

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

| ENTITY                     | MEMBER                                                              | ATTENDING   | PROXY              |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| AVOCA                      | MAYOR ROBERT WHITEHORN                                              |             |                    |
| BELLA VISTA                | MAYOR JOHN FLYNN<br>TAYLOR ROBERTSON                                | X<br>X      |                    |
| BENTON COUNTY              | <b>JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING (TREASURER)</b><br>JOSH BEAM<br>JAY FRASIER | X<br>X      |                    |
| BENTONVILLE                | MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN<br>SHELLI KERR                                | X<br>X      |                    |
| CAVE SPRINGS               | MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT                                               |             |                    |
| CENTERTON                  | <b>MAYOR BILL EDWARDS (VICE CHAIR)</b><br>LORENE BURNS              | X           |                    |
| DECATUR                    | MAYOR BOB THARP                                                     |             |                    |
| ELKINS                     | MAYOR TROY REED                                                     |             |                    |
| ELM SPRINGS                | MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT                                                |             |                    |
| FARMINGTON                 | MAYOR ERNIE PENN                                                    | X           | Melissa McCarville |
| FAYETTEVILLE               | MAYOR MOLLY RAWN<br>CHRIS BROWN<br>JONATHAN CURTH                   | X<br><br>X  |                    |
| GARFIELD                   | MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN                                              | X           |                    |
| GATEWAY                    | MAYOR CHERYL TILLMAN                                                |             |                    |
| GENTRY                     | MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON                                                | X           |                    |
| GOSHEN                     | MAYOR RUSSELL STROUD                                                |             |                    |
| GRAVETTE                   | MAYOR KURT MADDOX                                                   | X           |                    |
| GREENLAND                  | MAYOR JIM RENFROW                                                   |             |                    |
| HIGHFILL                   | CASSIE ELLIOT                                                       |             |                    |
| HINDSVILLE                 | MAYOR STEPHANIE CASEY                                               |             |                    |
| HUNTSVILLE                 | MAYOR TRAVIS DOTSON                                                 |             |                    |
| JOHNSON                    | <b>MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (SECRETARY)</b>                               | X           |                    |
| LINCOLN                    | MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS                                                 |             |                    |
| LITTLE FLOCK               | MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER                                              | X           |                    |
| LOWELL                     | MAYOR CHRIS MOORE                                                   | X           |                    |
| PEA RIDGE                  | MAYOR NATHAN SEE                                                    |             |                    |
| PRAIRIE GROVE              | MAYOR DAVID FAULK                                                   |             |                    |
| ROGERS                     | LANCE JOBE<br>JOHN McCURDY<br>QUNITON HARRIS                        | <br>X       |                    |
| SILAM SPRINGS              | MAYOR JUDY NATION<br>CHRISTINA PETRICHES (INTERIM ADMIN.)           | X           | Ben Rhoads         |
| SPRINGDALE                 | <b>MAYOR DOUG SPROUSE (CHAIR)</b><br>BEN PETERS<br>JIM ULMER        | X<br>X<br>X |                    |
| SPRINGTOWN                 | MAYOR TERRI GLENN                                                   |             |                    |
| SULPHUR SPRINGS            | MAYOR MICHAEL DRIVER                                                |             |                    |
| TONTITOWN                  | MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL                                                | X           | Mark Latham        |
| WASHINGTON CO.             | JUDGE PATRICK DEAKINS<br>BRIDGETT RUSSELL<br>SAM ATA                |             |                    |
| WEST FORK                  | MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE                                                  |             |                    |
| WINSLOW                    | ANN MALKIE                                                          |             |                    |
| ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS | TRAVIS BROOKS<br>JASON HUGHEY (DISTRICT 4)                          | X           | Anthony Hunter     |
| BEAVER H2O DISTRICT        | LANE CRIDER                                                         |             |                    |
| McDONALD COUNTY            | COMMISSIONER BRIAN HALL                                             |             |                    |
| MoDOT                      | AMANDA BARCH<br>(FRANK MILLER)                                      | X           |                    |
| NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.         | AARON BURKES                                                        |             |                    |
| PINEVILLE, MO              | MAYOR GREG SWEETEN                                                  |             |                    |
| RAZORBACK TRANSIT          | GARY K. SMITH<br>(ADAM WADDELL)                                     | X           |                    |
| U OF A                     | MIKE OESTEREICHER<br>(DIANE MEEK)                                   | X           |                    |
| OZARK REG. TRANSIT         | JOEL GARDNER (NON-VOTING)                                           | X           |                    |
| ARDOT TRANSIT              | GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)                                            |             |                    |
| HWY COMMISSION             | PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)                                          |             |                    |

## RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; **DRAFT**

**NWARPC STAFF:** Tim Conklin, Nicole Gibbs, Tim Reavis, Cristina Scarlat, Luke Aitken, Shimon Beazer, Madison Kienzle, and Stephanie Marpe

**OTHERS:** Doug Thompson (NWADG), Dan Weese (Bentonville), Phillip Patterson (ARML), Brett Meek (XNA), Mayci Blankenship, Lee Perlman, Julie Robbins & Rachel Bruton-Darnell (MHP-SI), Aaron Benzing (Hawkins-Weir), Rob Smith (NWA Council), Sunny Farmahan (ARDOT), Brent O’Neal (Siloam Springs)

***NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AT THE SPRINGDALE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUALLY; VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED AS NWARPC REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.***

### **(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The hybrid, in-person and virtual NWARPC/Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse at 1:30 p.m. Members attending in person and virtually were welcomed, and a note of appreciation was offered to Mayor Sprouse for hosting the meeting in the beautiful Springdale City Council Chambers.

### **(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

In-person attendees introduced themselves, and Executive Director Tim Conklin named the virtual attendees. Luke Aitken recorded member names and tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

### **(3) APPROVAL OF APRIL 22, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Mayor Sprouse asked for any revisions to the April 22, 2026, meeting minutes, and none were heard. He requested a motion for approval.

**MOTION: Mayor Chris Keeney made a motion to approve the RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2026. Seconded by John McCurdy. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **(4) DIRECTOR REPORT & CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT**

Chair Mayor Sprouse introduced the item, and Tim Conklin highlighted the Commission’s 2025 Annual Report, which summarizes the Commission’s accomplishments and strategic outlook for the calendar year. The report emphasized NWARPC’s continued work toward planning for a safe, connected, and resilient Northwest Arkansas. Conklin noted that 2025 included significant progress on major regional planning efforts, federal funding awards, transit planning, active transportation, stormwater coordination, GIS and mapping support, public participation, and regional collaboration.

Conklin also provided a federal transportation update on the BUILD America 250 Act, formally titled the Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America’s 250th Act. He stated that the bill had passed the House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and is a five-year, \$580 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill covering highways, transit, rail, and safety. Conklin reviewed several Metropolitan Planning Organization highlights, including generally steady formula programs with a small increase; repeal of the Carbon Reduction Program and PROTECT formula programs with eligibility moved into core programs; broader Metropolitan Planning Program eligibility for fiscal administration, preliminary design, local technical assistance, transportation-linked studies, and critical data procurement; a new process for MPOs to qualify as direct recipients; metropolitan planning funded at 90%; a \$2.4 billion per year Surface Transportation Accelerator Grant replacing RAISE/INFRA-type grants; consolidated bridge programs with a competitive process for locally owned bridge projects; a shift of several FTA

## RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; **DRAFT**

competitive programs to formula funding; and continuation of the Safe Streets and Roads for All program.

Conklin also reviewed updated 2025 population estimates for Arkansas cities. He noted that multiple Northwest Arkansas cities continue to rank among the largest and fastest-growing cities in the state, including Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville, Bella Vista, Centerton, and Siloam Springs. The population estimates showed continued growth across the region, with notable increases from 2020 to 2025.

Conklin summarized the Federal-Aid Clearinghouse Report, a regional report summarizing federal-aid grant applications submitted by nonprofit and governmental organizations throughout Northwest Arkansas and reviewed through the State of Arkansas Project Notification and Review System. As the designated regional Clearinghouse, NWARPC presented the report for informational purposes.

### **(5) REGIONAL WASTEWATER STRATEGY PROJECT UPDATE**

Chair Mayor Sprouse introduced the item and welcomed Aaron Benzing of Hawkins-Weir Engineers. Benzing provided an update on the *Planning for Growth: Regional Wastewater Strategy for Future Development* project. He stated that they are 9 months into the project with phase one 75% complete. A draft of the plan is anticipated to be complete and ready for feedback in September.

