

NARTS UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2027

This Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines the planning activities of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) serving as the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION STUDY AREA JURISDICTIONS:

AVOCA	GREENLAND	TONTITOWN
BELLA VISTA	HIGHFILL	BENTON COUNTY
BENTONVILLE	JANE, MO	WASHINGTON COUNTY
CAVE SPRINGS	JOHNSON	McDONALD COUNTY, MO
CENTERTON	LINCOLN	WEST FORK
DECATUR	LITTLE FLOCK	WINSLOW
ELKINS	LOWELL	UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
ELM SPRINGS	PEA RIDGE	OZARK REGIONAL TRANSIT (ORT)
FARMINGTON	PRAIRIE GROVE	RAZORBACK TRANSIT
FAYETTEVILLE	PINEVILLE, MO	BEAVER WATER DISTRICT
GARFIELD	ROGERS	NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (XNA)
GATEWAY	SILOAM SPRINGS	
GENTRY	SPRINGDALE	
GOSHEN	SPRINGTOWN	
GRAVETTE	SULPHUR SPRINGS	

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT)

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MoDOT)

IN COOPERATION WITH:

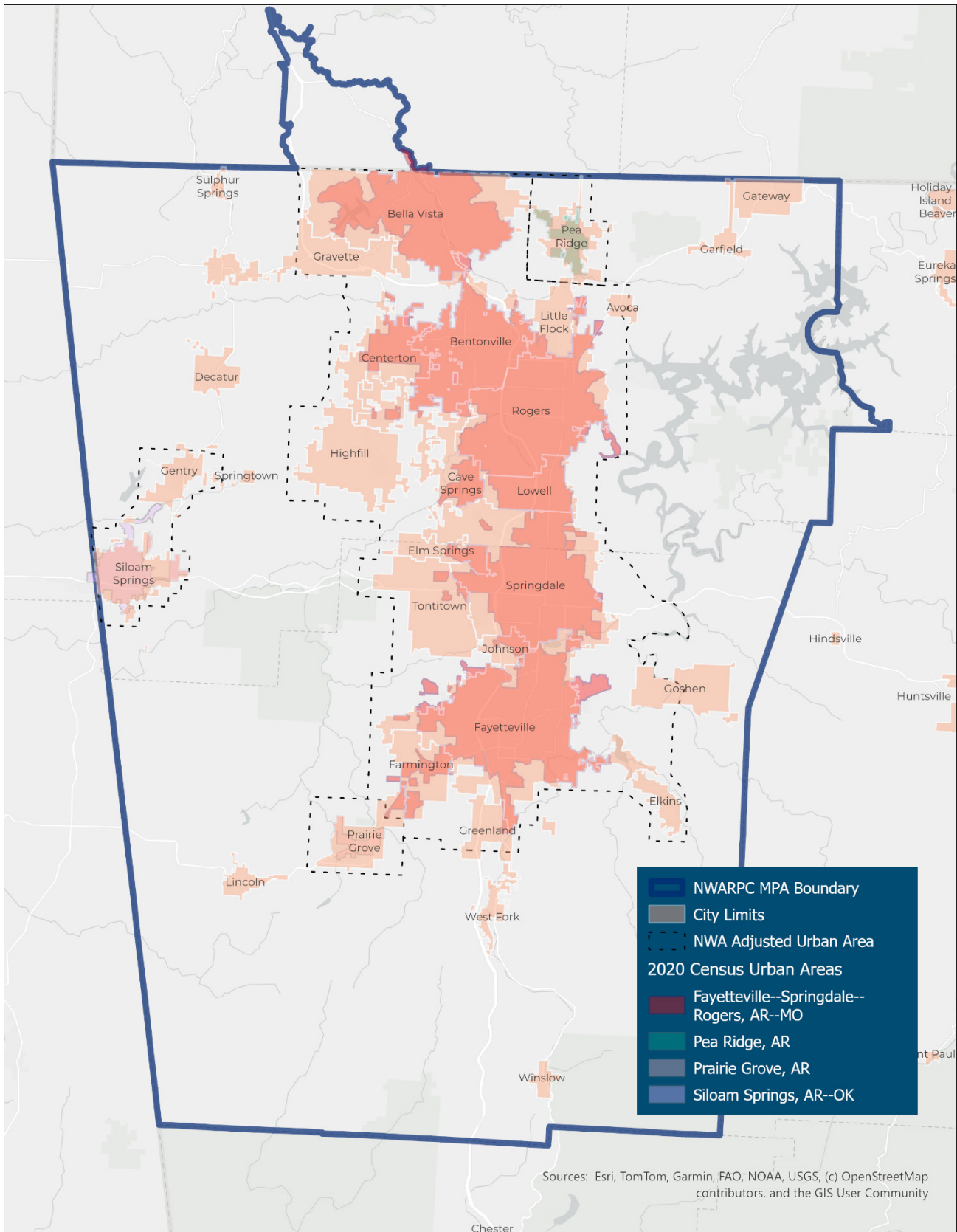
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA)

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)

