

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**July 8, 2020**

Technical Members Present: Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec  
Beth Escobar, City of Farmington  
Virginia King, City of Farmington  
Javier Martinez, NMDOT District 5  
Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit  
Scott Martin, San Juan County  
Nick Porell, San Juan County  
Dan Flack, Town of Kirtland

Technical Members Absent: Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield

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

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Aaron Sussman, Bohannon Huston (phone)  
Sharon Cruz, NMDOT, North Region Design  
Rosa Kozub, Planning Liaison, NMDOT  
Colin Daly, Citizen, Employed with Sauder Miller

*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health concerns, the members of the Technical Committee listed above as "Technical Members Present" attended via GoToMeeting, as did MPO Officer, Peter Koeppel and those listed as "Others Present". Chair Porell, Scott Martin, Kathryn Leys, and June Markle attended in person.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nick Porell called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 10, 2020 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Ms. King moved to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2020 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Montoya seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

### 3. UPDATE ON THE 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

<b>Subject:</b>	Update on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
<b>Date:</b>	July 8, 2020

#### MONTHLY REPORT

Mr. Aaron Sussman, Planner with Bohannon Huston (BHI) will call-in monthly with a report on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Sussman provided a brief update on the 2045 MTP for the Technical Committee highlighting the two virtual open houses held in June. Public participation was modest. Those that participated expressed interest in improving Red Apple Transit routes and providing service for San Juan College students. There was also a lot of interest in trail improvements and highlighting the quality of life as well as the underrated appeal of the community.

The proposed schedule for wrapping up the MTP is shown below:

- August 3: Full draft to Technical Committee for initial review
  - One week to incorporate any comments prior to release of public review draft
  - Comments made during the public comment period can still be incorporated
- August 10: Public comment period begins
- August 12: Presentation of MTP to Technical Committee
- August 27: Presentation of MTP to Policy Committee
- Late August: Virtual open house meetings on draft MTP
- September 9: Public comment period closes
- September 9: Technical Committee meeting and recommendation to Policy Committee
- September 10-24: Two weeks to make final updates before the Policy Committee is asked to vote
- September 24: Policy Committee votes on MTP

Mr. Sussman is planning to have a full draft of the 2045 MTP available for the Technical Committee on August 3. The public comment period would begin on August 10. Since this allows for only one week to incorporate any comments received from the Technical Committee prior to the release of the public review draft, Chair Porell asked if this would impact members reviewing and providing their final comments to Mr. Sussman. None of the members had an issue with the timeline.

Mr. Sussman plans to again use virtual open house meetings to present the draft MTP. He believes this is the best option currently in which to be able to engage the public and obtain input.

Mr. Sussman said that 60-70% of the draft MTP has been shared with the Technical Committee, but there is still new material to be presented and pieces to connect all the sections together.

#### 4. STATUS OF TIP PROJECTS

<b>Subject:</b>	Status of TIP Projects
<b>Prepared by:</b>	MPO Staff
<b>Date:</b>	June 10, 2020

#### BACKGROUND

- The STIP Protocols, finalized in early 2014, require that each MPO shall develop a process to monitor the progress and status of each project in the first two years of the TIP. These monthly reviews help correct inconsistencies in the TIP, STIP, the MPO's MTP, Agreement Request Forms (ARFs), etc. and provide for discussion among the members and NMDOT representatives.
- The Policy Committee approved the new FFY2020-2025 TIP during a Special meeting on July 25, 2019.
- The projects currently on the FFY2020-2025 TIP are listed below.

#### TRACKING INFORMATION (2018-2023 TIP)

Local Agreement Status (ARF)	ITS/Sys ENG Certification
ROW Certification	Public Involvement Certification
Design Completion 30 - 60 - 90%	
Environmental Certification	
Utilities Certification	
Railroad Certification	
Archeology Certification	

#### PROJECTS ON FMPO FFY2020-2025 TIP

- Aztec  
F100091 - East Aztec Arterial Phase II
- Bloomfield  
F100300 - East Blanco Bridge
- Farmington  
F100099 - Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase II  
F100100 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase I  
F100101 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase II  
F100132 - 20<sup>th</sup> Street Phase III  
TF00001 - Red Apple Transit
- San Juan County  
F100021 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase III  
F100240 - Glade Run Recreation Area Trails  
F100290 - CR 5500 Bridge Replacement  
F100320 - Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension  
F100330 - Glade Run Recreation Area Trails Extension  
F100360 - CR 3000 Bridge Replacement  
F100370 - CR 3500 Bridge Replacement

- **NMDOT**  
F100170 - NM 173 Safety Improvements  
F100340 - US 550 Pavement Rehab  
F100350 - NM 371/N36 (PE)  
F100351 - NM 371/N36 (Construction)

**INFORMATION ITEM**

- This is an information item only. Committee members will have an opportunity to provide any needed feedback/updates regarding current TIP projects status and details.

**DISCUSSION:** The Technical Committee members provided their TIP project updates:

**City of Aztec - Steven Saavedra**

All the property for the East Aztec Arterial has been acquired. The City of Aztec anticipates holding the PS&E in the spring of 2021

**City of Bloomfield - Jason Thomas**

Mr. Thomas was not in attendance to provide an update.

**City of Farmington -Virginia King**

Foothills Drive Enhancement - Phase II: The plans have been sent back to NMDOT for review. If they are satisfied with the plans, the PS&E will be scheduled.

East Pinon Hills Boulevard - Phases I & II: A TIP Amendment will be submitted for the current Amendment 4 Call for Projects. NMDOT has agreed to pay for an environmental update. The City of Farmington is anticipating that in 2023 or 2024 they will do the final design on Phase I.

20<sup>th</sup> Street - Phase III: Appraisal is in process.

**Red Apple Transit - Andrew Montoya**

In response to the COVID pandemic, the FTA provided Red Apple Transit with just over \$2,100,000, with no local match required, as part of the CARES Act.

Red Apple Transit normally provides service at a contracted rate to the regional entities. However, with the implementation of the CARES Act funding, there is now no charge to the entities for the regional services or to riders. Red Apple Transit resumed services on July 1 to the regional areas including re-implementing service to Bloomfield.

Red Apple Transit is still two drivers short (pending return from furlough) and Bloomfield is reduced to a single morning and afternoon run instead of three runs per day. All other regional services are operating.

**San Juan County - Nick Porell**

East Pinon Hills Boulevard - Phase III: No update.

Glade Run Recreation Area Trails: The groundbreaking on this project is expected to begin on July 20 with completion expected in late August.

CR 5500 Bridge Replacement: San Juan County received the environmental certification. There is still one landowner who has not responded to any inquiries and the County will be proceeding to condemnation.

Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension: An engineering agreement was awarded to the vendor who did the initial walk path project.

Glade Run Recreation Area Trails Extension: This is currently in the second phase of the design build.

#### **NMDOT - Javier Martinez**

NM 173: NMDOT is waiting on the City of Aztec to move the water line.

Mr. Saavedra asked if this project was split into phases. Mr. Martinez said it was since the project is only a small portion of NM 173. The water line needs to be moved as it impacts the first phase of the project and without that being completed, no work can be started. Mr. Saavedra asked if the gas line issue had been resolved. Mr. Martinez said he would check on this.

US 550 Pavement Rehab: - NMDOT is beginning to develop a plan but the funding is in the outer years of the TIP.

NM 371/N 36: The PS&E review is upcoming. Following the PS&E, NMDOT will begin working on the signal and lighting agreement with San Juan County.

Chair Porell commented that he believed this signal and lighting agreement needed to be worked out with the Navajo Nation. Although the intersection is in the county, San Juan County does not maintain signals or lighting on tribal roadways. Mr. Martinez said he would follow up with this question.

#### **5. REPORTS FROM NMDOT**

##### **District 5 - Javier Martinez**

Mr. Martinez reported that work on US 64 is going well and the project will finish up later this summer.

District 5 received some funding for contract maintenance and plans are to do some work on US 64 in Farmington.

##### **Planning Bureau - Rosa Kozub**

Ms. Kozub reported on the State's Long Range Transportation Plan and the virtual meeting for the northwest region of the state scheduled for July 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She encouraged participation by all entities and interested stakeholders.

## 6. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

<b>Subject:</b>	Committee Member Discussion Items
<b>Date:</b>	July 8, 2020

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Porell reported that Fran Fillerup has resigned from San Juan County to accept a position that is closer to his wife's family in Salt Lake City. He was a big part of this committee as well as having worked at the MPO for several years. Scott Martin, who is currently an alternate to the Technical Committee will take Mr. Fillerup's place as a regular member.

There were no additional discussion items provided by Technical Committee members for inclusion in the Agenda.

## 7. INFORMATION ITEMS

<b>Subject:</b>	Information Items
<b>Prepared by:</b>	MPO Staff
<b>Date:</b>	July 8, 2020

### INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **TIP Amendment #4.** The first call for projects for TIP Amendment #4 was made on June 22, 2020. The completed application and A-1340 form will be due to the FMPO by July 13. The PPM Review, if needed, will be scheduled the week of July 30, 2020. A copy of the FFY220-2025 Formal Amendment Schedule is attached for your information.
- b. **Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Final Report.** A copy of the final checklist and report from Joe Moriarty, FMPO's Planning Liaison with NMDOT, is attached.
- c. **Virtual Open Houses.** Staff will provide an update on the recent 2045 MTP virtual open houses.
- d. **Facebook Update.** Staff has re-established the FMPO Facebook page. Please let Kathryn know of any items of interest you might like to see the FMPO post.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Koepfel reported that TIP Amendment #4 Call for Projects is currently open. Completed applications and A-1340 forms are due to the MPO by July 13. Please let staff know if you need any assistance.

The Quality Assurance Review (QAR) was held with Planning Liaison, Joseph Moriarty, in May. This is the annual review and audit of the MPO's processes. The review went well and staff is working on the follow-up items noted by Mr. Moriarty in the review. A copy of the final QAR checklist and report is attached on Pages 8-20 of the Agenda.

The virtual open houses for the 2045 MTP that were held in June were discussed earlier in the meeting by Mr. Sussman. Although not greatly attended, Mr. Koepfel said that substantive public comments were received from those who did participate.

Ms. Leys has been working to re-establish and revamp the FMPO Facebook page. Staff hopes this will encourage public engagement with the MPO and the regional transportation planning process.

#### **8. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Mr. Koepfel asked if the members would consider moving the September meeting from Kirtland to the MPO Office. With limited Internet access in the Kirtland area and the Committee's final consideration of the 2045 MTP expected at this meeting, staff is recommending moving the virtual meeting format to the MPO Office. The Technical Committee members raised no objections.

Mr. Saavedra reported that the City of Aztec is in the process of updating their Comprehensive Plan and their consultants may be contacting MPO staff.

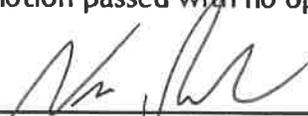
There was no additional business from the Chairman, Members and Staff.

#### **9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA**

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

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Escobar moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Chair Porell adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

  
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Nick Porell, Technical Committee Chair

  
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June Markle, Administrative Assistant