

# Metroplan Board of Directors Meeting

February 12, 2026

10:30 am

## AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2026
2. Financial Report
3. Metroplan Report
4. Central Arkansas Regional Planning Needs Assessment – Opportunities to enhance Collaboration between Metroplan and Central Arkansas Planning and Development District
5. Agency Reports
  - Energy and Environment Innovation for the Natural State
6. CPRG
  - a. Green Networks Call for Projects –Land Restoration, Tree Planting
  - b. Central Arkansas PACE
    - Transportation Agenda
7. SMART Streets Plan
8. Call for Projects
  - a. 2026 STBG and 2026 TAP
  - b. 2027 TAP Funding
9. FFY 2026 Obligations
10. Metroplan Board Announcements
11. Citizen Communications
12. Adjourn



METROPLAN

**ITEM 1. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17, 2025**

The minutes of the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Metroplan Board meeting are attached for review and adoption.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Motion to adopt minutes from December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Metroplan Board of Directors Meeting  
December 17, 2025**

**Attending:**

**Board Members**

Mayor Crystal Herrmann, City of Alexander  
Mayor Bernadette Chamberlain, City of Austin  
Mayor Tom Farmer, City of Benton  
Mayor Chris Treat, City of Bryant  
Mayor Ken Kincade, City of Cabot  
Mayor Caleb Norris, City of Maumelle  
Mayor Mike Kemp, City of Shannon Hills  
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  
Sunny Farmahan, Arkansas Department of Transportation  
Ms. Suzanne Peyton, Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport  
Mr. Keith Keck, Hot Springs Village  
\*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  
Bernadette Rhodes  
Tammy Gillis  
Leesa Freasier  
Peritosh Jambhale  
Jonathan Lupton  
Daniel Holland  
Sydney Dozier  
Jeff Runder  
Leesa Freasier  
Brittany Nichols  
Lynn Bell  
Alan Skaggs

## **Guest**

Jennifer Hill, City of Alexander  
Jim McKenzie, AARP  
Susan Dollar, resident of North Little Rock  
Maneesh Krishnan, City of Little Rock  
Grant Cox, City of Little Rock Public Works  
Tab Townsell, Pulaski County  
Matthew Breckinton, Pulaski County  
Joe Smith, Arkansas Municipal League (AML)  
Mark Stodola, AML  
Mike Watson, Halff  
Gene Higginbotham, Congressman Crawford's Office  
Austin Coleman, Senator Cotton's Office  
Jon Honeywell, Volkert  
Brad Peterson, Crafton Tull  
Truett Smith, Crafton Tull  
Melanie Davis, A-1 LED  
Wes Davis, A-1 LED  
Ben Reynolds, VES  
Zac Curry, HNTB – LR  
Andrew Boatman, HNTB – LR  
Katie Rutledge, MCE  
Taylor Clark, McClelland Engineers (MCE)  
Lauren Palmer, Everstrive

### **I. Approval of minutes of November 19, 2025**

A motion to approve the minutes of the November Board meeting was made by Mayor Kemp, 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 the third quarter financials included in the Board packet were developed by staff and are currently being reviewed by Landmark.

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

### III. Metroplan Report

Mr. Covington began the Metroplan report with a highlight of 2025.

Mr. Covington noted that Metroplan launched a new website which showcases the various projects and goals that staff have worked on over the year. Metroplan also had a very successful benchmarking trip to Madison, Wisconsin. In addition, a congestion management process was adopted to examine regional congestion on the roadway systems and determine ways to address it. The Safety Action Planning Grant was closed. Staff are actively working on implementation grants for CPRG.

Mr. Covington further noted that there would be a presentation on the status of the Smart Streets Plan and Needs Assessment later in the meeting.

Mr. Covington noted that Metroplan had obligated over \$20 million in federal funds in FFY 2026. This was the largest yearly amount for Metroplan.

The Build grant is due on February 24<sup>th</sup>. There are some other grants that will be coming forth in 2026, and staff will be available to assist with the application process. There were three Metroplan grants out for application at this time. The Supplemental Grants which will be under construction by September, the TAP grants, and the Green Networks Projects. Staff would provide information later in the meeting.

Mr. Covington stated that the Transportation Reauthorization is in process and strongly encouraged the Board to address all of the criteria requested in the application. The House Transportation and Infrastructure committee is taking the lead on reauthorization. They are expecting a base bill to be released in the first quarter of 2026. Based on Representative Gray's comments it looks like it will be primarily focused on traditional highway projects.

#### **a. 2026 Metroplan Budget Adoption**

Mr. Covington stated to the Board that changes were highlighted in the 2026 budget at the November Board meeting. Engineering and CPRG were added. A line for a new Internship Program was added that will occur in the Summer. The program will bring in students to teach them about the planning process and how it is utilized. Also, there were no changes in dues and staff will be developing a Metroplan Summit to look at the travel demand model.

Mr. Covington asked for a motion to adopt the budget as presented.

A motion to adopt the budget was made by Mayor Farmer, seconded by Mayor Kemp and passed by the Board.

#### **b. 2026 Metroplan Board Schedule**

Mr. Covington stated that included in the Board packet was a copy of the 2026 Board meeting schedule. There will be no meetings held in February and October due to the elections that will be taking place at that time.

**c. Central Arkansas Planning Needs Assessment**

Mr. Covington mentioned to the Board that Ms. Palmer would provide the Board with a brief update on the process that most of our Board and staff have participated in.

Ms. Palmer stated to the Board that her initial review of the Needs Assessment was started in September with interviews with agency leadership and a review of key documents.

Ms. Palmer noted that in November she came in to host some stakeholder meetings. Meetings were also held with Board members, leadership of both organizations, staff, and some external partners.

Ms. Palmer noted that during her December visit she continued to visit with stakeholders and staff. Meetings with staff were held to understand the nuances of the organizations.

Additionally, Ms. Palmer noted that the last few weeks of the month will be spent on peer research.

Ms. Palmer stated that she would return in January with a full report and recommendations.

Ms. Palmer also provided a list of the organizations that would be participating in the peer research. The list is comprised of various types of organizational models.

Ms. Palmer further noted that in developing her interviews she found that there is not a cohesive regional vision. Therefore, this is an opportunity for both Metroplan and CAPDD to work together to determine how the regional gaps can be filled. There is a lot of growth in the area, with concerns for the transportation network, and other infrastructure such as an aging utilities system, housing needs, workforce needs, and childcare. All of these areas can be developed for better regional collaboration. There is also a concern for untapped economic potential.

Finally, there are many challenges for financial constraints. Ms. Palmer noted that the preservation of small cities having a voice in the areas that both organizations govern would be a key factor.

There will be three collaboration models included in the report.

- **Option 1.**  
*Status quo plus* – both organizations would continue to work independently, with both Executive Directors working together on some MOUs to formalize documenting, more intentional on approaches in regional planning, collaborating on grant work, and sharing data analysis that is more institutionalized in the organizations.
- **Option 2.**  
*Co-location* – a model has been reviewed. Keep both organizations totally independent but co-operate in a shared space to help with more collaborative work.
- **Option 3.**  
*Consolidation of the organizations.* Taking the strengths of each entity and building a new organization. The consolidation could consist of consolidating some programs or the consolidation as a whole. The idea is that the companies would be under one umbrella, a single leadership structure, but the different work programs would remain autonomous according to federal and state regulations.

Ms. Palmer informed the Board that the process would start in January with examining the Needs Assessment giving insight to where the programs should go.

Ms. Palmer showed the Board a timeline of Option 3. She noted that Option 1 or 2 would also follow a timeline that would be modified differently than Option 3.

In January the next step would be to determine if the plan will be implemented. If the decision is to move forward, a transition team comprised of representatives from both agencies will become more tactical about the process.

Ms. Palmer encouraged the Board to work with CAPDD in having more discussions on how to proceed and develop an end game within 3-5 years from now.

Furthermore, Ms. Palmer initiated a view of what the merger could look like.

- Year 1. – Tactical Framing Implementation
  - Staffing plan
  - Communication plan
  - Financial feasibility
  - Program scope
  - Space needs
- Year 2. – Implementation year
  - Government changes
  - Phased approach of financial consolidation

- Changes to the staffing plan
- Year 3. – Fulfillment year
  - Coalition planning

Ms. Palmer noted that she would be available for questions after the meeting.

Mr. Covington stated that all of the options presented would be viable options. Depending on what option is chosen there may be some additional questions moving forward.

Judge Dodson stated that it would be very beneficial to move forward with an option rather than do nothing. Doing nothing would cause the region to fall far behind at great cost. Moving forward with the plan will help to keep the region moving forward and help everyone in the region.

Judge Dodson noted that the merger would be a very good decision for the region and commended both entities for having the courage to pursue this endeavor.

Mayor Kemp agreed with Judge Dodson.

Mr. Arey noted that this presentation will go to CAPDD next month and asked if Metroplan would need to vote now or after that meeting.

Judge Dodson stated that a vote now would bring some clarity on the merger and a willingness to move forward from this Board.

Judge Hyde asked for a show of hands of Board members that would be in favor of a co-location or merger.

