



## **NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

*1311 Clayton St., Springdale, Arkansas, 72762*

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• <http://nwarpc.org>

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March 27, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Air and Radiation, 6101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Intent to sign the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Dear Office of Air and Radiation:

This letter is intended to express the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission's (NWARPC) intent to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Metroplan to participate as a coalition member in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application. The NWARPC fully supports the greenhouse gas reduction actions outlined in the application and will provide critical leadership needed to implement the measures in Northwest Arkansas.

The federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urban Area, NWARPC consists of 38 units of local government as well as other public agency partners, and serves as a forum for cooperative decision-making, develops transportation plans required by federal law, convenes stakeholders to deal with common planning issues, and provides information and staff resources to our member agencies and to the public.

The Northwest Arkansas regional focus is on the advancement of the Green Network transportation and carbon sequestration measures. Using the regionally adopted Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan and Northwest Arkansas Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan, NWARPC has coordinated its members and local environmental organizations to cooperatively propose projects that link bicycle-pedestrian greenways and the preservation and restoration of natural infrastructure cores and corridors. The Northwest Arkansas Green Network projects emphasize:

- Making connections that give residents options to shift from single-occupancy vehicles to active transportation.
- Linking LIDAC communities to jobs, education, and essential services.
- Projects that implement the regionally adopted NWA Open Space Plan and NWA Master Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan.
- Community-driven projects that have demonstrated project-readiness.
- Protecting critical natural infrastructure cores and corridors from development or degradation (through fee-simple acquisition, conservation easements, or other means).
- Restoring and adding carbon-sequestering vegetation in critical natural infrastructure cores and corridors within the connected green network.
- Establish an E-Bike incentive program that targets LIDAC communities to lower Arkansans' transportation expenses and promote mode-shift.



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The NWARPC is committed to leading initiatives aimed at mitigating carbon emissions and advancing community partnerships in Northwest Arkansas. In its role as a coalition member, the NWARPC will fulfill the following roles and responsibilities, in addition to any other actions needed to ensure the success of the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG program:

- Assisting Northwest Arkansas subrecipients to:
  - comply with subrecipient requirements under EPA's Subaward Policy;
  - develop subaward agreements with Metroplan; and
  - track and report to Metroplan on project progress and expenditures.
- Tracking, measuring, and reporting to Metroplan on accomplishments and proposed timelines and milestones for projects and programs in Northwest Arkansas.
- Continuing community and stakeholder outreach and education in Northwest Arkansas.

Thank you for considering our letter of intent. Together with the Central Arkansas and Fort Smith MSAs, we are eager to begin the projects outlined in our joint application to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings to over one half of Arkansas' population.

Sincerely,

Judge Barry Moehring, Chairman  
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission