

**JONESBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FY 2015 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EXPENDITURE  
REPORT**



**JONESBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
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**JONESBORO METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

City of Bay  
City of Bono  
City of Brookland  
City of Jonesboro  
Craighead County  
Jonesboro Economical Transportation System  
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department  
Federal Highway Administration  
Federal Transit Administration

August 4, 2015

This year has been a year of transition for the Jonesboro MPO. The Staff has experienced significant change and the MPO committees have seen some new faces. Marsha Guffey and Travis Brooks left the MPO in August 2014 and Patrick Dennis and Erica Tait were hired to carry on the vision and operation of the organization. Patrick resigned in April 2015, and the Policy Committee appointed Erica Tait as Director. Jonathan Smith, currently a Master of Public Administration student at Arkansas State University, was hired as the MPO Intern in May 2015, and Emmily Tiampati was hired as the Assistant MPO Planner in July 2015. In addition to staff changes, a new Mayor, Dan Shaw of Bono, joined the Policy Committee. Also, Antoino Johnson joined the Technical Committee as the transportation planner for Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

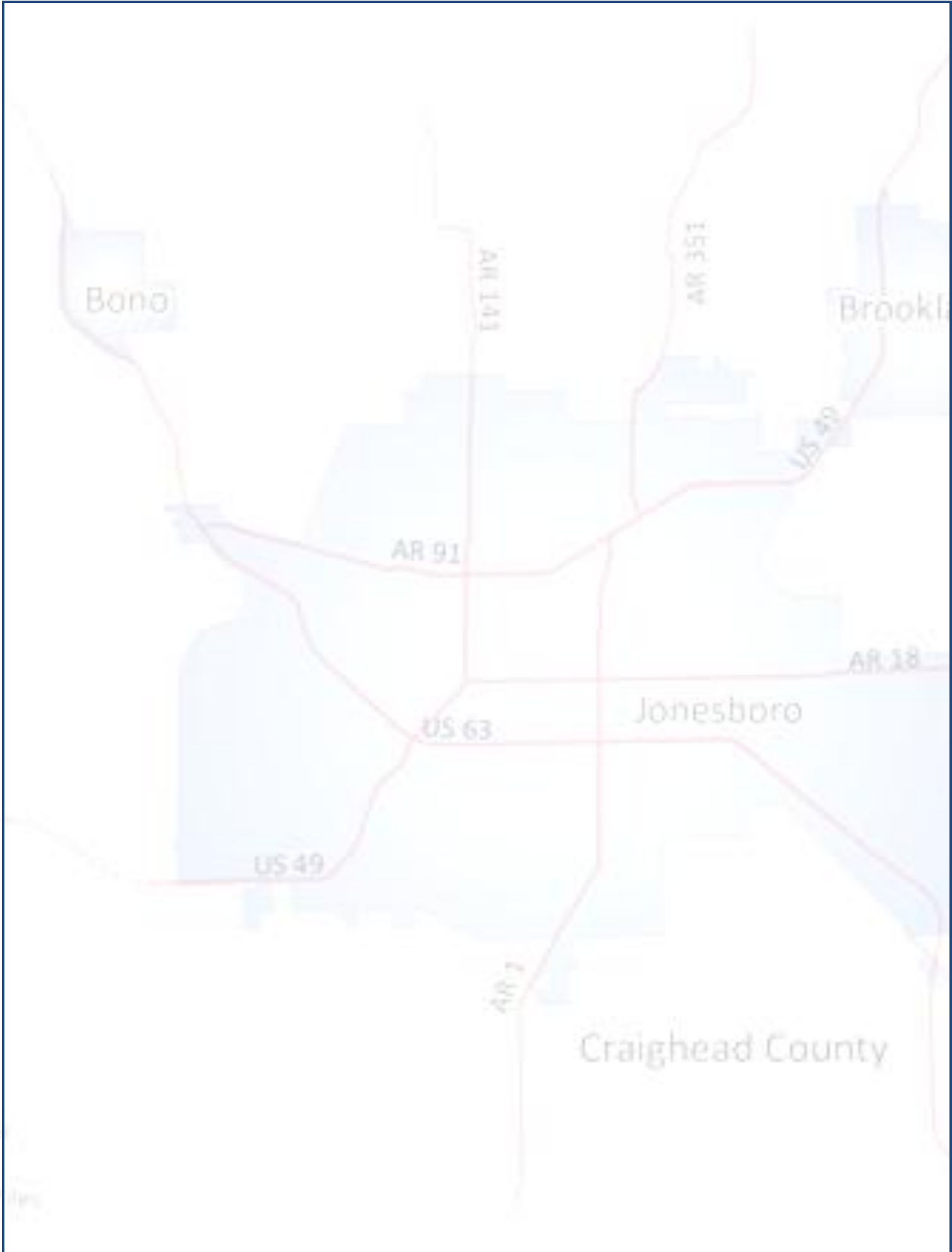
In the midst of personnel changes there has been significant progress including an increased emphasis on regional goals and increased partnerships in order to maximize transportation planning. The monthly progress reports sent to AHTD reveal a year of growth, learning, long term planning, and public outreach. The Public Participation Plan was revised in order to further specify public outreach tactics and procedures. We have conducted several community workshops in preparation for the long term plan update. We have analyzed data from the Bicycle/Pedestrian studies and Community Values Survey, which were completed in early 2015. We have also studied census data and trends in order to include the most recent data in our long term plan update.

