



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1311 Clayton St., Springdale, Arkansas, 72762

• (479) 751 7125

• Fax: (479) 751 7150

• <http://nwarpc.org>

September 11, 2025

Via email Sunny Farmahan and Anthony Hunter, ARDOT
Frank Miller, MoDOT

RE: NARTS FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENT #1 APPROVAL

All:

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) determined an amendment to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is needed to continue the subscription for a regional Replica software license and associated cost sharing with local governments. The amendment is included as Exhibit A.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION: In accordance with NWARPC's Public Participation Plan (PPP), notification was published in the Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette on Sunday, August 10, 2025; the La Prensa Libre on Wednesday, August 13, 2025; the McDonald County Press on Thursday, August 14, 2025, and online at www.nwarpc.org/public-notifications/. A public comment period for the UPWP Amendment #1 began on Monday, August 11, 2025 and ran through Monday, August 25, 2025. Written comments were encouraged via email or using the comment tab on the NWARPC website. No public comments were received.

RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL: The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a hybrid, in-person and virtual, meeting on August 21, 2025 and recommended approval of the UPWP Amendment #1 to the RPC/Policy Committee. The RPC/Policy Committee held a hybrid, in-person and virtual, meeting on August 27, 2025 and approved Resolution #2025-16 Amending the NARTS FY 2024 UPWP.

This approval letter along with the approved Resolution #2025-16 have been incorporated into the NARTS FY 2026 UPWP amendments, which can be viewed at www.nwarpc.org/unified-planning-work-program/.

Thank you for your assistance in this endeavor. Please contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gibbs

Nicole Gibbs, AICP

Transportation Programs Manager, NWARPC

Enclosed:

NWARPC Resolution #2025-16, incl. Exhibit A

RESOLUTION #2025-16

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NARTS) FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) TO CONTINUE THE SUBSCRIPTION FOR A REGIONAL REPLICIA SOFTWARE LICENSE AND ASSOCIATED COST SHARING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require an areawide multi-modal transportation plan and a continuing planning process for urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, said mandated planning process, known as the "3C" (Continuing, Cooperative and Comprehensive) planning process, must be carried out by a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and is necessary for transportation projects to qualify for federal transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is the designated MPO for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, transportation planning to be undertaken by and under the direction of the MPO must be contained in an approved Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); and

WHEREAS, Resolution #2025-07 approved the FY2026 UPWP which included updating the Travel Demand Model in preparation for the 2050 MTP including land use scenarios and high-capacity transit scenarios; and

WHEREAS, as part of the contracted agreement with the consultant to prepare the Travel Demand Model and transit scenarios, NWARPC obtained a regional Replica software license, which provided access to the software for member jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, NWARPC desires to continue the regional Replica software subscription to support ongoing and future transportation planning efforts and proposes to fund this subscription through a 50-50 cost-sharing agreement with participating member jurisdictions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

Section 1. The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Transportation Study (NARTS) FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is hereby to include the continued subscription of a regional Replica software license as shown in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto.

Section 2. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to enter into a cost-sharing agreement with member jurisdictions to support 50 percent of the subscription cost for the Replica software.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 27TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2025



Mayor Doug Sprouse, Chairman
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

ATTEST: 

EXHIBIT A

**NARTS FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)
PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1 – CHANGES SHOWN IN RED**

44.24: SHORT-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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J. EVALUATE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION DATA

1. Support data-driven decision-making through data sharing and integration of multimodal datasets to support long-range planning, corridor studies, and other transportation planning initiatives.
2. Assist member jurisdictions with transportation analysis through appropriate software acquisition.

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COST DATA:

Federal	\$	510,591
Local (MPO)	\$	<u>113,759</u>
Total	\$	624,350
Element Percent		27%

NOTES:

- The required local match of \$20,000 for the awarded \$180,000 FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Grant (90% Federal-10% Local Match) will be provided by and split between Ozark Regional Transit Authority and University of Arkansas Razorback Transit.
- The transit planning software three-year (2024-2027) renewal total contract cost is \$124,000. Razorback Transit will pay \$59,208 (includes Razorback Transit scheduling software and one time implementation fee, non-federal) over the course of the three years. ORT will pay \$4,628.01 over the three years. NWARPC to pay \$4,627.99 over the three years. Federal PL share is \$55,536 over the three years.
- A regional license for Replica software will be made available to NWARPC and all member jurisdictions to support transportation planning and analysis. NWARPC will enter into a two-year agreement for the license, with costs shared equally—50% funded by NWARPC through federal planning (PL) funds and 50% funded by participating local governments. PL funding in the amount of \$31,250 will be allocated annually, with a required local match of \$31,250 provided by member jurisdictions through an agreement of understanding.