

**NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025, AT 10:30 AM; *DRAFT***

ENTITY	MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	TAYLOR ROBERTSON MEGAN WORKMAN CHRIS HYATT	X X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER	X	
BENTONVILLE	JARROD BRIGHTWELL DAN WEESE	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS		X Dianne Morrison Lloyd
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MATT CASEY		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE		
FAYETTEVILLE	JONATHAN CURTH CHRIS BROWN PAUL LIBERTINI	X X X	
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	JEREMY JOHNSON		
JOHNSON	KORAB VRANOVCI	X	
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER		X Nicole Gibbs
LOWELL	KAREN DAVIS	X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		X Keegan Stanton
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK		
ROGERS	JOHN MCCURDY ( <b>CHAIR</b> ) QUINTON HARRIS LANCE JOBE	X X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS ( <b>VICE CHAIR</b> ) BRENT O'NEAL	X X	
SPRINGDALE	BEN PETERS RYAN CARR SHARON TROMBURG	X X X	
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL		X Brad Spurlock
WASHINGTON CO.	BRIDGET RUSSELL SAM ATA JEFF CROWDER	X	
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
NWARPC	TIM CONKLIN	X	
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	CODY HUDSON		
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER	X	
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	ADAM WADDELL (GARY K. SMITH)	X	
U OF A	KRISTEN KNIGHT (DIANNE MEEK)	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMM. BRYAN HALL		
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER (AMANDA BARCH)	X	
NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT	AARON BURKES	X	
ARDOT PLANNING AND DISTRICT 9	ANTHONY HUNTER SUNNY FARMAHAN ROBERT MOORE	X  X	

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

**OTHERS:** Jared Gulbranson (WSP), Gary Smith (Univ. of Ark), Doug Thompson (NWA Dem Gazette), JP Shaffer & Nathan Boone (Toole Design), Landon Miller (Kimley Horn), Jonathan Ely (Burns & McDonnell), Amanda Barch (MoDOT), Tyler Overstreet (Bentonville), Nathan Crouch (Benton County), Natalie Rogers & James Barr (Halff), Sydney Buffalo (Sen. Tom Cotton), Derek Boothe, Landon Miller (Kimley-Horn), Steven Sichmiller & Kevin Moore (Horner-Shifrin), Alan Caster (Michael Baker Intl.), Aaron Boll (Halff), Amanda Barch (MoDOT), Becky Roark (BWA), Susan McDonald, Marcus Rainwater (ARDOT)

***NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY; VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED AS NWARPC REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION***

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The in-person and virtual NWARPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting was called to order by Chair John McCurdy at 10:30am.

**(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Members attending the meeting in-person named themselves present, and Tim Conklin named the virtual attendees. Luke Aitken recorded member names and a quorum was reached.

**(3) APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 20, 2025, MEETING MINUTES**

Chair John McCurdy asked if there were any revisions to the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes. No revisions were heard. John McCurdy motioned to approve the minutes as presented.

**MOTION: John McCurdy made a motion to approve the TAC Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.**

**(4) TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES STUDY (TAS) AND DRAFT REGIONALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE OF BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)**

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Jared Gulbranson from WSP presented the Transit Alternatives Study (TAS) and the draft regionally preferred alternative of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The presentation summarized the evaluation of transit modes including BRT, light rail, and commuter rail, as well as scoring criteria related to mobility, cost effectiveness, land use benefits, and environmental impacts. The draft preferred alternative was identified as BRT along the US 71B corridor, operating primarily in mixed traffic with targeted priority treatments, enhanced stations, and a recommended phased approach for implementation.

TAC members discussed the preliminary BRT routes as well as the phased implementation approach. A motion to recommend the TAS and BRT as the regionally preferred alternative for public comment was made, with minor adjustments to be made to the BRT route map and a statement to be added to the phased implementation approach clarifying that it is an optional path toward implementation of the regionally preferred alternative.

Chair John McCurdy asked if there were any more questions and hearing none requested a motion to recommend the Transit Alternatives Study (TAS) and Regionally Preferred Alternative of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for public comment.

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**MOTION: Dan Weese made a motion to recommend the Transit Alternatives Study (TAS) and Regionally Preferred Alternative of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for public comment. Seconded by Jonathan Curth. Motion carried with 1 no vote.**

**(5) US71B CORRIDOR PLAN FUNDING DISCUSSION**

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Tim Reavis presented an overview of the proposed funding approach for the US71B Corridor Plan, including planning-level BRT analysis, transit-oriented development and land use planning, and future engineering and environmental phases. Potential funding sources discussed include federal planning funds from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) in the amount of \$400,000 in regionally attributed STBGP funds.

Chair John McCurdy asked if there were any questions and hearing none requested a motion to recommend approval of programming \$400,000 in regionally attributed STBGP funds for planning activities associated with the US71B Corridor Plan.