Even though we have experienced much transition, we are moving forward with the long term plan in excitement and anticipation. Moving forward would not have been possible without the support of the MPO Policy Committee, the assistance of previous and present MPO Staff members, the Metropolitan Planning Coordination Office of AHTD, and great City of Jonesboro staff.

Sincerely,



Erica Tait  
Director



## FY 2015 UPWP TASKS

### **TASK 1.0 ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

*The objective of this task is to coordinate transportation planning activities at the MPO level with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), publicly owned transit services, and constituent members in the Jonesboro Metropolitan Planning Area. Records of all activities needed for the comprehensive, coordinated, and continuing transportation planning process will be maintained. The Jonesboro MPO will serve as a liaison between the MPO communities, transportation providers, abutting regions, government agencies, and the general public on transportation-related matters and assist with securing federal and state funding to perform transportation planning in the Jonesboro Metropolitan Planning Area.*

*This task includes general study coordination and direction, preparation of the UPWP, and preparation of expenditure and progress reports. The MPO staff, Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee members will participate in conferences, seminars, training workshops, webinars and meetings to keep acquainted with the latest regulations and techniques in the transportation planning field.*

*This task also includes limited general technical assistance for member governments (support letters, research on funding matters, etc.).*

### **WORK PERFORMED AND STATUS:**

- All routine products such as the monthly progress and expenditure reports were produced in a timely fashion, including the Annual List of Projects (published December 2014), the FY 2016 Unified Planning and Work Program (approved by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration on June 11, 2015), and the FY 2014 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (submitted to AHTD). Records of all activities were maintained and organized as needed.
- Technical assistance and consultation was provided to member governments as needed.
- Staff regularly attended meetings of the JETS Community Advisory Board and met with JETS administration regarding various projects and the construction of the regional multi-modal central transfer station. Some Policy Committee members, along with MPO Staff, attended the Arkansas Transportation Planning Conference in April 2015.
- The MPO Staff participated in a variety of in-person and on-line training sessions, including the following topics:
  - Sessions at the APA National Conference
  - Sessions at the Arkansas Transportation Conference

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- Sessions at the Arkansas Summer Municipal League Convention
  - AAHSTO: Census Transportation Planning Package
  - REMI: Federal Highway Trust Fund Bust
  - How to Create a Bicycle Safety Action Plan: Planning for Safety
  - Promoting Health Through the Planning Process
  - America Walks: Why Walking?
  - America Walks: Building Your Fundraising Leadership Towards Walkable Communities
  - Bike Walk Alliance: Examining Biking and Walking through a Racial Justice Lens
  - National RTAP: Title VI Requirements
  - FHWA and FTA: Planning Emphasis Areas
  - FHWA: Performance Measures Beyond the Mainstream
  - FHWA: Let's Talk Performance: Theory vs. Practice
  - VOLPE: Transportation and the Economy
  - ASCE: Traffic Impact Studies
  - ASCE: Pavement Preservation
  - Traffic Calming: Best Practices and Recent Trends
  - Prevent Accidents and Traffic Delays
  - Beyond Traffic Virtual Session-How We Move
  - FHWA: Talking Freight-MAP-21 Provisions
  - SURTC: Ethics in Transit Decision-Making

