

FY 2024 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EXPENDITURES REPORT

Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
Metropolitan Planning Organization

August 31, 2024

Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission serves as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Pine Bluff Area Transportation Study (PBATS).

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, SARPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion, or disability, in the admission, access to and treatment in SARPC's programs and activities, as well as SARPC's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the SARPC's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Larry Reynolds, Director/Study Director, and 1300 Ohio, Suite B, Pine Bluff, AR 71601 (870) 534-4247 or the following email address: sarpc1@cablelynx.com. This notice will be made available from the SARPC office in large print, on audiotape and in braille upon request.

Pine Bluff Area Transportation Study (PBATS) Organization

The Pine Bluff Area Transportation Study Area (PBATS) Program was initiated in 1967 in accordance with the Federal Highway Act of 1962. The intent of the program was to provide a network of transportation facilities capable of providing safe, convenient, effective, and efficient movement of goods and persons throughout the urbanized portion of Jefferson County. Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission was designated by the Governor as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for PBATS.

MPO administration and support are provided by Larry Reynolds, Study Director; Brittany Haynes, Office Manager; the MPO Policy Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee. The MPO Policy Committee is responsible for providing guidance and setting policies for the PBATS program. The Technical Advisory Committee which is comprised of persons concerned with area-wide transportation planning and is responsible for providing technical assistance in the collection and evaluation of data.

The following tables identify the members of the Policy and Technical Advisory Committees for FY 2024:

POLICY COMMITTEE	
REPRESENTATIVES	NAME AND TITLE
Jefferson County	Gerald Robinson, County Judge Vacant., Quorum Court Member
Pine Bluff	Shirley Washington, Mayor Bruce Lockett, Alderman
White Hall	Noel Foster, Mayor Scott Ray, Alderman
Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Comm.	Ken Smith, PBATS Vice Chairman
ArDOT	Drew Hoggard, District 2 Engineer Sunny Farmahan, Senior Transportation Planner
Economic Development Alliance of Jefferson County	Allison (J.H.) Thompson, President

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVES	NAME AND TITLE
Jefferson County	Ricky Bullard County Road Supervisor
Pine Bluff	Tom Bennett, PB Street Manager Cassandra Shaw, Transit Director Vacant, Traffic Division, PBPD
White Hall	Noel Foster, Mayor
Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission	Larry Reynolds, Executive Director
ArDOT	Brian Sweeney, District Construction Engineer Anthony Hunter, Transportation Planner
Pine Bluff Airport Commission	Doug Hale, Airport Manager
Pine Bluff – Jefferson County Port Authority	Nancy McNew, Alliance Vacant, Union Pacific Railroad
Federal Highway Administration	Valera McDaniel, Transportation Planning Coordinator
Office of Emergency Management	Karen Blevins, Coordinator
Area Agency on Aging - SEAT	Kathy Tynes, AAA Director

This report is arranged following the program and activities as outlined in the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program in accordance with Federal regulations in effect at the time of the FY2024 UPWP adoption.

44.21 PROGRAM SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION

Comparison of Goals to Performance

This UPWP project comprised 11 categories of work resulting in 13 end products. In cooperation with ArDOT, local governmental agencies, public transit agencies and interested citizens PBATS coordinated meetings with the MPO Policy Board. Various staff activities undertaken during FY 2024 include: 1) financial management, 2) administration, 3) records maintenance, 4) document preparation, 5) staff training, 6) community training, 7) Technology Upgrades, 8) Public Participation Plan documentation, 9) planning assistance, and 10) Intergovernmental review.

Results of these actions include a) audit report - pending, b) financial and performance reports – a minimum of quarterly, c) FY 2025 UPWP, d) website maintenance, e) planning assistance, and f) Annual Performance and Expenditure report (APER).

Comparison of Budget to Actual Cost

	Federal Share	Local Share	Total
Budget (PL 5307 Funds)	\$33,831.00	\$8,458.00	\$42,289.00
Actual Expenditure	\$29,122.54	\$7,280.63	\$36,403.17

> Budgeted cost deficit / excess

The amount of excess funds to be carried over is \$ 5,885.83. Pending ArDOT and Policy Board approval, these funds will be carried over and programmed in the FY2025 UPWP to be utilized for 44.23 Long Range Planning and the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

> Work revisions

There were no work revisions approved by the Policy Board

> Supporting data

Additional data provided in quarterly reports.

