

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 20, 2011

Policy Members Present: Pat Lucero, City of Bloomfield
Dr. Jim Henderson, San Juan County
Dan Darnell, City of Farmington
Gayla McCulloch, City of Farmington

Policy Members Absent: Gene Current, City of Aztec

Technical Committee Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mary L. Holton, MPO Officer
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner

Staff Absent: None

Also Present: Dave Martinez, NMDOT
Ray Matthew, NMDOT
Linda Sillers, San Juan Center for
Independence

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 10, 2010 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Pat Lucero made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. Mrs. McCulloch seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. MPO MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN ALTERNATIVES

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan Alternatives
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	January 10, 2011

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The FMPO Policy Committee adopted the Major Thoroughfare Plan at their September 9th meeting with direction to staff to review alternatives for the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection in Northeast Farmington.
- Staff has met with City of Farmington Staff to discuss alternatives to the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection.
- Alternatives were reviewed with the Technical Committee on October 7 and November 18.
- The MPO held a stakeholder meeting on October 25 to review the identified alternatives.
- The Technical Committee recommended approval of Alternative #1, connecting the proposed Northern Route to College Blvd, as part of the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan.

CURRENT WORK

- Two alternatives are being discussed with the Policy Committee:
 - Alternative #1 - Run the Northern Route over the top of Foothills and connect it to College Blvd; classify College Blvd as a Minor Arterial
 - Alternative #2 - Keep the connection described above but also continue the Northern Route to intersect with Glade Road.
- Adopt an alternative alignment for the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection.

BACKUP

- Maps illustrating the proposed connections will be provided at the meeting.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- The development of a Roadway Classification Map showing all existing and future roadway designations.
- NMDOT and FHWA approval of changes to road classifications.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve Alternative #1, connecting the proposed Northern Route to College Blvd, as part of the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Martin Lucero directed the committee to page 13 showing the breakdown of the two different alternatives for the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan. He indicated that Staff spoke with stakeholders, City of Farmington staff and member entities to review two different alternatives identified by staff. Mr. Lucero stated Staff created a listing of the proposed changes to the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan (Major T-Plan) based on each proposed alternative. The lists show the proposed road extensions and reclassifications that would affect the adopted Major T-Plan for Farmington. Mr. Lucero stated that Staff preferred Alternative #1. The main reclassification changes for Alternative #1 would be the reclassification of the northern portions of College Blvd and Foothills from Collectors to Minor Arterials. Staff wanted to make all the changes clear as the Farmington Major T-Plan would need to be updated to reflect the proposed changes. The rest of the changes are extensions which currently are not reflected in the Farmington Major T-Plan.

Mrs. McCulloch asked what is included in Alternative #2. Mr. Martin Lucero stated Alternative #2 includes the same extensions as Alternative #1 but has the Northern Route being fully extended to the Glade Road. Alternative #2 also calls for upgrading Glade Road to a Minor Arterial. This would lead to a reclassification of Glade Road from a Collector to Minor Arterial. When speaking with BLM it was evident that they were opposed to the upgrading of the Glade Road and they do not anticipate releasing any land for the extension of the Northern Route to the Glade. Mr. Lucero added that the County does not have any intention of upgrading Glade Road to a Minor Arterial. Other reasons for not extending the Northern Route are that the road would need to drop off the edge of the mesa and cross three different arroyos. Mr. Lucero stated after speaking with BLM and stakeholder groups, staff is recommending Alternative #1, as it appears to be the most viable.

Mr. Lucero added that the other notable item in both alternatives is the extension of College north of Hood Mesa Trail to the Northern Route instead of heading west towards the Glade, making College a nice north-south arterial from 30th Street to the Northern Route.

Action: Mrs. McCulloch motioned to approve Alternative #1 to the Farmington MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan. Mr. Pat Lucero seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: Annual Meeting Resolution
Prepared by: Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date: January 10, 2011

BACKGROUND

- The Policy Committee adopted PC Resolution 2010-5 at the Policy Committee meeting on November 10, 2010.

