

**NWARPC RESOLUTION 2026-06**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT)  
CONDUCT A TOLL FEASIBILITY STUDY OF U.S. ROUTE 412 (FUTURE I-42)**

**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**, U.S. Route 412, a principal east-west corridor in Northwest Arkansas, was designated by Congress as future Interstate 42 (I-42) through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), signed into law in 2021, identifying the corridor between Interstate 35 in Noble County, Oklahoma, and Interstate 49 in Springdale, Arkansas, to enhance economic development and improve safety along the route; and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Benton County Partnership has identified U.S. Route 412 as a local priority and critical corridor for economic competitiveness and has requested that ARDOT evaluate the feasibility of tolling to accelerate improvements and fund conversion to a fully controlled-access interstate; and

**WHEREAS**, future Interstate 42 (U.S. Route 412) is identified in Forward 2050, the region's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, as an unconstrained (vision) project, reflecting its regional importance but recognizing that currently anticipated federal, state, and local revenues are insufficient to deliver full interstate-standard, controlled-access improvements within the 25-year planning horizon; and

**WHEREAS**, Forward 2050 emphasizes the need to explore innovative financing and alternative funding strategies to accelerate delivery of regionally significant corridors, enhance system connectivity, improve safety and mobility, and ensure that critical infrastructure investments keep pace with projected growth.

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

That NWARPC respectfully requests that the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and the Arkansas Highway Commission conduct a comprehensive toll feasibility study for U.S. Route 412 (future I-42) between Siloam Springs and Tontitown to evaluate the potential for tolling as a funding mechanism to support corridor improvements and accelerate delivery of interstate-standard upgrades.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.**

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

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