



Partnering for Progress:

Transportation Planning in Small Urban Areas

ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT
OCTOBER 27-30, 2025
JONESVILLE, AR

REESE M. BREWER, FRONTIER MPO

Partnering for Progress

- Introduction: Frontier MPO
- Why this Matters
- Van Buren Hwy. 59 Project Overview
- Greenwood Trey Burgess Bypass Overview
- Fort Smith Towson Avenue Overview
- How it Happened
- Funding Breakdown
- What's Next

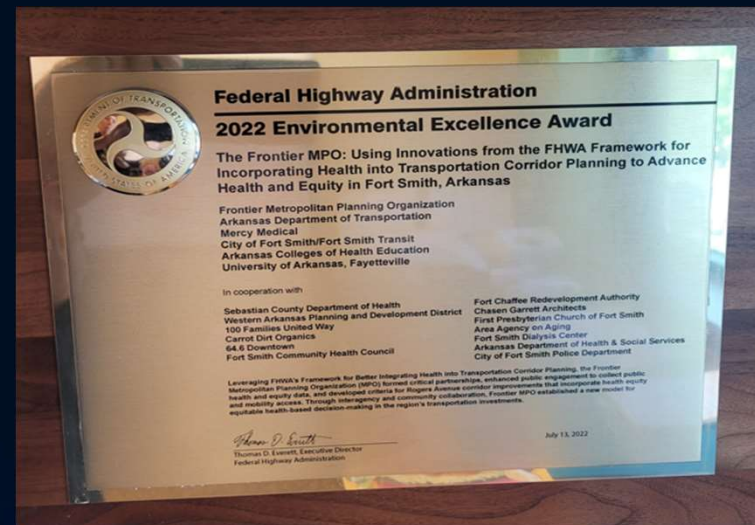
Introduction: Frontier MPO



Introduction: Frontier MPO

Regional Transportation Planning Organization for Western Arkansas & Eastern Oklahoma

- Small yet Mighty MPO
 - Recipient of the NADO 2023 Regional Transportation Excellence Award
 - Recipient of the FHWA 2022 Environmental Excellence Award
 - Recipient of the 2022 AMPO Best Overall Achievement Award for a Non-TMA
 - Recipient of the 2020 Parsons Engineering Smart Intersection Award
 - Co-Investigator for National Science Foundation Grant – Ride 4 Smilies Bikeshare with the University of Arkansas
 - Developed the “Save AR Lives” concept
 - Recognized for innovative and collaborative partnerships
 - Limited local match and funds



Partners & Projects

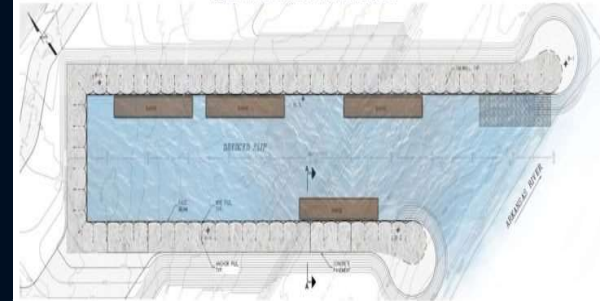
- Thriving Communities Program (Partners, UAFS, Fort Smith Transit)
- Maritime Administration
- Ride 4 Smilies Bikeshare – National Science Foundation
- Safe Streets 4 All (City of Fort Smith)
- Walkability Action Institute/Our Voice
- National Recreation & Parks Association
- Smart Growth America
- Clean Cities Coalition
- FHWA Health in Transportation Framework
- Parsons Engineering Smart Intersections
- Zagster – Coca-Cola Foundation
- Blue & You Foundation – Mark Fenton

"Rather than focus on our problems, we work energetically to collaborate and to keep our residents safe. "