CURRENT WORK

- The Policy Committee is asked to amend Exhibit "A" to PC Resolution 2010-5 to change the March 17, 2011 location to the Bloomfield Cultural Center.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee amend Exhibit "A" to PC Resolution 2010-5 to reflect the new location for the March 17, 2011 meeting in Bloomfield.

Discussion: Mr. Martin Lucero stated it was brought to the staff's attention that due to the construction at the Bloomfield City Hall, the March 17, 2011 meeting would need to be relocated to the Bloomfield Cultural Center. The amendment showing the new

meeting location is reflected in Exhibit "A" on page 18 of the agenda. Mr. Lucero indicated that no other changes were made to the meeting schedule.

Action: Mrs. McCulloch motioned to approve the amendment to Exhibit A showing a change in meeting location for the March 17, 2011 Policy Meeting. Mr. Darnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE NMDOT

Discussion: Mr. Martinez stated that the process to update the STIP has begun. District 5 has already met with the Santa Fe MPO to obtain a prioritized list of projects and will be doing the same for the three RPOs within the District. The NMDOT is looking to program the new STIP for FY2012-2015. Mr. Martinez also indicated that they have had an increase in their target amounts for these outlying years. The increase is approximately \$3 million and will increase the target amount to \$27 million. The increase was mainly due to cost savings seen in recent bids. These monies that were saved and not reprogrammed before the fiscal year closeout have been moved into a suspense fund for the outlying years.

Mr. Martinez also stated that they have made progress on the Safety Project at NM 574/ NM 516 and the Safety Project located along NM 173. The NM 173 project has \$1,000,000 dollars allocated for safety improvements. They are going to try to improve as much of the road section along NM 173 with the amount awarded.

Dr. Henderson asked if the Governor has appointed a new Secretary of Transportation. Mr. Martinez confirmed that Mr. Alvin Dominguez, former District 1 Engineer and most recently the South Region Design Manager, has been appointed as the Secretary of Transportation. Now he is awaiting confirmation from the State Legislature.

Dr. Henderson commented on the lack of maintenance along State facilities in the area. He indicated that State facilities in this area are in a real need of repair, making the safety aspect high for these roadways. Mr. Martinez indicated that he is currently working with Aztec and the San Juan County to create a JPA for maintenance of State facilities. This is mainly due to a hiring freeze which has created a 30% vacancy rate in the District 5 maintenance yards. They are awaiting a decision from the cabinet secretary on whether more cuts are to be expected. As such the JPA will allow NMDOT to reimburse the entities for work performed along State facilities and to utilize some of the materials the NMDOT may already have. Mr. Martinez added that NMDOT have identified some pavement preservation projects for the spring when the weather warms up. One of the facilities identified as in need of maintenance or repair is NM 516. Mr. Darnell commented that the JPA is something the City of Farmington may be willing to join and to work with NMDOT to make repairs to facilities within the city boundaries of Farmington. Mr. Darnell further indicated that the JPA is a good idea for all involved. Mr. Martinez stated that District 5 is willing to work with any and all entities. NMDOT currently has the cooperative agreement in their Legal department for review. If local entities use equipment on State facilities, District 5 and NMDOT will reimburse them using standard equipment reimbursement charges.

Dr. Henderson added that the County and the City of Farmington are already performing some maintenance along the state facilities, from cleaning shoulders to minor repairs,

without compensation from the state. Mr. Martinez indicated that they will take the JPA as far as they can. Mr. Darnell asked if it would help if the City told the Transportation Secretary that they are interested in the JPA arrangement. Mr. Martinez indicated that it depends on who it comes from or where the information goes to. District 5 wants to be proactive and not reactive to a request received from the Governor. Mr. Pat Lucero added that he would like to thank NMDOT for the great job they have done on the State facilities within the City of Bloomfield. He indicated that during the past winter storms he saw NMDOT crews clearing their facilities regularly.

Mr. Martinez encouraged the MPO to update the TIP sooner rather than later so that it can be incorporated into the programming requests of the outlying years in the STIP. Mr. Delmagori asked for a clarification on the update of the STIP and the timing for a prioritized list of the TIP. Mr. Martinez indicated that the MPO has until March but the sooner the better as the District will be reviewing the list that will be coming from the RPOs and they already have the listing from Santa Fe MPO.

Mr. Matthew discussed the US 64 Phase II bid and the teleconference between the MPO, NMDOT and District 5 concerning the fiscal year end close out procedures. He indicated that due to lower than expected bids, the US 64 Phase II project will cost about \$2 million less, and this change will necessitate a TIP amendment. Mr. Matthew further elaborated that the STIP protocols are a document that is used by the MPO and the State to make changes to the TIP and the STIP. In September there were some changes from the Federal government that tightened up the goal to use all the programmed money within the same fiscally programmed year. With bids coming in under the estimate and the requirement to obligate federal funding within the fiscal year, it does not give the STIP Unit much time to amend the STIP. As a result, every September there will more than likely need to be changes to the TIP. Mr. Matthew then asked if the cost savings were added into the District 5 suspensions account and put towards projects that are ready but are just waiting for funding. Mr. Matthew further elaborated that this situation has prompted that the MPO and STIP Unit will be working together on the STIP Protocols to help ensure a smoother end of the year close out.

Mr. Matthew added that it would be a good idea to go through the unfunded list to ensure it is in a prioritized order to make it easier for the STIP Unit to find projects to fund. Mr. Matthew then asked if the funds saved under US 64 Phase II were taken and redistributed within the district. Mr. Martinez answered that for the past few years District 5 has been able to submit extra projects during the fiscal year close out because various projects have been ready to go out to bid.

Action: The NMDOT reports were received.

6. RED APPLE TRANSIT STUDY

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Study
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	January 11, 2011

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The MPO and Red Apple Transit are working with LSC Consultants to determine future transit needs and make recommendations for expansion options.
- LSC Consultants have developed two Technical Memorandums and have held four sets of public and stakeholder meetings on the transit study.
- Options were developed for both the regional and Farmington routes.
- From the multiple routing options, a preferred alternative has been selected, which identifies linear routes for Farmington and creating all day service for portions of the regional routes.
- A draft final report has been developed and review during the past two months.

CURRENT WORK

- The draft final report that explains the recommendations, the implementation schedule for the recommendations, and the financial plan.
- The draft report is now available for final review.
- The Policy Committee has an opportunity to review the draft final report during its meeting.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Seek approval of the Final Report in January.
- Issue the approved Final Report to the entities and stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the Red Apple Transit Study.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori discussed the role that the MPO and LSC have had in the study. In addition to presenting at the last Policy meeting, Mr. Krutsinger came into town on November 9, 2010 to give presentations on the draft final report. It summarizes all the recommendations that have come through during the six month study. The draft final report identifies phasing options for changes to the system and gives financial options. On Tuesday, November 9 Mr. Krutsinger presented the draft final report to Farmington City Council. On Wednesday, November 10 he led a public meeting to go over his findings and to receive any public comments regarding the draft final report.

Referring to his presentation map, Mr. Delmagori described the Preferred Transit Alternative for the Farmington routes. He explained that the loop systems will be broken up into line routes that will run in each direction. All day service for portions of the regional routes will be started. The new linear routes would serve all the current stop locations except three. If the three stops needed to be served there could be some minor alterations to the proposed routes. Transfer points will increase to twelve over the current three locations.

Mr. Delmagori explained how Mr. Krutsinger broke down the recommendations for the transit system. Short term recommendations can be implemented within the next two years through the addition of stops to the existing route structure and creating bi-

directional travel. Long term recommendations would be increasing frequency on the regional routes, starting evening service, and creating an Aztec to Bloomfield route. The increase to all day service could ultimately be accomplished by the addition of three more runs which would then bring the frequency of the runs to two hour headways. Mr. Darnell asked what happened to Wildhorse Valley. Mr. Darnell indicated that it was the number #1 additional stop location. Mr. Delmagori indicated that it was identified as a new stop location as well as one for Spencerville.

