NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
1311 Clayton St., Springdale, Arkansas, 72762
• (479) 751 7125 • Fax: (479) 751 7150 • http://nwarpc.org

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

November 22, 2026

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) invites qualified consulting firms and consultant teams to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) for a detailed plan and implementation path for advancing bus rapid transit in Northwest Arkansas.

NWARPC recently completed a Transit Alternatives Study (TAS) that identified Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) generally along the US 71B corridor as the preferred high-capacity transit alternative for Northwest Arkansas. The corridor extends from Fayetteville through Springdale, Lowell, Rogers, and Bentonville and serves major employment centers, educational institutions, healthcare destinations, and regional activity centers. This work is to build on the TAS and recommendations from NWARPC's long-range transportation plan, Forward 2050.

NWARPC has secured funding to advance planning for the corridor and has applied for additional Federal Transit Administration funding to support more detailed transit-oriented development (TOD) planning. The final scope of work for the subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) will depend upon funding availability. The objective of this LOI process is to identify consultant teams with the technical expertise, project management experience, and multidisciplinary capabilities including transportation and land use planning, modeling, market analysis, public and stakeholder engagement, and consensus building with local governments and transit providers necessary to support planning for a future BRT system.

NWARPC anticipates selecting a shortlist of the most qualified firms and inviting those firms to participate in a subsequent RFP process after funding determinations are known in early 2027. This solicitation is intended to evaluate qualifications only. Detailed technical approaches, work plans, schedules, or proposals are not requested nor accepted at this stage.

This project includes federal funds and requires the selected firm to comply with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certifications and Assurances and comply with Arkansas state procurement laws, rules, and regulations including but not limited to Ethical Standards (Ark. Code Ann. §19-11-708), Employee and Relative Disclosure, and Equal Opportunity Policy.

Work and contract requirements shall conform with the requirements of Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Arkansas Department of Transportation and NWARPC. Interested firms should note that in order to comply with state and federal requirements, NWARPC will verify suspension and debarment actions and eligibility status of firms in accordance with 2 CFR Part 1200 and 2 CFR Part 180.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

Interested firms must furnish:

1. A cover letter with the firm's response including primary contact information.
2. Information regarding the firm's experience in similar work.

3. The firm's completed Architect-Engineer Qualifications Standard Form (SF) 330 Parts I and II (48 CFR §53.236-2(b)). (SF 330 is available on the ARDOT's website.): https://ardot.gov/divisions/consultant-contracts/forms/
4. A current copy of the firm's equal employment opportunity policy required per Arkansas Code Annotated (Ark. Code Ann.) §19-11-104.
5. The firm's current copy (within 12 months) of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) Illegal Immigrant Contractor Disclosure Form (Ark. Code Ann. §19-11-105). https://www.ark.org/dfa/immigrant/index.php/user/welcome

Submittals will be scored on four equally weighted criteria (10 points each; 40 points total): (1) professional staff, including education, experience, number of personnel available, licensure and registration, and subconsultant partnerships; (2) general and professional reputation, including responsiveness to civil rights and equal employment opportunity requirements; (3) experience on similar projects, including Bus Rapid Transit; and (4) past performance, including references from similar projects (evaluations from other clients will be considered for firms that have not worked for NWARPC).

One (1) digital copy in PDF format must be received no later than **4:00 p.m. CST, January 11, 2027**. Submittals may be sent via email to treavis@nwarpc.org or provided on a thumb drive to the address listed below. Any responses received after this deadline will not be considered.

Tim Reavis, Senior Multimodal Transportation Planner
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
1311 Clayton St., Springdale, AR 72762

After a review and scoring of all letters of interest received, selected firms will be furnished a scope of work and requested to submit proposals for accomplishing the work. All work and contract requirements shall conform to applicable state and federal requirements. More information can be found in the NWARPC Procurement Procedures at www.nwarpc.org/datacatalog/nwarpc-procurement-procedures/.

PROTEST PROCEDURE: Protestors may file a protest on any phase of solicitation or award, including but not limited to specification or award. Protests are to be submitted in writing and received by the NWARPC's Executive Director, at 1311 Clayton St., Springdale, AR, 72762 within seven (7) working days after the aggrieved person knows or should have known of the facts giving rise thereto. Protests based upon restrictive specifications or alleged improprieties in any type of solicitation, which are apparent prior to the closing date for receipt of initial proposals, should be filed no later than three (3) working days prior to the closing date for receipt of proposals.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (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, Regional Planner – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), 1311 Clayton, Springdale, AR 72762, (479) 751-7125, (Voice/TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-285-1131); Para llamadas en espanol, marques el 866-656-1842; papr llamadas en ingles, marque el 711 o directamente al 800-285-1131 or the following email address: 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 Nicole Gibbs. Si necesita informacion en otro idioma, comuniqese Nicole Gibbs, 479-751-7125, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta.