

NWARPC Title VI Program

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC)
Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS)
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FTA ID 1571

Adopted January 24, 2024

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
1311 Clayton St., Springdale, AR, 72762
www.nwarpc.org/civil-rights/

FUNDING DISCLAIMER: This notice is in accordance with the NWARPC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in cooperation with local agencies, the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration. Documents are funded in part through grant(s) from the FHWA, FTA, and/or the U.S. Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of the NWARPC expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

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RESOLUTION #2024-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
ADOPTING THE TITLE VI PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urban Area and is responsible for the urbanized transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, the development of a Title VI Program is required for compliance with federal legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Title VI Program has been developed in accordance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards; and


WHEREAS, the Title VI Program includes the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Program and the Language Assistance Plan.

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

That the NWARPC Title VI Program for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urban Area is hereby approved and adopted.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 24TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2024

ATTEST: _____



Judge Barry Moehring, NWARPC Chair

NWARPC TITLE VI PROGRAM POLICY STATEMENT

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urban Area, assures that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or income status, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and subsequent nondiscrimination laws, Executive Orders, and related authorities, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity. NWARPC further assures that every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all its programs and activities, whether or not those programs and activities are federally funded.

The NWARPC further agrees to the following responsibilities with respect to its programs and activities:

1. Designate a Title VI Liaison that has a responsible position within the organization and access to the Recipient's Executive Director.
2. Issue a policy statement signed by the Executive Director, which expresses its commitment to the nondiscrimination provisions of Title VI. The policy statement shall be circulated throughout the Recipient's organization and to the general public. Such information shall be published where appropriate in languages other than English.
3. Include a Statement of Non-Discrimination on plans, studies, legal notices and other documents disseminated by the NWARPC.
4. Develop a complaint process and attempt to resolve complaints of discrimination.
5. Participate in training offered on Title VI and other nondiscrimination requirements.
6. If reviewed by ARDOT, MoDOT or the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), take affirmative action to correct any deficiencies found within a reasonable time, not to exceed ninety (90) calendar days.
7. Have a process to collect racial and ethnic data on persons impacted by the NWARPC's programs.

The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the MPO's Title VI Plan. The Title VI Coordinator, under supervision of the Executive Director, is responsible for coordinating the overall administration of the Title VI Plan and assurances.


Tim Conklin, Executive Director

Title VI Program Adoption

NWARPC is the governing body that adopts all policies and planning documents. The signed Resolution #2024-01 shall provide verification that this Title VI Program has been adopted.

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I. OVERVIEW OF AUTHORITIES

The NWARPC is a designated recipient, as well as a subrecipient, of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding assistance and is therefore subject to the Title VI compliance conditions associated with the use of these funds pursuant to the following:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. Section 2000d).
- Federal Transit Laws, as amended (49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 et seq.).
- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4601, et seq.).
- Department of Justice regulation, 28 CFR part 42, Subpart F, “Coordination of Enforcement of Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs” (December 1, 1976, unless otherwise noted).
- DOT regulation, 49 CFR part 21, “Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation – Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964” (June 18, 1970, unless otherwise noted).
- Joint FTA/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulation, 23 CFR part 771, “Environmental Impact and Related Procedures” (August 28, 1987).
- Joint FTA/FHWA regulation, 23 CFR part 450 and 49 CFR part 613, “Planning Assistance and Standards,” (October 28, 1993, unless otherwise noted).
- DOT Order 5610.2, “U.S. DOT Order on Environmental Justice to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” (April 15, 1997).
- DOT Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients’ Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient Person, (December 14, 2005).
- Section 12 of FTA’s Master Agreement (October 1, 2011).
- FTA Circular 4702.1A. “Title VI and Title VI-Dependent Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients”, May 17, 2007.
- FTA Circular 4702.1B. “Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients”, October 1, 2012

Pertinent Non-Discrimination Authorities:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR Part 27;

- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 USC § 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration's Non-discrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures Non-discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of Limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq).

II. TITLE VI PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

Program Overview

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is a recipient of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) modal agencies, including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). All Recipients of federal funding must comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination statutes, regulations, and authorities. This plan describes how NWARPC accomplishes nondiscrimination in the delivery of its federally assisted programs, services, and activities. The plan includes the structure of the NWARPC Title VI program as well as the policies, procedures, and practices used to comply with nondiscrimination requirements.

Title VI Program requirements established by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are set forth in FTA Circular 4702.1B; and Title VI requirements established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are contained in 23 CFR Part 200. Many FTA and FHWA requirements are similar or overlapping.

Objectives and Required Content

The Objectives of FTA's Title VI Program, as set forth in FTA Circular 4702.1B, Title VI and Title VI-Dependent Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients, are:

- Ensure that the level and quality of transportation service is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner;
- Promote the full and fair participation in transportation decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin;
- Ensure meaningful access to programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.

Below summarizes the required contents of a Title VI Program.

FTA Circular 4702.1B – General Requirements (Chapter III):

1. Title VI Notice to the Public, including a list of locations where the notice is posted.
2. Title VI Complaint Procedures and Complaint Form (i.e., instructions to the public regarding how to file a Title VI discrimination complaint).
3. List of transit-related Title VI investigations, complaints, and lawsuits.
4. Public Participation Plan, including information about outreach methods to engage minority and limited English proficient populations (LEP), as well as a summary of outreach efforts made since the last Title VI Program submission.
5. Language Assistance Plan for providing language assistance to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP), based on the DOT LEP Guidance.
6. A table depicting the membership of non-elected committees and councils, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, broken down by race, and a description of the process the agency uses to encourage the participation of minorities on such committees.

7. Primary recipients shall include a description of how the agency monitors its subrecipients for compliance with Title VI, and a schedule of subrecipients Title VI Program submissions.
8. A Title VI equity analysis if the recipient has constructed a facility, such as a vehicle storage facility, maintenance facility, operation center, etc.
9. A copy of board meeting minutes, resolution, or other appropriate documentation showing the board of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions reviewed and approved the Title VI Program. The approval must occur prior to submission to FTA.
10. Additional information as specified in chapter IV, V, VI, depending on whether the recipient is a transit provider, a State, or a planning entity.

FTA Circular 4702.1B – Requirements of MPOs (Chapter VI):

11. All requirements set out in Chapter III (General Requirements).
12. Demographic profile of the metropolitan area.
13. A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations are identified and considered within the planning process.
14. Demographic maps that show the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds in the aggregate for public transportation projects.
15. Analysis of the MPO's transportation system investments that identifies and addresses any disparate impacts.
16. The requirements set out in Chapter IV (Transit Provider) if the MPO is a provider of fixed route public transportation.
17. Description of the procedures the agency uses to ensure nondiscriminatory pass-through of FTA financial assistance (if requested).
18. Description of the procedures the agency uses to provide assistance to potential subrecipients in a nondiscriminatory manner (if requested).

Additional FHWA 23 CFR Part 200 Provisions:

Primary Program Area Descriptions: In conducting its transportation planning activities, the NWARPC seeks input from local governments and members of the public, analyzes data for purposes of identifying transportation needs, prioritizes projects using data driven metrics, and programs projects in its Transportation Improvement Program. As described in the following sections, NWARPC Public Participation Plan guides outreach efforts to minority and LEP individuals. Policies include adding underserved populations to interested parties mailing lists, locating meetings at transit-accessible locations, and ensuring ADA compliant meeting facilities are used.

Standard DOT Assurances: A signed copy of the Standard DOT Assurances can be found in APPENDIX A.

III. INTRODUCTION TO NWARPC

TEAM ID NUMBER: 1571
EXECUTIVE OFFICIAL: Mr. Tim Conklin, AICP
Executive Director
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
1311 Clayton Street, Springdale, Arkansas 72762
ON-SITE CONTACTS: Tim Conklin, Nicole Gibbs, Cristina Scarlat

About NWARPC and NARTS

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is a planning organization that serves local units of governments in Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas and a portion of McDonald County, Missouri including the City of Pineville.

As well as being the regional planning organization, **NWARPC serves as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**. Furthermore, the NWARPC is the **Designated Recipient for FTA grant programs for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urban Area**. Additionally, the region was designated as a **Transportation Management Area (TMA)** in 2013. The TMA includes Benton and Washington Counties and a portion of McDonald County, Missouri.

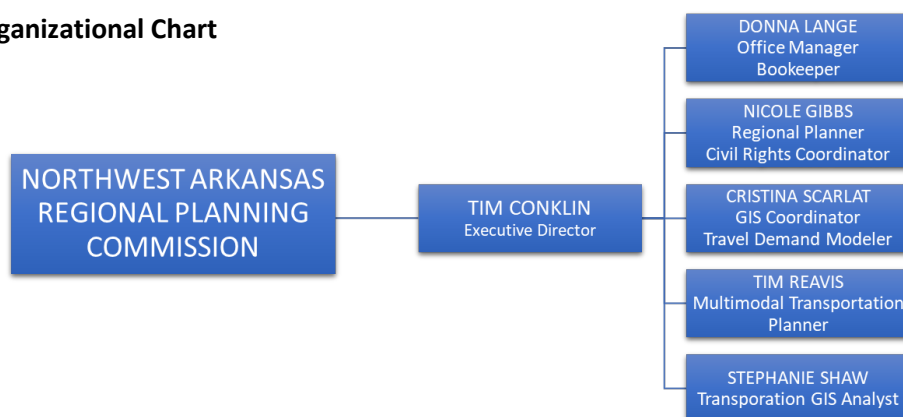
The MPO serves as a forum for cooperative transportation decision-making by state and local governments, and regional transportation and planning agencies. MPO's are charged with maintaining and conducting a "continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive" regional transportation planning and project programming process for the MPO's study area.

The MPO includes a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC)/Policy Committee. The TAC and RPC/Policy Committee make up the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS), responsible for the long-range transportation planning for the metropolitan area.

NWARPC prepares an informational brochure with more information about the agency for new members and the public, which can be found on the website here: www.nwarpc.org/nwarpc/.

The NWARPC DOES NOT provide fixed route transportation as it is a planning organization.

Organizational Chart



NWARPC's Commitment to Civil Rights

"No Person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance." – Civil Rights Act of 1964

Your Civil Rights:

Title VI, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., was enacted as part of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. It is the full intent of the NWARPC to operate its programs without regards to race, color, and national origin.

Two Executive Orders define populations that are protected under Title VI:

- Executive Order 12898 is concerned with environmental justice for minority and low-income populations.
- Executive Order 13166 is concerned with providing equal access to services and benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency.

Guidance for this Title VI program can be found in the FTA Circular 4702.1B, dated October 1, 2012.

The NWARPC is committed to preventing discrimination as defined in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. This program outlines the procedures in place that help guide the NWARPC in preventing such discrimination. The NWARPC Title VI Program provides information on the various processes which are in place as well as an analysis of the populations and programs impacted by Title VI requirements.

Title VI Coordinator Responsibilities

The individual below has been designated as the Title VI Coordinator for the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission:

Nicole Gibbs, AICP
Regional Planner/Title VI Coordinator
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
1311 Clayton Street
Springdale, AR 72762
(479) 751-7125 x106

The Title VI Coordinator performs the following tasks:

- Collaborates and coordinates Title VI compliance efforts with the staff. The coordinator works closely with all the staff.
- Serves as point of contact/liaison to the public on Title VI compliance issues. Contact information is provided on all NWARPC publications and posted on the website.
- Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with critical external stakeholders, such as disability advocacy groups and government agencies.

- Monitor the NWARPC policies, procedures, practices and processes with respect to Title VI compliance, identify shortcomings in compliance and develop remedies.
- Investigate and resolve complaints filed under the NWARPC's Title VI Complaint Procedures.
- Monitor and update the implementation of the NWARPC's Title VI Program.
- Provide or coordinate the provision of requested auxiliary aids and reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities.
- Perform Title VI program, process or compliance reviews.
- Assist NWARPC staff in achieving public involvement goals and objectives.

Title VI Employee Training

The Title VI Coordinator distributes updated information to NWARPC staff as it becomes available. **Title VI training is administered as part of new hire orientation and as part of an annual staff training.**

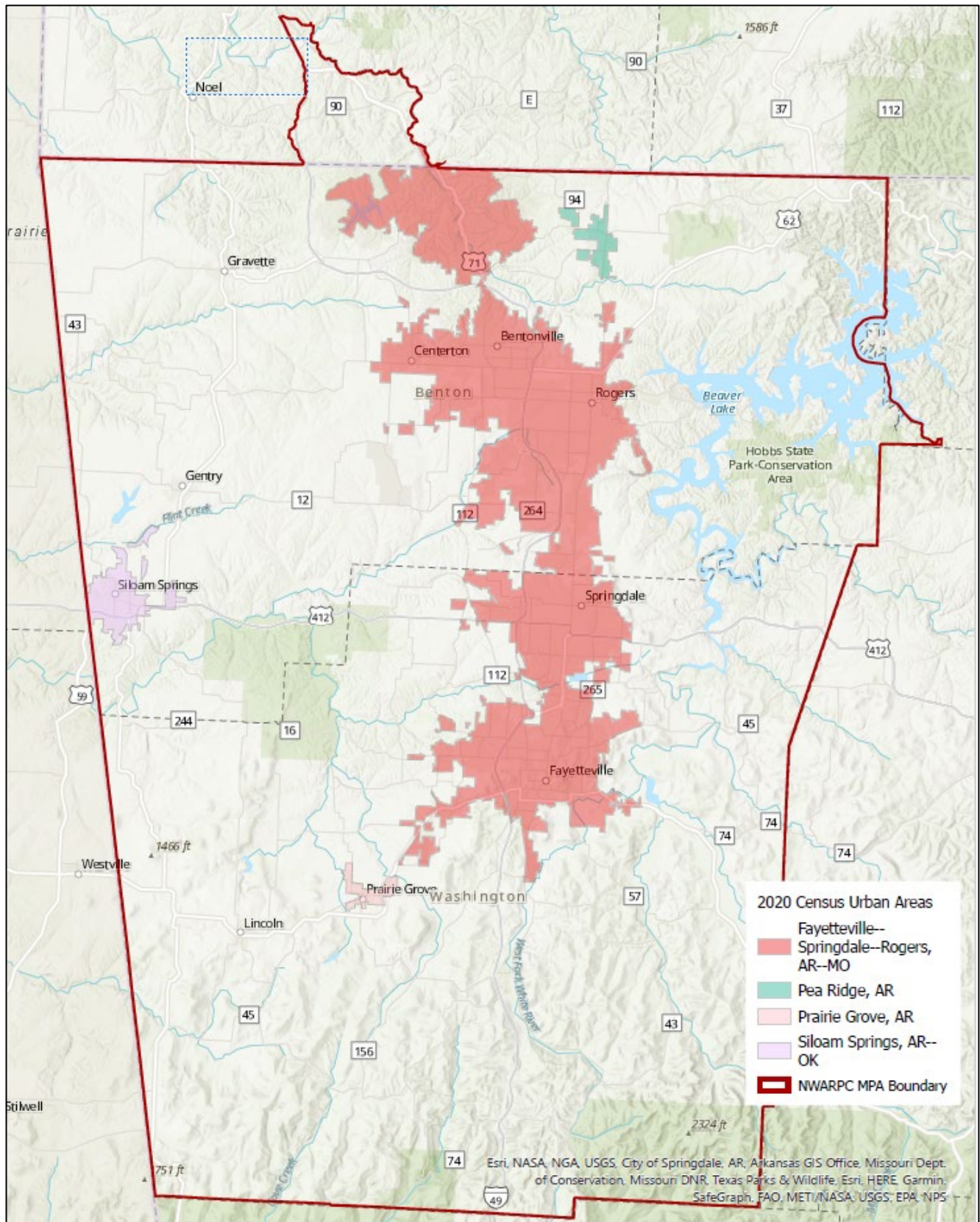
Annual staff training is held at the beginning of a new fiscal year, typically in July. NWARPC staff are encouraged to participate in Title VI professional development training opportunities. Many training and educational opportunities are available through a variety of sources such as the FTA website and courses offered by the National Highway Institute (NHI) and National Transit Institute (NTI).

Program Review Procedures

The Title VI Coordinator prepares an annual report that details accomplishments and challenges encountered during the previous fiscal year and evaluates effectiveness of outreach and Program objectives. The Title VI report is submitted to the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), typically in October. In addition to annual reporting, the Title VI Program is formally reviewed every three years and updated in coordination with the long-range regional plan update, and the Program may be reviewed and amended at other times as circumstances warrant.

Title VI Reports for FFY 2021 – 2023 can be found in APPENDIX B.

NWARPC Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) and 2020 Census Urban Areas



IV. COMMISSION & COMMITTEES

NWARPC has one established commission, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, which also serves as the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) Policy Committee. The Commission is made up of 38 local units of government and other public agency partners. Member jurisdictions include:

NWARPC Member Agencies – Arkansas

Avoca	Goshen	Springdale
Bella Vista	Gravette	Springtown
Benton County	Greenland	Sulphur Springs
Bentonville	Highfill	Tontitown
Cave Springs	Hindsville	Washington County
Centerton	Huntsville	West Fork
Decatur	Johnson	Winslow
Elkins	Lincoln	Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT)
Elm Springs	Little Flock	Beaver Water District
Farmington	Lowell	Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA)
Fayetteville	Pea Ridge	Ozark Regional Transit Authority
Garfield	Prairie Grove	Razorback Transit
Gateway	Rogers	University of Arkansas
Gentry	Siloam Springs	

NWARPC Member Agencies – Missouri

Pineville	Village of Jane	Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
McDonald County		

IN COOPERATION WITH: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, AND FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION.

In addition to the Commission/Policy Committee, the NWARPC has two established committees, which are the Technical Advisory Committee and the Active Transportation Committee (ACT). The Commission and Committees also select subcommittee members on an as-needed basis.

The established NWARPC boards and committees are filled by members who are authorized by the municipalities or agencies where they are elected or employed. These appointments are made by elected officials, administrators, and staff as the member municipality or agency designates. NWARPC has no control over these appointments other than providing available positions and term limit guidance. NWARPC does not select board or committee members but rather provides opportunity for participation.

NWARPC/Policy Committee/Board of Directors

The purpose of the NWARPC/Policy Committee is to serve as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the approved Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), and to provide official decision-making responsibility for the NWARPC. The coordination of elected officials and policy makers at this decision-making level allows for a broad geographical impact on transportation planning decisions.

Membership: Elected and/or appointed officials of counties and municipalities, the Beaver Water District, the University of Arkansas, the Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA), local transit agencies, and state DOTs.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is to analyze issues arising during the conduct of the NWARPC from a technical perspective and make recommendations to the Board/Policy Committee. The purpose is also to provide a linkage between planning and implementation. The TAC shall be composed of people involved in planning, engineering, public policy, or related fields and whose experience and expertise is valuable for supporting the NWARPC.

Membership: Appointed by the member agencies.

Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

The Active Transportation Committee (ACT) holds regular meetings and has open participation from cities, counties and local organizations and citizens who were interested in promoting on- and off-road trails in Northwest Arkansas.

Membership: Open membership.

Committee Composition

The NWARPC/Policy Committee membership is composed of 47 men and 12 women, with one (1) Latin American, and one (1) Other.

The TAC membership is composed of 50 men and 9 women, with one (1) Latin American, and one (1) Other.

Table 2: Racial Composition of Commission Members						
Group	Caucasian	African American	Latin American	Asian American	Native American	Other
NWARPC/Policy Committee	57	0	1	0	0	1
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	57	0	1	0	0	1
Active Transportation Committee (ACT)	Open membership					

Meeting Notification

NWARPC uses email, USPS, and notices in the local Spanish newspaper to notify minorities of public outreach events, public comment periods, meetings, and also invites the minority community to participate in non-elected committees.

NWARPC invites members of the public to participate in non-elected committees by calling 479-751-7125 for more information on committees and how to participate. Notice is posted on NWARPC's website: www.nwarpc.org/committees/.

Sample Subcommittee Distribution

A Steering Committee was established to help guide the 2020 TDP update process, assist NWARPC staff and the consultants, and to report updates and other information to their respective cities and organizations. The Committee consisted of:

- four city staff members (2 white females, 2 white males)
- a staff member from ORT and a staff member from Razorback Transit (2 white males)
- one member representing human service agencies (white female)
- one member representing a philanthropic foundation (white male)
- one member representing the engineering community (white male)
- one member representing the housing/real estate industry (white male)
- A NWARPC staff member was also on the Committee (white male)

CONNECT NWA-TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE	
ADAM WADDELL (RAZORBACK TRANSIT)	JOHN McCURDY (ROGERS)
CINDY ACREE (ELIZABETH RICHARDSON CENTER)	KEVIN BEAUMONT (McCLELLAND ENGINEERS)
DON MARR (FAYETTEVILLE/ORT BOARD)	LARRY KELLY (LARRY KELLY ASSOC. REALTY)
GARY SMITH (RAZORBACK TRANSIT)	PATSY CHRISTIE (SPRINGDALE)
JEREMY PATE (WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION)	ROB SMITH (NWA COUNCIL)
JOEL GARDNER (ORT)	SHELLI KERR (BENTONVILLE)
	TIM CONKLIN (NWARPC)

The Steering Committee met in person three times throughout the process. Numerous memos were sent to members keeping them updated on the progress of the plan. The COVID-19 health emergency in early spring 2020 halted all in-person meetings.

V. NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF RIGHTS UNDER TITLE VI

In order to comply with 49 CFR Section 21.9(d), NWARPC provides information to the public regarding its Title VI obligations and appries members of the public of the protections against discrimination afforded to them by Title VI. Notices are posted in public areas of the office building, including the public conference room; at all public meetings/hearings; and on the NWARPC website.

List of locations where Title VI notice is placed:

- NWARPC Office Locations: Lobby; Title VI Coordinator's Office; Conference Room
- NWARPC Website – www.nwarpc.org/civil-rights/
- NWARPC Notice of Nondiscrimination is included in all publications, printed and online

NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF RIGHTS UNDER TITLE VI

"Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., and its implementing regulations provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives federal assistance".

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with the Title VI Act of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC's hiring or employment practices. Any person or group who feels that he or she, individually, or as a member of any class of persons, on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability has been unfairly deprived of benefit, or unduly burdened by the transportation planning process, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination caused by the MPO may file a written complaint with the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator.

For information on the NWARPC Civil Rights program, or the procedure to file a Title VI complaint, contact the Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479-751-7125, (Voice/TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-285-1131, Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842; papr llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131) or the following email address: ngibbs@nwarpc.org.

If information is needed in another language, contact 479-751-7125. Language assistance is available Free of Charge to all persons.

NOTIFICACIÓN AL PÚBLICO DE LOS DERECHOS DEL TÍTULO VI

"Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d y ss., y sus reglamentaciones implementadas establecen que ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos será, por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional, excluida de participar en, negado los beneficios de, o de otra manera sujeto a".

El NWARPC cumple con todas las disposiciones de derechos civiles de los estatutos federales y autoridades relacionadas que prohíben la discriminación en programas y actividades que reciben asistencia financiera federal. Por lo tanto, la NWARPC no discrimina por raseos de raza, color, o origen nacional, en la admisión, el acceso y el tratamiento en los programas y actividades NWARPC, así como de contratación de empleados de la NWARPC. Cualquier persona o grupo que sienta que él o ella, individualmente o como miembro de cualquier clase de personas, por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional o discapacidad, ha sido privado injustamente de un beneficio o agobiado indebidamente por la planificación del transporte proceso, o se le han negado los beneficios o ha sido objeto de discriminación causada por la MPO, puede presentar una queja por escrito ante el Coordinador de ADA/504/Título VI.

Lasque ja de supuesta discriminación y consultas sobre la política antidiscriminatoria de la NWARPC pueden ser dirigidas a Nicole Gibbs, AICP, planificador regional – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Título Coordinador VI), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voz/TTY 7-1-1 o 1-800-285-1131) o en la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico: ngibbs@nwarpc.org. Este aviso está disponible en el Coordinador de ADA/504/Título VI en letra grande, cinta de audio y en Braille. Si se necesita información en otro idioma, póngase en contacto con Nicole Gibbs, ngibbs@nwarpc.org.

Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con 479-751-7125. Ayuda con el idioma está disponible de forma gratuita a todas las personas.

VI. COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

NWARPC has established a process for investigating and resolving complaints alleging Title VI discrimination related to MPO services, programs and its office. NWARPC's Title VI Coordinator is responsible for overseeing investigations and responses to complaints of discrimination. A Title VI discrimination complaint may be filed within 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination.

Complaints with incomplete information may result in delayed investigations and responses. NWARPC will not respond to complaints without the complainant's name and mailing address. Required complaint information includes:

- ❑ Complainant's name, mailing address and daytime phone number.
- ❑ Specific information relating to the incident in question: date, time, location, how the person was discriminated upon, and any other applicable details.

Complaints may be submitted to NWARPC as follows:

- **In writing** to the NWARPC Title VI Coordinator, 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762. Complaints may also be emailed to ngibbs@nwarpc.org.
- **In person** at NWARPC, 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762. Normal office hours are from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. It is advisable to call the Title VI Coordinator in advance to schedule an appointment.
- **By telephone** to NWARPC, 479-751-7125. The Title VI Coordinator will speak to the complainant and obtain detailed information relating to the complaint. Information obtained from the telephone interview will be recorded in writing and read to the complainant.

Within three business days upon receipt of a complaint, a letter will be mailed to the complainant with the following information:

- Acknowledgment that the complaint has been received and is pending investigation.
- Estimated date by which a response will be sent to the complainant.

The Title VI Coordinator will investigate the complaint and respond in writing within a reasonable time, not to exceed 30 days from receipt of the complaint. The response will provide information concerning the resolution of the complaint. A record of all Title VI complaints will be maintained by NWARPC for a minimum of five years. Each record will include the name and address of the complainant, nature of the complaint, problems identified, resolution of the complaint and any resulting modification made to a NWARPC program, service or its office facility.

The Complaint Procedures and Form (in English and Spanish) can be downloaded from the NWARPC website at www.nwarpc.org/civil-rights/ or a copy may be obtained at the NWARPC office upon request.

A complete copy of the Complaint Procedures and Form may be found in APPENDIX C.

Complaints Received

It is the intent and policy of NWARPC to practice nondiscrimination, and should a formal complaint be brought to the organization's attention, it will be addressed through the complaint procedure at the local level. A list of Complaints is kept and made available for semiannual reporting requirements. In compliance with 49 CFR Section 21.9(b), NWARPC shall prepare and maintain a list of complaints and investigations conducted. The list will consist of lawsuits, or official complaints against NWARPC that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

A table that lists complaints shall include the following information:

- Date of the complaint, investigation or lawsuit was filed;
- Summary of the allegation(s);
- The status of the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint, and
- Actions taken in response to the investigation, lawsuit of complaint.

COMPLAINTS LOG – NWARPC							
Complaint Date	Type		Date Received	Date Resolved	Summary	Status	Action(s) Taken
	Investigation Date	Lawsuit Date					
None	None	None			None 1/1/18 – 12/31/18	NA	None
None	None	None			None 1/1/19 – 12/31/19	NA	None
None	None	None			None 1/1/20 – 12/31/20	NA	None
None	None	None			None 1/1/21 – 12/31/21	NA	None
None	None	None			None 1/1/22 – 12/31/22	NA	None
None	None	None			None 1/1/23 – 12/31/23	NA	None

VII. PROMOTION OF INCLUSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NWARPC Public Participation Plan

NWARPC's last updated Public Participation Plan (PPP) was approved in September 2020. The PPP was developed to ensure that the transportation planning process complies with federal requirements for public involvement and participation. The PPP states, "This document outlines procedures that are designed to promote and encourage public participation and involvement in the transportation planning process. These procedures will provide opportunities for citizens, employers, and transportation providers to contribute ideas and opinions early and at every stage of the planning process. Efforts will be made to assure participation by traditionally underserved individuals, including elderly, low income and minority individuals, persons with disabilities, and persons with limited English proficiency."

The PPP further states that, "The NARTS (NWARPC) will, to the extent reasonable and practical, ensure that the PPP will address the requirements for MPO public involvement as identified in 23 CFR 450.316 Interested parties, participation, and consultation."

23 CFR Section 450.314 Metropolitan planning agreements.

(a) The MPO, the State(s), and the providers of **public transportation** shall cooperatively determine their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process. These responsibilities shall be clearly identified in written agreements among the MPO, the State(s), and the providers of public transportation serving the MPA. To the extent possible, a single agreement between all responsible parties should be developed. The written agreement(s) shall include specific provisions for the development of financial plans that support the metropolitan transportation plan (see §450.324) and the metropolitan TIP (see §450.326), and development of the annual listing of obligated projects (see §450.334).

(b) The MPO, the State(s), and the providers of public transportation should periodically review and update the agreement, as appropriate, to reflect effective changes.

The PPP also addresses the requirements of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Additionally, in Section III. CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION/SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, the PPP addresses Title VI, Environmental Justice, Limited English Proficiency, and ADA/504.

1) THE NWARPC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT POLICIES ENDEAVOR TO:

- **Provide ongoing and timely information about transportation issues and processes** to NWA citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agencies, private providers of transportation, other interested parties and segments of the community affected by transportation plans, program, and projects.
- **Provide reasonable public access to technical and policy information** used in the development of the MTP, the TIP, and other appropriate transportation plans and projects.
- **Conduct open public meetings** where matters related to the Federal-aid highway and transit programs are being considered.

- When warranted, the NWARPC may decide to hold a **virtual meeting** in place of an in-person meeting. Each instance will be evaluated individually. An example where a virtual meeting was warranted is the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 that made in-person meetings dangerous. This may pertain to TAC and NWARPC/Policy Committee meetings and other subcommittee meetings, as well as public involvement/input meetings. In any case, the public will be notified by standard legal notice (see Chapters VI., VIII., IX.) and notification will be posted on the NWARPC website. Additionally, when available, public notification may be made by email and/or social media.
- **Go beyond traditional public meetings to engage a broader audience** for public input to plan a vibrant and multimodal transportation system. As an example, staff may take meeting materials to places where the public gathers, such as various local festivals, farmer's markets, malls, the Razorback Regional Greenway, or a Natural's baseball game.
- **Give adequate public notice** of public participation activities and allow time for public review and comment at key decision points, including, but not limited to, development and approval of plans and TIPs, and other appropriate transportation plans and projects. All public notification information can be found in Chapters VIII. and XI.
- Provide additional opportunity for public comment if the final MTP or TIP differs significantly from the one which was made available for public comment by NWARPC and/or raises new material issues which interested parties could not have reasonably foreseen from the public involvement efforts.
- **Solicit the opinions of those under-served by existing transportation systems**, including but not limited to, the transportation disadvantaged, minorities, elderly, low-income households, and people with disabilities.
- **Coordinate the public participation process with statewide public participation processes** wherever possible to enhance public consideration of the issues, plans and programs, and reduce redundancies and costs.
- **Improve the effectiveness** of the Public Participation Plan (PPP):
 - With an annual staff review.
 - A review by the TAC and NWARPC/Policy Committee occurring as part of the regular update cycle for the MTP.
 - Consider using a Public Involvement Effectiveness Survey toward the end of a project (such as an update to the MTP) to gauge the overall satisfaction of the public with the public involvement process and get an idea of the types of public involvement activities people participated in.

An example of questions follows:

Overall, I was satisfied with the public involvement process:

Strongly disagree/Disagree/neither agree nor disagree/Agree/strongly agree/don't know

What public involvement activities have you participated in for this project? Check all that apply –

In-person public meetings/open houses:

- Online public meetings/open houses
- Focus groups (usually involves 6 to 12 people meeting for 1 to 2 hours)
- Information tables at fairs, festivals, or other such community settings

- Community briefings
- Stakeholder round tables
- Door-to-door outreach
- Outreach to special populations
- Advisory committee meetings
- Other (please specify)

2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An ongoing activity of NWARPC public participation is an integral aspect of one-time activities such as specific corridor studies, and of regularly repeated activities such as NWARPC meetings, the MTP updates and the TIP process. Participation techniques employed by NWARPC include:

- **COMMENT FORMS** – Comment forms or cards are often used to solicit public comment on specific issues being presented at a public input meeting. Comment forms can be very general in nature or can ask for very specific feedback. NWARPC collects and tracks all comments received.
- **EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Meeting announcements and NWARPC information are emailed to interested persons, organizations and agencies that have submitted their email addresses to NWARPC.
- **LEGAL NOTICES** – NWARPC publishes a legal notice in the newspaper of greatest general circulation for any public meeting where a decision could be made by the TAC or NWARPC/Policy Committee. Additionally, legal notices are published for many other meetings, public comment periods, public input meetings, etc. Display ads are also published for certain meetings and activities. Typically, the newspapers where public notices are placed are the Arkansas Democrat Gazette (English), the McDonald County Press in Missouri (English), and the La Prensa Libre (Spanish). NWARPC strives to use ethnic media whenever possible.
- **MASTER DATABASE** – NWARPC maintains a database of federal, state and local agencies, committee members and interested public. The database is used for maintaining up-to-date committee membership and special interest group lists and is used to establish and maintain a list of email contacts for electronic meeting notification and announcements. NWARPC works with community organizations to help distribute information to identified target audiences when planning studies are conducted by NWARPC. To be included on the email list go to <https://www.nwarpc.org/contact/> or call the NWARPC office, 479-751-7125.
- **MEETING LOCATIONS** – NWARPC, whenever feasible, holds public meetings, hearings or forums at a site convenient to potentially affected citizens and/or on a public transportation route.
- **MEETING NOTICES** – Notices of all NWARPC/Policy Committee and TAC meetings, complete with date, time, location and preliminary agendas are forwarded to members, media and other interested parties, customarily, at least one week prior to the date of the meeting. Public meetings on specific issues may be held independently or at the same time as NWARPC/Policy Committee and/or TAC meetings. Notices of these public meetings are subject to legal notice requirements as stated in Sections VI, VIII, & IX.
- **NWARPC WEBSITE** – This site was established to provide basic information about the MPO/transportation process, NWARPC members, meeting times, and contact information. The site also includes information about specific projects undertaken by NWARPC, such as the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), TIP, MTP, PPP, and transit studies. Other activities are

also accessible on the website. All publications and work products are available electronically to the public and in hard copy at the NWARPC offices. Although internet connectivity is growing, the citizens that use the internet to find out about public participation opportunities are not necessarily representative of the public at large. Therefore, while NWARPC has expanded some of its online opportunities, it has retained the use of traditional in-person, phone, and mail comment opportunities as well.

- **PRESS RELEASES** – Formal press releases are sent to local media (newspaper, TV, and radio) to announce upcoming meetings and activities and to provide information on specific issues being considered by NWARPC/Policy Committee, TAC or other committees.
- **SURVEYS** – Electronic and paper surveys are used when specific input from the public is desired, or to gather technical data, such as daily travel patterns. NWARPC collects, compiles, and analyzes all survey information received and incorporates that information into the development of plans and projects.
- **TRANSLATIONS** – Upon request and within reason, NWARPC will provide appropriate language translators for the non-English speaking, as well as translations for the hearing and visually impaired.
- **VISUALIZATION TECHNIQUES** – NWARPC employs visualization techniques to aid in the understanding of transportation related documents. These visualization products are available on the NWARPC web page and at public forums and meetings.
- Provides on-line maps of the area that present all appropriate information pertaining to documents such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan elements and proposed amendments, TIP projects and proposed amendments.
- Employs maps, GIS products, charts, graphs, photo interpretation, artist renderings, physical models, and/or computer simulation.

3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

The following activities may be incorporated into the NWARPC public participation and involvement programs as well as into the overall planning process:

- The NWARPC will undertake efforts to educate, inform and involve the public in area-wide transportation issues and processes. These efforts may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Annual Reports/Newsletters
 - Direct mailings
 - Explicit tailored outreach, such as attending community events, to engage the public on-site
 - Flyers and brochures
 - Focus/Special Groups
 - Glossaries of acronyms and terms in published reports, plans and TIPs
 - Legal Notices/Display Ads
 - Media releases
 - Printed materials distributed to city halls, libraries, community centers, city buses
 - Provide materials in large-print, audio tape or Braille
 - Provide sign language interpreter for hearing impaired
 - Provide Spanish translations

- Public appearances and speeches
- Public meetings and hearings
- Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
- Social media, such as Facebook
- Surveys, both paper and on-line
- Telephone and website information on all printed materials
- Website with calendar of events and documents
- Workshops/Open houses
- The NWARPC will, to the extent reasonable and practical, maintain an up-to-date master database of contacts to be used to communicate to interested individuals and groups information concerning NWARPC meetings, MTP and TIP updates, other documents and transportation plan review. The master database may contain the following:
 - Area school districts
 - Civic groups
 - Elected officials
 - Federal, state and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation and historic preservation, economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, airport operations, freight movements, and others
 - Libraries (for public display)
 - Local government staff
 - Local media (print, radio, TV)
 - Minority groups
 - Parties that would have an interest in the planning and development of the transportation network including affected public agencies in the metropolitan planning area
 - Private transportation providers
 - Providers of freight transportation services
 - Representatives of users of bicycle transportation facilities
 - Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways
 - Representatives of users of public transportation
 - Representatives of the disabled
 - Special interest groups and other interested parties
 - Transportation agencies (transit, airports, rail, and/or public ports, if applicable)

A Public Comment option is available on the NWARPC website <http://nwarpc.org/contact/>, along with an email address, set up expressly for comments that are received during specific plan/project public comment periods, and for any other comments or questions the public may have. This email is monitored and comments on a specific project (such as the MTP) are included in the Public Comment Report given to the RPC/Policy Committee. All comments received via this option are answered in a timely manner.

The entire NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP) can be found online at www.nwarpc.org/public-participation-plan/.

VIII. PLAN FOR ASSISTING PERSONS OF LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

The Language Assistance Plan is part of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. **The complete LEP Plan can be found in APPENDIX D.**

Individuals who have limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English are considered to be Limited English Proficient (LEP). LEP populations are entitled to language assistance under the provisions of Executive Order 13166.

NWARPC developed the Language Assistance Plan as a resource for assisting persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP). **Oral language and translation of vital information/documents will be provided at no cost to anyone that requests translation. NWARPC will assist any persons with language translation free of charge, given a reasonable amount of time.**

[How to Identify an LEP Person Who Needs Language Assistance](#)

Tools to help identify persons who may need language assistance:

- Staff will have on hand the “I speak” card printed from the following website:
<https://www.lep.gov/translation#toc-language-identification-and-i-speak-cards>
- Examine records requests for language assistance from past meetings and events to anticipate the possible need for assistance at upcoming meetings.
- When NWARPC sponsored workshops or conferences are held, set up an attendance sheet table, have a staff member greet and briefly speak to each attendee. To informally gauge the attendee’s ability to speak and understand English, staff will ask a question that requires a full sentence reply.
- Though language needs may not be met at the current meeting or event, an inventory of those needs will help staff plan for language needs at a future meeting.
- Post a notice of available language assistance in the NWARPC reception area.

[Language Assistance Measures/Staff Training](#)

Currently, no substantive documents are available in a language other than English; the NWARPC website may be translated into a number of different languages using Google Translate.

- NWARPC has translated the following into Spanish –
 - Title VI Notice to the Public.
 - Title VI Complaint Procedures and Form.
 - Notice in every document that interpretation is available.
 - No staff member speaks Spanish; other resources for interpreters includes a list of interpreters that staff has on hand and can be used (see APPENDIX E).
 - ORT has several Spanish interpreters and Pacific Islanders (Marshallese interpreters) that are available for NWARPC use.
 - There are a number of Universities and Colleges in the area that have foreign language departments. These can be used as a resource if need be.

- Arkansas Relay, a telephone connection service, offers a Spanish Relay service. Relay users can type in Spanish and the conversations will be relayed in Spanish.
- Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842.
- Para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131.
- Training – All NWARPC staff will be provided with the LEP plan and will be educated on procedures and services available. Annual training will take place in the first two months of every new fiscal year. This information will also be part of the new hire orientation process. Training topics may include:
 - Understanding the Title VI LEP responsibilities.
 - What language assistance NWARPC offers.
 - How to access an interpreter.
 - Documentation of language assistance requests.
 - How to handle a complaint.
 - The importance of educating subrecipients on NWARPC’s LEP program responsibilities and their obligation to provide language assistance.
- Outside these measures, NWARPC has limited resources and will, to the extent possible, ensure LEP individuals have the opportunity to participate in transportation planning. All translation is free.

Providing Notice of Available Language Service to LEP Persons

NWARPC will post signs that language assistance is available in public areas such as the reception area or public notice bulletin board, as well as the web site (see the LEP Resources included in APPENDIX E).

Outreach Techniques

If staff knows that they will be presenting a topic that could be of potential importance to an LEP person or if staff will be hosting a meeting or a workshop in a geographic location with a known concentration of LEP person, staff will have meeting notices, fliers, advertisements, and agendas contain a notice, in Spanish, of language service availability with notification in advance of the meeting.

When running a general public meeting notice, staff should insert “Si necesita informacion en otro idioma, comuniquese Nicole Gibbs, ngibbs@nwarpc.org or 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta”, which asks persons if information is needed in another language to make arrangements with NWARPC within two days of the meeting date.

Monitoring and Updating the LEP Plan

This plan is designed to be flexible and is one that can be easily updated. At a minimum, NWARPC MPO will follow the Title VI program update schedule for the LEP plan.

Updates should examine plan components such as:

- How many LEP persons were encountered?
- Were their needs met?
- What is the current LEP population in the region?

- Has there been a change in the types of languages where translation services are needed?
- Is there still a need for continued language assistance for previously identified NWARPC programs?
- Are there other programs that should be included?
- Has NWARPC's available resources, such as technology, staff, and financial cost, changed?
- Has NWARPC fulfilled the goals of the LEP plan?
- Were there any complaints received?
- Were any comments or requests from the public participation process made that would impact the LEP plan?

Dissemination of The NWARPC Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

NWARPC will post the LEP plan, as part of the full Title VI Plan, on its website <http://nwarpc.org>. Anyone with internet access will be able to access the plan. For those without personal internet access, all area libraries offer free internet access. Copies of the LEP plan, as part of the full Title VI Plan, will be provided to the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and any person or agency requesting a copy. NWARPC members will be provided with a copy of the LEP plan. A hard copy of the plan will be available in the office. An LEP person may obtain copies of the plan upon request.

Any questions or comments regarding this plan should be directed to:

NWARPC Title VI Coordinator

Phone: 479-751-7125

Fax: 479-751-7150

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission,
1311 Clayton Street, Springdale, AR 72762

Email: ngibbs@nwarpc.org

<http://nwarpc.org>

IX. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

All funds processed through the NWARPC must be spent on projects in accordance with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP includes an environmental justice review of the constrained project list so staff and member jurisdictions can be aware of potential issues ahead of programming projects in the Transportation Improvement Program.

Transit Programs

Razorback Transit and Ozark Regional Transit, Inc., the two providers of publicly owned public transportation service in the urbanized area, are the recipients for Section 5307 and Section 5339 funding. The project listings of the transit organizations are consistent with and derived from the TIP and approved by the NWARPC/MPO Policy Committee.

Public Transportation Systems

Within the NWARPC area there are two public transit systems, Razorback Transit and Ozark Regional Transit, Inc. (ORT), as well as a number of human service agencies that provide transit options for specific populations.

ARDOT initially published the **Arkansas Statewide Transit Coordination Plan: 2012 (TCP)** in January 2013. The TCP replaced the sixteen-separate local transit coordination plans that were developed in 2007 and 2008 as a result of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFE TEA-LU). In Northwest Arkansas, the TCP replaced the NWA Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan (Coordination Plan).

In May 2018, ARDOT published the updated **Arkansas Statewide Transit Coordination Plan**. The goal of the TCP is to “improve the availability, quality, and efficiency of transportation services for seniors, persons with disabilities, those with low income, and others with limited mobility options”. The updated plan is intended to satisfy the federal requirement, under the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, that recipients of Enhance Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities – Section 5310 program funding develop a coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan.

The FTA’s required elements for Coordinated Transportation Plan include:

- An assessment of available services that identifies current transportation providers (public, private, and nonprofit)
- An assessment of transportation needs for individuals with disabilities and seniors
- Strategies, activities, and/or projects to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to achieve efficiencies in service delivery
- Priorities for implementation based on resources (from multiple program sources), time, and feasibility for implementing specific strategies.

The complete TCP can be viewed at:

www.ardot.gov/divisions/local-programs/public-transportation-programs/publications/

Subrecipient Assistance

Potential subrecipients, that would serve predominantly minority populations, may request assistance from NWARPC and the agency stands ready to offer reasonable assistance to the best of its ability at any time, including the following:

- Sample public notices, Title VI complaint procedures, and the recipient's Title VI complaint form.
- Sample procedures for tracking and investigating Title VI complaints filed with a subrecipient.
- Direction regarding obtaining demographic information of population served by subrecipients.
- Technical assistance.
- Reviews of Title VI Programs; follow-up as necessary.

No potential subrecipients have requested assistance at the time of writing this document.

Subrecipient Monitoring

The NWARPC operates as a pass-through of FTA funds to subrecipients. For NWARPC to satisfy FTA subrecipient monitoring requirements, the *Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission Subrecipient Monitoring Guide for FTA Section 5339 Grants* was developed in spring 2017. The Monitoring Guide can be found on the NWARPC website here: www.nwarpc.org/transit/transit-agencies-support/. The purpose of the Monitoring Guide is to ensure that all technical specifications and contract requirements are met by subrecipients and to monitor compliance with FTA requirements for the life of FTA Section 5339-funded projects that are maintained by subrecipients.

NWARPC began the subrecipient monitoring procedure for subrecipients Ozark Regional Transit, Inc. (ORT) and the University of Arkansas Razorback Transit in Summer 2017 by conducting an on-site visit at the Razorback Transit and ORT facilities and received from the transit agencies the requested documents to enable NWARPC to conduct a "desk review".

Staff completed the draft Compliance Review Reports for both transit agencies and transmitted the drafts to each agency for comments. Both transit agencies reviewed and submitted comments on their individual draft Compliance Review Report.

The 2017 subrecipient monitoring process concluded with staff sending an individual 2017 Final Compliance Review Report to each agency in mid-September 2017. The Final Report was based on the findings noted in the NWARPC desk review of submitted documents and the site visit.

Staff followed the above stated subrecipient monitoring process in 2018 through 2023.

In May 2019, Section 5339 buses owned by ORT were sold at auction. ORT completed an Annual Report for 2019, and staff followed through on the subrecipient monitoring procedure, culminating in a Final Compliance Review Report.

Ongoing subrecipient monitoring activities will continue until all FTA Section 5339 buses in use by Razorback Transit have been retired.

X. EQUITY ANALYSIS OF FACILITIES

The NWARPC has not constructed any facilities.

XI. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

NWARPC considers the impact that its programs may have on the mobility needs of Title VI population. NWARPC identifies the Title VI population using Census Tract data, Census Block data, Census Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs), and other sources, including transit agency provided data.

Basic Profile of Northwest Arkansas

The Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) currently encompasses two counties in Arkansas, including Benton and Washington Counties and a portion of McDonald County, Missouri.

Geography

Benton County

- Covers 880 square miles
- Has 846 square miles of land
- Has 43 square miles of water

Washington County

- Covers 956 square miles
- Has 950 square miles of land
- Has 6 square miles of water

The Old Missouri Road/Butterfield trail runs north to south along a major watershed divide within Benton and Washington Counties. On the west, most of the watershed flows into the Illinois River, which flows into Oklahoma. Eastern water flows into the White River basin, which contains the 31,700-acre Beaver Lake.

The Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) in McDonald County, Missouri is approximately 30.7 square miles. This portion of the county is mainly traversed by I-49 and US Highway 71 and is largely rural in nature.

Population

Benton County

- 221,339 according to the Census 2010 population.
- **284,333 according to the Census 2020 population.**
- This represents a 28.5 percent increase and an annual growth rate of 2.5 percent.
- On average there were 6,299 people per year moving to Benton County between Census Day, April 1, 2010, to 2020.
- Contains nineteen incorporated cities.
- All or part of nine Benton County fall within the Census 2020 defined Urban Area. These cities are Bella Vista, Bentonville, Cave Springs, Centerton, Little Flock, Lowell, Rogers, and Springdale, as well as Pea Ridge and Siloam Springs.
- Most of the population of Benton County is located along the I-49 corridor.
- The 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates the total population to be at 286,528.

Washington County

- 203,065 according to the Census 2010 population.
- **245,871 according to the Census 2020 population.**
- This represents a 21.1 percent increase and an annual growth rate of 1.9 percent.
- On average there were 4,280 people per year moving to Washington County between Census Day, April 1, 2010, to 2020.
- Contains thirteen incorporated cities.
- All or part of nine of these cities fall within the Census 2020 defined Urban Area criteria. These cities include Elm Springs, Farmington, Fayetteville, Greenland, Johnson, Springdale, Prairie Grove, and Tontitown.
- Most of the population of Washington County is located along the I-49 corridor.
- The 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates the total population to be at 247,331.

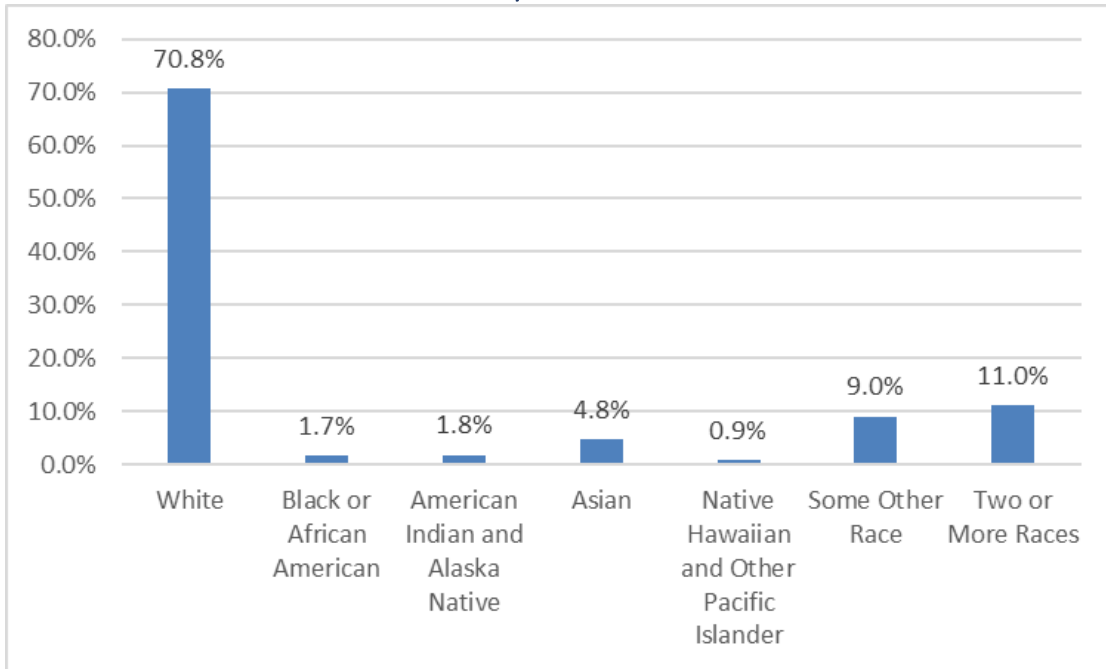
Portion of McDonald County

- The portion of the MPA in McDonald County, Missouri had approximately 1,780 people as recorded by the 2020 Census with a population density of 58 people per square mile. Most of the population is rural.
- Has approximately 667 housing units recorded during the 2020 Census.
- The Elk River is formed at Pineville, Missouri by the confluence of Big Sugar Creek and Little Sugar Creek.
- Pineville (the county seat for McDonald County) has a total area of 3.29 square miles and is the only incorporated city in the area. It had a recorded population of 802 and 361 households by the 2020 Census Bureau. The 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates the total population of Pineville City to be 895.
- The Village of Jane is a small community of 351 people in 2020 and is situated on Route 90 at the intersection with US Highway 71. The 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates the total population to be 535.

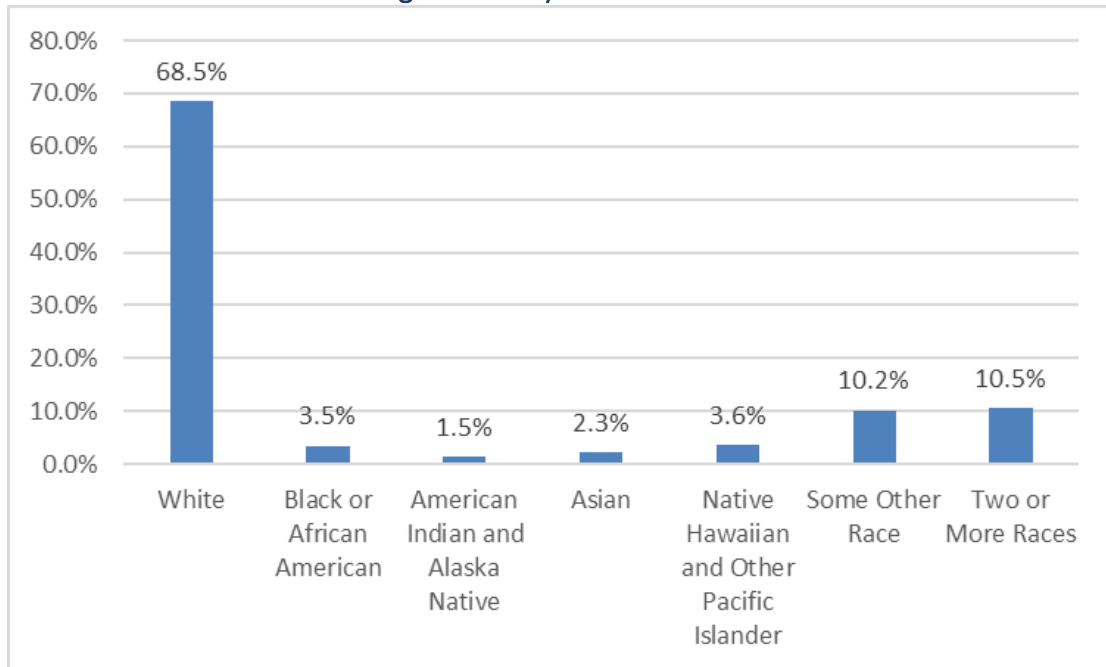
Demographic Distribution

In Benton County, 70.8 percent is white alone and about 9.0 percent other race than white; in Washington County 68.5 percent is white only and 10.2 percent other race than white; and in McDonald County 73.4 percent is white only and 6.5 percent is race other than white. The break-down demographics below show the percentage for each race and ethnic group by county.

