

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 25, 2021

Policy Members Present: Rosalyn Fry, City of Aztec
Jeanine Bingham-Kelly, City of Farmington
Sean Sharer, City of Farmington
Paul Brasher, NMDOT District 5
Glojean Todacheene, San Juan County
Steve Lanier, San Juan County

Policy Members Absent: Julie Baird, City of Farmington
George Walter, City of Bloomfield
Thomas Wethington, Town of Kirtland

Staff Present: Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
Kathryn Leys, MPO Associate Planner
June Markle, MPO Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Beth Escobar, City of Farmington
Hannah Grover, Farmington Daily Times
Michelle Truby, San Juan County

Chair Sharer reminded the members that, unless an objection is raised, all votes are presumed to be in the affirmative.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Sharer called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Sean Sharer and FMPO Staff attended in person; a roll call conducted showed the others listed above "present" via the GoToMeeting link.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 28, 2021 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioner Todacheene moved to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2021 Policy Committee meeting. Councilor Bingham-Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

3. QUARTERLY EDUCATION

Subject:	Quarterly Education:
Prepared by:	Kathryn Leys, Association MPO Planner
Date:	February 25, 2021

PRESENTATION

In 2020, the 30th anniversary for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was observed. To recognize this milestone, the MPO is sharing some questions and answers about ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

These questions and answers are provided to help FHWA and its State and local transportation department partners better understand roles and responsibilities to provide accessible transportation facilities under the ADA and Section 504 and explain the FHWA's position on the implementation of the ADA and Section 504.

Included in the packet is an edited version of these questions & answers. To access the complete Q&A's or see additional resources, including training opportunities, criteria for developing accessible facilities and, design guidelines visit:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/ada/ada_sect504qa.cfm.

PRESENTATION: Ms. Leys presented the quarterly education on the Americans With Disabilities Act. A summary of that presentation is below with more detail provided on Pages 2-8 of the Agenda:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
- Projects covered by ADA and those that considered “alterations”. These projects have the potential to affect the structure, grade, or use of the roadway or public right-of-way. If pedestrian facilities are required, they must be ADA accessible:
 - o Reconstruction
 - o Rehabilitation
 - o Widening
 - o Resurfacing
 - o Signal installation
- Projects not considered “alterations” are maintenance projects intended to preserve the system and maintain function:
 - o Pavement patching
 - o Filling potholes
 - o Shoulder repair
 - o Striping
 - o Minor signal upgrades
 - o Joint repair
- Transition Plans
 - o Employers with 50 or more employees must have a transition plan which is a schedule for providing accessibility where needed/required;
 - o Should be integrated in the TIP and STIP
 - o Improvements must be implemented unless cost is burdensome
- FHWA Oversight

Surface transportation projects under direct FHWA control:	Federally funded surface transportation projects that provide pedestrian facilities within the public right-of-way:	Pedestrian facilities within the public right-of-way, or any other FHWA enhancement project, regardless of funding source:	FHWA funded projects outside of the public right-of-way:
FHWA is responsible for ensuring that project planning, design, construction, and operations adequately address pedestrian access for people who have disabilities.	FHWA is responsible for ensuring that the public agencies' project planning, design, and construction programs provide pedestrian access for persons with disabilities.	FHWA is responsible for investigating complaints.	FHWA is responsible for ensuring that project planning, design, construction, and operations adequately address pedestrian access for people who have disabilities.

FHWA does not have ADA oversight responsibilities for projects outside of the public right-of-way that do not use federal surface transportation project funds. These projects are overseen by the DOT.

- Funding Sources for ADA Compliance

Federal Funding Opportunities for Pedestrian Projects and Programs																
ACTIVITY	NHS	STP	HSIP	RHC	TE	CMAQ	RTP	FTA	TrE	BRI	402	PLA	TCSP	FLH	BYW	SRTS
Pedestrian plan		*	*			*						*	*			
Paved shoulders	*	*	*	*	*	*				*			*	*	*	
Shared-use path/trail	*	*	*		*	*	*			*			*	*	*	*
Recreational trail							*							*		
Spot improvement program		*	*		*	*							*			*
Maps		*			*	*					*		*			*
Trail/highway intersection	*	*	*		*	*	*						*	*	*	*
Sidewalks, new or retrofit	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*			*	*	*	*
Crosswalks, new or retrofit	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*				*	*	*	*
Signal improvements	*	*	*	*	*	*							*			*
Curb cuts and ramps	*	*	*	*	*	*							*			*
Traffic calming		*	*	*									*			*
Safety brochure/book		*			*	*					*		*			*
Training	*	*	*		*	*	*				*		*			*

NHS National Highway System
 STP Surface Transportation Program
 HSIP Highway Safety Improvement Program
 RHC Railway-Highway Crossing Program
 TE Transportation Enhancement Activities
 CMAQ Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program
 RTP Recreational Trails Program
 FTA Federal Transit Capital, Urban & Rural Funds

TrE Transit Enhancements
 BRI Bridge (HBRRP)
 402 State and Community Traffic Safety Program
 PLA State/Metropolitan Planning Funds
 TCSP Transportation and Community and System Preservation Program
 FLH Federal Lands Highways Program
 BYW Scenic Byways
 SRTS Safe Routes to School

4. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

Planning Bureau – Joseph Moriarty

Mr. Moriarty was unable to attend the meeting.

