



MEMO

TO: NWARPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
FROM: NWARPC Staff
DATE: May 12, 2026
RE: FFY 2027 Funding Program Selection Committee - Award Recommendations

FFY 2027 TIMELINE AND ACTION

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) issued a call for projects on January 4, 2026, with the application deadline being April 2, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. CST for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2027 NWARPC formula funding programs, including the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

The selection committee included one representative from each applying entity, along with any volunteers who wished to participate. *Each jurisdiction received one scorecard, regardless of the number of representatives in attendance.* The committee included:

Bella Vista	Megan Workman
Benton County	Josh Beam
Bentonville	Jarrod Brightwell
Centerton	Mayor Bill Edwards
Farmington	Melissa McCarville
Fayetteville	Paul Libertini & Matt Mihalevich
Johnson	Korab Vranovci
Lowell	Sara Ford
Pea Ridge	Dustin Phy
Rogers	Kent Laughlin
Siloam Springs	Brent O’Neal & Ben Rhoads
Springdale	Ryan Carr & Tristan Hill
Tontitown	Mark Latham & Brad Spurlock
Washington County	Bridget Russell

The selection committee toured and scored the projects on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. A follow-up meeting was held on Tuesday May 5, 2026 to complete their award recommendations. **The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is now being asked to review these recommendations and provide its own recommendation to the RPC/Policy Committee for consideration on May 27, 2026.**

FFY 2027 FUNDING PROGRAM ESTIMATES

The assumptions for the FFY 2027 funding estimates are based on FFY 2026 published apportionments with an assumed 100% obligation limitation (OL), including additional funds not awarded in FFY 2026 and previously awarded funds returned to the funding pool. FFY 2027 apportionment funding requires Congressional action.

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A)	\$12,425,883
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	\$ 1,788,195
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)	<u>\$ 1,548,188</u>
	\$15,762,266

FFY 2027 PROJECT REQUESTS

NWARPC received 36 project applications representing 29 unique projects. Five (5) projects were submitted for consideration under multiple funding programs. Of the applications received, nine (9) are for existing STBGP-A projects “in the pipeline”; twelve (12) are for new STBGP-A projects; five (5) are for TAP funding; and ten (10) are for CRP funding.

The total funding requested across the 29 projects is \$43,757,832—approximately \$28 million more than the estimated available funding for FFY 2027.

SELECTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee discussed and considered the following:

- The program is significantly oversubscribed this year – particularly within STBGP-A – with the highest number of jurisdictions applying, the largest volume of project requests, and the largest funding gap in NWARPC program history (approximately \$28 million above available estimates).
- Balancing support for existing “pipeline” projects that are not yet fully funded with the long-term financial implications of adding new projects.
- Treating existing STBGP-A projects as priorities, without re-scoring, due to prior Board approval.
- Rising construction costs contributing to increased funding requests; substantial requests from projects in the construction phase.
- Program requirements, including funding limits and the STBG requirement that projects be designated on the FHWA Functional Classification Map as a major collector or above.
- Project timelines and readiness, per the ARDOT Local Public Agency Manual, to meet the September 2027 obligation deadline; and potential phasing of projects.
- The equitable distribution of funding across communities.
- Regional significance, recognizing that formula funding is based on the Fayetteville–Springdale–Rogers, AR-MO urban area population; while existing policy permits a portion of funds to be used outside the urban area, the committee emphasized directing funding toward regionally significant projects within the urban area due to the demonstrated level of need.
- The point distribution and rankings of the projects.
- The timing of ARDOT’s TAP/RTP cycle relative to NWARPC’s earlier cycle; NWARPC issues its award decisions first, and ARDOT receives those results prior to making its own awards.
- FFY 2027 funding remains subject to congressional action and federal reauthorization.

Additionally, projects that did not receive their full funding request are encouraged to reapply in the FFY 2028 NWARPC Funding Program Cycle, anticipated to begin in January 2027.

Due to funding requests exceeding the estimated available funding, the committee used the following approach to derive their recommendations:

- **TAP Requests** – All five project requests were fully funded, with Centerton voluntarily reducing their request to match the remaining available amount.
- **CRP Requests** – The three highest-ranked projects were funded at their requested amounts; the Centerton Sidewalk Project received half its request because it also received CRP funding; the Farmington-Fayetteville Hwy. 62 Signal Upgrades and Coordination project was prioritized under CRP due to oversubscription in STBG; and the Rogers US-71B Pedestrian Improvements Project received the remaining funds, which Rogers prioritized over the higher-scoring Hwy. 62/Hwy. 94/Hwy. 12 Sidewalk Improvements.
- **STBGP-A Requests** – Existing projects were considered first and treated as priorities, with communities voluntarily reducing their requests; Lowell directed any funds that would have gone to the new Hwy. 265 & McClure Roundabout toward the existing Monroe Extension project; of the remaining funds, \$400,000 was awarded to the highest-ranked new STBGP-A projects not funded under CRP, \$500,000

was awarded to the Tontitown Don Tyson Feasibility Study, and the balance was awarded to the Bella Vista Blowing Springs Trail Phase 2 project.

Provision – Due to potential shifts in federal priorities and the pending congressional reauthorization of the federal transportation bill, the committee recommended including a provision stating that, *in the event FFY 2027 CRP funding is not appropriated by Congress, the approved CRP projects will be prioritized for funding in the next FFY 2028 NWARPC funding cycle.*

FFY 2027 FUNDING RECOMMENDATION:

The committee developed the following funding recommendations for TAC consideration.

Recommended TAC Motion: to recommend to the RPC/Policy Committee the FFY 2027 NWARPC Funding Program (STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP) project awards as shown, *with the provision that, in the event FFY 2027 CRP funding is not appropriated by Congress, the approved CRP projects will be prioritized for funding in the next FFY 2028 NWARPC funding cycle.*

See funding recommendation table on next page. Funding award totals utilize 100% of the FFY 2027 funding program estimates (below and on page 1), assuming 100% obligation limitation. FFY 2027 funding remains subject to Congressional action.

FFY 2027 Funding Program Estimates

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Attributable (STBGP-A)	\$12,425,883
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	\$ 1,788,195
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STBGP-A (EXISTING) 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 Imprvts	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 EXISTING			\$ 19,949,578			\$ 10,953,600

STBGP-A (NEW) Project Applications						
Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A-FEDERAL	Total Score	RANK	Award Recommended
NWARPC	US71B 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 Imprvts.	ROW/Utilities/Const.	\$ 2,295,003	252	11	\$ -
Pea Ridge	Ross Salvage Rd. Impvts	ROW/Utilities/Const.	\$ 3,639,972	218	12	\$ -
Total NEW			\$ 20,657,718			\$ 1,472,283
TOTAL STBGP-A			\$ 40,607,296			\$ 12,425,883

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
Total			\$ 1,834,769			\$ 1,788,195

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 Imprvts.	ROW/Utilities	\$ 400,000	1094	10	\$ -
Total			\$ 3,420,233			\$ 1,548,188

Blue = projects submitted for application in more than one funding program