NWARPC DISCLAIMER: This notice is in accordance with the NWARPC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in cooperation with local agencies, the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Documents are funded in part through grant(s) from the FHWA, FTA, EPA and/or the U.S. Department of Transportation. The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the ARDOT, MODOT, U.S. Department of Transportation, FHWA, FTA, or the EPA. **NWARPC NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY:** The NWARPC complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the NWARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in NWARPC’s programs and activities, as well as the NWARPC’s hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the NWARPC’s nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Nicole Gibbs, AICP, Regional Planner – Equal Employment Opportunity /DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voice/TTY 711 or 1-800-285-1131) or ngibbs@nwarpc.org; Para llamadas en español, marque el 866-656-1842; para llamadas en inglés, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131 o ngibbs@nwarpc.org. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille. If information is needed in another language, contact NWARPC at least 48 hours before the meeting. Si se necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con NWARPC al menos 48 horas antes de la junta. **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP):** The public participation procedures outlined in the NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP) with respect to TIP development serve as the public participation process required for the development of transit projects as per FTA Circular 9030.1E.

NARTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA (MPA)



FEDERAL METROPOLITAN PLANNING PROGRAM

The [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (IIJA) was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The five-year IIJA, federal fiscal years 2022 to 2026, provides \$550 billion in infrastructure funding for “roads, bridges, and mass transit, water infrastructure, resilience, and broadband.”

The Metropolitan Planning Program was continued under IIJA and provides for a “cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive framework for making transportation investment decisions in metropolitan areas.” Oversight of the Federal Metropolitan Planning Program is jointly provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

FEDERAL PLANNING FACTORS BY PROGRAM ELEMENT

23 U.S.C. 134 PART 450.306 SCOPE OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

(h) Scope of Planning Process. —

- (1) In general.—The metropolitan planning process for a metropolitan planning area under this section shall provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will—
 - (A) Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
 - (B) Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
 - (C) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
 - (D) Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;
 - (E) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
 - (F) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
 - (G) Promote efficient system management and operation; and
 - (H) Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
 - (I) Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
 - (J) Enhance travel and tourism.

The Planning Factors, which apply to each Element of the Unified Planning Work Program, are listed in the table below.

FEDERAL PLANNING FACTORS	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
UPWP PROGRAM ELEMENT										
44.21: Program Support and Administration	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
44.22: General Development and Comprehensive Planning	X			X	X	X	X	X		
44.23: Long-Range Transportation Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
44.24: Short-Range Transportation Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
44.25: Transportation Improvement Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

44.21: PROGRAM SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION

WORK TASKS

- A. PROVIDE THOSE ADMINISTRATIVE, BUDGETING, BOOKKEEPING, AND CLERICAL DUTIES REQUIRED** in order to perform work tasks and comply with ARDOT, MoDOT, Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (ADEE), FHWA, and FTA requirements. Progress reports and related documentation will be prepared in conjunction with PL activities, as well as the FY 2028 Unified Planning Work Program.
- B. IMPROVE OFFICE EQUIPMENT, COMPUTER SYSTEMS, AND SOFTWARE AS NEEDED** to keep pace with state-of-the-art technology currently in use for improved communications, mapping, planning analysis and report production. Train staff on software packages. (The cost of equipment and software will be shared proportionately by all elements.)
- C. ATTEND PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, AND TRANSIT MEETINGS.** Attend training, workshops, and conferences to maintain coordination with other agencies, staff proficiency and professional improvement. Necessary USDOT (FTA/FHWA), EPA/AR Dept of E&E, ARDOT, MoDOT, AMPO, NACTO, ESRI, NARC, CNU, APA, housing, stormwater, open space, environmental, and local meetings, and conferences will be attended. Keep informed of ARDOT, MoDOT, FHWA, and FTA programs, as well as local issues and trends in order to provide proper assistance to local governments and agencies.
- D. ASSIST COUNTIES, CITIES, CITIZENS, AND THE MEDIA** in understanding the process of MPO transportation planning and the impact of transportation projects both short term and long term:
1. Staff will update, as necessary, a brochure and the NWARPC website outlining transportation planning procedures for the NARTS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the NWARPC/Policy Committee, and the general public. The brochure and website details how regional plans are implemented and who to contact for questions and answers.
 2. Staff will work with cities to create an understanding of the work and role of the MPO.
 3. Staff will conduct ongoing public outreach and communications to enhance public and stakeholder awareness and engagement in support of agency initiatives, projects, and regional planning efforts.
- E. 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.** Develop a 5-year strategic plan that translates long-range regional priorities into a near-term roadmap, aligning resources, clarifying roles, establishing performance benchmarks, and coordinating partners to support integrated, outcome-driven regional planning.
- F. FUSE EXECUTIVE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT.** The MPO will provide program support and administrative oversight to host two FUSE Fellows—one focused on Operational Systems & Strategic Impact and one on Regional Transportation Governance & Mobility—by coordinating onboarding, managing project implementation, facilitating stakeholder engagement, and ensuring alignment with regional priorities and federal planning requirements, resulting in actionable recommendations, improved organizational effectiveness, and enhanced regional mobility outcomes.
- G. CONTINUE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCEDURES FOR ALL ASPECTS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING** as specified in the NARTS Public Participation Plan (PPP). The PPP and procedures will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to reflect changes in NARTS Bylaws, IJA Act provisions, or other transportation-related legislation. The most recent update occurred in 2025 and was adopted by the NWARPC/Policy Committee on February 26, 2025.

