



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NWARPC launches public review of proposed Forward 2050 transportation plan

Open house Dec. 8; comments accepted until Jan. 12

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (Dec. 3, 2025) — The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is inviting the public, starting Dec. 8, to review and provide feedback on the draft Forward 2050 plan. Forward 2050 is a long-range regional transportation plan guided by principles of collaboration, local alignment, and quality of life, and shaped by themes of multimodal connectivity, fiscal responsibility, safety, resilience, and transportation choice.

NWARPC is launching a public open house and formal public comment period for the draft plan which will be available for public review at nwarpc.org/transportation/mtp.

Required by the federal government, the regional transportation plan provides the policy framework for Northwest Arkansas's transportation system over the next 25 years. As the region's federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), NWARPC updates this plan every five years. Forward 2050 will replace the current 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, adopted in March 2021.

Public open house on Dec. 8

A Public Open House will be held to provide residents with an opportunity to learn about the draft Forward 2050 plan and share feedback with NWARPC staff.

- **Date:** Monday, Dec. 8, 2025
- **Time:** 4–7 p.m. (drop-in format; no formal presentation)
- **Location:** The Jones Center, Room 228, 922 E. Emma Ave. in Springdale

Attendees will be able to view key elements of the draft plan and speak directly with project staff about proposed strategies, projects, and priorities across Northwest Arkansas.

Public comment period: Dec. 8– Jan. 12, 2026

Following the release of the draft plan, NWARPC will open a formal Public Comment Period from Monday, Dec. 8, through Monday, Jan. 12, 2026.

Community members are encouraged to submit written comments in any of the following ways:

- **Email:** comments@nwarpc.org

- **Online Form:** available at nwarpc.org/contact
- **USPS Mail:**
NWARPC
1311 Clayton Street
Springdale, AR 72762

“We’ve heard from residents across the region about what’s working, what could be improved, and the priorities that matter most as our region grows,” said Tim Conklin, executive director of NWARPC.

“With Northwest Arkansas expected to reach 1 million residents in the next 25 years, Forward 2050 brings together cities, counties, transportation agencies, stakeholders, and residents around a shared vision for how the region will move, grow, and thrive. It supports real transportation choices – driving, cycling, walking, rolling, or taking transit – encourages responsible growth, and prioritizes protecting the natural areas that define Northwest Arkansas. By incorporating community input, Forward 2050 guides investment decisions that create safer, more connected, and resilient communities for everyone across the region.”

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

About the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is a cooperative governmental organization formed in 1966 that now includes 39 member jurisdictions and agency partners across Northwest Arkansas and McDonald County, Missouri. Serving as both the region’s Council of Governments (COG) and its federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), NWARPC leads the comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous (3C) planning process required for federal transportation funding. The Commission provides data, technical expertise, and coordination to help communities address shared challenges and support safe, connected, and resilient regional growth.