

**RESOLUTION #2025-21**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT) CONDUCT A STUDY OF INTERSTATE 49 TO ASSESS FUTURE IMPROVEMENT NEEDS**

**WHEREAS**, the Interstate 49 (I-540) Improvement Study, completed in 2006, identified future investment priorities based on forecasted traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, current traffic volumes on I-49 have reached approximately 110,000 AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) (2024) on several segments, with morning and evening peak-hour congestion occurring most days; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2006 study anticipated this traffic growth and recommended additional improvements beyond those implemented over the past two decades; and

**WHEREAS**, an updated I-49 study should evaluate additional managed lanes in each direction – including High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV), High Occupancy Tolls (HOT), and bus-on-shoulder options – as well as the frontage road network, and potential new overpasses and interchanges needed to accommodate future travel demand for a projected regional population of 1 million, including approximately 600,000 in Benton County and 400,000 in Washington County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NWA TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

That the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission respectfully requests that ARDOT and the Arkansas Highway Commission update the 2006 I-49 study through 2050, in cooperation with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, to determine the need for improvements, including managed lanes, on I-49 from Fayetteville to Bentonville.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.**

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Mayor Doug Sprouse, Chairman  
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_