

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025, AT 10:30 AM; *DRAFT*

ENTITY	MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	MEGAN WORKMAN TAYLOR ROBERTSON CHRIS HYATT	X X X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER	X	
BENTONVILLE	JARROD BRIGHTWELL DAN WEESE	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MATT CASEY	X	
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	JONATHAN CURTH CHRIS BROWN PAUL LIBERTINI	X X	
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	JEREMY JOHNSON		
JOHNSON	KORAB VRANOVCI	X	
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER		X Nicole Gibbs
LOWELL	KAREN DAVIS	X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK		
ROGERS	JOHN MCCURDY (CHAIR) QUINTON HARRIS LANCE JOBE	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS (VICE CHAIR) KEVIN MOORE	X	
SPRINGDALE	BEN PETERS RYAN CARR SHARON TROMBURG	X X	
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL	X	
WASHINGTON CO.	BRIDGET RUSSELL SAM ATA JEFF CROWDER	X	
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
NWARPC	TIM CONKLIN	X	
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	CODY HUDSON		
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER	X	
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	ADAM WADDELL (GARY K. SMITH)	X	
U OF A	KRISTEN KNIGHT (CHARLES ZIMMERMAN)		
McDONALD COUNTY	COMM. BRYAN HALL		
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER (MARVIN MORRIS)		
NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT	AARON BURKES	X	
ARDOT PLANNING AND DISTRICT 9	ANTHONY HUNTER SUNNY FARMAHAN ROBERT MOORE	X	

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NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin, Nicole Gibbs, Tim Reavis, Luke Aitken, Cristina Scarlat

OTHERS: Brandi Holt (Huntsville), Mike Blankenship (Siloam Springs), Brad Spurlock (Tontitown), Madison Kienzle (Benton Co), Colton Echols, Anna Stamps, & Elliot Bell (CEI), Doug Thompson (NWADG), Jason Corral (Jacobs), Tristen Farris (Office of Sen. Tom Cotton).

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY; VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED AS NWARPC REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The in-person and virtual NWARPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting was called to order by Chair John McCurdy at 10:30 A.M.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members attending the meeting In-person named themselves present and Tim Conklin named the virtual attendees. Nicole Gibbs recorded member names and tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

(3) APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Chair John McCurdy asked if there were any revisions to the May TAC meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented.

MOTION: Taylor Robertson made a motion to approve the TAC Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2025, seconded by Paul Libertini. Motion carried unanimously.

(4) REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATOR (RIA) GRANT APPLICATION – Informational

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Tim Conklin provided an informational update on the reissued Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Regional Infrastructure Accelerators Program, which offers up to \$2M in no-match grants to fund technical resources, planning, and project development aimed at expediting regional transportation infrastructure projects. Conklin stated NWARPC submitted an application in June 2025 for \$1.5M in federal funding with no local match required, with the Build America Bureau offering technical assistance in preparing the grant application.

(5) 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) AMENDMENT #3 – XNA Terminal and Road Improvements – Public Hearing and Recommendation for Public Comment Period

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Tim Conklin described proposed XNA airport terminal improvements for the western concourse and associated roadway upgrades to Airport Boulevard and Regional Avenue. Conklin said the public comment period is proposed to be held from July 18 to August 18, 2025. A public hearing was held and the floor was opened for discussion. No public comments were made.

Chair, John McCurdy asked for a motion to recommend the draft 2045 MTP Amendment #3 for public comment.

MOTION: Paul Libertini made a motion to recommend the draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment #3 for Public Comment, seconded by Mayor Bill Edwards. Motion carried unanimously.

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(6) NARTS FFY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #2 – XNA Terminal and Road Improvements – Recommendation for Public Comment Period

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Tim Conklin noted that in addition to the previously approved MTP Amendment, a corresponding amendment to the TIP is required to program federal funding for the XNA improvements. The public comment period for this amendment is proposed to run from August 4 to August 18, 2025. The members in attendance voted to recommend approval of the amendment for a public comment period.

2025-2028 NARTS TIP AMEND. #2

JOB	COUNTY	ROUTE	TERMINI	LENGTH	TYPE WORK	ESTIMATED COST	AGENCY CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT	FFY	MPO
						Funding Breakdown (in thousands)			
ADD:									
XXXXX			Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA) Western Concourse	-		98,000 - TOTAL 48,020 - TIFIA (49%) 49,980 - Local (51%)	Local-XNA	2025	NARTS
ADD:									
XXXXX			Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA) Airport Blvd and Regional Ave Improvements	-		13,300 - TOTAL 10,640 - CPF 2,660 - Local	Local-XNA	2025	NARTS

MOTION: Taylor Robertson made a motion to recommend the draft NARTS FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2 for Public Comment, seconded by Paul Libertini. Motion carried unanimously.

