

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025, AT 10:30 AM; *DRAFT*

ENTITY	MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	TAYLOR ROBERTSON MEGAN WORKMAN CHRIS HYATT	X X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER	X	
BENTONVILLE	JARROD BRIGHTWELL DAN WEESE	X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS		
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 VRANOVI		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	Nicole Gibbs
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE	X	Karen Davis
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE	X	Keegan Stanton
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK	X	
ROGERS	JOHN MCCURDY (CHAIR) QUINTON HARRIS LANCE JOBE	X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS (VICE CHAIR) BRENT O'NEAL	X X	
SPRINGDALE	BEN PETERS RYAN CARR SHARON TROMBURG	X X	
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL	X	Brad Spurlock
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		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	ADAM WADDELL (GARY K. SMITH)	X	
U OF A	KRISTEN KNIGHT (DIANE MEEK)	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMM. BRYAN HALL		
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER (BRITTANY MITCHELL)	X	Luke Aitken
NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT	AARON BURKES	X	
ARDOT PLANNING AND DISTRICT 9	ANTHONY HUNTER SUNNY FARMAHAN ROBERT MOORE	X X	Marcus Rainwater

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NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin, Nicole Gibbs, Tim Reavis, Luke Aitken, Cristina Scarlat, Stephanie Marpe, Madison Kienzle, Shimon Beazer

OTHERS: Diane Meek & Michael Oestereicher (Univ. of Ark), Rob Smith (NWA Council), Morgan Harris & Aaron Boll (Halff & Associates), Amanda Barch (MoDOT), Minghua Qiu-Miller, Aaron Pinedo & Brighton Huynh (ARDOT), Nathan Crouch (Benton County), Mike Stengel & Alan Caster (Michael Baker Intl.), Doug Thompson (NWADG)

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 Vice Chair Ben Rhoads at 10:30am.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members attending the meeting in-person named themselves present, and Tim Conklin named the virtual attendees. Luke Aitken recorded member names and a quorum was reached.

(3) APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chair Ben Rhoads asked if there were any revisions to the October 16, 2025 meeting minutes. No revisions were heard.

MOTION: Matt Casey made a motion approve the October 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mayor David Faulk. Motion carried unanimously.

(4) Forward 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – Chapters 2 & 6

Vice Chair Ben Rhoads introduced the item and Tim Reavis and Tim Conklin presented Chapters 2 and 6 of the Forward 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Chapter 2 focused on current conditions and future outlook, including population projections, travel demand modeling, traffic congestion trends, and future growth scenarios. Chapter 6 addressed implementation and performance monitoring, outlining investment priorities, policy actions, and funding challenges. Conklin reviewed the proposed timeline for public engagement and offered to answer any questions.

Vice Chair Ben Rhoads asked if there were any questions and hearing none requested a motion to recommend the draft Forward 2050 MTP for public comment.

MOTION: Jonathan Cruth made a motion to recommend the draft Forward 2050 MTP for public comment. Seconded by Taylor Robertson. Motion carried unanimously.

(5) Transit Alternatives Study (TAS), US 71B Corridor Study, and Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) Updates

Vice Chair Ben Rhoads introduced the item and Tim Reavis provided an update on the Transit Alternatives Study as it nears completion. He said Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is identified as the draft regionally preferred alternative and discussed next steps for advancing the project. He said in coordination with Forward 2050, a U.S. 71B Corridor Study is recommended for the next phase of planning, with the proposed scope including station planning, right-of-way analysis, and coordination with land use and transit-oriented development strategies, as well as preliminary engineering and

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environmental considerations. Reavis also outlined potential funding approaches for conducting the corridor study.

Tim Conklin discussed Arkansas RMA funding and outlined what Arkansas state law defines, along with other RMA/RTA authorities in metro areas across the country.

(6) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES

Ben Rhoads

A. NWARPC Funding Programs (STBGP-A/TAP/CRP) – FFY 2027 Funding Cycle Timeline

Nicole Gibbs provided updates on NWARPC funding programs, including the anticipated FFY 2027 funding cycle timeline and upcoming call for projects in early 2026 and shared the following:

FFY 2027 NWARPC Funding Programs Timeline (*Anticipated*)

Action/Activity	Date
Call for Projects (Applications Open)	Early January 2026
Application Deadline (Resolution Required)	Early April 2026
Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee	April 2026
Selection Committee Site Visits/Scoring/Rec	April/May (TBD)
Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC	May 2026
TAC Recommendation to RPC/Policy	May 2026

*Last year, NWARPC awarded **\$16.6 million** for regionally significant projects. FFY 2027 programs and funding levels subject to Congressional reauthorization.*

nwarpc.org

B. Other Ongoing Project Updates

Madison Kienzle provided updates on the CPRG Implementation Grant which funds 17 regional projects. She also highlighted progress on the Tri-Region E-Bike Incentive Program, noting that contract negotiations with the selected firm are underway. She provided an update concerning NWARPC’s role as a Council of Governments and noted Madison County’s upcoming public hearing concerning their zoning map. She also presented a 2022-2025 Ozone Summary for air quality showing NWA trending down or improved air quality.

C. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Madison Kienzle summarized various open IJJA Grant Opportunities.

(7) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee

Luke Aitken reported that ACT last met on October 2, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2025, at 1:30 PM and will be held virtually.

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B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Luke Aitken stated that the last Open Space Coalition meeting was held October 21, 2025, and the next Open Space Coalition meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025 at 11:00 am and will be held in-person at the NWARPC office with a virtual option.

(8) PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Ben Rhoads asked for public comments. None were submitted prior to the meeting, and no comments were heard from attendees in-person or virtually.

(9) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Ben Rhoads announced the following upcoming meeting dates:

- RPC/Policy Committee on December 3, 2025, @ 1:30 PM
- NWA Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)- *TBD 2025*
- TAC on December 18, 2025, at 10:30 AM (*may be cancelled*)
- TAC Meeting- Thursday, January 15, 2026 @ 10:30am
- RPC/Policy Committee – Wednesday, January 28, 2026 @ 1:30 PM

Tim Conklin said Northwest Arkansas was the only GIS Day event held in the state, and was held on November 19, 2025.

Conklin also shared the following upcoming conference and event dates:

- CNU 34 will take place May 12-16, 2026 in Northwest Arkansas
- ULI NWA Plan Local program has a planning partnership info session on December 4th and a Happy Hour series kickoff on December 11th.
- Forward 2050 Open House/Public Outreach:
 - December 6, 2025, at the Rogers Farmers Market.
 - December 8, 2025, at the Jones Center.

(10) ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Ben Rhoads asked whether there was any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.