

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 AT 10:30 AM; APPROVED JUNE 15, 2023

ENTITY	MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	DOUG TAPP		
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER (TRACY BACKS)		
BENTONVILLE	DENNIS BIRGE DAN WEESE		
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT	X	David Keck
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	Nicole Gibbs
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	X	Nicole Gibbs
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	
SILLOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS (VICE CHAIR) KEVIN MOORE	X	
SPRINGDALE	PATSY CHRISTIE (CHAIR) RYAN CARR	X X	
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL		
WASHINGTON CO.	BRIAN LESTER SAM ATA JEFF CROWDER	X	Bridget Russell
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
NWARPC	TIM CONKLIN	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	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMM. BRYAN HALL		
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER (MARVIN MORRIS)	X	
NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT	AARON BURKES		
ARDOT PLANNING AND DISTRICT 9	CHRIS DILLAHA (SUNNY FARMAHAN) STACEY BURGE	X X	Sunny Farmahan Will Ward

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NWARPC STAFF: Cristina Scarlat (*others listed as proxies above*)

OTHERS: Nicola Hoofard (Centerton); Rheannon Hart (USACE); Leif Kindberg (IRWP); Katie Teague, Jane Maginot, Kristen Crawley (UAEX); Troy Dorman and Steve Starrett (HALFF); Anna Negret and Connor McKenzie (CEI); Jonathan Ely (Burns & McDonnell); 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 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 APRIL 20, 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 April 20, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Paul Libertini made a motion to approve the April 20, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes. Lance Jobe provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) ILLINOIS RIVER FLOOD STUDY – U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PRESENTATION

Patsy Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin introduced Rheannon Hart with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and thanked her for agreeing to present the flood study to the Committee today. Hart, a hydrologist in the Little Rock District, gave an overview of the “Effects of Climate and Land-Use on Flooding in the Illinois River Basin of Oklahoma and Arkansas” study. More information can be found on the USACE website:

<https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/illinois-river-flood-study/>.

Following the presentation, there was discussion regarding the riparian buffers recommended in the study, being 100 feet on either side and were simulated for the main stems of the watershed and some tributaries. Hart said if all tributaries incorporated buffers, it would have an even larger effect. There was discussion regarding coordinating the findings with NOAA and FEMA to update the Atlas precipitation frequency estimates. Hart said it was not part of this study.

Conklin thanked Hart again and highlighted some of the ongoing efforts in the region, including streamside protection ordinances that some cities have in place, the Cave Springs Karst Resource Conservation Study conducted by the Commission that included drainage criteria manual updates for the four large cities, and the NWA Open Space plan, which outlines approaches to protect our natural resources and natural infrastructure.

(5) FY 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) DRAFT REVIEW – Recommendation to RPC/Policy Committee

Chair Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that each year we put together the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) showing how we plan to use the federal funds that

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come to our region for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He said our fiscal year begins July 1 and goes through June 30. He said we held a public comment period from May 3, 2023 through May 17, 2023 and no comments were received. He summarized the content of the UPWP and said we coordinate with MoDOT, ARDOT, and USDOT for review.

Chair Christie asked the Committee whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

MOTION: Ryan Carr made a motion to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Paul Libertini provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION “VISION ZERO” PLAN (CSAP) – Recommendation to send to 2-week Public Comment Period

Patsy Cristy introduced the item and Tim Conklin said today we are asking to authorize a two-week public comment period to be held from June 5 – June 19, 2023 and we will bring the draft plan to TAC on June 15, 2023 and RPC/Policy Committee on June 28, 2023. He summarized the following:

- Public Survey –Began March 16
- In-person Outreach –Began May 1 (18 events to date)
- Demonstration Projects –May 3-4 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**

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS DUE JULY 10TH

There was discussion regarding the incomplete draft document distributed to TAC prior to this meeting and Conklin said the complete final draft for public comment will be posted on June 2, 2023, but in the meantime, we thought it was important to share the overall structure and layout of the plan. He reminded TAC of the expedited timeline to have the draft plan ready for adoption on June 28, 2023 by the Policy Committee for those communities planning to submit SS4A Implementation Grants by the July 10, 2023 deadline.

Chair Christie asked the Committee whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to approve entering a 2-week public comment period for the Draft Regional “Vision Zero” Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP).