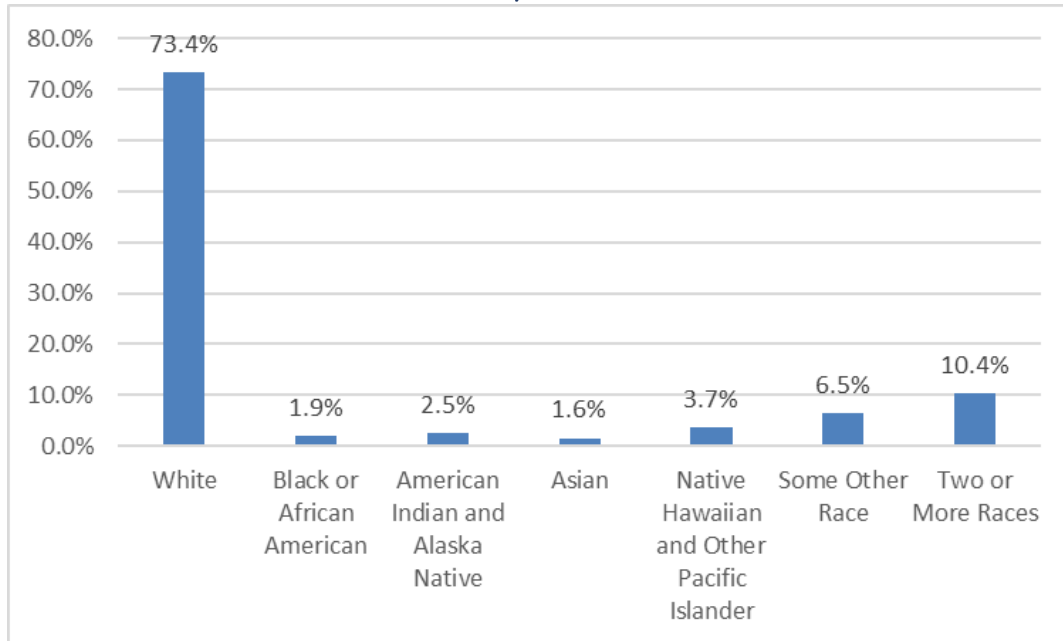
Benton County Race – 2020 Census



Washington County Race – 2020 Census



McDonald County Race – 2020 Census



Minority Population Trends

The following table shows an in-migration of Latino or Hispanic population. Between the year 2010 and 2020 the two-county regions' (Benton and Washington) total population grew by 24.9 percent while the Hispanic population grew from 65,741 to 95,295 or by 45 percent. As illustrated by the following table, Hispanic population continues to increase at a faster rate than the total population. The Census 2020 Hispanic population figure of 95,295 makes up 18 percent of the 424,404 two-county total population. The total Hispanic population ratio is higher within the cities of Northwest Arkansas, with 20.4 percent and 19.5 percent ratios for the cities within Washington and Benton Counties respectively.

Hispanic Population Growth in Northwest Arkansas: 2010-2020

Jurisdiction	Total Population 2010 Census	Hispanic Population 2010 Census	Total Population 2020 Census	Total Population Change 2010-2020	Total Population Percent Change 2010-2020	Hispanic Population 2020 Census	Percent Hispanic to Total Population in 2020	Hispanic Population Change 2010-2020	Hispanic Population Percent Change 2010-2020
Avoca	488	85	487	-1	-0.2%	118	24.2%	33	38.8%
Bella Vista	26,461	688	30,104	3,643	13.8%	1,354	4.5%	666	96.8%
Bentonville	35,301	3,074	54,164	18,863	53.4%	5,434	10.0%	2,360	76.8%
Bethel Heights	2,372	823	3,015	643	27.1%	1,346	44.6%	523	63.5%
Cave Springs	1,729	77	5,495	3,766	217.8%	345	6.3%	268	348.1%
Centerton	9,515	1,161	17,792	8,277	87.0%	2,328	13.1%	1,167	100.5%
Decatur	1,699	483	1,773	74	4.4%	591	33.3%	108	22.4%
Elkins	2,648	213	3,602	954	36.0%	339	9.4%	126	59.2%
Elm Springs	1,535	131	2,361	826	53.8%	284	12.0%	153	116.8%
Farmington	5,974	352	7,584	1,610	27.0%	535	7.1%	183	52.0%
Fayetteville	73,580	4,725	93,949	20,369	27.7%	8,082	8.6%	3,357	71.0%
Garfield	502	5	593	91	18.1%	60	10.1%	55	1100.0%
Gateway	405	32	436	31	7.7%	35	8.0%	3	9.4%
Gentry	3,158	379	3,790	632	20.0%	624	16.5%	245	64.6%
Goshen	1,071	10	2,102	1,031	96.3%	73	3.5%	63	630.0%
Gravette	2,325	94	3,547	1,222	52.6%	245	6.9%	151	160.6%
Greenland	1,259	41	1,213	-46	-3.7%	60	4.9%	19	46.3%
Highfill	583	19	1,587	1,004	172.2%	247	15.6%	228	1200.0%
Johnson	3,354	347	3,609	255	7.6%	458	12.7%	111	32.0%
Lincoln	2,249	147	2,294	45	2.0%	194	8.5%	47	32.0%
Little Flock	2,585	318	3,055	470	18.2%	428	14.0%	110	34.6%
Lowell	7,327	1,808	9,839	2,512	34.3%	2,864	29.1%	1,056	58.4%
Pea Ridge	4,794	276	6,559	1,765	36.8%	521	7.9%	245	88.8%
Prairie Grove	4,380	196	7,045	2,665	60.8%	455	6.5%	259	132.1%
Rogers	55,964	17,619	69,908	13,944	24.9%	23,375	33.4%	5,756	32.7%
Siloam Springs	15,039	3,128	17,287	2,248	14.9%	4,337	25.1%	1,209	38.7%
Springdale	69,797	24,692	84,161	14,364	20.6%	33,287	39.6%	8,595	34.8%
Springtown	87	11	83	-4	-4.6%	5	6.0%	-6	-54.5%
Sulphur Springs	511	22	481	-30	-5.9%	16	3.3%	-6	-27.3%
Tontitown	2,460	140	4,301	1,841	74.8%	395	9.2%	255	182.1%
West Fork	2,317	76	2,331	14	0.6%	118	5.1%	42	55.3%
Winslow	391	8	365	-26	-6.6%	12	3.3%	4	50.0%
Benton County (Cities Total)	112,547	30,102	230,171	117,624	104.5%	44,848	19.5%	14,746	49.0%
Washington County (Cities Total)	168,555	30,939	217,251	48,696	28.9%	44,272	20.4%	13,333	43.1%
Benton County Total	221,339	34,283	284,333	62,994	28.5%	50,540	17.8%	16,257	47.4%
Washington County Total	203,065	31,458	245,871	42,806	21.1%	44,755	18.2%	13,297	42.3%
McDonald County, MO	23,083	2,587	23,303	220	1.0%	2,818	12.1%	231	8.9%
Pineville, MO	791	25	802	11	1.4%	20	2.5%	-5	-20.0%
NWA Total (Washington and Benton Counties)	424,404	65,741	530,204	105,800	24.9%	95,295	18.0%	29,554	45.0%
NWA MO Area (Washington, Benton and McDonald Counties)			553,507			98,113	17.7%		
Arkansas	2,915,918	186,050	3,011,524	95,606	3.3%	256,847	8.5%	70,797	38.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020

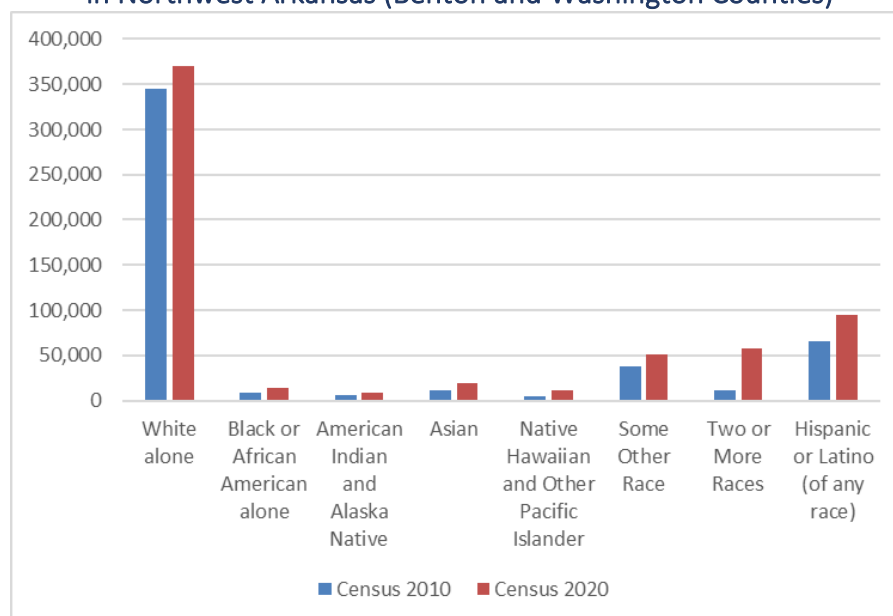
The following table shows that while the diversity of the region's population is increasing rapidly, the total population in absolute numerical terms is still predominantly white:

**Race and Hispanic Origin Change from 2010 to 2020
in Northwest Arkansas (Benton and Washington Counties)**

Race and Origin	Census 2010	Census 2020	Percent Change
Total Population (Benton and Washington Co)	424,404	530,204	24.9%
White alone	345,070	369,539	7.1%
Black or African American alone	8,820	13,384	51.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	6,144	8,666	41.0%
Asian	10,735	19,439	81.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	4,799	11,428	138.1%
Some Other Race	37,231	50,517	35.7%
Two or More Races	11,605	57,231	393.2%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	65,741	95,295	45.0%

Source: US Census Bureau 2010 and 2020

**Race and Hispanic Origin Change from 2010 to 2020
in Northwest Arkansas (Benton and Washington Counties)**



Source: US Census Bureau 2010 and 2020

Based on the 2017-2021 ACS 5-year estimates in the McDonald County portion of the MPA, most of the population (77.5 percent) is white followed by African American population (22 percent).

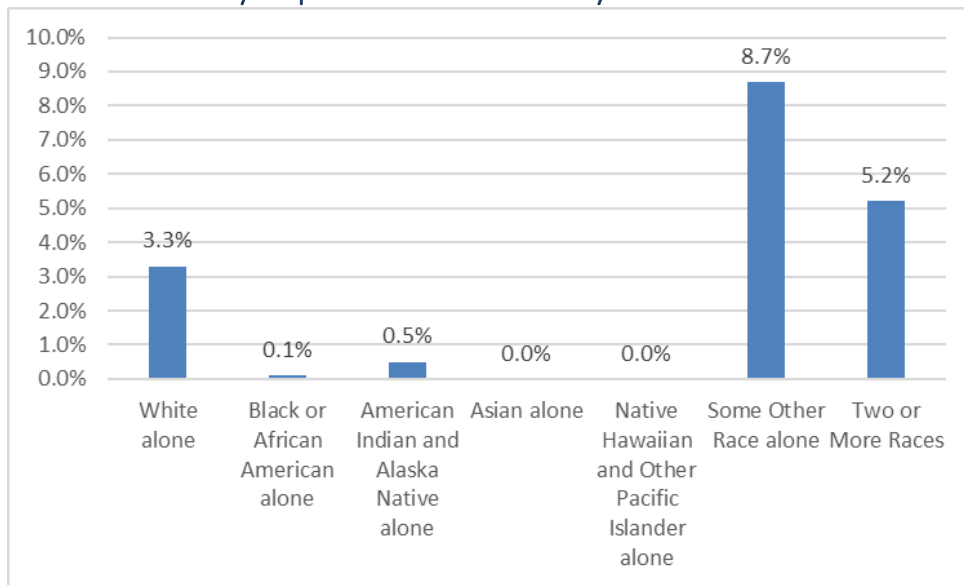
The largest percent increase in racial diversity in Benton and Washington Counties was the Two or More Races category with 393.2 percent increase, from 11,606 to 57,231 people from 2010 to the 2020 Census.

Another increasing minority group in Benton and Washington Counties was the Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, which would include Marshallese Island immigrants. This population grew from 4,799 in Census 2010 to 11,428 in 2020. This was a significant 138.1 percent increase for one decade.

The graphics below illustrate the racial and minority population mix as estimated by the 2020 Census by county.

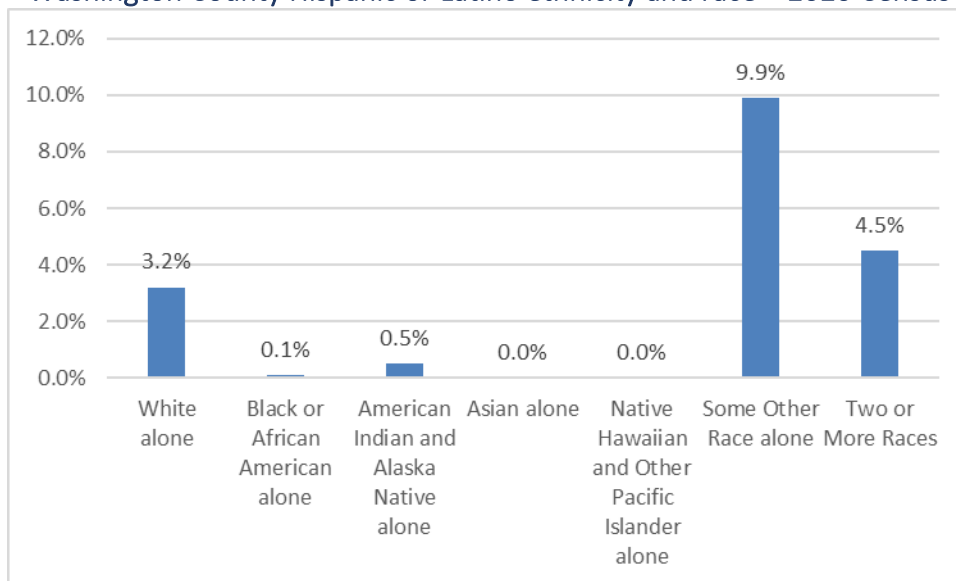
Benton County had 50,540 Hispanic population, which represents 17.8 percent of the total county population. The following graph illustrates the composition of the 17.8 percent Hispanic population by race and ethnicity.

Benton County Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity and Race – 2020 Census

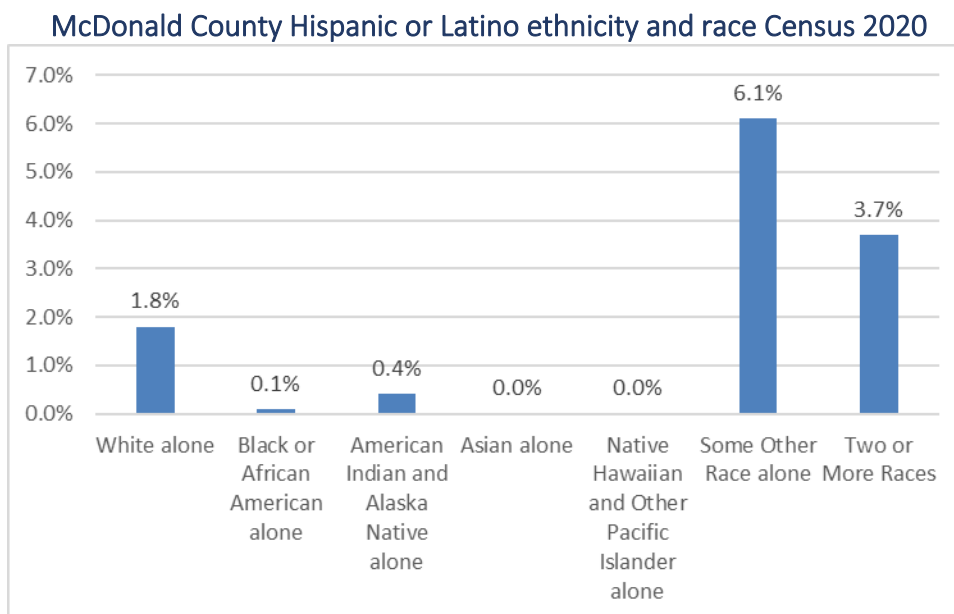


Washington County had 44,755 Hispanic population, which represents 18.2 percent of the total population. The following graph illustrates the composition of the 18.2 percent Hispanic population by race and ethnicity.

Washington County Hispanic or Latino ethnicity and race – 2020 Census



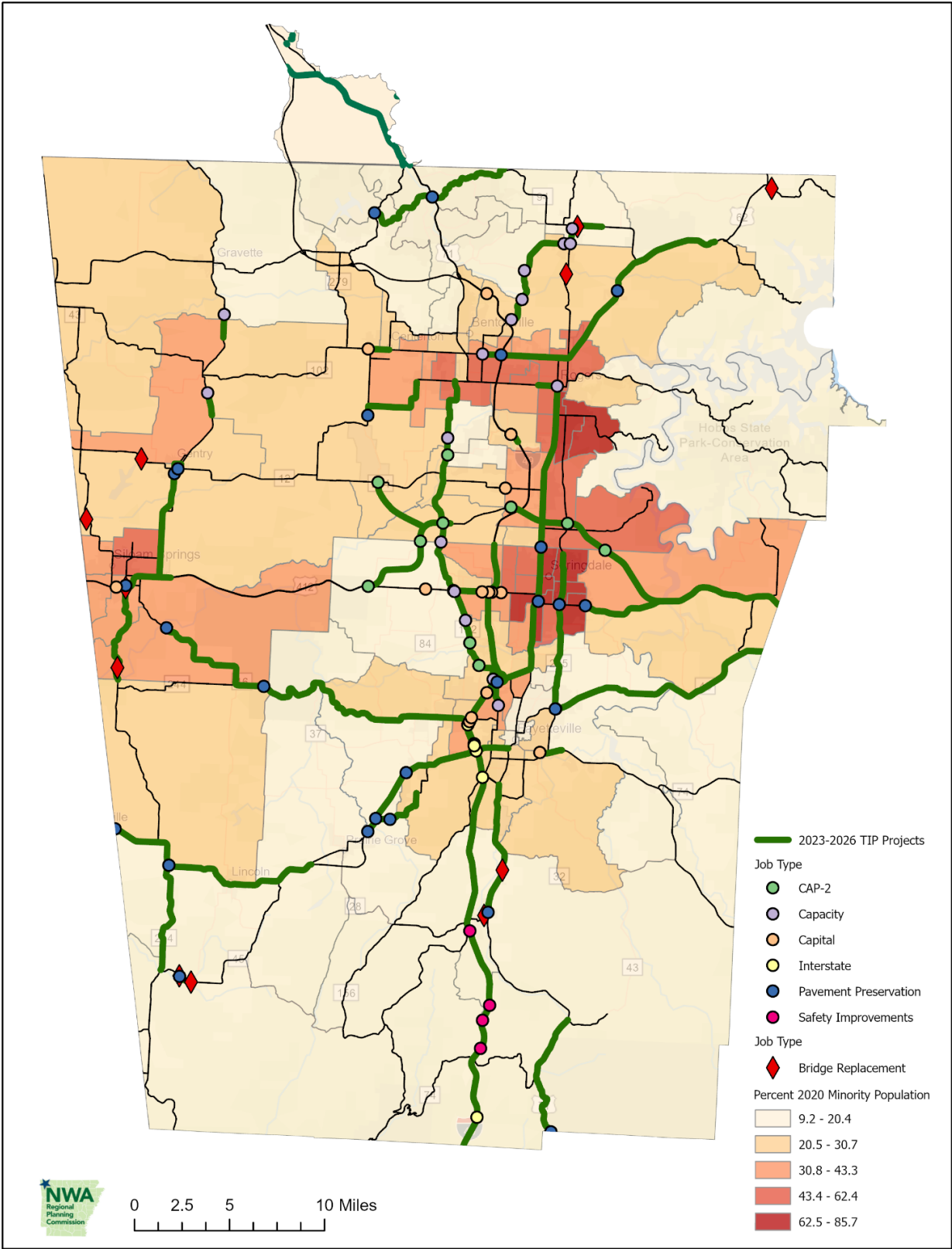
McDonald County had 2,818 Hispanic population, which represents 12.1 percent of the total population. The following graph illustrates the composition of the 12.1 percent Hispanic population by race and ethnicity.



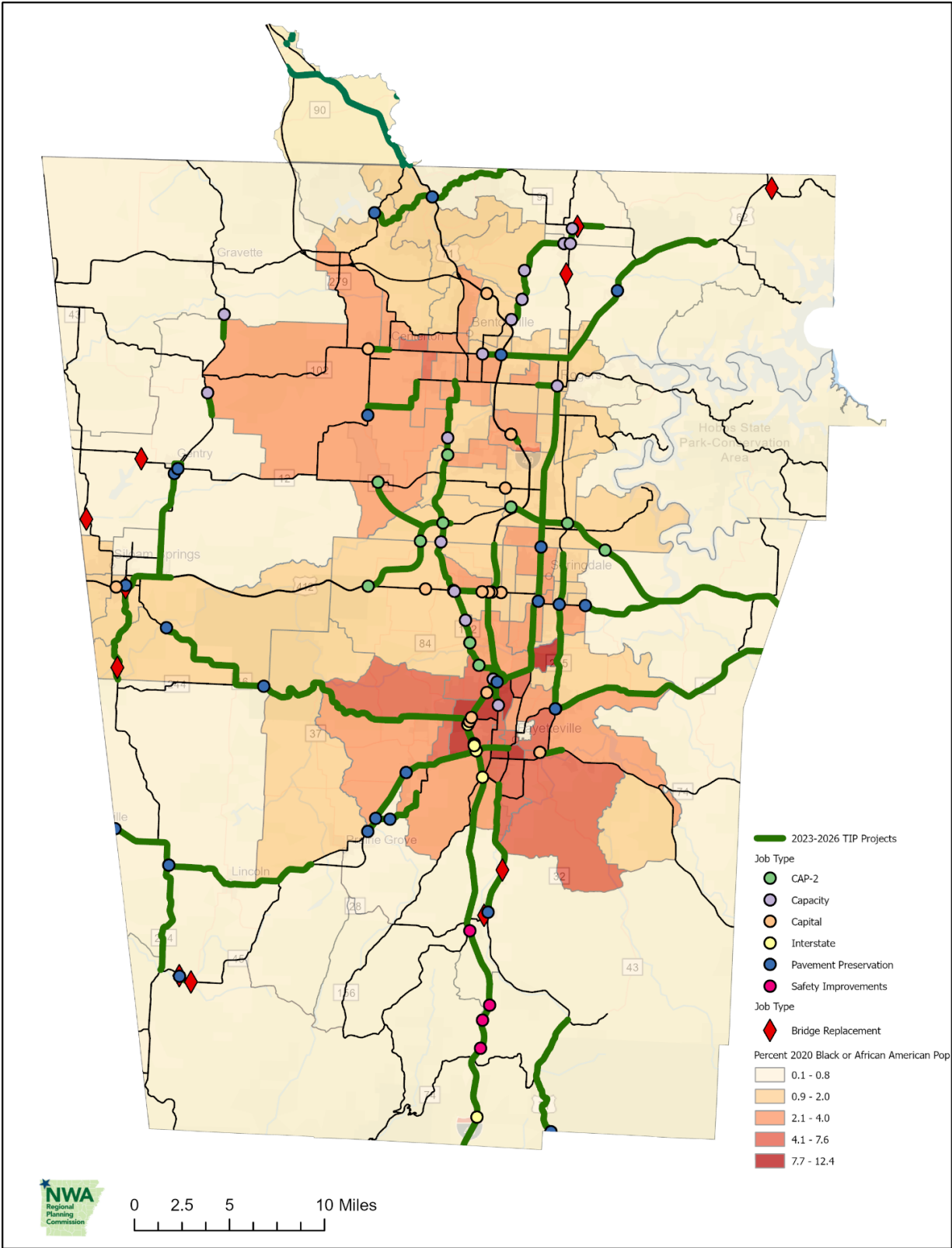
Federally Funded Projects

Map #1 illustrates project locations of **FFY 2023-2026** Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in relation to all minority population in the MPA. Maps #2 through #6 illustrate race and ethnicity by 2020 Census Tracts in relation to the 2023-2026 TIP projects in the MPA.