- H. **COMPLY WITH TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT, AND TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT.** The 2024 NWARPC Title VI Program was updated and approved by the NWARPC/Policy Committee on January 24, 2024. It was submitted into TrAMS on January 30, 2024, and will require updating and re-submittal into TrAMS no later than February 1, 2027.
- I. **WORK WITH MODOT STAFF AND PLANNING PARTNERS TO PROVIDE COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING** for the entire metropolitan area and establish all needed agreements, maps, documents, and procedures for cooperative efforts and mutual assistance in support of activities related to Missouri’s inclusion in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urbanized Area.

	44.21 END PRODUCTS	COMPLETION DATES
A1.	Record keeping, daily correspondence and Progress Reports	Monthly/On-going
A2.	Audit Report and Annual Performance and Expenditure Report	Yearly/On-going
A3.	Committee meetings and planning process coordination	On-going
A4.	FY 2028 UPWP	May 2027
B.	Computer and software upgrades	On-going
C.	Meeting and conference attendance	On-going
D.	Shared Information: NWARPC website, and other pertinent data, news releases, relevant technology transfer information and informational brochure.	On-going
E.	5-Year Strategic Plan for agency	December 2026
G.	Documentation of PPP compliance will be kept on file	On-going
H.	Adhere to the NWARPC Title VI Program; update and submit into TrAMS no later than February 1, 2027	On-going
I.	Coordination with MoDOT	On-going

COOPERATING AGENCIES: NWARPC, ARDOT, MoDOT, FHWA and FTA.

COST DATA:

Federal	\$	309,427
Local (MPO)	\$	77,357
Total	\$	386,784
Element Percent		14%

44.22: GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

WORK TASKS

- A. **MAINTAIN FILES THAT PROVIDE DEMOGRAPHIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DATA WITHIN THE NARTS AREA.** Census population, household, and employment data and other information will be utilized and incorporated into reports, thematic maps, and TAZ boundaries. Staff will assist cities as needed for Census

boundary updates. These datasets will be utilized to develop the demographics of the forecast years for the Travel Demand Model. Collection and reporting of regional data from units of government will continue as necessary. Census 2020 data and subsequent ACS datasets will be incorporated into planning documents as data becomes available.

- B. MAPPING/GIS:** Provide mapping and GIS assistance to participating units of government and maintain county and regional maps. Create data to represent information for TIP, STBGP project locations, TAP locations, etc. Update the functional classification map, regional network map, regional bicycle and pedestrian map and dashboard, open space map, nature-based solutions map, and other GIS and map products as needed. Coordinate regional GIS efforts for data and information:
 1. Vector files (roads, county boundary, annexations, contours, etc.).
 2. Raster files (aerial imagery).
 3. Interactive Online Maps.
 4. File sharing and workflow strategies.

- C. OBTAIN THE MOST CURRENT TRAFFIC COUNT DATA** at locations collected by ARDOT and MoDOT.

- D. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING SUPPORT:** Provide technical planning support and general transportation planning support to local governments. Staff will assist counties and cities with comprehensive planning activities to promote efficient and coordinated development patterns to enhance economic vitality, safety and security, accessibility and mobility, system preservation, housing, multi-modal transportation, resilient systems, and quality of life. Assistance may include participation in local government or community meetings, review and input on transportation-related documents or initiatives, data analysis, mapping, and general planning coordination. Work may also include preparation of brief memoranda or analyses, meeting facilitation or attendance, and other planning support activities as requested and as resources allow.
 1. Support the Small Cities Committee
 2. Develop model Unified Development Code (UDC) to advance transportation choice
 3. Capital Improvements Program (CIP) technical support (consultant-led)
 4. Internship Program management

	44.22 END PRODUCTS	COMPLETION DATES
A.	Demographic and infrastructure data for the region will be utilized for transportation planning, forecasting, and analysis	On-going
B.	Maps and digital datasets	On-going
C.	Traffic data files showing most recent traffic counts and changes relative to previous counts will be maintained in cooperation with ARDOT and MoDOT	On-going
D.	Comprehensive and general transportation planning support and products	On-going
E.	Model Unified Development Code (UDC)	Dec. 2026
F.	Capital Improvement Program (CIP) technical support materials (consultant-led)	March 2028

COOPERATING AGENCIES: NWARPC, ARDOT, MoDOT, Ozark Transit Authority, Razorback Transit, Arkansas State Data Center, Arkansas GIS Office, local governments.

COST DATA:

Federal	\$	404,074
Local (MPO)	\$	101,018
Total	\$	505,092
Element Percent		18%

44.23: LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

WORK TASKS

A. ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS:

1. Assist TAC, NWARPC/Policy Committee and individual jurisdictions in the development and implementation of policies and procedures regarding the selection of projects and the utilization of **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM** funds for areas with a population greater than 200,000 (**STBGP > 200K**), **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)** and **CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP)** funds.
 - Engage the TAC and NWARPC/Policy Committee in an update to the policies, procedures, and application process to reflect new program priorities.
2. Assist counties and cities, as well as the Northwest Arkansas Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) and the NWA National Airport (XNA) Authority, in utilizing transportation resources by disseminating information regarding transportation programs. Staff will also assist counties and cities regarding transportation planning, updating Master Street Plans, and utilization of the Travel Demand Model.
3. Continue to collaborate with Northwest Arkansas planning partners to establish the tools, capacity and public support to address housing, economic development, infrastructure, natural infrastructure, safe streets and roads for all, complete streets, and transportation mode choices to: reduce fatal and serious injury crashes, reduce transportation costs and commute times to work, and improve access to public transportation, shopping and services, neighborhood schools, and community amenities for all ages and abilities.

B. TRAVEL DEMAND MODELING:

1. Work with ARDOT in utilizing the forecasts for the Travel Demand Model.
2. Train staff on maintenance and use of the Travel Demand Model.
3. Utilize the Travel Demand Model to refine and prioritize the regional arterial network.
4. Assist cities and consultants working with the cities with Travel Demand Model output data and scenarios.
5. Utilize the Travel Demand Model to assist both transit agencies with route optimization and scenario planning and development.
6. Utilize the Travel Demand Model to support development of a performance-based approach to transportation decision-making.
7. The recently updated model will be utilized to forecast transportation priorities and develop scenarios for forecast years 2030, 2040 and 2050.
8. The 2050-forecast year will be utilized in an ongoing capacity and level of service studies and MTP project selection and assessment.

C. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

1. Performance Measures and Measurable Goals
 - NWARPC will work with ARDOT, MoDOT and local jurisdictions to identify measures and to develop methodologies to implement performance-based planning and programming for active transportation.
2. Adopt and implement NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan update (anticipate Fall 2026 adoption).
 - Continue evaluation of the region's topography and natural environment, including greenway corridors, for logical locations and connections.
 - Provide assistance to ensure and facilitate uniformity and consistency in the standards, operations, and management of the network.
 - Encourage and support implementation and updating of the individual plans and assist the cities as needed to meet the goal of implementing aspects of the NWA WalkBike Plan.
 - Continue evaluation of individual jurisdictions' bicycle and pedestrian plans for connectivity to the regional system.
 - Continue to provide assistance to communities within the Missouri portion of the MPA in the development and implementation of a regional bicycle and pedestrian system.
 - Continue to provide assistance to communities to connect to the US Bike Route System.
 - Continue to support communities in determining the need, desire and location for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
3. Review, update, and amend Complete Streets policies in adopted NWARPC plans. Encourage the adoption of Complete Streets policies by member agencies, guided by the NWA Regional Complete Streets Design Guide in the WalkBike NWA Plan.
4. Encourage the adoption of Vision Zero policies and the NWA Regional Vision Zero Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) by member agencies.
5. Continue to support the Active Transportation Committee (ACT).
6. Continue to support the NWA Heritage Trail Plan.
 - Offer informational assistance to citizen groups formed to promote the Heritage Trail Plan.
 - Continue the effort to promote proper signage for the Heritage Trails and the broader system.
 - Update the Heritage Trail Plan as historical data are discovered that better represent the Heritage Trail system.
 - Work with State and local organizations to advance Heritage Trails designations.
7. Support the National Park Service Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail (NHT)
 - Offer informational assistance to citizen groups formed to promote the Butterfield Overland NHT.
 - Support the effort to promote proper signage of the Butterfield Overland NHT.
8. Provide staff assistance to the Razorback Greenway Alliance.
9. Continue to participate in the UAMS Nutrition, Health & Connectivity Community Action Board (NHC CAB).

D. NWARPC 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

1. The MTP was adopted by the NWARPC/Policy Committee on February 25, 2026, meeting federal guidelines that require MTP updates every five years. The MTP incorporates the following:
 - The NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP)
 - NWA Transportation Survey (2024)
 - MTP Transportation Opinion Survey (2025)
 - The Travel Demand Model (TDM) Update including three Regional Growth Scenarios for 2050
 - Transit Alternatives Study (TAS) and the regionally preferred alternative of BRT (2026)

- Connect NWA—10-year Transit Development Plan (TDP) (2020)
- Congestion Management Process (CMP) (2022)
- Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Plan (2023)
- Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan (2023)
- NWA Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) (2023)
- Regional Complete Streets Design Guide (2025)
- NWA Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan (2025)
- WalkBike NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (*Update being finalized, 2026*)
- The Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan Regional Framework (2026)

E. ASSIST STATE DOTS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Interstate 49 Managed Lane Study
- Highway 412 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, from I-35 (west of Tulsa and running N/S through Oklahoma City) to I-49 and Toll Feasibility Study
- Highway 59 and Highway 72 Corridor Study
- Western North-South Connector Study
- State DOT’s Plans, Policies, and Studies

