

Metroplan Board of Directors Meeting

March 25, 2026

10:00 am

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2026
2. Financial Report
3. Metroplan Report
4. Report on Metroplan and CAPDD Integration
5. Agency Reports
 - Energy and Environment Innovation for the Natural State
6. CPRG
 - a. Green Networks Call for Projects – Trail Funding Recommendations
 - b. Central Arkansas PACE
 - Transportation Agenda
7. 2027 Unified Planning Work Program
8. Call for Projects
 - a. 2027 STBG Funding
9. FFY 2026 Obligations
10. Metroplan Board Announcements
11. Citizen Communications
12. Adjourn



METROPLAN

ITEM 1. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2026

The minutes of the February 12th, 2026 Metroplan Board meeting are attached for review and adoption.

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to adopt minutes from February 12th, 2026.

**Metroplan Board of Directors Meeting
February 12, 2026**

Attending:

Board Members

Mayor Bernadette Chamerlain, City of Austin
Mayor Tom Farmer, City of Benton
Mayor Ken Kincade, City of Cabot
Mayor Sammy Hartwick, City of Greenbrier
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
Judge Allen Dodson, Faulkner County
Judge Barry Hyde, Pulaski County
Judge Matt Brumley, Saline County
Mr. Keith Keck, Hot Springs Village
* Mr. Sunny Farmahan, Arkansas Department of Transportation
* Mr. Shane Carter, Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport
*Mr. Robbie Alberson, City of Conway
*Mr. Grant Cox, City of Little Rock
*Ms. Marsha Guffey, Little Rock Port Authority
*Mr. David Cook, City of North Little Rock
*Ms. Alice Williams, City of Wrightsville

***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

Guest

Jonathan Rasburg, AAEF
Joe Smith, Arkansas Municipal League (AML)
Mark Stodola, AML
Jon Plafcar, City of Carlisle
Sissy Ingles, City of Carlisle
Truett Smith, Crafton Tull
Rodney Larsen, Central Arkansas Planning & Development District
Tina Rough, CAPDD
Conya Spenser, CAPDD
Leigh Ann Pool, CAPDD
Ben Thesing, Central Arkansas Water
Lauren Palmer, EverStrive
Shellie O'Quinn, Halff
Zac Curry, HNTB – LR
Andrew Boatman, HNTB – LR
Aaron Huntley – City of Little Rock
Robert Birch, City of Jacksonville
Maneesh Krishnan, City of Little Rock
Taylor Clark, McClelland Engineers (MCE)
Katie Rutledge, MCE
Tab Townsell, Pulaski County
Austin Coleman, Senator Cotton's Office
Ed Sergeant, True Streets
Jon Honeywell, Volkert

I. Approval of minutes of December 17, 2025

A motion to approve the minutes of the December Board meeting was made by Mayor Kemp, seconded by Mayor Chamberlain 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 included in the Board packet are all of the cash balances at the ending of the year. Staff are starting the prep work for the 2025 audit. All project invoices including CPRG for 2025 have been requested to be received and scheduled to be paid by the end of the year. There will be a review process with Landmark before the start of the audit which will begin in early May and will be conducted by Rasco Winter Thomas.

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 stated to the Board that staff have been working on several projects since the last Board meeting. Metrotrends Economic Review and Outlook was published and mailed out. There was a very interesting article included in this edition on how energy needs are being addressed in the future.

Recently the Faulkner County Transportation Report was completed. Staff will be developing this type of report for each county. Mr. Covington encouraged the Board to stop by and examine the report to get a brief idea of how it will be developed for the remaining counties.

Mr. Covington added that staff are working with the Arkansas APA on a section called “The Passport to Planning”. As part of the program this summer Metroplan will begin its summer internship program and is expected to bring in its first intern. There have been challenges in the state for transportation planning because Arkansas does not have a school. Therefore, this would help in fulfilling the need of bringing in students to the planning profession. The program will be held at UALR and UCA.

Mr. Covington added that there was a congressional direct spending project implemented in North Little Rock. The Main Street Bridge will be turning 100 years old next year and is in desperate need of replacement. The project has been reviewed over the last twenty years. Senator Boozeman included a \$2 million grant towards appropriations for the project to advance.

Mr. Covington further noted that he was in Washington D.C. at the National Association of Regional Councils. The Conway Chamber of Commerce was also having their flyover during this time.

IV. Central Arkansas Regional Planning Needs Assessment

Ms. Palmer provided the Board with a presentation on the consolidation of Metroplan and Central Arkansas Planning and Development District.

Ms. Palmer stated to the Board that a full report of the process was included in the Board packet.

Ms. Palmer began with showing a map that visually highlighted the opportunities of the collaboration of Metroplan and CAPDD. There is a huge overlap of services provided between the two entities.

Ms. Palmer noted that with both organizations there were some similarities in the work as well as each having their own strengths in performance in the region. With

this in mind the deficiency lies in the absence of having a shared long-term regional strategy that integrates planning or cost transportation across economic development. This inadequate cohesion often results in fragmentation of efforts and missed opportunities for reaching resources.

Ms. Palmer stated that there were three collaboration opportunities developed.

1. Institutionalized Collaboration

- Both entities will remain completely independent but formalize a working relationship with one or more MOUs.

2. Co-location

- Both entities will remain independent but share office space.

3. Complete Consolidation

- Both entities combine to become one organization.

