



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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November 1, 2022

Via email

Chris Dillaha and Sunny Farmahan, ARDOT

Frank Miller and Britni O'Connor, MoDOT

Jeff Hawkins, Tim Conklin, and Cristina Scarlat, NWARPC

RE: NWARPC 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) AMENDMENT #1 APPROVAL

Planning Partners:

Please find attached Resolution #2022-14 and Exhibit A amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to include new federal funding programs.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION: In accordance with NWARPC's Public Participation Plan (PPP), notification was published in the Democrat Gazette on Sunday, August 7, 2022 and in the La Prensa Libre and McDonald County Press on Thursday, August 11, 2022, and online at www.nwarpc.org/public-notifications/. A public comment period for the 2045 MTP Amendment #1 began on Friday, August 19, 2022 and ran through Monday, September 19, 2022. Written comments were encouraged via email using the comment tab on the NWARPC website. One public comment was received on September 6, 2022 and shared with the RPC/Policy Committee in writing in advance of the October 26, 2022 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL: In accordance with the PPP, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a hybrid, in-person and virtual meeting on August 18, 2022 and voted to enter into a 30-day public comment period for the 2045 MTP Amendment #1. Following the comment period, the RPC/Policy Committee held a hybrid, in-person and virtual meeting on October 26, 2022 and unanimously passed a motion to approve Resolution #2022-13 Amending the NWARPC 2045 MTP to include the new federal funding programs.

This approval letter along with the approved Resolution #2022-13 have been published with the NWARPC 2045 MTP Chapters, which can be viewed at www.nwarpc.org/transportation/metropolitan-transportation-plan/.

Thank you for your assistance in this endeavor. Please contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gibbs

Nicole Gibbs, AICP

Regional Planner, NWARPC

Enclosures:

Exhibit A – NWARPC 2045 MTP Amendment #1

NWARPC Resolution #2022-13

RESOLUTION #2022-13

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NWARPC) 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) TO INCLUDE NEW FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require an areawide multi-modal transportation plan and a continuing planning process for urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, said mandated planning process, known as the "3C" (Continuing, Cooperative and Comprehensive) planning process, must be carried out by a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and is necessary for transportation projects to qualify for federal transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO urbanized area, is responsible for the development of a long-range, multi-modal transportation plan for the area and its future environs; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan was approved on March 24, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law on November 15, 2021 and includes provisions for new federal funding programs including the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program (NEVI) and the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP); and

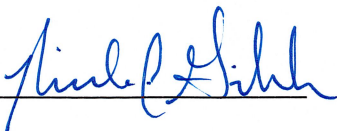
WHEREAS, NWARPC, in conformance with federal requirements, has prepared an amendment to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to incorporate the new federal funding programs into the long-range plans.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

That the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Chapter 9. Transportation Projects and Funding, Summary of Federal Aid Programs and Funding, is hereby amended as shown in Exhibit A.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022.

ATTEST:




Mayor Chris Keeney, Chairman

NWARPC 2045 MTP AMENDMENT #1
PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO

CHAPTER 9. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND FUNDING

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS AND FUNDING

CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP)

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which was signed into law on November 15, 2021, authorizes a new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) codified at 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) 175 to reduce transportation emissions. The CRP provides funds that may be used on a wide range of projects designed to reduce transportation emissions, defined as carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from on-road highway sources.

CRP funds are suballocated to Urbanized Areas with population over 200K. The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urbanized Area receives CRP funding as sub-allocated funding based on the relative share of the state's population. Projects are selected through a competitive process and approved by the RPC/Policy Committee. CRP funds can be utilized for all eligible transportation projects at the discretion of the RPC/Policy Committee.

CRP Estimated Funding (Federal, plus local match, 2 percent inflation/year):

Time Period (FFY)	Urbanized	Statewide
2025 to 2030	\$ 9.2	\$ 48.9
2031 to 2035	\$ 8.5	\$ 45.5
2036 to 2045	\$19.9	\$105.7
Total	\$37.6	\$200.1

