

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> and the Port Infrastructure Development Program applications are due on September 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 18<sup>th</sup> followed up the official launch of the site on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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**

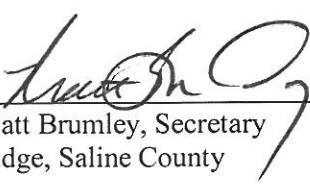
Judge Brumley stated to the Board that the City of Bryant would host this year's AMPLIFY concert and would be expecting around 80,000 visitors to participate in the event.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

SIGNED:

  
Allen Dodson, President  
Judge, Faulkner County

ATTEST:

  
Matt Brumley, Secretary  
Judge, Saline County