Ms. Palmer stated that of the three, Option 3 has the highest level of complexity. At the same time, it is the only option that will allow both entities to achieve the bold change and unified vision that is needed in the region.

Ms. Palmer noted that in the development of the study she spoke with several peer organizations under each option to see how merging together has worked for them.

Ms. Palmer stated that after reviewing these processes it has been decided that Option 3 with a phased approach would work best for the region. She asked that the Board cast a vote to approve Resolution 26-01.

Ms. Palmer also noted that the approval of the resolution would be the first step in a process that could take several years to complete.

Judge Dodson thanked Ms. Palmer for her work in developing a spectrum of possibilities more visible to the Board.

Ms. Palmer added that it was not explicitly stated in the resolution, but she recommended that Mr. Covington be designated as the lead point for organizing the working team. Ms. Palmer suggested that the Board have a discussion prior to voting on the passage of the resolution.

Judge Dodson expressed the need for a second motion on this recommendation. He further indicated that this action taken would have to be duplicated with CAPDD in order to continue the process.

Therefore, Judge Dodson asked that the resolution be approved as drafted and for Metroplan to approve the recommendation as indicated.

A motion was made on Resolution 26-01 by Mayor Kincade, seconded by Mayor Gastineau, and passed by the Board unanimously.

A motion to designate Mr. Covington as the lead point of contact for the reorganization process with CAPDD was made by Mayor Farmer, seconded by Judge Hyde, and passed by the Board.

V. Agency Reports

A. Arkansas Department of Transportation

Mr. Farmahan stated to the Board that the letting for the month of January included:

- Job 0613671 – Hwy. 7 – Hwy 5. interchange
- Job 0619206 - 6.2 miles of Hwy. construction
- District 6 and 8 - Job. 012552 – expected to be finished by June 28th
- Job. C60015 – 0.67 miles in North Little Rock

Mr. Farmahan added that the lettings coming in March will be:

- Overlay job – 15.4 miles of Hwy. 10
- Hwy 9. In Woodson to Hwy. 10

B. Rock Region Metro

There was no one in attendance.

C. Little Rock Port Authority

Ms. Guffey stated to the Board that the Port Authority has an earmark for a workforce training center that will be developed at the Port. The center is part of Pulaski Tech. Ms. Guffey also mentioned that the Rail Crossing Elimination program is moving forward. The technology from the program allows for real-time traffic counts. The traffic sensors have been installed that give real-time data on when the trains are coming through for a more accurate count.

D. Bill and Hilary Clinton Airport

Mr. Shane Carter stated that the curbside canopy on the ticket lobby has been finished, and Southwest Airlines will be launching a non-stop flight to Nashville beginning March 5th. Also, the first phase of a master plan is being developed. Stakeholder engagement opportunities will be held as the plan is developed.

E. FHWA

There was no one in attendance.

F. CAPDD

Judge Dodson noted that Mr. Rodney Larsen and staff were present at the meeting.

Ms. Leigh Ann Pool reported to the Board that the Community Services Department is currently handling 40 different grants that are under construction, 13 projects are waiting for funding, and 19 that are under development.

Ms. Pool stated that for any Board members who submitted for FEMA grants two years ago, funding is starting to be released. She noted if there is anyone with questions she could provide them with a contact source. Ms. Pool further noted that there were several other areas that CAPDD worked with that would be beneficial to this Board. CAPDD would be available to assist with matching contacts for any of the various processes of funding sources needed.

G. Arkansas Municipal League

Mr. Stodola stated to the Board that the League has implemented over the last year a Regional Training Program. A handout was provided that listed some of the services that are offered.

Mr. Stodola mentioned that there will be three Regional Training meetings held and the meeting that would be of interest to this Board is scheduled in Searcy on April 8th.

Mr. Stodola indicated that the one of the handouts discussed Act 398. This act allows first responders to be eligible for 12 counselling sessions by a licensed mental health professional for issues related to their job. This program is funded through the "TAP" (Trauma Assistance Program). Through the program the League assists cities and counties in the area to provide this program to their first responder employees.

H. Congressional Delegates

Mr. Coleman commended Mr. Covington on his participation in the conference in D.C. He stated that he went as part of the City of Conway Chamber of Commerce. He noted that Senator Boozman gave a report on the issues that are being addressed in Conway and suggested that more of the region should participate in the future to make their delegates aware of the things that are in their areas.

Mr. Coleman further stated that appropriations for 2026 have been completed and preparation for the 2027 appropriations process has already begun and

encouraged the Board to keep it in mind for next year.

Mr. Coleman added that the Homeland Security appropriation is set to expire and is funded through February 13th. The Chamber is working on moving forward with the process as quickly as possible.

Energy and Environment Innovation for the Natural State

VI. CPRG

a. Green Networks Call for Projects

Ms. Rhodes reported that the funding opportunity for CPRG Green Networks had been released in January for land restoration, tree planting, and trail construction. The applications for tree planting and land restoration have been evaluated.

Ms. Rhodes indicated that staff worked successfully with the City of Little Rock on transportation efficiency to identify vehicles to replace with EVs. The Central Arkansas Library System has sought EV charging at nine of their locations. Ms. Nichols provided Quality Assurance Training for the efficiency program. Streetlight replacement has begun in the City of Alexander and the City of Sheridan.

b. Central Arkansas PACE

Ms. Rhodes further noted that at the Airport 152 of the 710 Geothermal wells have been installed. The project is expected to be completed by May. Last month the Board approved funding for the City of Ward's building efficiency project. The contract for the project is currently under review and close to execution.