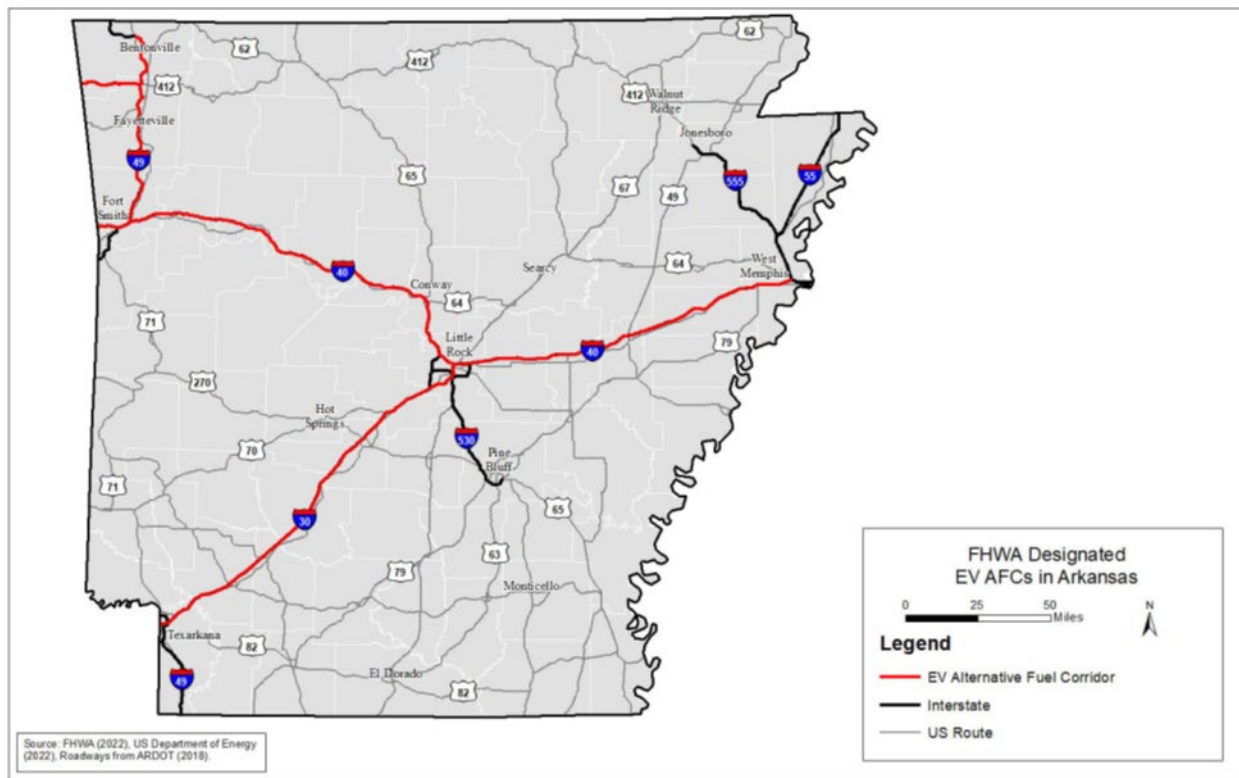
(Millions of dollars of estimated obligation limitation)

NATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE (NEVI) PROGRAMS

The **NEVI Formula Program** is authorized under Paragraph (2) under the Highway Infrastructure Program heading in title VIII of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The purpose of the NEVI Formula Program is to provide funding to States to strategically deploy electric vehicle charging infrastructure and to establish an interconnected network to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability. A goal of the program is to build a national network of 500,000 EV charging stations along Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFC) by 2030.

Alternative Fuel Corridor Designations

The NWARPC nominated U.S. 412 as an EV Corridor-Pending on the federally designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFC) and was approved on July 5, 2022 by FHWA. Within the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary, I-49 and U.S. 412 between the OK/AR border and the US-412/I-49 interchange in Springdale are designated as alternative fuel corridors.



To be effective, the EV charging infrastructure deployed under this program must provide a seamless customer experience for all users through a convenient, reliable, affordable, and equitable national EV charging network.

The IIJA also amends 23 U.S.C. 151 to establish two new discretionary grant programs to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure, hydrogen fueling infrastructure, propane fueling infrastructure, and natural gas fueling infrastructure: the Discretionary Grant Program for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (**Corridor Charging Grants**) and the Discretionary Grant Program for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (**Community Charging Grants**).

NEVI Formula Program Estimated Funding (Federal, plus local match, 2 percent inflation/year):

Time Period (FFY)	NEVI
2025 to 2030	\$ 67.0
2031 to 2035	\$ 62.3
2036 to 2045	\$144.7
Total	\$274.0

(Millions of dollars of estimated obligation limitation)