### **(6) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2027 NWARPC BUDGET APPROVAL**

Chair Mayor Sprouse introduced the item, and Tim Conklin stated that the FY 2027 Budget is supported by six primary revenue sources. He said EPA CPRG and E-bike funding represent the largest portion of the budget at 56%; philanthropic grants represent 19%; federal grants represent 18%; membership dues and local match represent 4%; Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) pass-through funding represents 2%; and state funding represents less than 1%.

Conklin reviewed new grants and initiatives included in the amended 2026 budget and budgeted in the provisional 2027 budget. These new grants and initiatives total \$9,352,579 and include:

- Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan Grant Phase 2A
- Stormwater Drainage Criteria Manual and Stormwater Management Coordinating Council
- NWARPC five-year Strategic Plan
- Communications support, including rebrand and website development
- Internship Program
- US-71B Corridor Plan
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Initiative
- Tri-Region E-Bike Voucher Program
- FUSE Executive Fellowship Program, including two full-time positions for two years focused on the Regional Mobility Authority and Council of Governments
- Nonprofit Excellence Program (NEP) capacity-building support for NWARPC budgeting and financial management
- Razorback Greenway Alliance pass-through grant.

Conklin stated that the FY 2027 budget reflects a significant increase from FFY 2026, approximately 189%. He noted that operating costs are expected to remain generally consistent, with the overall increase primarily attributable to new grant-funded projects and initiatives, including approximately \$9.8 million in project-specific expenditures.

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

Chair Mayor Sprouse asked if there were any questions and, hearing none, requested a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 NWARPC Budget.

**MOTION: A motion was made by Judge Barry Moehring to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 NWARPC Budget. Seconded by John McCurdy. Motion carried unanimously.**

**(7) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) & RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

Chair Mayor Sprouse introduced the item, and Nicole Gibbs presented the proposed Technical Advisory Committee and RPC/Policy Committee Bylaws Amendment.

Gibbs explained that ARDOT requested the bylaws amendment because a department restructuring removed divisions referenced in the NWARPC bylaws. The amendment addresses an immediate technical correction to ARDOT representation, while broader bylaws updates are still needed. Gibbs stated that comprehensive bylaws' revisions are expected within the next year, following recommendations from the NWARPC 5-Year Strategic Plan.

**MOTION: Mayor Chris Keeney made a motion to approve the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and RPC/Policy Committee Bylaws Amendment. Seconded by Mayor Stephanie Orman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**(8) FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2027 NWARPC FUNDING PROGRAMS (STBGP-A/TAP/CRP) AWARD RECOMMENDATION**

Chair Mayor Sprouse introduced the item, and Nicole Gibbs presented the FFY 2027 NWARPC Funding Programs Award Recommendations for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). Gibbs reviewed the FFY 2027 Funding Program timeline, noting that the call for projects opened on January 4, 2026, with applications due on April 2, 2026; project sponsor presentations were held during the April 16, 2026, TAC meeting, followed by Selection Committee site visits and scoring on April 29, 2026. She said the Selection Committee's funding recommendations were presented to TAC on May 21, 2026, and the final award recommendations are now being brought before the RPC/Policy Committee for consideration.

Gibbs reported that 13 entities submitted 36 applications representing 29 unique projects, totaling approximately \$43.8 million in federal funding. She said funding estimates for FFY 2027 include approximately \$12.4 million in STBGP-A funds, \$1.8 million in TAP funds, and \$1.5 million in CRP funds, for a total of approximately \$15.8 million available through the three funding programs. She said total requests exceed available funding by approximately \$28 million.

Gibbs summarized the Selection Committee's considerations and discussion. She noted the record oversubscription, especially within STBGP-A, and the need to balance existing pipeline needs with adding new projects into the pipeline. She said existing STBGP-A projects were prioritized and were not re-scored. She said the committee also considered construction cost escalation, compliance with funding limits and FHWA functional classification, project readiness to meet the September 2027 obligation deadline, potential phasing, equitable distribution across communities, and regional significance, especially within the urban area. She said the committee also reviewed scores and

# RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; **DRAFT**

rankings, voluntary reductions, and the timing of NWARPC awards in relation to ARDOT TAP/RTP decisions.

