



# MEMO

**TO:** NWARPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
**FROM:** NWARPC Staff  
**DATE:** May 9, 2024  
**RE:** FFY 2024 NWARPC Funding Program Recommendations

## FFY 2025 TIMELINE AND ACTION

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) issued a call for projects on January 7, 2024 with the application deadline being April 4, 2024 at 11:59 p.m., CDT for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 NWARPC formula funding programs, including the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

The selection committee was formed using one representative from each of the applying entities and any volunteers who wished to participate. The committee included:

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Bentonville       | Dennis Birge           |
| Centerton         | Mayor Bill Edwards     |
| Elm Springs       | Matt Casey             |
| Fayetteville      | Paul Libertini         |
| Lowell            | Mayor Chris Moore      |
| Pea Ridge         | Jessica Grady          |
| Rogers            | Kent Laughlin          |
| Springdale        | Ryan Carr (Ben Peters) |
| Tontitown         | James Clark            |
| Washington County | Bridget Russell        |

The selection committee toured and scored projects and discussed award recommendations on May 1, 2024. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is being asked to review the selection committee’s recommendations to make a recommendation to the RPC/Policy Committee to consider on May 22, 2024.

## FFY 2025 FUNDING ESTIMATES

The assumptions for the FFY 2025 funding estimates are based on FFY 2024 published apportionments with an assumed 100% obligation limitation (OL), including additional funds not awarded in FFY 2024. FFY 2025 apportionment funding requires Congressional action.

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A) | \$12,086,192        |
| Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)                                    | \$ 1,505,332        |
| Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)                         | <u>\$ 1,404,724</u> |
|   | <b>\$14,996,248</b> |

## FFY 2025 PROJECT REQUESTS

NWARPC received a total of twenty-four (24) project applications. Seven (7) applications are for existing STBGP-A projects “in the pipeline”; four (4) applications are for new STBGP-A projects; seven (7) applications were received for CRP funding; and six (6) applications are for TAP funding. Five (5) projects were submitted for consideration in two funding programs.

Excluding the duplicate application requests across the three funding programs, nineteen (19) projects were submitted for consideration, for a **total funding request of \$16,692,436, a difference of \$1,696,188 over the total FFY 2025 funding estimate.**

## SELECTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee discussed and considered the following:

- The balance of supporting existing projects already in the “pipeline” that have not reached 80% federally funding, and the anticipated total project cost over new projects’ life cycle once they get into the “pipeline”.
- Existing STBGP-A projects, in the “pipeline”, are assumed to be priority projects since they have previously been awarded NWARPC funding by the Board; the committee agreed existing projects did not need to be re-scored and re-ranked.
- The implications of awarding regional funding to a major ARDOT State Highway improvement project without a cost-sharing agreement with ARDOT in place.
- The increased costs of construction being a factor in cities needing to come back for additional federal funding.
- Program parameters, including the min. and max. award amounts for each program and the requirement for projects to be on the FHWA Functional Classification Map as a collector or above.
- The ARDOT Local Public Agency Manual, status of projects, and timelines for project development, including the need and ability of projects to meet the required timeline for obligating funds (i.e. September 2025).
- The desire to spread funding across as many communities as possible.
- The point distribution and rankings of the projects.

Additionally, it was discussed that any projects that did not receive funding or did not receive their full request, are encouraged to be submitted again for the FFY 2026 NWARPC Funding Cycle, which is anticipated to begin in January 2025.

Due to the funding requests exceeding the estimated available funding, the committee used the following to derive their recommendations:

- **STBGP-A Requests** – all existing and new projects were awarded at the requested amounts, with the exception of the two (2) largest project requests – Bentonville I-49/J Street Interchange was reduced by \$500,000 to \$2,500,000; and Hwy. 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment was reduced to the remaining amount, \$2,481,309.
- **CRP Requests** – the highest ranked projects were awarded at the requested amounts (prioritizing CRP funding over TAP funding for projects that were submitted under both programs that made requests for both construction and non-construction phases); the third ranked project, Hwy 62 (Hudson Rd) Sidewalk Impvts. was awarded an additional \$81,355 to reach the total project cost estimate (80% federal) after being awarded the maximum amount for TAP funding of \$700,000; the remaining funds were awarded to the lowest ranked project, \$315,193.
- **TAP Requests** – the four (4) projects that were requesting funding for only the construction phase were funded in TAP, with the balance of funding being awarded to the lowest ranked construction-only project, of \$94,955.

**Contingencies** – The committee discussed and agreed to add a contingency to the award recommendation for the Hwy 264 Widening project, included in the below recommendation. NWARPC, the City of Lowell, and ARDOT have met since the selection committee’s decision to discuss the concern; all parties have been made aware of the proposed award contingency being recommended to the RPC/Policy Committee.

### FFY 2025 NWARPC FUNDING RECOMMENDATION:

The committee developed the following funding recommendations for TAC consideration. Jessica Grady (Pea Ridge) moved to approve the funding allocation table. Mayor Bill Edwards seconded, with no opposition.

