

Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER)

2022 Fiscal Year (FY): July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Tri – Lakes Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

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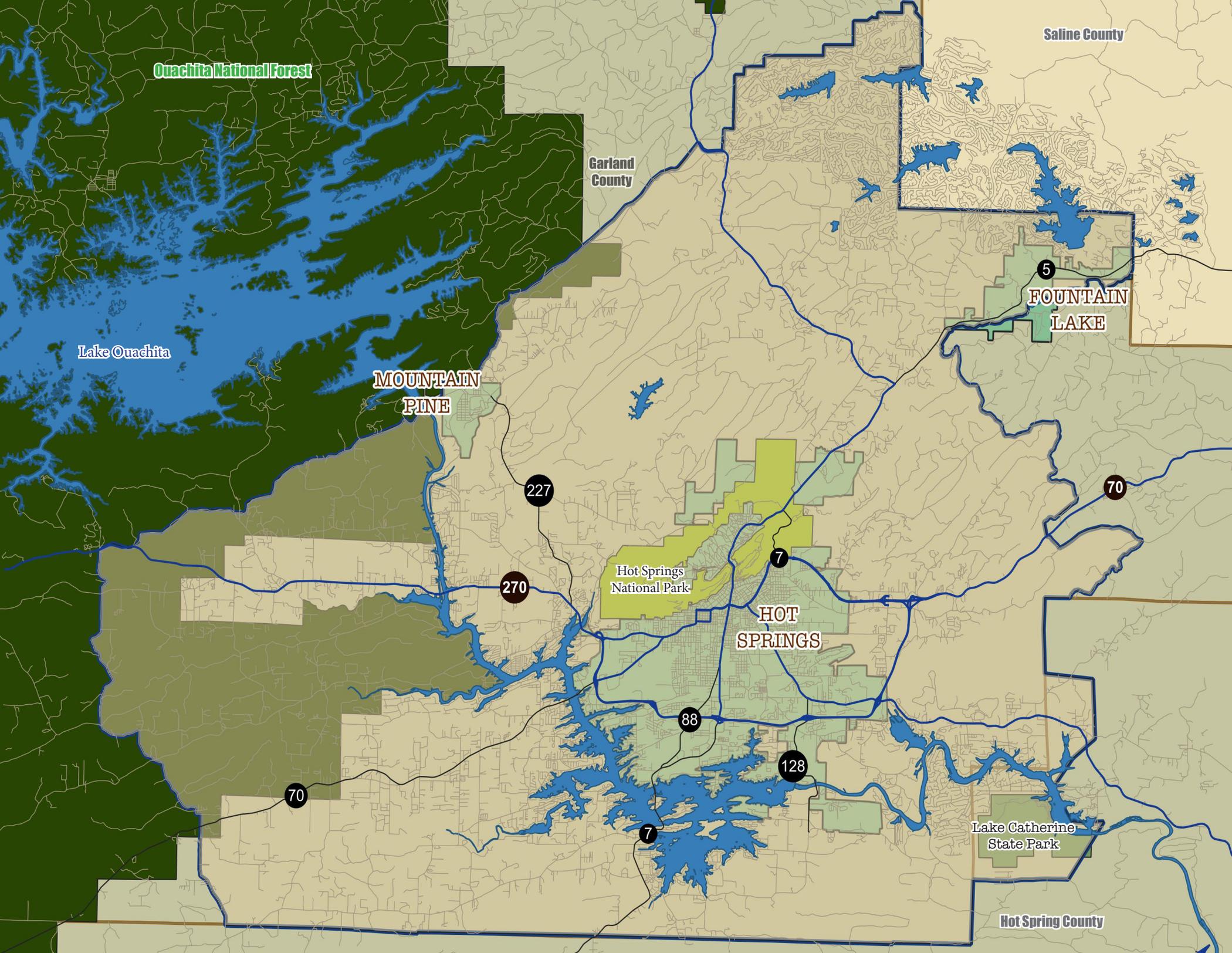
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Ouachita National Forest

Saline County

Garland County

Lake Ouachita

**MOUNTAIN
PINE**

5
**FOUNTAIN
LAKE**

227

70

270

Hot Springs
National Park

7

**HOT
SPRINGS**

88

128

70

7

Lake Catherine
State Park

Hot Spring County

Introduction

What is the Tri-Lakes Metropolitan Planning Organization

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a transportation policy-making agency made up of representatives from local government and transportation authorities. MPOs are designated by federal law to serve in urbanized areas with populations of at least 50,000 people. An MPO was established for the Hot Springs Urbanized Area in 2003 by the governor of Arkansas. Through this designation of the Hot Springs Area Transportation Study (HSATS) the MPO exists today as the Tri-Lakes (TLMPO). The 11 members of the Policy Board is supported by a 15-member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the TLMPO staff. The Policy Board relies on the TAC and staff for analysis and recommendations regarding transportation policy options.

Planning Process

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) relies on Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) to ensure that existing and future federal expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) planning process. The 3-C process is the foundation for regional transportation planning and includes input and direction from participating cities, counties, community agencies, elected officials, and the public. The TLMPO is the agency responsible for coordinating the transportation planning activities for the Hot Springs Urbanized Area (UA). Additionally, the TLMPO must produce and update plans, projects, and programs that are required by the USDOT and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT). However, those plans, projects, and programs must be approved by the executive branch of the TLMPO, the Policy Board.

