



MEMO

TO: NWARPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
FROM: NWARPC Staff
DATE: May 9, 2025
RE: FFY 2026 NWARPC Funding Program Recommendations

FFY 2026 TIMELINE AND ACTION

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) issued a call for projects on January 5, 2025, with the application deadline being April 3, 2025 at 11:59 p.m., CT for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 NWARPC formula funding programs, including the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

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

Bella Vista	Megan Workman
Benton County	Josh Beam
Bentonville	Dan Weese
Centerton	Mayor Bill Edwards
Elm Springs	Matt Casey
Fayetteville	Paul Libertini & Matt Mihalevich
Lowell	Mayor Chris Moore
Rogers	Kent Laughlin
Springdale	Ryan Carr & Tristan Hill
Tontitown	Scott Ardemagni
Washington County	Bridget Russell

The selection committee toured and scored the projects and discussed award recommendations on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. **The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is now being asked to review these recommendations and provide its own recommendation to the RPC/Policy Committee for consideration on May 28, 2025.**

FFY 2026 FUNDING ESTIMATES

The assumptions for the FFY 2026 funding estimates are based on FFY 2025 published apportionments with an assumed 100% obligation limitation (OL), including additional funds not awarded in FFY 2025 and FFY2025 TIFIA Redistribution. FFY 2026 apportionment funding requires Congressional action.

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A)	\$13,638,358
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	\$ 1,535,368
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)	<u>\$ 1,458,774</u>
	\$16,632,500

FFY 2026 PROJECT REQUESTS

NWARPC received 24 project applications representing 21 unique projects. Three (3) projects were submitted for consideration under multiple funding programs. Of the applications received, seven (7) are for existing STBGP-A projects “in the pipeline”; six (6) are for new STBGP-A projects; six (6) are for TAP funding; and five (5) are for CRP funding.

The total funding requested across the 21 projects is \$26,250,345—approximately \$9.6 million more than the estimated available funding for FFY 2026.

SELECTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee discussed and considered the following:

- Balancing support for existing “pipeline” projects not yet fully funded with the long-term costs of adding new projects.
- Rising construction costs leading to increased funding requests.
- Treating existing STBGP-A projects as priorities, without re-scoring, due to prior Board approval.
- Program requirements, including funding limits and FHWA Functional Classification (collector or above).
- Project timelines and readiness, per the ARDOT Local Public Agency Manual, to meet the September 2026 obligation deadline.
- A goal to distribute funding across as many communities as possible.
- FFY 2026 funding is subject to congressional action and federal priority changes.

Additionally, projects that did not receive their full funding request are encouraged to reapply in the FFY 2027 NWARPC Funding Program Cycle, anticipated to begin in January 2026.

The committee chose not to score and rank projects. The committee instead used the following to derive their recommendations:

- **TAP and CRP Requests** – all TAP and CRP requests were able to be fully funded within the estimated program budgets. However, due to potential shifts in federal priorities, the committee recommended a provision stating that *should FFY 2026 CRP funding not be appropriated by Congress, the approved CRP projects will be prioritized for funding in the next cycle using TAP funds, if eligible under TAP.*
- **STBGP-A Requests** – The committee chose to explore whether funding requests could be reduced to fit within the estimated program budget. Where sponsors were unable to voluntarily reduce their requests, project amounts were adjusted proportionally (pro rata) to stay within the funding limit.

Provision – Due to potential shifts in federal priorities, the committee recommended a provision stating that *should FFY 2026 CRP funding not be appropriated by Congress, the approved CRP projects will be prioritized for funding in the next FFY 2027 NWARPC funding cycle using TAP funds, if eligible under TAP.*

FFY 2026 NWARPC FUNDING RECOMMENDATION:

The committee developed the following funding recommendations for TAC consideration.