Mayor Kincaid suggested that a resolution be drawn up to show support for the continuance of the merger of Metroplan and CAPDD.

Mr. Covington agreed but suggested that the Board should wait for the final report and allow the results to also be presented to CAPDD. Therefore, Mr. Covington asked that the resolution be brought before the Board at the Metroplan meeting in January, which was the consensus of the board.

#### **IV. Small Cities and TCC Bylaws**

Mr. Covington stated that Small Cities has been in effect for several years without bylaws. Bylaws have been created and there were no comments received. Therefore, the Board was asked to provide a motion to adopt Resolution 25-22.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 25-22 for the passage of the bylaws for Small Cities by Mayor Farmer, seconded by Mayor Norris, and passed by the Board.

Mr. Covington stated that the Technical Coordinating Committee, which is comprised primarily of the Board's technical staff engineering and planning staffs provide very valuable input to staff and will be reconvened under the guidance of a new set of bylaws.

Mr. Covington asked that the Board adopt the bylaws, which were reviewed earlier in the year.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 25-24 by Mayor Farmer, seconded by Mayor Norris, and passed by the Board.

## **V. Agency Reports**

### **A. Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT)**

Mr. Farmahan stated to the Board that there were no lettings since the last meeting. The next letting will be in January.

### **B. Rock Region METRO**

There was no one in attendance.

### **C. Little Rock Port Authority**

There was no one in attendance.

### **D. Clinton National Airport**

Judge Dodson asked that the Board recognize Ms. Suzanne Peyton as the new Director of the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport.

Ms. Peyton expressed her appreciation to the Board for their support.

Ms. Peyton stated to the Board that in 2026 the Airport will continue to update their planning tools and engage in passenger research to determine how to best support the community and keep their stakeholders informed on these activities.

### **E. Federal Highway Administration**

There was no one in attendance.

### **F. CAPPD**

There was no one in attendance.

## **G. Arkansas Municipal League**

Mr. Stodola reminded the Board that the Municipal League Conference will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to get registered as soon as possible.

Mr. Stodola further stated that the Federal Surplus had been announced to be disposed, which would have a great impact on the cities and counties' ability to get surplus equipment from the federal and state governments. The League is conducting a writing campaign asking cities to write letters to try and get this decision reversed.

Mr. Stodola stated that he would provide the address to send letters to after the meeting for those interested.

## **H. Congressional Delegates**

Mr. Higginbotham informed the Board that FHWA offices are currently being run out of Jackson, Mississippi due to some recent retirements within the local office.

## **VI. CPRG**

Ms. Freasier stated to the Board that this has been a very busy year for CPRG. There have been a lot of funds distributed to projects during this time and project agreement setup.

Ms. Freasier also noted that our Energy Ambassador will be holding a training course on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. for Green Networks Quality Control. The call for projects is open at this time for trails, land restoration, and tree planting. The due date for the projects is January 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Brittany Nichols would be available on staff to assist anyone that may need help with the process.

Ms. Freasier congratulated the City of Ward on their Investment Grade Audit. The city received some funding through the Energy Efficient Conservation Block Grant.

Ms. Freasier stated that the CPRG team had put together a recommendation asking the Board to fund a portion of the project for the City of Ward that would support some building efficiencies in the amount of \$234,000. There is a third party reviewing the IGA to make sure that all of the numbers add up.

Mr. Covington noted that Energy Saving Performance Contracting is a program that encourages energy savings for our members and other agencies. A third party will be

involved in making sure that the savings in the allocation are consistent.

Mr. Covington asked the Board to approve Resolution 25-24 to allow staff to move forward with this process.

A motion to approve Resolution 25-24 was made by Mayor Kincaid, seconded by Mayor Gastineau, and passed by the Board.

Ms. Freasier also noted that in Fort Smith the construction for the land restoration project will begin in January, solar panels in the Farmer's Market and housing installation should also begin in January and be completed between February and March. The EV Charging stations should be installed by February.

Ms. Freasier commended Mr. Covington and Ms. Rhodes and the Board for their part in developing the CPRG grant. Metroplan is so far ahead of everyone in the country at this time.

## **VII. SMART Streets Plan**

Mr. Holland stated to the Board that there have been several meetings on the SMART Streets Plan since September. A draft plan outline has been developed. A stakeholder meeting will be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The plan will begin with identifying the visioning process of the plan and then drafting the plan which will probably be finished by mid-year.

Mr. Covington thanked ARDOT for their help in the process and the consultants have done an amazing job on this project.

## **VIII. Call for Projects**

Mr. Holland stated that there was a Call for Projects for STBG and TAP funds from unallocated 2026 funding. The concentration is on projects that have already bid for construction and engineering projects that are already under agreement and do not have the entire budget to fund them.

Mr. Holland noted that the recommended max awarded is \$500,000 for STBG and \$200,000 for TAP and must be matched with 20% local funds.

In addition, Mr. Holland noted that there will be a TAP 2027 Call for Projects with five awards for \$335,000. These projects must serve a transportation purpose.

## **IX. Metroplan Board Announcements**

Mr. Covington informed the Board that Mr. Alan Skaggs has been with Metroplan for many years and would be retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Skaggs began his employment with Metroplan in 1978 after graduating from high school.

Mr. Covington noted that Mr. Skaggs had been an exemplary dedicated, loyal, committed and familiar member of our staff during his tenure with Metroplan for the last 47.5 years. Mr. Skaggs has been very instrumental in helping with the archival of Metroplan records since being here for 2/3 of Metroplan's existence. He has been the longest member of the organization able to ensure the retrieval of as much historical information for the archives as possible.

Mr. Covington further noted that Mr. Skaggs would retire but would continue on with the organization in an on-call capacity to help with the transition through the upcoming year.

Judge Dodson presented Mr. Skaggs with a plaque of appreciation and thanked him for his service to the organization.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## **ITEM 2. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Metroplan staff are preparing financials for the 2025 Audit and will provide a preliminary report to the board in March. The audit is scheduled for June. A report on end-of-year cash will be included in the board packet.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Motion to accept the Financial Report.

**Statement of Financial Position**  
**Metroplan**  
**As of December 31, 2025 (Unaudited)**

Distribution account	Total
Bank Accounts	
Total Cash in Bank 1st AR	2,080,465.33
Total for 10115 Cash in Bank 1st AR - CDARS	\$1,130,174.52
Total for 10203 Cash in Bank Ozark - CARTS	\$1,128,354.23
Total for CDs	\$435,490.10
<b>Total for Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$4,774,484.18</b>

Accrual Basis Tuesday, February 10, 2026 11:49 AM GMT-06:00

### **ITEM 3. METROPLAN REPORT**

#### **SUMMARY**

Metroplan staff will provide an update on agency planning activities, federal legislation, and planning for the Central Arkansas Summit. A preliminary agenda for the summit follows. Board members will be asked to confirm their attendance for the summit.

# Central Arkansas Summit: Focus on Promoting Regionalism

May 6<sup>th</sup> & May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Lake DeGray Resort State Park

Metroplan

**Goal:** To allow for board members to discuss regional projects and emphasize how regional collaboration leads to regional growth and development. Generate reports about presentations and discussions.

## Draft Schedule

### Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am – 11:00 AM:

Welcome/Networking

11:00 AM – 2:30 PM: Session 1 & Lunch

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM: Business Meeting

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM: Check In

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM: Session 2

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Break/Check In

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM: Dinner

### Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Session 3

11:30 PM – After: Check Out/Leave

# Session Draft Agenda(s)

## Session 1: Metroplan & CAPDD Working Together

Goal:

- 1) Outlining long-term vision for organization that will inform goals for consolidation committee implementation recommendations.
- 2) Brainstorming and prioritizing what benefits, support, and products members would like to have.
- 3) Expert discussion with Greater Nashville Regional Council

Activity	Notes	Time
Setting the tone for Central Arkansas Summit	Casey Covington	15 Min
<b>Break – 10 MIN</b>		
Presentation and Discussion with GRNC Executive Director, Micheal Skipper	Micheal will present on GNRC merger, lessons learned, regional impacts, and member benefits	<u>45 min Total</u> 15-20 min presentation 25 min discussion/open floor questions
<b>Lunch Break – 45 MIN</b>		
Group Discussion	Groups for Discussion: - Guidance for committee - Future support, products and benefits for members - Open discussion with GRNC	25 Min each with a 5 min transition between each group.
Share Out	Each participant will be given a card to write down a highlight(s) from each discussion group they were in. Participants will then be given a chance to share with the rest of the participants highlights of each discussion. Cards will then be collected to record for summit summary.	

Session 2: Leveraging CAPDD, Metroplan, and ARDOT Benefits

Goal: To display all benefits offered to members, highlighting programs and benefits that are underutilized.

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
Introduction to Orgs	ARDOT, CAPDD and Metroplan will each present on their organization and services offered to members/cities in their jurisdiction. Benefits that are underutilized will be highlighted and examples provided. Each org will present for 10 min with 5 min for open discussion in between.	45 Min Total 3 – 15 Min presentation
Break – 15 Min		
Brainstorm/Implementation Discussion	After coming back from the break, participants will self select into groups they would like to talk to about specific services, projects, and regional development ideas they have. Staff will both lead and scribe each discussion.	30 Min total 3 – 15 Min discussion groups *May go over pending discussions
Share out	Participants will then have an opportunity to share out highlights of discussions both verbally and in written form.	5 Min

Session 3: Exploring Regional Partnerships and Forming Coalitions

Goal: To identify and outline how we want to build a coalition of regional partnerships.

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
Introduction to Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislation</li> <li>- Economic dev</li> <li>- Housing development</li> <li>- TBD</li> </ul>	60 Min Total 4 – 15 Min presentation

Break – 10 Min

<p>Discussion of Regional Development Coalition</p>	<p>After coming back from the break, participants will self select into groups and begin the discussion of a regional coalition and its benefits to the region and individual members. Partners will lead discussion, staff will scribe.</p>	<p>60 Min total 3 – 20 Min discussion groups *May go over pending discussions</p>
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Draft

## **ITEM 4. CENTRAL ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN METROPLAN AND CENTRAL ARKANSAS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

#### **SUMMARY**

The Central Arkansas Regional Needs Assessment final report was attached to the meeting notice. The recommendation of the study is for a consolidation of Metroplan and CAPDD through a phased approach that begins with institutionalized collaboration and co-location, leading to an eventual consolidation. Lauren Palmer will present an overview of the report and its recommendations.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Motion to adopt resolution 26-01.



**RESOLUTION 26-01**

**ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS REGIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Metroplan is a Council of Local Governments formed under Arkansas Act 26 of 1955 with broad authority to conduct planning within Central Arkansas; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Metroplan engaged a consultant to evaluate regional planning needs and collaboration opportunities between Metroplan and the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District (CAPDD); and

**WHEREAS**, board members and stakeholders participated in and provided input for the study, which recommends a consolidation of both organizations' planning and grant activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Metroplan Board of Directors does hereby accept the recommendations of the Central Arkansas Regional Planning Needs Assessment, and, upon concurrence of the CAPDD board, will set up a working team to pursue the recommendations.

Duly recorded this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

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Judge Matt Brumley, Secretary/Treasurer

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Judge Allen Dodson, President

**ITEM 5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. Arkansas Department of Transportation**

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**C. Rock Region METRO**

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**D. Little Rock Port Authority**

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**E. Bill & Hillary Clinton National Airport**

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**F. Federal Highway Administration**

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**I. Arkansas Department of Economic Development**

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**H. Central Arkansas Planning and Development District**

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## ITEM 6. CPRG

### A. Energy and Environment for the Natural State Implementation Grant

The following CPRG activities were completed in December and January.

#### Green Networks

- Released trail, land restoration, and tree planting funding and provided outreach and technical assistance to prospective applicants
- Evaluated applications
- Worked with EPA to provide contract language and environmental assessment to projects

#### Transportation Efficiency

- Worked with City of Little Rock to identify vehicles for replacement with EVs
- Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) has installed EV charging stations in 9 total locations
- Provided Quality Assurance training to all streetlight and EV vehicle/charger funding recipients
- Streetlight replacement has begun in Alexander in collaboration with Entergy Arkansas

#### Building Efficiency

- LIT: 152 of the 710 planned wells have been drilled and grouted.
- Board approved funding for City of Ward's building efficiency project. Final contract review is underway.

### B. Green Networks Call for Projects

Seven (7) applications for Land Restoration and Tree Planting were received. A list of these applications is below. Metroplan exceeds its goals for land restoration, land preservation, and tree planting with these projects included.

Project Title	Lead Agency	Total Requested and Recommended	Funding requested for:
Land Restoration at Four Central Arkansas Natural Areas to Benefit Species and Habitats of Conservation Concern (1 Faulkner Co and 3 Saline Co)	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC)	\$256,900	Land Restoration
Central Arkansas Water: Landscape-Scale Restoration for Climate and Ecosystem Resilience	Central Arkansas Water	\$3,706,251	Land Restoration
Native Restoration at Little Rock Zoo	City of Little Rock	\$306,671	Land Restoration
*Restoring Rose Creek	Rose Creek Initiative		Land Restoration, Tree Planting
Growing Maumelle: Urban Tree Canopy Expansion Program	City of Maumelle	\$39,616	Tree Planting
Tree Streets - MLK Boulevard	Tree Streets, Inc.	\$10,000	Tree Planting
Central Arkansas Tree Planting Grant	UADA Cooperative Extension Service	\$1,599,977	Tree Planting
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED</b>		<b>\$5,919,415</b>	
TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$6,784,000	

\* Rose Creek asked for its application to be held until a revised proposal could be provided, therefore it is not included in the recommendation for award.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Approval of Resolution 26-02

Six (6) CPRG Trail Construction applications were received. Total requested funds totaled \$4,935,285.52. Remaining program funding totals \$2,318,400. Staff is in the process of evaluating proposals and will provide a recommendation at the March board meeting.

