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Contact: Tim Conklin
Phone: 479-751-7125
Email: tconklin@nwarpc.org

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission awards \$16.6 million for local road, trail, sidewalk, and safety projects

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (June 9, 2025) — The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is pleased to announce the award of federal funding for regional transportation projects through three critical federal-aid programs: the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). These competitive funding awards support local and regional infrastructure improvements that enhance mobility, promote safety, encourage alternative transportation, and reduce transportation emissions across the region.

In this funding cycle, the NWARPC Board of Directors has awarded a total of \$16.6 million in federal funds apportioned to the urban area, supporting 21 practical, community-driven projects that improve roadways, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transportation safety throughout Northwest Arkansas.

Funding will support both new and ongoing projects in the following communities: Washington County, Tontitown, Springdale, Rogers, Lowell, Fayetteville, Centerton, Bentonville, Benton County, and Bella Vista.

“This is a collaborative effort among our member communities—an essential step toward strengthening our region as we prepare for a population projected to reach 1 million by 2050,” said Tim Conklin, executive director of Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission. “By leveraging federal dollars through local partnerships, we are able to deliver long-lasting improvements that benefit residents, businesses, and visitors alike.”

Project and Program Overview

The NWARPC Board of Directors awarded grant funding to 21 unique projects submitted by member jurisdictions and selected through a competitive process. These federal funding programs require a 20-percent match by the grantee.

Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2026 funding estimates are based on the FFY 2025 funding apportionment levels and subject to Congressional action.

The urban area funding programs are administered by NWARPC annually, with the FFY 2027 funding program cycle expected to begin in January 2026.

FFY 2026 NWARPC Funding Program Awards

| Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A) | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Jurisdiction | Project | Federal Funding Award |
| Benton County | McNelly Rd – Spanker Rd/Plentywood Intersection & Impvts. | \$ 500,000 |
| Bentonville | SW Regional Airport Blvd./S. Vaughn Rd. Intersection Imprvts. | \$ 1,544,000 |
| Bentonville-Centerton | Greenhouse Road Improvements (Hwy 12 to Hwy 102) | \$ 2,372,920 |
| Centerton | Highway 102/E Centerton Blvd & Womack St. Traffic Signal | \$ 100,000 |
| Fayetteville | Highway 112/Garland Ave. (Poplar to Drake) | \$ 500,000 |
| Fayetteville | North Street Corridor (Garland to College) | \$ 300,000 |
| Lowell | Highway 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment* | \$ 478,603 |
| Lowell | Highway 264/Belleview/Spring Creek Intersection | \$ 3,511,000 |
| Springdale-Johnson | Gene George Blvd. Phase 2 | \$ 3,000,000 |
| Tontitown | Highway 412 & Barrington Rd. Intersection Impvts. | \$ 1,300,000 |
| Washington County | Wheeler Rd. Bridge Replacement-Clabber Creek Str. & Apprs. | \$ 119,920 |
| 11 | Total STBGP-A | \$ 13,726,443 |

| Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| Jurisdiction | Project | Federal Funding Award |
| Bella Vista | Reimagining 71 Feasibility Study | \$ 310,400 |
| Centerton | Centerton Sidewalks Project Phase 2 | \$ 400,000 |
| Fayetteville | Transit Stop Enhancements | \$ 150,000 |
| Lowell | Highway 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment* | \$ 142,897 |
| Springdale | Smart School Connections | \$ 444,800 |
| Tontitown | E Fletcher Ave and S Barrington Rd Intersection Impvts. | \$ 87,271 |
| 6 | Total TAP | \$ 1,535,368 |

| Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Jurisdiction | Project | Federal Funding Award |
| Bella Vista | Bella Vista Trails and Greenway Masterplan Update | \$ 160,000 |
| Fayetteville | Rupple Road Lighting (Persimmon to MLK) | \$ 500,000 |
| Fayetteville | Drake Street Connections | \$ 210,534 |
| Rogers | Active Mobility (Bicycle & Pedestrian) Plan | \$ 200,000 |
| Springdale | 40th Street Side Path Extension | \$ 328,000 |
| 5 | Total CRP | \$ 1,398,534 |

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| 21* | Total FFY 2026 NWARPC Funding Awarded | \$ 16,660,345 |
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*Lowell Hwy. 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment awarded with STBGP-A and TAP funding.

About the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is a governmental organization formed through a cooperative agreement in 1966. It has since grown to include 38 units of government and other public agency partners across Benton, Madison, and Washington counties in Arkansas, as well as a portion of McDonald County in Missouri. NWARPC serves as a forum for cooperative decision-making, develops federally-mandated transportation plans, convenes stakeholders to address shared planning challenges, and provides information and staff resources to our member agencies and the public. Designated the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in 1983, NWARPC oversees the 3C transportation planning process, ensuring comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous planning necessary for regions to qualify for federal transportation funding.

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