

## METROPLAN MILESTONES

### 1950s:

- Metroplan began operations in 1955 by interlocal agreement as a voluntary association of local governments.
- Anniversaries of Metroplan and Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) are inexorably linked, as LRAFB was a large catalyst in the formation of Metroplan.
- Initial plans included "Proposed Highway System" (1956), Preliminary Development Plan for Pulaski County (1957), and "Plan for Half Million People" (1957).
- Early park plans included A Preliminary Report on the Recreational Use of Lake Maumelle, Site Layouts for a Basic Recreational Plan on Lake Maumelle (1958) and A Plan for Burn Parks (1959).

### 1960s:

- Major plans in the 1960's included the Industrial Growth Plan (1962), Comprehensive Development Plan (1964), Adams Field Airport Plan, and Civil Defense Plan (1965), Pulaski Area Transportation Study – Highway Transportation Plan and Implementation Program, and recommendation that school districts in Pulaski County consolidate (1966), Master Plan Report: Water Supply and Distribution, and Transit Planning Study (1967), and the 1990 Comprehensive Development Plan (1968).

### 1970s:

- In 1970, the Metropolitan Planning Area Commission of Pulaski County reorganized as a council of local governments and changed its name to Metroplan.
- Published Open Space Plan and Program in 1970.
- In 1971, partnered with Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects to create a park/open space design for the Pulaski County banks of the Arkansas River, which would become Riverfront Park.
- Since 1972, Metroplan has been the area's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
- Metroplan became the trustee for Central Arkansas Transit (CAT) in 1972.
- Designated lead agency for water quality planning in 1977.
- Designated lead agency for air quality and waste disposal planning in 1978.

### 1980s:

- Published Maumelle Corridor Control Access Plan in 1981.
- Proposed South loop on E-W border of Pulaski County in 1983.
- Completed Fourche Creek Urban Runoff Project and Lake Maumelle Clean Lakes Project in 1982.
- Central Arkansas Transit Authority (CATA) formally spun off in 1988.
- Metroplan became the administrative agent for Pulaski County 911 in 1989.
- Established public policy research program in 1989 – publishing An Analysis of State General Revenue Turnback in Arkansas, Jail Overcrowding In Pulaski County: A Preliminary Assessment, Arkansas Local Government Tax Capacity, and Metropolitan Regional Solid Waste Study.

### 1990s:

- In 1991, Congress passed the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).
- Also in 1991, Metroplan initiated its broadest reorganization since 1970 — narrowing its focus to transportation and the implementation of ISTEA.
- Central Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (CARTS) replaced the Pulaski County Area Transportation Study (PATS) in 1991.
- Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) formed in 1991.
- Faulkner and Lonoke Counties joined Metroplan in 1991.
- In 1995, METRO 2020 long-range transportation plan adopted.
- In 1997, Metroplan partnered with three other organizations to administer Ozone Action Days.
- In 1998, Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century replaced ISTEA.



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## 2000s:

- Published METRO 2025 in 2000.
- In 2000, Metroplan received the National Award for Outstanding Leadership in Metropolitan Transportation Planning from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Metroplan became the host agency for Clean Cities in 2000.
- In 2001, held initial meeting of small and large water systems.
- Published CARTS Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan in 2002.
- In 2003, helped incorporate the Mid-Arkansas Water Alliance (MAWA) to secure long-term sources of high quality drinking water.
- Metroplan assisted CATA in planning River Rail trolley system, beginning routes in 2004.
- Metro 2030 published/adopted in 2005.
- In 2007, Metroplan assisted with the planning and funding for the Big Dam Bridge and Two Rivers Park Bridge projects.
- Metroplan hosted the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) National Conference in 2007, setting a record for attendance.
- Metroplan won national awards for Benton Planning Studies Report and Walkable Cabot planning.
- In 2008, Metroplan created and published a bike map for Central Arkansas.
- Operation Bottleneck set public feedback record with more than 3,000 responses in 2008.
- Metroplan established Green Agenda program for the region in 2008.
- In 2009, Metroplan coordinated American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects in central Arkansas. SAFETEA-LU was passed by Congress.

## 2010s:

- In 2010, MAWA coordinated the signing of the Greer's Ferry reallocation project that secures high-quality water supplies for decades to come.
- Metroplan created CARTS Infrastructure Exchange to stretch non-federal dollars in 2010.
- Metro 2030.2 published/adopted in 2010.
- In 2011 the Metroplan Board formally adopted the Central Arkansas Green Agenda.
- Two Rivers Park Bridge officially opened on July 23, 2011.
- In 2011 the Metroplan Board voted to expand the CARTS area by an additional 857 square miles.
- With coordinating assistance by Metroplan staff, on May 23, 2012 regional leaders signed the Arkansas River Trail MOU.
- In 2012, MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) replaced SAFETEA-LU.
- Conway-Little Rock Express Bus Feasibility Study completed in 2013.
- Ward Comprehensive Plan Adopted in 2013.
- In 2013 Metroplan released the I-630 Guideway Alignment Study, which illustrated and identified a possible future 12.3-mile-long light rail line.
- In 2013 Metroplan teamed with the U of A Community Design Center for development of a management plan for Lake Conway-Point Remove Watershed.
- In 2013 seven areas in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Conway, Mayflower, and Vilonia were chosen to receive Jump Start grant assistance.
- *Imagine Central Arkansas* was adopted in December, 2014.
- In 2015 Central Arkansas Transit became Rock Region Metro.
- Metroplan celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 2015.