

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 28, 2019**

Policy Members Present: Sherri Sipe, City of Aztec  
Jeanine Bingham-Kelly, City of Farmington  
Sean Sharer, City of Farmington  
Julie Baird City of Farmington  
Dan Flack (Alt), Kirtland  
John Beckstead (arrived late; after vote on  
Bike/Ped Plan)

Policy Members Absent: Curtis Lynch, City of Bloomfield  
Glojean Todacheene, San Juan County

Staff Present: Mary Holton, MPO Officer  
Jeff Kiely, Director, NWNMCOG  
June Markle, MPO Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Mark Pavlik, Teacher and Citizen  
Joseph Moriarty, Planning Liaison, NMDOT (via  
phone)  
David Quintana, NMDOT District 5 (via phone)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Sharer called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 24, 2019 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Ms. Markle noted a correction to the draft January 24, 2019 Policy Committee meeting minutes as follows:

*Information Items (Page 44) – First sentence of "Discussion": "Mr. Kiely reported that funding was awarded to San Juan County to replace a diesel vehicle through the FFY2020 PLUS CMAQ Non-Mandatory Program".*

*The correction to these January 24, 2019 minutes will read: "Mr. Kiely reported that the funding for the CMAQ application submitted by San Juan County to replace a diesel vehicle through the FFY2020 PLUS CMAQ Non-Mandatory Program is still under consideration".*

Ms. Baird moved to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2019 Policy Committee meeting. Councilor Bingham-Kelly seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **3. REPORT ON THE FMPO BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLAN**

<b>Subject:</b> Report on the FMPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
<b>Date:</b> February 28, 2019

#### **MONTHLY REPORT**

Ms. Nancy Dosdall Lauro, AICP and Senior Planner with Russell Planning & Engineering will make a presentation on the final draft of the 2019 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. The Plan can be viewed at: [https://www.fmtn.org/DocumentCenter/View/18564/20190123-FMPO-MASTERPLAN\\_21319\\_Posted](https://www.fmtn.org/DocumentCenter/View/18564/20190123-FMPO-MASTERPLAN_21319_Posted)

The Policy Committee will consider adoption of the 2019 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan at the February meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** Nancy Lauro gave an update on the final 2019 FMPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Her comments/updates are summarized below:

- Received many public comments – a lot of interest and excitement in the project;
- Foundation for good decision-making going forward;
  - More multi-modal plans;
  - Prioritization of projects
- Focus on safety in biking and walking was an important concern;
- River trails in all the communities were highly valued;
- Coordinated with NMDOT's statewide bike plan, the Downtown Farmington MRA plan, and the City of Farmington's Parks & Rec Planner;
  - MPO Plan is in the "middle" of all these;
  - How the three levels of plans all work together to produce a good network.

Ms. Lauro said that she loved to see all the progress in the area and thanked the MPO for the opportunity to work on this project.

Chair Sharer added that he thought this was a good step forward. Being able to offer options for traveling through the City of Farmington other than be car especially as the communities work in the direction of creating and improving recreational opportunities. Commissioner Sipe added the goal of eventually providing connectivity between the cities.

**4. FMPO 2019 BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLAN AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION 2019-2**

**Subject:** FMPO 2019 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and  
Policy Committee Resolution 2019-2  
**Prepared by:** MPO Staff  
**Date:** February 13, 2019

**BACKGROUND**

- April 11, 2018 marked the kickoff for the FMPO's 2019 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.
- The Technical Committee was the Steering Committee for the project.
- During May and June 2018, the consultant, Russell Planning & Engineering and the project manager, Nancy Lauro conducted background research with each of the MPO entities.
- Throughout the summer of 2018, public outreach meetings and pop-up events were held in each of the communities along with Riverfest, July 5 celebration in Bloomfield, and the San Juan County Fair
- In July the online survey was opened to encourage and gather public input on the Plan.
- During the fall months, the consultant worked with the entities to finalize their prioritized improvement lists.
- Comments were received throughout the project from the public, government officials, Technical and Policy Committee members, MPO Staff, and members of NMDOT. Final comments were requested to be submitted by January 11, 2019.
- A 30-day public comment period was advertised on January 27, 2019 through February 25, 2019.

