

NWARPC RESOLUTION 2026-04

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES STUDY (TAS) AND APPROVING THE REGIONALLY PREFERRED HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT ALTERNATIVE OF BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO urban area, is responsible for carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for the region; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 NWARPC completed and accepted a Transportation Alternatives Analysis (TAA) which evaluated high-capacity transit options and determined at that time that such alternatives were not financially feasible based on ridership projections, capital costs, and federal funding thresholds; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas region has experienced significant population, employment, and economic growth, resulting in increased transportation demand and evolving mobility needs; and

WHEREAS, Forward 2050, the region's long-range transportation plan, emphasizes strategic investments and innovative solutions to improve system connectivity, expand multimodal options, enhance safety, and keep pace with regional growth, reflecting community priorities for expanded transit, safer streets, and accessible transportation choices; and

WHEREAS, NWARPC, in coordination with local jurisdictions, regional stakeholders, transit providers, and the public, has completed a consultant-led Transit Alternatives Study (TAS) to reassess high-capacity transit options using updated data, travel demand models, growth forecasts, cost estimates, and funding considerations; and

WHEREAS, the Transit Alternatives Study assessed multiple transit modes and alignments based on performance measures including mobility benefits, cost effectiveness, socioeconomic benefits, environmental considerations, congestion benefits, and land use benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Transit Alternatives Study advances regional investment priorities by supporting a safe, connected, and efficient multimodal network that expands high-capacity transit and transportation choice, improves access to jobs and services, enhances quality of life and economic competitiveness, and positions Northwest Arkansas to compete for state and federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the Transit Alternatives Study identifies a feasible and strategic path forward for the region and recommends Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as the Regionally Preferred Alternative for advancement into further project development and potential implementation.

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

SECTION 1. That the Transit Alternatives Study is hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. That Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is hereby approved as the Regionally Preferred Alternative for advancement into subsequent planning and project development activities, subject to availability of funding and required approvals.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Mayor Doug Sprouse, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____