

RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED OCTOBER 26, 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		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	ERNIE PENN	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X	X Paul Libertini
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN		X Elizabeth Bowen
GATEWAY	MAYOR ANDREW TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	MAYOR MAX POYE		
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX		X David Keck
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	X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR JACKIE CRABTREE (TREASURER)		X Nathan See
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR SONNY HUDSON (SECRETARY)	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY SHAWN GRISNDSTAFF	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION PHILLIP PATTERSON	X	X Ben Rhoads
SPRINGDALE	DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X X	
SPRINGTOWN	TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	SHANE WEBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL		X Mark Latham
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE JOSEPH WOOD BRIAN LESTER		X Sam Ata
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB CHAD ADAMS (DISTRICT 4)		X Sunny Farmahan
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER		X Tim Conklin
McDONALD COUNTY	BILL LANT		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR (BRITNI O'CONNOR)	X	
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)		
ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)		
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)		

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

OTHERS: Melissa McCarville (Farmington), Rick Stone (Lowell), Sarah Moore (Arkansas Justice Reform Coalition)

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 JULY 27, 2022

Chair Mayor Keeney asked the Committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes and requested a motion to approve the July 27, 2022 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mayor Peter Christie made a motion to approve the July 27, 2022 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Judge Barry Moehring provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Jeff Hawkins thanked those attending in person and virtually and said today's meeting is particularly important because the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2023 STBGP-A and TAP Grant funding selections will be made. He said Tim will go over the TAC Committee's recommendations in few minutes, and as he'll explain, we received over \$18 million in project requests, which is about a third more than the funds we have available, so there are decisions to be made.

Hawkins said the Clearinghouse Report summarizes about a dozen new grant applications filed in the last month affecting the region and will be distributed to the group after the meeting. He said our budget request letters will be going out later this week, which are the membership fees and do not include the MS4 EPA Stormwater Program budget requests that those in the Urban Area will receive later. He explained the membership fee structure remains unchanged, and the amounts requested for 2023, which are based on the 2020 Census, will be the same as 2022. He said on the staff side, we are pleased to announce that Tim Reavis will be coming to work for us on September 1st and we still have the transit planner position to fill. He also summarized other Planning staff changes in the region. He said there will be a group of NWA planners and engineers attending the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Designing Cities Conference in Boston. He explained that we received a grant from the Walton Family Foundation (WFF) to fund their attendance and safety will be the primary focus of this conference, which will be a significant planning initiative for cities, counties, and the State this year. Lastly, he reminded the board not to forget that property tax millage levies should be made by your councils if they haven't already. He said a few years ago, we had a city that forgot, and ended up losing a year's worth of property tax revenue.

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

(6) NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP AMENDMENT #5 – MoDOT

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs explained that the Northwest Arkansas Transportation Study (NARTS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) must be consistent with the State Transportation Improvement Programs (STIPs), and MoDOT sent us some project changes following the adoption of their FFY 2023-2027 MoDOT STIP on July 2, 2022. She said a public comment period was held from August 8, 2022 through August 22, 2022 and no comments were received, and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended approval of the amendment on August 18, 2022. She summarized the proposed changes and said a resolution has been prepared to accept these proposed changes based on the adopted STIP.

A. RESOLUTION #2022-12 – Amending the NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2022-12 amending the NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

MOTION: Mayor Peter Christie made a motion to approve Resolution #2022-12 amending the NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) FFY 2023 STBGP-A & TAP – PROPOSED PROJECTS APPROVAL

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that over the past few months, we have issued the call for projects, accepted applications, and a few weeks ago, conducted a tour with the selection committee to view the project locations. He reminded everyone of the estimated funding for FY 2023 coming to the region as follows:

FFY2022 TAP Awarded Aug 2021	\$ 626,000
FFY2022 TAP Actual	<u>\$1,017,487</u>
FFY2022 TAP Remaining	\$ 391,487
FFY2022 TAP Remaining	\$ 391,487
FFY2023 TAP Est. (based on FFY2022)	<u>\$1,017,487</u>
Total Available TAP FFY2022 & 2023	\$1,408,974
STBGP-A FFY Awarded Aug 2021	\$8,034,319
FFY 2022 STBGP-A Actual	<u>\$8,994,211</u>
FFY 2022 STBGP-A Remaining	\$ 959,892
FFY2022 STBGP-A Remaining	\$ 959,892
FFY2023 STBGP-A Est. (based on FFY2022)	<u>\$8,994,211</u>
Total Available STBGP-A FFY 2022 & 2023	\$9,954,103

Conklin summarized the results of the FFY 2023 Call for Projects as follows:

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

- (6) New TAP Projects - **\$3,444,822**

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP-A)

- (14) STBGP-A Projects - **\$15,444,445**
 - (6) Existing STBGP-A projects requesting additional funds - **\$10,966,845**
 - (8) New STBGP-A projects requesting - **\$4,477,600**

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He summarized the STBGP-A project requests, including the Committee’s ranking of new projects, as follows:

EXISTING PROJECT REQUESTS

Federal Fiscal Year 2023- Existing Projects						
Year	County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A
2023	Benton	090436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases	\$ 326,845
2023	Benton	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Utilities/Eng/Constr	\$ 800,000
2023	Washington	040887	Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to Township St)	Construction	\$ 1,800,000
2023	Benton	090601	Lowell	71B & 264 Int Imp	Construction	\$ 240,000
2023	Benton	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264 & Bellview	Construction	\$ 560,000
2023	Washington	040680	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext.	Construction	\$ 7,240,000
Total						\$ 10,966,845

NEW STBGP-A PROJECT REQUESTS AND RANKING

Federal Fiscal Year 2023 - STBGP-A - New Projects Only									
Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A-FEDERAL	Required Local Match	TOTAL (Fed + Local Match)	TOTAL POINTS	RANKING
2023	Benton	Centerton	Hwy 102 Sidepath	Construction	\$ 600,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 750,000	229	4/5
2023	Washington	Fayetteville	Millsap, College, N Hemlock	ROW/Environ	\$ 320,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 400,000	265	1/2
2023	Benton	Lowell	Monroe from Oak St to Hwy 265	Construction	\$ 1,789,600	\$ 447,400	\$ 2,237,000	229	4/5
2023	Benton	Rogers	W Pleasant Grove Rd & Hwy 265 Roundabout	Design/Env	\$ 168,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 210,000	256	3
2023	Benton	Rogers	Hwy 265 and Hwy 94 New Hope Rd Roundabout	Design/Env	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	265	1/2
Total					\$ 3,077,600	\$ 769,400	\$ 3,847,000		

Note: Removed the two TAP Projects that also applied for STBGP-A funding -I-49 Razorback Greenway Relocation and I-49/U.S. 62 Interchange

Conklin said two projects applied for both TAP and STBGP-A, which were both considered in the TAP category. He thanked Mayor Moore for reducing his funding request down for the Monroe extension, which freed up money for other projects. He said we also reduced the Springdale request down to \$4.5 million because our policy is to award no more than half of the funds to any one project. He said it was Regional Planning’s suggestion that they apply for more money in case we did not have enough projects that came in for ranking this year. He summarized the committee’s recommendation as follows:

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FFY 2023 STBGP-A Funding Recommendation					
Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A
2023	Benton	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases	\$ 326,845
2023	Benton	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Utilities Eng/Const.	\$ 800,000
2023	Benton	Centerton	Hwy 102 Sidepath	Construction	\$ 600,000
2023	Washington	Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to Township St)	Construction	\$ 1,800,000
2023	Washington	Fayetteville	Milsap, College, N Hemlock	ROW/Environ	\$ 320,000
2023	Benton	Lowell	71B & 264 Int Imp	Construction	\$ 240,000
2023	Benton	Lowell	Hwy 264 & Bellview	Construction	\$ 560,000
2023	Benton	Lowell	Monroe from Oak St to Hwy 265	Construction	\$ 439,258
2023	Benton	Rogers	W Pleasant Grove Rd & Hwy 265 Roundabout	Design/Env	\$ 168,000
2023	Benton	Rogers	Hwy 265 and Hwy 94 New Hope Rd Roundabout	Design/Env	\$ 200,000
2023	Washington	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext.	Construction	\$ 4,500,000
				Total	\$ 9,954,103

