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**METROPLAN ANNOUNCES CASEY COVINGTON AS NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR, FEBRUARY 22, 2017** — Metroplan announces the promotion of Casey R. Covington to the position of Deputy Director. Covington joined the Metroplan staff in 2004 as a transportation engineer, and assumed the role of CARTS Study Director (Central Arkansas Regional Transportation Study) in 2012. Covington has over 13 years of planning, engineering and management experience, specializing in transportation planning and forecasting. He holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State and a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Louisiana Tech.

Covington is a registered Professional Engineer (PE) in the State of Arkansas and is a certified planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

“Casey is a perfect fit as Deputy Director of Metroplan. He is an experienced transportation engineer, a thoughtful planner, and steady administrator already,” said Metroplan Executive Director Tab Townsell. “In his new role he will couple his passion for our region with a dispassionate approach to problem solving in order to better our metropolitan area.”

As CARTS Study Director, Covington oversees development of the region's long-range transportation plan (*Imagine Central Arkansas*), a multi-year plan process that includes extensive analysis and public outreach. Covington also manages corridor studies and other planning activities undertaken by Metroplan staff, and sub-allocated program moneys.

As Deputy Director, Covington said, "Upcoming planning efforts will focus on the impact of technology on personal travel and consequently regional planning decisions."

Selected achievements under Covington's tenure as Transportation Engineer and CARTS Study Director include advances made in pedestrian and bicycle planning, including the region's first comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle crash analysis, travel forecasting, and ongoing implementation of Adaptive Signal Control Technologies.

Covington has recently been involved in the 30 Crossing project, coordinating efforts of the MPO with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD), Federal Highway Administration, and Rock Region Metro.

Covington is a member of Leadership Greater Little Rock Class 30, Think Big Little Rock, the State Transportation Innovations Council, the American Planning Association, the Transportation Research Board, and the Louisiana Tech Alumni Board of Directors. Covington also serves on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Arkansas State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and is the team leader for the Physical and Built Environment Priority Area of Healthy Active Arkansas.

Metroplan is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the four-county region of Faulkner, Lonoke, Pulaski and Saline counties. It is a voluntary association of local governments that has operated since 1955.

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