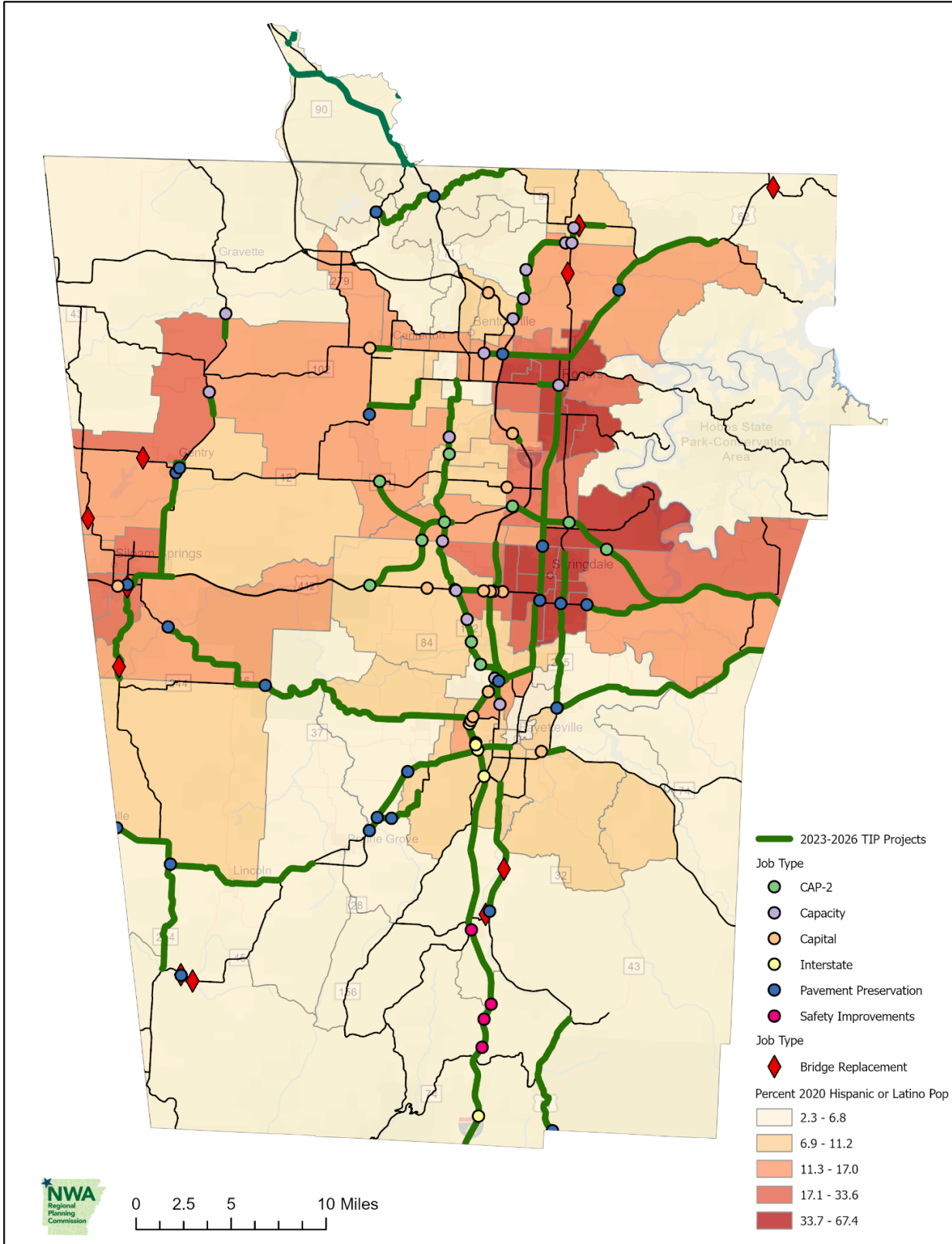
MAP #1: FY 2021-2024 TIP Projects and Minority Population



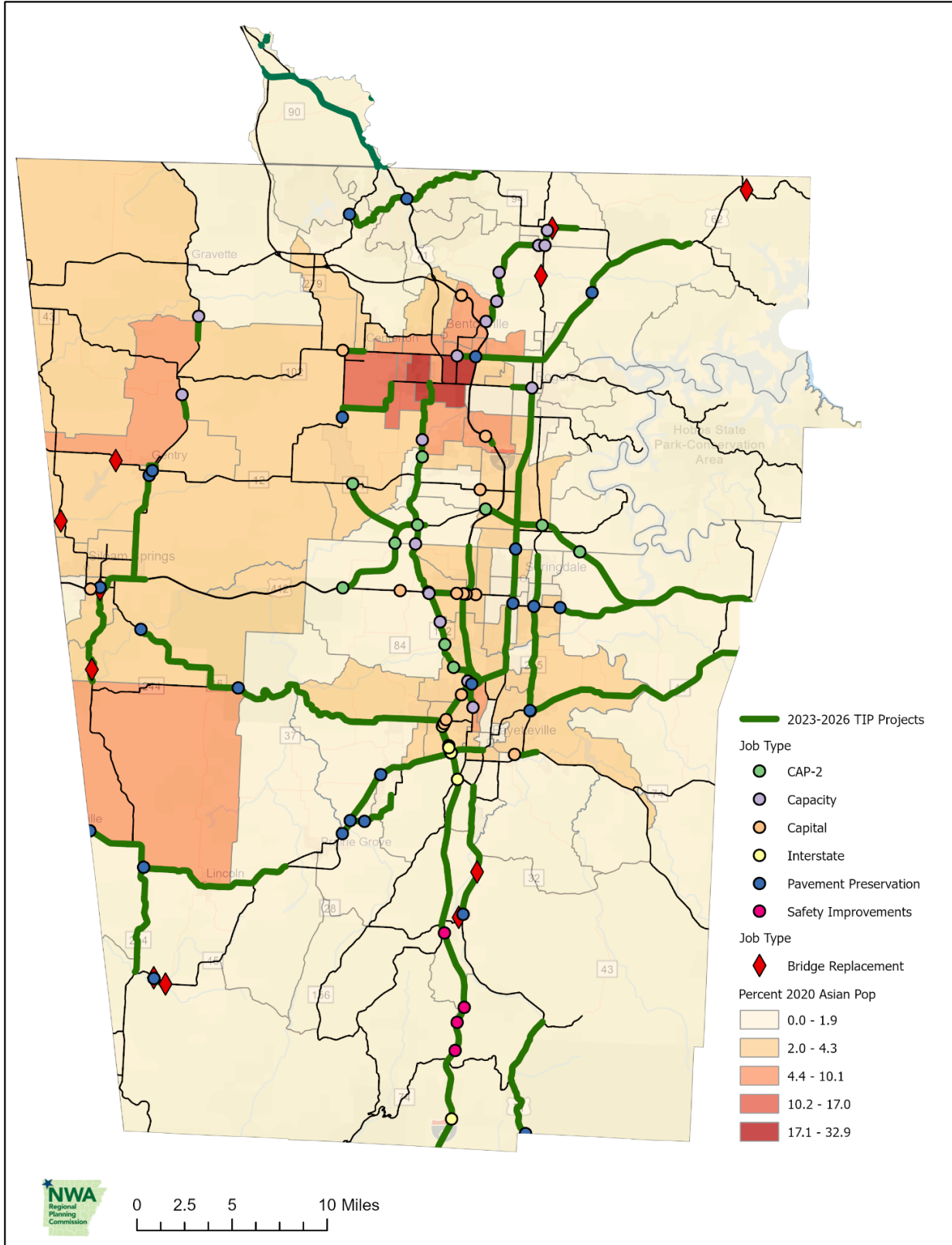
MAP #2: Black or African American Population and TIP Projects



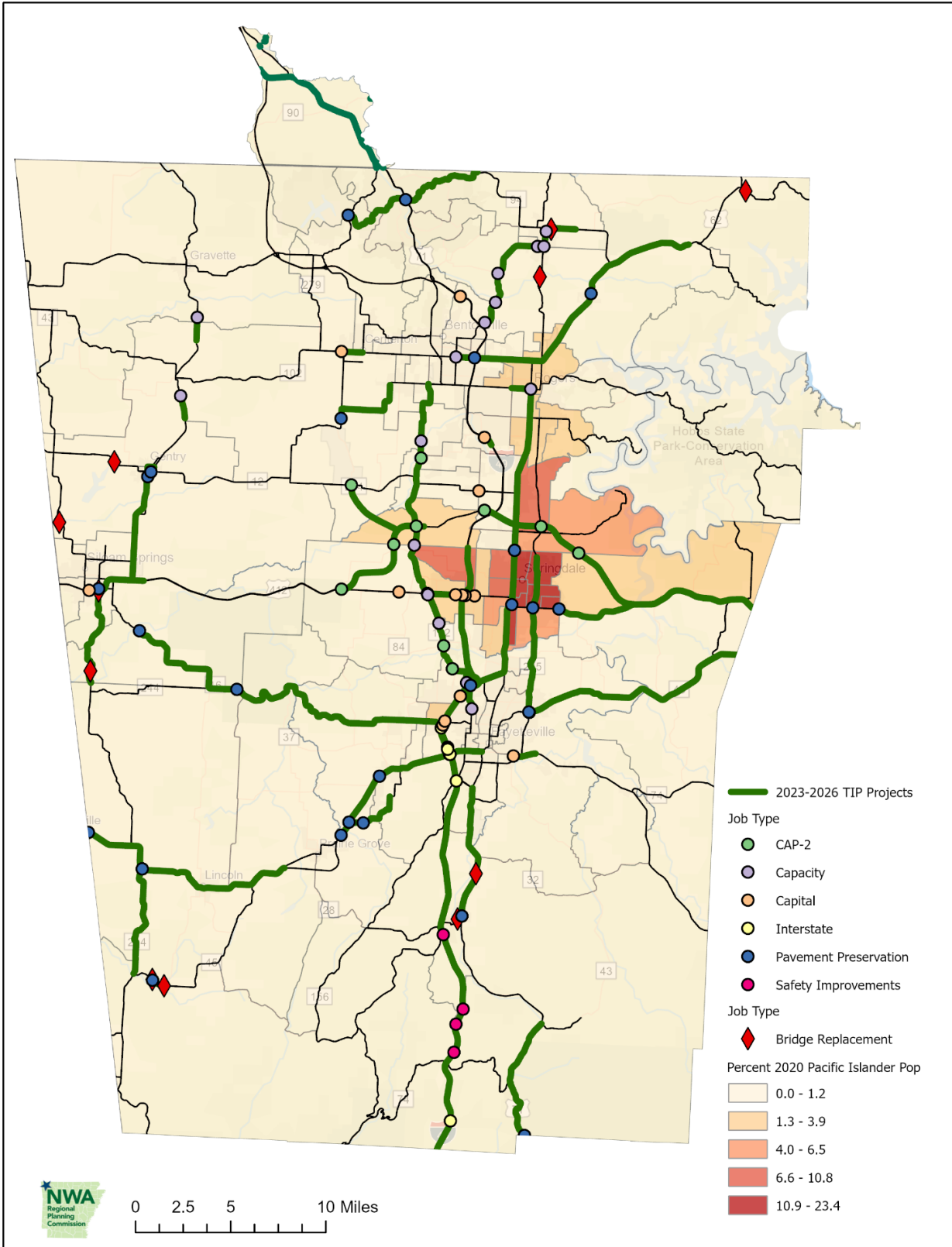
MAP #3: Hispanic Population and TIP Projects



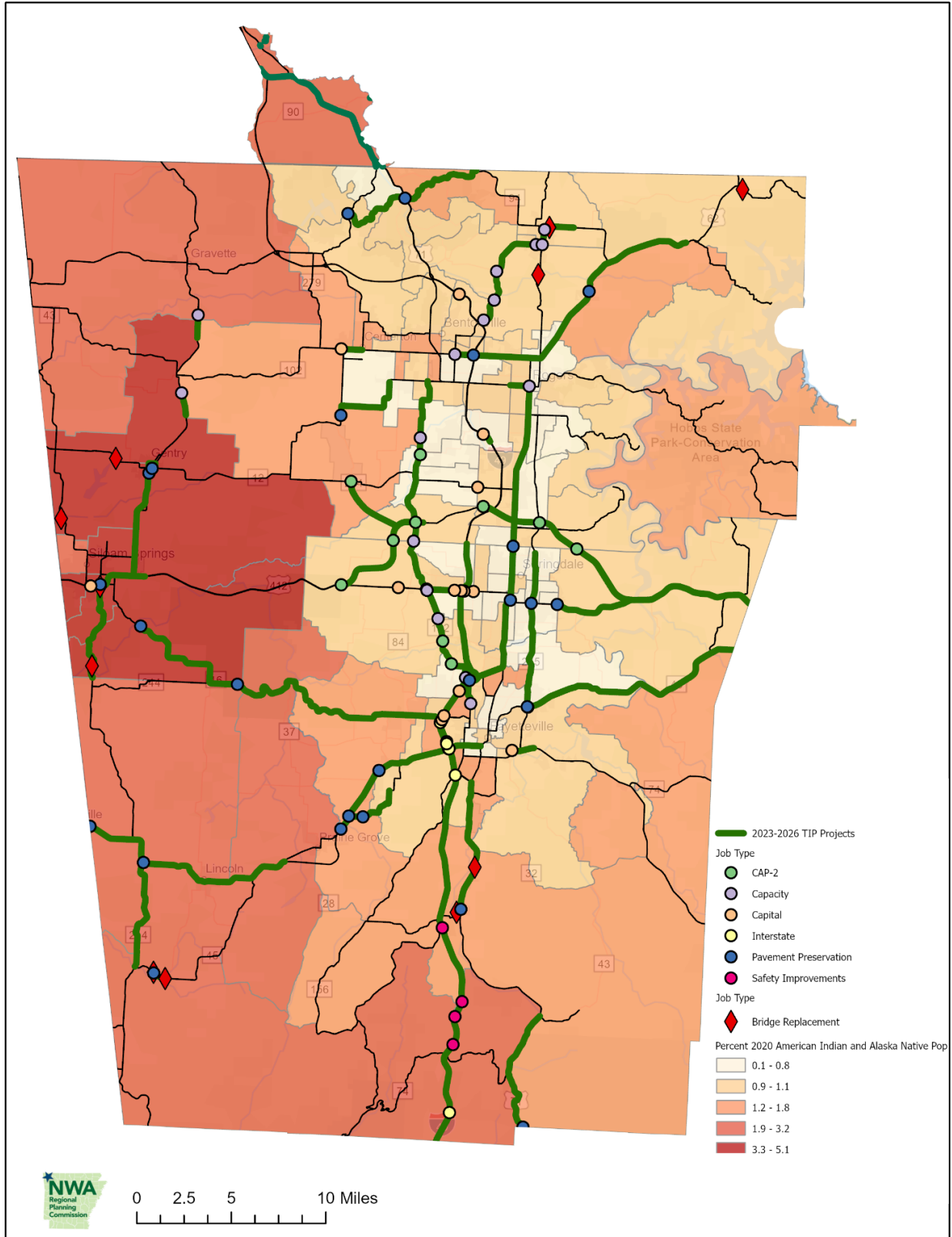
MAP #4: Asian American Population and TIP Projects



MAP #5: Other Pacific Islander Population and TIP Projects



MAP #6: Native American and Alaska Native Population and TIP Projects



XII. MOBILITY NEEDS OF MINORITIES

The mobility needs of minority populations are identified through engagement efforts, data collection, and analysis of available census data, public comment, and other available sources. The policy and guidance for public engagement is established in the NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP).

NWARPC's policy for public engagement includes activities and outreach efforts such as soliciting the opinions of those under-served by existing transportation systems, including but not limited to minorities, and periodically reviewing adopted public comment processes to determine their effectiveness in assuring that the process provides full and open access to all, through surveys, public meetings, open houses, public notices, website posting, emails and public comments.

Data analysis through GIS and the Northwest Arkansas Travel Demand Model are key techniques used to identify and engage under-represented populations. NWARPC utilizes data for planning products and can identify other population groups by sex, age, persons per square mile, persons over the age of 65, disabled population, zero car households, employment density and other population characteristics as needed.

The NWARPC's efforts in reaching people who have not been traditionally participating in the transportation process include translation and publication of all the public participation notices, surveys or announcements in Spanish on both the NWARPC website and the printed local media. NWARPC holds public input meetings in public/community locations that are ADA accessible and, when possible, accessible through public transit and pedestrian/bike facilities, such as public libraries or community centers.

The following measures were identified to increase minority and low-income public participation:

- Gathering and analyzing the 2020 Census Bureau's data, as well as the ACS five-year estimates to depict the concentration and distribution of the minority and low-income populations across the MPA.
- Overlaying the 2045 MTP future road network with the population distribution estimates from the ACS to help determine where resources should be directed and recognize if environmental justice communities are adversely impacted or denied the benefits of the anticipated projects.
- Creating GIS maps and analysis of potential transit routes and stops that the two transit agencies in the region are planning to identify where minority and low-income population are concentrated in relation to these future routes. (See the Connect NWA-Transit Development Plan at <https://www.nwarpc.org/transit/connect-northwest-arkansas/>.)
- Coordinating with the communities that adopted the Northwest Arkansas Regional Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan and assisting them in developing pertinent data and maps to identify areas of planned trails that are accessible to minority and low-income populations.

The principles of **Environmental Justice**, as outlined by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, have been used to ensure that the process of transportation planning is consistent with Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, dated February 11, 1994, and the subsequent U.S. Department of Transportation Order 5680.3, issued April 15, 1997.

Three fundamental Environmental Justice principles, which require the inclusion of traditionally underserved populations, are:

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority or low-income population.

APPENDIX A

Standard DOT Assurances

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Standard Title VI/

Non-Discrimination Assurances

DOT Order No. 1050.2A

The **Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission** (herein referred to as the "Recipient"), **HEREBY AGREES THAT**, as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), through the **Federal Transit Administration**, is subject to and will comply with the following:

Statutory/Regulatory Authorities

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin);
- 49 C.F.R. Part 21 (entitled Non-discrimination In Federally-Assisted Programs Of The Department Of Transportation-Effectuation Of Title VI Of The Civil Rights Act Of 1964);
- 28 C.F.R. section 50.3 (U.S. Department of Justice Guidelines for Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964);

The preceding statutory and regulatory cites hereinafter are referred to as the "Acts" and "Regulations," respectively.

General Assurances

In accordance with the Acts, the Regulations, and other pertinent directives, circulars, policy, memoranda, and/or guidance, the Recipient hereby gives assurance that it will promptly take any measures necessary to ensure that:

*"No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity," for which the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance from DOT, including the **Federal Transit Administration**.*

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarified the original intent of Congress, with respect to Title VI and other Non-discrimination requirements (The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), by restoring the broad, institutional-wide scope and coverage of these non-discrimination statutes and requirements to include all programs and activities of the Recipient, so long as any portion of the program is Federally assisted.

Specific Assurances

More specifically, and without limiting the above general Assurance, the Recipient agrees with and gives the following Assurances with respect to its Federally assisted **FTA Program**:

1. The Recipient agrees that each "activity," "facility," or "program," as defined in §§ 21.23(b) and 21.23(e) of 49 C.F.R. § 21 will be (with regard to an "activity") facilitated, or will be (with regard to a "facility") operated, or will be (with regard to a "program") conducted in compliance with all requirements imposed by, or pursuant to the Acts and the Regulations.
2. The Recipient will insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids, Requests For Proposals for work, or material subject to the Acts and the Regulations made in connection with

all **FTA Programs** and, in adapted form, in all proposals for negotiated agreements regardless of funding source:

"The **Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission**, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award."

3. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix A and E of this Assurance in every contract or agreement subject to the Acts and the Regulations.
4. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix B of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any deed from the United States effecting or recording a transfer of real property, structures, use, or improvements thereon or interest therein to a Recipient.
5. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance to construct a facility, or part of a facility, the Assurance will extend to the entire facility and facilities operated in connection therewith.
6. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance in the form, or for the acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, the Assurance will extend to rights to space on, over, or under such property.
7. That the Recipient will include the clauses set forth in Appendix C and Appendix D of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any future deeds, leases, licenses, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Recipient with other parties:
 - a. for the subsequent transfer of real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program; and
 - b. for the construction or use of, or access to, space on, over, or under real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program.
8. That this Assurance obligates the Recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended to the program, except where the Federal financial assistance is to provide, or is in the form of, personal property, or real property, or interest therein, or structures or improvements thereon, in which case the Assurance obligates the Recipient, or any transferee for the longer of the following periods:
 - a. the period during which the property is used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits; or
 - b. the period during which the Recipient retains ownership or possession of the property.
9. The Recipient will provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation or the official to whom he/she delegates specific authority to give reasonable guarantee that it, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants of Federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed or pursuant to the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.

10. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.

By signing this ASSURANCE, **the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission** also agrees to comply (and require any sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, successors, transferees, and/or assignees to comply) with all applicable provisions governing the **Federal Transit Administration's** access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff. You also recognize that you must comply with any program or compliance reviews, and/or complaint investigations conducted by the **Federal Transit Administration**. You must keep records, reports, and submit the material for review upon request to **Federal Transit Administration**, or its designee in a timely, complete, and accurate way. Additionally, you must comply with all other reporting, data collection, and evaluation requirements, as prescribed by law or detailed in program guidance.

The **Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission** gives this ASSURANCE in consideration of and for obtaining any Federal grants, loans, contracts, agreements, property, and/or discounts, or other Federal-aid and Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipients by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the **FTA Program**. This ASSURANCE is binding on the **State of Arkansas**, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors and their subcontractors', transferees, successors in interest, and any other participants in the **FTA Program**. The person(s) signing below is authorized to sign this ASSURANCE on behalf of the Recipient.

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission



Signature of Authorized Official



Date

APPENDIX A

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees as follows:

1. **Compliance with Regulations:** The contractor (hereinafter includes consultants) will comply with the Acts and the Regulations relative to Non-discrimination in Federally- assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, **(Title of Modal Operating Administration)**, as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.
2. **Nondiscrimination:** The contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.
3. **Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations, either by competitive bidding, or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and the Acts and the Regulations relative to Non-discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.
4. **Information and Reports:** The contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Recipient or the **(Title of Modal Operating Administration)** to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish the information, the contractor will so certify to the Recipient or the **(Title of Modal Operating Administration)**, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of a contractor's noncompliance with the non-discrimination provisions of this contract, the Recipient will impose such contract sanctions as it or the **(Title of Modal Operating Administration)** may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - a. withholding payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies; and/or
 - b. cancelling, terminating, or suspending a contract, in whole or in part.
6. **Incorporation of Provisions:** The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs one through six in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the Recipient or the **(Title of Modal Operating Administration)** may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the contractor may request the Recipient to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of the Recipient. In addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

APPENDIX B

CLAUSES FOR DEEDS TRANSFERRING UNITED STATES PROPERTY

The following clauses will be included in deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein from the United States pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 4:

NOW, THEREFORE, the U.S. Department of Transportation as authorized by law and upon the condition that the **(Title of Recipient)** will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon in accordance with **(Name of Appropriate Legislative Authority)**, the Regulations for the Administration of **(Name of Appropriate Program)**, and the policies and procedures prescribed by the **(Title of Modal Operating Administration)** of the U.S. Department of Transportation in accordance and in compliance with all requirements imposed by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation pertaining to and effectuating the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d to 2000d-4), does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the **(Title of Recipient)** all the right, title, and interest of the U.S. Department of Transportation in and to said lands described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(HABENDUM CLAUSE)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto **(Title of Recipient)** and its successors forever, subject, however, to the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations herein contained as follows, which will remain in effect for the period during which the real property or structures are used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits and will be binding on the **(Title of Recipient)**, its successors and assigns.

The **(Title of Recipient)**, in consideration of the conveyance of said lands and interests in lands, does hereby covenant and agree as a covenant running with the land for itself, its successors and assigns, that (1) no person will on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination with regard to any facility located wholly or in part on, over, or under such lands hereby conveyed [,] [and]* (2) that the **(Title of Recipient)** will use the lands and interests in lands and interests in lands so conveyed, in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as said Regulations and Acts may be amended [, and (3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned non-discrimination conditions, the Department will have a right to enter or re-enter said lands and facilities on said land, and that above described land and facilities will thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the U.S. Department of Transportation and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction]. *

APPENDIX C

CLAUSES FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED OR IMPROVED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the **(Title of Recipient)** pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(a):

- A. The (grantee, lessee, permittee, etc. as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree [in the case of deeds and leases add "as a covenant running with the land"] that:
 - 1. In the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the property described in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a U.S. Department of Transportation activity, facility, or program is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all requirements imposed by the Acts and Regulations (as may be amended) such that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities.
- B. With respect to licenses, leases, permits, etc., in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, **(Title of Recipient)** will have the right to terminate the (lease, license, permit, etc.) and to enter, re-enter, and repossess said lands and facilities thereon, and hold the same as if the (lease, license, permit, etc.) had never been made or issued. *
- C. With respect to a deed, in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the **(Title of Recipient)** will have the right to enter or re-enter the lands and facilities thereon, and the above described lands and facilities will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the **(Title of Recipient)** and its assigns. *

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX D

CLAUSES FOR CONSTRUCTION/USE/ACCESS TO REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, permits, or similar instruments/agreements entered into by **(Title of Recipient)** pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(b):

- A. The (grantee, licensee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree (in the case of deeds and leases add, "as a covenant running with the land") that (1) no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities, (2) that **in** the construction of any improvements on, over, or under such land, and the furnishing of services thereon, no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will use the premises **in** compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Acts and Regulations, as amended, set forth in this Assurance.
- B. With respect to (licenses, leases, permits, etc.), in the event of breach of any of the above Non- discrimination covenants, **(Title of Recipient)** will have the right to terminate the (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) and to enter or re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) had never been made or issued.*
- C. With respect to deeds, in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, **(Title of Recipient)** will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of **(Title of Recipient)** and its assigns. *

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX E

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees to comply with the following non-discrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

Pertinent Nondiscrimination Authorities:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR Part 27;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 U.S.C. § 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage, and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration's Non-discrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low- Income Populations, which ensures Non-discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of Limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

APPENDIX B

Title VI Program Reports FFY 2021 - 2023

NARTS TITLE VI PROGRAM REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
SUBMITTED TO ARDOT ON OCTOBER 31, 2023

**NOTE: NWARPC HELD MEETINGS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY
AS NWARPC REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Were there any Title VI complaints received. If yes, what was the basis of the complaints?

- No Title VI complaints were received.

2. Name and Job Number of each public meeting held during the reporting period, if any.

- All NARTS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and RPC/Policy Committee meetings are open to the public. All meetings during the reporting period were offered in-person at the NWARPC office (unless otherwise noted below*) and virtually, as NWARPC remains committed to providing opportunities for public participation.

○ TAC met 10 times during reporting period (3rd Thursday of Month):

October 20, 2022	April 20, 2023
November 17, 2022	May 18, 2023
January 19, 2023	June 15, 2023
February 16, 2023	July 20, 2023
March 16, 2023*	August 17, 2023

○ RPC/Policy Committee met 9 times during reporting period (4th Wednesday of Month):

October, 26, 2022	May 24, 2023
December 7, 2022	June 28, 2023
February 22, 2023	July 26, 2023
March 22, 2023*	August 23, 2023
April 26, 2023	

* Meeting(s) held at NWA Council Conference Room, 4100 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 205, Springdale, Arkansas 72762 due to the remodeling of the NWARPC offices.

- One (1) open-house style public forum was held in the reporting period, in-person at the NWARPC office; and one (1) public hearing was held during the reporting period, in person at the NWARPC office and virtual during the regularly scheduled November TAC meeting:

October 20, 2022, 11:30am – 1:30pm, immediately following the TAC meeting	Open-House style Public Forum – Draft NARTS FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
November 17, 2022, during the regularly scheduled TAC meeting	Public Hearing – 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment (#2)

3. Was consideration for the location of the meeting given to accessibility for persons with disabilities and was accessibility requested? If yes, provide information on the requested accessibility and how it was provided?

- NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's facilities, programs and activities.
- No requests were received to provide special accommodations for persons with disabilities.

- The majority of NWARPC public meetings are held at the NWARPC building. The NWARPC building and parking lot are handicap accessible.
- Consideration is always given to accessibility when choosing a public meeting space other than the NWARPC building. If possible, a site is chosen that is accessible by a bus route. This proves difficult with a limited transit system.
- TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meetings:
 - All meetings during the reporting period were offered in-person at NWARPC and virtually, except for the March TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meetings, which were held at the NWA Council Conference Room, 4100 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 205, Springdale, Arkansas 72762, due to the remodeling of the NWARPC offices. The March meetings were also offered virtually. The location was handicap accessible, and there were no requests to provide special accommodations.
- No other public meetings were held at locations other than the NWARPC building during the reporting period.
- During the reporting period, one (1) open-house style public forum was held in-person at the NWARPC office; and one (1) public hearing was held in person at the NWARPC office and virtually, as described above (#2).

4. The approximate number of minority attendees at each public meeting.

- TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meetings:
 - NWARPC began collecting language spoken, gender, Hispanic/Latino and race information in July 2017.
 - Due to the nature of the hybrid, in-person and virtual meetings during the corona virus pandemic and ongoing, collection of language, gender, and race information was limited to in-person attendees.
 - On average, zero to one minority attended each TAC and/or RPC/Policy Committee meeting.
 - All language spoken was English and the gender majority was male.
- Public forums/hearings/open house:
 - Due to the nature of the hybrid, in-person and virtual meetings during the corona virus pandemic, collection of language, gender, and race information was limited to in-person attendees.
 - On average, zero to one minority persons attend.