## **TASK 2.0 DATA DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

*The objective of this task is to develop and update the data needed for transportation planning. Data from Census 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS), and the Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP), among other sources, will be used by the MPO and local governments to prepare and revise comprehensive plans. The data will also be used for scenario planning and other uses in development of the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.*

*Update the functional classification maps, which incorporated the 2010 Census-defined urbanized area and reflected the urban development anticipated over the next 20 years was completed in 2013. Additionally, a traffic report was compiled utilizing ten years of traffic count data. Analysis of crash data from 2010-present will be performed, with emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle crashes. These sources and others will be used to develop the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.*

### **WORK PERFORMED AND STATUS:**

- **CENSUS 2010/ACS**

Demographic data and information has been compiled from the Census 2010, ACS, and other sources in preparation for the 2040 MTP. MPO Staff continue to review and revise data and various data sets for inclusion in the MTP update. Analysis of crash data is currently under way.

- **GIS MAPS**

MPO Staff began working on updates to current MPO maps for inclusion in the long term plan. Updates and revisions are still in process and MPO Staff are working to create maps that reflect various aspects of census data (i.e. household income, vehicles available, etc.) so they can be included in the most recent plan update.

- **SCENARIO PLANNING**

Due to staff transitions and the lack of various necessary data, the MPO did not engage in Scenario Planning. The MPO Staff is currently working on creating a database that will address several data gaps that may be used in the future for scenario planning.

### **TASK 3.0 SHORT RANGE PLANNING**

*The objective of this task is to maintain and update the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as needed, as well as complete the FY 2016-2019 TIP. In addition, the Jonesboro MPO will carry out, facilitate, and assist with various planning studies to explore the need for other projects to be included in the MTP or TIP.*

*The current transportation bill, MAP-21, requires the development of performance measures on safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability, transit safety and transit asset management, and reduction of project delivery delays. The MPO staff will monitor and review federal performance rule-making, coordinate the development of performance measures and targets with AHTD, and assist JETS with the development of transit performance targets.*

*Jonesboro MPO staff will continue providing technical assistance regarding development of the Future Land Use Plan. The MPO will also take the lead in preparing the City of Jonesboro's Master Street Plan in order to better coordinate the results with the MPO's functional classification map, TIP and MTP. As part of the Master Street Plan process, the MPO will develop a bicycle and pedestrian plan, which can be expanded as needed for the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The MPO will coordinate the work of consultants to develop bicycle-pedestrian safety plans for Johnson Avenue from Main Street to Caraway Road and Downtown Jonesboro.*

*New funds are available to local governments as a result of the ½ cent sales tax approved by voters during the 2012 general election and the State Aid Street Fund. The MPO will provide technical assistance to develop new projects from these sources as well as other projects that have previously been identified. The MPO will provide technical assistance as needed on the following projects, among others:*

#### *City of Jonesboro*

- *Commerce Drive*
- *Highway 18/Nettleton Railroad Grade Separation*
- *Assist Jonesboro staff as needed in developing rail corridor plan*

#### *Craighead County*

- *Replacement of UP railroad overpass on CR 108/Strawfloor Drive*

#### *City of Brookland*

- *Widening of West School Street between US 49 and US 49B*
- *Development of bicycle trail from Jonesboro to Paragould*

### **WORK PERFORMED AND STATUS:**

- **TIP**

The MPO Policy Committee approved several amendments to the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program, including an amendment for a grade separation at Highland (US 18) and Nettleton, an amendment for pedestrian overpasses, and an amendment for funding the JETS Central Transfer Station. The proposed project list for the FY2016-2019 TIP has been revised to reflect updated project scopes/descriptions, construction estimates, and MPO area funding projections. Since AHTD is currently



finalizing the STIP projects and funding projections, no formal draft of the TIP has been presented to the Policy Committee for approval. It is estimated that additional information will be available regarding the STIP and statewide funding in the fourth quarter of 2015.