District 5 – Paul Brasher

Mr. Brasher reported that District 5 has undertaken the rehabilitation of Murray Drive. The project is from milepost 0 to 3.5. The District added an additional 1.5 miles to take the rehabilitation up to Browning Parkway. They expect to complete the project by the first week in April.

NMDOT is also planning to mill and inlay US 550 between Bloomfield and Aztec. This project is expected to be completed before July.

The paperwork is being finalized to close out the last four miles of the \$35,000,000 widening project on US 64.

District 5 is hoping to receive some additional maintenance funds from the legislature this year. If received, some of those funds could be used on NM 170 just south of the Colorado border.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Subject:	Committee Member Discussion Items
Date:	February 25, 2021

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no additional discussion items provided by Policy Committee members for inclusion on the Agenda.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	FMPO Staff
Date:	February 25, 2021

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Proposed Changes to Delineating Metropolitan Statistical Areas.**
- b. **Farmington to Aztec Trail Proposal.**

- c. **Sidewalk Inventory/Map for MPO.** Staff is building a sidewalk inventory/map for the MPO. If there are projects or areas in the region that might benefit from inclusion or be helped in identifying potential work from this data, please let your Technical Committee member or FMPO staff know.

d. **No Policy Committee meeting in March.**

DISCUSSION:

Proposed Changes to Delineating Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Mr. Koepfel reported that the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) is considering changes to the 2010 standards for delineating metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. The following is a summary of his presentation and Committee's discussion:

Current

A metropolitan statistical area must contain a Census Bureau-delineated urban area with a population of 50,000 or more.

Proposed

The minimum urban area population to qualify as a metropolitan statistical area should be increased from 50,000 to 100,000

Both metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are composed of entire counties

Areas with a core of 50,000 to 99,999 population would become micropolitan statistical areas

- All of San Juan County is now the FMPO's metropolitan statistical area (MSA);
 - o Proposed change would change FMPO to a micropolitan statistical area;
- Rationale for making the changes:
 - o Been the standard since 1950;
 - o National population has increased;
 - o Change definition of an urbanized area to 100,000 population.
- What was urban in 1950 is likely still urban now;
- 144 (in 45 states) out of 392 MSAs in the nation could be impacted by change;
- The proposal is not designed to impact funding, but is solely for statistical purposes; however, OMB has not taken non-statistical uses for the change;
- Impact to future funding of the smaller MPOs needs to be considered;
- FMPO will send response to Federal Register to express concern and questioning the rationale for change (perhaps use as example for entities);
- For additional impact, Policy Committee will speak with their governing bodies to get their thoughts and, perhaps, consider drafting their own letters of concern;
- To date, comments submitted have been overwhelmingly negative;
- Responses to Federal Register are due by March 19, 2021.

Farmington to Aztec Trail Proposal

Mr. Koepfel said that the Technical Committee has been discussing the possible pursuit of federal funding for a recreational trail from Farmington to Aztec along the old decommissioned Denver/Rio Grande rail line. This proposed project would be contingent on potential federal funding becoming available this spring that the FMPO would seek. The project covers several jurisdictions and fits with the regional priorities of recreation and connectivity.

San Juan County and the City of Farmington have retained ownership of the right-of-way. Should funds become available and there is interest, the FMPO would submit a

joint application with the Cities of Aztec and Farmington and San Juan County (percentage based on land ownership).

The Policy Committee expressed their interest in this project and thought it would be a great investment in the community and helping to diversify the region's economy.

Sidewalk Inventory/Map for the FMPO

Ms. Leys is working on developing a sidewalk inventory/map of the FMPO area. The map would focus on sidewalk locations, gaps in current sidewalks, or new projects where having this type of inventory would be beneficial. More information and discussion on this project will be available as it moves forward.

No Policy Committee Meeting in March

The Committee members were reminded that there was no meeting in March.

7. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

There was no additional business from the Chairman, Members and Staff.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment on any issues not on the agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Brasher moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Bingham-Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Chair Sharer adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.



Sean Sharer, Policy Committee Chair



June Markle, Administrative Assistant