

WAPDD NEWS

A Quarterly Publication brought to you by Western Arkansas Planning & Development District

New Year, New Deadlines

As 2020 comes to a close, we are already busy developing projects and preparing grant applications for the upcoming 2021 grant cycles. While each project is unique, and every funding agency has their own guidelines and requirements, certain information is mandatory for nearly all applications. In recent years, it has become crucial for cities and counties to maintain a current registration in Sam.gov. This is a requirement for all Federal Programs. More and more programs are requiring online submittals either through Grants.gov or another federal portal. Some state programs are now requiring online submittals as well.

Occasionally grant funds are made available due to federal disasters or other special circumstances, we've seen this a lot over the past 9 months during the COVID-19 Pandemic, but generally the projects funded in our area are through regular grant programs with annual funding cycles.

Here are some of the grant programs and deadlines that we are already working on for 2021.

AHPP County Courthouse Restoration (January 29, 2021)-Grants available for restoration projects at historic courthouse across the state.

AHPP Historic Preservation Restoration Grant (March 5, 2021)-Grants of \$10,000 or more are available for restoration projects at properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places and owned by a not-for-profit organization or a municipality.

AEDC Division of Rural Services Rural Community Development Grant and Rural Fire Protection Grant (March 11, 2021)-Applicants from incorporated towns of less than 3,000 in population and

unincorporated rural areas are eligible for up to \$15,000 in 50/50 matching funds under this program.

AEDC General Assistance and CDBG-CV (CARES Act) Projects (March 31, 2021)-The community population must be at least 51% Low to Moderate income. Grant awards are between \$75,000 and \$300,000

ArDOT Transportation Alternatives Program and Recreational Trails Program (TBD)- The TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, replacing the funding from per-MAP-21 programs. The Recreational Trails program is funded through a portion of TAP funds set aside specifically for recreational trails.

AEDC Division of Rural Services Rural Block Grant Program (August 2021)- Grants are available to incorporated towns and rural communities with a population of less than 3,000. Additionally, the community population must be at least 51% Low to Moderate income.

Outdoor Recreation Grant Program 50/50 Matching Grant (August 27, 2021)-Grants awarded up to \$250,000 for a total project cost of \$500,000. This is a reimbursable grant program. This means that the grantee must finance 100% of the cost of the project, and then be reimbursed for half of the amount of the project cost up to the grant amount.

Outdoor Recreation Grant Program FUN Park Grant (August 27, 2021)- Each grant award is \$75,000. Only unincorporated rural communities and incorporated cities with a population of less than 2,500, as established by the 2010 census, are eligible for grant funding.

- Tracee McKenna, Community Development

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Stacy Willinger,
Workforce Career Advisor



- **How long have you worked at WAPDD?** I started with WAPDD in July 2019
- **Favorite part about working at WAPDD?** Building relationships with clients and helping them achieve their training and career goals and celebrating their successes.
- **What 3 words describes you best?** Compassionate, loyal, book nerd
- **Do you have a hobby?** Reading is like breathing to me and I have mad skills in the kitchen, constantly trying new recipes.
- **What motivates you?** Growth, curiosity, and kindness. Helping others grow into their potential, learning new things about the world and myself, and seeing people smile.

Together: Frontier 2045 Regional Transportation Plan

TOGETHER: FRONTIER 2045 Regional Transportation Plan

What should our transportation system be now and in 2045?



What is TOGETHER: FRONTIER 2045?
It is a blueprint to plan for the region's transportation infrastructure investments.



Take the Survey
Scan the QR Code, take the survey, and use our interactive map to tell us where infrastructure investments such as roads, trails, transit, sidewalks, and bike facilities are needed.

VOICE YOUR OPINION
TAKE OUR SURVEY

For more details contact: Reese M. Brewer, Frontier
Metropolitan Planning Organization at
rbrewer@wapdd.org or 479.7852653

MPO Director Reese Brewer has been elected to serve on the National Executive Board for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO).

Long-range planning is an effective tool to identify the best and highest use of federal, state, and taxpayer dollars to ensure beneficial transportation projects. To do this, we work closely with stakeholders to secure and allocate funding for regional transportation improvements. With appropriate and viable transportation projects, the region can experience dependable economic growth accompanied with realistic population gains while deftly responding to changing environments, such as the COVID-

19 pandemic. Together: Frontier 2045 builds on earlier metropolitan transportation plans, current efforts and projects and active public input to create a purposeful and meaningful plan that drives progress, prosperity, and well-being in our region. In order to determine future projects and infrastructure needs, The MTP 2045 Plan structure follows seven basic planning steps and analysis: Data & Analysis, Scenario Analysis, Hybrid Scenario, 2045 Needs, Project Priorities, and a Cost Feasible Plan.

We would love to engage the public in more comments and ideas. Individuals, residents, and others can scan the QR code to participate. Our public input website has a survey, interactive map for project nominations, etc.

Welcome To The Team!



David Ozuna joined the WAPDD team in October as a GIS Field Technician. David is retired from the Coast Guard and currently volunteers for the Greenwood Rural Fire and is an EMS First Responder.

He has a Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Management & Disaster Preparedness. David is married with grown children, and he loves the outdoors and exploring new areas.

Karen Wilson joined the WAPDD team in November as a Workforce Career Advisor. She has an associate degree in Business Management and enjoys helping others any way she can.

Karen jumped out of a plane at 18,000 feet high in 2018 and believes if she can do that, she can do anything she sets her mind to. She is married with 3 grown daughters, one stepson and ten grandchildren. Karen loves the holidays and spending time with her family.





Western Arkansas Planning & Development District

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“Our mission is to foster community and economic growth in our local economy by providing community and economic development, workforce innovation, transportation and emergency planning and various other professional services in support of our Region. We are the central catalyst for community-centered economic development that links our counties, cities and businesses with state, federal and private resources to aid in a higher quality of life while promoting future growth for all citizens of Western Arkansas.”

Are you on social media? We are too! Connect with us and get to know us better. Our social media platforms are a great way to learn more about WAPDD.



Do you have a community event coming up and need help spreading the word? Send your event to us and we'll share on all of our social media accounts!

Email event info to: amandagrism@wapdd.org



Next issue: March 2021