The anniversaries of Metroplan and the Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) are inextricably linked: The LRAFB was a large catalyst in the formation of Metroplan.

Metroplan was initially named the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC).

Committee of 100
1955: Act 26 of 1955, An Act To Enable Political Subdivisions To Cooperate Jointly In Area Planning
1955: Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (Pulaski County) established

Initial Plans
1956: “Proposed Highway System”
1957: Preliminary Development Plan for Pulaski County
1957: “Plan for Half Million People”

Park Plans
1959: “A Plan for Burns Park”
1960s
In 1960, jets began flying into the Little Rock airport, Adams Field.

Major Plans
1962: “Industrial Growth Plan”
1962: Reflecting the federal emphasis on urban renewal programs, MAPC made an application to the Housing and Home Finance Agency for a federal grant to undertake urban renewal programs in central Arkansas.
1964: Comprehensive Development Plan
1965: “Adams Field Airport Plan”
1965: “Civil Defense Plan”
1966: Pulaski Area Transportation Study- Highway Transportation Plan and Implementation Program
MAPC Board recommends consolidating school districts in Pulaski County
Transit Planning Study: LR, NLR Area
1968: 1990 Comprehensive Development Plan

In 1966, Director Stuart Eurman left MAPC to organize and direct a similar regional council in Kansas City, MO, and Jason Rouby was hired in his place.
In 1970, MAPC reorganized as a council of local governments and changed its name to METROPLAN.

Open Space
1970: Published Open Space Plan and Program
1971: Partnered with Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects to create a park/open space design for the Pulaski County banks of the Arkansas River, which would become Riverfront Park.

The Environment
1977: Designated lead agency for water quality planning authorized by Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
1978: Designated lead agency for air quality and waste disposal planning

“A shift of emphasis to environmental areas brought Metroplan closer to establishment of an integrated planning program.”
—1978 Annual Report

In 1972, Metroplan became the trustee for Central Arkansas Transit.
1980s

Clean Water
In 1982 Fourche Creek Urban Runoff Project and Lake Maumelle Clean Lakes Project completed.

Time for Change
1980: Transition Plan for Metroplan and CAT developed
1988: Jason Rouby retired as Metroplan Director after 22 years of service. Rouby was replaced by Jim McKenzie
1988: CATA formally spun off
1989: Metroplan became the administrative agent for Pulaski County 911, managing and dispensing tax collections designated for 911 operations

Major Plans
1981: Published Maumelle Corridor Control Access Plan
1983: Proposed South Loop

Public Policy
1989: The Metroplan Board established a public policy research program. In its first year, the program published:
“An Analysis of State General Revenue Turnback in Arkansas”
“Jail Overcrowding in Pulaski County: A Preliminary Assessment”

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In 1991, Metroplan initiated its broadest reorganization since 1970

1991: Central Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (CARTS) replaced PATS (Pulaski Area Transportation Study)
Congress passed the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)
Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) formed

1995: METRO 2020 adopted, 1st post-ISTEA long-range transportation plan
1998: Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century replaces ISTEA

Public Policy
In the 1990s, Metroplan Board continued its public policy research program. Through the program, Metroplan published:
“Arkansas Local Government Tax Capacity”
“Metropolitan Regional Solid Waste Study”

Plans and Studies
1998: Access Management Plan for Hwy. 60/Dave Ward Drive approved
1999: Regional bikeway plan developed
1998 study completed

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1998 study completed

This new transportation bill, with its strong emphasis on comprehensive planning, provides us with tremendous challenges, but it also requires us to develop new planning capacities and to work cooperatively toward a common goal in entirely new ways.”

A lot has changed since this Little Rock photo from 1996.
In 2000, Metroplan received the National Award for Outstanding Leadership in Metropolitan Transportation Planning presented by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

**Plants and Studies**

2000: METRO 2025 was adopted.

The Vision and Goals were published:

1. Economic Growth
2. Equality of Access and Transportation Choice
3. Environmental Quality
4. Land Use
5. Quality Transportation Corridors
6. Funding Adequacy

2001: Rural Traffic Shed Management Study
Regional Arterial Network Study

2002: Incident Management Study adopted
Regional Arterial Network (RAN) Study completed by consultants

2004: South Loop study initiated
River Rail trolley system opened

2005: METRO 2030 adopted
Roadway analysis conducted for I-30 study
CARTS remained in attainment for air quality

2006: Riverdale Traffic Study Initiated
Alcoa Road Access Management Plan Adopted
South Loop Feasibility Study and Environmental Analysis Conducted

**2000s**

River Rail trolley system opened in 2004, spurring economic development on both sides of the river.
2000s
The initial meeting of small and large water systems took place in 2001. A few years later the group incorporated as the Mid-Arkansas Water Alliance, to “secure long-term sources of high-quality drinking water for its membership.”

Plans and Studies
2007: CARTS Design and Access Management Standards adopted
2008: I-630/I-430 Interchange Design Concept approved
    LR Airport Rail Study initiated
2009: Census tract and traffic zone boundaries approved for 2010 Census
    Operation Bottleneck undertaken
    I-630 Fixed Guideway Alignment Study consultant selected and scope of work developed

“Metroplan Council of Local Governments... provided leadership in bringing together our member jurisdictions.”

[Photo: Lake Maumelle. Coloradoguy.com.]
2010s

Arkansas River Trail
Memorandum of Understanding was signed on May 23, 2012.

The Arkansas River Trail
2006: Big Dam Bridge opened
2011: Two Rivers Park Bridge completed
2012: Memorandum of Understanding signed by 11 entities
2012: Metroplan and the Arkansas River Trail Task Force coordinated the design of a logo, Web site and signage.

