

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Casey Covington
Phone: 501.372.3300
E-mail: ccovington@metroplan.org



July 5th, 2023

METROPLAN ANNOUNCES REGIONAL GREENWAYS PLAN

LITTLE ROCK, AR — **Central Arkansas Regional Greenways: A Pathway Forward**

Central Arkansas currently enjoys an impressive collection of trails in all corners of our region. But, Metroplan aspires to a pathways system much more ambitious and connected. Metroplan enlisted its member communities to help craft the Central Arkansas Regional Greenways Plan, adopted by the Board on May, 24th 2023, that will guide investment towards a world-class, multi-use pathway network spanning Faulkner, Lonoke, Pulaski, and Saline counties. Six new routes, and the existing Arkansas River Trail, make up the planned pathway system. The plan is truly region-defining!

Regionally connected greenways provide a new option to travel Central Arkansas, both between cities and within each community. The greenway network will integrate into local trail systems and transit routes to provide a cohesive active transportation network. Eventually, each corridor will connect into the region's core.

Residents will benefit significantly from the new greenways. Users will have access to essential destinations and amenities while increasing their physical activity and enjoying our region's natural beauty. Ditching the keys for a peaceful walk or bike ride can alleviate traffic and reduce harmful emissions to improve our air quality. Additionally, national trends of development around trails will help Central Arkansas realize similar economic opportunities that enhance our quality of life.

Eight guiding principles steered the greenways' development:

- **Transportation-Focused** – A viable transportation option.
- **Physically Separated** – Separated from traffic.
- **Inclusive** – All ages and abilities can use it.
- **Consistent** – Easily recognized systemwide.
- **Safe** – Accommodates user visibility and access to emergency service.
- **Context Sensitive** – Adjusted to challenges of the landscape.
- **High Quality** – Designed to the highest standards.
- **Well-Connected** – Population centers and major destinations linked.

Multi-use paths are a significant asset, providing better connected, more accessible communities. Expanding these greenways benefits individuals because it creates additional transportation choices for everyone.

For more information, please contact Metroplan's Executive Director, Casey Covington, or visit the website at centralarkgreenways.com