F. CONTINUE ACTIVITIES TO ADVANCE THE FOLLOWING, THROUGH NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE, TAC, AND OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES

1. NWARPC Forward 2050 MTP implementation.
2. Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) implementation.
3. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture Plan implementation.
4. Congestion Management Process (CMP) implementation.
5. NWA Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) implementation.
6. NWA Complete Streets Design Guide implementation.
7. Connect NWA Transit Development Plan (TDP) implementation.
8. WalkBike NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, Heritage Trail Plan, update and implementation.
9. NWA Open Space Plan implementation.
10. Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan implementation and Phase 2.
11. NWA Transportation Alternatives Study (TAS) next steps.
12. TAC and RPC/Policy Committee Agenda Items and Activities.

G. US-71B CORRIDOR STUDY

Conduct a comprehensive corridor study for US-71B to develop a unified, multimodal vision that integrates transit, land use, housing, and economic development to support a high-capacity Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) investment from Fayetteville to Bentonville. The study will address corridor-level congestion, safety, and land use coordination by defining station locations and typologies, evaluating transit priority at intersections, assessing right-of-way needs, and planning termini. Activities will include interjurisdictional coordination, development of supportive land use and multimodal strategies, technical analyses, and peer learning from successful BRT systems to establish a feasible, locally supported concept that positions the corridor for federal project development and grant opportunities.

H. COORDINATE WITH MODOT IN MTP IMPLEMENTATION

Continue to work with MoDOT staff and planning partners to provide coordinated transportation planning for the entire metropolitan area, especially in cooperative efforts toward implementation of the MTP, in support of Missouri’s inclusion in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urbanized Area.

I. INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) COMPLIANCE:

1. The IIJA was signed into law on November 15, 2021.
2. The NWARPC 2050 MTP was approved by the RPC/Policy Committee on February 25, 2026, with the approval of Resolution #2026-05, and was developed to incorporate IIJA, MAP-21 and FAST Act, and any additional applicable legislation.
3. Actively review Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO’s), identify funding opportunities for regional and local projects, prepare discretionary grant applications, and assist communities in completing discretionary grants.
4. Develop plans and documentation to meet IIJA requirements for MPO.
5. Monitor progress on federal surface transportation reauthorization.

J. ENVIRONMENT AND RESILIENCE PLANNING

1. **Stormwater and Infrastructure Resilience Planning** – Continue regional coordination and planning to improve stormwater management and infrastructure resilience.
 - Support MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group
 - Develop model Regional Drainage Criteria Manual
 - Develop Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council Strategy
 - Develop Blue-Green Network strategy and NWA Infrastructure Resilience Plan
2. **Air Quality Attainment Planning** – Continue monitoring of air quality attainment status.
 - Monitor air quality and its impact on transportation conformity.
 - Develop a program to: (1) increase public awareness of local air quality issues - ground level ozone and particulate matter; (2) involve stakeholders in air quality planning; (3) conduct planning activities that lead to improved air quality for Northwest Arkansas.

	44.23 END PRODUCTS	COMPLETION DATES
A.	NARTS participation through staff assistance to local jurisdictions in STBGP GT 200K and TAP programs and by disseminating information regarding transportation programs	Ongoing
B.	Utilize TDM to assist transit agencies and local jurisdictions with route optimization scenarios planning	Ongoing
C.	WalkBike NWA Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan adoption	Fall 2026
D.	NWARPC 2050 MTP implementation	Ongoing
E.	US71B Corridor Plan	September 2028
F.	Assist ARDOT and MoDOT with various studies/projects	Ongoing
G.	Continue activities to advance regional plans and community involvement through the NWARPC/Policy Committee, TAC, and other committees	Ongoing
H.	Coordination with ARDOT and MoDOT on MTP implementation	Ongoing

I.	Develop plans and documentation to meet IIJA requirements; monitor for updates to federal policies and guidance	Ongoing
J.	Develop model Regional Drainage Criteria Manual	January 2028
K.	Develop a Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council Strategy	
L.	Data and information sharing for air quality issues	Ongoing

COOPERATING AGENCIES: NWARPC, ARDOT, MoDOT, ODOT, Ozark Transit Authority, Razorback Transit, Northwest Arkansas National Airport Authority, NWA Regional Mobility Authority, and local governments.

COST DATA:

Federal	\$ 1,166,687
Local (MPO)	\$ 291,672
Total	\$ 1,458,359
Element Percent	52%

Notes:

- As federally required, the FY 2027 UPWP will use at least 2.5% of FHWA PL funds on specified planning activities to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes.
- \$400K in STBG grant funds (subject to Board approval), along with required philanthropic match, and \$295K in previously programmed FTA Section 5307 funds with match, will be used to complete the consultant-led US-71B Corridor Study.