Gibbs reviewed the recommended project awards and funding allocations for the STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP programs, totaling \$15,762,266 across all three programs:

| STBGP-A ( <b>EXISTING</b> ) Project Applications |                                                                          |                           |                 |             |      |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------|-------------------|
| Jurisdiction                                     | Project                                                                  | Phase                     | STBGP-A-FEDERAL | Total Score | RANK | Award Recommended |
| Bentonville                                      | Hwy 12/SW Regional Airport Blvd. & Hwy 279/S. Vaughn Rd. Inters. Impvts. | Construction              | \$ 4,411,236    | N/A         | N/A  | \$ 2,000,000      |
| Bentonville/Centerton                            | Greenhouse Road Improvements (Hwy 12 to Hwy 102)                         | Construction              | \$ 9,296,000    | N/A         | N/A  | \$ 4,000,000      |
| Centerton                                        | Hwy 102/E Centerton Blvd. & Womack St. Traffic Signal                    | Enviro/ROW/Util./Const    | \$ 1,000,000    | N/A         | N/A  | \$ 500,000        |
| Fayetteville                                     | Millsap Rd/College Ave Inters Impvts & N Hemlock Ave Impvts              | Construction              | \$ 500,000      | N/A         | N/A  | \$ 400,000        |
| Fayetteville                                     | North Street Corridor (Garland to College)                               | Design/Env/ROW            | \$ 500,000      | N/A         | N/A  | \$ 400,000        |
| Lowell                                           | Monroe Extension (Oak St to Hwy 265)                                     | Construction              | \$ 2,228,742    | N/A         | N/A  | \$ 1,800,000      |
| Rogers                                           | Hwy. 265/W. Pleasant Grove Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Roundabout)              | Design/Enviro.            | \$ 133,600      | N/A         | N/A  | \$ 133,600        |
| Siloam Springs                                   | E. Kenwood St. (Hwy. 16 to Bruce Rutherford Dr.)                         | ROW/Utilities             | \$ 810,000      | N/A         | N/A  | \$ 650,000        |
| Springdale/Johnson                               | Gene George Blvd. Ph. 3                                                  | Construction              | \$ 1,070,000    | N/A         | N/A  | \$ 1,070,000      |
| Total <b>EXISTING</b>                            |                                                                          |                           | \$ 19,949,578   |             |      | \$ 10,953,600     |
| STBGP-A ( <b>NEW</b> ) Project Applications      |                                                                          |                           |                 |             |      |                   |
| Jurisdiction                                     | Project                                                                  | Phase                     | STBGP-A-FEDERAL | Total Score | RANK | Award Recommended |
| NWARPC                                           | US 71B Corridor Plan                                                     | Planning Study            | \$ 400,000      | 315         | 1    | \$ 400,000        |
| Farmington-Fayetteville                          | Hwy. 62 Traffic Signal Upgrades and Coordination                         | All Phases                | \$ 288,000      | 298         | 2    | CRP               |
| Fayetteville                                     | MLK/Huntsville Rd Corridor (School Ave to Happy Hollow Rd)               | Study/Design              | \$ 600,000      | 292         | 3    | \$ 400,000        |
| Benton County                                    | Pioneer Panther Trail Feasibility Study                                  | Feasibility               | \$ 320,000      | 284         | 4    | CRP               |
| Tontitown                                        | Don Tyson Pkwy Extension (Hwy 112 to Kelly Rd)                           | Feasibility/Design/Enviro | \$ 680,000      | 283         | 5    | \$ 500,000        |
| Lowell                                           | Hwy. 265 & McClure Ave./ Marquis Ave. Inters. Impvts. (Roundabout)       | ROW/Utilities             | \$ 1,600,000    | 275         | 6    | \$ -              |
| Bentonville/NWACC                                | Eagle Way Tunnel & Trails                                                | Design/Enviro/ROW/Util.   | \$ 680,000      | 274         | 7    | CRP               |
| Springdale                                       | East Emma Ave. Streetscape (Park St to Hwy.265)                          | Construction              | \$ 5,200,000    | 274         | 7    | \$ -              |
| Bella Vista                                      | Blowing Springs Trail PH2                                                | Enviro/Construction       | \$ 2,831,412    | 259         | 9    | \$ 172,283        |
| Pea Ridge                                        | Charles St. Ext. & Hwy. 72 HAWK Signal Crossing                          | ROW/Utilities/Const.      | \$ 2,123,331    | 253         | 10   | TAP               |
| Lowell                                           | Concord Street Impvts.                                                   | ROW/Utilities/Const.      | \$ 2,295,003    | 252         | 11   | \$ -              |
| Pea Ridge                                        | Ross Salvage Rd. Impvts                                                  | ROW/Utilities/Const.      | \$ 3,639,972    | 218         | 12   | \$ -              |
| Total <b>NEW</b>                                 |                                                                          |                           | \$ 20,657,718   |             |      | \$ 1,472,283      |
| TOTAL STBGP-A                                    |                                                                          |                           | \$ 40,607,296   |             |      | \$ 12,425,883     |