Ms. Rhodes stated that land restoration and tree planting applications have been received and are currently under review. Recommendations are expected to be completed and presented at the March Board meeting. There are six projects under consideration for approval at the meeting today. The projects will overall restore about 10,000 acres of land with 166,000 trees. Combined with the projects that were approved in Round 1, staff will have exceeded all of the goals for land restoration and preservation.

Ms. Rhodes commended the efforts of Ms. Nichols, the Sustainable Transportation and Energy Ambassador for the region through the CPRG grant for all of her hard work in making this program a success.

A motion to approve Resolution 26-02 was made by Mayor Farmer, seconded by Mayor Gastineau, and passed by the Board.

Transportation Agenda

VII. SMART Streets Plan

Mr. Holland stated to the Board that a Vision team meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 18th. The meeting will be primarily technical staff and invitations to several mayors were sent out optionally.

Mr. Holland asked if anyone is interested in attending the meeting please notify him because space is limited. The meeting will be held at ARDOT.

VIII. Call for Projects

a. 2026 STBG and 2026 TAP

Mr. Holland noted that there are two supplemental funding call for projects that were issued in January. There were 15 applications received with 7 of them listed as priority 1 and 2, which were fully funded requests. The other 8 projects were given under contingency awards. Once the final bid and funding is determined, the bid on the projects will be adjusted. Staff will re-evaluate in July to make sure that they are ready to go to bid by the end of the year.

A motion to approve Resolution 26-03 was made by Mayor Gastineau, seconded by Mayor Chamberlain, and passed by the Board.

b. 2027 TAP Funding

Mr. Holland stated that there are a total of 8 applications for projects for the Transportation Alternatives 2027 Program funds. These projects are a mixture of new design, construction funding, and right of way. There was an evaluation by a team of 5 scorers. Six projects were recommended for awards. The information for each specific award was included in the Board packet.

ARDOT has just released its call for TAP projects. Staff is available to assist members with applications.

A motion for Resolution 26-04 for final approval of the awarding of the projects was made by Mayor Brumley, seconded by Mayor Farmer, and passed by the Board.

IX. FFY 2026 Obligations

Mr. Holland stated to the Board that for information only in the next couple of weeks staff would be meeting with ARDOT to determine what projects should be obligated in the upcoming year.

Mr. Holland noted that projects that were obligated last year and expected to be obligated in 2026

will be on the initial plan. A couple of projects that were held up in 2025 and just missed obligation for various reasons are expected to be included. Also, the projects from priority list 1 and 2 along with contingent projects will be on the list as priorities 3 and 4.

Ms. Rhodes introduced Mr. Jonathan Rasbury with the Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation to bring a presentation to the Board.

Mr. Rasbury stated to the Board that he is the C-PACE Administrator with Arkansas Energy Foundation, which is part of the CPRG program. Over the last year staff have taken the C-PACE program, which was an existing program in the state that went defunct and is now being revamped. The program is a low-interest long-term loan program for efficiency projects for retro fits, new construction and revamps to efficiency in the form of a property tax assessment as opposed to a loan. In Arkansas the program is commercial only. Any commercial building, agriculture, or non-profits are eligible to apply.

Mr. Rasbury noted that the next step in the process is now to get counties to participate. To get a county to join there is a draft ordinance that will come before the quorum court, as well as a participation agreement that outlines the responsibilities for the county which requires a county member to sit on the PACE Board. There is no financial obligation needed by the entity. Once they have joined and signed the participation agreement with Pulaski County, businesses in the county can take advantage of the program.

Mr. Rasbury stated that any further questions could be directed to him and through the website.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ITEM 2. FINANCIAL REPORT

The preliminary Metroplan 2025 Operations Budget to actual expenditures is included in the packet. Metroplan continues to review preliminary numbers in preparation for the Metroplan audit scheduled for June.

A cash summary is also provided for March 1st.

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to accept the Financial Report.

Metroplan 2025 Operating Budget

1/1/2025-12/31/2025 *Unaudited*

Metroplan Operating Revenue		2025 Actual
MPO Planning Funds	\$1,227,446.54	\$1,113,493.67
EI	\$42,926.78	\$62,819.75
CPRG	\$268,162.22	\$288,570.14
Metroplan Member Dues	\$655,153.00	\$655,153.00
State of Arkansas MPO Designation	\$20,000.00	\$22,500.00
MAWA	\$10,231.15	\$11,170.64
Interest Income	\$90,000.00	\$106,998.00
Total	\$2,313,919.70	\$2,260,705.20

Metroplan Operating Expenses		2025 Actual
Metroplan Salaries & Fringe	\$1,534,297.38	\$1,488,499.00
Indirect Expenses (excl Salary)	\$447,500.00	\$361,100.00
Local Funds/Board Expenses	\$105,000.00	\$96,167.00
MAWA Direct Support	\$6,000.00	\$8,456.72
Match for Planning Projects/Grants	\$137,122.32	\$45,066.76
Total	\$2,223,919.70	\$1,999,289.48

Unallocated Gains Assets	\$90,000.00	\$261,415.72
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Metroplan 2025 Operating Expenses