Plans and Studies
2010: METRO 2030.2 adopted
    - Conway Transit Feasibility Study completed
2012: RAN Status Update published
    - Green Agenda adopted
    - CARTS study area expanded
    - The TAC was renamed RPAC (Regional Planning Advisory Council), and the focus of the upcoming Plan was broadened to include sustainability and housing.
2012: Pike Avenue Pedestrian/Bike Safety Study completed
2013: I-630 Fixed Guideway Study (light rail in central Arkansas)
2014: Livability Index was completed and designed as a Web site

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Riders lined up to cross the Big Dam Bridge to the MOU press conference.
Imagine Central Arkansas was adopted in December, 2014.

Imagine Central Arkansas and HUD Sustainability Grant

2011: Metropolitan received a Sustainable Communities grant from HUD (U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development)

The RPAC named the upcoming Long-Range Plan Imagine Central Arkansas

2012: Imagine Central Arkansas Partners (ICAP) was formed

Imagine Central Arkansas public outreach began

2013: Five Jump Start areas were chosen as part of the HUD grant (in Little Rock, Bryant, North Little Rock and Conway).

2014: Imagine Central Arkansas: Blueprint for a Sustainable Region was adopted by the Board on December 14, 2014

Fair Housing Equity Assessment completed

Vilonia and Mayflower were added as Jump Start projects

2015: Jump Start planning process completed

Imagine Central Arkansas

Imagine Central Arkansas

I imagine Central Arkansas...

More Public Transportation
In 2012, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) was signed into law. MAP-21 provides needed funds and will guide the growth and development of the country’s vital transportation infrastructure.

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21

**Major Construction Projects**

2011: North Little Rock and Conway roundabouts opened

2012: Widening I-40 to six lanes-Little Rock to Conway begun

- Widening U.S. Hwy 67 to six lanes-Jacksonville to Cabot begun
- Improvements to I-30 connecting Little Rock and North Little Rock planned
- Widening US Hwy 64 to four lanes - Conway to Beebe begun
- Widening of US Hwy 70 to four lanes between I-30 and Hot Springs planned

2013: South Loop Rail Grade Separation Completion

- Military Road Widening
- Levy Trail
- South Street Streetscape Benton
- Haskell Sidewalks

2014: Graham Road Widening

- Shillcutt Bayou Bridge
- Main and Harris Roundabout
- Widening Alcoa Road begun
- McCain Railgrade Separation begun
The name and the logo have gone through many changes over the last 60 years.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>Mr. Raymond Rebsamen</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>Mr. Raymond Rebsamen</td>
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<td>Mr. M.S. McCord</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Judge Jeff Arey</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Mayor Randy Holland</td>
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Metroplan Board 2015

**PRESIDENT**
Mayor Randy Holland
City of Mayflower

**VICE PRESIDENT**
Mayor Gary Fletcher
City of Jacksonville

**SECRETARY**
Mayor Art Brooke
City of Ward

**TREASURER**
Mayor Jill Dabbs
City of Bryant

Mr. David Twiggs
Hot Springs Village

Mayor Mark Stodola
City of Little Rock

Mayor Wayne McGee
City of Lonoke

Mayor Mike Watson
City of Maumelle

Mayor Joe Wise
City of Sheridan

Mayor Mark Stodola
City of Little Rock

Mayor Virginia Young
City of Sherwood

Mayor Michael Nash
City of Traskwood

Mayor Terry Don Robinson
City of Wooster

Mayor Mark Stodola
City of Little Rock

Mayor McKinzie L. Riley
City of Wrightsville

Mayor James Firestone
City of Vilonia

Judge Jim Baker
Faulkner County

Judge Kemp Nall
Grant County

Judge Doug Erwin
Lonoke County

Judge Barry Hyde
Pulaski County

Judge Jeff Arey
Saline County

Ms. Jessie Jones
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

Mr. Jarod Varner
CATA/Rock Region Metro

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City of Alexander

Mayor Bernadette Chamberlain
City of Austin

Mayor Bill Russell
City of Bauxite

Mayor David Mattingly
City of Benton

Mayor Bill Cypert
City of Cabot

Mayor David Graf
City of Cammack Village

Mayor Tab Townsell
City of Conway

Mayor Sammy Hartwick
City of Greenbrier

Mayor Janie Lyman
City of Haskell

Mayor Joe Wise
City of Sheridan

Mayor Virginia Young
City of Sherwood

Mayor Michael Nash
City of Traskwood

Mayor Terry Don Robinson
City of Wooster

Mayor McKinzie L. Riley
City of Wrightsville

Mayor James Firestone
City of Vilonia

Judge Jim Baker
Faulkner County

Judge Kemp Nall
Grant County

Judge Doug Erwin
Lonoke County

Judge Barry Hyde
Pulaski County

Judge Jeff Arey
Saline County

Ms. Jessie Jones
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

Mr. Jarod Varner
CATA/Rock Region Metro

“While it is always nice to reflect on the achievements of the past, the challenges of the future are pressing down on us today. As we rise to meet them, and I feel certain we will, the future of Central Arkansas looks bright indeed.”

—1995, Jim McKenzie, Executive Director
Metroplan Staff 2015

Jim McKenzie, AICP
Executive Director

Richard Magee, AICP
Deputy Director

Cindy Segebarth
Administrator

Casey Covington, PE, AICP
Transportation Engineer
CARTS Study Director

Lynn Bell
Graphics Specialist

Susan Dollar, AICP
Transportation Planner/
Title IV/ADA /504

Rebecca Dong
Staff Accountant

Hans Haustein
GIS Planner

Daniel Holland
Planner

Jonathan Lupton, AICP
Research Planner

Timothy Miles, CPCU, ARM
Risk Administrator

Jeff Runder
GIS Planner

Allen Skaggs
GIS/Planning Technician

Iris Woods
Receptionist