Project Title	Lead Agency	Total Requested	Trail Environment
Southwest Trail Connector Construction Phase 1	City of Bryant	\$ 824,800.00	Sidepath
Clinton Presidential Park Bridge Protection Cell Replacement Project	City of Little Rock	\$ 500,000.00	Sidepath
Overlay of Lake Willastein Phase III	City of Maumelle	\$ 440,000.00	Urban Trail
Powerline Easement Trail (Phase II)	City of Sherwood	\$ 241,585.52	Urban Trail
Sardis Road Trail	City of Shannon Hills	\$ 968,900.00	Sidepath
PC CPRG SE Trail 3	Pulaski County	\$ 1,960,000.00	Sidepath
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED</b>		<b>\$ 4,935,285.52</b>	
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>		<b>\$ 2,318,400.00</b>	
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>		<b>(\$ 2,616,885.52)</b>	

**ACTION NEEDED:** None

\*Projects remaining under evaluation

**C. Central Arkansas C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditures) District**

The CPRG grant included funding for a regional Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditures (C-PACE) Revolving Loan Fund program, led by the Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation (AAEF) in coordination with Central Arkansas PACE. This program allows businesses in counties that join the Central Arkansas PACE District to access low-interest loans for energy efficiency upgrades. Jonathon Rasburry with AAEF will outline this program with a full presentation scheduled at the March meeting.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Information Only



**RESOLUTION 26-02**  
**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION FOR THE NATURAL STATE**  
**CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT**  
**GREEN NETWORK PASS-THROUGH 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 \$15,500,000 for a pass-through grant program for Central Arkansas municipalities, counties, and nonprofit partners to implement Green Network projects to preserve land, restore land, and plant trees; and

**WHEREAS**, round 1 projects were award funding in May 2026 in the amount of \$8,176,000; and

**WHEREAS**, Metroplan received Round 2 applications from its members on January 9, 2026; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Metroplan Board of Directors allocates funding in the following amount for Green Network pass-through grants:

<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC)	Land Restoration at Four Central Arkansas Natural Areas	\$256,900
Central Arkansas Water	Central Arkansas Water: Landscape-Scale Restoration for Climate and Ecosystem Resilience	\$3,706,251
City of Little Rock	Native Restoration at Little Rock Zoo	\$306,671
City of Maumelle	Growing Maumelle: Urban Tree Canopy Expansion Program	\$39,616
Tree Streets, Inc.	Tree Streets - MLK Boulevard	\$10,000
UADA Cooperative Extension Service	Central Arkansas Tree Planting Grant	\$1,599,977
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,919,415</b>

Duly recorded this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

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Judge Matt Brumley, Secretary/Treasurer

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Judge Allen Dodson, President

## **ITEM 7. SMART STREETS PLAN**

### **SUMMARY**

The SMART Streets Plan meeting scheduled for 1/27 was cancelled due to weather. It has been rescheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup>. An update on the project schedule and status of planning efforts will be provided at the board meeting.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Information Only

## ITEM 8. CALL FOR PROJECTS

### SUMMARY

#### A. 2026 Supplemental Call for Projects

Fifteen (15) applications for FFY 2026 supplemental funding were submitted as part of the recent call for projects. The focus of this call was on projects for which funding could be immediately obligated and expended. Projects were placed into categories based on the priorities listed in the call for projects.

1. Project Under Construction
2. Additional Design
3. Approved to Bid
4. Awaiting Authority to Bid

Recommendations for funding include all projects in priority 1 and 2. Projects in priorities 3 and 4 are recommended for contingency awards, with these projects being reevaluated in July to ensure they are moving to bidding in 2026. Funding adjustments could also be made based on bid amounts and available funding for these projects.

