

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED JUNE 28, 2023**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	MAYOR ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	MAYOR JOHN FLYNN	X	
BENTON COUNTY	<b>JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING (CHAIR)</b> JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON	X X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X	X Mayor Orman
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	<b>MAYOR BILL EDWARDS (SECRETARY)</b> LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	<b>MAYOR ERNIE PENN (VICE CHAIR)</b>	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	MAYOR LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X X	
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	MAYOR CHERYL TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	MAYOR RUSSELL STROUD	X	
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT	X	Elizabeth Bowen
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE CASEY		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR TRAVIS DOTSON		
JOHNSON	<b>MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (TREASURER)</b>	X	
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE		
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY SHAWN GRISNDSTAFF	X	
SILAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION DON CLARK	X	X Ben Rhoads
SPRINGDALE	MAYOR DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X	X Tim Conklin
SPRINGTOWN	MAYOR TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	MAYOR SHANE WEBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL	X	Mark Latham
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE PATRICK DEAKINS BRIAN LESTER SAM ATA	X	Bridget Russell
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB JASON HUGHEY (DISTRICT 4)	X X	Sunny Farmahan Sunny Farmahan
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER	X	
MCDONALD COUNTY	COMMISSIONER BRIAN HALL		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR (BRITNI O'CONNOR)		
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES	X	
PINEVILLE, MO	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)	X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNEYCUTT)	X	Michela Cupello
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:** Tim Conklin, Elizabeth Bowen; Nicole Gibbs; Tim Reavis; and Cristina Scarlat

**OTHERS:** Cecelie Cochran (FTA); Greg Weeks (Jacobs); and Ron Wood (NWADG)

***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 hybrid, in-person and virtual NWARPC/Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Chair, Judge Barry Moehring 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 APRIL 26, 2023**

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the April 26, 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to approve the April 26, 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

**(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT/CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT**

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin said the Clearinghouse Report is for informational purposes only and he highlighted some of the federal aid grant applications made by entities in Northwest Arkansas. He said the Census Bureau recently provided the July 1, 2022 population estimates for cities and highlighted the national trend that nine of the top 15 fastest-growing cities in the county were in the South. He also shared the numeric change of population between July 2020 and July 2021 for cities in Northwest Arkansas, saying the Census publishes July 1 population estimates annually between the decennial censuses: [www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-total-cities-and-towns.html#v2022](https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-total-cities-and-towns.html#v2022).

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July 1, 2022 Census Population Estimates	City	2020 (July 1)	2022 (July 1)	City	2020 (July 1)	2022 (July 1)
	Avoca	482	479	Huntsville	2,888	3,286
	Bella Vista	30,225	31,733	Jane, MO	358	372
	Bentonville	54,808	57,868	Johnson	3,611	3,635
	Cave Springs	5,610	6,050	Lincoln	2,288	2,321
	Centerton	18,206	21,525	Little Flock	3,058	3,056
	Decatur	1,778	1,743	Lowell	9,924	11,050
	Elkins	3,637	3,733	Pea Ridge	6,649	7,852
	Elm Springs	2,394	2,722	Pineville, MO	799	807
	Farmington	7,618	9,336	Prairie Grove	7,134	7,605
	Fayetteville	94,769	99,285	Rogers	70,342	72,999
	Garfield	596	607	Siloam Springs	17,517	18,654
	Gateway	436	443	Springdale	87,312	87,672
	Gentry	3,842	4,209	Springtown	86	89
	Goshen	2,116	2,234	Sulphur Springs	481	477
	Gravette	3,565	3,706	Tontitown	4,705	6,529
	Greenland	1,214	1,207	West Fork	2,324	2,318
	Highfill	1,662	2,187	Winslow	364	362
	Hindsville	89	95			

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-total-cities-and-towns.html#v2022>