44.22 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Four tasks were defined in this project. These include map review and updating, GIS development, socioeconomic and land use data review, land use and transportation planning coordination.

City maps and MTP area maps were reviewed and updated. Traffic counts were reviewed for intersections, transportation planning review and 2045 MTP maintenance. Coordination of ArcGIS mapping programs with Office of Emergency Services was continued. Demographics and census data were reviewed by staff during FY 2024 along with 2020 decennial census data and updates provided through the American Community Survey. Building permits (both construction and demolition) were evaluated for the City of Pine Bluff and as occurring for the City of White Hall. County data was evaluated monthly; however, since the county has no building permit process, staff relied on the County Office of Emergency Management's list of new and removed addresses (9-1-1 database) and then verified with the County Health Department. Staff conducted reviews of crash and accident data provided through the Arkansas Crash Analytic Tool (ACAT) made available through ArDOT.

Comparison of Budget to Actual Cost

	Federal Share	Local Share	Total
Budget (PL 5307 Funds)	\$29,771.00	\$7,443.00	\$37,214.00
Actual Expenditure	\$22,690.80	\$5,672.70	\$28,363.50

> Budgeted cost deficit / excess

The amount of excess funds to be carried over is \$ 8,850.50. Pending ArDOT and Policy Board approval, these funds will be carried over and programmed in the FY2025 UPWP to be utilized for 44.23 Long Range Planning and the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

> Work revisions

There were no work revisions approved by the Policy Board

> Supporting data

Additional data provided in quarterly reports.

44.23 LONG RANGE PLANNING

Staff coordinated with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) to update and maintain the 2045 MTP throughout the fiscal year. The 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) plan adopted in September of 2020 was amended in March 2021 and also amended in December of 2022 to incorporate changes in the Transportation Improvement Plan and Performance Measures. Projects included were evaluated to determine if change in rankings were needed.

On-going meetings were held with local officials to begin work on a Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan for the MPO area. A separate Trails group was formed focusing on off-road systems. Additional meetings were held with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) following submittal of their report. Discussions were held with staff from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission on a Bayou Bartholomew Recreational Trails design.

With Pine Bluff Transit (PBT) transitioning from an Urban to a Rural agency SEARPC held discussions on coordination between PBT and Southeast Arkansas Transportation in an attempt to ensure no area within the MPO area is left out of public transportation availability. Coordination is still on-going with both local agencies, ArDOT and FTA Region VI officials during this transition period. Our agency continues to assist Pine Bluff Transit with closing open grants and carryover funding issues.

SEARPC continues to participate through ArDOT with all in-state MPO's to facilitate a more coordinated and consistent transportation planning process state-wide.

Staff continued research and involvement with a Complete Street plan development through webinars participation and plan review.

Comparison of Budget to Actual Cost

	Federal Share	Local Share	Total
Budget (PL 5307 Funds)	\$20,298.00	\$5,278.00	\$25,576.00
✚ Complete Street Plan.	\$ 4,060.00	\$ 812.00	\$ 4,872.00
Total Budget (PL 5307)	\$ 24,358.00	\$ 6,090.00	\$ 30,448.00
Actual Expenditure	\$ 21,468.32	\$ 5,367.08	\$26,835.40

✚ 2% of allocated funding directed toward Complete Street Policy

> Budgeted cost deficit / excess

The amount of excess funds to be carried over is \$ 3,612.60. Pending ArDOT and Policy Board approval, these funds will be carried over and programmed in the FY2025 UPWP to be utilized for 44.23 Long Range Planning and the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

> Work revisions

There were no work revisions approved by the Policy Board

> Supporting data

Additional data provided in quarterly reports.