1/1/2025-12/31/2025 *Unaudited*

		2025 Budget	2025 Actual
Salary and Fringe	Planning	\$1,002,812	\$ -
	EI	\$28,057	\$ -
	CPRG	\$175,269	\$ -
	Indirect	\$239,010	\$ -
	MAWA	\$2,765	\$ -
	General Fund	\$86,385	\$ -
	Total	\$1,534,297	\$1,488,449
Indirect Expenses	Miscellaneous	\$5,000	\$2,013
	Depreciation Expense	\$25,000	\$20,010
	Employee Professional Membership	\$5,000	\$1,232
	Financial System Support/Oversight	\$40,000	\$44,950
	General Operating	\$3,000	\$0
	Insurance - General	\$7,500	\$4,148
	Legal, Accounting & Audit	\$50,000	\$42,273
	Maintenance and Repair	\$5,000	\$0
	Materials and Supplies	\$15,000	\$16,595
	MPO charges	\$2,500	--
	CPRG Charges	\$2,500	--
	Lease Expense - Office Equipment	\$15,000	\$5,778
	Outside Printing	\$15,000	\$12,354
	Payroll Preparation Expenses	\$3,500	\$3,540
	Postage	\$2,000	\$2,370
	Professional Membership	\$10,000	\$14,350
	Public Relations	\$8,000	\$10,314
	Rent	\$68,000	\$68,000
	Staff Travel & Training	--	\$35,804
	Training MPO	\$35,000	--
	Travel CPRG	\$17,500	--
	Subscriptions and Publications	\$1,000	\$230
	Technology Expense	\$70,000	\$63,627
	New Website Depreciation	\$12,000	
	Telephone & Internet	\$15,000	\$13,512
	Lease Improvement Depreciation	\$15,000	
	Total	\$447,500	\$361,100
100% Local	Board Engagement/Benchmarking/Travel	\$111,000	\$96,167

Metroplan 2025 Planning Studies

Metroplan Studies Revenue		<u>2025 Actual</u>
Ozone Action Days	\$48,000.00	\$48,000.00
Smart Streets and Roads for All	\$80,000.00	\$132,267.06
Energy and Environment Innovation	\$150,000.00	\$98,410.00
Regional Study TBD	\$420,489.28	\$0.00
Transferred from Local Dues	\$137,122.32	\$45,066.76
Total	\$835,611.60	\$323,743.82

Metroplan Studies Expenses		<u>2025 Actual</u>
Ozone Action Days	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Smart Streets and Roads for All	\$100,000.00	\$165,333.82
Energy and Environment Innovation	\$150,000.00	\$98,410.00
Regional Study TBD	\$525,611.60	\$0.00
Total	\$835,611.60	\$323,743.82