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July 1, 2022 Census Population Estimates	City	July 2020 - July 2022 change	City	July 2020 - July 2022 change
	Fayetteville	4,516	Gravette	141
	Centerton	3,319	Goshen	118
	Bentonville	3,060	Elkins	96
	Rogers	2,657	Lincoln	33
	Tontitown	1,824	Johnson	24
	Farmington	1,718	Jane, MO	14
	Bella Vista	1,508	Garfield	11
	Pea Ridge	1,203	Pineville, MO	8
	Siloam Springs	1,137	Gateway	7
	Lowell	1,126	Hindsville	6
	Highfill	525	Springtown	3
	Prairie Grove	471	Little Flock	-2
	Cave Springs	440	Winslow	-2
	Huntsville	398	Avoca	-3
	Gentry	367	Sulphur Springs	-4
	Springdale	360	West Fork	-6
	Elm Springs	328	Greenland	-7
			Decatur	-35

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-total-cities-and-towns.html#v2022>

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Conklin said staff, planning partners, and our consultant have all made a commitment to complete the draft Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) by the June 28, 2023 Board Meeting with the understanding that several of our member cities will be submitting Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grants by the July 10, 2023 deadline. He thanked RPC staff, member staff, and Toole Design Group for stepping up to ensure this plan can be available for public comment and adoption next month.

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Conklin said the Letters of Interest (LOI) for the Independent Audit are due later this month. He said staff continues to meet with the various watershed groups in our region, and recently attended the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Illinois River Flood Study meeting in Siloam Springs, the scope of which looked at identifying the major contributing factors for the increased water levels in the Illinois River. He said USACE was invited to present the study to the TAC last week, and thanked Rheannon Hart who presented the study. He said we do have a recording of the presentation for those who are interested, and the study and PowerPoint are available on the USACE website: <https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Illinois-River-Flood-Study/>.

Conklin said he understands the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) conference was well received by the 22 participating members and that the discussion with the Denver Regional Council of Governments was informative on how they pull everyone together to discuss growth in the Denver Metro area. He said next week we will have 25 participants going to Charlotte to attend the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) Conference and will participate in sessions focused on the theme of The Corridor. He thanked the Walton Family Foundation for their generous support of these educational and networking opportunities for our members.

Conklin said the Commission continues to assist smaller jurisdictions on Arkansas Planning Statutes along with their requirements to remain in compliance with state planning law. He said staff are helping to plan a Small Cities Conference later this year along with a training session. He said there is so much rapid growth in our cities, along with staff turnover, that our phones continually ring from communities looking for help and assistance in adopting plans, ordinances, and policies.

Conklin said at the last meeting a question was raised regarding the Census Geographically Updated Population Certification Program. He said they still have not reinstated that program, but we have reached out to the Census Bureau to find out when they might do so. He said he heard from a member last week that there is interest in pulling communities along the Highway 112 corridor together to discuss the regional wayfinding system and opportunities to install wayfinding and identification for the eight cities as Highway 112 is developed. There was discussion regarding the inclusion of trail wayfinding along the corridor.

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there were any questions and there were none.

**(5) CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2022 NWARPC ANNUAL REPORT**

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin said each year we put together an Annual Report highlighting the accomplishments of the region. He said in this past year's report we talk about the committees, the suballocated funding awards, the projects programmed in the STIP/TIP, highlighting Highway 112, the Airport Access Road, and US 612. He thanked Cristina Scarlat and staff for putting together the report. Scarlat said the report is available on our website at [www.nwarpc.org/annual-reports/](http://www.nwarpc.org/annual-reports/) and we will have some printed copies for anyone wishing to read it in paper form. She said if anyone has any questions, feel free to contact her.

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there were any questions and there were none.

**(6) DRAFT FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that the federal funds that come to the NWARPC each year are required to be programmed as part of a Unified Planning Work

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Program (UPWP) that starts on July 1 and goes through June 30, following our same budget year. He said we held a public comment period from May 3, 2023 through May 17, 2023 and we did not receive any public comments. He said the UPWP outlines the Commission's planning activities in our Planning Area, which includes all of Benton and Washington Counties, and a portion of McDonald County and he gave an overview of the program's five (5) work areas and the multiple source financial summary. He said in addition to our typical funding sources, we do have a line item for the USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funds shown into next year and we are programming \$50,000 for the Carbon Reduction Strategy. He said 80% federal funds are required to be matched with 20% local funds.

<b>2024 UPWP Multiple Source Financial Summary</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Local Match</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
PL Funds (Arkansas)	\$1,046,046	\$ 261,511	\$ 1,307,557	65.34%
STBGP-A Funds	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	12.49%
USDOT SS4A Funds awarded to NWARPC - Comprehensive Safety Action Plan	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	12.49%
FTA 5307	\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 125,000	6.25%
Carbon Reduction Strategy	\$ 50,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 62,500	3.12%
PL Funds (Missouri)	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 6,250	0.31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,601,046</b>	<b>\$ 400,261</b>	<b>\$ 2,001,307</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b>2024 UPWP Total by Elements</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Local Match</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ 211,209	\$ 52,802	\$ 264,011	13%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ 321,511	\$ 80,378	\$ 401,889	20%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning (Includes Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Funding)	\$ 573,932	\$ 143,483	\$ 717,415	36%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ 389,209	\$ 97,302	\$ 486,511	24%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 105,184	\$ 26,296	\$ 131,480	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,601,046</b>	<b>\$ 400,261</b>	<b>\$ 2,001,307</b>	<b>100%</b>

Conklin said within the work program, we divide out the hours of what we are working on throughout the year and we get reimbursed by ARDOT and MoDOT each month when we turn in our Progress Report of what we accomplished. He said we coordinate with MoDOT, ARDOT, and USDOT for review of the Work Program, and if approved by the board, we send onto ARDOT and MoDOT who puts together a grant agreement that gets signed and executed prior to the start of our fiscal year on July 1, 2023.

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there were any questions and there were none.

**A. RESOLUTION #2023-09 – Approving the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-09 Approving the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

**MOTION: Mayor Chris Keeney made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-09 Approving the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mayor Russell Stroud provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.**

**(7) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024 NWARPC BUDGET**

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Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that we distributed the budget last week to our Board Members. He said this year's budget reflects a decrease to last year's budget due in large part to the consultant-led Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) plans being completed and the consultant-led Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) being substantially completed this year. He said the Commission did receive a \$300,000 USDOT SS4A Action Plan Grant, however, the grant agreement has not been executed authorizing the use of those funds. He said we have been working with USDOT to convert the STBGP-A funds that we have been using on the project to USDOT SS4A funds.

Conklin said for next year's budget, we are showing \$200,000 for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), which potentially would be the SS4A grant funds, and those funds are being matched by the Walton Family Foundation. He said we have been discussing additional work tasks into the next fiscal year that could be added to the CSAP that directly supports this Vision Zero Plan and Policy, which will be presented to the Board in June. He said as a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Commission was suballocated Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding and this past year the Commission issued two calls for projects and awarded approximately \$2.3 million of 2022 and 2023 funding to projects throughout the region to reduce transportation emissions. He said the Commission has programmed \$50,000 of CRP funds into next year's budget to prepare a Regional Carbon Reduction Strategy. He said this, as well as most of the activities, was just approved in the UPWP.

He said total federal funding programmed in the 2024 UPWP that was just approved is approximately \$1.6 million and requires \$400,000 local match. He said overall, the FHWA/FTA Planning (PL & Sec. 5303), FHWA STBGP-A (Attributable Metropolitan Planning) funds, and FTA Section 5307 (Metropolitan Planning) funds, collectively increased about \$17,000 from last year. He said these federal funds require 20% local match, which represents about 93% of our membership revenue. He said these federal funds and the required matching funds are required to be used on transportation planning and related activities programmed in the UPWP. He said under federal regulations, areawide, multi-modal transportation planning is necessary for cities, counties, the State, and transit agencies to qualify for the expenditure of USDOT funds for transportation projects in our region, so a lot of what we do is to make sure we are in compliance with federal law to utilize transportation funding in the region.

Conklin described continuing activities and said most operating costs are expected to stay constant. He said NWARPC has signed a five-year lease (2023-2027) and costs will go up slightly each year to \$12/sq. ft in 2027. He said this year's budget amount is based on \$10.00/sq. ft. for the first six months and \$10.50/ sq. ft. for the last six months. He said software maintenance costs and professional fees are expected to go up due to upgrades needed for software versions that are no longer being supported. He said due to the age of our server, upgrade costs are included. He said it is important that we continue the services we provide with our server system, which as you may recall, was initially funded by a Walton Family Foundation grant.

