

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025, AT 10:30 AM; APPROVED MAY 15, 2025

ENTITY	MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY
AVOCA	ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	MEGAN WORKMAN TAYLOR ROBERTSON CHRIS HYATT	X X X	Chris Brackett
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER	X	
BENTONVILLE	JARROD BRIGHTWELL DAN WEESE	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT	X	David Keck
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS LORENE BURNS	X X	Alan Craighead
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED		
ELM SPRINGS	MATT CASEY	X	
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	JONATHAN CURTH CHRIS BROWN PAUL LIBERTINI	X X X	
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON	X	
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	JEREMY JOHNSON		
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	Nicole Gibbs
LOWELL	KAREN DAVIS	X	Chris Moore
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK	X	
ROGERS	JOHN MCCURDY (CHAIR) QUINTON HARRIS LANCE JOBE	X X	
SILAM SPRINGS	BEN RHOADS (VICE CHAIR) KEVIN MOORE	X	
SPRINGDALE	SHARON TROMBURG RYAN CARR	X X	
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL	X	Mark Latham
WASHINGTON CO.	BRIAN LESTER 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		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	ADAM WADDELL (GARY K. SMITH)		
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNEYCUIT)	X	
McDONALD COUNTY	COMM. BRYAN HALL		
MoDOT	FRANK MILLER (MARVIN MORRIS)	X	Jacob Wimsatt
NWA NATIONAL AIRPORT	AARON BURKES	X	
ARDOT PLANNING AND DISTRICT 9	ANTHONY HUNTER SUNNY FARMAHAN ROBERT MOORE	X	

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NWARPC STAFF: Tim Conklin, Nicole Gibbs, Tim Reavis, Luke Aitken, Cristina Scarlat

OTHERS: Kevin Beaumont (McClelland Consulting Engineers), Aaron Boehmler (Burns & McDonnell), Chris Hyatt (Bella Vista), Alice Bodnar, Matt Mihalevich (Fayetteville)

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 10:30 a.m.

(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 tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

(3) APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2025 & MARCH 20, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Chair John McCurdy asked for any revisions to the February meeting minutes and none were heard. McCurdy asked for a motion of approval of the TAC meeting minutes from February 20, 2025. The March 20th, 2025, meeting minutes were not yet complete, and their approval was deferred to the next meeting.

MOTION: Chair John McCurdy made a motion to approve the TAC meeting minutes from February 20, 2025, and the motion carried unanimously.

(4) FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2026 NWARPC FUNDING PROGRAMS (STBGP-A/TAP/CRP) – Project Sponsor Presentations

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Nicole Gibbs provided an overview of the presentation format for those presenting projects for application to RPC funding programs. Gibbs stated the application deadline for this year’s Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP-A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction (CRP) Program was on April 3rd. Gibbs showed the following funding breakdown and overview of applications submitted:

FFY 2026 NWARPC Funding Request Summary

- **24 applications for 21 unique projects**
(3 projects submitted in multiple programs)
- **Total requested – \$26.3M**
 - \$9.7M over estimated available funding

By Funding Program

- **STBGP-A – 13 applications | \$23.9M**
 - 6 new projects – \$4.9M
 - 7 existing projects – \$19M
- **TAP – 6 applications | \$1.7M**
- **CRP – 5 applications | \$1.6M**

FFY2026 Funding Estimates (based on FFY2025 levels)	
STBGP-A	\$ 13,638,358
TAP	\$ 1,535,368
CRP	\$ 1,458,774
TOTAL	\$ 16,632,500

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THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025, AT 10:30 AM; APPROVED MAY 15, 2025

FFY 2026 NWARPC Estimated Federal Funding
(based on FFY 2025 Apportionment + 100% Obligation Authority)

NWARPC Funding Program	FFY 2025 Apportionment	Additional Not Awarded (FFY2025)	FFY2025 TIFIA Redistribution	FFY 2026 Funding Estimates
Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP-A)	\$ 11,963,043	\$ 234,570	1,440,745	\$ 13,638,358
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	\$ 1,330,597	\$ 28,235	\$ 176,536	\$ 1,535,368
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)	\$ 1,430,720	\$ 28,054		\$ 1,458,774
	\$ 14,724,360			\$ 16,632,500

Gibbs said the project selection committee will review applications, conduct site visits, and make recommendations for project awards, with a total estimated funding pool of \$16.6 million estimated to be available in this FFY 2026 cycle.