- **MAP-21**

The MPO Staff monitored progress, and participated in webinars and trainings regarding performance measures and rule-making. Though all of the final rules are not yet published, MPO Staff has been working closely with AHTD to stay abreast of updates.

- **FUTURE LAND USE AND MASTER STREET PLAN**

The MPO Staff provided consultation regarding the development of the Master Street Plan and the Land Use Plan. Due to staff transitions, the MPO did not finalize the previously formulated bicycle and pedestrian plan, but does seek to resume development of the plan after the completion of the long term plan update. The MPO worked diligently to coordinate with Lose & Associates, who completed the bicycle-pedestrian safety plans for Johnson Avenue (between S. Caraway and Main St.) and Downtown Jonesboro in March 2015.

- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

MPO Staff provided technical assistance on various projects including but not limited to Commerce Drive (relocation and expansion), Highway 18 Overpass, Innovative Bridge Project, and the JETS Central Transfer Station. MPO Staff also began meeting with other transit providers in the area (including NEAT and FOCUS) in order to better coordinate transit projects and funding in the region. MPO Staff also worked with the City of Jonesboro grants and parks departments to identify projects and funding.

#### **TASK 4.0 LONG RANGE PLANNING**

*The objective of this task is to maintain the Regional Intelligent Transportation System Plan developed in 2011, and to begin developing the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, due February 2016, as well as perform other long range planning activities as needed. Activities discussed under other tasks, for example, updating data post-2010 Census, and developing performance measures, will support the development of the MTP to meet the requirements of MAP-21. Appendix C contains a Gantt Chart and more detailed work plan about this process. Among the critical tasks are assessing community values, engaging the community, and using scenario planning to develop the metropolitan transportation plan. These elements of the UPWP are discussed further below.*

- **Assessing Community Values**

*Current best practices encourage the consideration of values in planning processes.*

*According to Envision Utah:*

*One of the biggest challenges in regional planning is developing and then building consensus around a regional vision and plan. Competing personalities, agendas and politics quickly begin to erode direction and momentum. A regional vision built upon the personal values of the people living in the region removes much of the personality and politics and provides critical legitimacy to the direction and priorities of the vision. It's not about doing what this person or that group wants; it's about doing what the people value most. Values research is used to identify and frame the issues to be included in the visioning process, select key scenario measurements, communicate choices, and explain the vision and its benefits in ways that are personally relevant and carry emotional impact.*

*To assess local values, a random survey will be conducted early in the process. The survey will also provide a gauge of how local values may compare with national values and trends on things like preferred transportation modes and housing preferences. A consultant has been selected for this task and survey administration will begin as soon as the contract is finalized.*

- **Community Engagement**

*Garnering effective public participation will be a major task in developing the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. For this reason, public participation and community engagement activities have been moved to Task 4.0 for this UPWP cycle. In order to provide a more effective means of outreach to the public, affected public agencies, private transportation providers, public transportation users, pedestrian and bicycling groups, and other interested parties, the MPO will develop its own website. The website and other means of social media and electronic engagement will be used to provide an opportunity for citizens to review, print, and comment upon all MPO documents and reports from the privacy of their homes and offices.*

*The new website will be the platform from which to launch additional on-line community engagement efforts that will assist in development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. A consultant has been engaged to conduct this work and the process will begin as soon as the contract is finalized. Additional advice on marketing efforts will be sought from a team of local experts, including Arkansas State University faculty with expertise in this area.*

- **Scenario Planning**

*MAP-21 encourages the use of scenario planning in development of metropolitan transportation plans. The values identified from the survey, as well as 2040 data projections will be used to create possible transportation and land use scenarios. Based on community reaction to the scenarios, more appropriate transportation infrastructure decisions can be made.*

- **ITS Architecture**

*The Regional ITS Architecture and Deployment Plan adopted in August 2011 requires update every five years, to conform with development of the metropolitan transportation plan. ITS stakeholders will be convened to determine if any changes should be made to the ITS Plan.*

#### **WORK PERFORMED AND STATUS:**

- **REGIONAL ITS SYSTEM**

Due to staff transitions, the update of the Regional ITS Plan was postponed until FY 2016. Currently, the plan is scheduled to be updated by May 2016.