5. List of documents that were translated to Spanish, if any.

- All advertisements/legal notices published in the *La Prensa Libre* are translated and published in Spanish. Whenever possible, the translated proof is included in NWARPC Public Notices emailed and published on our website, and in physical mailings to Human Services Agencies and Spanish Churches in the area.
- A flyer was developed for the NARTS FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process that was posted in English and Spanish on ORT buses (copy attached).

6. Special meetings held with community leaders, churches, schools, government officials, and neighborhood organizations concerning the public meetings or projects, if any. Provide information concerning the date(s) of the meeting(s), individuals attending, and items discussed.

- No special meetings were held where PL funds were used.

7. Public meetings advertised in minority newspapers and radio stations, if any. Provide the name of the newspaper(s) and radio station(s).

- All TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meeting notices, including information on public hearings and public forums, were published in the *Democrat Gazette*, the *McDonald County Press*, and translated and published in the Spanish paper, *La Prensa Libre*.

- 8. Flyers indicating the date, time and location of the public meeting(s) distributed directly to affected property owners, if any. Provide a copy of the flyer for each meeting.**
- Regular meeting notifications are mailed to Human Service Agencies and Spanish Churches in the area when they pertain to scheduled public comment periods for work products, and/or public hearings/forums.
 - A flyer was developed for the NARTS FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process that was posted in English and Spanish on ORT buses (copy attached).
- 9. Name of a Spanish-speaking individual available at each meeting, if any.**
- No requests were made during the reporting period for a Spanish-speaking individual to be available at any NWARPC meeting.
 - NWARPC publishes the following statement in all legal notices, and other publications: "If information is needed in another language, contact Nicole Gibbs. Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese Nicole Gibbs, 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta."
- 10. List of community centers utilized in minority communities, if any.**
- NWARPC holds many public input meetings at the Jones Center in Springdale if the facility is available. None were utilized during the reporting period.
- 11. Were there any activities and/or studies conducted that provided data relative to minority individuals, neighborhoods, income level, physical environment, and travel habits? If yes, provide information on how the activities and/or studies were or will be used.**
- Staff assists ARDOT/consultants in studies.
- 12. List of Federal funded contracts awarded to sub recipients including dollar amount.**
- PL funds, in the amount of \$15,840.00 federal annually, to be matched annually with one-third shares of \$1,320.00 each by NWARPC, Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit for a three-year contract for the purchase of Remix Transit Software for use by NWARPC, Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit.

NARTS DBE reports are submitted separately.

If you need further information, please call Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator) at 479-751-7125 ext. 106, or email ngibbs@nwarpc.org.



PUBLIC NOTICE:

DRAFT NARTS FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PUBLIC FORUM AND COMMENT PERIOD

PUBLIC FORUM: The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission is inviting the public to attend an open-house style Public Forum concerning the Draft Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Draft TIP includes all federally funded transportation and transit projects in Benton and Washington Counties, along with a portion of McDonald County, Missouri, programmed within the four-year time period. The Public Forum will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2022 from 11:30am until 1:30pm, immediately following the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting, at the NWARPC office, located at 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762. The public is encouraged to drop in to view the TIP document and corresponding map, as well as to ask questions and offer comments to staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: A Public Comment period will commence with the Public Forum on Thursday, October 20, 2022 and run through 4:00 PM Friday, November 4, 2022. The Draft TIP document and corresponding map are available for review at the NWARPC office or on the NWARPC website at www.nwarpc.org/transportation/transportation-improvement-program. Copies can be mailed upon request. Written comments are encouraged via the comment tab on the NWARPC website at www.nwarpc.org/contact, sent directly to comments@nwarpc.org, or sent via the US Postal Service to NWARPC 1311 Clayton Street, Springdale, AR 72762.

APPROVAL PROCESS: The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will consider comments and the draft NARTS FFY 2023-2026 TIP for recommendation to the RPC/Policy Committee on November 17, 2022 at 10:30am. The RPC/Policy Committee will consider the draft NARTS FFY 2023-2026 TIP for approval on December 7, 2022 at 1:30pm. TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meetings are open to the public and held in-person and virtually. More information can be found on our website at www.nwarpc.org/events, or by calling 479-751-7125.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP): The public participation procedures outlined in the NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP) with respect to TIP development serve as the public participation process required for the development of transit projects as per FTA Circular 9030.1E. Specifically, the public participation procedures outlined in the PPP will serve to satisfy the Program of Projects (POP) requirements of the Section 5307, Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program for the University of Arkansas/Razorback Transit and Ozark Regional Transit. The NARTS and any and all public transit operators will address the POP requirements as per FTA Circular 9030.1E. Additionally, any and all public transit operator's capital projects and operational costs are included in the NARTS TIP which is developed through a cooperative and collaborative process with interested parties and other private and public transportation providers.

NWARPC NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY: The NWARPC complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the NWARPC's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voice/TTY 711 or 1-800-285-1131) or ngibbs@nwarpc.org; Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-636-1842; para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131 o ngibbs@nwarpc.org. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille. If information is needed in another language, contact NWARPC at least 48 hours before the meeting. Si se necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con NWARPC al menos 48 horas antes de la junta.



NOTICIA PUBLICA:

PROYECTO NARTS FFY 2023-2026 PROGRAMA DE MEJORA DEL TRANSPORTE (TIP) FORO PÚBLICO Y PERÍODO DE COMENTARIOS

FORO PÚBLICO: La Comisión Regional de Planificación del Noroeste de Arkansas esta invitando al público a asistir a su apertura de casa abierta Foro Público acerca del Proyecto de Transporte Regional del Noroeste de Arkansas (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 TIP. El proyecto TIP incluye todos los proyectos de transporte y tránsito financiados por el gobierno federal en los condados de Benton y Washington, junto con una parte del condado de McDonald, Missouri, programados dentro del periodo de cuatro años. El Foro se llevará a cabo **jueves 20 de octubre del 2022 de 11:30 a.m. a 1:30 p.m.**, inmediatamente después de la reunión de Comité y Asesor Técnico (TAC), en la oficina de NWARPC, ubicada en 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762. Se alienta al público a venir a ver el documento TIP y el mapa correspondiente, así como a hacer preguntas y ofrecer comentarios al personal.

PERÍODO DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS: El Período de comentarios públicos comenzará el **jueves 20 de octubre de 2022 se llevará a cabo hasta las 4:00 p.m. del viernes 4 de noviembre de 2022.** El plan de documento TIP y el mapa correspondiente están disponibles para su revisión en la oficina NWARPC o en el sitio web de NWARPC www.nwarpc.org/transportation/transportation-improvement-program. Copias se pueden enviar por correo bajo petición. Se les alienta hacer comentarios escritos seleccione la tecla de comentarios en el sitio web de NWARPC en comments@nwarpc.org enviados directamente a comentarios comments@nwarpc.org o enviados a través del Servicio Postal de los Estados Unidos a NWARPC 1311 Clayton Street, Springdale, AR 72762.

PROCESO DE APROBACIÓN: El Comité Asesor Técnico (TAC) considerara los comentarios y el proyecto TIP NARTS FFY 2023-2026 para su recomendación al RPC / Comité de Políticas el **17 de noviembre de 2022 a las 10:30 a.m.** El RPC / Comité de Políticas considerará el proyecto de NARTS FFY 2023-2026 TIP para su aprobación el **7 de diciembre de 2022 a la 1:30 p.m.** Las reuniones del TAC y del RPC/Comité de Políticas están abiertas al público y se llevan a cabo en persona y virtualmente. Puede encontrar más información en nuestro sitio web en, www.nwarpc.org/events o llamando al 479-751-7125.

PROGRAMA DE MEJORAMIENTO DEL TRANSPORTE (TIP) PROCESO DE PARTICIPACIÓN PÚBLICA PARA EL PROGRAMA DE PROYECTOS (POP): Los procedimientos de participación pública descritos en el Plan de Participación Pública (PPP) de NWARPC con respecto al desarrollo de TIP sirven como el proceso de participación pública requerido para el desarrollo de proyectos de tránsito según la Circular 9030.1E del TLC. Específicamente, los procedimientos de participación pública descritos en el PPP servirán para satisfacer los requisitos del Programa de Proyectos (POP) de la Sección 3307, Programa de Subvención de Fórmula de Área Urbanizada para la Universidad de Arkansas / Razorback Transit y Ozark Regional Transit. El NARTS y todos y cada uno de los operadores de transporte público abordarán los requisitos de POP según la Circular FTA 9030.1E. Además, todos y cada uno de los proyectos de capital y costos operativos de los operadores de transporte público se incluyen en el NARTS TIP, que se desarrolla a través de un proceso cooperativo y colaborativo con las partes interesadas y otros proveedores de transporte privado y público.

AVISO DE POLÍTICA DE NO DISCRIMINACIÓN DE NWARPC: El NWARPC cumple con todas las disposiciones de derechos civiles de los estatutos federales y autoridades relacionadas que prohíben la discriminación en los programas y actividades que reciben asistencia financiera federal. Por lo tanto, el NWARPC no discrimina por motivos de raza, sexo, color, edad, origen nacional, religión o discapacidad, en la admisión, el acceso y el tratamiento en los programas y actividades de NWARPC, así como en las prácticas de contratación o empleo del NWARPC. Las quejas de presunta discriminación las consultas relacionadas con las políticas de no discriminación de NWARPC pueden dirigirse a Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Planificador Regional – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Coordinador del Título VI), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voz/TTY 711 o 1-800-283-1131) o ngibbs@nwarpc.org. Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842; para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-283-1131 o ngibbs@nwarpc.org. Este aviso está disponible en el Coordinador de ADA/504/Título VI en letra grande, en cinta de audio y en Braille. Si se necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con NWARPC al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Lorie H. Tudor, P.E., Director

EEO/DBE SECTION

10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2298 | Fax: 501.569.2965

October 11, 2022

TO: David Siskowski, Assistant Division Head-Transportation Planning & Policy

SUBJECT: Title VI Program

In order to determine if ARDOT is continuing to be in compliance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the following information should be prepared by Statewide Planning and submitted to the EEO/DBE Section by November 5, 2022. The information submitted should be for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

- Were there any Title VI complaints received. If yes, what was the basis of the complaints?
- Name and Job Number of each public meeting held during the reporting period, if any
- Was consideration for the location of the meeting given to accessibility for persons with disabilities and was accessibility requested? If yes, provide information on the requested accessibility and how was it provided?
- The approximate number of minority attendees at each public meeting.
- List of documents that were translated to Spanish, if any.
- Special meetings held with community leaders, churches, schools, government officials, and neighborhood organizations concerning the public meetings or projects, if any. Provide information concerning the date(s) of the meeting(s), individuals attending, and items discussed.
- Public meetings advertised in minority newspapers and radio stations, if any. Provide the name of the newspaper(s) and radio station(s).
- Flyers indicating the date, time and location of the public meeting(s) distributed directly to affected property owners, if any. Provide a copy of the flyer for each meeting.
- Name of a Spanish-speaking individual available at each meeting, if any.
- List of community centers utilized in minority communities, if any.
- Were there any activities and/or studies conducted that provided data relative to minority individuals, neighborhoods, income level, physical environment and travel habits? If yes, provide information on how the activities and/or studies were or will be used.
- List of Federal funded contracts awarded to sub recipients including dollar amount.

The above information should be provided by any agency and/or organization that were awarded a contract that included Federal funds from Statewide Planning. The agency and/or organization should also provide information as to if they solicited and/or awarded any contracts, services, and/or ordered supplies. If yes, provide the name of each firm, dollar amount and identify if the firm was a minority, female and /or DBE owned.

Should you have questions or require assistance, feel free to contact me at extension 2298.


Joanna P. McFadden
EEO/DBE Officer

c: Director
Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning
Division Head of Transportation Planning & Policy

NARTS TITLE VI PROGRAM REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022
SUBMITTED TO ARDOT ON OCTOBER 31, 2022

NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC, NWARPC HELD MEETINGS
DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY

1. Were there any Title VI complaints received. If yes, what was the basis of the complaints?

- No Title VI complaints were received.

2. Name and Job Number of each public meeting held during the reporting period, if any

- All NARTS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and RPC/Policy Committee meetings are open to the public. All meetings during the reporting period were offered in-person and virtually due to the corona virus pandemic.
 - TAC met 7 times during reporting period:

October 21, 2021	May 19, 2022
January 20, 2022	July 21, 2022
March 17, 2022	August 18, 2022*
April 21, 2022	
 - RPC/Policy Committee met 7 times during reporting period:

October, 27, 2021	May 25, 2022
January 26, 2022	July 27, 2022
March 23, 2022	August 24, 2022
April 27, 2022	
- One public hearing was held in the reporting period; all forums were held in-person and virtually due to the corona virus pandemic during a regularly scheduled RPC/Policy Committee meeting.

August 18, 2022*	Public Hearing – 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment (#1)
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3. Was consideration for the location of the meeting given to accessibility for persons with disabilities and was accessibility requested? If yes, provide information on the requested accessibility and how was it provided?

- No requests were received to make special accommodations for persons with disabilities.
- Consideration is always given to accessibility when choosing a public meeting space other than the NWARPC building. If possible, a site is chosen that is accessible by a bus route. This proves difficult with a limited transit system. No public meetings were held at locations other than the NWARPC building during the reporting period.
- NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's facilities, programs and activities.
- TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meetings:
 - All meetings during the reporting period were offered in-person and virtually due to the corona virus pandemic.
 - The NWARPC building and parking lot are handicap accessible.
- The public hearing on August 18, 2022 was offered in-person and virtually due to the corona virus pandemic during a regularly scheduled TAC meeting.

4. The approximate number of minority attendees at each public meeting.

- TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meetings:

- NWARPC began collecting language spoken, gender, Hispanic/Latino and race information in July 2017.
- Due to the nature of the hybrid, in-persona and virtual meetings during the corona virus pandemic, collection of language, gender, and race information was limited.
- On average, zero to one minority attended each TAC and/or RPC/Policy Committee meeting.
- All language spoken was English and the gender majority was male.
- Public forums/hearings/open house:
 - No public comments were made during the event.
 - Due to the nature of the hybrid, in-person and virtual meetings during the corona virus pandemic, collection of language, gender, and race information was limited.

5. List of documents that were translated to Spanish, if any.

- All advertisements/legal notices published in the *La Prensa Libre* are translated and published in Spanish. Whenever possible, the translated proof is included in NWARPC Public Notices published on our website, and in physical mailings to Human Services Agencies and Spanish Churches in the area.
- No other documents were translated during the reporting period.

6. Special meetings held with community leaders, churches, schools, government officials, and neighborhood organizations concerning the public meetings or projects, if any. Provide information concerning the date(s) of the meeting(s), individuals attending, and items discussed.

- No special meetings were held where PL funds were used.

7. Public meetings advertised in minority newspapers and radio stations, if any. Provide the name of the newspaper(s) and radio station(s).

- All TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meeting notices, including information on public forums, were published in the *Democrat Gazette*, the *McDonald County Press*, and translated and published in the Spanish paper, *La Prensa Libre*.

8. Flyers indicating the date, time and location of the public meeting(s) distributed directly to affected property owners, if any. Provide a copy of the flyer for each meeting.

- No flyers were developed during the reporting period, apart from regular meeting notifications described above. Notices are mailed to Human Service Agencies and Spanish Churches in the area when they pertain to scheduled public comment periods for work products, or public hearings/forums.

9. Name of a Spanish-speaking individual available at each meeting, if any.

- No requests were made during the reporting period for a Spanish-speaking individual to be available at any NWARPC meeting.
- NWARPC publishes the following statement in all legal notices, and other publications: "If information is needed in another language, contact Nicole Gibbs. Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese Nicole Gibbs, 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta."

10. List of community centers utilized in minority communities, if any.

- NWARPC holds many public input meetings at the Jones Center in Springdale if the facility is available. None were utilized during the reporting period.

11. Were there any activities and/or studies conducted that provided data relative to minority individuals, neighborhoods, income level, physical environment and travel habits? If yes, provide information on how the activities and/or studies were or will be used.

- Staff assists ARDOT/consultants in studies.

12. List of Federal funded contracts awarded to sub recipients including dollar amount.

- PL funds, in the amount of \$15,840.00 federal annually, to be matched annually with one-third shares of \$1,320.00 each by NWARPC, Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit for a three-year contract for the purchase of Remix Transit Software for use by NWARPC, Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit.

NARTS DBE reports are submitted separately.

If you need further information, please call Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator) at 479-751-7125 ext. 106, or email ngibbs@nwarpc.org.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

M E M O R A N D U M

October 16, 2020

TO: David Siskowski, Assistant Division Head

SUBJECT: Title VI Program

In order to determine if ARDOT is continuing to be in compliance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the following information should be prepared by Statewide Planning and submitted to the EEO/DBE Section by **October 31, 2021**. The information submitted should be for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

- Were there any Title VI complaints received. If yes, what was the basis of the complaints?
- Name and Job Number of each public meeting held during the reporting period, if any
- Was consideration for the location of the meeting given to accessibility for persons with disabilities and was accessibility requested? If yes, provide information on the requested accessibility and how was it provided?
- The approximate number of minority attendees at each public meeting.
- List of documents that were translated to Spanish, if any.
- Special meetings held with community leaders, churches, schools, government officials, and neighborhood organizations concerning the public meetings or projects, if any. Provide information concerning the date(s) of the meeting(s), individuals attending, and items discussed.
- Public meetings advertised in minority newspapers and radio stations, if any. Provide the name of the newspaper(s) and radio station(s).
- Flyers indicating the date, time and location of the public meeting(s) distributed directly to affected property owners, if any. Provide a copy of the flyer for each meeting.
- Name of a Spanish-speaking individual available at each meeting, if any.
- List of community centers utilized in minority communities, if any.
- Were there any activities and/or studies conducted that provided data relative to minority individuals, neighborhoods, income level, physical environment and travel habits? If yes, provide information on how the activities and/or studies were or will be used.
- List of Federal funded contracts awarded to sub recipients including dollar amount.

The above information should be provided by any agency and/or organization that were awarded a contract that included Federal funds from Statewide Planning. The agency and/or organization should also provide information as to if they solicited and/or awarded any contracts, services, and/or ordered supplies. If yes, provide the name of each firm, dollar amount and identify if the firm was a minority, female and /or DBE owned.

Should you have questions or require assistance, feel free to contact me at extension 2298.

Joanna P. McFadden
EEO/DBE Section Head

c: Director
Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning
Division Head of Transportation Planning & Policy

NARTS TITLE VI PROGRAM REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021
SUBMITTED TO ARDOT ON OCTOBER 22, 2021

NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC, NWARPC MOVED TO VIRTUAL MEETINGS BEGINNING IN APRIL 2020
AND MOVED TO HYBRID, IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL, MEETINGS JULY 2021.

1. Were there any Title VI complaints received. If yes, what was the basis of the complaints?

- No Title VI complaints were received.

2. Name and Job Number of each public meeting held during the reporting period, if any

- All NARTS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and RPC/Policy Committee meetings are open to the public. All meetings during the reporting period were offered virtually due to the corona virus pandemic; after July 2021, meetings were offered in-person and virtually.
 - TAC met 9 times during reporting period:

October 15, 2020	April 15, 2021
November 19, 2020	May 20, 2021
December 17, 2020	July 15, 2021
January 21, 2021	August 19, 2021
March 18, 2021	
 - RPC/Policy Committee met 7 times during reporting period:

October, 28, 2020*	May 26, 2021
December 2, 2020*	July 28, 2021
January 27, 2021*	August 25, 2021
March 24, 2021	
- Three public forums were held in the reporting period; all forums were held virtually due to the corona virus pandemic during a regularly scheduled RPC/Policy Committee meeting.

October 28, 2020*	Virtual Public Forum – Draft NARTS 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
December 2, 2020*	Virtual Public Hearing – Draft 2021 Title VI Program
January 27, 2021*	Virtual Public Open House – Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

3. Was consideration for the location of the meeting given to accessibility for persons with disabilities and was accessibility requested? If yes, provide information on the requested accessibility and how was it provided?

- No requests were received to make special accommodations for persons with disabilities.
- Consideration is always given to accessibility when choosing a public meeting space other than the NWARPC building. If possible, a site is chosen that is accessible by a bus route. This proves difficult with a limited transit system.
- NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's facilities, programs and activities.
- TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meetings:
 - All meetings during the reporting period were offered virtually due to the corona virus pandemic; after July 2021, meetings were offered in-person and virtually.
 - The NWARPC building and parking lot are handicap accessible.
- The public forum (October 28, 2020), public hearing (December 2, 2020), and open house (January 27, 2021) were offered virtually due to the corona virus pandemic during regularly scheduled RPC/Policy Committee meetings.

4. The approximate number of minority attendees at each public meeting.

- TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meetings:
 - NWARPC began collecting language spoken, gender, Hispanic/Latino and race information in July 2017.
 - Due to the nature of the virtual meetings during the corona virus pandemic, collection of language, gender, and race information was limited.
 - On average, zero to one minority attended each TAC and/or RPC/Policy Committee meeting.
 - All language spoken was English and the gender majority was male.
- Public forums/hearings/open house:
 - No public comments were made during the three events.
 - Due to the nature of the virtual meetings during the corona virus pandemic, collection of language, gender, and race information was limited.

5. List of documents that were translated to Spanish, if any.

- No documents were translated.
- However, all advertisements/legal notices published in the *La Prensa Libre* are translated and published in Spanish.

6. Special meetings held with community leaders, churches, schools, government officials, and neighborhood organizations concerning the public meetings or projects, if any. Provide information concerning the date(s) of the meeting(s), individuals attending, and items discussed.

- No special meetings were held where PL funds were used.

7. Public meetings advertised in minority newspapers and radio stations, if any. Provide the name of the newspaper(s) and radio station(s).

- All TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meeting notices, including information on public forums, were published in the *Democrat Gazette*, the *McDonald County Press*, and translated and published in the Spanish paper, *La Prensa Libre*.

8. Flyers indicating the date, time and location of the public meeting(s) distributed directly to affected property owners, if any. Provide a copy of the flyer for each meeting.

- A flyer was developed in English and Spanish and posted in Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit buses and facilities for the public comment period concerning the draft NARTS 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (see flyers attached).

9. Name of a Spanish-speaking individual available at each meeting, if any.

- No requests were made during the reporting period for a Spanish-speaking individual to be available at any NWARPC meeting.
- NWARPC publishes the following statement in all legal notices, and other publications: "If information is needed in another language, contact Nicole Gibbs. Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese Nicole Gibbs, 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta."

10. List of community centers utilized in minority communities, if any.

- NWARPC holds many public input meetings at the Jones Center in Springdale if the facility is available.

11. Were there any activities and/or studies conducted that provided data relative to minority individuals, neighborhoods, income level, physical environment and travel habits? If yes, provide information on how the activities and/or studies were or will be used.

- Staff assists ARDOT/consultants in studies.

12. List of Federal funded contracts awarded to sub recipients including dollar amount.

- PL funds, in the amount of \$15,840.00 federal annually, to be matched annually with one-third shares of \$1,320.00 each by NWARPC, Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit for a three-year contract for the purchase of Remix Transit Software for use by NWARPC, Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit.

The NARTS DBE reports were completed and submitted separately stating that NWARPC/NARTS does not meet the threshold for DBE reporting. If you need further information, please call Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator) at 479-751-7125 ext. 106, or email ngibbs@nwarpc.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE:
**DRAFT NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, TAC AND RPC/POLICY
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

PUBLIC FORUM: The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) held a virtual Public Forum on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 presenting the Draft Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2021-2024 TIP. The public was invited to attend and comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

A Public Comment period will **begin on Thursday, November 5, 2020 and run until 5:00 PM Wednesday, November 18, 2020.** The Draft TIP document and corresponding map are available for review on the NWARPC web site at <https://www.nwarpc.org>. The NWARPC office is closed to the public due to the COVID-19 health emergency, however staff is available to answer questions at 479-751-7125. Copies can be mailed upon request. Written comments are encouraged via the comment tab available on the NWARPC web site at <https://www.nwarpc.org/contact/> or the USPS.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING: The TAC will hold a virtual meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 10:30 AM with the purpose of discussing and voting to move the Draft NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC)/Policy Committee for consideration.

RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING: The RPC/Policy Committee will hold a virtual meeting, Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 1:30 PM with the purpose of discussing and voting on approval of the Draft NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

MEETING INFORMATION: TAC and RPC/Policy Committee meetings will be held virtually and information on how to attend the meetings can be obtained by emailing Celia Scott-Silkwood at cscott-silkwood@nwarpc.org.

NWARPC DISCLAIMER: This notice is in accordance with the 2040 Northwest Arkansas Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Federal Transportation Act (FAST Act) in cooperation with local agencies, the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration. Documents are funded in part through grant(s) from the FHWA, FTA, and/or the U.S. Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of the NWARPC expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation. **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP):** The public participation procedures outlined in the NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP) with respect to TIP development serve as the public participation process required for the development of transit projects as per FTA Circular 9030.1E. Specifically, the public participation procedures outlined in the PPP will serve to satisfy the POP requirements of the Section 5307, Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program for the University of Arkansas/Razorback Transit and Ozark Regional Transit. The NARTS and any and all public transit operators will address the POP requirements as per FTA Circular 9030.1E. Additionally, any and all public transit operator's capital projects and operational costs are included in the NARTS TIP which is developed through a cooperative and collaborative process with interested parties and other private and public transportation providers. **NWARPC NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:** The NWARPC complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the NWARPC's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voice/TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-285-1131); Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842; para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131 or the following email address: cscott-silkwood@nwarpc.org. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille. If information is needed in another language, contact Celia Scott-Silkwood. Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese Celia Scott-Silkwood, 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta.

NOTICIA PUBLICA:
**PROYECTO DE NARTS FFY 2021-2024 PROGRAMA DE MEJORA DEL
TRANSPORTE (TIP)**
**PERIODO DE COMENTARIOS PUBLICOS, TAC AND RPC/REUNIONES
DEL COMITE DE POLITICAS**

FORO PUBLICO: La Comisión Regional de Planificación del Noroeste de Arkansas (NWARPC) celebró un Foro Público virtual el Miércoles, 28, de Octubre de 2020 presentando el Proyecto de Estudio Regional de Transporte del Noroeste de Arkansas (NARTS) FFY 2021-2024 TIP. Se invitó al público a asistir y comentar.

PERIODO DE COMENTARIOS PUBLICOS:

Un período de comentarios públicos comenzará **El Jueves 5 de Noviembre de 2020 se llevará a cabo hasta las 5:00 PM del Miércoles 18 de Noviembre de 2020**. El plan de documento TIP y el mapa correspondiente están disponibles para su revisión en el sitio web de NWARPC <https://www.nwarpc.org>. La oficina de NWARPC está cerrada al público debido a la emergencia sanitaria COVID-19, sin embargo, el personal está disponible para responder preguntas al 479-751-7125. Se pueden enviar copias por correo bajo petición. Se recomiendan comentarios escritos a través de la pestaña de comentarios disponible en el sitio web de NWARPC en <https://www.nwarpc.org/contact/> o el USPS.