Metroplan 2025 Engineering Budget

Metroplan On-Call Contracts

Job #	Description	Sponsor	Phase	Total Contract	Federal (80%)	Loal Match (20%)	2025 Actual (100%)	2025 Actual (Federal 80%)	2025 Actual (Federal 20%)
061713	Powerline Trail	Sherwood	Engineering	\$213,519	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$13,742.24	\$10,993.79	\$2,748.45
061715	Jacksonville Main Steet	Jacksonville	Engineering	\$302,745	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$31,145.51	\$24,916.41	\$6,229.10
061715	Jacksonville Main Steet	Jacksonville	Inspection	\$350,000	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
061717	Congo Road	Benton	Engineering	\$261,043	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$6,439.22	\$5,151.38	\$1,287.84
061720	Lonoke Regional Trail	Cabot	Engineering	\$624,470	\$80,000	\$20,000	\$29,050.12	\$23,240.10	\$5,810.02
061757	Jonesboro Trail	Little Rock	Engineering	\$318,418	\$16,000	\$4,000	\$22,305.36	\$17,844.29	\$4,461.07
080647	Salem Rd	Conway	Engineering	\$504,125	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$23,004.10	\$18,403.28	\$4,600.82
080667	Wooster roundabout	Wooster/Faulner Co	Engineering	\$300,000	\$160,000	\$40,000	\$154,193.11	\$123,354.49	\$30,838.62
061806	Hwy 38 and Lincoln	Austin	Engineering	\$84,677	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$14,386.61	\$11,509.29	\$2,877.32
061809	Ward Sidewalks	Ward	Engineering	\$47,778	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$5,785.39	\$4,628.31	\$1,157.08
080709	College Avenue Bridge	Conway	Engineering	\$425,049	\$240,000	\$60,000	\$50,710.61	\$40,568.49	\$10,142.12
061815	Crystal Hill Road	North Little Rock	Engineering	\$565,279	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$166,410.41	\$133,128.33	\$33,282.08
080561	Hwy 89 Sidealks	Mayflower	Engineering	\$148,102	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$20,654.37	\$16,523.50	\$4,130.87
061813	Cabot Elm Street multiuse path	Cabot	Engineering	\$349,599	\$160,000	\$40,000	\$148,163.17	\$118,530.54	\$29,632.63
061811	Bryant Prkwy Trail over I30	Bryant	Engineering	\$358,415	\$140,000	\$35,000	\$165,243.00	\$132,194.40	\$33,048.60
061812	Bryant Midland Trail	Bryant	Engineering	\$618,550	\$320,000	\$80,000	\$175,375.33	\$140,300.26	\$35,075.07
061814	Cantrell ART	Little Rock	Engineering	\$170,200	\$27,200	\$6,800	\$23,033.22	\$18,426.58	\$4,606.64
061553	Jump Start Park Hill	North Little Rock	Inspection	\$419,112	\$16,000	\$4,000		\$0.00	\$0.00
061527	JP Wright Loop	Jacksonville	Inspection	\$1,851,415	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$19,425.52	\$15,540.42	\$3,885.10
061857	SW Trail Central High- Fair	Pulaski County	Engineering	\$201,011	\$160,000	\$40,000	\$110,641.44	\$88,513.15	\$22,128.29
061810	Sardis Road Trail	Shannon Hills	Engineering	\$71,071	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$60,412.63	\$48,330.10	\$12,082.53
061836	Southwest Trail Connector	Bryant	Engineering	\$170,000	\$136,000	\$34,000	\$48,906.80	\$39,125.44	\$9,781.36
080723	Hwy 65 Ped Overpass	Greenbrier	Engineering	\$300,000	\$220,000	\$55,000	\$52,262.07	\$41,809.66	\$10,452.41
061838	Broadway (Roosevelt Rd -17th st impvts)	Little Rock	Engineering	\$428,728	\$240,000	\$60,000	\$262,011.64	\$209,609.31	\$52,402.33
061841	Sherwood CARG phase 1	Sherwood	Engineering	\$521,389	\$260,000	\$65,000	\$70,838.35	\$56,670.68	\$14,167.67
061884	Saline River Greenway 3,4,5	Benton	Engineering	\$839,463	\$384,000	\$96,000		\$0.00	\$0.00
061816	Hwy 5 and Desoto Intersection	Saline County	Engineering	\$71,585	\$56,000	\$14,000	\$34,608.14	\$27,686.51	\$6,921.63
	Cabot Regional Greenways Ph 3	Cabot	Engineering	\$374,410	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$133,054.50	\$106,443.60	\$26,610.90
	Congo Road (shenandoah to Long Hills)	Benton	Engineering	\$400,000	\$256,000	\$64,000		\$0.00	\$0.00
	Kerr Station Road	Cabot	Engineering	\$480,000	\$320,000	\$80,000	\$220,652.68	\$176,522.14	\$44,130.54
	Southwest Trail new alignments	Pulaski County	Engineering	\$600,000	\$416,000	\$104,000		\$0.00	\$0.00
	SWT S1-S4 (River bridge to Garland Co)	Saline County	Engineering	\$2,400,000	\$1,200,000	\$300,000		\$0.00	\$0.00
	Various Projects			\$500,000	\$400,000	\$100,000		\$0.00	\$0.00
				Total	\$5,787,200	\$1,446,800	\$2,062,455.54	\$1,649,964.43	\$412,491.11

ITEM 3. METROPLAN REPORT

SUMMARY

Metroplan is pleased to welcome Amy Thomas to the Metroplan team. Amy serves as Executive Operations Coordinator, supporting both our administrative activities and executive functions. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Amy has worked in municipal and federal government, most recently as a Portfolio Management Specialist at HUD. Amy has built a career ensuring public programs are both compliant and effective. At Metroplan, she will continue this mission, applying a technical eye for detail and commitment to public service.

Twenty-five applications have been received for Metroplan's summer intern program. Staff look forward to growing the state's planning profession and talent through the intern program.

Casey will provide an update on agency planning activities, federal legislation, and planning for the Central Arkansas Regional Summit.

Central Arkansas Regional Summit

The first biennial Central Arkansas Regional Summit is almost upon us. Metroplan is excited to bring back our biennial board member retreat with an emphasis on growing a sense of regionalism and forming partnerships for the development of Central Arkansas. The theme for this year's summit is Exploring Regional Partnerships. Metroplan and CAPDD have been working together to create an agenda that allows for creative discussion and collaboration. We have also invited regional partners to attend and discuss how we can further collaborate together.

The summit will take place on Wednesday, May 6th - Thursday, May 7th at the DeGray Lake State Resort. Please sign up by **Wednesday, March 25th**. If you have any additional questions or need assistance signing up, please let Sydney know.

We look forward to having you attend and working together to grow Central Arkansas.

Wednesday May 6th

10:30 am – 11:00 AM: Arrival and Networking

11:00 AM – 2:30 PM: Session 1 | *Lunch and Learn with Nashville Regional Council Director Michael Skipper*

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM: Check In/Break

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM: Session 2 | *Highlighting Metroplan and CAPDD Member Benefits*

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Break/Check In

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM: Dinner

Thursday May 7th

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Session 3 | *Exploring Regional Partnerships and Coalitions*

11:30 PM – After: Check Out/Leave

ITEM 4. REPORT ON METROPLAN AND CAPDD INTEGRATION

SUMMARY

On February 26, the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District Board of Directors approved moving forward with investigating a merger of the two organizations.

Metroplan staff have started regular meetings with CAPDD to discuss coordination activities, which have already led to efficiencies and improved technical analysis for grants. Staff will continue to meet to review collaborations, and a staff transition team has been set up comprised of 4 Metroplan and 4 CAPDD Staff.

The focus of the next three months will include legal review, financial assessment, and staffing plans. Casey will be working directly with a 10-member board transition team to address questions of governance, programmatic scope, communication planning, and spacing/office needs. This transition will also be discussed at the Central Arkansas Summit.