**MOTION: Jonathan Curth made a motion to recommend approval of programming \$400,000 in regionally attributed STBGP funds for planning activities associated with the US71B Corridor Plan. Seconded by Tyler Overstreet. The motion carried with 2 no votes.**

**(6) PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN (PTASP) PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Tim Conklin provided an overview of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) performance targets for Ozark Regional Transit and the University of Arkansas Razorback Transit. The presentation outlined required federal performance measures and summarized safety, reliability, and system performance targets to be set. Conklin noted that adoption of these targets now allows their integration into current planning documents in development including the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Chair John McCurdy asked if there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to recommend the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Performance Targets to the RPC/Policy Committee for Approval.

**MOTION: Korab Vranovci made a motion to recommend the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Performance Targets to the RPC/Policy Committee for Approval. Seconded by Bridget Russell. Motion carried unanimously.**

**(7) RAZORBACK GREENWAY CORRIDOR PLAN REGIONAL FRAMEWORK (PHASE 1)**

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Tim Reavis presented the Phase 1 Regional Framework for the Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan, highlighting regional growth trends, land use and housing pressures, stormwater and watershed considerations, and six guiding project initiatives for the greenway corridor. The framework emphasizes smart growth, environmental stewardship, active transportation connectivity, and coordination among jurisdictions.

Chair John McCurdy asked if there were any questions and hearing none requested a motion to recommend the Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan Regional Framework for public comment.

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**MOTION:** Korab Vranovci made a motion to recommend the Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan Regional Framework for public comment. Seconded by Bridget Russell. Motion carried unanimously.

**(8) AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN SECTION 319 GRANT**

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Tim Conklin discussed participation in a proposed Arkansas Section 319 Grant to develop a Regional Drainage Criteria Manual and a Regional Stormwater Management Coordination Strategy. The grant would support coordination among jurisdictions and establish consistent stormwater management practices across the region.

Chair John McCurdy asked if there were any questions and hearing none requested a motion to recommend that the RPC/Policy Committee authorize participation in a Section 319 Grant to develop a Regional Drainage Criteria Manual and a Regional Stormwater Management Coordinator Strategy.

**MOTION:** Brent O’Neal made a motion to recommend that the RPC/Policy Committee authorize participation in a Section 319 Grant to develop a Regional Drainage Criteria Manual and a Regional Stormwater Management Coordinator Strategy. Seconded by Korab Vranovci. Motion carried unanimously.

**(9) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES**

**A. NWARPC Funding Programs (STBGP-A/TAP/CRP) – FFY 2027 Funding Cycle Timeline**

Nicole Gibbs announced the FFY 2027 Call for Projects, noting that applications were released in early January 2026 and are due April 2, 2026. New project applications require a resolution from the sponsoring governing body approving the required local match amount for each project application.

**B. Forward 2050 MTP Update:**

Nicole Gibbs provided an update on the Forward 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, including recent public outreach activities and the extended public comment period through January 23, 2026. Plan adoption is anticipated in February 2026. Tim Conklin reviewed the Forward 2050 goals as well as the 2050 investment priorities and outlined how near-term priority projects in the region align with both the plans goals and investment priorities.

**C. Other Ongoing Project Updates**

Tim Conklin provided an update on the CPRG Implementation Grant, including progress on the Tri-Region E-Bike Incentive Program and ongoing coordination with partner agencies to implement the Green Network environmental restoration and trail development projects throughout Northwest Arkansas.

**D. Other Grant Opportunities**

Conklin shared that the FY 2026 BUILD Grant applications are now open and the submission deadline is February 24, 2026. He summarized upcoming discretionary grant opportunities and federal funding programs relevant to regional partners. Nicole Gibbs reminded everyone that the Urban Land Institute’s (ULI) Plan Local - Planning Partnership Application Cycle is open until January 31<sup>st</sup>. Conklin also congratulated Springdale and Rogers for receiving FY25 SS4A Grants.

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**(10) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES**

**A. Active Transportation Committee**

Tim Conklin reported the ACT last met on October 2<sup>nd</sup>2025. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2025, at 1:30 PM and will be held virtually.

**B. NWA Open Space Coalition**

Tim Conklin also stated that the last Open Space Coalition meeting was held October 21, 2025, and the next Open Space Coalition meeting is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am and will be held in-person with a virtual option.

**C. Small Cities Committee**

Tim Conklin announced the launch of NWARPC's New Small Cities Committee. He stated that this is a working group focused on growth related issues pertaining to small communities in NWA with 30,000 population or less. The first meeting date will be announced soon and to Madison Kienzle of NWARPC will be the primary point of contact for the new committee.

**(11) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair John McCurdy asked for public comments. None were submitted prior to the meeting, and no comments were heard from attendees. Nicole Gibbs stated that public comments received about Forward 2050 will be summarized by staff and presented to TAC at their February meeting.

**(12) OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:**

Chair John McCurdy announced the following upcoming meeting dates:

- RPC/Policy Committee on January 28, 2026 @ 1:30pm
- NWA Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)- Wednesday January 28, 2026 @ 2:30 pm, immediately following the RPC meeting
- TAC on Thursday February 19, 2026 @ 10:30am

**(13) ADJOURNMENT**

Chair John McCurdy asked whether there was any other business to discuss. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.