REUNIÓN DEL COMITE ASESOR Tecnico (TAC): El TAC celebrará una reunión virtual el Jueves, 19, de Noviembre de 2020 a las 10:30 AM con el propósito de discutir y votar para aprobar el Proyecto de NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP a la Comisión Regional de Planificación (RPC)/Comité de Políticas para su consideración

REUNIÓN DEL COMITÉ DE RPC/POLITICA: El Comité RPC/Política celebrará una reunión virtual, el Miércoles, 2, de Diciembre de 2020 a la 1:30 PM con el propósito de discutir y votar sobre la aprobación del Proyecto NARTS FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

INFORMACION DE ENCUENTRO: Las reuniones de TAC y RPC/Comité de Políticas se llevarán a cabo virtualmente y se puede obtener información sobre cómo asistir a las reuniones enviando un correo electrónico a Celia Scott-Silkwood en cscott-silkwood@nwarpc.org.

RENUNCIA DE NWARPC: Este aviso está de acuerdo con el Plan de Transporte Metropolitano del Noroeste de Arkansas 2040, la Ley Federal de Transporte (Fast Act) en cooperación con agencias locales, el Departamento de Transporte de Arkansas, el Departamento de Transporte de Missouri, la Administración Federal de Carreteras y la Administración Federal de Tránsito. Los documentos se financian en parte a través de subvenciones de la FHWA, el TLC y/o el Departamento de Transporte de los Estados Unidos. Las opiniones y opiniones de la NWARPC expresadas en el presente documento no necesariamente expresan ni reflejan las del Departamento de Transporte de los Estados Unidos. **PROCESO DE PARTICIPACION PUBLICA DEL PROGRAMA DE MEJORA DEL TRANSPORTE (TIP) PARA PROGRAMA DE PROYECTOS (POP):** Los procedimientos de participación pública descritos en el Plan de Participación Pública (PPP) de la NWARPC con respecto al desarrollo de TIP sirven como el proceso de participación pública requerido para el desarrollo de proyectos de tránsito según la Circular 9030.1E de FTA. Específicamente, los procedimientos de participación pública descritos en la PPP servirán para satisfacer los requisitos POP de la Sección 5307, Programa de Becas de Fórmula de área urbana para la Universidad de Arkansas/Razorback Transit y Ozark Regional Transit. El NARTS y todos y cada uno de los operadores de transporte público abordarán los requisitos de POP según la Circular 9030.1E del FTA. Además, todos y cada uno de los proyectos de capital del operador de transporte público y los costos operativos se incluyen en el NARTS TIP que se desarrolla a través de un proceso cooperativo y colaborativo con las partes interesadas y otros proveedores de transporte público y privado. **AVISO DE NODISCRIMINATION DE NWARPC:** La NWARPC cumple con todas las disposiciones de derechos civiles de las estatutas federales y las autoridades conexas que prohíben la discriminación en programas y actividades que reciben asistencia financiera federal. Por lo tanto, la NWARPC no discrimina por motivos de raza, sexo, color, edad, origen nacional, religión o discapacidad, en la admisión, acceso y tratamiento en los programas y actividades de NWARPC's los programas y actividades de NWARPC, así como las prácticas de contratación o empleo de la NWARPC. Las quejas de presunta discriminación y consultas sobre las políticas de no discriminación de la NWARPC pueden dirigirse a Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP, Planificador Regional – EEO/DBE (Coordinador ADA/504/Título VI), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voz/TTY 7-1-1 o 1-800-285-1131); Parámetros en español, marque el 866-656-1842; pap llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131 o la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico: cscott-silkwood@nwarpc.org. Este aviso está disponible en el Coordinador ADA/504/Título VI en letra grande, en cinta audio y en Braille. Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con Celia Scott-Silkwood, 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta.

APPENDIX C:

NWARPC Title VI Complaint Procedures and Forms

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

Title VI Complaint Procedures

"No Person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance." – Civil Rights Act of 1964

Your Civil Rights

Title VI, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., was enacted as part of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. It is the full intent of the NWARPC MPO to operate its programs without regards to race, color, and national origin. Guidance for the NWARPC Title VI program can be found in the Federal Transit Administration Circular 4702.1B, dated October 1, 2012.

Two Executive Orders define populations that are protected under Title VI:

- Executive Order 12898 is concerned with environmental justice for minority and low-income populations.
- Executive Order 13166 is concerned with providing equal access to services and benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency.

NWARPC has established a process for investigating and resolving complaints of discrimination related to MPO services, programs and its office. NWARPC's Title VI Coordinator is responsible for overseeing investigations and responses to complaints of discrimination. A Title VI discrimination complaint may be filed within 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination.

Complaints with incomplete information may result in delayed investigations and responses. NWARPC will not respond to complaints without the complainant's name and mailing address. Required complaint information includes:

- ☐ Complainant's name, mailing address and daytime phone number.
- ☐ Specific information relating to the incident in question: date, time, location, how the person was discriminated based upon disability, and any other applicable details.

Complaints may be submitted to NWARPC as follows:

- **In writing** to the NWARPC Title VI Coordinator, 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762. Complaints may also be emailed to ngibbs@nwarpc.org.
- **In person** at NWARPC, 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762. Normal office hours are from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. It is advisable to call the Title VI Coordinator in advance to schedule an appointment.
- **By telephone** to NWARPC, 479-751-7125. The Title VI Coordinator will speak to the complainant and obtain detailed information relating to the complaint. Information obtained from the telephone interview will be recorded in writing and read to the complainant.

Within three business days upon receipt of a complaint, a letter will be mailed to the complainant with the following information:

- Acknowledgment that the complaint has been received and is pending investigation.
- Estimated date by which a response will be sent to the complainant.

The Title VI Coordinator will investigate the complaint and respond in writing within a reasonable time, not to exceed 30 days from the receipt of the complaint. The response will provide information concerning the resolution of the complaint. A record of all Title VI complaints will be maintained by NWARPC for a minimum of five years. Each record will include the name and address of the complainant, nature of the complaint, problems identified, resolution of the complaint and any resulting modification made to a NWARPC program, service or its office facility.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION: The NWARPC complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the NWARPC's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voice/TTY 711 or 1-800-285-1131) or ngibbs@nwarpc.org; para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842; para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131 o ngibbs@nwarpc.org. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille. If information is needed in another language, contact Nicole Gibbs. Si se necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con Nicole Gibbs.

NWARPC Title VI Complaint Form

Complete all the following. You may attach additional materials you think are relevant to your complaint.

SECTION I:			
Name:			
Address:			
Telephone (Home/Cell):		Telephone (Work):	
E-mail Address:			
Accessible Format Requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/> Large Print <input type="checkbox"/> TDD <input type="checkbox"/> Audio Tape <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
SECTION II:			
Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes*	<input type="checkbox"/> No
*If you answered "yes" to this question, go to Section III.			
If not, please supply the name and relationship of the person for whom you are complaining:			
Please explain why you have filed for a third party:			
Please confirm that you have obtained the permission of the aggrieved party if you are filing on behalf of a third party.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
SECTION III:			
Have you previously filed a Title VI complaint with NWARPC? (Original complaint number, if known: _____)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you filed this complaint with any other Federal, State or local agency, or with any Federal or State court?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, check all that apply:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Transit Provider <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Transit Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Justice <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Employment Opportunity Commission <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
Have you filed a lawsuit regarding this complaint?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Please provide information about a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed.			
Name:			
Title:			
Agency:			
Address:			
Telephone:		E-mail Address:	

Section IV:
Name of Agency complaint is against:
Contact Person:
Title:
Telephone number:
SECTION V:
<p>I believe the discrimination I experienced was based on (check all that apply):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Color <input type="checkbox"/> National Origin</p> <p>Date of Alleged Discrimination (Month Day, Year): _____</p> <p>On separate sheets of paper if necessary, please describe your complaint. You should include specific details such as names, dates, times, witnesses, location, and any other information that would assist us in our investigation of your allegations. Please also provide any other documentation that is relevant to this complaint.</p>

Signature and date required below. *Please note, we cannot accept your complaint without signature.*

Signature

Date

Please mail your completed form to:

NWARPC Title VI Coordinator
1311 Clayton Street
Springdale, AR 72762

[Administrative – Original Complaint Number _____]

Comisión de Planeamiento del Noroeste de Arkansas

Procedimientos de Quejas Título VI

“Ninguna persona basada en su raza, color u origen nacional, será excluido de participar en, negado los servicios, o sujeto a discriminación en ningún programa o actividad que reciba asistencia federal.” – Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964.

Sus Derechos Civiles

Título VI, 42 U.S.C. & 2000 et. Seq., fue emitida como parte relevante en el Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964 prohíbe discriminación basada en raza, color, y origen de nacionalidad en programas y actividades que reciba asistencia federal financiera. La intención por entero de NWARPC MPO es el manejar los programas sin importar la raza, color y/u origen de nacionalidad. Una guía para el programa NWARPC Título VI puede encontrarse en la circular 4702.1B en la administración federal de tránsito con fecha de octubre 1 2012.

Dos órdenes ejecutivas definen la población que son protegidos bajo el Título VI:

- **Orden Ejecutiva 12898** se ocupa de una justicia del ámbito para la minoría y población de bajos recursos.
- **Orden Ejecutiva 13166** se ocupa de proveer acceso por igual a individuos con su inglés limitado o insuficiente.

NWARPC ha establecido un proceso para investigar y resolver quejas de discriminación con relación a los servicios y programas de la oficina de MPO. El coordinador del Título VI del NWARPC tiene la responsabilidad de ver y resolver quejas de discriminación con base en discapacidad. Se puede presentar una queja por discriminación según el Título VI dentro de los 180 días a partir de la fecha de la presunta discriminación.

Quejas con información incompleta podría resultar en un atraso en la investigación y respuestas. NWARPC no responderá a quejas sin el nombre y dirección del demandante. Información requerida en quejas incluye:

- ☐ Nombre de quien pone la queja, dirección y número de teléfono durante el día.
- ☐ Información específica en relación con el incidente en cuestión: fecha, hora, lugar, y como la persona fue discriminada en base a una discapacidad y cualquier otro detalle que aplique.

Quejas pueden ser hechas de la manera siguiente:

- **Por escrito** al Coordinador del Título VI de NWARPC, 1311 Clayton Springdale AR 72762 o por correo electrónico a ngibbs@nwarpc.org.
- **En persona** a NWARPC 1311 Clayton Springdale, AR 72762. Horas de oficina 8:00am a 5:00pm, lunes a viernes. Se recomienda llamar con anticipación al Coordinador del Título VI para previa cita.
- **Por teléfono** a NWARPC 479-751-7125 el Coordinador del Título VI hablara con el demandante para obtener información a detalle sobre la queja. La información obtenida será grabada, puesta por escrito, y leída al demandante.

Entre tres días hábiles después de recibir la queja una carta será enviada con la siguiente información:

- Conocimiento que la queja ha sido recibida y esta una investigación pendiente.
- Una fecha estimada de cuando enviaran respuesta a su queja.

El Coordinador del Título VI investigará la queja y responderá por escrito en un tiempo razonable sin exceder 30 días de haber recibido la queja. La respuesta proveerá información acerca de la resolución a la queja. Un archivo de quejas al Título VI se mantendrá por NWARPC por un mínimo de cinco años. Cada archivo incluirá, el nombre y dirección de, el tipo de la queja, problemas identificados, resolución de la queja y/o cualquier resultado, modificaciones hechas al programa y servicios o lugar de oficina de NWARPC.

AVISO DE NO DISCRIMINACIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN DEL NOROESTE DE ARKANSAS: El NWARPC cumple con todas las disposiciones de derechos civiles de los estatutos federales y autoridades relacionadas que prohíben la discriminación en programas y actividades que reciben asistencia financiera federal. Por lo tanto, el NWARPC no discrimina por motivos de raza, sexo, color, edad, origen nacional, religión o discapacidad en la admisión, el acceso y el tratamiento en los programas y actividades del NWARPC, así como en las prácticas de contratación o empleo del NWARPC. Las quejas sobre presunta discriminación y consultas sobre las políticas de no discriminación de NWARPC pueden dirigirse a Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Planificadora Regional – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Coordinadora del Título VI), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voz/TTY 711 o 1-800-285-1131) o ngibbs@nwarpc.org; Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842; para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131 o ngibbs@nwarpc.org. Este aviso está disponible a través del Coordinador de ADA/504/Título VI en letra grande, en cinta de audio y en Braille. Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con Nicole Gibbs.

NWARPC Forma de Queja de Titulo VI

Completa todo lo siguiente. Puede adjuntar materiales adicionales que considere relevantes para su queja.

SECCION I:

Nombre:

Dirección:

Numero de teléfono (casa, celular):

Numero de teléfono (trabajo):

Correo electrónico:

¿Necesita un formato más accesible?

☐ Letras más grandes ☐ TDD ☐ Cinta de audio

☐ Otro _____

SECCION II:

¿Está usted llenando esta queja por su propia cuenta?

☐ Si*

☐ No

*si respondió "si" pase a la sección III.

Si respondió "no" por favor escriba el nombre y su relación con la persona:

Por favor explique porque pone la queja por una tercera persona:

Por favor confirme que obtuvo el permiso de parte del reclamante para poner la queja en su nombre.

☐ Si

☐ No

SECCION III:

¿Alguna vez a puesto alguna queja con NWARPC?

(Número de denuncia original, si se conoce: _____)

☐ Si

☐ No

Ha presentado esta queja ante cualquier otra agencia federal, estatal o local, o ante algún tribunal federal o estatal?

☐ Si

☐ No

En caso afirmativo, marque todo lo que corresponda:

☐ Proveedor de Transito

☐ Departamento de transportación

☐ Administración Federal de Transito

☐ Departamento de Justicia

☐ Comisión de Oportunidad de Igualdad de Empleo

☐ Otro _____

¿Ha usted puesto la demanda por esta queja?

☐ Si

☐ No

Proporcione información sobre una persona de contacto en la agencia/tribunal donde se presentó la denuncia.

Nombre:

Cargo/Titulo:

Agencia:

Dirección:

Teléfono:

Correo electrónico:

SECCION IV:

Nombre de la agencia donde hizo su queja:

Persona para contactar:

Cargo/Titulo:

Numero de teléfono:

SECCION V:

Creo que la discriminación que experimenté se basó en (marque todo lo que corresponda):

☐ Raza ☐ Color ☐ lugar de origen

Fecha de la presunta discriminación (mes, día, año): _____

En una hoja por separado si es necesario, describa por favor su queja. Usted debe incluir detalles específicos como nombres, fechas, horas, lugares, testigos, y cualquier otra información que nos pueda asistir en nuestra investigación de sus alegaciones. Favor de proveer cualquier otra documentación que sea relevante a esta queja.

Firmar aquí. Tenga en cuenta, que no podemos aceptar su queja sin su firma.

Firma_____
Fecha

Favor de enviar su forma completa a:

NWARPC Coordinador del Titulo VI
1311 Clayton Street
Springdale, AR 72762

[Administrative – Original Complaint Number _____]

APPENDIX D

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC)
Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS)
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FTA ID 1571

Federal Register Vol. 65, No. 159 - Wednesday, August 16, 2000
Executive Order 13166 of August 11, 2000 Improving Access
to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

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INTRODUCTION

FACTOR 1: The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to encounter an MPO program, activity, or service.

FACTOR 2: The frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with a MPO program, activity, or service.

FACTOR 3: The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program to people's lives (or "service provided by the MPO to LEP community").

FACTOR 4: The resources available to the MPO for LEP outreach, as well as the costs associated with that outreach.

PLAN FOR ASSISTING LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PERSONS

- A. How to Identify a LEP Person Who Needs Language Assistance
- B. Language Assistance Measures/Staff Training
- C. Providing Notice of Available Language Service to LEP Persons
- D. Outreach Techniques
- E. Monitoring and Updating the LEP Plan
- F. Dissemination of the NWARPC Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

NWARPC NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION: The NWARPC complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the NWARPC's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voice/TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-285-1131); Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842; para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131 or the following email address: ngibbs@nwarpc.org. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille. If information is needed in another language, contact Nicole Gibbs. Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese Nicole Gibbs, 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta.

AVISO DE NO DISCRIMINACION DE LA COMISION DE PLANIFICACION DEL NOROESTE DE ARKANSAS: EL NWARPC cumple con todas las disposiciones de derechos civiles de los estatutos federales y autoridades relacionadas que prohíben la discriminación en programas y actividades que reciben asistencia financiera federal. Por lo tanto, la NWARPC no discrimina por rasgos de raza, color, o origen nacional, en la admisión, el acceso y el tratamiento en los programas y actividades NWARPC, así como de contratación de empleados de la NWARPC. Las quejas de supuesta discriminación y consultas sobre la política antidiscriminatoria de la NWARPC pueden ser dirigidas a Nicole Gibbs, AICP, planificador regional – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Título Coordinador VI), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voz/TTY 7-1-1 o 1-800-285-1131) o en la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico: ngibbs@nwarpc.org. Este aviso está disponible en el Coordinador de ADA/504/Título VI en letra grande, cinta de audio y en Braille. Si se necesita información en otro idioma, póngase en contacto con Nicole Gibbs, ngibbs@nwarpc.org.

INTRODUCTION

Excerpted from “Implementing the Department of Transportation Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients’ Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons: A Handbook for Public Transportation Providers” as prepared by the Federal Transit Administration Office of Civil Rights, dated April 13, 2007. The entire document can be found at www.thedmpgroup.com/cmsdocuments/LEP_Handbook.pdf.

“Individuals, who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English are limited English proficient, or ‘LEP.’ According to the 2000 U.S. Census, more than 10 million people reported that they do not speak English at all, or do not speak English well. The number of persons reporting that they do not speak English at all or do not speak English well grew by 65 percent from 1990 to 2000. Among limited English speakers, Spanish is the language most frequently spoken, followed by Chinese (Cantonese or Mandarin), Vietnamese, and Korean.”

“Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., and its implementing regulations provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance. The Supreme Court, in Lau v. Nichols, 414 U.S. 563 (1974), interpreted Title VI regulations promulgated by the former Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to hold that Title VI prohibits conduct that has a disproportionate effect on LEP persons because such conduct constitutes national origin discrimination.”

“Executive Order 13166, ‘Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency,’ reprinted at 65 FR 50121 (August 16, 2000), directs each Federal agency to examine the services it provides and develop and implement a system by which LEP persons can meaningfully access those services. Federal agencies were instructed to publish guidance for their respective recipients in order to assist them with their obligations to LEP persons under Title VI. The Executive Order states that recipients must take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by LEP persons.”

“The U.S. DOT published revised guidance for its recipients on December 14, 2005. This document states that Title VI and its implementing regulations require that DOT recipients take responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to the benefits, services, information, and other important portions of their programs and activities for individuals who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) and that recipients should use the DOT LEP Guidance to determine how best to comply with statutory and regulatory obligations to provide meaningful access to the benefits, services, information, and other important portions of their programs and activities for individuals who are LEP.”

“The FTA references the DOT LEP guidance in its Circular 4702.1A, “Title VI and Title VI-Dependent Guidelines for FTA Recipients,” which was published on April 13, 2007. Chapter IV part 4 of this Circular reiterates the requirement to take responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to benefits, services, and information for LEP persons and suggests that FTA recipients and subrecipients develop a language implementation plan consistent with the provisions of Section VII of the DOT LEP guidance.”

INTRODUCTION TO NWARPC

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is a planning organization that serves local units of governments in Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas and a portion of McDonald County, Missouri including the City of Pineville.

As well as being the regional planning organization, **NWARPC serves as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**. Furthermore, the NWARPC is the **Designated Recipient for FTA grant programs for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urban Area**. Additionally, the region was designated as a **Transportation Management Area (TMA)** in 2013. The TMA includes Benton and Washington Counties and a portion of McDonald County, Missouri.

The MPO serves as a forum for cooperative transportation decision-making by state and local governments, and regional transportation and planning agencies. MPO's are charged with maintaining and conducting a "continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive" regional transportation planning and project programming process for the MPO's study area.

The MPO includes a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC)/Policy Committee. The TAC and RPC/Policy Committee make up the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS), responsible for the long-range transportation planning for the metropolitan area.

The Commission is made up of 38 local units of government and other public agency partners. Member jurisdictions include:

NWARPC Member Agencies – Arkansas

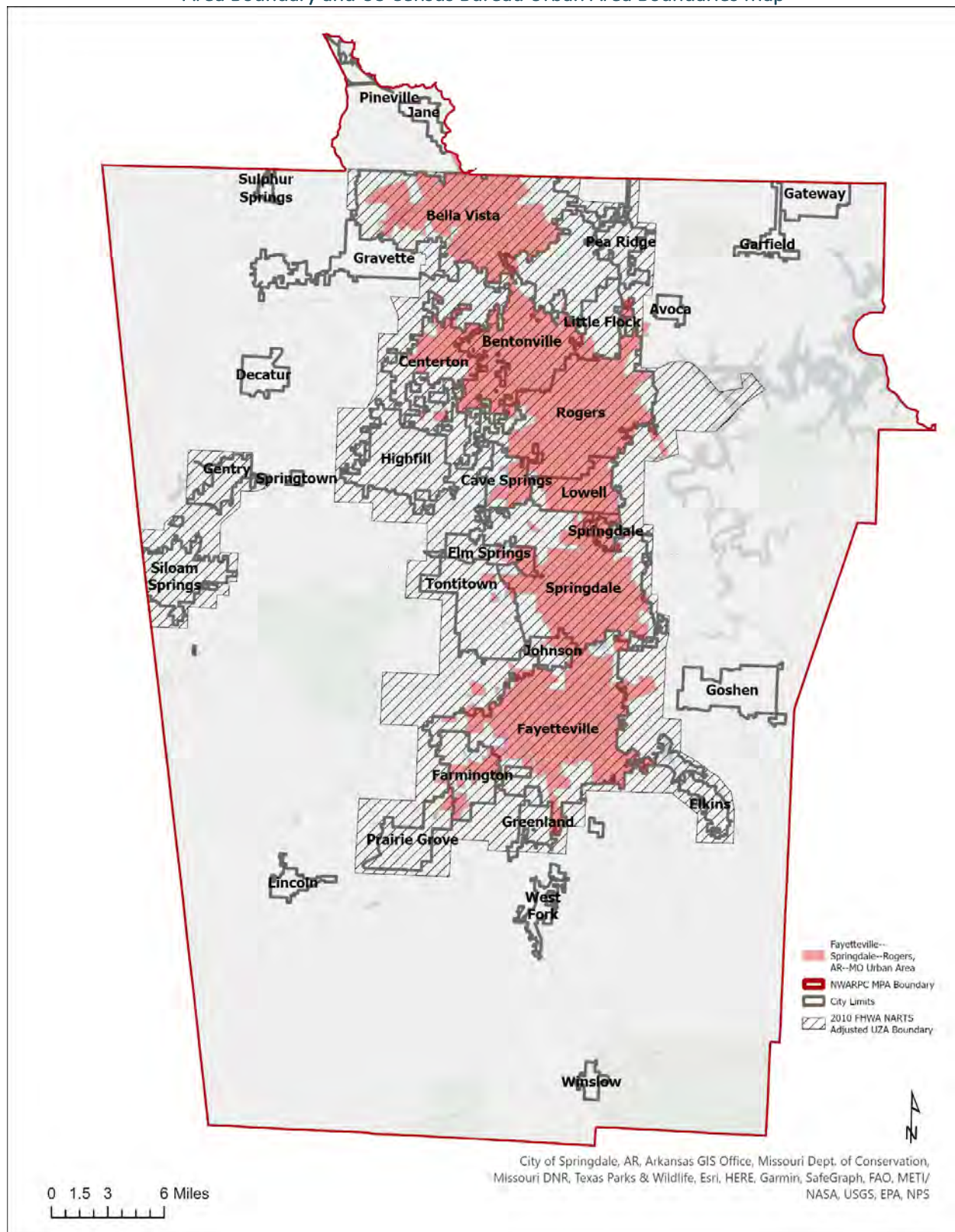
Avoca	Goshen	Springdale
Bella Vista	Gravette	Springtown
Benton County	Greenland	Sulphur Springs
Bentonville	Highfill	Tontitown
Cave Springs	Hindsville	Washington County
Centerton	Huntsville	West Fork
Decatur	Johnson	Winslow
Elkins	Lincoln	Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT)
Elm Springs	Little Flock	Beaver Water District
Farmington	Lowell	Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA)
Fayetteville	Pea Ridge	Ozark Regional Transit Authority
Garfield	Prairie Grove	Razorback Transit
Gateway	Rogers	University of Arkansas
Gentry	Siloam Springs	

NWARPC Member Agencies – Missouri

Pineville	Village of Jane	Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
McDonald County		

IN COOPERATION WITH: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, AND FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION.

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission – Metropolitan Planning Area, FHWA Adjusted Urban Area Boundary and US Census Bureau Urban Area Boundaries Map



FOUR FACTOR ANALYSES

NWARPC has conducted the following analysis to address the requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The purpose is to ensure that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

To ensure meaningful access to NWAPRC's programs and activities, the subsequent information has been developed using the Four Factor Analysis, which guides NWARPC in determining specific LEP needs.

The Four Factor Analysis is an assessment of local populations and considers the following:

Factor 1: The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to encounter an MPO program, activity, or service.

This factor includes an analysis of the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates for Benton and Washington County in Arkansas and McDonald County in Missouri. Tables for Race, Hispanic or Latino, and Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English were used to identify the area's LEP population. English and Spanish, respectively, are the top languages identified that are spoken at home by populations 5 years and over.

Factor 2: The frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with a MPO program, activity, or service.

NWARPC does not have any knowledge, documented or otherwise, of LEP persons coming into contact with a NWARPC program or activity.

Factor 3: The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program to people's lives (or "service provided by the MPO to LEP community").

NWARPC has three main planning documents which identify and direct its transportation activities in the region – the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Each of these is publicized for review and a comment period according to the Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Factor 4: The resources available to the MPO for LEP outreach, as well as the costs associated with that outreach.

NWARPC has assessed its available resources that could be used for providing LEP assistance. This includes identifying what staff and volunteer language interpreters are readily available, which documents should be translated, taking an inventory of available organizations that NWAPRC could partner with for outreach and translation efforts, examining which financial and in-kind sources could be used to provide assistance, and what level of staff training is needed.

FACTOR 1: THE NUMBER OR PROPORTION OF LEP PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO BE SERVED OR LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER AN MPO PROGRAM, ACTIVITY, OR SERVICE.

