

Metroplan Board of Directors Meeting

August 27, 2025

10:00 am

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of July 23, 2025
2. Financial Report
3. 2024 Annual Audit
4. Metroplan Report
5. Agency Reports
6. Benchmarking Trip
7. Energy and Environment Innovation Streetlight Conversion Grant
8. TIP Amendment – Rock Region METRO
9. Congestion Management Process Report
10. 2025 Project Obligations
11. Metroplan Board Announcements
12. Citizen Communications
13. Adjourn



ITEM 1. MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2025

The minutes of the July 23rd, 2025, Metroplan Board meeting are attached for review and adoption.

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to adopt minutes from July 23rd, 2025.

Metroplan Board of Directors Meeting July 23, 2025

Attending:

Board Members

Mayor Crystal Herrmann, City of Alexander
Mayor Tom Farmer, City of Benton
Mayor Chris Treat, City of Bryant
Mayor Ken Kincade, City of Cabot
Mayor Jeff Elmore, City of Jacksonville
Mayor Caleb Norris, City of Maumelle
Mayor Mike Kemp, City of Shannon Hills
Mayor Mary Jo Heye-Townsell, City of Sherwood
Mayor Charles Gastineau, City of Ward
Mayor Derrick Rainey, City of Wrightsville
Judge Allen Dodson, Faulkner County
Judge Barry Hyde, Pulaski County
Judge Matt Brumley, Saline County
Mr. David Siskowski, ARDOT
Mr. Keith Keck, Hot Springs Village
Ms. Suzanne Peyton, Clinton National Airport
*Mr. Robbie Alberson, City of Conway
*Mr. Jeff Arey, City of Haskell
*Mr. David Cook, City of North Little Rock

***Indicates Proxy**

Metroplan

Casey Covington
Tammy Gillis
Leesa Freasier
Peritosh Jambhale
Jonathan Lupton
Daniel Holland
Jeff Runder
Sydney Dozier

Guest

Tom Anderson, Faulkner County
Mike Watson, Halff
Sunny Farmahan, ARDOT
Tab Townsell, Pulaski County
Mark Stodola, Arkansas Municipal League (AML)

Joe Smith, AML
Jon Honeywell, Volkert
Mark Koch, Olsson
Taylor Clark, MCE
Jack Brent, MCE
Jamie Collins, Neel-Schaffer
James Green

I. Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June Board meeting was made by Mayor Herrman, seconded by Mayor Gastineau and passed by the Board.

II. Approval of the Financial Report

Ms. Gillis gave a brief financial report to the Board.

Ms. Gillis noted that staff are currently working on creating the second quarter report, which will be presented at the next Board meeting. Also, the auditing firm will be at the next meeting to provide the Board with the audit report.

A motion to approve the June financials was made by Mayor Kemp, seconded by Mayor Farmer, and approved by the Board.

III. Metroplan Report

Mr. Covington stated to the Board that there are currently two Federal Highway grants out. The Bridle grant applications are due on August 1st and the Port Infrastructure Development Program applications are due on September 25th. These are the only two federal grants which are currently out, and more are anticipated in the next month or so.

Mr. Covington reminded the Board of the benchmarking trip October 7th - 10th. He thanked the members who had already signed to attend. Staff are working on the agenda, and he further noted that if Board members are unable to attend someone can come to represent their area.

Mr. Covington stated that at the August Board meeting the MPO Recertification review will be presented.

Mr. Covington stated that there is a new firm working on the Metroplan 2024 audit this year and it will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Covington added that staff have been very active in working with the consultants in developing the new Metroplan website. A soft launch of the site is scheduled for August 18th followed up the official launch of the site on August 27th.

Mr. Covington noted that volunteers are needed to review the website as it is and Ms. Rhodes had a signup sheet for those interested in helping staff with input on the new site.

Mr. Covington stated that Mr. Farmahan had reached out to inform Metroplan that the State is working on the 2027-2028 TIP/STIP. A list of projects is needed by August 18th. Staff will be sending out a notice for projects soon.

Mr. Covington further noted that an RFP has been put out for a consultant to examine planning needs in the region and how Metroplan and CAPDD can meet those needs together.

Metroplan staff and ARDOT are working on the Smart Streets Plan kickoff that will occur in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Covington added that staff are working on re-examining county planning reports with a focus on congestion, bridges, and new connections. This will include all facilities within the county.

IV. Agency Reports

A. Arkansas Department of Transportation

Mr. Farmahan stated to the Board that there was only one job for the August letting. State A job 838278 - Hwy. 25 overlay. If funded this job should be completed by November.

Mayor Rainey expressed his condolences for the state workers who lost their lives during construction. The City of Wrightsville is doing its best to support the effort for safety in work areas.

B. Rock Region METRO

There was no report from Rock Region METRO.

C. Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport

Ms. Peyton stated to the Board that Airport ridership is down around 1% for the year. Parking capacity continues to be an issue at the airport. Additional parking will begin this month at the hotel that recently opened on the airport grounds and has had a steady stream of guests.

Ms. Peyton noted that she will be a guest speaker at the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce on Friday. She encouraged the Board to attend.

D. Federal Highway Administration

There was no report from FHWA.

E. Little Rock Port Authority

There was no report from the Little Rock Port Authority.

F. Congressional Offices

There was no report from the Congressional offices.

G. Arkansas Department of Economic Development

Ms. Ashley Williams, Regional manager for CAPDD, stated to the Board that she would be taking Mr. Twyford's position and covering west central Arkansas. There are a few projects in the pipeline and a key focus at this time is the Community Assistance Grant, which closes on July 31st. The application covers a broad scope of areas and can be found on the CAPDD website. Ms. Williams encouraged the Board to look at it and apply.

H. Arkansas Municipal League

Mr. Stodola stated to the Board that the Municipal League has been working on the Arkansas Legislature audit. Several cities are delinquent on their water or water and sewer audit reports for 2022 and 2023. This will be addressed before the Legislative Audit Board in September. Certified letters were sent out on the previous Friday. It is important that if your city receives this letter it is addressed immediately because turnback funding will be suspended until the matter is resolved. The Municipal League has a list of CPAs who work in this area that can assist with resolution of the issue.

Mr. Smith stated to the Board that a few of the Opioid lawsuits have been settled in the area. Recently there have been nine lawsuits settled in the amount of \$50-65 million. There are 500 cities that have to sign off on the suit. Therefore, it is very important that all of the documents are signed as soon as possible. If they are not signed in a timely manner, the suit will reduce by \$15 million. An email

will be sent out in August with the forms. Mr. Smith noted that the League will be available to assist with this process.

V. Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation Regional Supplement – Central Arkansas Comprehensive Action Plan

Ms. Rhodes indicated that the draft of the EEI Plan would remain out for public comment until July 29, 2025.

Ms. Rhodes noted that the deadline for submittal of the EEI plan supplement to the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment is August 1. The plan provides implementation details for five emissions reduction and air quality improvement

measures. Public comments were received and documented through email and two virtual town hall meetings, but none of the comments have required any changes to the plan's content.

A motion to approve Resolution 25-14 was made by Mayor Gastineau, seconded by Mayor Kemp, and passed by the Board.

VI. Call for Projects Award Recommendations

Mr. Holland stated to the Board that a total of 19 applications were received in the Call for Projects. Of those applications 15 were STBG and the remaining 4 were CPRG. The Bryant Parkway project was moved to the CPRG. The technical scoring of the projects was done by staff, which was 30% of the application. After scoring, all but two of the 19 projects were awarded funding. All of the projects must be bid by April 2026.

A motion to approve Resolution 25-15 was made by Mayor Treat, seconded by Mayor Farmer, and passed by the Board.

A motion to approve Resolution 25-16 was made by Mayor Norris, seconded by Mayor Gastineau and passed by the Board.

VII. Metroplan Board Announcements

Judge Brumley stated to the Board that the City of Bryant would host this year's AMPLIFY concert and would be expecting around 80,000 visitors to participate in the event.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ITEM 2. FINANCIAL REPORT

The January – June 2025 financial statement is provided to the Metroplan Board.

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to accept the Financial Report.

ITEM 3. 2024 METROPLAN ANNUAL AUDIT

The 2024 Metroplan Audit is being completed by Rasco Winter Thomas CPAS and Advisors. Representatives will be at the Board meeting to present the results and available for questions.

If the Board feels comfortable with the results of the audit, you may move for adoption of the 2024 Audit Report.

**2024 Metroplan Audit will be provided via email prior to the Board meeting.*

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to accept 2024 Metroplan Audit.

ITEM 4. METROPLAN REPORT

SUMMARY

Casey Covington will give an update on the following Metroplan activities.

- Regional Planning Needs Study
- STIP Recommendations
- Federal Update and Reauthorization
- Metroplan Website
- UPWP

ACTION NEEDED: Information only.

ITEM 5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Metroplan Executive Director's Report

B. Arkansas Department of Transportation

C. Rock Region METRO

D. Little Rock Port Authority

E. Bill & Hillary Clinton National Airport

F. Federal Highway Administration

I. Arkansas Department of Economic Development

H. Central Arkansas Planning and Development District

ITEM 6. METROPLAN BENCHMARKING TRIP

SUMMARY

Approximately 25 board members/guests and 4 Metroplan staff will be attending this October's benchmarking trip to Madison, Wisconsin. An additional survey will be distributed in early September to request participants' meal and activity choices.

The group flight has been booked, agenda and locations finalized, and local presenters confirmed. The updated schedule is on the following page.

ACTION NEEDED: Information only.

TUESDAY 10/07/2025	
AM	Fly to Dane County Regional Airport
PM	Hotel Check-In @ AC Hotel Madison
6:00 PM	Welcome Reception & Dinner @ Edgewater Hotel
WEDNESDAY 10/08/2025	
9:00 AM	Introduction to Madison @ Madison City Hall Panel Presentation w/ Round Robin Stations Topics: Regional collaboration, land-use and growth planning, transportation, safety, infill and redevelopment, transit
11:30 AM	Lunch @ Farmers Market/Monona Terrace
1:00 PM	Madison Fleet Headquarters Tour Topics: Building and fleet efficiency
2:15 PM	Return Downtown for Bike Checks
2:45 PM	Bike Ride Topics: Multimodal Tour: How bikes play a part in the transportation system. Highlight growth and transportation management, City connection with university. <i>Alternative for non-riders: Historic Madison Tour</i>
4:30 PM	Unstructured time
6:00 PM	Dinner @ at local restaurant
7:30 PM	Social networking time @ AC Hotel
THURSDAY 10/09/2025	
8:30 AM	Take Bus Rapid Transit to Sun Prairie
9:30 AM	Coach Bus meets group at Sun Prairie Park & Ride Q&A with Metro Transit on coach bus
10:30 AM	Cottage Grove Development Tour Topics: Economic development districts, infill, transportation, regional growth management, partnerships with nonprofits, greenway connection.
12:00 PM	Lunch in Cottage Grove
1:45 PM	Introduction to Sun Prairie @ City Hall Topics: Growth management, transportation planning, Sun Prairie's role in the larger region.
2:45 PM	Tour of Sun Prairie Library Topic: Community Resilience
4:15 PM	Tour of Lunney Lake Farm County Park Topics: Regional coordination, quality of life, solar pavilions, building efficiency, prairie restoration, recreation, greenway connection
5:00 PM	Closing Reception & Debrief under park's solar shelter
6:15 PM	Head back to Capitol Square for Dinner on your own
8:00 PM	Social networking time @ AC Hotel
FRIDAY 10/10/2025	
Morning	Departure

ITEM 7. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION PLAN STREETLIGHT GRANT

SUMMARY

Five (5) cities submitted applications for streetlight conversion grants under the Round 2 call for projects:

Project Sponsor	Description	TOTAL FUNDING
City of Jacksonville	1,249 streetlight replacements	\$249,800.00
City of Maumelle	99 streetlight replacements	\$144,540.00
City of Sheridan	291 streetlight replacements	\$58,200.00
City of Traskwood	71 streetlight replacements	\$14,200.00
City of Wrightsville	87 streetlight replacements	\$17,400.00
TOTAL	1,797 streetlight replacements	\$484,140.00

Evaluation of the applications showed that all proposals met Metroplan's EEI grant's cost-efficiency targets. Four of the cities – Jacksonville, Sheridan, Traskwood, and Wrightsville – are working with Entergy to upgrade their streetlights.

Should all five of these applications be funded, the streetlight conversion program will have funded 4,522 streetlight replacements, exceeding its target of 4,033 streetlights.

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to approve Resolution 25-17.



RESOLUTION 25-17
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION FOR THE NATURAL STATE
CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT
STREETLIGHT CONVERSION GRANTS

WHEREAS, Metroplan is the lead agency for the Energy and Environment Innovation for the Natural State Implementation Grant through the EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program; and

WHEREAS, this grant includes \$5,000,000 for a pass-through grant program for Central Arkansas municipalities and counties to replace exterior high-pressure sodium and mercury vapor lighting with energy-efficient LED light fixtures, resulting in at least 4,762 metric tons of CO2 reduced by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Metroplan Board of Directors awarded \$3,599,799.46 in March and April 2025 for streetlight replacement projects in the first call for projects; and

WHEREAS, Metroplan issued a second call for projects in June 2025 and received applications from its members for a total of \$484,140.00; and

WHEREAS, projects were evaluated in accordance with program guidelines and at the direction of the Metroplan Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metroplan Board of Directors allocates funding in the following amounts for streetlight replacement pass-through grants.

Project Sponsor	Description	TOTAL FUNDING
City of Jacksonville	1,249 streetlight replacements	\$249,800.00
City of Maumelle	99 streetlight replacements	\$144,540.00
City of Sheridan	291 streetlight replacements	\$58,200.00
City of Traskwood	71 streetlight replacements	\$14,200.00
City of Wrightsville	87 streetlight replacements	\$17,400.00
TOTAL	1,797 streetlight replacements	\$484,140.00

Duly recorded this 27th day of August 2025.

SIGNED: _____

Allen Dodson, President
Judge, Faulkner County

ATTEST: _____

Matt Brumley, Secretary
Judge, Saline County

ITEM 8. TIP AMENDMENT – ROCK REGION METRO

SUMMARY

Rock Region METRO has requested an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to allow it to apply for previous fiscal years Federal Transit Authority Section 5307 Funds from FYs 2020 and 2021 designated for the Conway Urbanized Area. These funds will be used to purchase new vehicles, maintain those vehicles, as well provide for the continued operation of transit service in Conway and will also allow for future planning studies to determine the best way to continue to efficiently operate transit service in Conway.

This amendment must be initiated by September; therefore, it has been released for public comment. The public comment period will end on September 23rd. Any comments received will be considered by staff and addressed where necessary.

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to approve Resolution 25-18.



RESOLUTION 25-18

AMENDING THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (CARTS) FY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Metroplan is the officially designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Little Rock- North Little Rock – Conway metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the MPO is charged with the responsibility of developing and administering the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Central Arkansas Regional Transportation Study;

WHEREAS, Rock Region METRO must obtain an amendment to the TIP to access Conway Urbanized Area's previous fiscal years FTA Section 5307 Funds from FY 2020 and FY 2021;

WHEREAS, the balance of FYs 2020 & 2021 Section 5307 funding totals \$1,968,761 and Conway's local contribution totals \$1,403,761.

WHEREAS, these funds will be used to purchase new vehicles, maintain the vehicles, provide for the continued operation of transit service in Conway, and allow for future planning studies to enhance transit service in the Conway UZA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that as the metropolitan planning organization for Central Arkansas, the Metroplan Board of Directors, hereby approves the TIP amendment to reflect:

FFY	Funding Source	Description	Total	Federal	Local
2020	5307	Capital Rolling Stock	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 166,250.00	\$ 33,750.00
2020	5307	Capital - Bus Support Equipment/Facilities	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
2020	5307	Signal & Communications (Bus)	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,250.00
2020	5307	Bus Associated Transit Enhancements	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,250.00
2020	5307	Planning	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
2020	5307	Operating Assistance	\$ 1,071,434.00	\$ 535,717.00	\$ 535,717.00
2021	5307	Capital Rolling Stock	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 166,250.00	\$ 33,750.00
2021	5307	Capital - Bus Support Equipment/Facilities	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
2021	5307	Signal & Communications (Bus)	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,250.00
2021	5307	Bus Associated Transit Enhancements	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,250.00
2021	5307	Planning	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
2021	5307	Operating Assistance	\$ 1,401,088.00	\$ 700,544.00	\$ 700,544.00

Duly recorded this 27th day of August 2025.

Active Date: September 22nd

SIGNED: _____

Allen Dodson, President
Judge, Faulkner County

ATTEST: _____

Matt Brumley, Secretary
Judge, Saline County

ITEM 9. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS REPORT

SUMMARY

Metroplan is required to develop a Congestion Management Process that assesses regional congestion and strategies for its management. Staff developed this report in-house using speed data for USDOT and will provide a brief presentation on its findings. This report will continue to be updated as new data is available, and studies are completed for corridors identified in the report.

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to accept Congestion Management Report.

ITEM 10. 2025 PROJECT OBLIGATION REPORT

SUMMARY

Metroplan is working with ARDOT and local sponsors to ensure that FFY 2025 obligations requirements are met. A final number, after August redistribution, is expected to be provided in the next two weeks after which a final list of obligations will be developed.

\$8 million has already been obligated this year. Staff does not anticipate an issue with obligating the remaining funds in 2025.

ACTION NEEDED: Information Only.