RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; *APPROVED FEBRUARY 25, 2026*

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	MAYOR ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	MAYOR JOHN FLYNN TAYLOR ROBERTSON	X X	
BENTON COUNTY	**JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING (TREASURER)** JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER	X X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	**MAYOR BILL EDWARDS (VICE CHAIR)** LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MAYOR ERNIE PENN	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	MAYOR MOLLY RAWN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	 X X	
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN	X	
GATEWAY	MAYOR CHERYL TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	MAYOR RUSSELL STROUD	X	Abby Bryan
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX	X	Ami Murray
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT	X	
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE CASEY		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR TRAVIS DOTSON	X	Brandi Holt
JOHNSON	**MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (SECRETARY)**		
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE		
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE	X	Keegan Stanton
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY QUNITON HARRIS	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION CHRISTINA PETRICHES (INTERIM ADMIN.)	X	Ben Rhoads
SPRINGDALE	**MAYOR DOUG SPROUSE (CHAIR)** BEN PETERS JIM ULMER	X X X	
SPRINGTOWN	MAYOR TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	MAYOR MICHAEL DRIVER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL	X	Mark Latham
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE PATRICK DEAKINS BRIDGETT RUSSELL SAM ATA	 X	
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	TRAVIS BROOKS JASON HUGHEY (DISTRICT 4)	X X	Sunny Farmahan
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMMISSIONER BRIAN HALL		
MoDOT	AMANDA BARCH (FRANK MILLER)	X	
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES	X	
PINEVILLE, MO	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)	X	
U OF A	MIKE OESTEREICHER (DIANE MEEK)		
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER (NON-VOTING)		
ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)		
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)		

RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026, AT 1:30 PM; *APPROVED FEBRUARY 25, 2026*

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

OTHERS: Dan Weese (Bentonville), Ami Murray (Gravette), Bud Sherman (MoDOT), Brett Meek (XNA), Richard Swartz (U of A), Aaron Boll (Halff), John Wilkerson (ARML), Rob Smith (NWA Council), Aaron Benzing (Hawkins Weir), Becky Roark (BWA), Leif Kindberg (IRWP), Aaron Boll (Halff), Hunter Adkisson (PRISM Design), and Derek Boothe.

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 hybrid, in-person and virtual NWARPC/Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse at 1:34 p.m. Members attending in person and virtually were welcomed.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

In-person attendees introduced themselves and Tim Conklin named the virtual attendees. Luke Aitken recorded member names and tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

(3) APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 3, 2025, RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse asked for any revisions to the December 3, 2025, meeting minutes, and none were heard. He requested a motion for approval.

<u>MOTION</u>: John McCurdy made a motion to approve the RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from December 3, 2025. Seconded by Lane Crider. Motion carried unanimously.

(4) DIRECTOR REPORT & CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT

Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse introduced the item, and Executive Director Tim Conklin presented his Director's Report. Conklin announced the promotion of Tim Reavis to Senior Multimodal Transportation Planner. He also reported that the FY26 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives, providing $111.5 billion for USDOT programs and honoring IIJA Trust Fund obligations.

Conklin also provided clarification regarding Statement of Financial Interest filing requirements. Members asked whether mayors serving on the Commission must file with the County Clerk in addition to their respective City Clerk. Based on guidance from the Municipal League, mayors serving on the Regional Planning Commission Board should also file statements of financial interest with the County Clerk of the county in which they reside.

(5) REGIONAL WASTEWATER STRATEGY PROJECT UPDATE

Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse introduced the item and Aaron Benzing of Hawkins-Weir Engineers provided a project update on the Regional Wastewater Strategy. He noted that they are on month five of the 12-month study and the current focus is on wastewater governance. Benzing stated that his team is continuing to meet with municipal leaders across the region for their input on the project.

(6) PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN (PTASP) PERFORMANCE TARGETS APPROVAL
Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse introduced the item and Tim Conklin presented Resolution #2026-01 approving the Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) Authority and University of Arkansas Razorback Transit Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) and supporting FFY 2025 Safety Performance Targets. Conklin also reviewed required federal performance measures and noted that formal adoption integrates these targets into the region's TIP and MTP.

A. <u>RESOLUTION #2026-01</u> – Approving the Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) Authority and University of Arkansas Razorback Transit Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) and Supporting FFY 2025 Safety Performance Targets

Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2026-01 Approving the Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) Authority and University of Arkansas Razorback Transit Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) and Supporting FFY 2025 Safety Performance Targets

<u>MOTION</u>: John McCurdy made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-01 Approving the ORT Authority and University of Arkansas Razorback Transit PTASP and Supporting FFY 2025 Safety Performance Targets. Seconded by Judge Barry Moehring. Motion carried unanimously.

(7) AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN SECTION 319 GRANT
Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse introduced the item and Tim Conklin presented Resolution #2026-02 authorizing participation in a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant to develop a Regional Drainage Criteria Manual and a Regional Stormwater Management Coordination Strategy. The grant would support development of consistent regional drainage standards to be distributed to members in the form of a criteria manual, and formation of a Regional Stormwater Management Coordination Council. This grant funding and associated work products would be available at no cost to the commission beyond staff time, if awarded.

A. <u>RESOLUTION #2026-02</u> – Authorizing the Participation in a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant to Develop a Regional Drainage Criteria Manual and a Regional Stormwater Management Coordination Strategy

Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, requested a motion to approve Resolution #2026-02 Authorizing Participation in a Section 319(h) Grant. Seconded by John McCurdy.

<u>MOTION</u>: Judge Barry Moehring made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-02 Authorizing Participation in a Section 319(h) Grant. Seconded by John McCurdy. Motion carried unanimously.

(8) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES

A. NWARPC Funding Programs (STBGP-A/TAP/CRP): FFY 2027)
Nicole Gibbs stated that the Commission's call for Projects was opened on January 5, 2026, and applications are due on April 2, 2026, for FFY 2027 funding. She stated that estimated federal funding to be awarded in this cycle totals approximately $14.7 million. Gibbs also reminded

members that all new project applications require resolutions approved and signed by the governing body.

Action/Activity	Date
Call for Projects (Applications Open)	**Sunday, January 4, 2026**
Application Deadline (Resolution Required)	**Thursday, April 2, 2026 @Midnight**
Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee	Thursday, April 16, 2026
Selection Committee Site Visits/Scoring/Rec	April/May (TBD)
Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC	Thursday, May 21, 2026
RPC/Policy Committee Award Decision	Thursday, May 27, 2026

Lastly, Gibbs stated that the obligation deadline for FFY 2026 awards is August/September of 2026 and asked project sponsors to be in communication with NWARPC and ARDOT LPA staff if there are any delays to project development.

B. Forward 2050 MTP Update:
Staff summarized past engagement activities that informed the plan development and noted formal adoption of the new MTP is anticipated by February 2026. Investment priorities outlined in the updated plan include Bus Rapid Transit along US 71B, I-49 managed lanes, regional connectivity improvements, and implementing the NWA Blue-Green Network.

C. Other Ongoing Project Updates:
Tim Reavis provided an update on the Transit Alternatives Study (TAS) and the Regionally Preferred Alternative Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The TAS is currently open for public comment from January 16 through January 30. The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) will consider the plan for adoption at its February 25, 2026 meeting.

Tim Reavis also provided an update on the 71B Corridor Plan, which represents the next step in advancing BRT implementation. Staff are currently evaluating potential funding options. In addition, he shared that the Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan will be released for public comment from February 9 through February 23, 2026.

Madison Kienzle provided an update on the Northwest Arkansas Green Network CPRG Implementation Grant and ongoing coordination meetings with project partners. She also reported that contract negotiations for the Tri-Regional E-Bike Incentive Program are in their final stages.

Madison Kienzle further informed the committee that Gravette's Future Land Use Plan has been updated, Madison County's Zoning Map has been adopted, and Gateway's Accessory Dwelling Unit code has been adopted.

D. Other Grant Opportunities:
Tim Conklin mentioned the February 24, 2026 deadline for the FY 2026 USDOT BUILD Grant Applications and highlighted past Northwest Arkansas projects that were awarded funding under the BUILD/TIGER/RAISE grant programs. Staff also mentioned that applications to participate in the

Urban Land Institute's (ULI) NWA Plan Local program are due by January 30, 2026. Conklin also congratulated the cities of Springdale and Rogers on recently receiving USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant awards to further the development of safe and connected multimodal transportation facilities in their cities.

(9) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Luke Aitken stated ACT meets every other month on the first Thursday with the next meeting scheduled for February 5, 2026, at 1:30pm.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Luke Aitken stated that the NWA Open Space Coalition meets every other month on the second Wednesday and that the next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026, at 11:00am.

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Luke Aitken shared the MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group meets every other third Wednesday and their next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2026, at 10:30am.

D. NWA GIS User Group

Luke Aitken shared that the NWA GIS Users group meet every other second Tuesday and that their next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2026, at 10:30am.

E. SMALL CITIES COMMITTEE- NEW!

Madison Kienzle announced a new working group focused on issues pertaining to smaller communities (30,000 population or less). The first meeting will be held on February 3, 2026, at 11:00am here in the NWARPC conference room. Kienzle noted that anyone interested in joining the committee should contact her via email for more information.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Mayor Doug Sprouse stated no public comments were received prior to the meeting. He asked whether there were any other public comments in the room to be heard for consideration, and none were heard.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates

Chair Mayor Sprouse outlined the future meeting dates

- NWA Regional Mobility Authority Meeting – Wednesday January 28, 2026 @ 2:30pm, *immediately following RPC meeting*
- TAC Meeting – Thursday, February 19, 2026 @ 10:30am
- RPC/Policy Committee Meeting – Wednesday, February 25, 2026 @ 1:30pm

Other dates noted:

- CNU Save the Date: May 12-16, 2026, held in NWA, including a local government training day on Tuesday May 12, 2026.

(12) ADJOURN

Chair Mayor Sprouse asked whether there was any other business. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

Mayor Doug Sprouse, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____