



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, July 22, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Metroplan | Pulaski Co. Regional Building
501 W. Markham St. | Little Rock

1. Call to Order

2. Introductions & Announcements

3. Summary of Previous Meeting

4. Council Discussion

- Mandatory Treasurer and District Court Training
- 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act
- Act 605 from 2021: Water Rate Studies for Municipalities

5. Upcoming Grants & Capital Improvement Opportunities

- CPRG E-Bike Rebate Program
- CPRG Rolling Applications
- ESPC Cohort

6. Member Q&A

7. Preview of Upcoming Meetings

- August 26, 2026

8. Adjourn



Shareworthy

Go RED | Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment

Funds to reduce diesel emissions from diesel engines in Arkansas

Know more: <https://adeq.state.ar.us/air/planning/gored/>

Healthy Eating, Active Recreation, and Transformation (HEART) | Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration

Improve health outcomes and expand access to preventative services across rural Arkansas

Learn More: <https://tinyurl.com/HEARTNOFO>



Small Cities Council

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 24, 2026, | 9:00 AM
Pulaski County Regional Center | Little Rock
Draft

Meeting PowerPoint slides available at www.metroplan.org/about-us/scc/

SCC Members Attending

- | | |
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| 1. Mayor Mike Kemp | City of Shannon Hills |
| 2. Mayor Charles Gastineau, Vice Chair | City of Ward |
| 3. Mayor Crystal Herrmann | City of Alexander |
| 4. Mayor Jon Plafcan | City of Carlisle |
| 5. Mr. Keith Keck | City of Hot Springs |
| 6. Mr. Bryce Rimmer | City of Austin |

Additional Attendees

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Ms. Gail King | City of Des Arc |
| 2. Mr. Mike Watson | Half |
| 3. Ms. Conya Spencer | Central Arkansas Planning and Development District |
| 4. Ms. Leigh Ann Pool | Central Arkansas Planning and Development District |
| 5. Mr. Timothy Riley | Central Arkansas Planning and Development District |
| 6. Ms. Tanya Childers | Central Arkansas Planning and Development District |
| 7. Mr. Gene Higginbotham | Congressman Crawford's Office |

Metroplan Staff

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Casey Covington | Executive Director |
| 2. Ms. Sydney Dozier | Public Engagement Planner |
| 3. Ms. Lynn Bell | Graphics Specialist |
| 4. Ms. Amy Thomas | Executive Operations Coordinator |
| 5. Ms. Bridgette Bavon | Intern |
| 6. Mr. Paul Murphy | Intern |
| 7. Mr. Paritosh Jambhale | Community Planner |

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed participants and asked participants to introduce themselves.

2. Introductions & Announcements

All the council members and guests introduced themselves. Mr. Paul Murphy was introduced as new intern hired by Metroplan. He was welcomed by the council.

3. Summary of Previous Meeting

Mayor Gastineau made a motion to approve the summary of the May 27, 2026, meeting. Mayor Herrmann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Metroplan Introduction Material Review

Ms. Dozier presented a draft of a new member orientation and informational guide designed to help new board members better understand Metroplan's role and the services it provides. The draft builds on language from the Metroplan website and the Transportation Summit that was hosted by Metroplan earlier this year. It has been revised to focus more on the benefits available to member communities. She explained that the presented information has been divided into four key topic areas: transportation, community and economic development, zoning/planning and grant opportunities, and sustainability. Mr. Keck asked how potential constitutional amendment for economic development could affect Metroplan's role. Mr. Covington and Ms. Dozier answered that Metroplan could potentially serve as an independent reviewer or technical resource for local jurisdictions if new responsibilities are established. It was noted that additional legal guidance and coordination with partner organizations would be necessary before incorporating this information into the orientation materials.

The committee also discussed expanding the orientation packet to include supporting resources such as Metroplan's bylaws, staff directory, board member roster, and other reference materials. Staff noted that the orientation materials will continue to evolve and will be updated as Metroplan's responsibilities expand, including any future organizational changes or merger activities. The materials are expected to be used during annual board member orientation sessions.

Board members reviewed the land use and zoning section and suggested highlighting Metroplan's technical assistance services, including support with zoning ordinances, historical planning records, and archival documentation. Members emphasized that preserving historical planning information is particularly valuable for smaller communities that may lack the resources to maintain these records.

The sustainability section generated discussion on expanding Metroplan's role in environmental planning, natural resource protection, trail development, electric vehicle infrastructure, and alternative transportation. Members recommended including flood mitigation, stormwater management, drainage planning, and hazard mitigation planning as key sustainability services. CAPDD staff member, Ms. Leigh Ann Pool, explained that successful grant applications often depend on having completed planning studies and shovel-ready projects, making long-term planning and resilience efforts critical for securing future funding.

5. Upcoming Grants & Capital Improvement Opportunities:

Mr. Jambhale led this section and informed the council about the following grant opportunities:

- **Arkansas Community Assistance Grant Program (CGAP) by Arkansas Inc.**

The Arkansas Community Assistance Grant Program (CAGP), administered by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC), provides funding to support community and economic development projects across the state. Eligible applicants include cities, incorporated towns, counties, unincorporated communities, nonprofit organizations, and other government entities in Arkansas. Grants of up to \$1.5 million are available for projects such as the construction or renovation of public facilities, including healthcare centers, libraries, city halls, police stations, jails, parks, and playgrounds, as well as land or building acquisitions related to eligible projects and workforce training expenses. Applicants must provide a 20% local match, which may consist of cash or in-kind contributions. Applications for the current funding cycle are due August 15, 2026.

Know More: <https://www.arkansasedc.com/community-resources/community-assistance-grant-program>

- **Major League Soccer (MLS) Go Play Fund by the RCX Sports Foundation:**

The MLS GO PLAY FUND is an annual grant initiative supported by Major League Soccer (MLS) to expand access to youth recreational soccer through MLS GO leagues. Administered by the RCX Sports Foundation, the program aims to reduce financial barriers and increase participation opportunities for children and communities. Funding is available to help cover player participation costs, financial assistance for organizations operating MLS GO leagues, and grants for parks and recreation agencies through the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to launch or expand MLS GO programs. The initiative is designed to increase youth access to soccer while helping communities establish and sustain affordable recreational soccer leagues.

Know More: <https://www.mlssoccer.com/mlsgo/play-fund/>

6. Member Q&A

Mayor Plafcan informed the council about the City of Carlisle's want to apply for the FUN Park Grant. The city wants to revitalize its parks and needs the help of engineers to do so. Mayor Herrmann shared her experience with park improvement projects and the engineering requirements associated with it. Mr. Covington suggested that Metroplan can assist the City of Carlisle to submit an official Request For Qualifications (RFQs), identifying qualified engineering firms, and providing technical guidance throughout the grant application process.

7. Preview of Upcoming Meetings

- Wed, July 22, 2026
 - 9:00 am: Small Cities Council Meeting
 - 10:00 am: Board of Directors Meeting

8. Adjourn

Mayor Gastineau made a motion to adjourn, Mayor Herrmann seconded it, Mayor Kemp adjourned the Small Cities Council meeting at 9:55 AM.