ACTION NEEDED: Information Only

ITEM 5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. 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

Energy and Environment Innovation for the Natural State Implementation Grant

ITEM 6. CPRG

The following CPRG activities were completed in February and March.

Green Networks

- Press release announcing board approval of \$5.9 Million for Land Restoration and Tree Planting: <https://metroplan.org/press-release-greennetworks-funding-2026>
- Signed subaward agreements with 4 out of 6 new Green Networks awardees
- Analyzed GHG reduction potential and cost efficiency of Trail Construction applications
- E-Bike Rebate program for NWA, City of Fort Smith, and Central Arkansas on track to launch this summer
- Restoration activities are underway on 75% of projects in all three regions
- Shannon Hills made formal offer for land acquisition
- NWA is progressing on land acquisition on multiple projects
- Brittany held Quality Assurance training to all Green Networks awardees

Transportation Efficiency

- Progress towards installation of LED Streetlights in Wrightsville, Alexander, Traskwood, Conway, Maumelle, Sheridan, and Little Rock
- 2 more EV chargers have been installed at CALS branches
- Site maps have been developed for EV charger placement throughout Pulaski County
- Working with City of Little Rock and Pulaski County on EV fleet vehicle purchasing

Building Efficiency

- 424 of the planned 700+ geothermal wells have been dug at LIT
- City of Ward signed Energy Savings Contract for HVAC controls and lighting upgrades

General

- Leesa conducted financial audits on projects in NWA and Fort Smith
- Leesa writing 6-month EPA report, due April 15

Green Networks Trail Construction Funding Recommendation

On November 19th, Metroplan issued calls for projects for three Green Networks measures: multi-use trails, land restoration, and tree planting. Applications were due January 9th. Land restoration and tree planting funding was awarded at February's board meeting.

Metroplan received 6 trail construction applications for a total of \$4,935,285.52. The remaining balance in the trail construction budget is \$2,318,400.00.

The table below summarizes the funding proposals and the projects' cost-efficiency, i.e. \$ cost per metric ton of CO2 reduced by the trail, which is based on a calculation of vehicle miles offset by the trail from an adjacent roadway. The right-most column, \$/MT by % attributable, is the cost-efficiency indicator based on the percentage of the project being paid for by CPRG.

Project Title	Lead Agency	Total CPRG Funds Requested	CPRG % of Project Cost	Total Project Cost	\$/MT by % Attributable
Southwest Trail Connector Construction Phase 1	City of Bryant	\$ 824,800.00	80%	\$ 1,031,000.00	\$31,101
Clinton Presidential Park Bridge Protection Cell Replacement Project	City of Little Rock	\$ 500,000.00	8.33%	\$ 6,500,000.00	\$25,755
Overlay of Lake Willastein Phase III	City of Maumelle	\$ 440,000.00	80%	\$ 550,000.00	
Powerline Easement Trail Phase II	City of Sherwood	\$ 241,585.52	80%	\$ 301,981.90	\$5,531
Sardis Road Trail	City of Shannon Hills	\$ 968,900.00	80%	\$ 1,211,170.47	\$13,778
Southeast Trail Phase III	Pulaski County	\$ 1,960,000.00	80%	\$ 2,450,000.00	\$42,757
TOTAL REQUESTED		\$ 4,935,285.52			
TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$ 2,318,400.00			
OVERAGE		\$ 2,616,885.52			

Per Metroplan's CPRG workplan, this funding is designated for building new miles of trail. In consideration of that directive, cost-efficiency metrics, and the amount of funding available, Metroplan staff recommends funding 3 of the 6 proposed projects:

Sponsor	Project Title	Award
City of Bryant	Southwest Trail Connector Ph I	\$824,800.00
City of Sherwood	Powerline Easement Trail Ph II	\$241,585.52
City of Shannon Hills	Sardis Road Trail	\$968,900.00
TOTAL		\$2,035,285.52

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to approve Resolution 26-05.



RESOLUTION 26-05
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION FOR THE NATURAL STATE
CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT
GREEN NETWORKS TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PASS-THROUGH FUNDING

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, the MPO is charged with the responsibility of developing and maintaining the official functional classification map for the CARTS area;

WHEREAS, this grant includes \$8,000,000 for a pass-through funding program for Central Arkansas municipalities, counties, and nonprofit partners to implement Green Network trail construction projects to increase transportation choice and reduce vehicle miles traveled, thus reducing emissions and resulting air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Metroplan received applications from its members; 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 for Green Network Trail Construction pass-through awards.

Sponsor	Project Title	Award
City of Bryant	Southwest Trail Connector Ph I	\$824,800.00
City of Sherwood	Powerline Easement Trail Ph II	\$241,585.52
City of Shannon Hills	Sardis Road Trail	\$968,900.00
TOTAL		\$2,035,285.52

Duly recorded this 25th day of March 2026.

Mayor Ken Kincade, Vice President

Judge Allen Dodson, President

Transportation Agenda

ITEM 7. 2027 Unified Planning Work Program

SUMMARY

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes all transportation planning activities conducted within the Metroplan study area. In May 2025, Metroplan adopted a two-year UPWP covering the period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

For a two-year UPWP, the second year is reviewed and may be revised fort. Metroplan staff expects to complete all tasks/deliverables within the two-year period. No adjustment to work tasks are proposed.

Metroplan budget adjustments are proposed for the following.

