



## NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1311 Clayton St., Springdale, Arkansas, 72762

• (479) 751 7125

• Fax: (479) 751 7150

• <http://nwarpc.org>

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**February 1, 2024**

*Via email* Sunny Farmahan, ARDOT  
Britni O'Connor, MoDOT  
Amy Heflin, FHWA  
Ronisha Hodge, FTA  
Tim Conklin, Tim Reavis, and Cristina Scarlat, NWARPC

### **RE: NARTS FY 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENT #2 APPROVAL**

All:

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) determined an amendment to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is necessary to include funding information for the 2050 Travel Demand Model update and Transit Alternatives Study. The amendment is included as Exhibit A.

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:** In accordance with NWARPC's Public Participation Plan (PPP), notification was published in the Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette on Sunday, January 7, 2024, the La Prensa Libre on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, and the McDonald County Press on Thursday, January 11, 2024, and online at [www.nwarpc.org/public-notifications/](http://www.nwarpc.org/public-notifications/). A public comment period for the UPWP Amendment #2 began on Monday, January 8, 2024 and ran through Monday, January 22, 2024. Written comments were encouraged via email or using the comment tab on the NWARPC website. No public comments were received.

**RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL:** The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a hybrid, in-person and virtual, meeting on January 18, 2024 and recommended approval of the UPWP Amendment #2 to the RPC/Policy Committee. The RPC/Policy Committee held a hybrid, in-person and virtual, meeting on January 24, 2024 and approved Resolution #2024-03 Amending the NARTS FY 2024 UPWP.

This approval letter along with the approved Resolution #2024-03 have been incorporated into the NARTS FY 2024 UPWP amendments, which can be viewed at [www.nwarpc.org/unified-planning-work-program/](http://www.nwarpc.org/unified-planning-work-program/).

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

Sincerely,

*Nicole Gibbs*

Nicole Gibbs, AICP  
Regional Planner, NWARPC

Enclosed:  
NWARPC Resolution #2024-03, incl. Exhibit A

**RESOLUTION #2024-03**

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NARTS) FY 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR THE TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL UPDATE AND TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES STUDY AS PART OF THE 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) UPDATE AND AUTHORIZING PROCUREMENT FOR THE PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require an areawide Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), to be updated every five years, and a continuing planning process for urbanized areas known as the “3C” (Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive) planning process, which must be carried out by a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and is necessary for transportation projects to qualify for federal transportation funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is the designated MPO for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urbanized Area and the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urban Programs; and

**WHEREAS**, transportation planning undertaken by and under the direction of the MPO must be contained in an approved Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution #2023-09 approved the FY 2024 UPWP, which included updating the Travel Demand Model in preparation for the 2050 MTP including land use scenarios and high-capacity transit scenarios in support of planning for the 1 million in population projected for 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the Travel Demand Model update and Transit Alternatives Study is anticipated to be completed concurrently over an 18-month period spread over Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026 using a consultant; and

**WHEREAS**, the FTA Section 5307 Planning funds have been programmed in the Northwest Arkansas Transportation Study (NARTS) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP/STIP) and Program of Projects (POP), which may include the eligible activity of technical transportation-related studies and planning; and

**WHEREAS**, the NWARPC wishes to include \$400,000 of FTA 5307 grant funding, and \$100,000 of local match for a total project cost of \$500,000 in the FY 2024 UPWP for the above mentioned project.

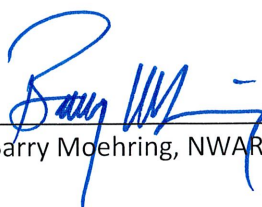
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Transportation Study (NARTS) FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is hereby amended to reflect the necessary funding to provide for the NWARPC Travel Demand Model update and a Transit Alternatives Study as shown in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto.

**SECTION 2.** The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute all appropriate agreements and contracts necessary to expedite the implementation of the above stated project.

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

ATTEST: 

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Barry Moehring, NWARPC Chair

RESOLUTION #2024-03  
EXHIBIT A

NARTS FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2

**44.23: LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

...

**E. NWARPC 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) DEVELOPMENT**

1. The MTP development will begin in FY 2024 to meet federal guidelines that require MTP updates every five years. The MTP will incorporate the following:
  - ...
  - The Travel Demand Model (TDM) data – updated regional demographics to 2050
  - Transportation-Transit Alternatives Analysis-Study (to be developed with TDM)

...

**G. CONTINUE ACTIVITIES TO ADVANCE THE FOLLOWING, THROUGH NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE, TAC, AND OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES**

1. ...
8. Transportation-Transit Alternatives Analysis-Study – Evaluation of all reasonable modal and multi-modal alternatives and general alignment options for identified transportation needs.
9. ...

	44.23 END PRODUCTS	COMPLETION DATES
A.	NARTS participation through staff assistance to local jurisdictions in STBGP GT 200K and TAP programs and by disseminating information regarding transportation programs	On-going
B.	Utilize TDM to assist transit agencies with route optimization and scenario planning and assist jurisdictions	On-going
C.	Amend the NWARPC 2045 MTP to include recent studies, Travel Demand Model data, CMP and TSMO/ITS as required.	On-going
D.	Assist ARDOT and MoDOT with various studies/projects	On-going
E.	Continue activities to advance regional plans and community involvement through the NWARPC/Policy Committee, TAC, and other committees	On-going
F.	Coordination with MoDOT on MTP implementation	On-going
G.	NWARPC 2045 MTP compliance with BIL NWARPC 2050 MTP development	On-going
H.	Adopt the updated Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan	August 2023
I.	Consultant-led Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan	September 2023
J.	Regional Carbon Reduction Strategy	May 2024
K.	Energy and Environment Innovation (EEI) Priority Action Plan	March 2024
L.	<u>Updated Travel Demand Model and Transit Alternatives Study</u>	<u>November 2025</u>

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** NWARPC, ARDOT, MoDOT, ODOT, INCOG, Ozark Transit Authority, Razorback Transit, Northwest Arkansas National Airport Authority, NWA Regional Mobility Authority, and local governments.

**COST DATA**

Federal	\$ <del>573</del> <u>973</u> ,932
Local (MPO and State)	\$ <del>143</del> <u>243</u> ,483
Total	\$ <del>717</del> <u>1,217</u> ,415
Element Percent	<del>33</del> <u>47</u> %

Notes:

- Up to \$50,000 in Carbon Reduction funds, plus match, may be utilized to address climate change.
- The FY 2024 UPWP will use at least 2.5% of FHWA PL funds on specified planning activities to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities including complete streets.
- Up to \$200,000 STBGP-A and/or SS4A Grant funds plus match will be utilized to complete the consultant-led Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.
- \$440,000 suballocated EPA CPRG Planning Grant (no match required) will be utilized to complete the consultant-led Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan, including the Regional Priority Action Plan, Regional Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP), and Status Report.
- \$400,000 FTA 5307 funds + \$100,000 local match will be used to complete the consultant-led Travel Demand Model update and Transit Alternatives Study.

**44.24: SHORT-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

**COST DATA**

Federal	\$ <del>389</del> <u>289</u> ,209
Local (MPO and State)	\$ <del>97</del> <u>72</u> ,302
Total	\$ <del>486</del> <u>361</u> ,511
Element Percent	<del>24</del> <u>22</u> %

## FY 2024 UPWP MULTIPLE SOURCE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2024 UPWP Multiple Source Financial Summary	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
PL Funds (Arkansas)	\$ 1,046,046	\$ 261,511	\$ 1,307,557	43.35%
STBGP-A Funds	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	8.29%
USDOT SS4A Funds awarded to NWARPC - Comprehensive Safety Action Plan	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	8.29%
EPA CPRG - Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan <i>(for informational purposes only)</i>	\$ 440,000	\$ -	\$ 440,000	14.59%
FTA AoPP Grant - Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections in NWA Project and Plans	\$ 180,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 200,000	6.63%
FTA 5307	\$ 400,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	16.58%
Carbon Reduction Strategy	\$ 50,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 62,500	2.07%
PL Funds (Missouri)	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 6,250	0.21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,521,046</b>	<b>\$ 495,261</b>	<b>\$ 3,016,307</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
2024 UPWP Financial Summary (PL-AR)	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ 209,209	\$ 52,302	\$ 261,511	20.00%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ 261,511	\$ 65,378	\$ 326,889	25.00%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning	\$ 282,432	\$ 70,608	\$ 353,040	27.00%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ 209,209	\$ 52,302	\$ 261,511	20.00%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 83,684	\$ 20,921	\$ 104,605	8.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,046,046</b>	<b>\$261,511</b>	<b>\$1,307,557</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
2024 UPWP Financial Summary (PL-MO)	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,500	40.00%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning		\$ -	\$ -	
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning	\$ 1,500	\$ 375	\$ 1,875	30.00%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning		\$ -	\$ -	
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 1,500	\$ 375	\$ 1,875	30.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,250</b>	<b>\$ 6,250</b>	<b>100%</b>
2024 UPWP STBGP-A Program Element AR and SS4A Grants Funds	Federal	Match*	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ 60,000	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 75,000	15.00%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning (STBGP-A or SS4A Grant with local funding match)	\$ 240,000	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 300,000	60.00%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ 80,000	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 100,000	20.00%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 25,000	5.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 400,000</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
2024 UPWP FTA 5307 Program Element AR	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning	\$ 400,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	100.00%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$ -	0.00%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 400,000</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
2024 UPWP FTA AoPP Grant - Enhancing Equitable Transit Connections in NWA	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ 180,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 200,000	100.00%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 180,000</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
2024 UPWP Carbon Reduction Program	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning	\$ 50,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 62,500	100.00%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,500</b>	<b>\$ 62,500</b>	<b>100%</b>
2024 UPWP Total by Elements	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ 211,209	\$ 52,802	\$ 264,011	10%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ 321,511	\$ 80,378	\$ 401,889	16%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning (Includes Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Funding)	\$ 973,932	\$ 243,483	\$ 1,217,415	47%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ 469,209	\$ 92,302	\$ 561,511	22%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 105,184	\$ 26,296	\$ 131,480	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,081,046</b>	<b>\$ 495,261</b>	<b>\$ 2,576,307</b>	<b>100%</b>