Conklin summarized the TAP project requests and rankings and explained that while the Fayetteville I-49 and Hwy 62 Interchange Bicycle Accommodations project ranked number 3 overall, it is not being recommended at this time due to ARDOTs proposed construction start date in 2024. He said the projects being recommended are ready for obligation. He summarized the following:

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NEW TAP PROJECT REQUESTS AND RANKING

Federal Fiscal Year 2023 - TAP Project Applications									
Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	TAP-FEDERAL	Required Local Match	TOTAL (Fed + Local Match)	TOTAL POINTS	RANKING
2023	Benton	Bentonville	I49 Razorback Greenway Relocation	Construction	\$ 500,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 625,000	1,081	1
2023	Benton	Cave Springs	N Wallis Rd & Sands Rd Sidewalk Ext	Construction	\$ 348,032	\$ 87,008	\$ 435,040	965	7
2023	Benton	Centerton	McKissic Station Park Trail Phase II	Construction	\$ 500,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 625,000	999	6
2023	Washington	Farmington	Creekside Park Trail	Construction	\$ 687,790	\$ 171,948	\$ 859,738	1,074	2
2023	Washington	Fayetteville	I-49 and Hwy 62 Interchange Bicycle Accommodations	Construction	\$ 500,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 625,000	1,065	3
2023	Benton	Gravette	Gravette Trail System Phase II	Construction	\$ 725,000	\$ 181,250	\$ 906,250	1,053	4
2023	Benton	Siloam Springs	Progress Ave	Construction	\$ 184,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 230,000	1,011	5
				Total	\$ 3,444,822	\$ 861,206	\$ 4,306,028		

RECOMMENDED FUNDING ALLOCATION TABLE -TAP

FFY 2023 - TAP Funding Recommendation					
Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	TAP-FEDERAL
2023	Benton	Bentonville	I49 Razorback Greenway Relocation	Construction	\$ 500,000
2023	Washington	Farmington	Creekside Park Trail	Construction	\$ 500,000
2023	Benton	Gravette	Gravette Trail System Phase II	Construction	\$ 408,974
				Total	\$ 1,408,974

Note: TAP project I-49 and Hwy 62 Interchange Bicycle Accommodations was not recommended due to ARDOT proposed construction to begin in 2024.

Conklin said TAC voted unanimously to recommend approval of these STBGP-A and TAP funding allocation tables to the Policy Committee. He said the Fayetteville Millsap, College, N. Hemlock project funding is subject to ARDOT and FHWA approving a Functional Classification Map Amendment. He said this is NWARPC’s eleventh call for projects and in the spirit of cooperation, which has been the norm over that time, the cities worked together to make sure projects ready to receive construction funding move forward and they have done a great job over the last few weeks getting this recommendation to the Policy Committee.

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve the FFY 2023 STBGP-A and TAP projects as shown in the funding allocation table.

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MOTION: Mayor Jeff Van Sickler made a motion to approve the FFY 2023 STBGP-A and TAP projects as shown in the funding allocation table with the understanding that the Fayetteville Millsap, College, N. Hemlock project funding is subject to ARDOT and FHWA approving a Functional Classification Map Amendment. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Tim Conklin explained that he has been working with city staff to get FFY 2022 projects obligated and summarized the obligation plan including which projects are not ready to obligate. He said to meet the carryover limitation, he has identified which 2023 projects, that have just been awarded by RPC/Policy Committee, are ready today to obligate. He said when Congress acts to fund FFY 2023, that money will be become available to spend towards projects in our region. He showed the following summary table:

ARDOT Partnership Projects with LPA's (Does not count towards carry over of \$1M Max)					Phase	Carry Over
2021	Washington	040746	Fayetteville	Hwy 112 Side path Trail (TAP)	Construction	\$ 230,891
2021	Benton	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview/Spring Creek Rd Inters. Impvts.	Construction	\$ 746,000
2022	Benton	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview/Spring Creek Rd Inters. Impvts.	Construction	\$ 150,000
2022	Washington	040887	Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to	Construction	\$1,500,000
2022	Washington	040746	Fayetteville	Hwy 112 - Heritage Springs Trail and Tunnel	Construction	\$ 250,000
						\$2,876,891
LPA Projects (With No ARDOT Partnership)						Carry Over
2021	Washington	040854	Tontitown	US 412 and Klenc Rd Signalization	All Phases	\$ 256,228
2022	Benton		Bentonville	SW Regional Airport Blvd. / S. Vaughn Rd.	Design and Environmental	\$ 500,000
2022	Benton	090601	Lowell	US-71B/HWY264 Intersection	Env., ROW, Utilities, Construction	\$ 730,000
2022	Benton		Siloam Springs	N Mt Olive Sidepath (between Dawn Hill Rd.	Construction	\$ 376,000
						\$1,862,228
LPA Projects Applying for FFY 2023 Funding That Can Obligate FFY 2022 by Sept. 30, 2022 (if awarded by NWARPC Policy Committee on August 24, 2022)						
2023	Benton	090436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way	All Phases	\$ 326,845
2023	Washington	040717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Extension	Construction	\$4,500,000
2023	Benton	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Construction	\$ 800,000
2023	Benton	090504	Gravette	Gravette Trails Ph 2	Construction	\$ 408,974
2023	Benton-Washington		NWARPC	Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan	Planning	\$ 100,000
						\$6,135,819

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Conklin said that the region received an earmark for Johnson Mill Rd that was repurposed for Gene George Blvd South, Phase I. He said NWARPC obligated awarded STBGP-A to repurpose the entire earmark obligation limitation, which impacts our ability to obligate FFY 2022 awarded STBGP-A/HIP money. He said in the past we have told cities that when we award money to your projects, it needs to stay with that project, however, in this instance due to the additional earmark funding complicating what can be obligated this year, we are requesting obligation flexibility between the four (4) Springdale/Johnson projects on previously awarded STBGP-A/HIP funding for FFY 2022:

- **Gene George Phase I** – Repurposed Earmark funding was obligated
- **Gene George Phase II** – First - Obligate awarded funds based on project estimates by phase/readiness
- **Gene George Phase III** – Second - Obligate awarded funds based on project estimates by phase/readiness
- **Don Tyson Parkway** – Third - Obligate remaining funds based on project estimates by phase/readiness

He reiterated the idea is to make sure we can obligate all the money that has been previously awarded on these projects. He said no additional money is being allocated than what has been awarded by the Policy Committee, but we are requesting flexibility with ARDOT and FHWA to adjust the Federal Aid Project (FAP) Agreements.

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to authorize obligation flexibility between Springdale/Johnson’s four projects on previously awarded STBGP-A/HIP funding for FFY 2022. Patsy Christie provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Patsy Christie said federal money is complicated and we need flexibility to do some of this, whether it is our project or someone else’s, because we do not want money going back to Washington, we want the money to stay in NWA. Conklin said he works with all the cities adjusting their federal aid project agreements based on what is awarded here because you are estimating what you think it will cost for utilities, right-of-way (ROW), and construction. He said what we just awarded on these new projects is what they thought it would cost in June of 2022, and they will not know the actual costs until 2027/2028 for example, and the actual numbers will be different.

(8) CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) ADOPTION

Chair Chris Keeney introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen summarized the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) details, including federal requirements and said that we anticipate just over \$1 million coming to the region for FY 2022 and estimate the same for FY 2023:

- NWARPC will receive **\$1,099,581 for FFY2022** and **\$1,099,581 (Est.) for FFY2023**.
- \$50,000 is reserved for **Carbon Reduction Plan** Development in the UPWP.
- The purpose of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is to reduce transportation emissions ...by funding **projects designed to reduce transportation emissions**
- Transportation Emissions means carbon dioxide emissions from on-road highway sources of those emissions within a State (23 U.S.C. 175(a)(2)).
- Projects must be identified in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)/Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and be consistent with the Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plan and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan(s). (23 U.S.C. 134 and 23 U.S.C. 135)
- CRP funding may be used on a wide range of projects that support the reduction of transportation emissions.