1. Consultant cost for the CARTS Travel Demand Model Upgrade (include in Metroplan's 2026 budget)
2. Safe Streets and Roads for All Demonstration Grant (Updated)

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to authorize staff to release for public comment amendment #2 for the 2026-2027 UPWP. Amendment 2 will reflect project budget updates for Metroplan, ARDOT and Rock Region METRO. *Adoption scheduled for May.*

ITEM 8. CALL FOR PROJECTS

SUMMARY

A. 2027 Surface Transportation Block Grant Funding

The annual 2027 STBG call for projects will be released in April and projects will be awarded during the June Board meeting. Please submit a letter of intent to apply by April 15th. The letter of intent must include a description of the project that details the name of the facility and the expected improvements to be made.

The call for projects will use the same application and scoring system as prior applications. A clarification will be provided for project scoring that benefits a parallel route.

ACTION NEEDED: Motion to Authorize Staff to Release

**Central Arkansas Regional Transportation Study Area
Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)
Federal Fiscal Year 2027 Grant Application**

**DEADLINE for this application is Friday, May 29th at 11:00am (CST)
Notice of Intent to Apply Letters are due Wednesday, April 15th.**

The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) provides funding for transportation projects. Eligible projects include street, pedestrian, and bicycle projects and may be flexed for transit infrastructure improvements.

The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) provides funding for projects that reduce carbon dioxide emissions for on-road highway sources. CRP funds are eligible for projects that address traffic management, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, congestion management technologies, public transportation, and alternative fuel vehicle deployment support. Metroplan uses CRP primarily to support construction of the regional greenway network.

Metroplan, as the designated MPO for the Central Arkansas Region Transportation Study Area, receives sub-allocations of STBG and CRP funds that it has discretion to allocate to projects within its study area. Annually, \$200,000 is reserved for regional planning activities, with the remaining funds supporting local projects. Any Metroplan member (local sponsor) can submit projects for funding consideration.

Projects are eligible for up to 80% federal funding. A local sponsor must provide at least 20% of the eligible project costs ***in cash – required match***. Federal funds from other sources cannot be used to match federal transportation funds.

Estimate of	STBG	CRP	TOTAL
Available Funds	\$17.2 Million	\$1.8 Million	\$19 Million

The following criteria have been developed to administer the 2027 CARTS STBG Program's Call for Projects:

- **Maximum Award = \$4,000,000** (including prior awards for construction cost increases)
- **Project is eligible for obligation in FFY 2027** (October 2026-September 2027)

	Federal Aid Eligible	Previously Funded for Engineering	Local Sponsor Design	Cost Increase
Eligible to Apply for Construction		Yes	Yes	Yes
Eligible to Apply for Engineering	Yes			Yes

Large and Medium Cities = Eligible to apply for one construction project and one engineering project.

Counties = Eligible to apply for one construction project and one engineering project.

Small Cities = Eligible to apply for one project.

Additional considerations for the local sponsor:

- Projects are expected to be vetted prior to their submittal to Metroplan. This includes the support of the local governing body and a thorough review of rights-of-way, utilities relocations, design considerations, and character of the street and adjacent land uses. A resolution from the local sponsor indicating its commitment to the project and budgeting of local match is required.
- Applicants must submit their intention to apply for funding in an email to the Executive Director before they fill out an application. Applicants will coordinate with Metroplan staff on the appropriate criteria by which to grade the project.
- Projects will be scored as either “Roadway” or “Trail” projects. Roadway projects are to be graded by the Multimodal Infrastructure Guidelines “Corridor Type,” (Page 9), that is being improved. These are: (1) Downtown Mixed Use, (2) Town Main Street, (3) Suburban Residential Street, (4) Urban Residential Street, and (5) Suburban Commercial Street, (6) Industrial Street, (7) Rural Street.
- Projects will be scored based on the responses provided by the sponsor with confirmation from the review committee. Scoring criteria are shown in the application.
- Only roadways on the federal functional classified system are eligible for federal transportation funds – shown in the attached map. For street projects not part of this system, including Rural Minor Collectors, Metroplan staff should be contacted

to determine project eligibility. <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/stbg.cfm>

- Multi-modal improvements are not required to be on the federal classified system. Questions about these multi-modal improvements should be referred to Metroplan staff.
- Sufficient design detail plans must be submitted with the project application to confirm project scoring. Changes to the design from the application require Metroplan review to confirm the changes do not impact project scoring. For PE projects, a conceptual (10%) design should be included.
- Applications are scored based on the projects submitted by the local sponsor. Funding awards are not eligible for re-allocations to another project.
- The local sponsor will be provided federal funding up to the project award amount. The sponsor is responsible for any additional costs.
- The local sponsor must have the required match accounted for upon application submittal.
- Partial awards will not be given.
- The local sponsor shall submit LPA Project Quarterly reports to Metroplan and ARDOT. Staff will work to accommodate schedule adjustments outside the control of the local sponsor, however, if the obligation year is affected, this may disrupt the funds' availability.
- All new engineering projects funded by Metroplan must be managed through ArDOT's On-call Consultants list. Construction projects that did not use Metroplan On-call must have a reviewable 60% design set of plans and a consultant under contract to be eligible for funding.
- Projects must show a reasonable ability to obligate funding by September 2027. Right of way must be acquired for construction projects to obligate.
- Projects that fall substantially behind schedule (1 year or more) may lose funding. Withheld funding will revert to the STBG regional unallocated pool.

Questions may be addressed to Daniel Holland at dholland@metroplan.org or (501) 372-3300.

ITEM 9. 2026 PROJECT OBLIGATIONS

SUMMARY

Metroplan must obligate \$21.65 million of funding for FFY 2026. This amount included new funding for FFY 2026 as well as carryover funding from 2025. The project list includes projects previously awarded funding in prior calls for projects and supplemental funding awarded in February. Staff continue working to identify the projects that will be ready to move forward and will work with sponsors to ensure obligation.

JP Wright Loop Railgrade Separation is ready for closeout and requires an additional \$117,951 based on final charges. Resolution 25-06 awards this funding from the supplemental funding call for projects for 2026. The final amounts for other projects will be confirmed in June/July as projects are confirmed for bids.

ACTION NEEDED: Adoption of Resolution 25-06



RESOLUTION 26-06
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, the JP Wright Loop Railgrade Separation is one of twelve regional railroad overpasses prioritized and funded by Metroplan,

WHEREAS, the project is ready to closeout and requires an additional \$117,950.32 of federal funds available through 2026 Supplemental funding source,

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
061527 - Jacksonville	JP Wright Loop Rd Railroad Overpass	Closeout	STBG	\$117,950.52

Duly recorded this 25th day of March 2026.

 Mayor Ken Kincade, Vice President

 Judge Allen Dodson, President

Project Obligation FY 2026	
STP CARTS Apportionment 2026	\$15,082,628
Carbon Reduction Apportionment 2026	\$1,803,806
TAP CARTS Apportionment 2026	\$1,641,978
Programming Authority (Apportionments 2026)	\$18,528,411
Programming Authority Carried Forward from 2025	\$7,235,562
Total Available Program Authority	\$25,763,973
Obligation Limitation Estimated 2026 (100.0%)	\$18,528,411
Obligation Limitation Carried Forward from 2025	\$3,451,051
Total Available Obligation Limitation	\$21,979,462

2026 Metroplan Obligations

	ARDOT Contact	Project Number	Projects: 2026 Obligation (TAP and STP>200K)	Local Sponsor	Estimated Obligation Amount	Phase	TIP/Metroplan Resolution
2026 STBG Project		061894	Southwest Trail: 65th to State Fairgrounds (Pulaski Co.) (S)	Pulaski Co	-\$2,100,000	Design/Develop	MB Resolution 24-11 & 25-15
	Randy	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
		061806	Hwy 38 & N Lincoln Traffic Light	Austin	-\$233,506	Construction	MB Resolution 26-03
		061718	SWT Right of Way Acquisition	SalineCo	-\$188,240	ROW/Utilities	MB Resolution 26-03
		061780	Southeast Trail Phase 2	Pulaski Co	-\$500,000	ROW/Construc	MB Resolution 26-03
		061814	Arkansas River Trail Dillard's Section	Little Rock	-\$366,560	Design	MB Resolution 26-03
		61757	Jonesboro Dr. Childrens Trail	Little Rock	-\$400,000		June/July 2026
		061717	Congo Rd./Shenandoah Rd Roundabout	Benton	-\$330,000		June/July 2026
		061720	LOCOMUT Phase 1 Construction	Cabot	-\$400,000		June/July 2026
		061715	Jacksonville Main Street	Jacksonville	-\$400,000		June/July 2026
		061896	Jacksonville-Cato Rd Improvements	Sherwood	-\$400,000		June/July 2026
	061527	JP Wright Loop Rd. Railgrade Seperation	Jacksonville	-\$117,951		Final	
2026 TAP Projects	Carlos	061810	Sardis Rd. Trail Ph. 1 (Shannon Hills) (S)	Shannon Hills	-\$259,120	Construction	MB Resolution 22-09 & 25-02
	Kellie	061902	Indian Lake Estates Pedestrian Impvts (Sherwood) (S) (2026 obligation)	Sherwood	-\$320,000	Construction	MB Resolution 25-02
	Carlos	061808	General Samuels Rd. Sidewalks (Jacksonville) (S)	Jacksonville	-\$200,000	Construction	MB Resolution 22-01
		061884	Saline River Greenway Phases 3,4,5	Benton	-\$200,000	Design	MB Resolution 26-03
		061720	Lonoke County Trail	Cabot	-\$137,262	Design	MB Resolution 26-03
		080723	Hwy 65 Pedestrian Bridge	Greenbrier	-\$162,388	Design	MB Resolution 26-03
	Carlos	061903	Jonesboro Children's Trail Ph. 4 (Little Rock) (S)	Little Rock	-\$188,000	Design	MB Resolution 25-02
		061713	Sherwood Powerline Easement	Sherwood	-\$200,000		June/July 2026
		080561	Miller Street Sidewalks	Mayflower	-\$145,138		June/July 2026
		061904	PX TAP 26 Hwy 161	Pulaski Co	-\$200,000		June/July 2026
Planni ng Funds	Carlos	061808	General Samuels Rd. Sidewalks (Jacksonville) (S)	Jacksonville	-\$200,000	Construction	MB Resolution 22-01
			Maumelle Blvd Study	ARDOT/Planning	-\$240,000		
			CARTS Travel Demand Model	Planning	-\$200,000	Planning	
Total							-\$21,693,165
Ending Balance Obligation Limitation							\$286,297

C