44.24: SHORT-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

WORK TASKS

- A. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS:** Review area FTA and FHWA funding applications.
- B. PERFORMANCE-BASED APPROACH – METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING:** IIJA continues MAP-21 requirements for the MPO to establish and use a “performance-based approach to transportation decision making” that supports IIJA National Goals. The MPO will continue to coordinate with ARDOT and MoDOT on the establishment of a “performance-based approach” to transportation planning and the establishment of MPO “performance measures and performance targets” that are integrated into the NARTS Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
 1. MPO will establish annual Safety Performance Targets within 180 days of ARDOT and MoDOT establishing and reporting their HSIP targets, but no later than February 27 of each year.
 2. MPO will establish Pavement and Bridge Condition Performance Targets within 180 days of ARDOT and MoDOT establishing and reporting their statewide targets.
 3. MPO will establish Travel Time Reliability Performance Targets within 180 days of ARDOT and MoDOT establishing and reporting their statewide targets.
- C. EVALUATE CRASH RATE DATA:** Evaluate the available crash rate data within the metropolitan planning area. Staff will coordinate with ARDOT and MoDOT on the use of the data to meet IIJA performance

measures, ARDOT and MoDOT performance targets, and future MPO performance measures for the region to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads.

D. OZARK TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND RAZORBACK TRANSIT:

1. Continue to support and assist the transit agencies in their activities, including providing subrecipient oversight for FTA grant administration.
2. Recommend continued and expanded route testing with NWA businesses and municipalities.
3. Assist the transit agencies with route planning and scheduling through appropriate software acquisition.
4. Continue to coordinate and support ARDOT, ORT and Razorback Transit in implementation of their public transportation agency safety plans (PTASP).
5. Approval by the NWARPC/Policy Committee of the PTASP, at least within 180 days after the date of transit agency approval. The NWARPC/Policy Committee approved Resolution #2026-01 on January 28, 2026, in support of ORT's and Razorback Transit's PTASP(s) and FFY2025 Safety Targets.
6. Manage and support the awarded FTA grants.

E. TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP):

1. The NWARPC/Policy Committee approved Resolution #2020-06 on October 28, 2020, thereby adopting the Connect NWA-10-year TDP.
2. Continue to assist ORT, Razorback Transit and local jurisdictions with implementation of the Connect NWA TDP.
3. The MPO coordinates with ORT and Razorback Transit for updates to the TDP in order to select projects for inclusion in the TIP.

F. TRANSIT PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

1. Coordinate transit performance measures with Ozark Transit Authority, Razorback Transit, and ARDOT.
2. Coordinate with ARDOT to develop and utilize performance measures and analytical methods to measure the transportation system's connectivity to essential services.
3. TAM Plan Ozark Regional Transit Authority and Razorback Transit.
 - a. The NWARPC MPO will monitor performance measures and set targets in coordination with Ozark Transit Authority and Razorback Transit. In order to determine progress toward achievement of targets, NWARPC MPO will conduct system performance reports with each update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Additionally, NWARPC MPO will describe how implementation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is anticipated to make progress toward achievement of targets.
 - The NWARPC/Policy Committee approved Resolution #2026-01 on January 28, 2026, in support of ORT's and Razorback Transit's PTASP(s) and FFY2025 Safety Targets.
 - b. The NWARPC MPO, in coordination with Ozark Transit Authority and Razorback Transit, will adopt State of Good Repair (SGR) performance targets for each transit asset type for each agency. NWARPC MPO will assess progress towards region-wide attainment of the transit SGR performance targets to better determine how funding decisions support transit targets for SGR.

G. EVALUATE TRANSIT DATA

Staff will evaluate transit data within the Metropolitan Planning Area. Staff will coordinate with Ozark Transit Authority and Razorback Transit on the use of the data to meet IJJA performance targets, and

future MPO performance measures for the region. The travel demand model will be utilized for scenario testing and model runs in support of the two agencies’ planning efforts.

H. STATEWIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN

Staff will continue to monitor the Statewide Plan and assist public transit operators and human services providers in coordinating the delivery of transit services.

I. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Staff will continue to implement the Congestion Management Process for the region.

	44.24 END PRODUCTS	COMPLETION DATES
A	Application reviews	On-going
B.	Performance-based approach (Performance Measures and Measurable Goals)	Federal due dates/On-going
C.	Analysis of crash data for performance measures and targets in coordination with ARDOT and MoDOT	Federal due dates/On-going
D.	NARTS participation in ORT and Razorback Transit activities; FTA grants projects in NWA Project and Plans;	Ongoing
E.	Transit Development Plan implementation	On-going
F.	Collection and analysis of data for performance measures and targets	Federal due dates/On-going
G.	Collection and analysis of data for performance targets and measures in coordination with ORT and Razorback Transit	On-going
H.	Coordinate with ARDOT on the Statewide Public Transportation Coordination Plan	On-going
I.	Congestion Management Process	On-going

COOPERATING AGENCIES: NWARPC, ARDOT, MoDOT, FHWA, FTA, various state and federal agencies, NWA Regional Mobility Authority, Ozark Transit Authority, Razorback Transit, area human service agencies and local jurisdictions.

