

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### METROPLAN ANNOUNCES TRANSPORTATION FUNDING GRANTS

**LITTLE ROCK, AR** February 26, 2020 — The Metroplan Board of Directors has approved funding to the following applicants for 2020-2021 Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants in Central Arkansas.

STP and TAP are Federal-aid programs that Metroplan awards on a competitive basis to its member jurisdictions. Both programs require a 20 percent match by the grantee.

STP provides flexible funding that may be used for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects. Metroplan received eight applications requesting more than \$8 million. Six projects were selected to receive over \$6.3 million in available funding.

Jurisdiction	STP Project	Funding Amount
Pulaski County/Little Rock	Southeast Trail (12-ft multi-use)	\$700,000
Little Rock	Bowman Road	\$2,000,000
Conway	Markham Street Phase 2 (Jump Start)	\$1,500,000
Ward	Hwy 319/367 Intersection	\$525,000
Bryant	Bryant Parkway	\$1,500,000
Cabot	Signal System Upgrade	\$100,000
	Total	\$6,325,000

TAP funds may be used to construct sidewalks and trails for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized forms of transportation, create systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers (children, older adults and individuals with disabilities) or other similar activities. Metroplan received 19 applications requesting more than \$2.7 million. Eleven projects were selected to receive over \$1.5 million.

Jurisdiction	TAP Projects	Funding Amount
Pulaski County	Southeast Trail (12-ft multi-use)	\$200,000
Conway	Stone Dam Creek and Harkrider	\$200,000
Greenbrier	East Main Street Sidewalks & School Access	\$80,000
Lonoke	Lincoln Street Sidewalks, Palm to Woodlawn	\$90,000
Benton	Sidewalks Downtown to BHS	\$180,000
Bryant	Multi-use Path, Bryant Parkway to Alcoa Park	\$195,000
North Little Rock	Argenta Plaza Sidewalks	\$140,000
Shannon Hills	Walking Trail along County Line Road	\$100,000
Sherwood	Coolhurst Sidewalk, Phase 1	\$165,000
Vilonia	Church Street Sidewalks, Hwy 64B to Barnard Lane	\$100,000
Cabot	Central Elementary Sidewalks	\$100,000
	Total	\$1,550,000

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. For more information on these projects, see the following pages or visit [www.metroplan.org](http://www.metroplan.org).

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**2020-2021 Surface Transportation Program (STP) and  
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grants in Central Arkansas**

**STP Awards**

**Southeast Trail**

Pulaski County and Little Rock are partnering to extend the **Arkansas River Trail** system southeastward and have been awarded \$700,000 in STP funding and \$200,000 in TAP funding. The “Southeast Trail” will connect from the existing trail at the Clinton Presidential Library, follow the levee southeast, with Clinton National Airport. This extension provides a 12 ft wide multi-use path alternative connection to the airport from downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods while capitalizing on the scenic beauty of the Arkansas River.

**Bowman Road**

Little Rock has been awarded \$2,000,000 toward the widening construction of **Bowman Road** to Cherry Laurel Dr. The project will alter the existing 2 lane roadway to 5 lanes with sidewalks. The widening is meant to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce travel time, and provide adequate turning movements for vehicles.

**Markham Street Phase 2 (Jump Start)**

Conway has been awarded \$1,500,000 to complete a multimodal corridor on **Markham Street** between downtown and Hendrix. The award will extend sidewalks and cycle tracks with streetlights and other safety features, improve flooding with rainwater retention planters, as well as reconstruct a deteriorating roadway. The project works in tandem with recent zoning changes to create a safe and attractive multimodal environment.

**Hwy 319/367 Intersection**

Ward has been granted \$525,000 to complete an existing **intersection improvement project at Highway 319 and Highway 367**. Plans will enhance safety and operations at this dangerous intersection of two highways and a railroad crossing. Signal coordination with railroad crossing signals, better turning radii and the addition of turn lanes on 367 will improve safety and ease vehicle delays during train crossings. ArDOT is partnering with the City of Ward, Metroplan, and Lonoke County on the project.

**Bryant Parkway**

Bryant will receive \$1,500,000 in STP funding and \$195,000 in TAP funding to extend the **Bryant Parkway** south from the Raymar Road Overpass past the municipal airport to Highway 183. The project will provide greater connectivity for Bryant motorists and extend a multi-use path for cyclists and pedestrians along the entire facility.

**Signal System Upgrade**

Cabot will receive \$100,000 to **advance technology on several stoplights** with the city. Upgrades will allow remote management and monitoring of signals to improve operations and manage congestion delays at several major intersections. The city will also be able to monitor issues with the signal equipment and respond quickly. These funds will be used to expand an existing project for the city.

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**Stone Dam Creek and Harkrider**

The City of Conway was awarded \$200,000 to be split between an extension of Stone Dam Creek Trail and the additional of sidewalks along Harkrider. This funding will allow Stone Dam Creek Trail to be extended to Donaghey Ave. with plans to lengthen to S. German Lane. Funding will also allow a sidewalk to be constructed along Harkrider from Bruce Street to Robins, currently a well-worn dirt path. The project will tie into planned pedestrian improvements further north, unlocking more connectivity in the heart of the city.

**East Main Street Sidewalks**

Greenbrier received \$80,000 to extend sidewalks on the north side of East Main Street from Highway 65 to Cedar Street. The new span will connect Greenbrier Middle School via existing sidewalks on Highway 65 to neighborhoods further east. The sidewalk will provide students a safe place to walk to and from school and will become a central piece of a planned pedestrian network within the city.

**Lincoln Street Sidewalks**

Lonoke has been awarded \$90,000 for sidewalks on Lincoln Street between Palm and Woodlawn. The city continues to implement its pedestrian plan. The new span of sidewalk will improve pedestrian connections from several neighborhoods to Lonoke Elementary, Primary, and High school. The project is part of a larger plan that spans the entire city.

**Sidewalks Downtown to BHS**

Benton has been granted \$180,000 to add multimodal infrastructure on E. Sevier Street from downtown past Tyndall Park to Benton School complex. E. Sevier will be fitted with continuous sidewalks and new bike lanes, allowing many neighboring residential areas to access the downtown commercial core, a major city park, and Benton schools.

**Bryant Parkway Multi-use Path**

Bryant has been granted \$195,000 to complete a multi-use path off the Bryant Parkway extension through Alcoa Park. As the city continues to develop, the multi-use path will provide neighborhoods more options for commuting to schools. This project will be combined with the extension of Bryant Parkway south of the park.

**Argenta Plaza Sidewalks**

North Little Rock will receive \$140,000 to complete pedestrian infrastructure around downtown Argenta Plaza. Sidewalks in front of the plaza will be expanded to accommodate safer pedestrian activity and slow the traffic on the adjacent street.

**County Line Road Walking Trail**

Shannon Hills received \$100,000 to construct a sidewalk on County Line Road from Robert L. Davis Elementary to Joan Drive, completing a crucial span in the city's sidewalk network. This span will connect existing sidewalks along both sides to complete a continuous pedestrian path from the school, neighborhoods east and west of the school, and additional city services along Shannon Hills Dr.

**Coolhurst Sidewalk, Phase 1**

Sherwood has been awarded \$165,000 to add sidewalks on Coolhurst Avenue. The project will connect the surrounding neighborhood to sidewalks on Country Club Road.

**Church Street Sidewalks**

Vilonia collected \$100,000 in TAP funds to fully realize a multimodal corridor that was previously partially completed. Sidewalks will be added to Church Street between Highway 64 B and Barnard Lane. This will connect pedestrians to the city's commercial area.

**Central Elementary School Sidewalks**

Cabot has been granted \$100,000 to enhance its pedestrian connectivity. Sidewalks will be added on several streets around Central Elementary School, including Pond Street and Plaza Boulevard. Students will be able to walk to school safely from the surrounding neighborhoods.