- **2040 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The MPO Staff has continued to update census data and work on the development of performance measures in conjunction with AHTD. Staff has also discussed several ways in which to select criteria for project prioritization.

- **ASSESSING COMMUNITY VALUES**

A community values survey was designed and executed by ETC of Olathe, Kansas. The final report was provided to the MPO in November 2014. The report included details on transportation, housing, and quality of life preferences for the MPA. The MPO Staff has reviewed the survey data and included various aspects in the MTP update.

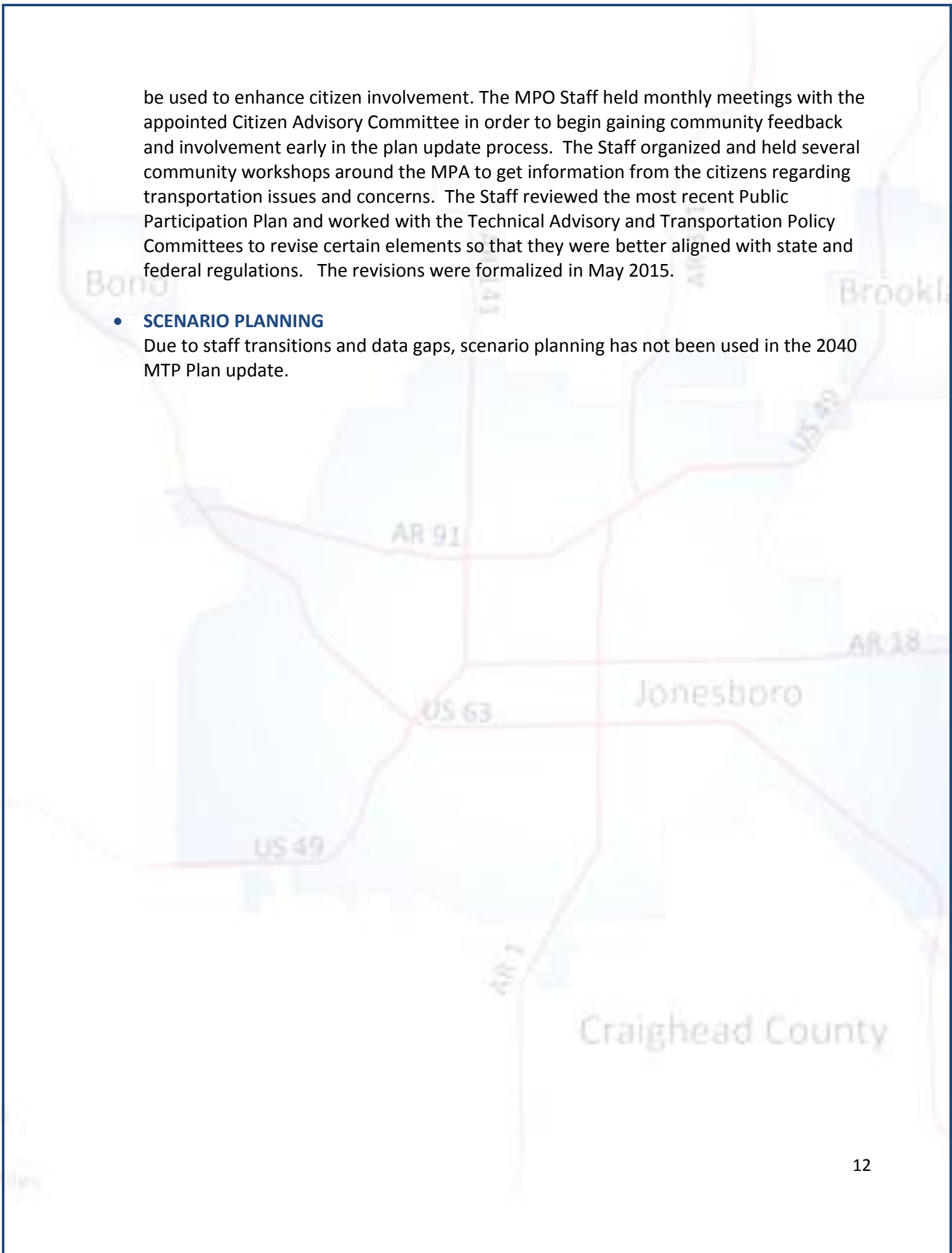
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