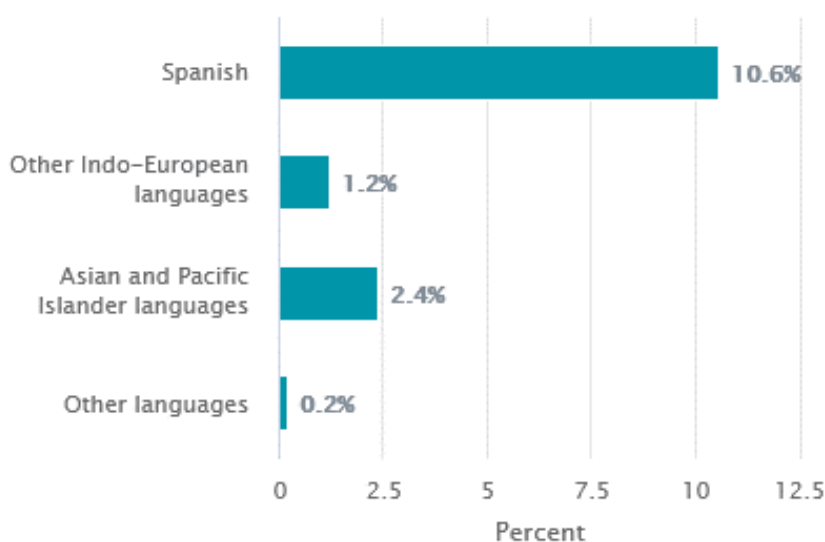
The NWARPC has had very limited contact with LEP persons. In recent history, there has been no contact at meetings, through Commission or committee members, through phone contact, or by personal visit. Website access is unknown. Based upon the historical evidence of no language assistance requests, it is determined that NWARPC's current programs and services directly serve very few LEP populations.

"SAFE HARBOR" – The FTA has established a "safe harbor" regarding the responsibility to provide translation of vital documents for LEP populations. This safe harbor is based upon the number and percentages of the service area-eligible population that are LEP. According to the safe harbor rule, FTA expects translation of vital documents to be provided when the eligible LEP population in the service area exceeds 1,000 people or if it exceeds 5 percent of the eligible population. Vital documents include complaint procedures and forms, notice of a person's rights under Title VI, public notification of meetings and events. **Based on the most recently released US Census American Community Survey (2018-2022 – 5-year estimates) the Spanish speaking population is the largest LEP population in Benton County (10.5%), Washington County (12.4%), in Arkansas and in McDonald County, Missouri (8.5%).**

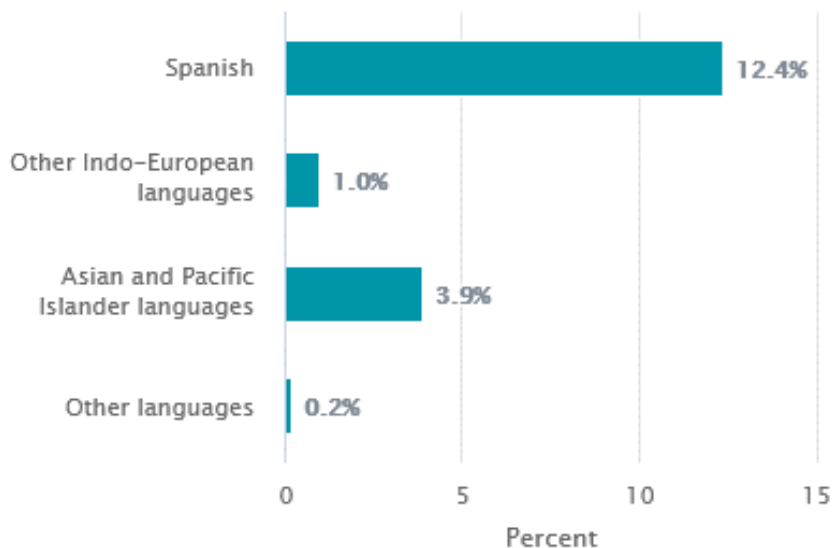
Oral language and translation of vital information/documents will be provided at no cost to anyone that requests translation.

Note: The 2020 U.S. Census Bureau and the American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022 5-Year Estimates were used in the analysis of NWARPC area on LEP persons.

Type of Language Spoken at home Benton County – In Benton County **85.6 percent** of the population 5-years and older speaks only English. The following graphic illustrates the percent of population 5-years and older who speak a language other than English (**14.4 percent**).



Type of Language Spoken at home Washington County – In Washington County **82.4 percent** of the population 5-years and older speaks only English. The following graphic illustrates the percent of population 5-years and older who speak a language other than English (**17.6 percent**).



Type of Language Spoken at home McDonald County - In McDonald County **85.6 percent** of the population 5-years and older speaks only English. The following graphic illustrates the percent of population 5-years and older who speak a language other than English (**14.4 percent**).

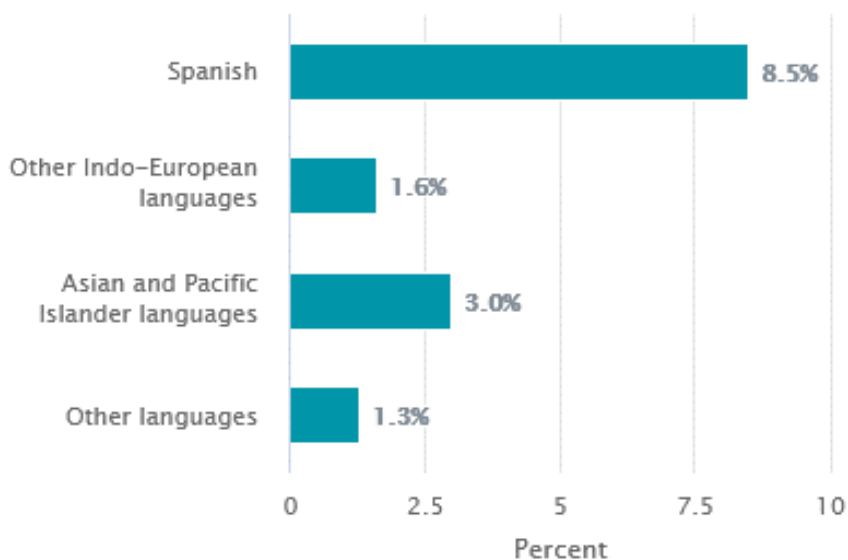


Figure 1 below illustrate the language spoken by ability to speak English for the population 5 years and over by ACS estimates for the 2018-2022 5-year periods. The data summarizes totals from Washington and Benton Counties, Arkansas and McDonald County, Missouri. The entire population of McDonald County, Missouri was utilized for the following tables and graphics as being the best available data for the portion of McDonald County in the NARTS MPA since other population data was not available at this geography level.

Figure 1: Language spoken at home for population 5 years and over

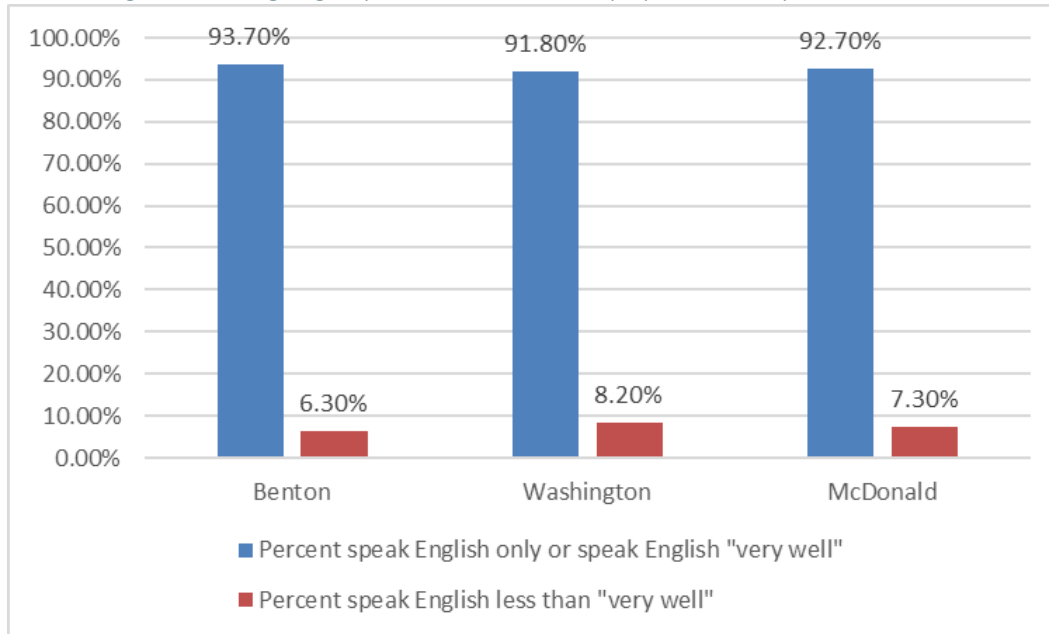


Figure 2 below illustrates the language spoken by ability to speak English for the population 5 years and over by ACS estimates for the 2018-2022 5-year periods. The data summarizes totals from Washington and Benton Counties, Arkansas and McDonald County, Missouri. The entire population of McDonald County, Missouri was utilized for the following tables and graphics as being the best available data for the portion of McDonald County in the NARTS MPA since other population data was not available at this geography level.

Figure 2: Language spoken at home for population 5 years and over

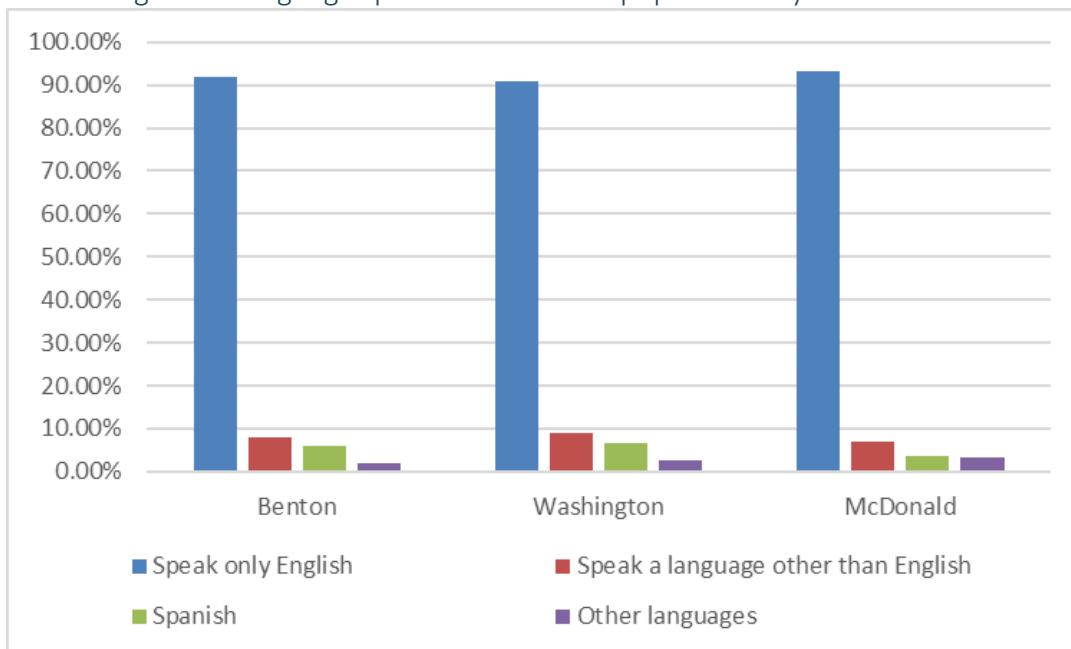


Figure 3 below illustrates the language spoken for the population 18 years and over by ACS estimates for the 2018-2022 5-year periods. The data summarizes totals from Washington and Benton Counties, Arkansas and McDonald County, Missouri.

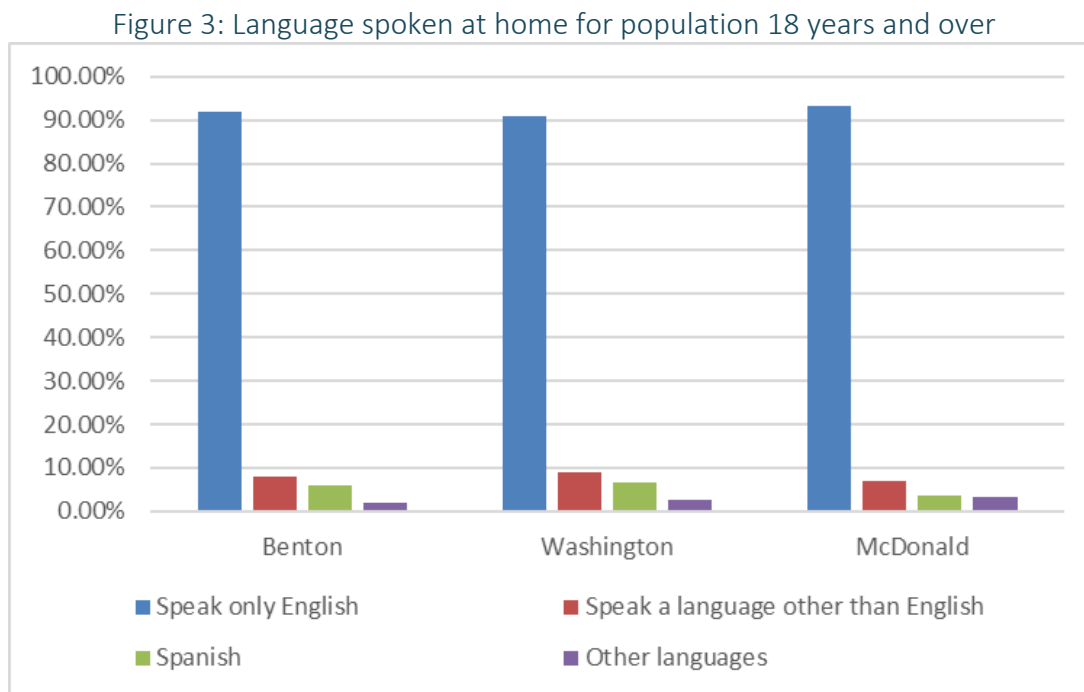


Figure 4 and Figure 5 illustrate the household language by household limited English speaking status from the ACS 2018-2022 5- year estimates. A "limited English-speaking household" is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English or (2) speaks a non-English language and speaks English "very well." In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English. By definition, English-only households cannot belong to this group. Previous Census Bureau data products have referred to these households as "linguistically isolated" and "Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English only or speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English 'very well'". The data also identifies the languages spoken in the household. The total limited English-speaking households' percentage are at highest (4 percent) in Washington and McDonald Counties and at around 2.3 percent in Benton County. Out of these households, Spanish, and Asian and Pacific Island languages are the most spoken languages in Washington and Benton Counties, Arkansas and Asian and Pacific Island languages and Other languages in McDonald County, Missouri.

Figure 4: Total Number of households of limited English-speaking status (Population 14 years and over)

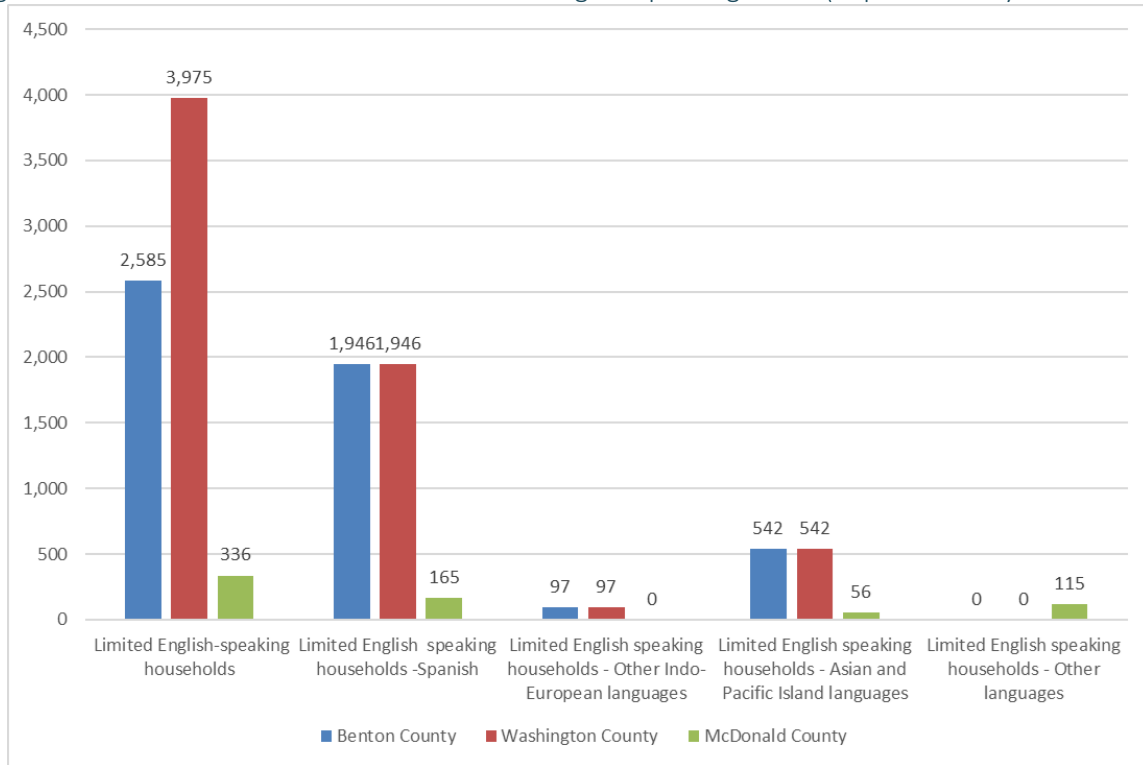
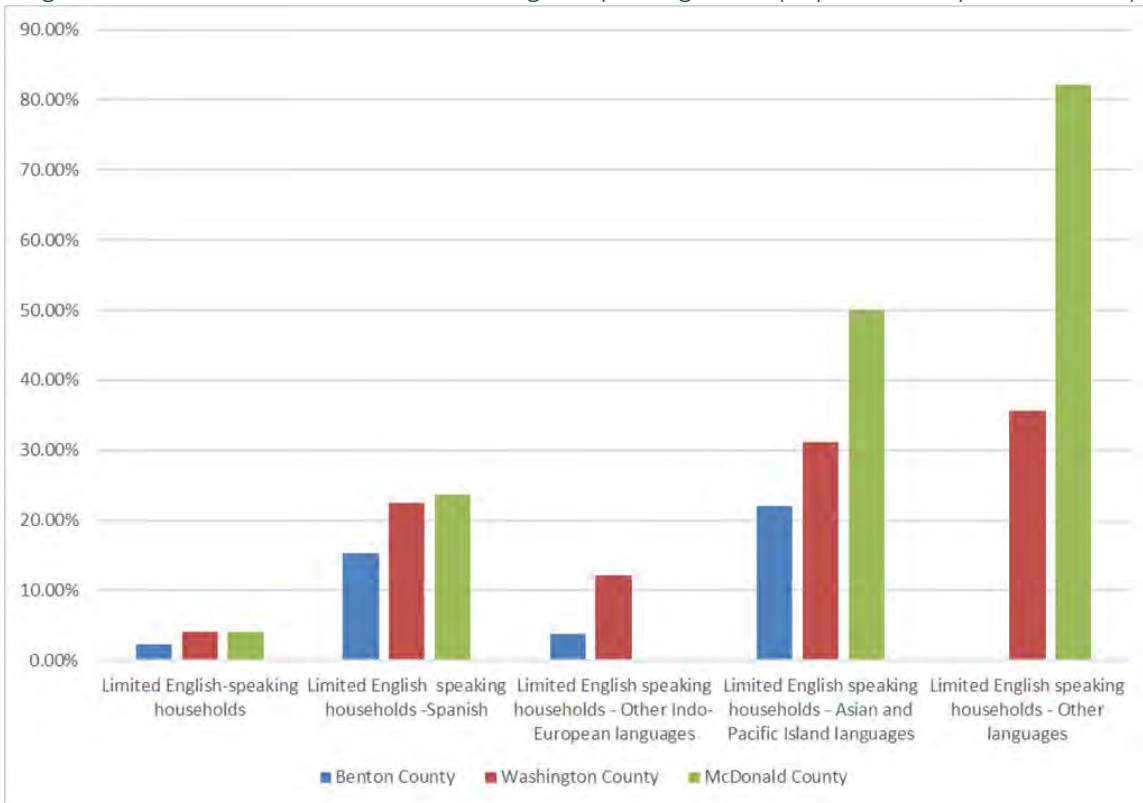


Figure 5: Percent households of limited English-speaking status (Population 14 years and over)



FACTOR 2: THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH LEP INDIVIDUALS COME INTO CONTACT WITH AN MPO PROGRAM, ACTIVITY, OR SERVICE.

NWARPC does not have any knowledge, documented or otherwise, of LEP persons coming into contact with a NWAPRC program, activity, or service, outside of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTP) public opinion surveys, which were printed in Spanish; the Connect NWA-Transit Development Plan (TDP) public opinion surveys, which printed in Spanish and Marshallese; and the Energy & Environment Innovation Plan (EEI) Priority Action Plan (PAP) public outreach flyers and social media posts, which were translated in Spanish and Marshallese.

The surveys were made available on the NWARPC webpage and as hard copies distributed throughout the region via public libraries, city halls, health care clinics, civic centers and at all public input meetings. A summary and analysis on community input through public opinion surveys are available at:

www.nwarpc.org/transit/connect-northwest-arkansas/
www.nwarpc.org/transportation/metropolitan-transportation-plan/
www.nwarpc.org/transit/transit-system-origin-destination-survey/
www.nwarpc.org/energy-environment-innovation-plan/

FACTOR 3: THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PROGRAM, ACTIVITY, OR SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE MPO TO LEP COMMUNITY.

NWARPC has three main planning documents which identify and direct NWARPC's transportation activities in the region:

- The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which provides direction for transportation investments twenty years in the future.
 - While NWARPC has not directly solicited LEP community input on the nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided by the MPO to the LEP community, completed Spanish language public opinion surveys aid in identifying which types of transportation alternatives recommended in the MTP have value to the LEP community.
- The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a schedule of short-range transportation investments and activities intended to be implemented through a combination of state, federal, and local funding.
- The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines planning tasks and the budget for each fiscal year.

FACTOR 4: THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE MPO AND OVERALL COSTS

NWARPC has assessed its available resources that could be used for providing LEP assistance. This includes identifying what staff and volunteer language interpreters are readily available, which documents should be translated, taking an inventory of available organizations that NWAPRC could partner with for outreach and translation efforts, examining which financial and in-kind sources could be used to provide assistance, and what level of staff training is needed.

PLAN FOR ASSISTING PERSONS OF LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

NWARPC developed the Plan for Assisting Persons of Limited English Proficiency as a resource for assisting persons of limited English proficiency. **Oral language and translation of vital information/documents will be provided at no cost to any one that requests translation. NWARPC will assist any persons with language translation free of charge**, given a reasonable amount of time.

How to Identify an LEP Person Who Needs Language Assistance

Tools to help identify persons who may need language assistance:

- Staff will have on hand the “I speak” card printed from the following website:
www.lep.gov/translation#toc-language-identification-and-i-speak-cards
- Examine records requests for language assistance from past meetings and events to anticipate the possible need for assistance at upcoming meetings.
- When NWARPC sponsored workshops or conferences are held, set up an attendance sheet table, have a staff member greet and briefly speak to each attendee. To informally gauge the attendee’s ability to speak and understand English, staff will ask a question that requires a full sentence reply.
- Though language needs may not be met at the current meeting or event, an inventory of those needs will help staff plan for language needs at a future meeting.
- Post a notice of available language assistance in the NWARPC reception area.

Language Assistance Measures/Staff Training

Currently, no substantive documents are available in a language other than English; the NWARPC website may be translated into a number of different languages using Google Translate.

- NWARPC has translated the following into Spanish –
 - Title VI Notice to the Public.
 - Title VI Complaint Procedures and Form.
 - Notice in every document that interpretation is available.
 - No staff member speaks Spanish; other resources for interpreters includes a list of interpreters that staff has on hand and can be used (see LEP Resources document).
 - ORT has several Spanish interpreters and Pacific Islanders (Marshallese interpreters) that are available for NWARPC use.
 - There are a number of Universities and Colleges in the area that have foreign language departments. These can be used as a resource if need be.
 - Arkansas Relay, a telephone connection service, offers a Spanish Relay service. Relay users can type in Spanish and the conversations will be relayed in Spanish.
 - Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842.
 - Para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131.
- Training – All NWARPC staff will be provided with the LEP plan and will be educated on procedures and services available. Annual training will take place in the first two months of

every new fiscal year. This information will also be part of the new hire orientation process.

Training topics may include:

- Understanding the Title VI LEP responsibilities.
 - What language assistance NWARPC offers.
 - How to access an interpreter.
 - Documentation of language assistance requests.
 - How to handle a complaint.
 - The importance of educating subrecipients on NWARPC's LEP program responsibilities and their obligation to provide language assistance.
- Outside these measures, NWARPC has limited resources and will, to the extent possible, ensure LEP individuals have the opportunity to participate in transportation planning. All translation is free.

Providing Notice of Available Language Service to LEP Persons

NWARPC will post signs that language assistance is available in public areas such as the reception area or public notice bulletin board, as well as the web site (see the LEP Resources document).

Outreach Techniques

If staff knows that they will be presenting a topic that could be of potential importance to an LEP person or if staff will be hosting a meeting or a workshop in a geographic location with a known concentration of LEP person, staff will have meeting notices, fliers, advertisements, and agendas contain a notice, in Spanish, of language service availability with notification in advance of the meeting.

When running a general public meeting notice, staff should insert "Si necesita informacion en otro idioma, comuniquese Nicole Gibbs, ngibbs@nwarpc.org or 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta", which asks persons if information is needed in another language to make arrangements with NWARPC within two days of the meeting date.

Monitoring and Updating the LEP Plan

This plan is designed to be flexible and is one that can be easily updated. At a minimum, NWARPC MPO will follow the Title VI program update schedule for the LEP plan.

Updates should examine plan components such as:

- How many LEP persons were encountered?
- Were their needs met?
- What is the current LEP population in the region?
- Has there been a change in the types of languages where translation services are needed?
- Is there still a need for continued language assistance for previously identified NWARPC programs?
- Are there other programs that should be included?
- Has NWARPC's available resources, such as technology, staff, and financial cost, changed?
- Has NWARPC fulfilled the goals of the LEP plan?

- Were there any complaints received?
- Were any comments or requests from the public participation process made that would impact the LEP plan?

Dissemination of The NWARPC Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

NWARPC will post the LEP plan, as part of the full Title VI Plan, on its website www.nwarpc.org. Anyone with internet access will be able to access the plan. For those without personal internet access, all area libraries offer free internet access. Copies of the LEP plan, as part of the full Title VI Plan, will be provided to the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and any person or agency requesting a copy. NWARPC members will be provided with a copy of the LEP plan. A hard copy of the plan will be available in the office. An LEP person may obtain copies of the plan upon request.

Any questions or comments regarding this plan should be directed to:

NWARPC Title VI Coordinator

Phone: 479-751-7125

Fax: 479-751-7150

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission,
1311 Clayton Street, Springdale, AR 72762

Email: ngibbs@nwarpc.org

www.nwarpc.org

APPENDIX E

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Resources

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) RESOURCES

- **LIST OF CERTIFIED TRANSLATORS** – For a list of certified translators please visit: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS
www.taals.net/en/member-directory/
- **REGISTRY OF CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETERS** – For a list of certified court interpreters please visit:
arcourts.gov/directories/court-interpreters-registry
- **LANGUAGE IDENTIFICATION CARDS** – Please visit:
www.lep.gov/translation#toc-language-identification-and-i-speak-cards
- **NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF RIGHTS UNDER TITLE VI**
- **LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE
FREE OF CHARGE NOTICE**
- **BRAILLE TRANSCRIPTION SIGN LANGUAGE**

NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF RIGHTS UNDER TITLE VI

“Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., and its implementing regulations provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives federal assistance”.

