



February 14, 2021

Central Arkansas Citizen and Transportation Stakeholders

Metroplan is pleased to provide the 2021-2024 CARTS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Amendment 2 to *Central Arkansas 2050* for review and public comment. You are encouraged to review the projects included in both documents and to provide feedback to Metroplan. Public comments will be accepted through March 15th.

As principal documents of the metropolitan planning process, *Central Arkansas 2050*, the region's Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), sets transportation policies and strategies for the region, while the TIP is the region's specific four-year construction program for the region derived from the MTP. *Amendment 2 to Central Arkansas 2050* was developed specifically for the 2019-2024 CARTS TIP with revisions exclusive to sections 7.2 (Financial Resources) and 7.5 (Financially Constrained Plan), ensuring consistency among the documents. Projects initiated by ARDOT and Rock Region METRO have been provided to Metroplan for inclusion in the document.

This TIP represents several major milestones and key elements for the region:

- Completion of the widening of Hwy 67/167 from North Little Rock to Cabot (through Jacksonville),
- Completion of a 25-year commitment to the construction of regional railroad overpasses,
- Completion of the widening of Hwy 107 to the Arnold Road (Little Rock Airforce Back Gate),
- Updated financial funding plan for *30 Crossing*,
- Extension of the improvements to Hwy 10 west of I-430,
- Continued funding of Rock Region METRO operations, and
- Emphasis on system preservation and highway repaving.

Comments on both documents may be submitted in writing to Casey Covington, PE, AICP Metroplan Deputy Director at comments@metroplan.org or mail at 501 West Markham, Suite B, Little Rock, AR 72201. Questions may also be referred to Metroplan at 501 372-3300.

As every project listed in the TIP affects central Arkansas in some way, frequent updates will be posted on the Metroplan, ArDOT, and Rock Region METRO websites as public information.

Tab Townsell
Metroplan Executive Director

Casey R. Covington, PE, AICP
Metroplan Deputy Director

Public Review and Comment

The public is invited to review and submit comments on (1) proposed amendments to the regional long-range metropolitan transportation plan (*Central Arkansas 2050*) and (2) the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2021-2024, for the Central Arkansas Transportation Study area (CARTS).

The public comment period is from Sunday, February 14, 2021, through close of business day on Monday, March 15, 2021.

- (1) Amendment 2 to *Central Arkansas 2050* updates project costs, project let years, and add new projects proposed as part of the FY 2021-2024 CARTS TIP. Minor explanatory additional/changes to the text accompany the financial amendments.
- (2) Draft FY 2021-2024 CARTS TIP: The TIP is a list of federally funded transportation projects proposed by various communities, transit providers, Metroplan and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT).

Amendment 2 to *Central Arkansas 2050* and the Draft 2021-2024 CARTS TIP were developed in concert to ensure consistent among documents, a federal requirement.

Both the amendments and the draft TIP are posted on the Metroplan website: www.metroplan.org. Printed copies may also be obtained by calling Metroplan.

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, March 15, 2021. Comments may also be faxed to 372-8060, or e-mailed to comments@metroplan.org. Call Metroplan at 372-3300 for further information.