In efforts to increase and improve community engagement, the MPO developed a page on the new Civic Plus website that includes MPO publications, an MPO calendar and an Events and Notices section. Although no specific software for online engagement was purchased, the MPO Staff created Facebook and Twitter pages in order to increase public outreach, education, and involvement. In FY2016, tools like Survey Monkey will

be used to enhance citizen involvement. The MPO Staff held monthly meetings with the appointed Citizen Advisory Committee in order to begin gaining community feedback and involvement early in the plan update process. The Staff organized and held several community workshops around the MPA to get information from the citizens regarding transportation issues and concerns. The Staff reviewed the most recent Public Participation Plan and worked with the Technical Advisory and Transportation Policy Committees to revise certain elements so that they were better aligned with state and federal regulations. The revisions were formalized in May 2015.

- **SCENARIO PLANNING**

Due to staff transitions and data gaps, scenario planning has not been used in the 2040 MTP Plan update.



## **TASK 5.0 TRANSIT**

*The AHTD has recently completed the Arkansas Statewide Transit Coordination Plan. This plan outlines strategies to better coordinate transit services among public transit and human service transportation providers. The Jonesboro MPO will monitor existing transit coordination activities with JETS and other transit agencies. The MPO will assist the transit providers with the development of transit performance targets required by MAP-21.*

*The MPO works closely with JETS on a number of fronts, assisting with mapping, data analysis, attending meetings of the JETS Community Advisory Board, and meetings of J-TRIP, the coordinated public transportation group. The MPO will partner with JETS in producing an analysis of the economic benefits of the JETS system.*

### **WORK PERFORMED AND STATUS:**

- **COORDINATION**

The MPO Staff has been active in monitoring and encouraging transit coordination activities with JETS, Focus, and NEAT. Since final rules have not yet been issued, the Staff has not been able to assist transit providers with the development of transit performance targets required by MAP-21. Staff will continue to stay abreast of rule making so that when final rules are issued, they can aid local transit providers with the development of transit performance targets.

- **ECONOMIC BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

MPO Staff did not assist JETS with the formulation of an economic benefit analysis in FY2015. Going forward, the MPO will partner with JETS to conduct a regional transit study, identify needs, and assess services.

## FY 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

### TASK SUMMARY

UPWP TASK	Task Description	Amount Budgeted	Amount Expended	Balance	Percentage Expended
1.0	Administration and Management Activities	\$72,095.16	\$67,776.26	\$4,318.90	94%
2.0	Data Development and Maintenance	\$10,495.88	\$4,769.80	\$5,726.08	45%
3.0	Short-Range Planning	\$114,460.18	\$115,496.30	<b>-\$1,036.12</b>	100.1%
4.0	Long-Range Planning	\$80,826.60	\$24,612.62	\$56,213.98	30%
5.0	Transit Planning	\$11,730.09	\$2,194.32	\$9,535.77	19%
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$289,607.91</b>	<b>\$214,849.30</b>	<b>\$74,758.60</b>	<b>74%</b>

### COST-SHARE SUMMARY

UPWP TASK	Task Description	Federal Amount	Local Amount	Total
1.0	Administration and Management Activities	\$54,221.01	\$13,555.25	\$67,776.26
2.0	Data Development and Maintenance	\$3,815.84	\$953.96	\$4,769.80
3.0	Short-Range Planning	\$92,397.04	\$23,099.26	\$115,496.30
4.0	Long-Range Planning	\$19,690.01	\$4,922.61	\$24,612.62
5.0	Transit Planning	\$1,755.46	\$438.86	\$2,194.32
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$171,879.36</b>	<b>\$42,969.94</b>	<b>\$214,849.30</b>



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