Conklin said consistent with past policy, the most recent annual Consumer Price Index has been applied to salaries and the proposed budget includes sufficient funds to cover the CPI-U increase of 4.9%. He said it would be applied to all positions except for Executive Director, the salary for which was recently set. He said the new multi-modal transportation planner position is included, which is funded as part of a three-year WFF grant. He said the budget also provides for us to continue to receive the benefits of Jeff Hawkins' technical expertise and institutional knowledge on a limited, as-

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needed basis, which would also allow for the completion, without transition to our staff, of some ongoing projects that are not quite finished. He said it would be on a part-time basis as determined by the Director, without benefits associated with full-time positions. He said there are no plans to assign the Assistant Director title, which accompanies the Transportation Programs Manager position, to anyone at this time, and as the MPO Director, he will continue as Transportation Study Director, however, there will be some transportation planning duties that will be reassigned to multiple staff members. He said the competitive selection, award, and tracking of Transportation Management Area (TMA) Federal STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP suballocated funding will be split between the Project Manager position for project selection and Regional Planner position for project tracking. He said staff are also currently looking into project management and tracking software to better handle the process for all parties: Local Public Agencies (LPA's), NWARPC, and ARDOT.

Conklin said staff has started the process to update the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and began meeting with cities regarding updates to their locally developed Land Use Plans, along with discussing data needs to run various development/land use scenarios as part of forecasting travel demand. He said the regional planners will lead this multi-year project including developing robust land use/development scenarios and analyzing the impacts to the multi-modal transportation system.

Conklin said the suballocated federal funds associated with NWARPC's TMA status in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urban Area (373,687 population— Urban Areas > 200,000 population) are not shown in this budget as they do not technically flow through our books. He said the region is anticipating an increase in all federal funding categories based on the new Urban Area population that increased by 78,604 people and staff has estimated the FFY 2024 funding at \$13.5 million, assuming these programs are fully funded. He said since becoming a TMA in 2013, we have allocated nearly \$120 million for projects of regional significance, not including the \$15 million TIGER Grant we received for the Razorback Regional Greenway, or the \$25 million BUILD Grant for the I-49 Bella Vista Bypass. He said we are also the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs for the region and the Commission determines how these funds are programmed, including the amount that each of the two transit providers, ORT and Razorback Transit, may apply to FTA for capital and operating assistance. He said this is done annually through NWARPC's adoption of the FTA Program of Projects (POP), which was approved at the last Board meeting.

Conklin said, finally, now that the FY 2022 Audit is finished, we will be requesting ARDOT approval of a new indirect cost rate of 16%, which is the audited rate—that is up from last year's 13.61% rate. Such rates are necessary under the federal Office of Management Budget's Super Circular.

Conklin said he is happy to answer any questions. There was discussion regarding the server upgrades, and costs to keep physical servers versus cloud-based servers. Conklin said there is ongoing discussion with our third-party IT provider to better understand solutions for the Commission, but every year we will be spending more money on servers, equipment, or cloud-based services.

Chair Judge Moehring asked if there were any other questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) Budget.

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**MOTION:** Jim Ulmer made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) Budget. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

**(8) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES**

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

Chair Judge Moehring introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs explained that as mentioned earlier, she and Elizabeth will be sharing competitive selection and project tracking duties for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Project (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) suballocated funding. She said triparty agreements have been implemented this year, which require quarterly reports to be sent to ARDOT and to NWARPC. She said as previously mentioned, staff are researching tracking software to help with the process. She said we have seen agreements for most of the FFY 2023 STBGP-A and TAP awards be released for signature, however many of the CRP awards are still missing agreements. She said staff and cities are working through the challenges with the delays to the agreements, and want to acknowledge that with these delays, there will be challenges to meeting the August obligation deadline. She said ARDOT requests an obligation plan by June 30, 2023, and with that it will be important for us to identify large, existing projects that will be seeking additional funding in the 2024 funding cycle. She said there is typically a bit of a juggling act between the federal fiscal year funds, where the large ongoing projects help us to meet our obligation requirements in the instances where new projects are unable to obligate in time. She said the goal is to not lose funds coming to the region. She said please be in touch with us if you have an existing project for which you plan to request additional FFY 2024 funding.

Conklin said we are looking for big projects asking for FFY 2024 money, and it would be helpful to know in advance whether you will be applying as we often do not see applications until the day of the deadline. He said Metroplan in Little Rock is having similar issues. He said this STBGP-A and TAP money was awarded in August 2022, and CRP was awarded in December 2022 and March 2023, and we are still waiting on agreements.

