

Public Review and Comment

The public is invited to review and submit comments on a proposed amendment to the FFY 2017 Annual Element (AE) of the Central Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (CARTS) FY 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The first amendment is part of a Statewide Amendment to the STIP that provides greater flexibility in funding projects in the state. This amendment modifies two projects in the CARTS Area, (1) Hwy 10 between Pleasant Ridge Road and Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock to reflect new project limits, project numbers, and funding categories and (2) new funding categories for Hwy 67/Hwy 89 in Cabot. Project development and delivery is not impacted for either of these projects. Information from the Arkansas Department of Transportation on the amendment and language for inclusion in the amendment follows.

The second amendment reflects a discretionary grant awarded to Rock Region Metro for the purchase of seven compressed natural gas buses and updated expenditures for FY 2018:

- FY 2018: Bus Support Equipment/Facilities, in the amount of \$1,142,263 in federal (FTA) 5307 funds and \$285,566 in local dollars, for a total amount of \$1,427,829.
- FY 2018: Other Capital Items/Preventive Maintenance, in the amount of \$630,000 in FTA 5307 funds and \$157,500 in local dollars, for a total amount of \$787,500.
- FY 2017 (spent in 2020): Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary (Rolling Stock) in the amount of \$3,570,000 FTA 5339 funds and \$630,000 in local dollars, for a total amount of \$4,200,000.

The TIP is a list of federally funded transportation projects proposed by various communities, transit providers, Metroplan and the Arkansas Department of Transportation. Projects must be listed in *Imagine Central Arkansas*, the long-range metropolitan transportation plan, in order to be considered for inclusion in the TIP and to receive federal funds.

The public comment period extends from Tuesday, May 1, 2018, until close of business day on Wednesday, May 16, 2018.

Written comments should be submitted to: CARTS Study Director, Metroplan, 501 W. Markham St., Suite B, Little Rock, AR 72201. All comments must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, May 16, 2018. Comments may also be faxed to 372-8060, or e-mailed to comments@metroplan.org. This legal notice also fulfills Rock Region METRO's commitment to public participation. Call Metroplan at 372-3300 for further information.



INFORMATION RELEASE

Contact:
Danny Straessle/Krista Sides

NR 18-120
April 26, 2018

2016-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Proposed Amendment Available for Public Comment

LITTLE ROCK (4-26) – A proposed amendment to the Arkansas Department of Transportation’s (ARDOT) Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2016-2020 is now available for public comment.

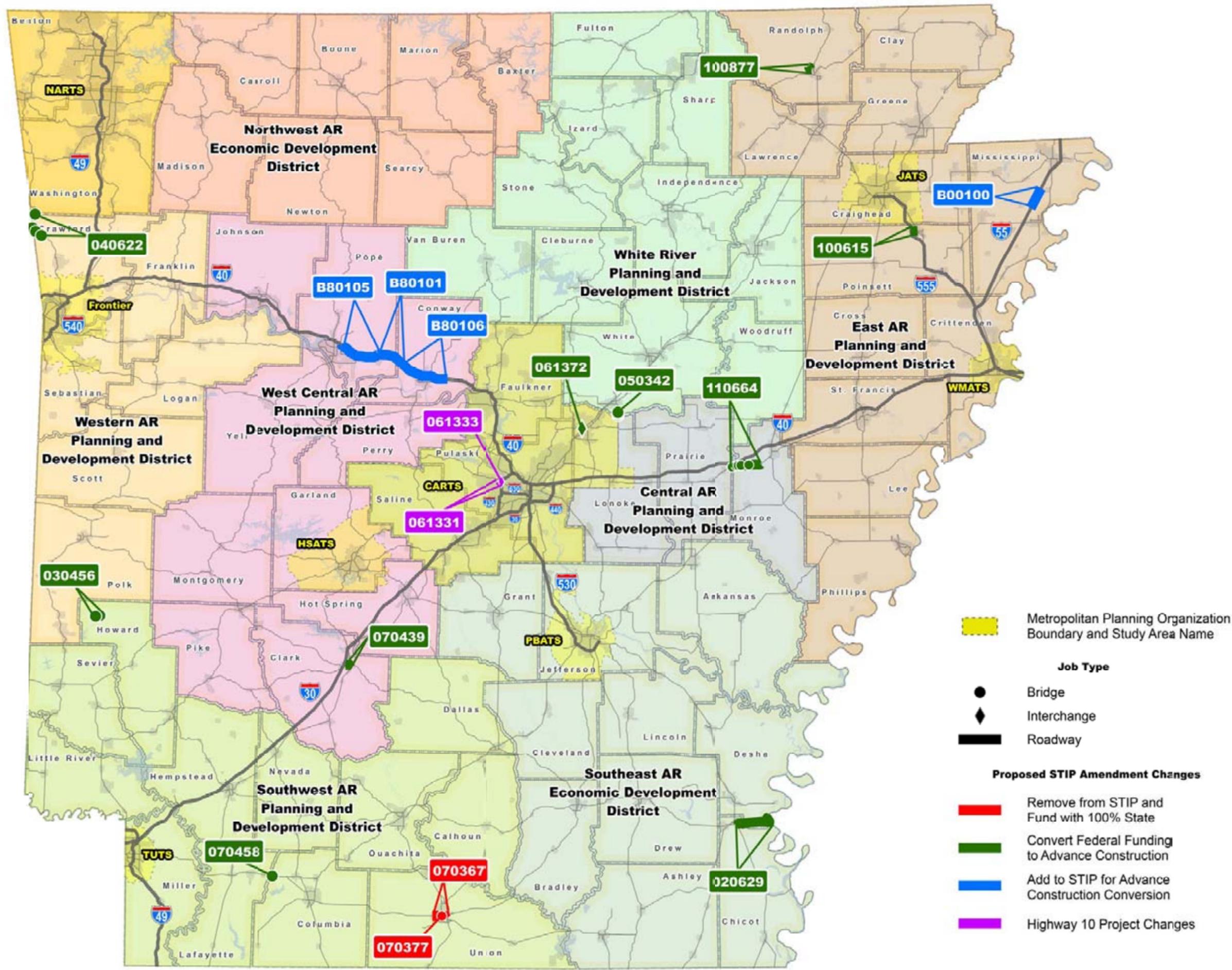
The purpose of this proposed STIP amendment is to increase the Department’s flexibility in funding projects around the State. The amendment will remove Federal funding from two projects in the STIP, that will now be paid for with 100% State funds, add four 1999 Interstate Rehabilitation Program projects to the STIP in order to convert previous Advance Construction Federal funding to State funds, modify STIP projects on Highway 10 in Little Rock, and convert Federal funding on several projects to Advance Construction Federal funding. Project development will not be interrupted on these projects and changes to the scheduled construction dates are not anticipated. Please see attached map.

The public is invited to review and comment on the contents of this proposed STIP amendment by **May 8, 2018**. The amendment may also be reviewed at the ARDOT Central Office or the State Clearinghouse. For more information, or to request a copy of this proposed STIP amendment by mail, contact ARDOT’s Program Management Division at (501) 569-2262.

All comments regarding this proposed STIP amendment should be submitted in writing to:

Program Management Division
Arkansas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Proposed 2016-2020 STIP Amendment Changes



Document Path: I:\dot\stip\2016-2020 STIP Amendment\STIP Amendment for El Dorado, Bond Conversion, Hwy 10 STIP Amendment Project Locations Map.mxd

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment Approval Request

Date: April 23, 2018

In order to comply with the Statewide Planning Requirements as set forth in the FAST Act, the following item(s) have been modified in the applicable TIP.

Central Arkansas Regional Transportation Study

Job (Item) Number	County	Route	Termini / Length	Type / Phase of Work	Estimated Cost Funding Breakdown (x1000)	Agency Responsible for:		Estimated Scheduling (FFY)	
						Providing Matching Funds	Carrying Out the Project		
061333 (06X024)	Pulaski	10/430	I-430/Hwy. 10 Interchange Impvt. (L.R.) (S) <i>Let to Contract in December 2016</i>	Interchange Improvements	22,900 - Total 20,610 - NHPP 2,290 - State	State	State	2016	Breaking out project from Job 06X024
061331 (06X024)	Pulaski	10	Pleasant Ridge Rd. - Pleasant Valley Dr. (L.R.) (F) <i>(CM/GC Project at 85% Federal Share) (Adding \$17.07M Federal)</i>	Major Widening	50,700 - Total 43,095 - NHPP 7,605 - State	State	State	2019	Breaking out project from Job 06X024, increase STIP funding, and change to 85% Federal
061372	Lonoke	67	Hwy. 67/Hwy. 89 Interchange Impvts. (Cabot) (F)	Interchange Improvements	14,000 - Total 11,200 - Adv. Const. 2,800 - State	State	State	2020	Convert Federal Funding to AC

Recommended by: _____
Metropolitan Planning Coordinator

MPO Approval Date: _____

Submitted by: _____
Division Engineer - Program Management

Date: _____

<i>(For Federal Highway Administration Use Only)</i>	
Approved by: _____	Date: _____



Rock Region
METRO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROCK REGION METRO AWARDED LARGEST-EVER FTA COMPETITIVE GRANT FOR BUSES
Agency Awarded More Than \$3.5 Million for CNG Buses

NORTH LITTLE ROCK (April 5, 2018) — Rock Region METRO was awarded \$3,570,000 in Federal Transit Administration funds to purchase seven compressed natural gas buses slated to join the METRO fleet in 2020. This is the largest FTA competitive grant for bus and bus facilities METRO has received.

“This award will greatly assist us in ensuring our fleet is reliable and safe for riders,” said Wanda Crawford, METRO interim executive director. “With careful financial planning from our board and staff and the help of these funds, we continue to make progress on our fleet replacement plan to transition all diesel-fueled METRO buses with compressed natural gas buses by the end of 2025 and maintaining bus size diversity.”

The grant provides an 85 percent funding match for three 40-foot CNG and four 35-foot CNG buses. The agency will order the buses in Fall 2018. The new buses replace what will be three 17-year-old, 35-foot buses; one 13-year-old, 35-foot-bus; and three 13-year-old 40-foot buses in 2020.

A total of 139 projects in 52 states and territories were funded through the 2017 FTA bus and bus facilities grant program.

“Grant funding such as this made available through the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act is critical to improving long-term planning and project finance for public transit infrastructure across our country. METRO continues to pursue a dedicated funding source for central Arkansas public transit service so we may have the matching fund reserves to compete for even more federal transportation funding,” said Crawford.

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