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METROPLAN ANNOUNCES TRANSPORTATION FUNDING GRANTS

LITTLE ROCK, AR August 27, 2021 — The Metroplan Board of Directors has approved funding to the following applicants for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) and Highway Improvement Program (HIP)

The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and Highway Improvement Program are federal-aid transportation programs, administered by the Federal Highway Administration that provide funding for transportation improvement projects. Metroplan awards funding to qualifying projects based on applications from member jurisdictions and a rigorous review process. Below are 14 projects that were awarded during this current program cycle.

The list of awarded projects reflects the Metroplan Board's commitment to investments in the Central Arkansas Regional Greenways system. The projects also address several safety and congestion issues at intersections, as well as new Super Shelters for several Rock Region METRO bus stops.

<u>Local Sponsor</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Recommended Award</u>	<u>Phase</u>
Pulaski County	Southwest Trail	\$3,000,000	Construction
Saline	Southwest Trail	1,200,000	Construction
North Little Rock	Pike Avenue	\$3,000,000	PE and Construction
Bryant	Bryant Parkway	\$3,000,000	Construction
Benton	Southwest Trail	\$1,040,000	Construction
Sherwood	Gap Creek Signal	\$276,000	PE and Construction
Lonoke	Hwy 31 Overpass Multi-Use Path	\$436,000	Construction
Conway	Salem Road Reconstruction	\$750,000	PE and ROW
Sherwood	Powerline Trail	\$750,000	PE and Phase 1 Const
Benton	Congo & Shenandoah Roundabout	\$1,184,000	Construction
Jacksonville	West Main Street Realignment	\$1,158,000	Construction
Little Rock	Jonesboro Children's Trail	\$750,000	PE and Construction
Shannon Hills	Shannon Hills Drive Bridge Replacement	\$200,000	PE
Rock Region Metro	Supershelters	\$256,000	Construction

Metroplan is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the four-county region of Faulkner, Lonoke, Pulaski and Saline counties. It is a voluntary association of local governments that has operated since 1955.

For more information on these projects, see the following page or visit www.metroplan.org.

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2021 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)

STBG Awards

- **Pulaski County** has been awarded funding to construct 5.3 miles of the initial segment of the Southwest Trail from Baseline Road to Saline County. The Trail will seamlessly connect pedestrians and cyclists through Pulaski, Saline, and Garland Counties.
- **Saline County** has been awarded funding to construct 2.5 miles of the initial segment of the Southwest Trail from Pulaski County to Germania Rd. The Trail will seamlessly connect pedestrians and cyclists through Pulaski, Saline, and Garland.
- **North Little Rock** has been awarded funding to complete bicycle, pedestrian and streetscape improvements along Pike Avenue. The project will increase the safety of bicycle and pedestrian traffic along the Pike Avenue corridor from Rockwater Boulevard to 15th Street.
- **Bryant** has been awarded funding that will allow for the completion of the final phase of the Bryant Parkway from Shobe Road to Hwy 183. The parkway will serve as an arterial in east Bryant as the city grows and roadway capacity demands increase. The project will also feature accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclist.
- **Benton** has been awarded funding to construct 1.6 miles of the initial segment of the Southwest Trail from the Old River Bridge to downtown Benton. The Trail will seamlessly connect pedestrians and cyclists through Pulaski, Saline, and Garland.
- **Sherwood** has been awarded funding to install a signal at the intersection of Brockington Road and Gap Creek Drive. The installation of the signal will improve the flow and safety of traffic for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
- **Lonoke** has been awarded funding that will allow for the addition of a multi-use path on the Hwy 31 bridge over I-40 scheduled for replacement. The multi-use path will safely accommodate bicycle and pedestrian travel to connect north Lonoke with the southern portion of the city.
- **Conway** has been awarded funding to continue with phase II of the Salem Rd. improvement project between Dave Ward Dr. and College Ave. The project will accommodate current and future traffic as well as upgrade bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- **Sherwood** has been awarded funding to construct the new Power Line Trail along an existing power line easement west of Brockington Road. The trail would connect schools, houses, apartments, and businesses and provide alternative transportation in east Sherwood.
- **Benton** has been awarded funding to construct a roundabout at Congo and Shenandoah Roads. Safety and efficiency are two key concerns driving the project. A roundabout here can accommodate less restrictive vehicle movements and heavy volume while protecting motorists from dangerous collisions.
- **Jacksonville** has been awarded funds to start construction on the realignment of West Main Street, between Fair Oaks Drive and Emma Street, to correct the dangerous S-curve currently in place. Safety is paramount for this regional arterial corridor and planning efforts will work to correct the issue.
- **Little Rock** has been awarded funds to create a trail connection between War Memorial Park and the Children's Library South of I-630. The trail will convert the west fork of the existing Jonesboro Dr to a pedestrian and bicycle facility, using a separated side-path over the Jonesboro Dr overpass to connect with War Memorial Park.
- **Shannon Hills** has been awarded funds (engineering) to replace an existing bridge on Shannon Hills Drive over Otter Creek. The current bridge has a weight restriction of 9 tons.
- **Rock Region METRO** has been awarded funds to install transit, cycling, and pedestrian "super shelters" at the highest-ridership transit stops in the Little Rock and North Little Rock area. The shelters will provide a safe, well-lit location for riders to wait on their bus to arrive.