44.24 SHORT RANGE PLANNING

Tasks identified for FY2024 were divided among three separate categories: 1) Traffic Monitoring and Analysis, 2) Traffic Congestion and Safety Planning, and 3) Public Transportation, Goods Movement and Intermodal Planning. Traffic data, including street traffic counts, accidents and publicly identified intersection issues were reviewed and analyzed and compared to future transportation plans. The TIP and MTP projects lists were examined for correlation with the new data. SEARPC continued its participation and involvement in the Arkansas Highway Safety Improvement Program.

SEARPC continues the coordinated development of code amendments and land uses in the program area. All new local land use development is coordinated through our office utilizing site plan review. Staff reviewed all new developments (commercial) through the plan review process for projects within the MPO area and continues to write reviews and recommendations for Pine Bluff and White Hall Planning Commissions.

Transit related activities include assistance with Pine Bluff Transit’s claims, operations coordination, grant management and carryover assistance. Ridership reviews were conducted at both Pine Bluff Transit and Southeast Arkansas Transportation (SEAT).

Comparison of Budget to Actual Cost

	Federal Share	Local Share	Total
Budget (PL 5307 Funds)	\$36,537.00	\$ 9,134.00	\$45,671.00
Actual Expenditure	\$31,670.27	\$7,917.57	\$39,587.84

> Budgeted cost deficit / excess

The amount of excess funds to be carried over is \$ 6,083.16. Pending ArDOT and Policy Board approval, these funds will be carried over and programmed in the FY2025 UPWP to be utilized for 44.23 Long Range Planning and the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

> Work revisions

There were no work revisions approved by the Policy Board

> Supporting data

Additional data provided in quarterly reports.

44.25 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This work task includes the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) development, project selection, plan monitoring and publication of the Annual List of Obligated Projects (ALOP). This category relies heavily on coordination with ArDOT for development of the Transportation Improvement Program. Information for the 2025-2028 TIP was developed and provided to the MPO's. Working with ArDOT a preliminary project list was updated for inclusion in the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan. The 2023-2026 TIP was completed and adopted in December of 2022 (2nd quarter of FY2023) with amendments adopted in March 2023. Resolutions were prepared and adopted amending the 2023-26 TIP in FY2024 with regard to the PM1 Safety Performance Measures adopting ArDOT's 2024 Safety Performance Targets and Pine Bluff Transit carryover funding.

The 2023 Annual List of Projects (ALOP) was prepared and published.

Comparison of Budget to Actual Cost

	Federal Share	Local Share	Total
Budget (PL 5307 Funds)	\$10,826.00	\$2,706.00	\$13,535.00
Actual Expenditure	\$7,237.15	\$1,809.29	\$9,046.44

> Budgeted cost deficit / excess

The amount of excess funds to be carried over is \$ 4,485.56. Pending ArDOT and Policy Board approval, these funds will be carried over and programmed in the FY2025 UPWP to be utilized for 44.23 Long Range Planning and the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

> Work revisions

There were no work revisions approved by the Policy Board

> Supporting data

Additional data provided in quarterly reports.

**PINE BLUFF AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
FY2024
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EXPENSE REPORT
SUMMARY**

Work Element	2024 UPWP Budget	2024 UPWP Cost	Variance (1)
44.21 Program Support and Administration	\$ 42,289.00	\$ 36,403.17	\$ 5,885.83
44.22 General Development and Comprehensive Planning	\$ 37,214.00	\$ 28,363.50	\$ 8,850.50
44.23 Long Range Planning	\$ 30,448.00	\$ 26,835.40	\$ 3,612.60
44.24 Short Range Planning	\$ 45,671.00	\$ 39,587.84	\$ 6,083.16
44.25 Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 13,535.00	\$ 9,046.44	\$ 4,485.56

(1) Represents additional local funding provided by SARPC.

Total FY2023 UPWP Actual Cost \$ 140,236.35

Total FY2023 UPWP Federal share \$ 112,189.08

Total FY2022 UPWP Local share \$ 28,047.27

**FY2024
Federal Funds Remaining**

Budget	Federal Share	Federal Share Reimbursed	Federal Share Remaining
\$169,154.00	\$135,323.00	\$112,189.08	\$23,133.92

Annual Performance and Expense Report Summary

