

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NWARPC)

Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) FFY 2027 Project Application

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NWARPC DISCLAIMER: This notice is in accordance with the NWARPC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in cooperation with local agencies, the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration. Documents are funded in part through grant(s) from the FHWA, FTA, and/or the U.S. Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of the NWARPC expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP): The public participation procedures outlined in the NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP) with respect to TIP development serve as the public participation process required for the development of transit projects as per FTA Circular 9030.1E. Specifically, the public participation procedures outlined in the PPP will serve to satisfy the Program of Projects (POP) requirements of the Section 5307, Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program for the University of Arkansas/Razorback Transit and Ozark Regional Transit. The NARTS and any and all public transit operators will address the POP requirements as per FTA Circular 9030.1E. Additionally, any and all public transit operator's capital projects and operational costs are included in the NARTS TIP which is developed through a cooperative and collaborative process with interested parties and other private and public transportation providers.

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Section 1. Policy and Project Information

FFY 2027 CRP Project Application Timeline:

Call for Projects:	<u>Sunday, January 4, 2026</u>
Project Application Deadline:	<u>Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 11:59 PM, CT</u>
Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee:	<u>Thursday, April 16, 2026</u>
Selection Committee Projects Tour (<i>Save the Date</i>):	<u>Wednesday, April 29, 2026</u>

FFY 2027 CRP Funding Estimated: approx. \$1.43 million

Estimate based on FFY 2025 apportionment and 100% obligation authority; availability of FFY 2027 and subsequent years funds are subject to Congressional reauthorization.

CRP Funding Background:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58 (Nov. 15, 2021) provides federal apportioned sub-allocated Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding to the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO Urbanized area. The purpose of the CRP Program is to implement projects to reduce transportation emissions. Transportation Emissions means carbon dioxide emissions from on-road highway sources of those emissions within a State (23 U.S.C. 175(a)(2)).

The CRP is a federally funded, 80% Federal/20% local, reimbursable program and projects must meet and follow the ARDOT Local Public Agency (LPA) federal-aid process for reimbursement. Funds must be used for eligible projects that are submitted by eligible entities and chosen through a competitive process. The LPA Manual can be found at: www.ardot.gov/divisions/local-programs/local-public-agency-project-manual/.

A local sponsor must provide at least 20% of the eligible project costs in cash. Federal funds from other sources cannot be used to match these funds. The LPA is responsible for maintaining and providing records and obtaining all required ARDOT approvals/authorizations for CRP project expenses prior to expenditure of funds and/or work. Additional information on CRP program and funding can be found at: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/crp.cfm>.

The RPC/Policy Committee voted to have the focus areas of the program to be eligible activities under A, C, D, E and F further described as:

- A. a project described in 23 U.S.C. 149(b)(4) to establish or operate a traffic monitoring, management, and control facility or program, including advanced truck stop electrification systems;
- C. a transportation alternatives project as described in 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29) as in effect prior to the enactment of the FAST Act,³ including the construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation;
- D. a project described in section 23 U.S.C. 503(c)(4)(E) for advanced transportation and congestion management technologies;
- E. a project for the deployment of infrastructure-based intelligent transportation systems capital improvements and the installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communications equipment, including retrofitting dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) technology deployed as part of an existing pilot program to cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) technology; and
- F. a project to replace street lighting and traffic control devices with energy-efficient alternatives;

Guidelines: The following guidelines will be used to select projects for funding that are consistent with NWARPC board-adopted regional plans, policies, and initiatives and the FHWA Carbon Reduction Program Implementation Guidance. Applications are encouraged to demonstrate implementation of regional plans (e.g. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) and Vision Zero Policy; Congestion Management Process; Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture; Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO); NWA Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan; Connect NWA Transit Development Plan; NWA Transportation Alternatives Analysis; NWA Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan; NWA Open Space Plan; and Cave Springs Area Karst Resource Conservation Study).

1.1 Project Selection and Scoring. All projects will be scored utilizing the same criteria. Project selection will be based on the overall number of projects submitted, availability of funding, demonstrated need and approved focus areas. Scores and ranking of applications will be determined by a committee.