**B. FY 2024 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP – Application Cycle Update**

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the timeline of the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Project (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) award cycle as follows:

**Timeline:**

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • Call for Projects  | March 23, 2023                  |
| • Application Deadline <b><u>(Resolution Required)</u></b>   | <b>July 14, 2023, at 4:00pm</b> |
| • Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee              | July 20, 2023 at 10:30am        |
| • Selection Committee Site Visits, Scoring, & Recommendation | TBD                             |
| • Project Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC Project  | August 17, 2023 at 10:30am      |
| • Selection Recommendation to RPC/Policy                     | August 23, 2023 at 1:30pm       |

She said we anticipate \$11 million coming to the region for STBGP-A, \$1.2 million for TAP, and \$1.3 million for CRP. She said existing projects will need to fill out the existing projects application to get additional funds awarded. She asked if there were any questions and there were none.



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She said feel free to contact her with questions as they come up.

**C. Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) Update**

Elizabeth Bowen said we are working with Toole Design Group to create a Regional Vision Zero Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). She summarized the following:

- Public Survey –March 16-May 21
- In-person Outreach –May 1 -May 21 (19 events to date)
- Demonstration Projects –May 3 and May 4 in Bentonville and Fayetteville (Media Coverage)
- Working Group #3 Meeting –May 4 1-2:30
  - Equity Analysis Methodology and Maps
  - Descriptive Analysis Memo and Tables
  - High Injury Network
  - Draft list of projects
- Working Group Meeting #4 Meeting –TBD June 14-16, 2023
- **GOAL: Adopt Plan on June 28**

**Application Strategy Meeting Today at 3:00**

**IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS DUE JULY 10**

Bowen said the cities that are planning to apply for the SS4A Implementation Grants will discuss their projects, how the projects fit together regionally, and whether cities will apply individually, combine applications, or whether Regional Planning applies for the region. She said the max award is \$25 million, and as part of the application process, you will have to adopt a Vision Zero Plan and provide a Resolution for the funding and 20% match for your community. She said there is a self-certification document that will need to be filled out, which we will prepare for you. She said we are aware of and are working with at least five cities that plan to apply.

Bowen said we are working with USDOT to get the SS4A CSAP grant agreement in place, but everything is taking a long time. She said the public comment period will be held June 5, 2023 through June 19, 2023 and the draft will go to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on June 15, 2023 and to the Board on June 28, 2023.

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

**D. Other Grant Opportunity Updates**

Bowen summarized the following grant opportunities:

**Arkansas State Grant Programs**

- [FY 2023 ARDOT Transportation Alternatives \(TAP\) and Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\)](#) - deadline June 1, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
- [ARDOT Intersection Improvement Program \(IIP\)](#)
- [ARDOT Local Bridge Program \(LBP\)](#)
- [AR Dept. of Parks, Heritage, & Tourism -Outdoor Recreation Grants Program](#) - August 25, 2023, 5:00pm

**USDOT Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs):**

- [FY 2022/2023 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure \(CFI\) Program](#) –deadline June 13, 2023@ 11:59PM EDT (Two-week extension)

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED JUNE 28, 2023**

- [FY 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) –deadline July 10, 2023 @ 5:00 PM EDT
- [Wildlife Crossings Program](#) - deadline August 1, 2023 @11:59PM EDT
- [FY 2022/2023 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving transportation \(PROTECT\) Program](#) -deadline August 18, 2023@11:59PM EDT

She shared other grant resources, including [www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notice-funding-opportunity](http://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notice-funding-opportunity), SS4A Office Hours focused on specific topics relate to the grant application process, discretionary grant preparation checklist, and the HUD Thriving Communities Technical Assistance (TCTA) program, and the [www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator](http://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator).

Bowen said we shared last month that states and large MPOs that apply will receive funding through the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. She said the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (ADEE) applied for the state funds and were awarded the \$3 million grant to do two state plans and status reporting. She said they have reached out to us to partner with them, along with Metroplan and Ft. Smith. She said meetings are ongoing to discuss details. She said this is similar to the SS4A grant in that you get the planning grant, you create your plan, and then there are competitive implementation grants available once you have the plan in place. She said we would be able to apply for projects identified in our ITS plan, for active transportation, complete streets projects, and carbon reduction projects. She said with other plans in place, we are primed once this plan is complete to utilize our existing need for an additional funding source.

