (HIN) Toole Design developed using sliding window analysis for each mode. She said this will be out for city review shortly.

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

(7) 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 a subcommittee meeting this afternoon at 1:30pm. She said we wanted to add a level of traffic stress for all of our on- and off-road facilities. She said PeopleForBikes had already created an analysis for the region, so we are planning to add this to our Bike-Ped Interactive Map. There was discussion regarding criteria used to develop the analysis. She summarized other progress of the plan update as follows:

Last Met: January 19, 2023

- Sub-committee for NWARBPMP January 19, 2023
- Sub-committee for Facilities Document Nov 2, Jan 31, Feb 7
- Progress report on City/County projects
- Interactive Map Editing Tool – Cities continue to modified proposed trails, points of interest, catalyst projects, regional network, parks, etc.
- Additional Cities/UofA have decided to modify their plans

Next Meeting –

- ACT March 16, 2023 at 1:30
- Subcommittee NWARBPMP February 16, 2023 at 1:30
- Map will go to public comment –TBD / Est April

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

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(9) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Christie went over the future meetings as follows:

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, February 22, 2023 @ 1:30 PM
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, March 16, 2023 @ 10:30 AM

B. ARDOT Public Involvement Meetings (www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings):

- **Hwy 264 – Belleview St/Spring Creek Rd Inters. Improvts. (Lowell)** – Thursday, February 16, 2023 @ 4:00pm - 7:00pm, First Baptist Rogers (Multipurpose Room), 3364 West Pleasant Grove Road, Rogers, AR 72758 (comment 02/16/2023 -to- 03/03/2023)
- **Hwy 612 (Springdale Bypass) – I-49 to Hwy 265** – Tuesday, February 21, 2023 @ 4:00pm-7:00pm, First Baptist Church of Lowell (Fellowship Hall), 209A Washington St. Lowell, AR 72745 (comment 02/21/2023 -to- 03/08/2023)

Tim Conklin summarized the upcoming ARDOT public involvement meetings and encouraged folks in our region to attend. He said there are no Public Officials Meetings being held with these, and the meeting information is being advertised just days before or the day of the meeting.

Chair Patsy Christie asked ARDOT to note that they are putting city officials at a great disadvantage when they do not hold Public Officials meeting prior to the Public Meetings due to potential conflicts with Council and Planning Commission meetings, which are frequently held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

C. Project for Public Spaces Community Placemaking Grants' NWA Convening –

Save the Date: March 1, 2023 (<https://www.pps.org/community-placemaking-grants>)

Conklin said the Walton Family Foundation reached out to us with a new grant opportunity. He said they will be awarding three grants up to \$80,000 each. He said communities interested in the opportunity can register for the NWA Convening on March 1. He said these would be one-year projects seeking to activate and improve public spaces. He said just in talking with some smaller communities, each of you probably have public spaces that could benefit from this program. He said this opportunity is not through us, but through Project for Public Spaces and the Walton Family Foundation for the NWA region.

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

(10) ADJOURN

The meeting was ended at 11:35 am.