Recommended TAC Motion: to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the FFY 2026 NWARPC Funding Program (STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP) project awards as shown, *with the provision that should FFY 2026 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding not be appropriated by Congress, the awarded CRP projects will be prioritized for funding in the next FFY 2027 NWARPC funding cycle using TAP funds, if eligible under TAP.*

STBGP-A Project Applications (EXISTING)						
	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A REQUEST	SCORE/RANK	Award Recommended
1	Bentonville	SW Regional Airport Blvd. / S. Vaughn Rd. Intersection Impr.	ROW/Utilities	\$ 2,544,000	NA	\$ 1,544,000
2	Bentonville-Centerton	Greenhouse Road Improvements - Hwy 12 to Hwy 102	ROW/Utilities	\$ 2,572,920	NA	\$ 2,372,920
3	Lowell	Hwy. 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment	ROW/Utilities/Const	\$ 621,500	NA	\$ 478,603
4	Lowell	Hwy-264/Bellevue/Spring Creek Intersection	Utility/Construction	\$ 3,711,000	NA	\$ 3,511,000
5	Springdale-Johnson	Gene George South, Phase 2	Construction	\$ 8,000,000	NA	\$ 3,000,000
6	Tontitown	Hwy 412 & Barrington Rd. Inters. Impvts.	Design/ROW/Utilities	\$ 1,500,000	NA	\$ 1,300,000
7	Washington County	Wheeler Rd. Bridge Replacement-Clabber Creek Str. & Apprs.	Design/Enviro	\$ 119,920	NA	\$ 119,920
			Total EXISTING	\$19,069,340		\$ 12,326,443

STBGP-A Project Applications (NEW)						
	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A REQUEST	SCORE/RANK	Award Recommended
1	Bella Vista	Reimagining 71 Feasibility Study	Feasibility Study	\$ 310,400	NA	TAP
2	Bella Vista	Bella Vista Trails and Greenway Masterplan Update	Planning	\$ 160,000	NA	CRP
3	Benton County	McNelly Rd – Spanker Rd/Plentywood Inters. & Impvts.	Design/Enviro	\$ 640,000	NA	\$ 500,000
4	Centerton	Hwy102/E Centerton Blvd & Womack St Traffic Signal	Design/Enviro	\$ 1,250,000	NA	\$ 100,000
5	Fayetteville	Highway 112/Garland Ave. (Poplar - Drake St)	Construction	\$ 2,000,000	NA	\$ 500,000
6	Fayetteville	North Street Corridor (Garland to College)	Design/Enviro/ROW	\$ 500,000	NA	\$ 300,000
			Total NEW	\$ 4,860,400		\$ 1,400,000
			TOTAL STBGP-A	\$23,929,740		\$ 13,726,443

TAP Project Applications						
	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	TAP REQUEST	SCORE/RANK	Award Recommended
1	Centerton	Centerton Sidewalks Project Phase 2	Construction	\$400,000	NA	\$ 400,000
2	Fayetteville	Drake Street Connections	Construction	\$210,534	NA	CRP
3	Fayetteville	Transit Stop Enhancements	Construction	\$150,000	NA	\$ 150,000
4	Springdale	Smart School Connections	Construction	\$444,800	NA	\$ 444,800
5	Springdale	40th Street Side Path Extension	Construction	\$328,000	NA	CRP
6	Tontitown	E Fletcher Ave and S Barrington Rd Inters. Impvts.	Construction	\$87,271	NA	\$ 87,271
7	Bella Vista	Reimagining 71 Feasibility Study	Feasibility Study	STBGP-A	NA	\$ 310,400
8	Lowell	Hwy. 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment	Construction	STBGP-A	NA	\$ 142,897
			TOTAL TAP	\$1,620,605		\$ 1,535,368

CRP Project Applications						
	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	CRP REQUEST	SCORE/RANK	Award Recommended
1	Bella Vista	Bella Vista Trails and Greenway Masterplan Update	Planning	\$160,000	NA	\$ 160,000
2	Fayetteville	Rupple Road Lighting — Persimmon to MLK	Construction	\$500,000	NA	\$ 500,000
3	Rogers	Active Mobility (Bicycle & Pedestrian) Plan	Planning	\$200,000	NA	\$ 200,000
4	Springdale	Smart School Connections	Construction	\$444,800	NA	TAP
5	Springdale	40th Street Side Path Extension	Construction	\$328,000	NA	\$ 328,000
6	Fayetteville	Drake Street Connections	Construction	TAP	NA	\$ 210,534
			TOTAL CRP	\$1,632,800		\$ 1,398,534
			ALL PROGRAMS	\$27,183,145		\$ 16,660,345

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