**ACTION ITEM**

- Staff recommends the Technical Committee consider recommending adoption of proposed PC Resolution 2019-2 regarding the 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

**APPLICABLE CITATIONS**

- State of New Mexico.
  - **State Law NMSA 67-3-62** requires that provisions for pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian traffic shall be considered as part of all NMDOT projects.
  - The **New Mexico 2040 Plan** provides guidance to address the long-term needs of New Mexico's transportation system. In particular, the 2040 Plan prioritizes investments among the state-owned transportation facilities and identifies Priority Tiers for the various modes included in the statewide transportation system.

The 2040 Plan places an emphasis on multi-modal transportation as a means of achieving a range of statewide goals and objectives. Among these stated objectives, the 2040 Plan considers the need to "provide multimodal access and connectivity for community prosperity," including making bicycling safer

and more feasible on state roads.

- Farmington Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

As quoted in the FMPO's draft *2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* now under consideration:

In listing goals for the next 25 years, the MTP mentions active transportation as a means for managing traffic congestion, improving accessibility, and promoting healthy living. Equity was also a focus of the 2040 MTP, and the six livability principles as developed by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were included as part of its goals and policies. In four of the six stated principles, the MPO lists bicycle and pedestrian projects as actionable items that will increase transportation choices and affordable living throughout its communities.

The 2040 MTP was the first MTP issued by the FMPO that utilized the Complete Streets approach, going as far as to add an entire chapter dedicated to the methodology. The MTP also included a prioritized list of regional bicycle and pedestrian transportation improvement projects that were organized by expected completion date. The implementation timeframe of these identified TIP's ranged from 5 years to over 15 years, providing the MPO and its member entities with an organized list of active transportation improvements.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Kiely reported that, along with individual feedback and review, the Technical Committee was the Steering Committee for the document and have been involved throughout the year. On February 13, the Technical Committee recommended to the Policy Committee to consider adoption of the 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to the Policy Committee.

Chair Sharer opened the public hearing on Policy Committee Resolution 2019-2. Mr. Mark Pavlik, City of Farmington resident and teacher expressed his support of the expansion of the bike and pedestrian trails and recreational opportunities. He encouraged everyone to work to get buy-in to the Plan at all levels. He recommended informing students and educators of the plan to help spread the word and grow the support.

Chair Sharer added that we cannot simply stop with adopting a new plan. We need to continue the public outreach to ensure the communities know about the plan and take advantage of all the planned opportunities.

Chair Sharer closed the public hearing.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Sipe moved to approve the proposed Policy Committee Resolution 2019-2 regarding adoption of the 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Councilor Bingham-Kelly seconded the motion. The motion to approve was passed unanimously.

**5. QUARTERLY EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION – A REVIEW OF THE MPO'S PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP)**

<b>Subject:</b>	Quarterly Educational Presentation – A Review of the MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP)
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Mary L Holton, AICP, MPO Officer
<b>Date:</b>	February 28, 2019

**PRESENTATION**

In advance of preparing the MPO's Major Transportation Plan this year, the MPO needs to update its PPP soon so that the MTP's Public Outreach can begin in early summer. Much of the work on the MTP will commence in September in accordance with the UPWP with a planned completion date one year later. The last PPP is enclosed for your review. A copy of the recent Public Involvement Plan adopted by NMDOT will be attached to your agenda email. Best practices will be included in your presentation, and the committee be asked to provide staff with direction and input prior to preparing the draft update.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Holton explained that in preparation for beginning work on the MPO's Major Transportation Plan (MTP) this year, the MPO needs to first update its Public Participation Plan (on Page 7-29 of the Agenda) which was last updated in January 2016. The updated MTP will be due in September 2020.

Along with the MPO's current PPP, Ms. Holton provided copies of NMDOT's Public Involvement Plan adopted in December 2018 and some guidance from FHWA on Virtual Public Involvement. Ms. Holton noted how difficult it can be to get public involvement in developing crucial plans. It is important to develop new and different ways to engage the public.

The last MTP was written by Fran Fillerup during 2014-2015. At that time, the MPO hired a consultant to handle the public outreach for the plan and they produced online maps where people could provide comments on areas of concern, where they would like more trails to be added, as well as noting other ideas. Now with the completed bike/ped plan, that information will be incorporated into the 2045 MTP update.

Ms. Holton asked the Policy Committee to consider ideas for public outreach such as focus meetings, games, videos, or mobile apps. We want to be able to capture and involve the public in the decision-making. Chair Sharer added that he thought that having mobile maps are the way to go and would like to see more of that. Ms. Holton said there are apps already available for this and she would get some information from Nancy Lauro who uses the Strava app in the Durango area.

**6. REPORTS FROM NMDOT**

**District 5 – David Quintana**

Mr. Quintana reported on:

a. NMDOT sent out two letters: 2019 Annual Public Entity Sale (public entities may purchase surplus automotive and major road equipment from NMDOT), and; 2019 Annual Hardship Sale (use of Local Government Road Fund) for the previous named items for sale. Both sales will be conducted in July in Santa Fe.

b. There were two requested for changes to be included as part of TIP Amendment #6. The City of Aztec requested to move funding for the East Arterial project from FY18 to FY20, and San Juan County requested to change the control number and funding to reflect a State Capital Outlay Award for the bridge project on CR 5500.

A Special Policy Committee has been called for March 13 at 11:30 a.m. in Bloomfield. The only two items on that agenda will be to consider TIP Amendment #6 and UPWP Amendment #2 that was required for the additional FTA 5303 funding received by the MPO.

c. The previous Corrective Action Plan (CAP) established on 2/23/17 and subsequently amended on 10/27/17, was resolved and is considered closed. However, due to several instances of non-conformance, a new 2019 CAP was established on January 11, 2019 (copy of CAP attached on Pages 34-36): be more active in managing the TIP and in responding to NMDOT emails. Part of better management of the TIP involved developing the TIP Amendment Schedule that was completed (see Page 37 of Agenda).

d. Also as part of the Agenda (Page 38) is a list of the local entities in compliance with NMDOT's ADA and Title VI requirements. Aztec, Bloomfield, Farmington, and San Juan County are currently in compliance with NMDOT's District 5 T/LPA ADA/Title VI Compliance. Compliance must be in place before the LPA can receive NMDOT funding.

The Town of Kirtland also needs to begin the required compliance reporting (see list). They should review/submit:

- ADA Policy for LPAs with fewer than 50 employees  
<https://www.adagov/pcatoolkit/chap2toolkit.htm>
- Title VI Policy – To access NMDOT's Title VI Boilerplate, go to:  
[http://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/OEOP/Title\\_VIBoilerplate\\_LGA.pdf](http://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/OEOP/Title_VIBoilerplate_LGA.pdf)
- Letter certifying the LPA has fewer than 50 employees. This letter should include the names and positions of their current employees.
- For additional information, Acting ADA/Title VI Program Coordinator, Isabel Herrera at [ADA.TitleVICoordinator@state.nm.us](mailto:ADA.TitleVICoordinator@state.nm.us).

e. A Special Policy Committee will be held at Bloomfield City Hall on March 13 at 11:30 a.m. immediately following the Technical Committee on that day.

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

Chair Sharer welcomed Mary Holton back as MPO Officer.

Commissioner Sipe thanked everyone for agreeing to the Special Policy Committee in March to address the project changes to the Aztec East Arterial.

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

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA**

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Bingham-Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sipe seconded the motions. The motion was approved unanimously and Chair Sharer adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

  
Sean Sharer, Policy Committee Chair

  
June Markle, Administrative Assistant