2026 STBG Supplemental Call - \$3.25 Million Available					
ARDOT Job #	STBG Project Sponsor	Project Name	Amount Requested	Recommended Award	Project Priority per Application Guidelines
61806	City of Austin	Hwy 38 & N Lincoln Traffic Light	\$233,506	\$233,506	Priority 1
61718	Saline County	Southwest Trail ROW Acquisition	\$188,240	\$188,240	Priority 2
61814	City of Little Rock	Arkansas River Trail Cantrell Rd.	\$366,560	\$366,560	Priority 2
61780	Pulaski County	PC STBG 26 SE Trail	\$500,000	\$500,000	Priority 2
61757	City of Little Rock	Jonesboro Dr. Children's Trail	\$500,000	\$400,000 *	Priority 3
61717	City of Benton	Congo Rd./Shenandoah Rd. Roundabout (Benton) (S)	\$330,000	\$330,000*	Priority 4
61720	City of Cabot	LOCOMUT Phase 1 Construction	\$590,324	\$400,000*	Priority 4
61715	City of Jacksonville	Jacksonville W. Main Street Realignment	\$761,723	\$400,000*	Priority 4
61896	City of Sherwood	Jacksonville-Cato Road Improvements (Phase II)	\$500,000	\$400,000*	Priority 4
			\$4,017,413	\$3,218,306	
Project Priority per Application Guidelines					
1 = Under Construction					
2 = Additional Design					
3 = Approved to Bid					
4 = Awaiting Authority to Bid					
Award contingent on project bidding in 2026. Projects to be re-evaluated in July. Amounts may be updated based on available funding.					

2026 TAP Supplemental Call - \$1.1 Million Available					
ARDOT Job #	TAP Project Sponsor	Project Name	Amount Requested	Recommended Award	Project Priority per Application Guidelines
61884	City of Benton	Saline River Greenway Phase 3, 4, & 5	\$200,000	\$200,000	Priority 2
61720	City of Cabot	LOCOMUT Phase 1 - Design	\$137,262	\$137,262	Priority 2
80723	City of Greenbrier	Hwy. 65 Ped. Bridge Impvts. (Greenbrier) (S)	\$162,388	\$162,388	Priority 2
61713	City of Sherwood	Powerline Easement Trail (Phase I)	\$200,000	\$200,000*	Priority 4
80561	City of Mayflower	Miller St/Highway 89 Sidewalk Project	\$145,138	\$145,138*	Priority 4
61904	Pulaski County	PC TAP 26 Hwy 161	\$200,000	\$200,000*	Priority 4
			\$1,044,788	\$1,044,788	
Project Priority per Application Guidelines					
1 = Under Construction					
2 = Additional Design					
3 = Approved to Bid					
4 = Awaiting Authority to Bid					
Award contingent on project bidding in 2026. Projects to be re-evaluated in July. Amounts may be updated based on available funding.					

**ACTION NEEDED:** Motion to Approve Resolution 26-03

**B. 2027 Transportation Alternative Program Call for projects**

Eight (8) applications requesting \$2.575 Million were received for the 2027 TAP call for projects. These projects are being scored and remain under evaluation.

Sponsor	Project Name	Phase	Request	Score	Recommended Award
Benton	Alcoa Trail Phase 1 and 2	Design	\$335,000	75.4	\$335,000
Bryant	Midland Park to Hwy 5 Trail	Design	\$335,000	71.2	\$270,000
Cabot	Cabot CARG Phase 3 Design	Design	\$65,000	75.0	\$65,000
Maumelle	Woodland Dr. Trail/Intersection Impvts	Construction	\$335,000	76.2	\$335,000
Pulaski County	SE Trail Phase 2	Construction	\$500,000	84.4	\$335,000
Saline County	Southwest Trail Segment S4	Construction	\$335,000	62.4	
Sherwood	Woodruff Creek Trail	Design	\$335,000	74.0	\$335,000
Ward	Moon Road Improvements/Sidewalks	Design	\$335,000	58.8	
		<b>TOTAL Requests</b>	<b>\$2,575,000</b>		
		Available funding 2027	\$1,675,000		\$1,675,000

**ACTION NEEDED:** Motion to Approve Resolution 26-04



**RESOLUTION 26-03**  
**FY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**  
**FY 2026 GROUP PROJECT SELECTION**  
**CARTS VARIOUS ATTRIBUTABLE PROJECTS**  
**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AND TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Improvement Program includes a group funding category for CARTS Various Attributable Projects; and

**WHEREAS**, project applications were received January 9, 2026 for FY 2026 funding; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that as the metropolitan planning organization for Central Arkansas, the Metroplan Board of Directors allocates regional funding to the following projects for obligation in federal fiscal year 2026;

Project # & Sponsor	Project Scope	Phase	Funding Source	Awarded Funding
061806 – City of Austin	Hwy 38 & N Lincoln Traffic Light	Construction	STBG	\$233,506
061718 - Saline County	Southwest Trail ROW Acquisition	ROW	STBG	\$188,240
061814 – City of Little Rock	Arkansas River Trail Cantrell Rd.	Design	STBG	\$366,560
061780 – Pulaski County	PC STBG 26 SE Trail	ROW/Construction	STBG	\$500,000
061884 – Benton	Saline River Greenway Phase 3, 4, & 5	Design	TAP	\$200,000
061720 – Cabot	LOCOMUT Phase 1 - Design	Design	TAP	\$137,262
080723 – Greenbrier	Hwy. 65 Ped. Bridge Impvts. (Greenbrier) (S)	Design	TAP	\$162,388

Duly recorded this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge Matt Brumley, Secretary/Treasurer

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 Judge Allen Dodson, President



**RESOLUTION 26-04**  
**FY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**  
**FY 2027 GROUP PROJECT SELECTION**  
**CARTS VARIOUS ATTRIBUTABLE PROJECTS**  
**TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Improvement Program includes a group funding category for CARTS Various Attributable Projects; and

**WHEREAS**, project applications were received January 9, 2027 for TAP FFY 2027 funding; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that as the metropolitan planning organization for Central Arkansas, the Metroplan Board of Directors allocates regional funding to the following projects for obligation in federal fiscal year 2027;

Sponsor	Project Scope	Phase	Awarded Funding
Benton	Alcoa Trail Phase 1 and 2	Design	\$335,000
Bryant	Midland Park to Hwy 5 Trail	Design	\$270,000
Cabot	Cabot CARG Phase 3 Design	Design	\$65,000
Maumelle	Woodland Dr. Trail/Intersection Impvts	Construction	\$335,000
Pulaski County	SE Trail Phase 2	Construction	\$335,000
Sherwood	Woodruff Creek Trail	Design	\$335,000

Duly recorded this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge Matt Brumley, Secretary/Treasurer

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 Judge Allen Dodson, President

## **ITEM 9. 2026 PROJECT OBLIGATIONS**

### **SUMMARY**

Metroplan staff are preparing an obligation plan with ARDOT for FFY 2026. Projects that have been previously awarded funding and are expected to be obligated are included on the following page.

Metroplan staff estimates \$18.5 million in new federal funding available for 2026 with \$3.451 million carried forward from 2025. Staff anticipate obligations to a new zero balance.

<b>Project Obligation FY 2026</b>	
Obligation Limitation Estimated 2026 (100.0%)	\$18,528,411
Obligation Limitation Carried Forward from 2025	\$3,451,051
<b>Total Available Obligation Limitation</b>	<b>\$21,979,462</b>

Project Number	Projects: 2025 Obligation (TAP and STP>200K)	Local Sponsor	Estimated Obligation Amount	Phase	TIP/Metroplan Resolution
061894	Southwest Trail: 65th to State Fairgrounds (Pulaski Co.) (S)	Pulaski Co	-\$2,100,000	Design/Develop	MB Resolution 24-11 & 25-15
080753	Connect Conway Ped. Impvts. (Conway) (S)	Conway	-\$1,000,000	Design	MB Resolution 24-11
	SWT S6 to S8C	SalineCo	-\$1,485,000	Design/Develop	MB Resolution 25-15
061803	Bowman Road	Little Rock	-\$2,800,000	ROW/Utilities	MB Resolution 25-15
061840	Club Manor and Odom	Maumelle	-\$2,480,000	Construction	MB Resolution 25-15
080709	College Avenue Bridge	Conway	-\$3,620,000	Construction	MB Resolution 25-15
	Conway Loop	Faulkner	-\$800,000	Design/Env	MB Resolution 25-15
	White Oak Bayou Trail	Maumelle	-\$315,000	Design	MB Resolution 25-15
	Kanis Road (Gamble to Cooper)	Little Rock	-\$400,000	Design	MB Resolution 25-15
	Jacksonville Highway (East Bethany to I-40)	North Little Rock	-\$265,000	Design	MB Resolution 25-15
	Northshore Drive (Military to Alcoa)	Benton	-\$440,000	Design	MB Resolution 25-15
061810	Sardis Rd. Trail Ph. 1 (Shannon Hills) (S)	Shannon Hills	-\$259,120	Construction	MB Resolution 22-09 & 25-02
061902	Indian Lake Estates Pedestrian Impvts (Sherwood) (S) (2026 obligation)	Sherwood	-\$320,000	Construction	MB Resolution 25-02
061903	Jonesboro Children's Trail Ph. 4 (Little Rock) (S)	Little Rock	-\$188,000	Design	
061808	General Samuels Rd. Sidewalks (Jacksonville) (S)	Jacksonville	-\$200,000	Construction	MB Resolution 22-01
	CARTS Planning (TBD)	TBD	-\$600,000	Planning	
	Supplemental Funding - Call for Projects STBG		-\$3,250,000	Various	
	Supplemental Funding - Call for Projects TAP		-\$1,100,000	Various	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>-\$21,622,120</b>		
	<b>Ending Balance Obligation Limitation</b>		<b>\$357,342</b>		