**Recommended TAC Motion:** to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the FFY 2025 NWARPC Funding Program (STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP) project awards as shown in the funding allocation table below, **with the contingency that approval of the STBGP-A award of \$504,000 to the City of Lowell for the Arkansas Highway 264 Widening Project – Goad Springs Rd to Bellview St is subject to ARDOT agreeing to partner with the city to carry out and fund future phases of the project and to program the project in the 2025 to 2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).**

| STBGP-A Project Applications (EXISTING)  |  |               |                       |                    |       |                    |
|--|--|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Jurisdiction   | Project  | Phase         | STBGP-A Request       | Total Score*       | Rank* | Award Recommend.   |
| Bentonville-Centerton  | Greenhouse Road  | ROW/Utilities | \$ 461,928            | NA                 | NA    | \$ 461,928         |
| Fayetteville   | Millsap Rd / College Ave Intersection Impvts.              | Construction  | \$ 1,900,000          | NA                 | NA    | \$ 1,900,000       |
| Lowell   | Hwy. 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment     | Construction  | \$ 3,392,000          | NA                 | NA    | \$ 2,481,309       |
| Rogers   | Hwy 265 & W. Pleasant Grove Rd Roundabout                  | Design/Enviro | \$ 36,984             | NA                 | NA    | \$ 36,984          |
| Rogers   | Hwy 265 and Hwy 94/New Hope Rd Roundabout                  | Design/Enviro | \$ 50,536             | NA                 | NA    | \$ 50,536          |
| Tontitown  | US412 and Klenc Road Traffic Signal Installation           | Construction  | \$ 501,436            | NA                 | NA    | \$ 501,436         |
| Washington County  | Wheeler Rd. Bridge Replacement-Clabber Creek Str. & Apprs. | Design/Enviro | \$ 200,000            | NA                 | NA    | \$ 200,000         |
| <i>*Existing projects, in the "pipeline", are not re-scored/re-ranked - priority is assumed since they have previously been awarded NWARPC funding</i> |  |               | <b>Total EXISTING</b> | <b>\$6,542,883</b> |       | <b>\$5,632,192</b> |

| STBGP-A Project Applications (NEW) |   |               |                      |                     |      |                     |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|------|---------------------|
| Jurisdiction                       | Project   | Phase         | STBGP-A Request      | Total Score         | Rank | Award Recommend.    |
| Bentonville                        | I-49/ J Street Interchange - Tiger Blvd to I-49     | ROW/Utilities | \$ 3,000,000         | 237                 | 1    | \$ 2,500,000        |
| Springdale-Lowell                  | Apple Blossom Ave Impvts.                           | Design/Enviro | \$ 2,800,000         | 230                 | 2    | \$ 2,800,000        |
| Fayetteville                       | Stephen Carr Memorial Dr / I-49 Interchange Impvts. | Design/Enviro | \$ 650,000           | 204                 | 3    | \$ 650,000          |
| Lowell                             | Hwy. 264 Widening - Goad to Bellview Rd.            | Design        | \$ 504,000           | 192                 | 4    | \$ 504,000          |
|                                    |   |               | <b>Total NEW</b>     | <b>\$ 6,954,000</b> |      | <b>\$6,454,000</b>  |
|                                    |   |               | <b>TOTAL STBGP-A</b> | <b>\$13,496,883</b> |      | <b>\$12,086,192</b> |

| CRP Project Applications |   |                   |                  |                     |      |                    |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|------|--------------------|
| Jurisdiction             | Project                                   | Phase             | CRP Request      | Total Score         | Rank | Award Recommend.   |
| Rogers                   | Hwy. 94/US71B Pedestrian Impvts. (P1)     | Construction      | \$ 109,769       | 939                 | 1    | TAP                |
| Lowell                   | Honeysuckle Street Sidewalk (ARDOT TAP)   | ROW/Utility/Const | \$ 389,591       | 915                 | 2    | \$ 389,591         |
| Rogers                   | Hwy. 62 (Hudson Rd) Sidewalk Impvts. (P2) | Construction      | \$ 750,000       | 908                 | 3    | \$ 81,355          |
| Rogers                   | US-71B Pedestrian Impvts. (P3)            | Design/Enviro     | \$ 328,000       | 908                 | 3    | \$ 328,000         |
| Centerton                | City Wide Sidewalk Infill (2)             | Construction      | \$ 227,000       | 901                 | 5    | \$ 227,000         |
| Pea Ridge                | Hwy. 94 (Pickens Rd) Sidewalk Connection  | ROW/Utility/Const | \$ 164,193       | 866                 | 6    | \$ 164,193         |
| Fayetteville             | Rupple Trail Lighting                     | Construction      | \$ 500,000       | 823                 | 7    | \$ 315,193         |
|                          |   |                   | <b>TOTAL CRP</b> | <b>\$ 2,468,553</b> |      | <b>\$1,505,332</b> |

| TAP Project Applications |   |              |                  |                     |      |                    |
|--------------------------|---|--------------|------------------|---------------------|------|--------------------|
| Jurisdiction             | Project                                   | Phase        | TAP Request      | Total Score         | Rank | Award Recommended  |
| Lowell                   | Honeysuckle Street Sidewalk (ARDOT TAP)   | Construction | \$ 207,991       | 926                 | 1    | CRP                |
| Rogers                   | Hwy. 94/US71B Pedestrian Impvts. (P1)     | Construction | \$ 109,769       | 926                 | 1    | \$ 109,769         |
| Fayetteville             | Drake St. Trail Connections               | Construction | \$ 500,000       | 904                 | 3    | \$ 500,000         |
| Rogers                   | Hwy. 62 (Hudson Rd) Sidewalk Impvts. (P2) | Construction | \$ 700,000       | 902                 | 4    | \$ 700,000         |
| Centerton                | City Wide Sidewalk Infill (1)             | Construction | \$ 227,000       | 898                 | 5    | \$ 94,955          |
| Pea Ridge                | Hwy. 94 (Pickens Rd) Sidewalk Connection  | Construction | \$ 146,593       | 873                 | 6    | CRP                |
|                          |   |              | <b>TOTAL TAP</b> | <b>\$ 1,891,353</b> |      | <b>\$1,404,724</b> |

Yellow = projects submitted for application in more than one funding program