Planning Partners

The TLMPO is a regional transportation planning organization that was established in 2003. The MPO serves the Hot Springs Area Transportation Study (HSATS), whose member jurisdictions and planning partners include the following agencies:

- Garland County
- City of Hot Springs, including HSIT
- Hot Springs Village
- Town of Fountain Lake
- City of Mountain Pine
- Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Hot Spring County
- Arkansas Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- National Park Service

Hot Springs Region

The Hot Springs area is the eastern gateway to the Ouachita Mountains in Central Arkansas. The regional topography is hilly and mountainous, resulting in some steep and winding roadways. This topography creates numerous creeks, natural drainages, and flood plains, many suitable for alternative transportation

uses, such as pedestrian and bicycle paths. Additionally, this topography presents some unique challenges for roadway improvements, especially when considering new capital projects or roadway expansion. The downtown Hot Springs Street layout is one of a radial grid pattern. The downtown area streets were originally developed in a round radial pattern instead of a block grid type pattern as dictated by the topography. The TLMPO Study Area contains Lakes Hamilton and Catherine, which is adjacent to Lake Ouachita on the eastern edge of the Ouachita Mountains.

What does MPOs do

The MPO has some key responsibilities as required by federal law. There are five core functions and three main planning documents that must be continually updated and evaluated. Those are as follows:

- Establish and manage a fair and impartial setting for effective regional transportation decision-making
- Evaluate available transportation alternatives given the size, complexity, and nature of the region's transportation system
- Involve the public in the functions listed above and the core planning documents listed below

The three key documents produced by the MPO are:

- The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the activity and budget document for the MPO staff and lists the transportation studies and tasks to be performed
- The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is the strategic planning document that identifies future investments to be made in the region's transportation system. It's also known as the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a four-year funding program implementing the transportation projects and strategies identified in the MTP

Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER)

The Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER) is a document that falls under the UPWP program. The APER simply summarizes the key tasks, responsibilities, and projects that MPO staff completed from the previous fiscal year and aligns them with their respective tasks within the UPWP program. Additionally, the APER provides a reconciled breakdown of the funds budgeted, expended, and remaining per task. The typical APER fiscal year follows the MPOs, and the State of Arkansas, July thru June. Typically, the APER report is provided to the MPO committees, within 90 days of the previous fiscal year's close. Therefore, before September 30th, every year, the APER is published.

2021 UPWP Activity & Summary

Task #1 – Program Support & Administration

- Completed quarterly progress reports for the 2021 Fiscal Year
- Drafted, edited, and published the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Annual Performance Expenditure Report
- Participated and presented at regularly scheduled West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District (WCAPDD) Board Meetings
- Prepared and submitted quarterly financial packets for the FY 2021
- Drafted, edited, and published Technical Committee and Policy Board Agendas for the 2021 FY
- Drafted, edited, and published Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting Minutes for the 2021 FY
- Revised, updated, and maintained Tri-Lakes MPO Website with required federal documents
- Drafted, edited, and published the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Attended AMPO Training to gain better insight on upcoming Census information and the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
- Researched various grant opportunities as part of the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Task #2 – General Development & Comprehensive Planning

- Created templates for displaying facts, figures, and transportation statistics
- Updated maps for both long- and short-term project and their corresponding lists
- Updated maps for TIP projects, additions, and amendments
- Created graphics and design for ALOP FY 2021
- Created graphics and design for the UPWP 2023
- Created design for TIP And MTP Amendments
- Updated project database for both short-term and long-term projects
- Analyzed crash data to gain better insight when making transportation decisions

Task #3 – Long-Range Transportation Planning

- Analyzed long-term project lists and the future of the projects themselves. Including revenue forecasting for the likelihood of those projects
- Continued researching and seeking updates on the future and certainty of the long-term project list
- Drafted, edited, and published an MTP Amendment to add an additional project for an Intersection Reconfiguration in front of Oaklawn Casino at Higdon and Central

Task #4 – Short-Range Transportation Planning

- Drafted, edited, and published a joint planning agreement between the City of Hot Springs and the Tri-Lakes MPO on coordinating federal transportation requirements in the Tri-Lakes area
- Coordinated with the City of Hot Springs and ARDOT on the recently awarded FLAP grant for a wayfinding signage program

- Continued research into short-term projects and their likelihood of construction
- Participated and presented at regularly scheduled Complete Streets meetings

Task #5 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Research project updates from the previously approved TIP
- Researched, drafted, and published TIP and MTP Amendment on the additional project of AR 88 and AR7 Intersection reconfiguration in front of the Oaklawn Casino
- Prepared TIP Amendments for Technical Committee and Policy Board approval
- Drafted, edited, and published the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) for FY 2021

Financial Summary

Task	Activity	UPWP SFY 2021 Budget			Expended	Carryover
		Federal	Local	Total		
1	Program Support & Administration	\$ 28,800	\$ 7,200	\$ 36,000	\$ 33,360	\$ 2,640
2	General Development & Comprehensive Planning	\$ 23,040	\$ 5,760	\$ 28,800	\$ 26,688	\$ 2,112
3	Long-Range Planning	\$ 17,280	\$ 4,320	\$ 21,600	\$ 20,016	\$ 1,584
4	Short-Range Planning	\$ 17,280	\$ 4,320	\$ 21,600	\$ 20,016	\$ 1,584
5	Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 28,800	\$ 7,200	\$ 36,000	\$ 33,360	\$ 2,640
Total:		\$ 115,200	\$ 28,800	\$ 144,000	\$ 133,440	\$ 10,560