Various member organization staff then presented the full list of funding requests as shown below:

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

FFY 2026 NWARPC Funding Requests

				Requested Amounts			TOTAL FEDERAL REQUESTED (per application)	TOTAL FEDERAL REQUESTED (per project)
Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	STBGP-A-FEDERAL	TAP-FEDERAL	CRP-FEDERAL		
340958	Washington County	Wheeler Rd. Bridge Replacement-Clabber Creek Str. & Apprs.	Design & Enviro.	\$ 119,920	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 119,920	\$ 119,920
340957	Tontitown	Hwy 412 & Barrington Rd. Inters. Impvts.	Design/ROW/Utilities	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
New	Tontitown	E Fletcher Ave and S Barrington Rd Inters. Impvts.	Construction	\$ -	\$ 87,271	\$ -	\$ 87,271	\$ 87,271
340848	Springdale-Johnson	Gene George South, Phase 2	Construction	\$ 8,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 8,000,000
New	Springdale	Smart School Connections	Construction	\$ -	\$ 444,800	\$ -	\$ 444,800	\$ 444,800
New	Springdale	Smart School Connections	Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 444,800	\$ 444,800	
New	Springdale	40th Street Side Path Extension	Construction	\$ -	\$ 328,000	\$ -	\$ 328,000	\$ 328,000
New	Springdale	40th Street Side Path Extension	Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 328,000	\$ 328,000	
New	Rogers	Active Mobility (Bicycle & Pedestrian) Plan	Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
390433	Lowell	Hwy-264/Belleview/Spring Creek Intersection	Utility/Construction	\$ 3,711,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,711,000	\$ 3,711,000
390722	Lowell	Hwy. 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel & Trail Realignment	ROW/Utilities/Const	\$ 621,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 621,500	\$ 621,500
New	Fayetteville	Transit Stop Enhancements	Construction	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
340967	Fayetteville	Ripple Road Lighting — Persimmon to MLK	Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
340955	Fayetteville	Drake Street Connections	Construction	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
New	Fayetteville	Highway 112/ Garland Ave. (Poplar - Drake St)	Construction	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
New	Fayetteville	North Street Corridor (Garland to College)	Design/Enviro/ROW	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
New	Centerton	Hwy102/E Centerton Blvd & Womack St Traffic Signal	All Phases	\$ 1,250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000
390XXX	Centerton	Centerton Sidewalks Project Phase 2	Construction	\$ -	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
390628	Bentonville- Centerton	Greenhouse Road	ROW/Utilities	\$ 2,572,920	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,572,920	\$ 2,572,920
390613	Bentonville	Vaughn Rd	ROW/Utilities	\$ 2,544,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,544,000	\$ 2,544,000
New	Benton County	McNelly Rd – Spanker Rd/Plentywood Inters. & Impvts.	Design/Enviro	\$ 640,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 640,000	\$ 640,000
New	Bella Vista	Reimagining 71	Feasibility Study	\$ 310,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 310,400	\$ 310,400
New	Bella Vista	Bella Vista Trails and Greenway Masterplan Update	Planning	\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000
New	Bella Vista	Bella Vista Trails and Greenway Masterplan Update	Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	
				\$ 23,929,740	\$ 1,710,071	\$ 1,632,800	\$ 27,272,611	\$ 26,339,811
				Total Estimated Funding	\$ 13,638,358	\$ 1,535,368	\$ 1,458,774	\$ 16,632,500
				Total Requests	\$ 23,929,740	\$ 1,710,071	\$ 1,632,800	\$ 26,339,811
				Difference (Est.-Requests)	\$ (10,291,382)	\$ (174,703)	\$ (174,026)	\$ (9,707,311)

Up to 2 minutes per project

Gibbs thanked members for the detailed presentations and reviewed the composition of the FFY 2026 Review and Selection Committee, which includes representatives from Bella Vista, Benton

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025, AT 10:30 AM; APPROVED MAY 15, 2025

County, Bentonville, Centerton, Fayetteville, Lowell, Rogers, Springdale/Johnson, Tontitown, and Washington County, along with other volunteers. She said the next steps for the group include a site visit to be scheduled between April 28 and May 9, 2025, with transportation options and a lunch stop to be determined. Following the site visit, the committee will score and recommend projects, potentially requiring a second meeting. She said more details will be distributed to selection committee members with further details about their responsibilities moving forward.

Gibbs said the Selection Committee recommendation will go to TAC on May 15, 2025, and TAC's recommendation will go to the RPC/Policy Committee on May 28, 2025 for award decisions.

(5) 2025 SOUTHWEST TRANSIT ASSOCIATION (SWTA) TRIP REPORT

Tim Reavis and Tim Conklin from NWARPC met with the Tucson Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and the Pima County Association of Governments (PAG). Reavis recapped the trip sharing photos and highlights of planning best practices seen implemented on the ground in Tucson. Discussion led by Reavis focused on the success of Tucson's RTA and its similarities and potential application in Northwest Arkansas through use of the existing NWA Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).

(6) PROJECT AND OTHER UPDATES

A. NWARPC Funding Programs (STBGP-A/TAP/CRP)

In the interest of time the updates on funding programs were kept brief, with Nicole Gibbs stating that the slides will be shared in the follow up email.

B. Forward2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transit Alternatives Study (TAS) and Travel Demand Model (TDM) Updates

Chair John McCurdy introduced the item, and Tim Reavis provided an overview of current staff efforts to produce the Forward2050 Plan (2050 MTP). He stated that the MTP is required to be updated every five years, and that NWARPC is under contract with consultant WSP to assist staff in developing two key components of the MTP: an update to the Travel Demand Model (TDM) and a new Transit Alternatives Study (TAS). Reavis shared a project timeline graphic and emphasized that the Forward2050 MTP is targeted for completion and is slated to be adopted by the RPC/Policy Committee by March 2026.

Reavis thanked RPC members for their help in sharing the project survey with record-setting survey engagement seen so far. He said staff held two open house events to gather public input for the plan update, one at the Fayetteville Public Library on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 and another at the Bentonville Public Library on Thursday, April 10, 2025 and shared photos from the open houses.

C. Other Ongoing Project Updates

NWA Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, Phase 2 Update (USDOT-SS4A)

Nicole Gibbs explained that the Commission is currently working with consultant Toole Design to carry out Phase 2 of the Safety Action Plan, including development and adoption of the Regional Complete Streets Design Guide which was recently adopted by the RPC. She said that Toole Design is also working with five of our member cities to develop their own individual safety action plans with tailored recommendations for local implementation. She said the guide, as a supplement to the NWA Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, will serve as a resource for the region's communities as they work on promoting the safe systems approach and design of context-sensitive streets while growing rapidly.

NARTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025, AT 10:30 AM; APPROVED MAY 15, 2025

Razorback Greenway Corridor Plan

Tim Reavis recapped recent progress made by staff with the consultant team from FieldOps on the Razorback Greenway Corridor Master Plan. He said the consultant team made an initial trip to NWA earlier in the month to meet with himself and other staff and conduct a site visit to portions of the greenway from March 5-7, 2025. He said the first Advisory committee meeting for the planning effort, with leaders from seven cities present in a vision workshop format, was held on April 3, 2025 here at the commission office. The consultant team, some NWARPC staff and Advisory Committee members will also be traveling to the Atlanta Beltline on April 24, 2025 to tour Trail Oriented Developments (TrOD) and meet with local planning leaders. Lastly, Reavis stated that NWARPC staff, along with some city staff and FieldOps consultant staff will all be tabling along the greenway to conduct public engagement for the new Corridor Plan during the May 3, 2025 Square2Square ride. He encouraged members and attendees take the project survey and to stop by during the event.

D. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Executive Director Tim Conklin shared a table, shown below of FY 2024 & 2025 Federal Discretionary Grants Awarded to the NWA Region, comparing those awards with versus without executed award agreements in place.

FY 2024 & 2025 IDENTIFIED FEDERAL DISCRETIONARY AWARDS TO NWA (WITHOUT EXECUTED AGREEMENTS)					
Year	Program	Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	
FY 2024	USDOT - RAISE 24	City of Siloam Springs	Bridging Heritage: Main Street Revitalization	This project will fund the planning, engineering design, and construction of complete streets improvements along E Main Street between Maxwell Street and Lincoln Street. The project includes the replacement of the Sager Creek Bridge, pavement resurfacing, bicycle lanes, ADA sidewalks, lighting, street trees, traffic management solutions, stormwater drainage, and utilities.	\$ 11,556,363
FY 2024	USDOT - SS4A Implementation	City of Springdale	Dean's Trail Phase IIB	The trail segment (Phase IIB) is the last section to complete Dean's Trail.	\$ 5,187,280
FY 2024	USDOT - CFI Program	Ozark Regional Transit	Expanding Access to Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging in Northwest Arkansas	EV charging infrastructure at up to 17 sites within the cities of Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers, and Springdale	\$ 14,924,800
FY 2025	USDOT - RAISE 25 Round 1	Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission	Highway 112: Complete Streets Connecting Communities	This project will construct complete streets improvements along approximately 17.5 miles of Arkansas State Highway 112 starting in the north at Arkansas Highway 12. The project will widen the roadway from 3-lanes to 4-lanes, construct approximately 27 roundabouts in lieu of stop-controlled intersections, access management solutions, add a raised center median, add a sidewalk along one side of the roadway, and a separated multi-use path on the other side.	\$ 25,000,000
Total (without Executed Agreement)					\$ 56,668,443

FY 2024 & 2025 IDENTIFIED FEDERAL DISCRETIONARY AWARDS TO NWA (WITH EXECUTED AGREEMENTS)					
Year	Program	Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Award Amount
FY 2024	EPA - CFRG Implementation	Lead Applicant: Metroplan (Central Arkansas); Coalition Members: Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission & City of Fort Smith	Energy and Environment Innovation for the Natural State	Note: \$99,999,999 is the total award - NWA to receive \$36,250,000 share; currently Metroplan (lead) is able to draw down funds and subawardee agreements being executed.	\$ 36,250,000
Total (with Executed Agreement)					\$ 36,250,000
Total Identified Awarded to NWA (FY 2024 & 2025)					\$ 92,918,443

(7) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

Conklin said ARDOT's application cycle for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) are open, both of which are competitive funding opportunities for local governments. Nicole Gibbs clarified that while both NWARPC and ARDOT offer TAP funding, the application deadlines differ: ARDOT's cycle closes on April 30, 2025, and NWARPC's closes earlier, on April 3, 2025. She encouraged applicants seeking NWARPC TAP funding to also consider applying for ARDOT funding.

A. Active Transportation Committee

Luke Aitken said the ACT Committee last met virtually April 3, 2025; to discuss the complete streets design guide, the NWA Walk Bike plan update, and recent bike and pedestrian project developments

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in the region. He said the next meeting will be held virtually on June 5, 2025, at 1:30 PM.

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Luke Aitken said the group's last meeting was held on April 9, 2025, at the Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area. He said the next meeting would be held in person, on June 11, 2025, at 11:00 AM.

(8) PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chair John McCurdy asked for any public comments, and none were heard and said that one comment was received over email and distributed prior to the meeting for review. Nicole Gibbs said staff did not receive any public comments prior to the meeting.

(9) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Tim Conklin announced the following upcoming meeting and conference dates –

- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, April 23, 2025 @ 1:30 PM
- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, May 15, 2025 @ 10:30 AM
- **NWA Vulnerable Road User Safety Summit** – Fayetteville, June 3rd, 8:00 AM – 5:00PM

(10) ADJOURNMENT

McCurdy asked whether there was any other business to discuss and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 11:41 AM.