River Valley Slackwater Harbor

Figure 6: Slackwater Harbor Layout



Save **AR** Lives

END TRAFFIC VIOLENCE IN ARKANSAS



 **our voice**
<http://ourvoice.stanford.edu>



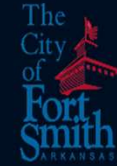
Partnership Impacts

\$18 Million MARAD

\$ 1 Million NSF

\$ 1 Million Parsons Engineering
Smart Intersections

\$Over 500K in grants for partners



Why this Matters

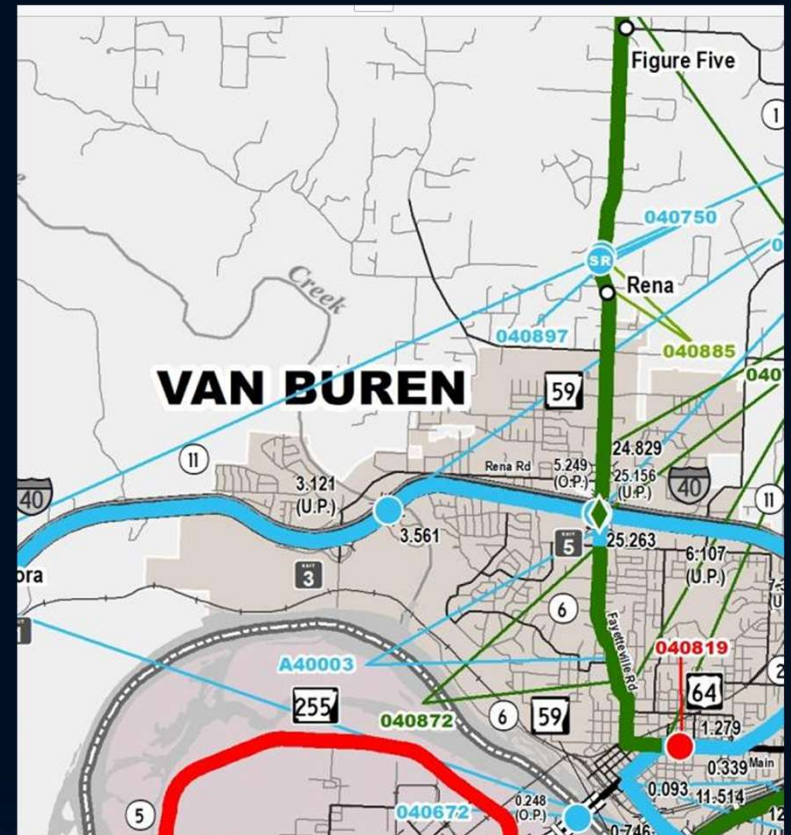
- Regional and local projects shape safety, mobility, & economic growth
- Collaboration between cities and ArDOT unlocks funding and accelerates delivery
- Van Buren & Greenwood offer two powerful examples of success
- Fort Smith & Towson Avenue presented some challenges due to R-O-W, utilities – project is underway
- Projects often identified for many years – “Leave your name badge at the door” – Michael Morris, North Texas Regional Council of Governments



“When cities and state agencies work together, communities move forward.”

Van Buren Hwy. 59 Corridor Improvements

- Roadway resurfacing and lane reconfiguration
- New pedestrian crossings and ADA compliant sidewalks
- Intersection improvements
- Stormwater upgrades to reduce flooding
- Funding sources: ArDOT STIP, STBG, City of Van Buren



SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CRAWFORD COUNTY

Job No.	Job Name	Rte.	Sec.	Type Work	Status	Let Date	Estimated or Sub. Comp. Date	County Totals		Project Totals	
								Length (Mi)	Cost	Length (Mi)	Cost
040707*	Rena Road Sidewalks (Van Buren) (TAP-15) (S)			Enhancement	Completed	Mar. 2017	Dec. 2019	-	\$254,598	-	\$254,598
040710*	Shibley Rd. RR Signals (E. of Van Buren) (S)	CR		RR Crossing	Programmed			-	< \$1 M	-	< \$1 M
040711*	N. 3rd St. RR Signals (Van Buren) (S)			RR Crossing	Completed	Sep. 2017	Feb. 2022	-	\$411,912	-	\$411,912
040712	Hwy. 59 Emergency Slope Failure Repair (Crawford Co.) (S)	59	5	Base Stabilization	Completed	Mar. 2016	Aug. 2016	0.11	\$886,025	0.11	\$886,025
040714	I-40/Hwy. 59 Interchange Impvts. (Van Buren) (S)	40	11	Safety Improvements	Scheduled	Jan. 2023		-	\$10 - \$15 M	-	\$10 - \$15 M
040718*	I-540 & Hwy. 22 Impvt. Study (Fort Smith & Van Buren) (S)	22	1	Study	Programmed			2.07	-	10.22	-

\$12 MILLION PROJECT COST
CITY OF VAN BUREN PROVIDED 25%
LOCAL MATCH - \$3 MILLION.
BID OPENING IN JULY 2025

City of Greenwood Trey Burgess Hwy.



- New highway and bridge construction (3 new bridges; replace 2 bridges)
- A bypass will be built where Highway 96 and Highway 10 intersect
- Repave Highway 10 to add one mile of road going south.
- City of Greenwood provided x and the family of Trey Burgess donated 26 acres to the City of Greenwood.
- Funding sources: ArDOT STIP, STBG, City of Greenwood secured the donation of 26 acres. and will assume ownership of Hwy 10/Spur.

City of Greenwood Trey Burgess Hwy.

In 2022, 3-miles of Hwy 10/Spur Road was initially repaved.

As part of the partnering agreement for the Trey Burgess Hwy/Greenwood Bypass, the City of Greenwood will take ownership of Highway 10 Spur/Center Street. Once ARDOT relinquishes ownership, the road will no longer be designated as a highway and will only be referred to as Center Street.

This change will allow the City of Greenwood to restrict truck traffic through the city and reroute that traffic to what will be the new Trey Burgess Hwy.

**SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
SEBASTIAN COUNTY**

Job No.	Job Name	Rte.	Sec.	Type Work	Status	Let Date	Estimated or Sub. Comp. Date	County Totals		Project Totals	
								Length (Mi)	Cost	Length (Mi)	Cost
040762	Greenwood Bypass P.E. Add'l Rte.-Sec: Sebastian New	10	0	PE Only	Programmed			2.76	\$20 - \$30 M	2.76	\$20 - \$30 M
040764	Greenwood Hwy. 105 Sidewalks (TAP-18) (S)			Enhancement	Programmed			-	< \$1 M	-	< \$1 M
040765	Scott Co. Line – Hwy. 10 (S)	71	13	Resurfacing	Sub. Completed	Feb. 2021	Dec. 2021	10.50	\$5,265,735	10.50	\$5,265,735
040771	Hwy. 10 – Mill Creek (S)	71	14	Resurfacing	Completed	Jan. 2021	Jul. 2021	10.55	\$9,577,742	10.55	\$9,577,742
040772	I-540 – East (S)	22	1	Resurfacing	Completed	Jan. 2021	Oct. 2021	13.30	\$8,698,833	13.30	\$8,698,833
040781	Prairie Creek Str. & Apprs. (Hwy. 71) (S)	71	13	Structure & Approaches	Scheduled	May. 2023		0.61	\$3 - \$5 M	0.61	\$3 - \$5 M
040792	Hwy. 45 Strs. & Apprs. (S)	45	1	Structure & Approaches	Scheduled	Feb. 2023		0.89	\$5 - \$10 M	0.89	\$5 - \$10 M
040793	Ditch at L.M. 18.699 Str. & Apprs. (S)	45	1	Structure & Approaches	Scheduled	May. 2023		0.43	\$1 - \$3 M	0.43	\$1 - \$3 M
040794	Hwy. 45 – Hwy. 64 (Sel. Secs.) (Fort Smith) (S) Add'l Rte.-Sec: Sebastian 255-3/4	71	14B	Resurfacing	Sub. Completed	Apr. 2021	Dec. 2021	5.98	\$3,757,584	5.98	\$3,757,584
040808	ACHE Wellness Lake Trail (TAP-19) (S)			Enhancement	Programmed			-	< \$1 M	-	< \$1 M
040819	Hwys. 64, 96 & 252 Strs. & Apprs. (S) Add'l Rte.-Sec: Crawford 64-2, Sebastian 252-4	96	3	Structure & Approaches	Under Construction	Jun. 2020	Late 2022	0.81	\$7,833,036	0.83	\$8,026,445
040823	Hwy. 105/Hwy. 71 Signal (Greenwood) (S) Add'l Rte.-Sec: Sebastian 71-14	10	0S	Safety Improvements	Under Construction	Nov. 2021	Mid 2024	-	\$356,868	-	\$356,868
040826	Hwy. 22 – I-40 (Sel. Secs.) (S) Add'l Rte.-Sec: Crawford 540-2	540	1	Resurfacing	Scheduled	Feb. 2023		4.52	\$5 - \$10 M	7.39	\$10 - \$15 M
040836	Hwys. 96 & 255 Impvts. (Sebastian Co.) (S) Add'l Rte.-Sec: Sebastian 255-1/2	96	3	Resurfacing	Programmed			7.74	\$1 - \$3 M	7.74	\$1 - \$3 M
040837	Bloomer – Franklin Co. Line (S)	22	1	Resurfacing	Scheduled	Jan. 2023		4.13	\$1 - \$3 M	4.13	\$1 - \$3 M
040838	I-540 – Hwy. 45 (S) Add'l Rte.-Sec.: Sebastian 271-1	253	2	Resurfacing	Scheduled	2023		2.21	\$1 - \$3 M	2.21	\$1 - \$3 M
040839	Hwy. 96 Impvts. (Sel. Secs.) (S)	96	3	Resurfacing	Scheduled	2024		3.77	\$1 - \$3 M	3.77	\$1 - \$3 M
040851	Fort Smith Downtown Traffic and Truck Study (S)			Study	Programmed			-	-	-	-
040856	Greenwood Hwy. 105 Sidewalks Ph. 2 (TAP-20) (S)			Enhancement	Programmed			-	< \$1 M	-	< \$1 M
040861	Hwy. 10 – Hwy. 96 (Greenwood Bypass) (S) Add'l Rte.-Sec: Sebastian 10-1, 96-2, New	10	0	New Location Resurfacing	Scheduled	Nov. 2023		2.35	\$20 - \$30 M	2.35	\$20 - \$30 M
040862	Hwy. 71 – Coker St. (Widening) (Greenwood) (S)	10	0	Major Widening	Programmed			1.80	\$5 - \$10 M	1.80	\$5 - \$10 M
040865	Hwy. 22/74th St. Inters. Impvts. (Fort Smith) (S)	22	1	Safety Improvements	Scheduled	May. 2024		-	< \$1 M	-	< \$1 M

**\$57.8 MILLION PROJECT COST
CITY OF GREENWOOD WILL ASSUME OWNERSHIP
OF HWY 10/SPUR, PROVIDED 26 ACRES
COMPLETION EXPECTED LATE 2026**

City of Fort Smith, Towson Avenue Overview

- Milling and inlay of existing pavement
- Drainage improvements and
- Sidewalk improvements to implement ADA standards along that 3.8 miles stretch.
- ARDOT cost estimate for the project was \$33.4 million,
 - \$20 million for construction
 - \$3.5 million for right of way costs, and
 - \$9.9 million for utility costs.
- Funding sources: ArDOT STIP, STBG, City of Fort Smith (not to exceed \$2 million)

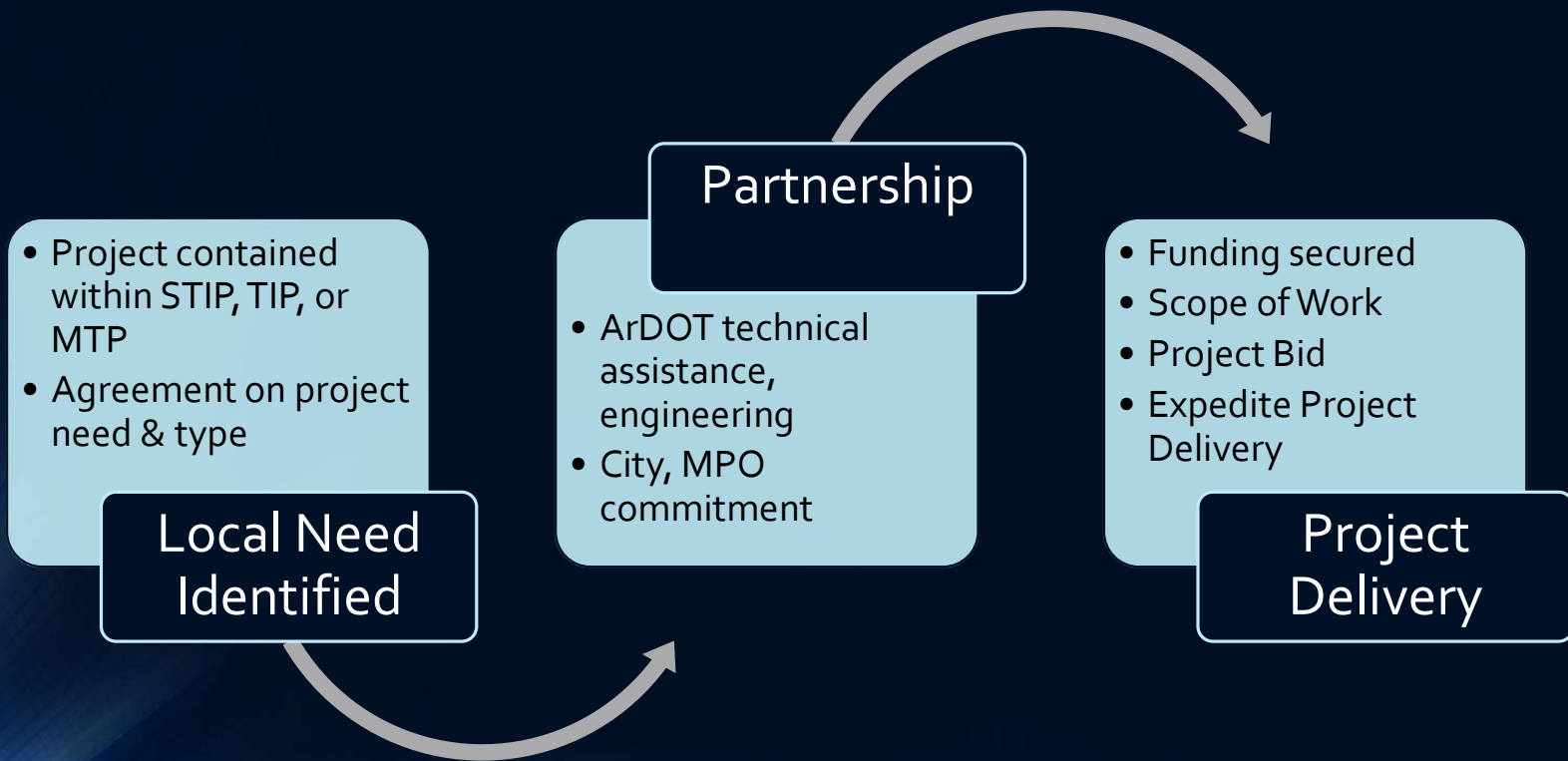


Add'l Rte.-Sec.: Sebastian 255-3, CS											
040718*	I-540 & Hwy. 22 Impvt. Study (Fort Smith & Van Buren) (S)	540	1	Study	Programmed			8.15	-	10.22	-
Add'l Rte.-Sec.: Crawford 22-1; Sebastian 540-2											
040719*	N. H St. RR Signals (Fort Smith) (S)			RR Crossing	Completed	Sep. 2018	Jan. 2022	-	\$1,513,700	-	\$1,513,700
040723	Hwy. 271 – Hwy. 64 (Towson Ave.) (Fort Smith) (S)	71	14B	Resurfacing	Scheduled	Apr. 2024		3.80	\$10 - \$15 M	3.80	\$10 - \$15 M
040724	Hwy. 71B – I-540 (S)	271	1	Resurfacing	Completed	Apr. 2017	Jun. 2017	2.50	\$1,466,973	2.50	\$1,466,973
040730	Hwy. 10 – Hwy. 45 (S)	253	3	Resurfacing	Completed	May. 2017	Sep. 2017	8.82	\$1,437,571	8.82	\$1,437,571
040739*	Fort Smith Chaffee Crossing Trail (Segment 1) (TAP-16) (S)			Enhancement	Completed	Dec. 2018	Oct. 2021	-	\$625,000	-	\$625,000
040747*	I-540 Arkansas River Bridge Painting (S)	540	1	Miscellaneous	Completed	Jan. 2017	Mar. 2018	-	\$3,358,661	-	\$3,358,661
040748*	Hwy. 22 – I-40 (Arkansas River) P.E.	New		PE Only	Programmed			1.84	-	13.56	-

\$33.4 MILLION PROJECT COST
 CITY OF FORT SMITH PARTNERSHIP PAYING 16%
 OF THE COST WITH THE CITY'S SHARE NOT
 EXCEEDING \$2 MILLION. CHALLENGES
 ENCOUNTERED INCLUDE R-O-W (\$3.5 MILLION),
 UTILITIES (\$9.9 MILLION)

INITIAL WORK WAS EXPECTED NOV. 2022
 FONSI RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 2025
 FUNDING UNCERTAIN

How it Happened

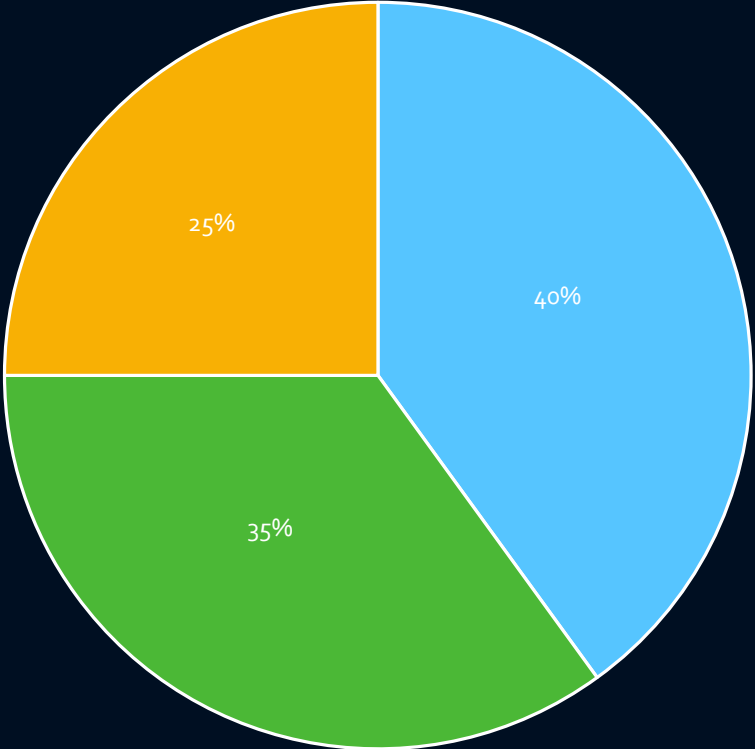


"Local vision paired with state expertise delivers lasting impact"

Funding Breakdown

ArDOT: 40%
Federal: 35%
Local: 25%

Funding Percentages



"Local vision, state support, & federal investment"

■ ArDOT ■ Federal ■ Local

What's Next?

- Continued Collaboration
- MPO Planning Support
- ArDOT Technical Assistance
- Creative Funding & Revenue Streams
- Smart Mobility Corridors
- EV Stations
- Trails, etc.



What's Next?

- Can jurisdictions provide local match or assume road ownership?
- Can cities develop policies, statutes that help them move through partnering agreements, and other processes easier?
- Can future tools, AI, etc. offer strategies to streamline and fund these projects?



Thank you

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*"Our success has really been based
on partnerships from the very
beginning" Bill Gates*