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

| TAP Project Applications                                                   |                                                                        |                      |                     |             |      |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|------|---------------------|
| Jurisdiction                                                               | Project                                                                | Phase                | TAP-FEDERAL         | Total Score | RANK | Award Recommended   |
| Fayetteville                                                               | Mission Blvd. Trail Extension (Rush Dr. to Maple St.)                  | Construction         | \$ 500,000          | 1305        | 1    | \$ 500,000          |
| Johnson                                                                    | On-Street Bicycle Network & Safety Impvts.                             | Construction         | \$ 70,536           | 1227        | 2    | \$ 70,536           |
| Springdale                                                                 | Watkins Trail (Maple to US412) (#2)                                    | Construction         | \$ 400,000          | 1186        | 3    | \$ 400,000          |
| Pea Ridge                                                                  | Hwy. 72 HAWK Signal Crossing at Charles St/Ross Salvage Rd             | Construction         | \$ 364,233          | 1154        | 4    | \$ 364,233          |
| Centerton                                                                  | Centerton Sidewalk Projects                                            | Construction         | \$ 500,000          | 1143        | 5    | \$ 453,426          |
|                                                                            |                                                                        | <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$ 1,834,769</b> |             |      | <b>\$ 1,788,195</b> |
| CRP Project Applications                                                   |                                                                        |                      |                     |             |      |                     |
| Jurisdiction                                                               | Project                                                                | Phase                | CRP-FEDERAL         | Total Score | RANK | Award Recommended   |
| Bentonville/NWACC                                                          | Eagle Way Tunnel & Trails                                              | Design/Enviro        | \$ 168,000          | 1223        | 1    | \$ 168,000          |
| Springdale                                                                 | Watkins Trail (48th to Cambridge) (#1)                                 | Design/Enviro.       | \$ 100,000          | 1217        | 2    | \$ 100,000          |
| Benton County                                                              | Pioneer Panther Trail Feasibility Study                                | Feasibility          | \$ 320,000          | 1215        | 3    | \$ 320,000          |
| Centerton                                                                  | Centerton Sidewalk Projects                                            | Construction         | \$ 500,000          | 1200        | 4    | \$ 250,000          |
| Rogers                                                                     | Hwy. 62/Hwy. 94/Hwy. 12 Sidewalk Impvts. (#2)                          | Design/Enviro/ROW    | \$ 300,000          | 1186        | 5    | \$ -                |
| Farmington-Fayetteville                                                    | Hwy. 62 Traffic Signal Upgrades and Coordination                       | All Phases           | \$ 288,000          | 1179        | 6    | \$ 288,000          |
| Rogers                                                                     | US-71B Pedestrian Impvts. (W. New Hope Rd - W. Pleasant Grove Rd) (#1) | Design/Enviro/ROW    | \$ 480,000          | 1172        | 7    | \$ 422,188          |
| Fayetteville                                                               | Old Wire Trail Lighting                                                | Design/Enviro/Constr | \$ 300,000          | 1149        | 8    | \$ -                |
| Pea Ridge                                                                  | Hwy. 72 HAWK Signal Crossing at Charles St/Ross Salvage Rd             | ROW/Utilities/Const. | \$ 564,233          | 1104        | 9    | TAP                 |
| Lowell                                                                     | Concord Street Impvts.                                                 | ROW/Utilities        | \$ 400,000          | 1094        | 10   | \$ -                |
|                                                                            |                                                                        | <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$ 3,420,233</b> |             |      | <b>\$ 1,548,188</b> |
| Blue = projects submitted for application in more than one funding program |                                                                        |                      |                     |             |      |                     |

Gibbs explained that the Selection Committee and TAC recommended that a provision be included in the approval that in the event FFY 2027 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding is not appropriated by Congress, the approved CRP projects will be prioritized for funding in the next FFY 2028 NWARPC funding cycle or funded through TAP and STBGP-A, as funding and eligibility allows.

Chair Mayor Sprouse asked if there were any questions and, hearing none, requested a motion.

**MOTION:** Mayor Chris Keeney made a motion to approve the FFY 2027 NWARPC Funding Program (STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP) project awards as shown, with the provision that, in the event FFY 2027 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding is not appropriated by Congress, the approved CRP projects will be prioritized for funding in the next FFY 2028 NWARPC funding cycle or funded through TAP and STBGP-A, as funding and eligibility allows. Seconded by Mayor Molly Rawn. Motion carried unanimously.

**(9) AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR USDOT TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM**

Chair Mayor Sprouse introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY 2026 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Grant, which provides funding to local communities to integrate land use, housing, and transportation planning with a new fixed guideway or core capacity transit capital investment.

Conklin stated that TAC discussed the grant opportunity on May 21, 2026, and that the Transit Alternatives Study and the regionally preferred Bus Rapid Transit alternative on Hwy. 71B provide

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

justification for a potential application. He said applications are due July 10, 2026, and the application would require corridor cities to partner on the local match requirement.

Conklin noted that the application would support planning activities related to the US-71B corridor, including transit-oriented development, land use coordination, housing, multimodal access, and implementation planning connected to the future Bus Rapid Transit corridor.

**A. RESOLUTION #2026-12 – Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation for a FY 2026 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Grant**

Chair Mayor Sprouse asked if there were any questions and, hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2026-12 Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation for a FY 2026 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Grant.

**MOTION:** Brent O’Neal made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-12 Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the U.S. Department of Transportation for a FY 2026 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Grant. Seconded by John McCurdy. Motion carried unanimously.

**(10) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES**

**A. NWARPC Funding Programs (STBGP-A/TAP/CRP) – FFY2027 Funding Cycle & FFY2026 Obligation Plan**

Nicole Gibbs reminded project sponsors that the obligation deadline for FFY 2026 projects is August/September 2026. She emphasized the importance of maintaining project schedules and coordinating closely with NWARPC and ARDOT to ensure federal funds are obligated within required deadlines.

**B. Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan Phase 2A**

Tim Reavis stated that a virtual kickoff meeting was held May 8, 2026, and that NWARPC issued a press release on May 21, 2026. He noted that the Razorback Greenway and the Corridor Plan were showcased during CNU 34 through tours, sessions, and a Charter Award.

Reavis stated that Phase 2A will continue building from the Phase 1 Regional Framework and will advance more detailed coordination around priority areas, implementation opportunities, and community engagement along the Greenway corridor. He also noted that a Bentonville Public Engagement Open House is scheduled for June 10, 2026, at the Bentonville Public Library.

**C. Other Ongoing Project Updates**

Staff shared a list of all current and upcoming projects, with highlighted projects receiving further updates:

- ***US-71B Business Survey***
- ***CPRG Green Network & E-Bike Program***
- 5-year Strategic Plan
- Communications -Rebrand & Website
- ***Local Government Support***

## RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; **DRAFT**

### Upcoming Projects:

- Regional Drainage Criteria Manual
- Stormwater Mngt. Coordinating Council Strategy
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Initiative
- US-71B Corridor Plan
- ***Aerial Imagery Contour Project***

Tim Reavis provided an update on the US-71B Business Survey. He stated that the survey is intended to gather business perspectives related to access, operations, and transportation challenges along the corridor. He said the survey will also capture business owners and operators' potential interest in or concerns about enhanced transit services, including Bus Rapid Transit. Reavis stated that the survey will provide corridor-wide data to support future planning, stakeholder engagement, and funding applications. Polco was selected as the firm to conduct the survey.

