



Policy Board Meeting
February 18, 2026 @ 9:30 AM
MINUTES

A. ROLL CALL

Mr. Dwayne Pratt, Executive Director of West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, called the meeting to order by officially confirming everyone present at the meeting. The following Policy Board members were present: **(Quorum = 51% = 6 committee members; must include at least three (3) elected officials)**

- 1) Mike Lipton – Hot Springs Metro Partnership – Chair
- 2) Jeremy Brown – Garland County – Vice Chair
- 3) Darryl Mahoney – Garland County - Judge
- 4) Karen Garcia – City of Hot Springs – Board Member
- 5) Pat McCabe – City of Hot Springs – Mayor
- 6) Bruce Caverly – Hot Springs Village

Additionally, the following guests or non-voting members were present:

- a) Keith Goff – ARDOT
- b) Keith Jones – City of Hot Springs - Intracity Transit Director
- c) Anthony Hunter – ARDOT
- d) Bill Burrough – City of Hot Springs – City Manager
- e) Dwayne Pratt – WCAPDD – Executive Director
- f) Loren Morphew – WCAPDD – Interim MPO Study Director

B. ACTION ITEMS

- 1) **Minutes – September 25, 2025** – The committee was presented with the previous meeting minutes. Karen Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Brown. The item passed unanimously.
- 2) **Safety Performance Measures Adoption** – Mr. Pratt informed the board that it was time to review and adopt ARDOT’s statewide Safety Target

Comprehensive Transportation Planning
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Performance Measures for calendar year (CY) 2026. Anthony Hunter from ARDOT highlighted the difference in the Safety Targets from CY 2025, noting the only change in one category: Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries. Jeremy Brown made a motion to approve the resolution adopting ARDOT’s CY 2026 Safety Target Performance Measures. The motion was seconded by Pat McCabe. The item passed unanimously.

C. MPO REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bylaws Review and Compliance Framework

The Policy Board engaged in extensive discussion regarding organizational governance and compliance standards. The Board reviewed existing provisions related to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) compliance and financial accountability currently codified in the organization's bylaws. Discussion centered on strengthening these provisions to ensure transparent operations and adherence to all applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

Organizational Structure Considerations

Mr. Pratt presented considerations regarding organizational structure, including potential modification of the MPO Study Director position title to "MPO Coordinator," while maintaining existing duties and responsibilities. The Board acknowledged this input for further consideration as part of the broader bylaws revision process.

Bylaws Revision - Financial and Audit Provisions

Jeremy Brown identified the need for enhanced clarity in bylaws sections governing financial management and audit procedures. Discussion emphasized the importance of comprehensive, unambiguous language to ensure proper fiscal oversight and compliance with applicable regulations.

Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) Technical Assistance

ARDOT staff offered to facilitate communication and information sharing with other Metropolitan Planning Organizations throughout Arkansas regarding their respective bylaws and governance structures. The Board expressed appreciation for this technical assistance offer and indicated interest in reviewing comparable MPO governance documents as part of the revision process.

Independent Legal Counsel

Following discussion of the scope and complexity of necessary bylaws revisions, Pat McCabe made a motion to retain independent legal counsel to provide guidance on bylaws updates prior to the hiring of a new MPO Study Director. The motion was seconded by Bruce Caverly and **passed unanimously**. This action will ensure that revised governance documents are legally sound and compliant with all applicable federal metropolitan planning requirements.

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Executive Session Allowability

Mr. Caverly noted that we should ensure that Executive Sessions to address MPO personnel matters, including but not limited to termination procedures and other human resource concerns be incorporated into the revised bylaws.

MPO Study Director Recruitment Update

The Board received an update on the ongoing recruitment process for a permanent MPO Study Director from Mr. Pratt. The position has been advertised locally, statewide, and nationally, with multiple resumes received to date. The Board Chair will participate in candidate interviews and bring recommendations forward to the full Policy Board for consideration.

D. ARDOT REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No additional reports or announcements were made.

E. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No additional reports or announcements were made.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No additional reports or announcements were made.

G. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:35am.

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