NOTE: Jonathan Curth stated over video that he accidentally voted against approval. The vote tally via online poll reflects this. Curth corrected the record resulting in unanimous approval of the motion.

(7) ARKANSAS TRI-REGION CPRG IMPLEMENTATION GRANT ELECTRIC BIKE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Conklin reported that NWARPC will now be designated as the sub-awardee for the EPA CPRG-funded E-Bike Incentive Program, covering Northwest Arkansas (\$3.5M), Little Rock (\$1.5M), and Fort Smith (\$2.5M). The voucher program will be consultant-led and managed, with NWARPC overseeing its associated procurement processes. Conklin stated that a resolution to accept the subaward from Metroplan will be considered by the Policy Committee next week on July 23, 2025.

(8) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES

A. NWARPC Funding Programs (STBGP-A/TAP/CRP) - FFY 2025 Obligation Plan

Nicole Gibbs stated the importance of providing quarterly project updates over email to both NWARPC and ARDOT staff. Gibbs reviewed the FFY 2025 Obligation Plan Scenario, highlighting project readiness status, outstanding quarterly reports, and the upcoming September obligation deadline.

B. Forward2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transit Alternatives Study (TAS) and Travel Demand Model (TDM) Updates

Tim Reavis provided an overview of current staff efforts to produce the Forward2050 Plan (MTP) sharing the overall project timeline and emphasized that the Forward2050 MTP is targeted for completion and is slated to be adopted by the RPC/Policy Committee by March 2026. Reavis thanked

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RPC members for their help in sharing the project’s survey with 891 responses received. Reavis stated the survey engagement reported strong support for expanded road infrastructure, transit options, and improved access for underserved populations.

C. Other Ongoing Project Updates

Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan – Tim Reavis recapped recent progress made on the Razorback Greenway Corridor Master Plan. Reavis stated that consultant staff met one-on-one with leaders from each of the seven cities along the Razorback Greenway Corridor and said that there were over 1,000 responses to the public survey. Lastly, he informed the group of the fourth Advisory Committee meeting to be held later the same day, with staff from Consultant Field Operations, with the focus on Open Space & Connectivity themes.

Local Government Support – Tim Conklin provided an overview of recent work or discussions around regional stormwater, wastewater, and land use planning, as the region continues to experience unprecedented population growth. He said staff have been meeting regularly with the four largest cities in the region to discuss regional stormwater needs. He also mentioned that NWARPC staff has been involved in discussions with five cities in Western Benton County around wastewater planning and has issued a call for Letters of Interest (LOI’s) from consultants in the region to conduct a “Comprehensive Study of Wastewater Management and Needs in Benton and Washington Counties”. He said the Commission had received multiple letters of interest earlier this month and staff are currently reviewing the firm’s letters. He said the next step will be publishing a Request for Qualifications, with firms submitting their respective qualifications for producing a regional capacity study.

D. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Executive Director Tim Conklin shared news of ARDOT's recently secured \$24.46M BUILD grant award from USDOT for the final phase of the Springdale Northern Bypass (Hwy 612). This project will go toward the construction of the final phase of the approximately 20-mile Springdale Northern Bypass, including approximately 6.63 miles of roadway, extending from a new interchange at Highway 265 in Springdale to another new interchange at Highway 412 near Blue Springs.

Conklin stated that the Commission would soon apply for, accept and administer a Pass-Through Grant from the Walton Family Foundation on behalf of the Razorback Greenway Alliance. A resolution was recently approved by the policy board allowing this to proceed. He said the Commission will continue to serve as administrative support for the Razorback Greenway Alliance to include the preparation of governmental finance statements, coordination of audits, and financial recordkeeping.

Conklin lastly provided an overview of ARDOT’s STIP development timeline, beginning in August with a deadline for MPO’s to submit proposed projects, ending in 2027 with FHWA/FTA approvals after going through public comment periods and state level approvals. He said MPOs have been asked to submit a list of priority projects, and similar to previous years, we will be submitting the 2045 MTP Constrained Projects list for ARDOT’s consideration.

(9) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee

Luke Aitken said the ACT Committee last met virtually June 5, 2025; to discuss the complete streets

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design guide, the NWA Walk Bike plan update, and recent bike and pedestrian project developments in the region. He said the next meeting will be held virtually on August 7, 2025, at 1:30 PM.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Luke Aitken said the group's last meeting was held on April 9, 2025, at the Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area. He said the next meeting would be held in person at the commission office, on August 13, 2025, at 11:00 AM.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair John McCurdy said no public comments had been submitted prior to the meeting and asked whether there were any from attendees. There were none.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Chair John McCurdy announced the following upcoming meeting and conference dates, with Tim Conklin highlighting the relevant upcoming conferences listed:

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, August 21, 2025 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, July 23, 2025 @ 1:30 PM

(12) ADJOURNMENT

Chair John McCurdy asked whether there was any other business to discuss. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 11:04 AM.