Madison Kienzle provided updates on the CPRG Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition Implementation Grant, including the NWA Green Network and E-Bike Program. Kienzle noted that the Workforce Development Conservation Training Program is live through the Washington County Regional Conservation District. The program supports conservation training efforts tied to the NWA Green Network and CPRG implementation. She also stated that the E-Bike Program Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) has been approved and that the e-bike program remains on-track.

Kienzle also provided an update on Local Government Support projects. She reported that the Gravette Future Land Use Plan Update held a public input session, the Huntsville Comprehensive Plan Update included a City Council presentation, the Garfield Subdivision Code Update is being drafted, and Gateway code updates are underway.

Cristina Scarlat provided an informational update regarding planned one-foot contour data development. She stated that in 2016 NWARPC contracted with Fugro Geospatial Inc. to develop one-foot contours from 2015–2016 USGS Quality Level 2 LiDAR data. The total project area was 1,315 square miles across Benton and Washington counties. Cristina noted that as of May 2026, statewide USGS Quality Level 1 LiDAR data acquisition is underway through ARGIS. LiDAR data collection and processing for the two-county area is almost complete, and NWARPC is planning to contract a new one-foot contour data development project once the LiDAR data is available for both counties.

### **D. Other Grant Opportunities:**

Tim Conklin provided updates on current grant opportunities and federal funding resources available to member jurisdictions. Staff referred members to the AMPO NOFO tracker as a resource for monitoring federal grant opportunities.

Conklin highlighted the following:

- *Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program's* Notice of Funding Opportunity is open and that all SS4A grant applications are due May 26, 2026.
- *FY 2026 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning*, approximately \$28.5 million is available nationally through the program, with applications due July 10, 2026. The program provides funding to local communities to integrate land use and transportation planning with new fixed guideways or core capacity transit capital investments.

## RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; **DRAFT**

- *Arkansas Outdoor Recreation Grant* opportunities: Matching Grants are available to all Arkansas counties and municipalities with a 50% match requirement and no funding cap; applications are due August 28. *FUN PARK Grants* are available to Arkansas communities of 7,500 people or less, including unincorporated areas, with no match requirement and a \$100,000 cap; applications are due August 28. *Trails for Life Grants* are available to all Arkansas counties and municipalities with no match requirement and a \$250,000 cap; applications are due June 30.
- *FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance* funding is intended to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. Communities interested in requesting a Notice of Intent form should contact Mike Harris at 501-682-3907 or [Michal.harris@arkansas.gov](mailto:Michal.harris@arkansas.gov).

### (11) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

#### A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Chair Mayor Sprouse introduced the item and Luke Aitken reported that the Active Transportation Committee meets every other first Thursday in 2026. ACT last met on April 2, 2026, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. as a virtual meeting.

#### B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Luke Aitken reported that the NWA Open Space Coalition meets every other second Wednesday in 2026. The group last met on April 8, 2026, in person at the Betty Hinshaw Bird Sanctuary. The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., with the location to be determined.

#### C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Luke Aitken reported that the MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group meets every other third Wednesday in 2026. The group last met on April 30, 2026. Topics discussed included the first quarter educational efforts report, "What is an Outfall?", and the NWA Urban Creek Guide. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. as a virtual meeting.

#### D. NWA GIS User Group

Luke Aitken reported that the NWA GIS User Group meets every other second Tuesday in 2026. The group last met on April 14, 2026, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. as a virtual meeting.

#### E. SMALL CITIES COMMITTEE

Madison Kienzle provided an update on the Small Cities Committee, which focuses on issues affecting communities with populations under 30,000. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. with both in-person and virtual participation options.

### (12) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Mayor Sprouse said that NWARPC received 4 public comments prior to this meeting and asked if there were any public comments to be heard in the room. No public comments were heard.

### (13) OTHER BUSINESS

#### A. Future Meeting Dates

Chair Mayor Sprouse reviewed the following future meeting dates:

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; *DRAFT***

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
- **June TAC and RPC/Policy Committee Meetings** – Cancelled
- **FHWA/FTA Joint Planning Certification Review** – June 24–26, 2026
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
- **NWA RMA Meeting** – Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., immediately following RPC.

**(14) ADJOURN**

Chair Mayor Sprouse asked whether there was any other business. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 PM.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_