COST DATA:

Federal	\$	316,958
Local (MPO)	\$	79,240
Total	\$	396,198
Element Percent		14%

NOTES:

- The transit planning software three-year (2024-2027) renewal total contract cost is \$124,000. Razorback Transit will pay \$59,208 (includes Razorback Transit scheduling software and one time implementation fee, non-federal) over the course of the three years. ORT will pay \$4,628.01 over the three years. NWARPC to pay \$4,627.99 over the three years. Federal PL share is \$55,536 over the three years.

44.25: TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WORK TASKS

- A. **THE FFY 2025-2028 TIP** was adopted on August 28, 2024, and will be amended or administratively modified as needed. NWARPC MPO will work with ARDOT and MoDOT to update the amendment and administrative modification criteria.
- B. **BIENNIAL TIP UPDATES** will coincide with ARDOT and MoDOT STIP updates, when possible. **The FFY 2027-2030 TIP** will be developed in FY 2026 and FY 2027, for adoption in FY 2027.
- C. **COORDINATE WITH MODOT** on prioritization of TIP projects for the Missouri portion of the MPA.
- D. **THE ANNUAL LISTING OF PROJECTS (ALOP)** for which federal highway and transit funds have been obligated will be published on the NWARPC website every December.
- E. **PROPOSED FFY 2027 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP)**. The POP includes projects proposed for Ozark Transit Authority and Razorback Transit to be funded from the Urbanized Area’s FTA Section 5307 apportionment. POP projects must be listed in the TIP. The TIP public participation and approval processes serve to satisfy the requirements for Ozark Regional Transit and Razorback Transit for public participation under Section 5307. The POP is published on the NWARPC website after NWARPC/Policy Committee approval or December 31, whichever comes first.

	44.25 END PRODUCTS	COMPLETION
A.	FFY 2025-2028 TIP amendments and administrative modifications as needed.	On-going
B.	FFY 2027-2030 TIP development	On-going
C.	Coordinate with MoDOT on TIP project prioritization	On-going
D.	2026 Annual Listing of Projects (ALOP)	NWARPC/Policy Committee approval or December 2025
E.	FFY 2027 Program of Projects (POP)	Upon NWARPC/Policy Committee approval

COOPERATING AGENCIES: NWARPC, ARDOT, MoDOT, FHWA, FTA, Ozark Transit Authority, Razorback Transit and local governments.

COST DATA:

Federal	\$	38,145
Local (MPO)	\$	9,536
Total	\$	47,681
Element Percent		2%

NOTES:

- Confirmed carry-over funds may be added to the FY 2027 UPWP PL funds.
- All references to PL funds in this document relate to Arkansas PL funds unless noted to be Missouri funds.

THE FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NARTS FY2026 WORK PROGRAM (JUNE 2025 – MAY 2026):

Highlights coming soon

DRAFT

NARTS FY 2027 UPWP

FY 2027 UPWP MULTIPLE SOURCE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2027 UPWP Multiple Source Financial Summary				
	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
PL Funds (Arkansas)	\$ 1,332,292	\$ 333,073	\$ 1,665,364	59.60%
NWARPC STBGP-A	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	8.95%
STBGP-A Award for 71B Study (subject to Board approval)	\$ 400,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	17.89%
FTA 5307 - 71B Study (\$295K previously programmed FFY24 (95K), FFY25(100K), FFY26(100K) +match)	\$ 295,000	\$ 73,750	\$ 368,750	13.20%
PL Funds (Missouri)	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 10,000	0.36%
Total	\$2,235,292	\$ 558,823	\$ 2,794,114	100.00%
UPWP Financial Summary (PL-AR)				
	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ 306,427	\$ 76,607	\$ 383,034	23.00%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ 333,074	\$ 83,268	\$ 416,342	25.00%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning	\$ 399,687	\$ 99,922	\$ 499,609	30.00%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ 266,458	\$ 66,615	\$ 333,073	20.00%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 26,645	\$ 6,661	\$ 33,306	2.00%
Total	\$1,332,292	\$333,073	\$1,665,364	100.00%
UPWP Financial Summary (PL-MO)				
	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ 3,000	\$ 750	\$ 3,750	37.50%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ 1,000	\$ 250	\$ 1,250	12.50%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,500	25.00%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ 500	\$ 125	\$ 625	6.25%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 1,500	\$ 375	\$ 1,875	18.75%
Total	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 10,000	100%
STBGP-A				
	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ 70,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 87,500	11.67%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning (incl. \$400K award for 71B Study; subject to Board appr.)	\$ 470,000	\$ 117,500	\$ 587,500	78.33%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ 50,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 62,500	8.33%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 12,500	1.67%
Total	\$ 600,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 750,000	100%
UPWP FTA 5307				
	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning	\$ 295,000	\$ 73,750	\$ 368,750	100.00%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Total	\$ 295,000	\$ 73,750	\$ 368,750	100%
2027 UPWP Total by Elements				
	Federal	Local Match	Total	Percent
44.21-Program Support and Administration	\$ 309,427	\$ 77,357	\$ 386,784	14%
44.22-General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ 404,074	\$ 101,018	\$ 505,092	18%
44.23-Long Range Transportation Planning (including \$695K - STBGP+5307 for 71B Study)	\$ 1,166,687	\$ 291,672	\$ 1,458,359	52%
44.24-Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$ 316,958	\$ 79,240	\$ 396,198	14%
44.25-Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 38,145	\$ 9,536	\$ 47,681	2%
Total	\$ 2,235,292	\$ 558,823	\$ 2,794,114	100%

ADOPTION:

This **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** was prepared as a part of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS). *(projected timeline – subject to change)*

- The TAC reviewed the Draft FY 2027 UPWP on March 19, 2026, and recommended the draft for public comment.
- Public Notice of a two-week public comment period and the TAC meeting to review the Draft FY 2027 UPWP was published:
 - Friday, April 3, 2026, on the NWARPC website.
 - Sunday, April 5, 2026, in the Democrat Gazette newspaper.
 - Wednesday, April 8, 2026, in the La Prensa Libre newspaper.
 - Thursday, April 9, 2026, in the McDonald County Press newspaper.
- The two-week public comment period was held Monday, April 6, 2026 through Monday, April 20, 2026.
- The NWARPC/Policy Committee considered Resolution #2026-XX Approving the FY2026 UPWP on April 22, 2026.

I hereby certify the adoption of this Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for State Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 by the NWARPC/Policy Committee on this 22nd day of April 2026 by Resolution #2026-XX.

Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission/Policy Committee

AMENDMENTS

Future amendments to be listed here, as applicable

DRAFT

NARTS FY 2026 UPWP

WORK PRODUCT NOTES:	Update Cycle	Last Completed	Next Due
Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)	5 years	Feb-2026	Mar-2031
Travel Demand Model (TDM)	5 years	Dec-2025	Dec-2030
Public Participation Plan (PPP)	5 years	Feb-2025	Feb-2030
Strategic Communications Plan and Scientific Public Opinion Survey (CommsPlan+Survey)	5 years	Dec-2024	Dec-2029
Title VI Program (Title VI)	3 years	Feb-2024	Feb-2027
5-year Strategic Plan	5 years	N/A	Dec-2026
Annual Report	Annual	May	May
PROGRAMATIC WORK NOTES:	Update Cycle	Last Completed	Next Due
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	At least, 4 years	Oct-2024	Oct-2026
Local Public Agency (LPA) Funding Awards & Obligation	Annual	May/Sept	May/Sept
Annual Listing of Projects (ALOP)	Annual	December	December
Program of Projects (POP)	Annual	May	May
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	Annual	May	May
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER)	Annual	August	August
System Performance Report (SPR)	5 years	Feb-2026	Dec-2029
Performance Measure Targets			
Safety (PM1)	Annual	October	February
Pavement/Bridge (PM2) & System Performance (PM3)	2 years	Oct-2024	Mar-2026
Transit Asset Management (TAM)	4 years	Sep-2022	Sep-2026
Transit Safety (PTASP)	Annual	Dec-2020	Mar-2031
SUB-AREA PLAN/STUDIES NOTES:	Update Cycle	Last Completed	Next Due
NWA Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (Bike-Ped)	5-10 years	2015	2025
Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO)	5-10 years	2023	2030
Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)	5-10 years	2023	2030
Congestion Management Plan (CMP)	5-10 years	2022	2029
US71B Corridor Plan	TBD	N/A	2027
Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP)	TBD	Feb-2025	TBD
Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan (RG Corridor Plan)	TBD	Feb-2026	Feb-2027
Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan	TBD	Mar-2025	TBD
Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council Strategy (Stormwater Strategy)	TBD	N/A	Oct-2027
Regional Model Drainage Criteria Manual (Drainage Manual)	TBD	N/A	Dec-2027
Regional Model Unified Development Code (Model UDC)	TBD	N/A	Dec-2026
REVIEW NOTES:	Review Cycle	Last Completed	Next Due
FTA Section 5339 Subrecipient Monitoring	Annual	Oct-2025	Oct-2026
FTA Triennial Review	3 years	May-2024	May-2027
FHWA Review + Certification	4 years	Jun-2022	Jun-2026
AGREEMENT NOTES:	Review Cycle	Last Completed	Next Due
Consolidated Planning Grant Agreement (MoDOT) & STBGP GT 200K Letter of Agreement (ARDOT)	Annual	Jun-2025	Jun-2026
3C Planning Process Agreement (NWARPC, ARDOT, MoDOT, ORT, and Razorback Transit)	5-10 years	Jun-2018	Jun-2028
Transportation Performance Management (PM) Planning Agreements (NWARPC, ARDOT, ORT, and Razorback Transit) and (NWARPC and MoDOT)	5-10 years	May-2018	May-2028
Data Sharing Agreement (NARTS and ARDOT)	5-10 years	Nov-2017	Nov-2027
Public Transportation Grant Assistance Agreement (NARTS and ARDOT)	5-10 years	Oct-2017	Oct-2027