

**The legal notice reproduced below is set to run as follows:**

*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*  
*El Latino*

Sunday, March 22, 2020  
Thursday, March 26, 2020

---

**Public Review and Comment**

The public is invited to review and submit comments on a proposed amendment to the regional long-range metropolitan transportation plan (*Central Arkansas 2050*) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2019-2022, for the Central Arkansas Transportation Study area (CARTS).

The proposed amendment is requested by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) and would add \$350 million in State dollars to Job CA0602 - 30 Crossing. The currently shown \$631.7 million was recently determined to be insufficient to complete the project as planned. The source for the additional funding is "Issue One", increasing the total project to \$981.7 million, enough to complete the full project. The amendment also includes a change in source funding for existing funds.

The amendment with additional information, and relevant portions of the TIP and *Central Arkansas 2050* are available online at [www.metroplan.org](http://www.metroplan.org). Printed copies may also be obtained by calling Metroplan.

The public comment period is from Sunday, March 22, 2020, through close of business day on Monday, April 20, 2020.

Metroplan is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway metropolitan area. As such, Metroplan is charged with the responsibility of developing and updating a long-range transportation plan cooperatively with the state, local transit operators and member jurisdictions for the CARTS area.

Federal regulations require that, as a condition of receiving financial assistance from the US Department of Transportation, transportation projects implemented within the CARTS area must be consistent with the plans and programs developed through a "3C" planning process: continuing, comprehensive, cooperative. This 3C process is carried out by Metroplan in cooperation with ArDOT and the public transit provider, Rock Region METRO, and is also used to satisfy FTA requirements for public input for the Rock Region METRO.

Written comments should be submitted to the CARTS Study Director, Metroplan, 501 W. Markham St., Suite B, Little Rock, AR 72201. All comments must be postmarked no later than Monday, April 20, 2020. Comments may also be faxed to 372-8060, or e-mailed to [comments@metroplan.org](mailto:comments@metroplan.org). Call Metroplan at 372-3300 for further information.

# 2019-2022

## CARTS Transportation Improvement Program & METRO 2050 Amendment 1

### Proposed Amendment

State Project Number	County	Route	Project Termini	Length	Type of Work	Estimated Cost (*1000)	FFY
CA0602	Pulaski	I-30 & I-40	I-530-Hwy 67 (Widening & Reconst.) (I-30 & I-40) (F)	7.37	Capacity Improvements and Reconstruction	<b>\$981,700 - Total</b> \$16,000 – NHPP \$1,100 Earmark \$461,400 – CAP \$4,300 – State \$119,100 – NHPP (AC) \$29,800 – State (AC) \$350,000 – CAP2*	2020
CA0602	Pulaski	I-30 & I-40	I-530-Hwy 67 (Widening & Reconst.) (I-30 & I-40) (F)	7.37	Capacity Improvements and Reconstruction	<b>\$20,000 - Total</b> \$16,000 – NHPP \$4,000 - State	2021
CA0602	Pulaski	I-30 & I-40	I-530-Hwy 67 (Widening & Reconst.) (I-30 & I-40) (F)	7.37	Capacity Improvements and Reconstruction	<b>\$40,000 - Total</b> \$32,000 – NHPP \$8,000 - State	2022

\*Additional funding to be provided via passage of proposed "Issue 1" of 2020 (Public vote November 2020)

### Current Language

State Project Number	County	Route	Project Termini	Length	Type of Work	Estimated Cost (*1000)	FFY
CA0602	Pulaski	I-30 & I-40	I-530-Hwy 67 (Widening & Reconst.) (I-30 & I-40) (F)	7.37	Capacity Improvements and Reconstruction	<b>\$631,700 - Total</b> \$10,000 - NHPP (AC) \$93,600 - NHPP (BR) (AC) \$22,700 NHPP (IRP) (AC) \$424,300 - CAP & State Match \$1,100 Earmark \$80,000 NHPP (AC)	2019

## Background

*30 Crossing* includes the widening, reconstruction, and interchange improvements to I-30 and I-40 from I-530 to Hwy 67. The project was first included in the region's Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan in December 2014 (*Imagine Central Arkansas*), before going through several amendments to reflect project designs and cost adjustments. The current project description and cost is from *METRO 2050*, adopted in December 2018, and the CARTS 2019-2022 TIP, adopted in July 2018 and amended in January 2019.

Additional information on the project and its design can be found at <https://connectingarkansasprogram.com/corridors/9/i-30-pulaski-county/>

## Reason

ArDOT recently determined through the Design Build Process that \$631.7 million is insufficient to complete the project as described (its full length). To successfully complete the full length of the project the Department intends to use \$350 million raised through "Issue 1" that makes permanent the ½ cent sales taxes dedicated to highways (see attached Letter). Increased funding would only be available with the passage of Issue 1 in November 2020.

Funding sources have also been adjusted to reflect a shifting of funds between NHPP and CAP1. The amendment includes an Advanced Construction (AC) total of \$148.9 Million. AC will be converted to federal obligations as funding is need, estimate at \$20 Million in 2021, \$40 Million in 2022, \$20 Million in 2023, \$20 Million in 2024, and \$48.9 Million in 2025.

## Public Comment

**Public comments are welcome on this increase in funding** and its inclusion in the 2019-2022 CARTS TIP and Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan – METRO 2050. If approved, financial revenue projections and expenditures for METRO 2050 will be updated for consistency the amendment.\*

The public comment period extends from Sunday, March 22, 2020, until close of business day on Monday, April 20, 2019.

*\*Dialogue between FHWA, ArDOT, and Metroplan staffs led to a determination that due to the prior success of the state regarding tax proposals for highways that the increase in revenue from Issue 1 could "reasonably expected to be available" for MPO planning purposes.*

# ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

**THOMAS B. SCHUECK**  
CHAIRMAN  
LITTLE ROCK

**ROBERT S. MOORE, JR.**  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
ARKANSAS CITY

**DALTON A. FARMER, JR.**  
JONESBORO



P.O. Box 2261 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261  
Phone (501) 569-2000 • Voice/TTY 711 • Fax (501) 569-2400  
www.ArDOT.gov • www.IDriveArkansas.com

**PHILIP TALDO**  
SPRINGDALE

**KEITH GIBSON**  
FORT SMITH

**SCOTT E. BENNETT, P.E.**  
DIRECTOR

March 16, 2020

Mr. Tab Townsell  
Executive Director, Metroplan  
501 West Markham Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. <sup>TAB</sup> Townsell:

Reference is to the need for a proposed amendment to Metroplan's long range transportation plan – Central Arkansas 2050 (Plan) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) regarding Job CA0602, better known as the 30 Crossing project.

Currently, the 30 Crossing project is listed in the Plan for capacity improvements and reconstruction to I-30 and I-40, from I-530 to Highway 67, with a project cost estimate of \$631.7 million. It has been recently determined that this estimate is insufficient to complete the project as described. As you are aware, the Governor's Long Term Highway Funding Proposal known as Issue One is on the ballot for November 2020. If the people support Issue One and vote to make the ½-cent sales tax a permanent revenue source for highways, county roads, and city streets, the Department plans to immediately allocate an additional \$350 million to complete the 30 Crossing project as originally planned. In order to allow the work to be added to the existing Design-Build (DB) contract, Plan and TIP amendments are needed.

It is hereby requested that the Metroplan Board of Directors proceed with the proposed Plan and TIP amendments at this time to allow flexibility to incorporate the remaining work into the existing DB contract if the funds are approved by the voters.

As always, I appreciate the attention and cooperation of the Board and Metroplan staff. Please advise if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott".

Scott E. Bennett, P.E.  
Director

c: Highway Commission  
Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer  
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer  
Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning  
Program Management

Public Information  
Transportation Planning and Policy  
Alternative Delivery Project Administrator  
FHWA – Arkansas Division