1.2 Minimum Project Size. The proposed total project cost shall be a minimum of \$125,000.

CRP Request	\$100,000	80% Federal Share
Local Match	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	20% Local Match
Total Project	\$125,000	100%

1.3 Maximum Amount Per Project Sponsor. A goal is to allocate no more than 50% of the CRP funds to a single project sponsor in one year. There is the understanding that funding should be equitably distributed within the Urban Area.

1.4 Funding Projects. CRP funds will be awarded for eligible activities.

1.5 Implementation of Regional Plans. Project sponsors should focus on projects that will provide on-road and off-road active transportation facilities connecting to the existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian networks as described in the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and NWA Heritage Trail Plan, reduce transportation emissions as described in the NWA Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan, and align with safety strategies in the NWA Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero Policy.

1.6 Application and Deadline Requirement. All project sponsors must submit an application for funding and meet the required deadline, as noted above.

1.7 Obligation of Funds. All projects awarded must meet the **obligation deadline of September 30, 2027.** (Note: The project will need to be through the ARDOT process and submitted to FHWA by the end of August to obligate funds before the September deadline).

1.8 Criteria for Project Selection. Projects will be evaluated and scored based on the following:

- In existing adopted NWAPRC Plan
- Safety and Connectivity
- Barriers to mobility/usability
- Complete Streets
- ADA
- Equity
- Climate Change and Sustainability (Transportation Emissions)
- Labor and workforce
- Eligible activity focus areas A, C, D, E, and F

1.9 Federal-Aid Project Requirements. Projects are required to be designed to AASHTO and Federal Standards/Guidelines - PE/Environmental, Engineering/Design, ROW, and Utility Relocation.

1.10 Application Submittal. Submit paper applications to NWARPC, 1311 Clayton St., Springdale, AR 72762 or submit electronic applications to ngibbs@nwarpc.org. For more information on this program or questions related to the application process, please contact Nicole Gibbs, Assistant Director/Transportation Programs Manager, (479) 751-7125 x105, or visit www.nwarpc.org/funding-programs/.

1.11 Resolution. A signed resolution from the Applicant's governing body is **required to be submitted with the application**. See sample resolution at the end of this document.

**NWARPC Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)
FFY2027 Project Application**

Project Sponsor Data:

Sponsor Jurisdiction: _____ Phone Number: _____

Primary Contact: _____ E-mail: _____

Partners: _____

General Project Data:

Project Title: _____

Project Purpose: _____

Project Priority *(if submitting multiple project applications)* _____

Please Attach a Project Site Plan, Vicinity Map, and Proposed Cross-Section

Project Overview:

General Project Overview and Description (500-character limit)

Section 2. Project Requirements (10 Points)

Eligible Activity:

Is the project a focus area of RPC/Policy Committee eligible activities A, C, D, E or F? Is the project an eligible activity as listed under Section G3 Eligible Activities of the FHWA Guidelines? These can be found at https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/energy/policy/crp_guidance.pdf.

Please answer the questions below. Select "Yes" for the best category for your project. (Up to 10 points)

- 2.1 A. Is this project to establish or operate a traffic monitoring, management, and control facility or program to reduce transportation emissions? Yes No
- 2.2 C. Is this a transportation alternatives project including the construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicycles, and other non-motorized forms of transportation to reduce transportation emissions? Yes No
- 2.3 D. Is this project for advanced transportation and congestion management technologies to reduce transportation emissions? Yes No
- 2.4 E. Is this project for the deployment of infrastructure-based intelligent transportation systems capital improvements and the installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communications equipment, including retrofitting dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) technology deployed as part of an existing pilot program to cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) technology to reduce transportation emissions? Yes No
- 2.5 F. Is this project to replace street lighting and traffic control devices with energy-efficient alternatives to reduce transportation emissions? Yes No
- 2.6 Is this project another lettered eligible activity? If yes, provide letter A-M and description of eligible activity. _____ Yes No
- 2.7 Is this project another transportation emissions reducing project not listed but is eligible for CRP funding? Yes No

Describe how the project is consistent with the program's goal of reducing transportation emissions and the NWARPC's focus areas of A, C, D, E or F?

Section 3. Local Commitment and Project Funding (10 Points)

3.1 Required Match/Local Support. Project sponsors must provide a minimum of 20% local funding match for all projects. (Note: This a reimbursable program through ARDOT.)

Requested Project Funding	Percentage
CRP Funds \$_____	_____%
Local Match \$_____	_____% (20% - No in-kind)
Project Cost \$_____	_____%

Attach copy of required resolution authorizing the project.

Resolution number: _____ Approval date: _____

What source of funds will be used by the local sponsor to match the federal funds? _____

Is local funding currently available/budgeted? Yes No

3.2 Planning.

2.2.1 List a local or regional plan in which the project is included:

3.3 Public Access. The project must be open for public access.

2.3.1. Is the property currently owned by the local Jurisdiction? Yes No

2.3.2 Is the project located on public right-of-way? Yes No

2.3.3 Is the project located in an easement that allows for public access? Yes No

3.4 Maintenance. What governmental entity will be responsible for the short- and long-term project operation and maintenance?

3.5. Link to Surface Transportation. All street and active transportation projects must link to the surface transportation system. A project must have a strong link to surface transportation and reduce transportation emissions. Is it a complete streets project? Describe how this project links to the surface

3.6 Federal-Aid Project Requirements. Has the project been designed to Federal-aid Guidelines?

PE/Environmental	Yes	No
Engineering/Design	Yes	No
ROW	Yes	No
Utility Relocation	Yes	No

3.7 Project Site Plan, Vicinity Map, Location Map and Cross-section. Provide legible map(s) of the project location. The map(s) should be good enough to be easily-reproducible and should include the following:

- Project path. The map should clearly show where the project will be located.
- North arrow.
- Pertinent landmarks.
- If appropriate, a Legend identifying any other items on the map (i.e. existing paths or sidewalks, previous phases of the project, etc.)

3.8 Safety. Describe how this project will improve the safety of the transportation system. Please cite any studies that show a reduction in emissions, crash rates and/or reduction in serious and fatal injuries based on the type of project proposed. Please describe how safety will be improved for all users of the facility.

3.9 Previous Federal Funding

If this project (or phase of this project) has previously received Federal TAP or STBG funding (ARDOT or NWARPC), please describe the status of the project(s). (500 character max)

3.10 Project Cost Estimate

This form is limited to 20 items. If you have more items contact NWARPC for additional form.

	Item of Work	Quantity	Units	Unit Cost	Item Cost
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
Total Estimated Project Cost					
Requested CRP Funds (up to 80% of construction cost)					
Local Sponsor Match (at least 20% of construction cost)					

Source of Estimate/Estimator: _____

Section 4. Project Development (10 Possible Points)

Current Design Plans Level

Preliminary (10%)

Partially Complete (30%-60%)

Final Plans (90%-100%)

Engineer _____ Under Contract? Yes No *(Please attach drawings)*

Rights-of-Way (ROW)

Already within public ROW

New ROW Required

Property Owners Identified? Yes No *Number of Project Owners* _____

Donation Expected? Yes No *Purchase Options/Agreements?* Yes No

Utilities Conflicts

Does the project have utilities that must be relocated prior to construction? Yes No

List any utilities with conflicts: _____

Utility coordination initiated (utilities with conflicts notified of project) Yes No

Environmental

Agency Letters Requested? Yes

Potential environmental impacts (list): _____

Project Timeline

Provide detailed timeline or complete table below.

	2026				2027			
	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sep	Oct - Dec
Design								
Environmental								
Utilities								
Right-of-way								
Start Construction								

Please describe any additional preliminary work that has been done to facilitate this project.

4.1 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Is the project a part of the 2045 MTP? Yes No

4.1.1 Is the project in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan(NWARBPMP)

Is the project shown in the NWARBPM Plan? Yes No

Is the project show in the Heritage Trail Plan? Yes No

Is the project a Catalyst project in the NWARBPM Plan? Yes No

4.1.2 Local Master Trail Plan or Local Comprehensive Plan. Is the project listed in a local Plan? Yes No

Name: _____ Ordinance #: _____

Adoption Date: _____

4.2 Connectivity. Does the project provide a future or planned extension and/or connection to the regional trail system? Does the project connect to other transportation modes and/or transportation facilities?

4.2.1 Connection to/from a neighborhood. Yes No

Name: _____ Distance: _____

4.2.2 Connection to/from employment retail center. Yes No

Name: _____ Distance _____

4.2.3 Connection to/from a school. Yes No

Name: _____ Distance _____

4.2.4 Connection to/from a community, regional, state, and/or national park. Yes No

Name: _____ Distance _____

4.2.5 Trailhead Construction and facilities Yes No

Name: _____

4.3 Project Length/Width

Project length in linear feet (if applicable): _____

Project width in feet (if applicable): _____

4.4 If the project is a non-infrastructure project, describe the development state it is in.

Section 5. Project Background, Overview, Benefits, and Planning Process (60 Possible Points*)

5.1. Provide a detailed project overview. What improvements are proposed? What steps are being taken to ensure the project promotes transportation emissions reduction, complete streets, safety, multi-modal transportation and design aspirations consistent with the regional plan? Include project limits, street facility names, and project cross-sections. (3000 character limit) – 20 points

5.2. Describe the purpose of the project and how it will benefit the affected communities. What user groups will be positively affected? If the project has a larger regional benefit, please describe this connection. Does the project align with BIL to prioritize safety, connectivity, barriers to mobility/ usability, complete streets, ADA, equity, climate change and sustainability, labor and workforce.? (3000 character limit) –20 points

5.3. Describe any planning or public input process used in development of this project. If the proposed project is in an existing bicycle/pedestrian plan, street plan, master plan, or other long-range plan, please identify this as well. (1000 character limit) – 20 points

***10 additional discretionary points may be awarded by evaluators according to project quality and costs vs. benefits considerations.**

Sponsor Authorization and Certification

To be completed by the chief executive officer (Mayor, City Manger, County Judge, etc.)

By Checking the box below, I attest that the information contained in this application is truthful and correct to the best of my knowledge and that the provision of false or misleading information can lead to the withdrawal of Carbon Reduction Program funding. I do hereby certify that I will comply with all federal, state, and ARDOT regulations for submittal of plans and specifications and follow ADOT Local Public Agency Manual. Additionally, I certify that local matching funds are available for the project. I agree a resolution has been adopted for this project.

I AGREE

Authorized Signatory:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Title: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

FEDERAL-AID PROJECT SAMPLE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF [INSERT SPONSOR NAME] TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID FUNDS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:
[INSERT PROJECT NAME]

WHEREAS, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission has issued a call for projects to be funded with Federal-Aid funds suballocated to Northwest Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the funding for selected projects will be at the following Federal and Local participating ratios, up to the maximum Federal-aid available:

Type Work	Work Phase	Federal %	Local %
Projects that reach construction	Preliminary Engineering	80	20
	Right-of-Way	80	20
	Utilities	80	20
	Construction	80	20
	Construction Engineering	80	20
Projects that never progress to construction	All Phases	-0-	100

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE [INSERT SPONSOR'S GOVERNING BODY] OF [INSERT CITY/COUNTY], ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION I: [INSERT SPONSOR NAME] authorizes the application submittal for [INSERT PROJECT NAME].

SECTION II: The [INSERT SPONSOR NAME] will participate in accordance with its designated responsibilities in this project, including providing of the local match requirement.

SECTION III: The [SPONSOR'S CEO TITLE] or their designated representative is hereby authorized and directed to execute all appropriate agreements and contracts necessary to expedite the construction of this project.

SECTION IV: The [INSERT SPONSOR NAME] pledges its full support and hereby authorizes the Arkansas Department of Transportation and Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission to initiate action to implement this project.

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this _____ day of _____, _____.

[SPONSOR CEO NAME]
[SPONSOR CEO TITLE]

ATTEST: _____
(SEAL)