MOTION: Ryan Carr made a motion to approve entering a 2-week public comment period for the Draft Regional “Vision Zero” Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). Paul Libertini provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
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(7) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

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

Chair Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin said we have seen most of the Agreements of Understandings (AoUs) for Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A) and Transportation Alternatives Project (TAP) released for signatures, however the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) projects are another story. Conklin said going forward, Elizabeth Bowen will be doing the competitive selection process and Nicole Gibbs will be doing the project tracking. He said we are also looking into software to assist with this process. He said you can still contact him, but to please copy Bowen and Gibbs regarding your projects. He said we have awarded over \$120 million to communities throughout Northwest Arkansas since 2013.

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

Conklin said you will need a resolution if you are submitting applications for the July 14, 2023, 4:00pm deadline for the current call for projects. He said because it has been taking six to eight months to receive Agreements of Understandings (AoUs) for the FY 2023 projects, obligating funds by August is going to be a big challenge. He asked those cities who have existing multimillion-dollar projects that will be requesting additional funds in this cycle to please let us know soon or send in your applications soon, as we are required to send an obligation plan to ARDOT by June 30 and we will need to start the juggling process between fiscal years to meet ARDOT's \$1 million carry over requirement.

Conklin said now is the time to request funding and to let us know if you have any questions regarding eligibility.

C. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Conklin summarized additional grant opportunities being highlighted today as follows:

USDOT Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs):

- [FY 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) - deadline July 10, 2023 @ 5:00 PM EDT
- [FY 2022/2023 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure \(CFI\) Program](#) - deadline May 30, 2023 @ 11:59 PM EDT
- [FY 2022/2023 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation \(PROTECT\) Program](#) - deadline August 18, 2023 @ 11:59 PM EDT

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](#)

Conklin said the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment (ADEE) is submitting a Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant and has distributed a survey. He said if you are interested in charging infrastructure in your community, you should get in touch with them. He said he is happy to share the survey and contact information. He said Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) is submitting a CFI grant for 17 areas in our region, which may also be an opportunity to get electric vehicle infrastructure in your community.

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 AT 10:30 AM; APPROVED JUNE 15, 2023

Conklin said he has had several members ask recently about the Local Bridge Program (LBP), which is for off-system bridges, is a 90/10 match program, and the bridge needs to be in poor or fair condition. He said it is a good opportunity to apply for bridges on the National Bridge Inventory that are off-system, or are located on FHWA Functionally Classified roads that are designated below a “major collector” classification.

Conklin said we shared last month that states throughout the county 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. He said the EPA suggested that other entities interested in the funding submit a notice of intent to participate (NOIP), which NWARPC did, along with Metroplan and Ft. Smith. He said we have a meeting with ADEE on May 23 to talk more about what the program might look like for NWARPC.

Conklin shared and summarized other resources, including the USDOT Key NOFO website (www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity), SS4A Office Hours, and the DOT Navigator. He said there are more webinars and information than one could possibly attend, but we do try to keep an eye on it and inform our members.

(8) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Chair Patsy Christie introduced the item and Tim Conklin summarized the recent meetings of the Committee and Bike/Ped 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 March 16, 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
- Subcommittee NWARBPMP Rescheduled to May 30, 2023 at 11:00
- Map out for public comment – May 12, 2023

(9) PUBLIC COMMENT – Any public comment received via email will be provided to TAC members prior to the meeting and will become part of the meeting record.

Chair Patsy Christie asked whether there were any public comments received and there were none. There were no other comments made.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair Christie went over the future meetings as follows:

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, May 24, 2023 @ 1:30 PM
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, June 15, 2023 @ 10:30 AM
- **CNU Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina** – May 31-June 3, 2023

B. Beaver Watershed Alliance, Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forums #2 & 3 – May 18, 2023 and June 1, 2023 @11:30am, [more information here](#)

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 AT 10:30 AM; APPROVED JUNE 15, 2023

- C. Illinois River Watershed Management Plan Second Public Meeting** – May 18, 2023 @2:30pm-4:00pm, Cherokee Casino and Hotel located at 2416 US-412, West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma 74338, [more information here](#)
- D. 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](#)
- E. Save the Date - FutureIsNow Workforce Housing Speaker Series** – Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 5:00 PM | [Register Here](#)
- F. Arkansas Planning Official (CARPO) Virtual Training Series** - held monthly on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00pm between June and November 2023, [more information here](#)
- G. Special Census Program Resumes**
Tim Conklin said you can now request a Special Census, at the city's cost, more information here: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/specialcensus.html>

Conklin said there is an ARDOT Public Officials Meeting on the Western North-South Corridor Study in Centerton on Monday, May 22 at 2:00pm. More information: www.ardot.gov/events-feed.

Conklin said we are disposing of property that we have acquired since 1966 as approved by the Board. He said request by Friday, May 26, 2023 at 5pm.

(11) ADJOURN

The meeting was ended at 11:16 am.