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Contact: Tim Conklin

Email: tconklin@nwarpc.org

High-resolution images available for download [here](#).

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission taps Gibbs for leadership role, welcomes three new team members

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (Oct. 7, 2025) — The **Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission** (NWARPC) is pleased to announce the promotion of **Nicole Gibbs to Assistant Director**. Gibbs, who joined NWARPC in 2021 as a Regional Planner, most recently served as Transportation Programs Manager/Regional Planner. In her new role, she will continue overseeing transportation planning while expanding her leadership responsibilities to support the commission's mission. Gibbs, a certified planner (AICP), previously served as Senior Planner for the City of Centerton. She holds a Master of Science in Planning from the University of Arizona.

In addition to Gibbs' appointment, NWARPC is excited to welcome three new staff members who bring diverse expertise and leadership to the organization:

New Staff Highlights

- **Madison Kienzle, Regional Planner**

Kienzle joins NWARPC following her role as Planning Director for Benton County Government, where she led regulatory updates on solar energy systems, accessory dwelling units, and recreational vehicle parks, while managing subdivision, variance, floodplain, and commercial development review. Kienzle's experience includes supporting regional growth and policy development efforts. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Arkansas and a bachelor's degree in political science from Missouri Southern State University.

- **Stephanie Marpe, Fiscal Operations Manager**

Marpe brings more than a decade of experience in operations and financial management, most recently serving as Operations Director for Downtown Bentonville Incorporated (DBI). At DBI, she managed more than 150 annual community events, oversaw vendor compliance, secured corporate sponsorships, and coordinated multi-agency partnerships. She previously held leadership roles as Farmers Market Manager and Disability Coordinator at New Heights Church, Bentonville. Marpe holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Oral Roberts University.

- **Shimon Beazer, GIS Analyst**

Beazer brings strong geospatial expertise developed through international and regional experience. Prior to joining NWARPC, he served as a GIS intern with OzarksGo and a Surveyor/GIS Analyst with the Ministry of Works and Transport in Antigua and Barbuda. He holds a master's degree in geography from the University of Arkansas and a bachelor's degree

from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. He is also a certified FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot, enhancing the commission's geospatial capabilities with drone technology.

Building Capacity for Regional Collaboration

As the population of Northwest Arkansas approaches 1 million residents by 2050, regional planning and coordination are more important than ever. The addition of Kienzle, Beazer, and Marpe equips NWARPC with new skills in land use planning, geospatial analysis, and financial operations — key areas that support transportation planning, infrastructure investment, and community development.

“Nicole has been an integral leader on our team, and her promotion reflects the dedication and expertise she brings to our region,” said **Tim Conklin, Executive Director of NWARPC**. “With the additions of Madison, Stephanie, and Shimon, we’ve strengthened our ability to provide the technical knowledge and collaborative support our local governments and partners depend on. As Northwest Arkansas continues to grow, collaboration across city, county, and state lines will be critical to meeting the region’s challenges and opportunities.”

About the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), serving as both a Council of Governments and the region’s Metropolitan Planning Organization, leads collaborative efforts to shape a safe, connected, and resilient region. NWARPC supports communities through innovative planning, transportation choice, and responsible growth that enhances quality of life across Northwest Arkansas.

Formed in 1966, NWARPC now includes 39 units of government and agency partners across Benton, Madison, and Washington counties in Arkansas, as well as a portion of McDonald County in Missouri. Since being designated the region’s Metropolitan Planning Organization in 1983, NWARPC has overseen the federally required 3C (comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous) transportation planning process, ensuring Northwest Arkansas qualifies for critical federal funding that drives infrastructure and community development.

To learn more about NWARPC’s work, visit nwarpc.org.