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with the Title VI Act of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC's programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC's hiring or employment practices. Any person or group who feels that he or she, individually, or as a member of any class of persons, on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability has been unfairly deprived of benefit, or unduly burdened by the transportation planning process, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination caused by the MPO may file a written complaint with the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator.

For information on the NWARPC Civil Rights program, or the procedure to file a Title VI complaint, contact the Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479-751-7125, (Voice/TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-285-1131, Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842; para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131) or the following email address: ngibbs@nwarpc.org.

**IF INFORMATION IS NEEDED IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE, CONTACT 479-751-7125.
LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL PERSONS.**

NOTIFICACIÓN AL PÚBLICO DE LOS DERECHOS DEL TÍTULO VI

“Titulo VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d y ss., y su reglamentaciones implementadas establecen que ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos sera, por motivos de raza, color o origen nacional, excluida de participar en, negado los beneficios de, o de otra manera sujeto a”.

El NWARPC cumple con todas las disposiciones de derechos civiles de los estatutos federales y autoridades relacionadas que prohíben la discriminación en programas y actividades que reciben asistencia financiera federal. Por lo tanto, la NWARPC no discrimina por rasgos de raza, color, o origen nacional, en la admisión, el acceso y el tratamiento en los programas y actividades NWARPC, así como de contratación de empleados de la NWARPC. Cualquier persona o grupo que sienta que él o ella, individualmente o como miembro de cualquier clase de personas, por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional o discapacidad, ha sido privado injustamente de un beneficio o agobiado indebidamente por la planificación del transporte proceso, o se le han negado los beneficios o ha sido objeto de discriminación causada por la MPO, puede presentar una queja por escrito ante el Coordinador de ADA/504/Título VI.

Las quejas de supuesta discriminación y consultas sobre la política antidiscriminatoria de la NWARPC pueden ser dirigidas a Nicole Gibbs, AICP, planificador regional – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Título Coordinador VI), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voz/TTY 7-1-1 o 1-800-285-1131) o en la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico: ngibbs@nwarpc.org. Este aviso está disponible en el Coordinador de ADA/504/Título VI en letra grande, cinta de audio y en Braille. Si se necesita información en otro idioma, póngase en contacto con Nicole Gibbs, ngibbs@nwarpc.org.

**SI NECESITA INFORMACIÓN EN OTRO IDIOMA, COMUNÍQUESE CON 479-751-7125.
AYUDA CON EL IDIOMA ESTÁ DISPONIBLE DE FORMA GRATUITA A TODAS LAS PERSONAS.**

LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE

IF INFORMATION IS NEEDED IN ANOTHER
LANGUAGE, CONTACT 479-751-7125.

**LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE
FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL PERSONS.**

SI NECESITA INFORMACIÓN EN OTRO
IDIOMA, COMUNÍQUESE CON 479-751-7125.

**AYUDA CON EL IDIOMA ESTÁ
DISPONIBLE DE FORMA GRATUITA A
TODAS LAS PERSONAS.**

BRaille TRANSCRIPTION AND SIGN LANGUAGE

American Printing House for the Blind (APH)

P.O. Box 6085
1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40206-0085 Phone: (502) 895-2405
Toll Free Customer Service: (800) 223-1839
Email: cs@aph.org
Website: www.aph.org

Braille It

Maureen Pranghofer
4910 Dawnview Terrace
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422
Phone: (763) 522-2501
Email: maureen@brailleit.com
Website: www.brailleit.com

National Federation of the Blind

200 East Wells Street *at Jernigan Place*
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
Phone: (410) 659-9314
Email: nfb@nfb.org
Website: <https://nfb.org/resources/braille-resources/braille-transcription-resources>

Volunteer Braille Services, Inc.

1710 Douglas Drive
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422
Telephone: (763) 544-2880
Email: vbsmn@comcast.net
Website: www.vbsmn.org

VisionLink

PO Box 1758
Bensalem, PA 19020
Telephone: (215) 627-0600
Email: visionlinkinfo@visionlinkphl.org
Website: <https://www.visionlinkphl.org/>

Carolyn's Braille Services

P.O. Box 704
Edmonds, WA 98020
Phone: (425) 778-8428
Email: carolynsbraille@gmail.com
Website: www.cmbrailleservices.com

Kansas Braille Transcription Institute, Inc.

Post Office Box 48091
Wichita, Kansas, 67201-8091
Telephone: (316) 265-9692
Email: info@kbt.org
Website: www.kbt.org

Sign Language Services

Translation Perfect

7007 College Blvd., #460 Overland Park, KS 66211
Phone: (913) 491-1444
Email: info@translationp.com
Web: <https://translationp.com>
Services include: Interpreting, translation, and sign language

APPENDIX F

Sample Public Outreach Activities

Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Priority Action Plan (PAP)

Public Engagement Summary

INTRODUCTION

Stakeholder and public engagement are critical to public processes, and this project is no exception. As a requirement of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program, engagement with low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs) was a priority of this public participation process. Per the Environmental Protection Agency, planning grant recipients must conduct meaningful engagement with affected LIDACs in the development of the planning grant deliverables.

Per the *Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Technical Reference Document for States, Municipalities, and Air Pollution Control Agencies*:

In the context of climate action planning, a meaningful engagement process ensures that the full range of the potential impacts (both benefits and disbenefits) of greenhouse gas emission reduction measures are understood and considered. Such engagement can help ensure that planning grant recipients:

- *Communicate with residents of LIDACs about greenhouse gas reduction measure opportunities in their areas;*
- *Minimize to the extent possible any anticipated disbenefits to residents of LIDACs;*
- *Identify and incorporate community-driven priorities into plan design and engage with residents of LIDACs throughout plan implementation; and,*
- *Continue engagement with residents, leaders, and representatives of LIDACs into the future.*

Engagement strategies can cover multiple communities and should be inclusive of linguistic, cultural, institutional, geographic, and other differences to assure meaningful participation. Meaningful engagement under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program should include early outreach, sharing information, and soliciting input on the Priority Action Plan and Comprehensive Action Plan development, especially in the LIDACs.

To ensure compliance with the above guidance, the NWARPC actively engaged with Madison, Washington, and Benton counties and took a targeted approach to engagement with LIDACs within the counties after the LIDAC identification and analysis task was complete. This appendix summarizes those efforts. Note that this appendix only summarizes the engagement efforts undertaken for the Priority Action Plan phase of the project.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

As the first deliverable for the engagement process, a public engagement plan (PEP) for the Priority Action Plan process was developed by Olsson to guide public and stakeholder participation efforts. The PEP was continuously updated throughout the Priority Action Plan process and will continue to be revised throughout the Comprehensive Action Plan and Status Report phases of the larger project.

The PEP included general guidelines for the engagement process, which public engagement spectrums were being utilized, and a detailed schedule of engagement tactics and coordination tasks.

To view the entire PEP, see ***Public Engagement Plan*** as follows.

Public Engagement Plan

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION ACTION PLAN

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC)

“Public engagement is a process that brings people together to address issues of common importance, to solve shared problems, and to bring about positive social change. Effective public engagement invites average citizens to get involved in deliberation, dialogue, and action on public issues that they care about. And it helps leaders and decision makers better understand the perspectives, opinions, and concerns of citizens and stakeholders.”

- Unknown

This Public Engagement Plan (PEP) supports and reinforces the principles and goals of the NWARPC Public Participation Plan.

General Guidelines

Review and Quality Control. All public-facing material will be reviewed by the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) prior to publishing to ensure the material is consistent with the organization's preferred messaging, brand, and communication style.

Work Sharing and Coordination. Each item/task shown in this PEP will be developed through coordination between Olsson and the NWARPC. Olsson will share marketing materials with the NWARPC's project manager and staff members for distribution.

Engagement Tactics vs. Coordination Tasks. Within the body of this PEP, Engagement Tactics (ET) and Coordination Tasks (CT) are referenced. ETs refer to times when Olsson or NWARPC will actively be engaging with stakeholders and/or the public. CTs refer to times of coordination and planning for ETs to function successfully.

PEP Snapshot

NWARPC PROJECT CONTACTS

Tim Conklin

Nicole Gibbs

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPECTRUM LEVELS

Inform, Consult, and Involve

Phase One: Priority Action Plan (PAP)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPECTRUM LEVEL(S)

Inform, Consult, and Involve

PHASE ONE SUMMARY

- The established Stakeholder Committee will serve in an advisory capacity to NWARPC in the development of the Priority Action Plan.
- Multiple engagement tactics will be used to complete the above-mentioned activities, including a virtual stakeholder meeting, in-person public open house meetings, and initial development of a project webpage, social media, email blasts, and public survey.

GENERAL TIMEFRAME

September 2023 through December 2023

SCHEDULE OF ENGAGEMENT TACTICS (ET) AND COORDINATION TASKS (CT)

COMPLETE?	TYPE	TASK + DESCRIPTION	LEAD PARTY	DATE
X	ET	Public Survey Launch. NWARPC will create a survey to gather public input about the communities' priorities related to the reduction of climate pollution. Results will be used to inform the PAP.	NWARPC	9/12/23
X	CT	Stakeholder Identification. NWARPC will create the first draft of the stakeholder committee member list. Olsson will review and provide comments. NWARPC will finalize the member list and gather individual contact information for each stakeholder. NWARPC will be responsible for communicating with the Stakeholder Committee.	NWARPC	9/29/23
X	CT	Prep Meeting for Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1. Prior to Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1, Olsson will meet virtually with NWARPC and lead a meeting to discuss the draft plan for Stakeholder Committee Meeting	Olsson	10/4/23

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

		#1. The purpose of this prep meeting is to gather NWARPC feedback on the program for Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1.		
X	CT	LIDAC Assessment. Olsson will conduct a LIDAC assessment consistent with guidance provided publicly by the EPA. The results of the LIDAC assessment will be documented.	Olsson	10/6/23
X	CT	Project Webpage Draft Content. Olsson will coordinate with NWARPC to prepare initial material for the project webpage to be posted by 10/13/23. Information will include project description and purpose, open house meeting information and a link to the survey and idea box.	Olsson	10/6/23
X	CT	Marketing and Outreach Materials. Olsson will develop content for three social media posts by the NWARPC account, three email blasts, and one press release to advertise the public open houses, survey, and pop-up events.	Olsson	10/6/23
X	ET	Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1. Olsson will host a two-hour virtual Zoom Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1, staffed with four Olsson team members. NWARPC will be responsible for staffing the meeting, as well. The purpose of the meeting is to educate stakeholders on the purpose of the project, the timeline, anticipated outcomes, and previous recommendations from existing regional plans. If deemed necessary, separate breakout sessions will be included with distinct technical topics. Olsson will prepare the program for the meeting and exercise(s) to get feedback on prior recommendations and their alignment with future implementation funding. This meeting will be recorded.	Olsson	10/12/23, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. via Zoom

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

X	CT	Prep Meeting for Public Open House Meeting #1. Prior to Public Open House Meeting #1, Olsson will meet virtually with NWARPC and lead a meeting to discuss the draft plan for Public Open House Meeting #1. The purpose of this prep meeting is to gather NWARPC feedback on the program for Public Open House Meeting #1.	Olsson	10/12/23, 3 p.m.
X	CT	Prepare Public Meeting Materials. Olsson will work with NWARPC to develop content for the open houses, including up to eight (8) stations with display boards or posters, sign in sheets, comment forms, and handouts.	Olsson	10/17/23
X	ET	LIDAC Outreach. Based on community analysis, targeted outreach to LIDACs will include posters advertising the open house meetings and survey, social media posts, and emails in English, Spanish, and Marshallese in the LIDAC communities.	Olsson / NWARPC lead translations	10/18/23
X	CT	Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1 Summary Deliverable. Olsson will prepare a concise summary of the process and findings from Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1. This deliverable will be an appendix to the PAP.	Olsson	10/18/23
X	CT	Public Open House Outreach #2. Repost social media and consider sending reminder emails.	NWARPC	10/23/23 (morning before afternoon open house)
X	CT	Public Open House Outreach #3 (Final). Repost social media and consider sending reminder emails.	NWARPC	10/26/23 (morning before afternoon open house)
X	ET	In-Person Public Open House Meetings. NWARPC will host two in-person public open house meetings to introduce the project, prioritized recommendations established by the Stakeholder	NWARPC leading / Olsson assisting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carroll Electric Community Room in Huntsville –

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

		Committee, and direct the public to the online public survey. Olsson will attend with three to four (3-4) staff people if available.		10/23; 4-7 p.m. • Jones Center in Springdale – 10/26; 4-7 p.m.
X	CT	Survey Closes. NWARPC will close the survey and provide the results to Olsson to incorporate into Stakeholder Meeting #2.	NWARPC	10/30/23
X	ET	Stakeholder Committee Meeting #2. Olsson will host a two-hour virtual Zoom Stakeholder Committee Meeting #2, staffed with four Olsson team members. NWARPC will be responsible for staffing the meeting, as well. The purpose of the meeting is to share a draft of the prioritized PAP supplement measures and will include commenting exercises to gather feedback on the draft measures. Olsson will prepare the program for the meeting and feedback exercise(s). This meeting will be recorded.	Olsson	11/2/23, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. via Zoom
X	CT	Engagement Summary (Complete for Phase One - PAP). Olsson will finalize the complete engagement summary for the PAP phase.	Olsson	11/16/23
	CT	NWAPRC Board Meeting. Olsson will attend with one staff person to help present the final PAP.	NWARPC / Olsson	12/6/23, 1:30 p.m.

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

In coordination with the consultant team, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) identified potential members for the stakeholder committee. These members were identified, in part, because of their eligibility to participate in the CPRG implementation grant process and associated Notice of Funding Opportunity, and/or their ability to implement the identified priority action items. The NWARPC worked to ensure representation from a variety of sectors. Email invitations were extended to the identified stakeholders to join the committee. The table below and on the following page details the makeup of the stakeholder committee.

CATEGORY	ORGANIZATION
Project Partners	ADEQ
Project Partners	Metroplan
Project Partners	Fort Smith
Project Partners	Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT)
Project Partners	Olsson
Project Partners	Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC)
City/County	Fayetteville
City/County	Springdale
City/County	Rogers
City/County	Bentonville
City/County	Bentonville Utilities
City/County	Washington County
City/County	Benton County
City/County	Siloam Springs
Transportation	ORT
Transportation	Razorback Transit
Transportation	XNA
Education/Health	University of Arkansas Sustainability Officer
Education/Health	University of Arkansas
Education/Health	NWACC
Education/Health	Northwest Technical Institute
Education/Health	Washington Regional
Education/Health	Mercy
Education/Health	Northwest Medical Center
Education/Health	UAMS

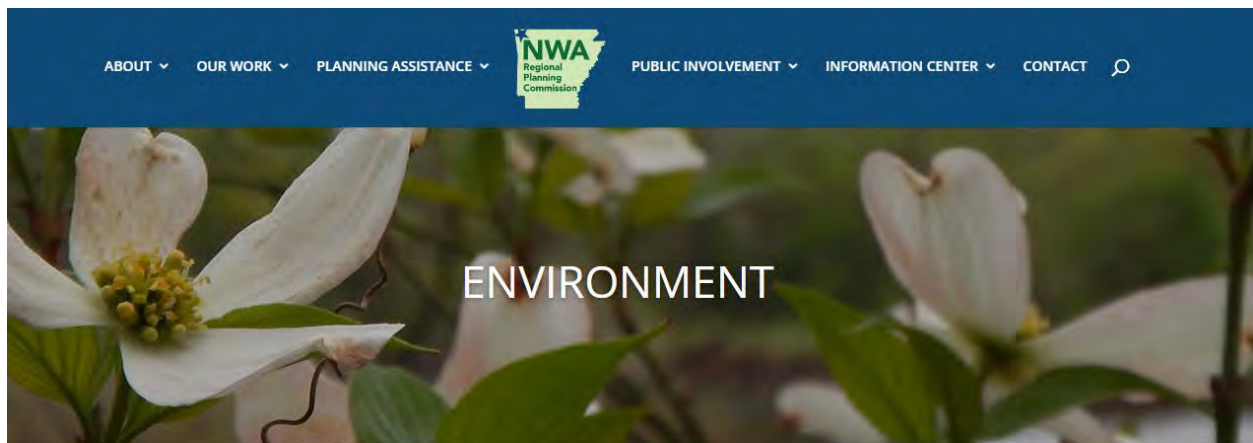
CATEGORY (CONTINUED)	ORGANIZATION (CONTINUED)
Community Partners	Illinois River Watershed Partnership
Community Partners	Beaver Watershed Alliance
Community Partners	Beaver Water District
Community Partners	NWA Council
Community Partners	UAEX
Community Partners	Walton Family Foundation
Community Partners	Trailblazers
Community Partners	Runway Group
Community Partners	Watershed Conservation Resource Center
Community Partners	NWA Land Trust
Community Partners	The Nature Conservancy
Community Partners	Audubon Delta
Industry-Energy	Arkansas Advanced Energy Association
Industry-Energy	Stitt Energy
Industry-Energy	Entegrity
Industry-Energy	Carroll Electric
Industry-Energy	Ozarks Electric
Industry-Energy	SWEPCO
Employers	Walmart
Employers	JB Hunt
Employers	Georges
Employers	Tyson
Employers	Simmons Food
Employers	McKee Foods
Employers	Arvest
School Districts	Fayetteville School District
School Districts	Rogers School District
School Districts	Bentonville School District
School Districts	Springdale School District
Madison County	Huntsville School District
Madison County	County Government
Madison County	Huntsville City Government
Solid Waste	Boston Mtn Solid Waste
Solid Waste	Benton County Solid Waste District
Solid Waste	Waste Management Ecovista Tontitown Landfill
Building/Construction	Newell Development
Building/Construction	Specialized Realty Group

MARKETING AND OUTREACH EFFORTS

Various marketing and outreach tools were developed and utilized throughout the engagement process, including email blasts, social media boosted and non-boosted posts, press releases, posters/flyers, and a project webpage. Events were also attended by the project team to further spread the word about the project.

Project Webpage

NWARPC hosted and regularly updated a [project webpage](#) on their website, in which materials were available in English, Spanish, and Marshallese.



ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION PLAN



The Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), City of Fort Smith, Metroplan, and Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) are leading an initiative to develop a plan that enables access to and enhances Arkansas's competitiveness for federal funding for energy infrastructure and supports investment in technologies and practices that reduce pollutant emissions, create high-quality jobs, and spur economic growth in the state. You can find updated information about this plan at the [Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment Energy and Environment Innovation Plan website](#).



ENVIRONMENT

Events Attended

The project team attended the following events and hosted a table about the project:

- September 28, 2023 - Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forum #6
- September 30, 2023 - NWA Drive Electric Event
- October 6, 2023 - Square 2 Square Bicycle Ride

Email Outreach

The following emails were sent to NWARPC contact lists:

- October 2, 2023 - Stakeholder Committee - Energy and Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan - Request for Stakeholder Committee
- October 3, 2023 - TAC/RPC Info Email - Energy and Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan Launch!
- October 13, 2023 - Stakeholder Committee - Follow-up
- October 13, 2023 - Public Email Blast - Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan - We want to hear from you!
- October 23, 2023 - Public Email Blast - Follow-up

Press Releases

A press release was distributed on October 13, 2023, and was released by the Arkansas Times, Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette, KNA FOX24, and AXIOS NW Arkansas. The release read as follows:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tim Conklin

Phone: 479-751-7125

E-mail: tconklin@nwarpc.org

NWARPC ASKS FOR PUBLIC'S INPUT ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION PLAN

SPRINGDALE, AR October 11, 2023 – The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is asking for the public's input on the Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan to reduce pollutant emissions in the region.

Two public open houses are scheduled to share information about the planning process and gather the public's input on priority actions items. The open houses will be Monday, October 23 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Carroll Electric Community Room, 5056 Hwy 214B in Huntsville and Thursday, October 26 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Jones Center (Room 226), 922 E. Emma Ave., in Springdale. Both open houses are drop-in events.

In addition to the public open houses, NWARPC is asking for the public's input via an online survey and online idea box. Both the survey and idea box are available at www.nwarpc.org/energy-environment-innovation-plan.

The Arkansas EEI Plan is aimed at reducing pollutant emissions, creating high-quality jobs, and spurring economic growth in the state. NWARPC is collaborating with the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (ADEE), City of Fort Smith and Metroplan to develop the EEI Plan. The EEI Plan will enable Arkansas state and local government agencies to compete for federal grant funding for energy infrastructure and investments in technology. The EEI Plan development process is funded through a \$3 million grant to ADEE from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This initial phase of the planning process will result in recommendations for the Priority Action Plan to be included with other recommendations from across the state in 2024. The Priority Action Plan is the first phase of the EEI Plan. A second phase will develop recommendations for the Comprehensive Action Plan, anticipated in 2025. Together, the Priority Action Plan and Comprehensive Action Plan will make up the EEI Plan. Opportunities for future public input will be available throughout the entire planning process.

Those unable to attend the open houses can access event materials at www.nwarpc.org/energy-environment-innovation-plan beginning Monday, October 23.

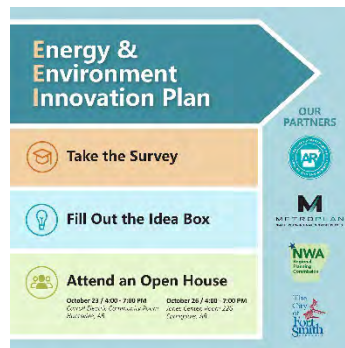
For more information, contact Tim Conklin at tconklin@nwarpc.org, 479-751-7125.



Facebook Outreach

NWARPC boosted three [Facebook](#) posts, as follows:

- October 18, 2023 - Facebook Post (English/Spanish/Marshallese)
- October 20, 2023 - Huntsville Open House
- October 23, 2023 - Springdale Open House
- October 24, 2023 - PILS Facebook Live Marshallese Community Event with Eric Fuselier (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550332464692>)



Poster/Flyer Outreach

NWARPC boosted three [Facebook](#) posts, as follows:

- October 18, 2023 - Facebook Post for Survey and Idea Box (English/Spanish/Marshallese)
 - This post ran from October 18 to November 2, 2023, and received 158 engagements and reached 3,672 people.
- October 20, 2023 - Huntsville Open House
 - This post ran from October 20 to October 24, 2023, and received 10 engagements and reached 424 people.
- October 23, 2023 - Springdale Open House
 - This post ran from October 23 to October 26, 2023, and received 30 engagements and reached 296 people.

NWARPC also posted a non-boosted post on October 24, 2023 for the PILS Facebook Live Marshallese Community Event with Eric Fuselier (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550332464692>).

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING #1 SUMMARY

To assist in the creation of the Priority Action Plan portion of the Northwest Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation Plan, a virtual stakeholder committee meeting was held on October 12, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. via Zoom to educate and connect stakeholders with specific interests and influence on the project and to gather input on topics and measures.

Stakeholders were identified by the NWARPC, as previously described in ***Stakeholder Committee***, and invited via email to attend. Attendees included representatives from many public, non-profit, and private sectors. For a complete list of meeting attendees, see ***Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1 Attendees***. Representatives from the NWARPC and the consultant team facilitated the meeting. The meeting format included a welcome and brief introduction of the project team, and a presentation of the project, including an overview of the:

- Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (EPA CPRG),
- Award of an EPA CPRG to the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (ADEE),
- Agreement between ADEE and NWARPC to develop a regional Priority Action Plan and Comprehensive Action Plan for Northwest Arkansas,
- Planned stakeholder and public engagement process,
- Notice of Funding Opportunity for implementation grants,
- Example greenhouse gas reduction measures, and
- Next steps.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES SUMMARY

To assist with the creation of the Priority Action Plan segment of the Northwest Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation Plan, two public open houses were held to present information to the public and gather input on preferred measures via the public survey. Public Open House #1 was held on October 23, 2023 (Carroll Electric Community Room, Huntsville, AR) from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Public Open House #2 was held on October 26, 2023 (The Jones Center, Springdale, AR) from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The public was invited to attend via email, website information, flyers, and boosted social media posts. Attendees included representatives from public, non-profit, and private sectors—refer to the **Public Open House #1 Attendees** and **Public Open House #2 Attendees** for a full list of attendance. Representatives from the NWARPC and the consultant team facilitated both open houses and related discussions with attendees, as well as worked together to develop the content for the open houses. The public open house content included eight stations with display boards/posters, sign-in sheets, and handouts. The posters included the following content:

- Welcome / please sign in;
- NWARPC Regional Plan Phases;
- Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (EPA CPRG);
- Award of an EPA CPRG to the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (ADEE);
- Award of funding from ADEE to NWARPC to develop a Priority Action Plan supplement;
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across major sectors in Arkansas;
- NWARPC's previous planning efforts and plans;
- Invitation to participate in the public survey in English/Spanish/Marshallese while following along with the following topic posters: Reliable Low and Zero-Emissions Energy, Efficiency and Waste Minimization, Electrification, Workforce and Technical Assistance, and Sequestration; and
- Thank you / next steps.

All open house materials were posted to the project website following the open houses. Marshallese and Spanish interpreters were available in Springdale to accommodate the unique local population's language needs. Public feedback was gathered via the state's public survey and idea box in English, Marshallese, and Spanish.

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING #2 SUMMARY

To continue the development of the Priority Action Plan, a second stakeholder committee meeting was held on November 2, 2023, from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m. via Zoom to share information with the stakeholders and gather their input.

Stakeholders were identified by the NWARPC, as previously described in ***Stakeholder Committee***, and invited via email to attend. Attendees again included representatives from many public, non-profit, and private sectors. For a complete list of meeting attendees, see the ***Stakeholder Committee Meeting #2 Attendees***. Representatives from the NWARPC and the consultant team facilitated the meeting. The meeting format included a welcome and brief introduction of the project team, and a presentation of the project and proposed measures, including:

- A recap of the previous stakeholder meeting,
- Greenhouse gas emissions for the United States and Arkansas, and an approximation of greenhouse gas emissions in Northwest Arkansas
- The path to proposed measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Northwest Arkansas including a review of existing plans, feedback from in-person and online public and stakeholder engagement activities, and public survey,
- Proposed Priority Action Plan measures, and
- Next steps.

Energy & Environment Innovation Plan

Have an idea about how to reduce pollutant emissions in Northwest Arkansas?
We want to hear from you!

Take the Survey



Fill out Idea Box



Plan de Innovación en Energía y Medio Ambiente

¿Tiene una idea sobre cómo reducir las emisiones de carbono en el noroeste de
Arkansas? ¡Queremos escuchar de ti!

Responda la encuesta



Llena el cuadro de ideas



Pepe Kōn Lōmṇak ko Rekāāl Ikijjeen Kajoor in Jarom im Melan

Ewor ke am lōmṇak ṇan wāween kadik lak ettoon in mejatoto ilo Northwest
Arkansas in? Kōm kōṇaan roñ jen kwe!

Bōke Joñak Eo



Kanne Bōṇkin Lōmṇak Eo



nwarpc.org/energy-environment-innovation-plan