Conklin said as we work through this with them, we will bring this back to the Board for consideration. He said this grant is not being shown in the budget that was approved today.

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

## **(9) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES**

### **A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)**

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the recent meetings of the Active Transportation Committee (ACT) and the NWA Regional BikePed Master Plan Update Subcommittee as follows:

#### **Last Met:** March 16, 2023

- LovetoRide, BFC-Rogers, LoTS, Tunnel Standards, E-bike rebate program pilot, AR Bike/Ped Coalition
- Sub-committee for NWARBPMP April 20, 2023
  - Cities/UofA have continue to make progress on Plans
  - Cities/UofA working to finalize proposed trails so map can go to public comment

#### **Next Meeting –**

- ACT rescheduled to May 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM
- Subcommittee NWARBPMP May 30, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Multiple ACT Committee members attended NACTO Conference in Denver

### **B. NWA Open Space Coalition**

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

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**Last Met:** May 23, 2023 (new bi-monthly schedule, third Monday - Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)

- Update from members and partners
- Progress on template resolution adoption by communities

**Next Meeting:** July 17, 2023 @ 10:00 am Mt Hebron Park

**C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group**

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

**Last Met:** April 19, 2023 (update provided last month)

**Next meeting scheduled:** June 21, 2023 @ 10:30 am, via Zoom (every two months on the third Wed.)

**D. NWA GIS User Group**

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

**Last Met:** February 14, 2023 (update provided previously)

**Next meeting scheduled:** June 13, 2023 at 10:30am, virtual

**(10) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether any comments had been received. There were no comments received or made.

**(11) OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:**

Chair Judge Moehring announced upcoming meetings as follows:

- **TAC Meeting – Thursday, June 15, 2023 @ 10:30 AM**
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 28, 2023 @ 1:30 PM**
- **CNU Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina – May 31-June 3, 2023**

**B. ARDOT Public Involvement Meetings – Western North-South Connector Study** – (1) Tuesday, June 6, 2023 @ 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Lake View Baptist Church, 1351 E. Lowell Ave. Cave Springs, AR 72718 | (2) Wednesday, June 7, 2023 @ 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Centerton Community Room, 290 North Main St., Centerton, AR 72719 (comment through 07/06/2023), [www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings](http://www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings)

Tim Conklin said the public officials meeting was held this week in Centerton and encouraged cities in Benton County along the proposed study area to attend the two upcoming public involvement meetings.

**C. ARDOT Public Involvement Meeting - US 412 PEL Study** - Thursday, June 8, 2023 @ 4:00 - 7:00pm, John Brown University Simmons Great Hall, 2000 W. University St, Siloam Springs, AR 72761, [more information here](#)

Conklin said this study is looking at how to convert US 412 to a future interstate.

**D. ARDOT Public Involvement Meeting –Hwy 12/59 Signal & Inters. Impvts. (Gentry)** –Tuesday, June 27, 2023 @ 4:00 –7:00pm, Gentry Public Library (McKee Community Room), 105 East Main St., Gentry, AR 72737 (comment through 07/12/2023)

Conklin strongly encouraged communities affected by these projects to attend these meetings.

**E. Save the Date - FutureIsNow Workforce Housing Speaker Series** – Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @

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5:00 PM, Crystal Bridges

- F. Arkansas Planning Official (CARPO) Virtual Training Series** - held monthly on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00pm between June and November 2023

**G. Special Census Program Resumes**

Conklin said we recommend cities wait a year or two before considering doing the special census.

Conklin said we plan to dispose of the surplus furniture after Friday, May 26, 2023, following the policy we adopted earlier this year.

Conklin said we will be meeting in June and a quorum is critical to adopt the Safety Action Plan in order that communities will be eligible to apply for the SS4A implementation grants.

Chair Judge Moehring asked whether there was any other business.

**(12) ADJOURN**

With no other business, Chair Judge Moehring asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION: Mayor Chris Keeney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Ernie Penn provided the second. Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 28TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.**

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Charles C. Gille, written over a horizontal line.A blue ink signature of Judge Barry Moehring, written over a horizontal line.

Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC