



Northwest Arkansas  
Regional Planning Commission

# Annual Report

---

2023

# INTRODUCTION



NWARPC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is responsible for the coordination of transportation planning activities in Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas and a portion of McDonald County, Missouri.

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) was formed in 1966. In 1983, NWARPC was designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under U.S. DOT regulations for transportation planning purposes.

After surpassing 200,000 in population in 2010, the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO urbanized area was designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). TMAs are subject to additional federal requirements

and receive sub-allocations of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding.

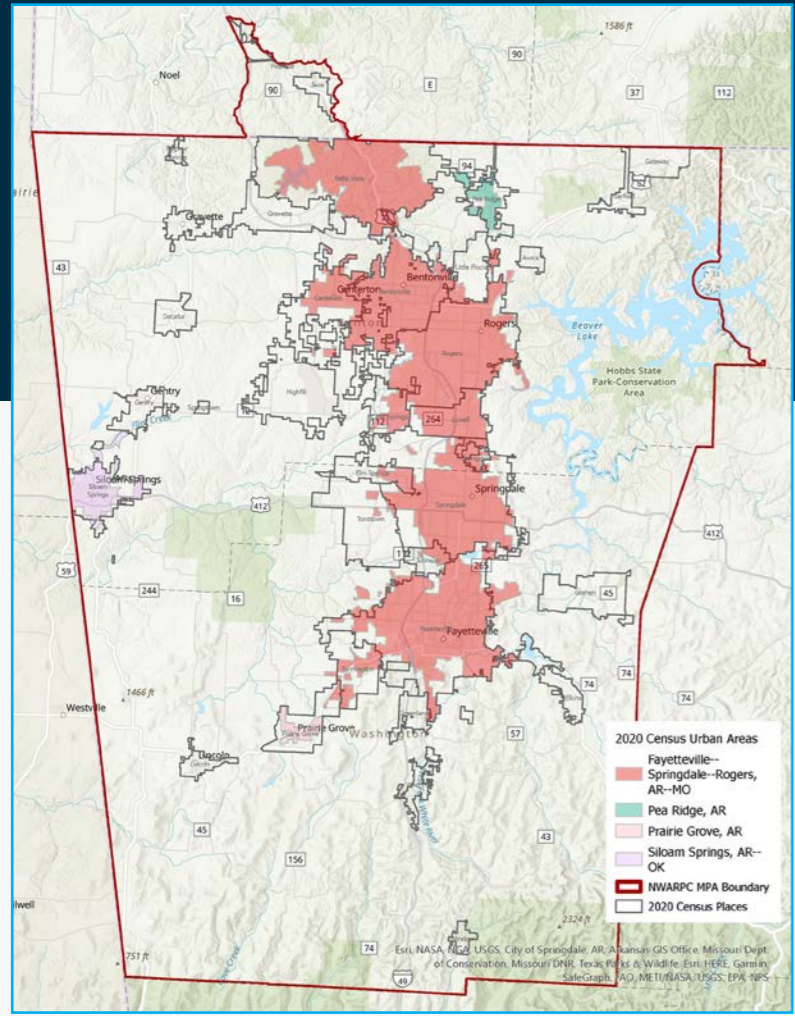
In 2023, NWARPC had 45 members with 38 jurisdictions in Benton and Washington Counties in Arkansas and 3 jurisdictions in Missouri. The MPO has four permanent committees: the **Regional Planning Commission / Policy Committee (RPC / Policy Committee)**, the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**, the **Active Transportation Committee (ACT)**, and the **Northwest Arkansas GIS Users Group**.

NWARPC staff is also actively involved with the **MS4/Stormwater Compliance Group**, the **Heritage Trail Partners** and the **Open Space Coalition**.

**2020 Census Urban Area**  
The US Census Bureau 2020 population for **Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urban Area** **increased 26.6% to 373,687** from 2010 to 2020.

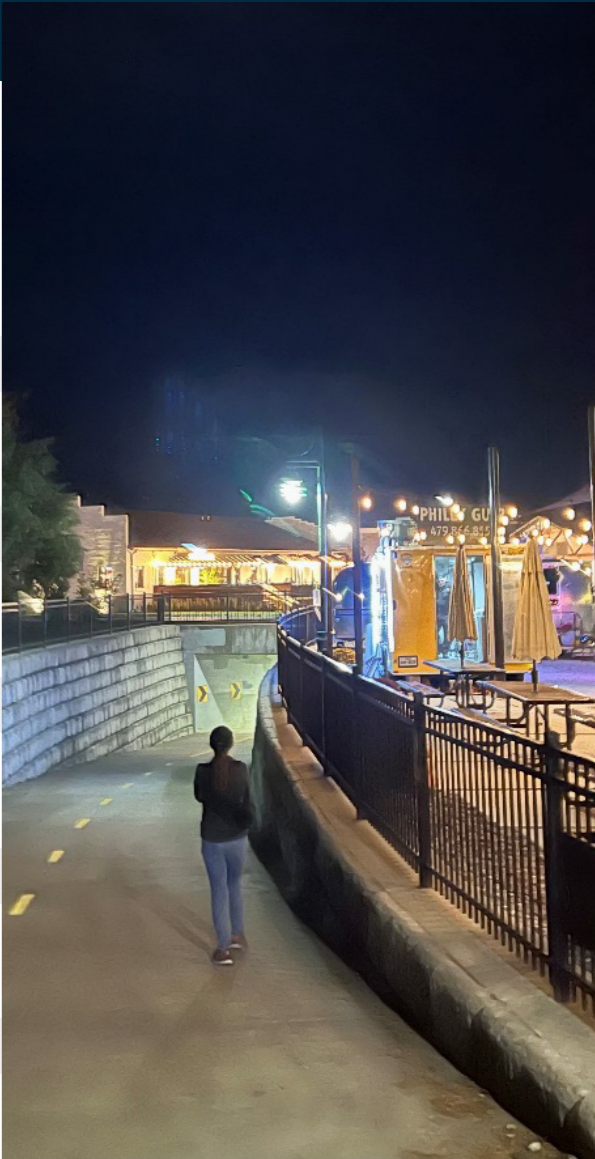
Urban Area population impacts the federal formula funding allocated to the region.

As a result of the new 2020 Census population for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers- AR-MO Urban Area, overall apportioned federal funding for transportation programs increased approximately 19% and will remain at that level until 2030 census population numbers are released.



# TABLE OF CONTENT

Transportation Plans and Projects	PAGE 06
Active Transportation	PAGE 10
Public Transportation	PAGE 12
GIS Coordination	PAGE 13
Environment and Resilience Planning	PAGE 14
Stormwater Education	PAGE 16
Conferences and Workshops	PAGE 18
Financial Summary	PAGE 20
Membership	PAGE 21



Razorback Greenway Tunnel at M.L.K. Jr. Blvd. – Trail Lighting – Fayetteville



This report was funded in part through grants from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S.DOT). The views and opinions of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

**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 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 informacion en otro idioma, comuníquese Nicole Gibbs, 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta.

# LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

## JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING

NWARPC/Policy Committee Chairman



I'm pleased to present the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission's latest annual report for 2023. I would like to first thank the excellent Commission staff and Director Tim Conklin on another successful year in guiding and leading the Commission. This is no small task as we plan for a region that will **exceed over 1 million citizens** in just a couple of decades or so! While our charter is the coordination of transportation activities for this region, this report provides information on the wide range of issues under that transportation umbrella that are being addressed by the Commission.

For example, the City of Fayetteville was awarded a \$25 Million grant for safe streets and roads, one of the largest of its kind in the entire nation! Additionally, the Commission adopted a plan – the Regional Vision Zero Comprehensive Safety Action Plan – this has a goal of completely eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes on the regional roadway networks by 2038.

The Commission continues to prioritize multi-modal transportation options with emphasis on public transportation, as well as active transportation, including various biking opportunities. These opportunities included the opening of the Bentonville – Wishing Spring Trail and the Bella Vista – Mercy Way Bridge and Greenway Connector. Biking trails and especially the Razorback Greenway continue to be both people movers and economic drivers for our region!

The opportunities in federal grant funds continue to grow as well. More than \$14 Million project grants were awarded during 2023 for 2024 programs including surface block grants, transportation alternative grants and carbon reduction program grants. Nearly 20 grants were awarded to more than a dozen jurisdictions in our region.

Finally, as we grow, the Commission will continue to become more involved in environmental issues such as air quality monitoring and stormwater education. The Commission is also seeking federal environmental grant funding including the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) which could bring \$36.25 Million to our region for the preservation of natural areas that contain active transportation corridors for biking and pedestrians.

The future has never been brighter for Northwest Arkansas. But that future also brings a host of both challenges and opportunities. As the Chairman of the Regional Planning Commission, I'm honored to work with an excellent team of professionals at the Commission as well as to serve with a group of dedicated elected officials and public servants who are committed to making Northwest Arkansas the very best destination to work or visit in the entire United States.

Please take some time to review this report and see for yourself the great things happening in the transportation sector of our region.

Thank you,  
Judge Barry Moehring

# LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## TIM CONKLIN

Executive Director, NWARPC



## PLANNING FOR GROWTH AND MOBILITY CHOICES

In my first year as Executive Director we saw historic levels of federal funding come to the region and approved crucial planning work to advance Northwest Arkansas as we continue to experience and plan for significant growth into the future.

In 2023, NWARPC worked with the Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI) to develop new county-level population projections that will inform the forthcoming 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update. NWARPC is planning for a projected population of over 1 million residents by 2050 and will be working closely with our planning partners over the next 18 months to develop three growth scenarios to better understand how land use and development patterns can impact mobility choices throughout the region.

Last June, the Commission adopted a Vision Zero goal of eliminating fatal and serious injuring crashes by 2038 and received a USDOT grant to develop a regional Complete Streets Guide that will be completed in 2024. Together we are planning for complete streets and connected communities that

improve safety, reliability, and mobility choices for residents of all ages and abilities.

The Commission also received a grant to develop an NWA Mobility Strategic Communications Plan, building communications capacity in the region to advance the conversation around mobility choice and solutions.

With historic federal support available, NWARPC and its planning partners continue to work together to enable access to and enhance NWA competitiveness for federal funding opportunities. NWARPC continues to lead and pursue federal discretionary grants to advance regional projects and to collaborate at the local, state, and federal levels.

I want to thank our members and planning partners for your continued engagement and collaboration. Being a polycentric region without one core City has challenges, but likewise, many opportunities – to learn from each other, build on best practices, and work in partnership to protect and enhance the quality of life here in Northwest Arkansas as we plan for 1 million residents by 2050!



“All the cities and counties are addressing different types of issues, and it's exciting to see them all moving in the same direction on walkability, biking, transportation, safety, and transit. Just trying to pull everybody together, I think there's tremendous opportunity to continue the success we've had in our region.”

– Tim Conklin, NWARPC Executive Director

# TRANSPORTATION PLANS AND PROJECTS

## Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program

### City of Fayetteville – \$25 Million Implementation Grant

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced in December 2023 that it awarded the City of Fayetteville a \$25 million Implementation Grant through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program for the **Safe Streets and Roads for Fayetteville, Arkansas – Accelerating Change Toward Vision Zero** project. The 2023 SS4A grant is the single largest grant that Fayetteville has ever received and will accelerate the critical infrastructure and safety improvements for the five corridors funded by the grant:

- N. Gregg Ave, from North Street to Drake Street
- N. College Ave, from Sycamore St to Township St.
- E. Joyce Blvd, from College Ave to Crossover Rd.
- S. School Ave, from Martin Luther King Blvd to 15th St.
- W. Maple Street, from Garland Ave to the Razorback Greenway



Rendering of the final project (UA Community Design Center, 2019)



### SS4A – NWA Regional Vision Zero Comprehensive Safety Action Planning

NWARPC adopted the Regional “Vision Zero” Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) on June 28, 2023 along with a **Vision Zero Goal** to eliminate all fatal and serious injury crashes that occur on the regional roadway network **by 2038**. The regional effort to adopt the NWA Vision Zero Plan enabled member communities to apply for the SS4A Implementation Grant program, resulting in the \$25 million award to the City of Fayetteville, described above.

The Plan emphasizes actions related to traffic safety and outlines strategies and actions that should be taken within the next ten years. In contrast to the traditional approach to roadway safety, which assumes traffic deaths are inevitable, Vision Zero recognizes that one life lost within the region’s transportation network is one too many and something must change. The Plan is grounded in the **FHWA Safe System Approach** that anticipates human mistakes and ensures that when collisions occur, they do not result in death or serious injury.

In 2023, NWARPC was awarded an SS4A Planning Grant for continued supplemental activities to fulfill the scope of the CSAP objectives, including development of a **Regional Complete Streets Design Guide** and **Individual Community Safety Action Plans** for five (5) NWA Cities. [www.nwarpc.org/transportation/vision-zero-plan/](http://www.nwarpc.org/transportation/vision-zero-plan/)



SS4A Safety Demonstration in Fayetteville, May 3, 2023

## TSMO (Transportation Systems Management & Operations)

TSMO encompasses a range of operational strategies and applications that can optimize infrastructure performance and benefit travelers in the region. The plan’s successful implementation is based on ongoing inter-agency coordination for planning, funding, and operating of infrastructure and its improvements.

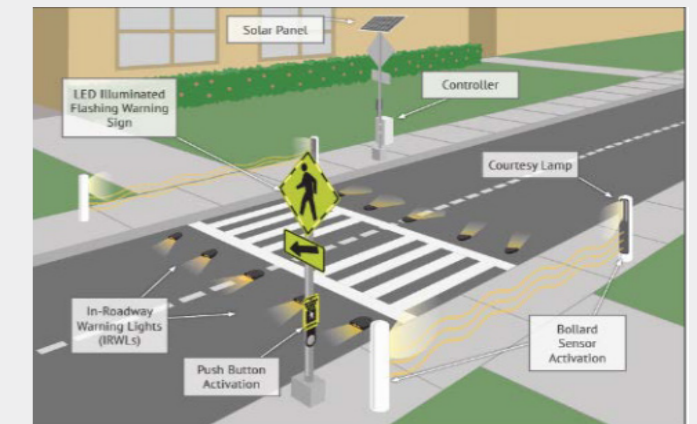
The TSMO Plan was adopted in April 2023. [www.nwarpc.org/tsmo/](http://www.nwarpc.org/tsmo/)



## ITS (Intelligent Transportation System Architecture Plan)

The ITS Architecture was developed with significant input from local, state, and federal officials in 2023. A series of four stakeholder meetings and a workshop were held to solicit input and ensure that the plans reflected the unique needs of the region. The Regional ITS Architecture and Deployment Plan reflects an accurate snapshot of existing ITS deployments and future ITS plans in the region.

The ITS Plan was adopted in April 2023. [www.nwarpc.org/its/](http://www.nwarpc.org/its/)



# STBGP-A, TAP & CRP Projects

On August 23, 2023 the NWARPC Board of Directors approved \$14 million in FFY 2024 NWARPC Funding Programs Awards, including \$11.5 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A), \$1.2 million in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and \$1.3 million in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) grants. The NWARPC Board awards the federal-aid program funding annually on a competitive basis to its member jurisdictions.

## FFY 2024 STBGP-A Project Awards (Existing Projects)

Jurisdiction	Project	Funding Amount
Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	\$ 120,354
Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	\$ 640,000
Bentonville/Centerton	Greenhouse Rd	\$ 3,333,396
Fayetteville	Millsap Rd/College Ave Inters Impvts & N Hemlock Ave Imrpvts	\$ 1,300,000
Lowell	Hwy 264/Belleview/Spring Creek Int Imp	\$ 891,850
Lowell	Hwy 71B/Hwy Int. Improvements	\$ 250,000
Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext	\$ 3,000,000
		<b>\$ 9,535,600</b>

## FFY 2024 STBGP-A Project Awards (New Projects)

Jurisdiction	Project	Funding Amount
Gravette	Hwy 59&72 Intersection Improvements	\$ 1,000,000
Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	\$ 404,400
Tontitown	N Barrington Rd and US 412 Inters Impvts	\$ 360,000
Washington County	Wheeler Rd Bridge	\$ 200,000
		<b>\$ 1,964,400</b>
Total STBGP-A Awarded		<b>\$ 11,500,000</b>

## FFY 2024 TAP Project Awards

Jurisdiction	Project	Funding Amount
Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Vendor Blvd	\$ 400,000
Fayetteville	Drake Street Trail Connection	\$ 500,000
Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph 1	\$ 300,000
Total TAP Awarded		<b>\$ 1,200,000</b>

## FFY 2024 CRP Project Awards

Jurisdiction	Project	Funding Amount
Fayetteville	Safe Routes to School Planning Grant	\$ 100,000
Pea Ridge	Lee Town Road Multi-Use Trail	\$ 386,180
Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	\$ 332,872
Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I	\$ 220,948
Rogers	Hwy 94/Hudson/Hwy12 Sidewalks	\$ 260,000
Total CRP Awarded		<b>\$ 1,300,000</b>

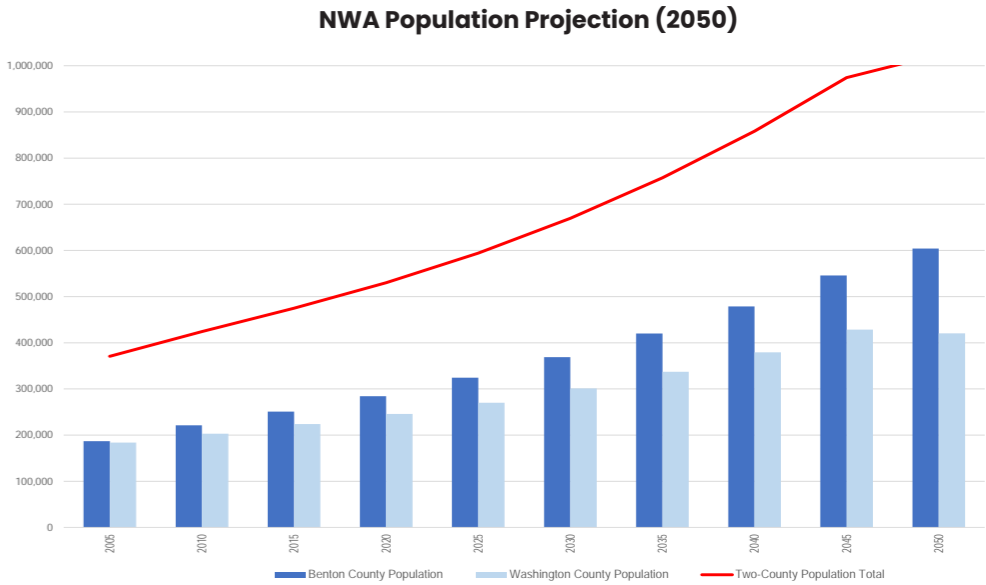


# Planning for a growing region

In 2023, NWARPC started the process of updating the region’s 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. As part of the update, NWARPC collaborated with the Arkansas State’s demographer at the Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI) who developed the population projections for Benton and Washington Counties for the next 25 years. The population projections were developed using the cohort component model. The cohort component method breaks down the total population into age cohorts to analyze differences in mortality, fertility, and migration patterns. The table and graph below illustrate the results of the forecasted population. Based on current growth patterns, the population of the two-county region will reach 1 million people by 2050.

AEDI Population Projections for NWA - Cohort Component Model									
Year	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Benton	221,339	251,591	284,329	321,780	364,723	414,593	470,998	534,176	603,977
Washington	203,065	222,434	245,866	269,994	295,931	323,505	353,230	385,791	420,487
Total	424,404	474,025	530,195	591,774	660,654	738,098	824,228	919,967	1,024,464

Population projections are instrumental in helping regional and local jurisdiction’s planners and officials plan for future infrastructure, transportation, housing, economic development, social services and education facilities in a dynamic region such as Northwest Arkansas.



# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

## Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

ACT meets every two months on the third Thursday at 1:30 pm with open participation from cities, counties, local organizations, and citizens interested in advancing active transportation in the region.

ACT worked on several projects in 2023, including Bicycle Friendly Community Applications, the update to the NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and interactive trail map, and coordination on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

In 2023, NWARPC was awarded a SS4A Planning Grant funding for continued supplemental activities, including the development of a **Regional Complete Streets Design Guide**, which will be incorporated into the NWA BikePed Master Plan update.

Mercy Way Bridge, Bella Vista

## Razorback Greenway News

### National Recreational Trail Designation

On June 3, 2023, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the designation of the Razorback Greenway as a National Recreation Trail. The Razorback Greenway was **one of nine trails across the nation** to be designated a National Recreation Trail in 2023. This designation recognizes the Greenway as one of the highest quality trails in the country, providing communities with close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities.

### Branding Update

The Razorback Greenway Alliance developed a branding refresh in 2023, which included the release of a new website, branded merchandise, and an ongoing project to install newly-redesigned mile markers along the entirety of the Razorback Greenway.



## TRAILS UPDATE – Featured Completed Trails:

### Bentonville – Wishing Spring Trail – Razorback Greenway

On November 8, 2023 the Wishing Spring Trail was re-opened to the public. This 1.5 mile trail provides access, under I-49 and North Walton Blvd, from Bella Vista Lake to the Bentonville Bark Park, Slaughter Pen Mountain Bike Park and the North Bentonville Trail.

NWARPC awarded a total of \$750,000 in regional TAP funds to the project.



Bentonville Wishing Spring Trail Ribbon Cutting, November 8, 2023  
Source: Bentonville Parks and Recreation Annual Report

### Bella Vista – Mercy Way Bridge and Greenway Connector

On November 15, 2023 the Mercy Way Bridge and Razorback Greenway Connector were opened to the public. This bridge project has been in progress since 2015 and included an extension of the Razorback Greenway from Lake Bella Vista, across Little Sugar Creek to the North, facilitating safer bicycle and pedestrian access to the western side of Bella Vista, and making the Razorback Greenway 40 miles!

NWARPC awarded a total of \$5.8 million in regional STBGP-A funds to the project.

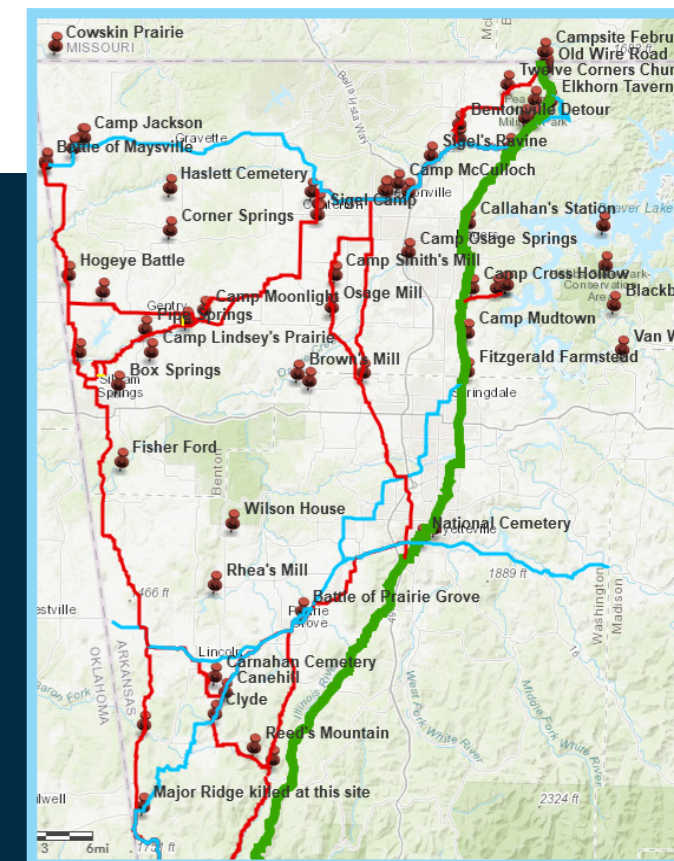


Bella Vista Mercy Way Bridge Ribbon Cutting, November 15, 2023

## HERITAGE TRAILS PARTNERS

The Heritage Trail Partners (HTP) met regularly throughout 2023 to advance the regional network of historic roadways relating to the Butterfield Stagecoach Route, Civil War troop movements, and the Trail of Tears. HTP continued discussions and work around the Heritage Trail signs replacement and updating the Heritage Trail **interactive map**.

After over 20 years of hard work by the Heritage Trail Partners with support from NWARPC, Local, State, and Federal leaders, the **Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail (NHT)** was added to the National Parks Service's National Trails System on January 5, 2023. The Butterfield Overland NHT is 3,292 miles long, crosses seven states, and was designated to commemorate the impact the Butterfield Overland Mail service during the shaping of the nation.



# PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

NWARPC is the designated recipient for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urban Area and Formula Grants apportioned by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Northwest Arkansas region is serviced by two transit agencies: Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) and University of Arkansas Razorback Transit.



ORT purchased six vans using FTA 5307 "Conway AR Funds"

## Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) —

[www.ozark.org/](http://www.ozark.org/)

In 2023 ORT had 149,085 riders use their fixed routes – a 2.4% increase from 2022. ORT had 110,403 riders use the on-demand service – a 155.1% increase from 2022.

*In 2023 ORT operated 6 fixed routes, on-demand and paratransit in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers and Bentonville.*



Razorback Transit Articulated Bus

## Razorback Transit —

[parking.uark.edu/transit-services/](http://parking.uark.edu/transit-services/)

In FY23 Razorback Transit had 1,349,760 riders across all routes and paratransit – a 25% increase from 2022.

*In 2023 Razorback Transit operated 9 fixed routes and additional special events, on demand and paratransit in Fayetteville.*



## Razorback Transit Bus Stop Enhancements Project

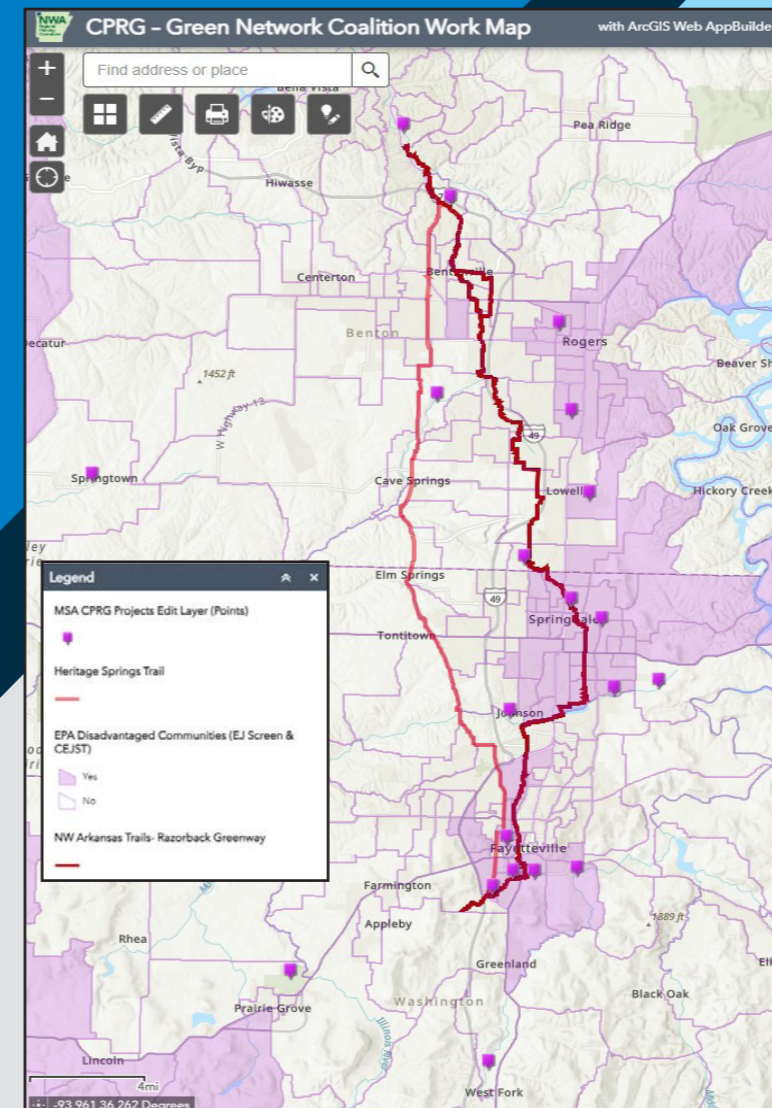
NWARPC was awarded a grant from the Walton Family Foundation to complete a *Bus Stop Enhancement Plan* with Razorback Transit and the City of Fayetteville.

The plan will inventory and assess bus stops on the Razorback Transit's routes. It will recommend specific improvements needed for stops and prioritize stops that need improvements the most.

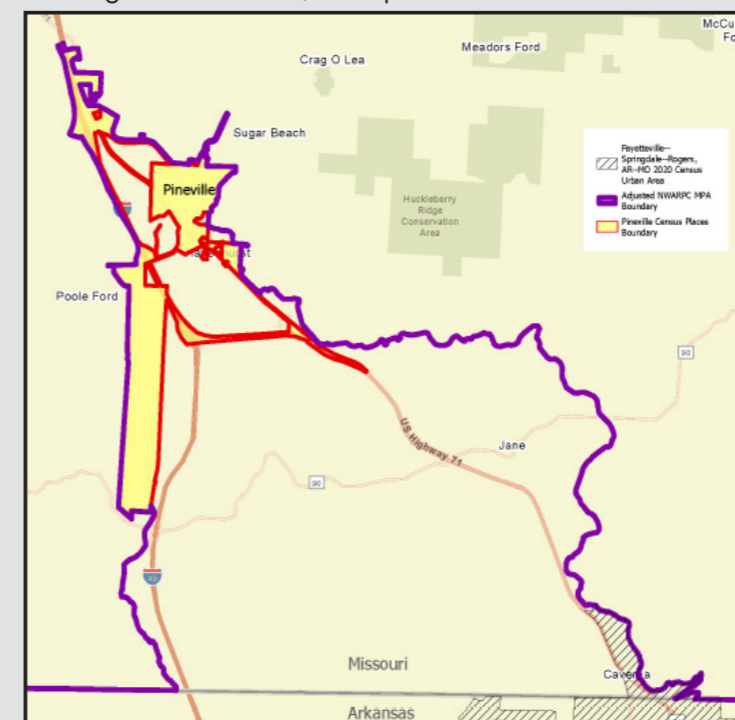
## Areas of Persistent Poverty (AOPP) Study to Improve Bus Stops

NWARPC was awarded a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to conduct design, engineering, and environmental work for bus stop improvements for both ORT and Razorback Transit.

The bus stops to be improved will be located in Areas of Persistent Poverty in the region, as defined by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).



Staff assisted the state coalition applying for EPA's CPRG grant in developing an online map of the proposed projects for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO MSA, Metroplan and Fort Smith.



Updated Missouri portion of the MPA

# GIS COORDINATION

NWARPC continued to provide mapping and GIS support and coordination for its member jurisdictions through numerous projects. The NWA GIS Users Group led by staff continued to meet virtually in 2023 on a bi-monthly basis. GIS services provided by staff in 2023 included:

- Annexations (research, mapping, legal descriptions, and coordination with the State GIS Office) for cities in Benton and Washington Counties.
- Updating Master Street Plans, Zoning Maps, Future Land Use Maps, and Planning Area maps for cities
- Providing help in redistricting as needed prior to the decennial census
- Transportation safety analysis for plans and project development
- Providing analysis and mapping for grant applications
- Providing GIS training support, data share and assistance

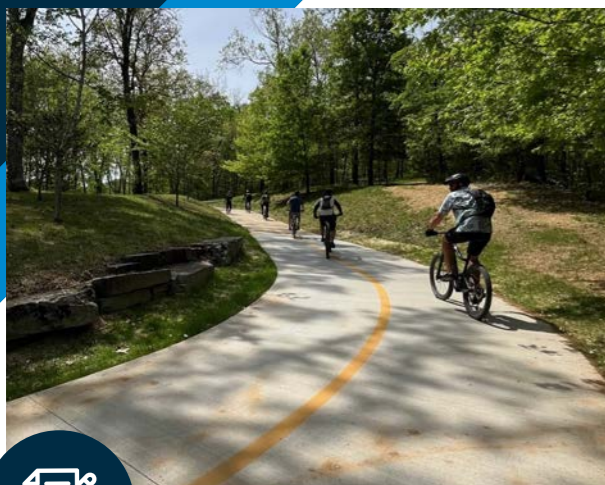


## We Can Do More When We Work Together

### NWARPC MPA Boundary Update

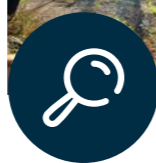
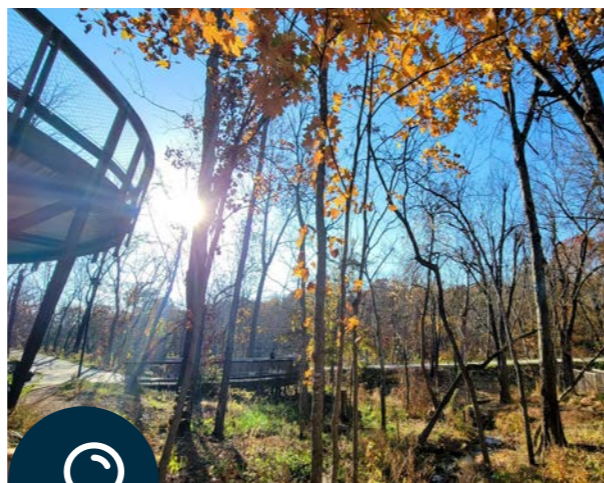
Staff worked with Missouri DOT to update the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundaries to satisfy the Census designated Urban Area and the contiguous area expected to be urban in the next 20 years. The updated NWARPC MPA in Missouri was approved in January 2024.

# ENVIRONMENT AND RESILIENCE PLANNING



## AIR QUALITY PLANNING

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program provides funds for transportation projects designed to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality, particularly in areas of the country that do not attain national air quality standards. While NWA is not currently a non-attainment or maintenance area, the region is approaching the threshold. NWARPC continues to monitor air quality and its impacts on transportation conformity.



## CPRG IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Beginning in December 2023, NWARPC helped to coordinate a regional coalition to develop an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), Implementation Program application. Planning Partners in NWA teamed up to assemble a \$36.25 million proposal that pairs the restoration and preservation of natural cores and corridors with active transportation networks to implement an NWA Regional Green Network. Ultimately, the regional coalition partnered with Metroplan in Little Rock and the City of Fort Smith to maximize the benefit statewide – the three metro areas represent over 50% of the state’s population – and to enhance the application’s competitiveness. The Tri-Region Coalition partnered with over 50 communities, agencies, and organizations across the three regions to develop projects and programs included in the application.

# ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION (EEI) PLANNING

The NWARPC strives to improve environmental quality in the region to assure a bright future for its residents.

Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment’s (E&E) Division of Air Quality (ADEQ) received a \$3 million planning grant through the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program for the creation of an Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan to identify key carbon reduction/sequestration strategies across various sectors in the state. E&E partnered

with NWARPC, Metroplan, and the City of Fort Smith to provide region-specific deliverables that **enable access to and enhance 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 region and state.

## NWA EEI PLANNING

Following Board approval in July 2023, and in agreement with Arkansas E&E, NWARPC received a sub-allocation of the State’s Planning Grant to carry out 100% federally funded regional CPRG action planning for the three-county Metropolitan Statistical Area (Benton, Washington and Madison Counties). NWARPC is responsible for producing three primary deliverables over four (4) years and submitting to ADEQ.



### NWA EEI PAP

The NWA Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Priority Action Plan (PAP) identifies the top priorities of the region, as required by the CPRG Planning Grant, and will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP).

**NWA PAP Supplement Submitted December 1, 2023**



### NWA EEI CAP

The NWA Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) will expand upon the PAP to establish near and long term GHG emissions reduction goals, and provide strategies and identify measures to achieve those goals.

**NWA CAP Supplement Due: February 28, 2025**



### REPORTING

The status update will report on the implementation of the Priority and Comprehensive Action Plans and identify any updates needed and future budget/staffing needs for continued EEI planning and implementation.

**Status Report Supplement Due: March 1, 2027**



# STORMWATER EDUCATION



## Northwest Arkansas Urban Stormwater Program

There are 17 NWA cities, Benton and Washington Counties, and the University of Arkansas that partner with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service and NWARPC on a proven and cost-effective way to meet EPA Phase II Stormwater Management Permit requirements. Of the six minimum control measures required by the EPA, the program fulfills the requirements of public education and outreach, public participation/involvement, and the employee training portion of the pollution prevention and good housekeeping.



- 1,162 children from 10 schools in the region participated in programs on pollution.
- 1,095 individuals interacted with staffed displays at 13 local events.
- 649 municipal employees participated in an annual stormwater training on good-housekeeping and Stormwater Best Management Practices.

Staffed displays were conducted at **three garden centers** where **65 people** were educated on soil testing for fertilizer needs, and were able to submit soil samples for testing. Educational postcards and letters were distributed to over **200 lawncare companies** in Northwest Arkansas explaining the impacts of grass clippings and leaves on water quality - **222 employees** from these companies pledged to keep grass clippings off streets.

Each fall, the Stormwater Education program calls on community partners to come together on a regional effort to remove litter from recreational areas. In 2023: **497 volunteers** participated in removing **7,037 pounds of trash**. There were **176 educational messages** on Social Media with **2,307 followers** and **3,563 engagements**.

## IN 2023 THE MS4 STORMWATER PERMIT EDUCATION EMPHASIS WAS YARD MANAGEMENT



**Individualized MS4 Audit and Compliance Support:** As the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) conducts MS4 stormwater permit audits in Northwest Arkansas, the regional program provides individualized audit support. Additional guidance is given to MS4s as unique situations arise to find resources that ensure they are staying compliant with federal and state stormwater regulations.

In 2023, the U of A Extension Program partnered with Ozark Beer Co. on *Know the Flow Golden Lager* public-ity campaign.

The University of Arkansas Extension Office organized activities and training for 533 participants including construction professionals, educators, Master Gardeners, University of Arkansas students, public officials, and the general public. Education topics included:

- Construction BMPs
- Rain barrels
- Landscape management
- Pollution prevention, and more!



# CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

In 2023 NWARPC participated in the following conferences and workshops:

**National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Conference** – Denver, CO: May 15-18

**Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) Conference** – Charlotte, NC: May 31-June 3

**Arkansas Water Resource Conference** – Fayetteville, AR: July 18-20

**Arkansas Transportation Planning Conference** – Little Rock, AR: September 19-22

**Arkansas GIS Users Conference** – Jonesboro, AR: October 16-20

**SHIFT'23 Conference** – People for Bikes – Bentonville, AR: October 16-18

**Arkansas Transit Conference** – Eureka Springs, AR: October 23-25

**Urban Land Institute (ULI) Place Summit** – Fayetteville, AR: November 8-9



ULI Place Summit Session



ARDOT "Tip of the CAP" Event, Thaden Fieldhouse, Bentonville



Square 2 Square Bike Ride, May 6, 2023  
Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Public Outreach Events in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers and Bentonville

## NACTO Conference

Through a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, NWARPC brought 25 transportation officials, mayors, and engineers to the NACTO conference.

Attendees learned about best practices in safe streets. The delegation met with the Denver Regional Council of Governments to learn about how they developed the region's MetroVision Planning document.



NACTO Conference NWA Participants



## CNU Conference

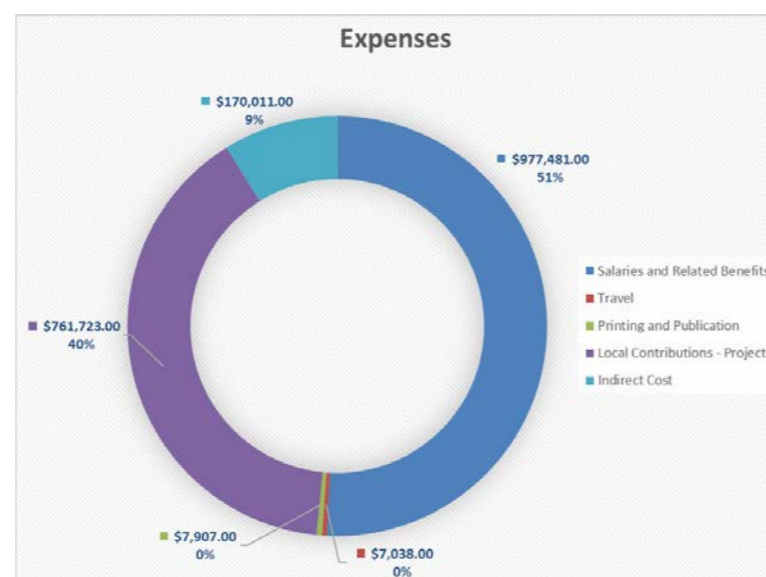
Through a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, NWARPC brought 25 planners, elected leaders, and housing advocates to CNU. The conference's theme was The Corridor. Attendees experienced Charlotte's Lynx light rail through uptown and heard a special presentation from the Charlotte DOT about how they integrated their transit and land use plan to create an effective transportation network.



CNU Conference NWA Participants



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



## NWARPC FY 2023 Financial Summary:

**Revenue = \$2,032,644.00**

**Expenses = \$1,924,160.00**



## CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT

NWARPC is the federally designated review agency and Clearinghouse for Washington and Benton County portion of the Fayetteville/Springdale/ Rogers, Arkansas, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

The purpose of this designation, which is made pursuant to Executive Order #12372, is to ensure that requests for federal funding are reviewed to determine compatibility with local and regional plans, and that such funding will not be used for duplicative purposes. In 2023, federal-aid grants were submitted and were cleared in order to ensure that proposed uses were consistent with, and in furtherance of the goals, objectives and planned development for the MSA.

# MEMBERSHIP

## AGENCY

Avoca  
Bella Vista  
Benton County  
Bentonville  
Cave Springs  
Centerton  
Decatur  
Elkins  
Elm Springs  
Farmington  
Fayetteville  
Garfield  
Gateway  
Gentry  
Goshen  
Gravette  
Greenland  
Highfill  
Huntsville  
Jane, Missouri  
Johnson  
Lincoln  
Little Flock  
Lowell  
McDonald County, Missouri  
Pea Ridge  
Pineville, Missouri  
Prairie Grove  
Rogers  
Siloam Springs  
Springdale  
Springtown  
Sulphur Springs  
Tontitown  
Washington County  
West Fork  
Winslow  
ARDOT – Planning  
ARDOT Districts  
MODOT  
Beaver Water District  
Razorback Transit  
University of Arkansas  
National Airport Authority

## REPRESENTATIVE

Mayor Robert Whitehorn  
Mayor John Flynn  
**JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING – CHAIR**, Josh Beam, Jay Frasier  
Mayor Stephanie Orman, Shelli Kerr  
Mayor Randy Noblett  
**MAYOR BILL EDWARDS – SECRETARY**, Lorene Burns  
Mayor Bob Tharp  
Mayor Troy Reed  
Mayor Harold D. Douthit  
**MAYOR ERNIE PENN – VICE-CHAIR**  
Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Chris Brown, Jonathan Curth  
Mayor Gary L. Blackburn  
Mayor Cheryl Tillman  
Mayor Kevin Johnston  
Mayor Russell Stroud  
Mayor Kurt Maddox  
Mayor Jim Renfrow  
Mayor Chris Holland  
Mayor Travis Dotson\*  
Chairperson Dustin Allgood  
**MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY – TREASURER**  
Mayor Doug Hutchens  
Mayor Jeff Van Sickler  
Mayor Chris Moore  
County Commissioner Bryan Hall  
Mayor Nathan See  
Mayor Greg Sweeten  
Mayor David Faulk  
John McCurdy, Lance Jobe, and Quinton Harris  
Mayor Judy Nation, Allan Gilbert  
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Patsy Christie, Jim Ulmer  
Mayor Terri Glenn  
Mayor Shane Weber  
Mayor Angela Russell  
Judge Patrick Deakins, Brian Lester, Sam Ata  
Mayor S. Heith Caudle  
Mayor Randy Jarnagan  
Brad McCaleb  
Jason Hughey (District 4)  
Britni O'Connor, Marvin Morris  
Lane Crider\*  
Gary Smith  
Scott Turley\*  
Aaron Burkes

\* Non-voting on NARTS matters

### Other Transportation Planning Partners:

Ozark Regional Transit Authority – Joel Gardner  
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Amy Heflin  
Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – Ronisha Hodge  
Arkansas Highway Commission – Phillip Taldo  
Human Service Agencies  
Arkansas Missouri Railroad

## STAFF

---

Tim Conklin, AICP - Executive Director

Donna Lange - Office Manager

Nicole Gibbs, AICP - Regional Planner

Cristina Scarlat - GIS Coordinator/Travel Demand Modeler

Stephanie Shaw - Transportation GIS Analyst

Tim Reavis, AICP - Multimodal Transportation Planner

Luke Aitken - Associate Planner



*Published May 2024*

## CONTACT US

---



1311 Clayton St. Springdale, AR  
72762



comments@nwarpc.org  
www.nwarpc.org  
f:@rpcnwa



+479-751-7125