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She reminded the committee of the focus areas recommended by TAC and approved by RPC/Policy Committee in May, consisting of the following:

Eligible activities focus areas approved by RPC/Policy Committee on May 25, 2022:

- A. a project described in 23 U.S.C. 149(b)(4) to establish or operate a traffic monitoring, management, and control facility or program, including advanced truck stop electrification systems;
- C. a transportation alternatives project as described in 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29) as in effect prior to the enactment of the FAST Act,³ including the construction, **planning, and design** of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation;
- D. a project described in section 23 U.S.C. 503(c)(4)(E) for advanced transportation and congestion management technologies;
- E. a project for the deployment of infrastructure-based intelligent transportation systems capital improvements and the installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communications equipment, including retrofitting dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) technology deployed as part of an existing pilot program to cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) technology;
- F. a project to replace street lighting and traffic control devices with energy-efficient alternatives;

Bowen said our approved FY 2023 UPWP reserves \$50,000 of the funds for the creation of a Carbon Reduction Plan/Strategy. She summarized federal requirements for the strategy and suballocation of the program funds.

Bowen presented the proposed NWARPC Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) FY 2022/2023 Application and Scoring Matrix. She asked whether there were any questions about the program, application or scoring matrix. Conklin said ARDOT's Local Project Administration (LPA) process will need to be followed for projects utilizing this funding.

Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve the proposed NWARPC Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Application and Scoring Matrix.

MOTION: Patsy Christie made a motion to approve the proposed NWARPC Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Application and Scoring Matrix. Mayor Peter Christie provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Bowen summarized the proposed timeline:

- **Call for Projects** – September 1, 2022
- **Project Application Deadline** – October 17, 2022, at 4:00pm
- **Project Sponsor Presentations to TAC Committee** – October 20, 2022
- **Project Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC** – November 17, 2022
- **Project Selection Recommendation to RPC/Policy** – December 7, 2022

Bowen asked whether there were any questions on moving forward to allow these funds to become available for the call for projects. Tim Conklin said the application does require a Resolution from your governing bodies. Patsy Christie said it is a short timeframe, but to hit the federal requirements, we really don't have much choice.

MOTION: Patsy Christie made a motion to approve giving notice for a Call for Projects for the NWARPC Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

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Conklin said those \$2 million need to be obligated by next year, so we really need to think about projects that can be shepherded through the Local Project Agency (LPA) process within the short timeframe.

(9) FFY 2023-2026 STIP/TIP DEVELOPMENT (Informational Item)

Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that ARDOT has provided a draft STIP/TIP. He said there were some changes from the previous draft sent last month. He highlighted some of the projects programed over the next four years, including the various Highway 112 projects from Fayetteville to Bentonville; Highway 612 projects; and the XNA Access Road. He said we have created a draft TIP interactive map, and noted there are also many road preservation projects included, and shared the link: <https://nwarpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/minimalist/index.html?appid=c4b76e1576054e919d3063b0993955a9>.

Conklin said the proposed TIP will come before the TAC and RPC/Policy Committee toward the end of the ARDOT public involvement period and we will have our own public involvement period as well. He said it is exciting to see Highway 112, XNA Access Road, and Highway 612 being shown for construction in next 4-year cycle.

(10) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

A. FFY 2022 STBGP-A & TAP Obligation Plan

Tim Conklin said this item was discussed earlier in the agenda, with the FY 2023 STPGP-A and TAP item.

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

Tim Conklin summarized upcoming deadlines and discretionary programs including the Bridge Investment Program, the SS4A planning grant application, and the Railroad Crossing Elimination program. He also summarized upcoming training and webinar opportunities, including the Local Infrastructure Hub for Technical Assistance Program to help small and mid-sized cities access federal infrastructure dollars and showed the link: <https://www.nlc.org/post/2022/08/12/the-local-infrastructure-hub-opens-enrollment-for-technical-assistance-program-to-help-small-mid-sized-cities-and-towns-access-federal-infrastructure-dollars/>.

C. 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 staff and the committee continue to meet with Cambridge Systematics on the projects and they submitted a strategic plan that is being reviewed. She said there is a planned workshop in September, which will be open to regional participation and contribution.

D. NWA Regional Assessment of Stormwater Management

Elizabeth Bowen said we are hearing that the Arkansas American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding may become available within days. She said we continue to work with Halff, Corps of Engineers and Arkansas Natural Resources Division (ANRD) to revise the scope of the project based on what we know about the funding source. She said we should have a better update next month.

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E. Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Update

Bowen said NWARPC will complete a safety action plan as previously approved and will be utilizing \$400,000 in STBGP-A funds and is applying for a SS4A planning grant by September 15, 2022. She summarized the procurement process as follows:

Procurement Process:

- LOI Noticed (Approved by ARDOT) – **May 19**
- Selection Committee ranked and selected 3 most highly qualified candidates – **June 14**
- RFP/Scope developed (**Approved by ARDOT in 1 day**) – **June 20**
- RFP/Scope sent to candidates – **June 30**
- Q&A answered – **July 12**
- RFP's due – **July 21**
- Interviews are – **July 27**
- Selection Committee Scoring Meeting – **July 27**
- Reference checks – **July/Aug**
- Draft contract/contract negotiations – **Aug**
- ARDOT approval/award contract – **Aug**
- Kick-off meeting, public outreach – **Sep**
- Develop Plan – **Sep 2022/Aug 2023**
- Apply for next round of SS4A Grant NOFO – **Sep 2023**

Bowen thanked ARDOT again for helping move this process forward with very quick review turn around and we expect to hold a kickoff meeting around September 15, 2022 and to develop the plan between September 2022 and August 2023 so we can apply for Implementation Grants in the next cycle.

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

(11) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Elizabeth Bowen said the committee met on July 21, 2022 and the subcommittee met July 21, 2022 and August 18, 2022. She summarized discussion items including the City Ratings that were released by People for Bikes; the Bicycle Friendly Community applications deadline on September 29, 2022; and progress on the NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (NWARBPMP), which has a May 2023 target for approval. She said the Arkansas Bicycle Coalition met for the first time since 2015 and the group is looking for board members and officers. She encouraged the Board to talk to their staff about participating.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Elizabeth Bowen stated the group met July 26, 2022. She said Fayetteville and Gentry have passed resolutions to support the Open Space Plan and other cities in the pipeline include Rogers, Siloam Springs, Pea Ridge, Greenland, Centerton, Springdale, Lincoln and Cane Hill. She said they meet again September 27, 2022 at 10:00am.

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Nicole Gibbs summarized the following:

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
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- **Last Met:** August 17, 2022
- **Topics/Discussions:**
 - The Build Right Campaign (sediment control emphasis)
 - pre-construction training forms
 - "BMP of the Week" initiative
 - The 2023 Budget – cost estimates and allocation process
 - "Pick up where you play" Campaign
- **Next meeting scheduled:** October 19, 2022 @ 10:30 am. (every two months on the third Wednesday)

D. NWA GIS User Group

Nicole Gibbs said there are no updates for the NWA GIS User Group.

(12) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Chris Keeney asked whether any comments had been received prior to the meeting. Staff said no comments have been received. Chair Keeney asked whether there are any present wishing to comment and there were none.

(13) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Mayor Keeney went over the future meetings as follows:

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, September 15, 2022, @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, September 28, 2022 @ 1:30 PM

B. Drive Electric NWA (NWA Council Event) – Saturday, September 24, 2022 @ 12 PM – 5PM, Pinnacle Hills Promenade, driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=3414

Conklin said the event is an off-shoot of the EV Infrastructure work group and is intended to educate the public about electric vehicles. He summarized the sponsors of the event and the regional presence of EV.

C. ARDOT Statewide Public Transit Coordination Plan Update – accepting comments until August 31, 2022 @ 4:30pm | www.ardot.gov/news/22-174/

Tim Conklin said ARDOT held a public outreach meeting for the Statewide Public Transit Coordination Plan last week at NWARPC and they are accepting comments until August 31. He said there are also transit feedback surveys open and encouraged everyone to respond.

Elizabeth Bowen said a Regional Wayfinding Sign Program was initiated in 2011 with NWARPC receiving a grant and the NWA Council implementing the program. She said the City of Hunstville has requested to become part of program and we will call a meeting of current participants (Bella Vista, Bentonville, Eureka Springs, Fayetteville, Lowell, Rogers, Siloam Springs, Springdale, and XNA Airport) to decide. She said the group has not met in a couple of years as there was not a need, but if there are other cities who are interested in joining this program, contact Bowen for more information.


Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there was any other business.

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16. ADJOURN

With no other business, Chair Mayor Chris Keeney adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022:



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

ATTEST:

