

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR 2013

Prepared by:

Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

In cooperation with:

**Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department
Cities of Pine Bluff and White Hall
Jefferson County
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration**

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INTRODUCTION

Transportation planning in the Pine Bluff-White Hall Urban Area is a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuous (3-C) process designed to promote involvement by all users of the transportation system, such as the business community, community groups, environmental organizations, freight operators, and the general public, through a proactive public participation process. This planning process is conducted by the Pine Bluff Area Transportation Study (PBATS) in cooperation with the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Cities of Pine Bluff and White Hall, and Jefferson County. PBATS carries out five core functions:

Establish a setting: Establish and manage a fair and impartial setting for effective regional decisionmaking in the metropolitan area.

Identify and evaluate alternative transportation improvement options: Use data analysis and planning methods to generate and evaluate alternatives. Planning studies and evaluations are included in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Prepare and maintain a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): Develop and update a long-range transportation plan for the metropolitan area covering a planning horizon of at least twenty years that fosters (1) mobility and access for people and goods, (2) efficient system performance and preservation, and (3) good quality of life.

Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Develop a short-range (four-year) program of transportation improvements based on the long-range transportation plan; the TIP should be designed to achieve the area's goals, using spending, regulating, operating, management, and financial tools.

Involve the public: Involve the public and all affected constituencies in the four essential functions listed above.

Policy guidance and overall direction for the integrated, multi-modal, urban transportation planning process is provided by the PBATS Policy Committee. The Policy Committee includes the Mayor and one Alderman from the Cities of Pine Bluff and White Hall, the County Judge and one Quorum Court member, the AHTD local District Engineer and Planning and Research Division Engineer, and an ex-officio representative from both the Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) and the Arkansas River Regional Intermodal Authority. See below for current members. The Policy Committee also provides direction through an annual review of the MTP and the process associated with it. The Policy Committee reviews and approves both the UPWP and TIP and is responsible for maintaining the long range transportation plan for the Study Area.

PBATS also has a Technical Committee that assists the Policy Committee by reviewing and making recommendations on long-range transportation plans, reports, and studies that the Policy Committee must approve. The Technical Committee members are those technical and

professional staff members of local governments and AHTD who are responsible for planning and managing various transportation systems within the Study Area and includes a non-voting ex-officio representative from the Federal Highway and Administration (FHWA). See below for current members.

PBATS MEMBERSHIP

POLICY COMMITTEE	
REPRESENTATIVES	NAME AND TITLE
Jefferson County	Mike Holcomb, County Judge Mandy Alford, Quorum Court Member
Pine Bluff	Carl A. Redus, Jr., Mayor, PBATS Chairman Bill Brumett, Alderman
White Hall	Noel Foster, Mayor William May, Alderman
Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Comm.	Ken Smith, PBATS Vice Chairman
AHTD	Alan Meadors, Planning & Research Engineer David Henning, District Engineer
Arkansas River Regional Intermodal Authority	Ford Trotter, Chairman

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
REPRESENTATIVES	NAME AND TITLE
Jefferson County	Ricky Bullard and Angelo Walker, County Road Supervisors
Pine Bluff	J.T. Golden, Street Manager Larry Reynolds, Transit Manager Lt. Robert Roby, Traffic Division, PBPB
White Hall	Noel Foster, Mayor
Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission	Jerre George, Director
AHTD	John Spears, Engineer II Ernie Westfall, Construction Engineer Steve Alexander, Administrative Officer
Pine Bluff Airport Commission	Doug Hale, Airport Manager
Intermodal Representatives	Lou Ann Nisbett, Executive Director, The Alliance Charles Falkins, Union Pacific Railroad
Federal Highway Administration	David Blakeney, Division Realty Officer
Office of Emergency Management	Karen Quarles, Director
Area Agency on Aging	Tony Barr, Transit Manager

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

PURPOSE

PBATS was established in 1964 in accordance with the Federal Highway Act of 1962. The original intent of the 1962 Act included a provision for a cooperative, comprehensive and continuous transportation planning process in urban areas which have a population over 50,000. Since then the act has been reauthorized a number of times, and the latest reauthorization act took place in 2005 when the President signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). As a result of this act, the U.S. Department of Transportation has established policy guidelines to prevent a duplication of effort; to integrate modal planning at the metropolitan level; to achieve intermodal planning and coordination; and to relate these activities to a comprehensive planning process.

Pursuant to these guidelines, the PBATS FY2013 UPWP is the document identifying all USDOT funded transportation planning activities that will be undertaken within the Pine Bluff-White Hall Metropolitan Area by the Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) during the project year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. The UPWP has been developed as a cooperative venture between SARPC (which serves as the PBATS MPO), AHTD, FHWA, FTA, City of Pine Bluff, City of White Hall, and Jefferson County.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Federal Regulations set forth in SAFETEA-LU require that plans and programs address the eight factors listed below.

1. Support the economic vitality of the United States, the States and Metropolitan Areas, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity and efficiency;
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and for freight;
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;

7. Promote efficient system management and operation; and
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

WORK TASKS

Five work categories or tasks have been developed relative to the planning process that address the eight factors of SAFETEA-LU. These are as follows:

- Task 1: Administration and Management
- Task 2: Data Collection and Maintenance
- Task 3: Short Range Planning and Technical Assistance
- Task 4: Long Range Transportation Plan
- Task 5: Special Projects.

TASK 1. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this task is to ensure that the transportation planning process conducted in the Study Area is continuous, cooperative and comprehensive, and that it has resulted in plans and programs consistent with the comprehensive planned development of the urbanized area. The task consists of the daily administrative and management work elements that are necessary to maintain the transportation planning and public participation process for the Pine Bluff-White Hall Urban Area for both the FHWA and FTA portions of the program. This task reflects all those activities associated in ensuring community involvement in the planning process, monitoring of on-going planning activities, and ensuring that all modes of transportation are considered in the planning process in terms of addressing the 8 factors as stated in SAFETEA-LU.

WORK TASK

1. Program management and coordination.
2. Record-keeping and daily correspondence.
3. Audit reports.
4. Preparation of quarterly reports.
5. Financial record-keeping.
6. Assessment/purchase of supplies and office equipment to maintain the program.
7. Community involvement/public participation activities.
8. Committee meetings and planning process coordination.
9. FY2014 UPWP.
10. Website maintenance.
11. Training and workshop attendance/professional development.
12. Preparation of Annual List of Projects.
13. Preparation of 504 Self-Evaluation

END PRODUCT

1. OMB Circular A-133 Audit Report.
2. Quarterly Reports.
3. FY2014 UPWP.
4. Annual Listing of Projects (ALOP).
5. Documentation of record-keeping, daily correspondence, public involvement, etc.
6. Office equipment upgrades.
7. 504 Self-Evaluation

Cooperating Agencies: SARPC, AHTD, FHWA, FTA, and Pine Bluff Transit/City of Pine Bluff.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	COMPLETION	FUNDING	
Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission	On-going	FEDERAL	\$35,428
		LOCAL	<u>\$ 8,857</u>
		TOTAL	\$44,285

TASK 2: DATA COLLECTION AND MAINTENANCE

DESCRIPTION

The maintenance of current socio-economic data, land use, and transportation system characteristics on a current basis is necessary to compare and evaluate existing conditions in relation to assumptions and forecasts made in developing transportation plans. The determination of the magnitude and pattern of growth is essential in updating the overall transportation plan and in the scheduling of priority projects in the Transportation Improvement Program. The purpose of this task is to collect various data that is to be used in the transportation planning process. The data and information collected is used to identify needed modifications to short range and long range transportation plans to reflect current conditions.

WORK TASK

1. Monitor local land use plans, subdivision and zoning regulations and other regulations that affect traffic, transit, and freight movement.
2. Monitor zoning changes, new subdivision activities, and construction activities.
3. Monitor traffic accident data in the study area to be used in the transportation planning process.
4. Monitor traffic data for the study area in cooperation with AHTD.
5. Monitor of intermodal activities for transportation planning purposes.
6. Monitor population changes within the Study Area.
7. Monitor activities such as transit ridership, financial cost of providing transit service, and maintenance activities.
8. Monitor the employment trends in terms of locations of places of employment.
9. Collect and analyze data as it relates to Environmental Justice.

END PRODUCT

1. Products from this task include the update and maintenance of population, land use, and socio-economic data.
2. Maintenance of current in-house data base.

Cooperating Agencies: SARPC, AHTD, FHWA, FTA, and local governments.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	COMPLETION	FUNDING	
Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission	On-going	FEDERAL	\$11,673
		LOCAL	\$ 2,918
		TOTAL	\$14,591

TASK 3: SHORT RANGE PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

DESCRIPTION

The staff will continue to provide technical assistance to local governments in their planning process as it relates to the MPO 3-C transportation planning process. We will assist local governments in preparing and administering Enhancement, Trail, Safe Routes to Schools and other transportation grants as requested. We will also provide assistance to AHTD concerning bridge, pavement, and safety management systems where needed, as SAFTEA-LU requires an evaluation of the operation and management issues in the transportation planning process and the development of strategies to address the issues. The management System includes the Intermodal Transportation Facilities and System, Safety Management System, Congestion Management System, Pavement and Bridge Management Systems, and Public Transportation Management System. Our agency will be working with the local governmental units to identify the problems under each management system category and develop solutions to address the problems. The staff will also review, update, and amend if necessary current/new plans and programs.

WORK TASK

1. Assist local governments in their review of private/public sector related transportation projects for compliance with and impact on the Transportation Plan.
2. Assist local government in their review of subdivision, commercial, and industrial developments and public and semi-public developments that affect the Transportation Plan.
3. Assist local governments in preparing/administering Enhancement, Trail, Safe-Routes-to-School, and other transportation-oriented grants.
4. Provide technical assistance to the Cities of Pine Bluff and White Hall, and Jefferson County in conducting traffic analysis of high accident locations and recommend solutions.
5. Provide technical assistance to develop solutions to local spot time congestion locations on the existing local street network.
6. Provide technical assistance to the local governments in developing a system to inventory and prioritize local maintenance programs for local streets.
7. Collect bridge information from the State to assist local governments in their monitoring of bridges.
8. Monitor truck and freight movement for the purpose of evaluating the most efficient movement of goods and freight throughout the Study Area.
9. Assist local governments in preserving transportation facilities and corridors.
10. Review the transportation corridors serving the railroad gravity yard, river port and airport in terms of meeting their transportation needs.
11. Assist Pine Bluff Transit and other public agencies in monitoring transportation programs to identify policy changes that can be implemented to improve the efficiency of transit service.
12. Assist local governments in updating Functional Classification maps to current federal guidelines.

13. Review and comment on the Statewide Public Transportation Coordination Plan: 2012 Update being prepared by AHTD.
14. Prepare amendments to the 2013-2016 TIP if needed.
15. Initiate research and training for establishment of national performance measures.

END PRODUCT

1. Enhancement, Trails, Safe Routes to Schools and/or other transportation-oriented grants as requested.
2. Documents related to short range plan objectives as requested by the Policy Committee.
3. Transportation system improvement recommendations as needed.
4. Amendments to the 2013 – 2016 TIP if needed.
5. Annual Report showing accident, congestion, bridge, and other current traffic and transportation information.

Cooperating Agencies: SARPC, AHTD, FHWA, FTA, and local governments.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	COMPLETION	FUNDING	
Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission	June 2013	FEDERAL	\$40,172
		LOCAL	<u>\$ 10,043</u>
		TOTAL	<u>\$50,215</u>

TASK 4: LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

DESCRIPTION

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) must continuously be re-examined to determine what parts of the plan need to be changed to better reflect the Urban Area's current and future transportation needs. To this end, this task will also involve evaluating the work conducted under the other tasks of the UPWP to determine if the Plan meets the needs of the Study Area. Review of local government's policies and practices that have a bearing on the implementation of the Transportation Plan and the adoption of the 2035 Transportation Plan by the Cities of Pine Bluff and White Hall will also be undertaken as part of this task.

WORK TASK

1. Evaluate the various sections of the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to determine if minor modifications need to be made to the plan. The 2035 Plan is based upon SAFETEA-LU. The Plan will be evaluated and amended as needed and required by SAFETEA-LU.
2. Evaluate the MTP in light of new legislation that may occur.
3. Review the functional street classification in terms of identifying the growth taking place within and on the fringe of the Study Area.
4. Implement short term priorities set forth in the Bicycle Plan.
5. Identify and consult with local/State land use management, natural resource, recreation, historic, and other agencies in the continued development of a trail system in the Urban area.
6. Work with AHTD and local governments to coordinate and facilitate ITS deployment projects that meet the criteria of the adopted ITS Regional Architecture.
7. Review operations planning and operations performance measures.

END PRODUCT

1. Maintenance of data and in-house files concerning monitoring of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
2. Production of other documents relating to the MTP as may be requested by the Policy Committee or that may occur from implementation of facets of the 2035 MTP.

Cooperating Agencies: SARPC, AHTD, FHWA, FTA, and local governments.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	COMPLETION	FUNDING	
Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission	June 2013 ²	FEDERAL	\$18,118
		LOCAL	\$ 4,530
		TOTAL	\$22,648

TASK 5 SPECIAL PROJECTS

DESCRIPTION

The objective of this task is to further the goals and objectives of the transportation planning process through special studies undertaken by MPO staff or consultants in support of existing or projected transportation-related needs and opportunities. The City of Pine Bluff’s transit system (PBT) and the Area Agency on Aging’s transit system (SEAT) are the two transit providers in the Study Area, and SARPC is available to provide planning, management, and technical assistance on an as-needed basis to the two providers. The City of Pine Bluff recently passed a tax initiative to provide financial resources for a variety of capital improvement projects in all City Departments. SARPC serves on the staff committee to refine the projects and determine costs and implementation. The staff will provide assistance in planning for the capital improvement projects that affect the street system, transit, intermodal, or other transportation-oriented project.

WORK TASK

1. Assist member governments in developing regional policy and funding that encourages, supports, and implements projects that promote fully integrated “Complete Streets”, with streetscapes and roadways that are safe and welcoming for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and vehicular traffic.
2. Assist in the development of a new Scenic Byway along the Highway 79 North route, which may include grant preparation.
3. Provide other planning and technical assistance to the City’s Transit System and the Area Agency on Aging as requested.
4. Review FTA Section 5307, 5310, 5316 and 5317 grant applications.
5. Assist in downtown trolley service plan/implementation.
6. Assist the City of Pine Bluff in planning transportation-oriented projects for implementation through the City’s recently passed tax initiative.

END PRODUCT

1. Quarterly reports on activities that have taken place.
2. Documents prepared as a result of work tasks.

Cooperating Agencies: SARPC, AHTD, FHWA, FTA, local governments, PBT & other transit providers,

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	COMPLETION	FUNDING	
A. Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission	June 2013	FEDERAL	\$15,609
		LOCAL	<u>\$ 3,902</u>
		TOTAL	\$19,511
B. Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission	June 2013	FEDERAL (FTA 5307)	\$24,000
		LOCAL	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
		TOTAL	\$30,000

2013 UPWP FINANCIAL SUMMARY

It is anticipated that in order to complete the work tasks as described in the UPWP, \$145,000 in PL and FTA funds will be required. The following table indicates the estimated cost by work task in order to complete each task.

TASKS	PL & FTA FEDERAL	LOCAL	TOTAL
TASK 1: Administration and Management	\$ 35,428	\$ 8,857	\$44,285
TASK 2: Data Collection and Maintenance	\$ 11,673	\$ 2,918	\$14,591
TASK 3: Short Range Planning and Technical Assistance	\$ 40,172	\$ 10,043	\$50,215
TASK 4: Long Range Planning	\$ 18,118	\$ 4,530	\$22,648
TASK 5: A. Special Studies	\$ 15,609	\$ 3,902	\$19,511
B. Special Transit Planning (FTA Section 5307 Funds)	\$ 24,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 30,000
TOTALS	\$145,000	\$36,250	\$181,250

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ADOPTION

RESOLUTION
ADOPTION OF THE FY2013 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee was established for the purpose of providing policy guidance for the Pine Bluff Area Transportation Study planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee met on May 23, 2012 to review and discuss the FY2013 Unified Planning Work Program for the area.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Policy Committee hereby adopts the recommended FY2013 PBATS Unified Planning Work Program.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF MAY, 2012.

CARL. A. REDUS, CHAIRMAN

JERRE GEORGE, STUDY DIRECTOR