Mr. Delmagori then closed his comments with a discussion of the final timeline. LSC will be in town to present the final report to the Farmington City Council on January 25. LSC will provide the final documents to the MPO in February. Mr. Darnell asked if the driver interviews were ever completed and if the information was included in the document. Mr. Delmagori confirmed that a representative population did complete the driver interviews and that the information has been included as an appendix to the final document.

Action: The Red Apple Transit Study report was received.

7. 2010 TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	2010 Traffic Count Program
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	January 10, 2011

BACKGROUND

- The MPO identified 81 traffic count locations to be counted in 2010.
- Traffic Research & Analysis (TRA) collected traffic counts during the weeks of October 11th and October 18th.
- Initial data was provided for 79 count locations.
- NMDOT received and accepted 72 of the 79 counts taken.
- Staff uploaded the approved count information into the TCDS website database.

CURRENT WORK

- Staff posted the 2010 Average Daily Traffic (ADT), the 2010 Speed and 2010 Class lists for all approved counts to the website.

TRAFFIC COUNT ANALYSIS

- The change in average traffic volume over the past three years has declined by 12%.
- Traffic counts for AZ_94 (Mesa Verde), FM_218 (NM 516), SJ_99 (Murray Dr/NM 5001), FM_101 (Navajo St), FM_71 (Hood Mesa Trail), SJ_58 (CR 5580), and SJ_110 (NM 371) will have to be rescheduled for next year.

RECOMMENDATION

- Staff recommends that the Policy Committee receive a report on the 2010 traffic count program.

Discussion: Mr. Martin Lucero stated that staff has submitted all of the 2010 traffic counts to the State. The State has accepted all but five counts this year. Three of them were because of the low numbers and two were because of faulty start times. The five counts will be taken again during next year's count cycle.

The 2010 counts were conducted by the new consultant Traffic Research and Analysis Inc. out of Phoenix. Mr. Lucero stated the counts were performed in a timely manner as well as the reports returned within a three week period. Mr. Lucero stated the counts are currently loaded into the MPO system and posted onto the web site.

Mr. Lucero stated the MPO has verified the US 64 counts and worked with the City of Farmington to evaluate the counts by reviewing the permanent count station information within the city limits. The City of Farmington provided a month's worth of counts from the permanent station. Mr. Lucero indicated that US 64 has increased in traffic volume by 30%. He noted that with US 64 being highly used, the road might not make it through the next several winters if not maintained. He also added if the road was not maintained there might be a need to rethink alternative routes to divert the large volume of traffic elsewhere.

Mr. Martinez asked if other facilities in the area had experienced the same increase. Mr. Matthew asked if the increase in traffic was due to local traffic or due to pass through traffic. Mr. Lucero responded that the MPO did not take the external counts for US 64 nor did they take the adjacent counts along the facility to verify turning movements. At this time the MPO can only speculate whether or not it is pass through traffic or local traffic coming from Farmington, Bloomfield, and the Crouch Mesa area.

Action: The report on the 2010 Traffic Counts was received.

8. FY2012-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	FY2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	January 12, 2011

BACKGROUND

- The TIP is a short-term program of projects expected to be completed in the next six years.
- The MPO updates the TIP on an annual basis.
- The TIP update process includes revising existing project information, adding new projects, and developing a TIP financial plan.
- The FY2011-2016 TIP is available on the MPO website along with its corresponding amendments.

CURRENT WORK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Call for Projects was issued in December. ▪ Staff will meet individually with the entities, NMDOT, and Red Apple Transit to review project information. 	

TIP SCHEDULE	
MONTH	ACTION
December 2010-February 2011	Call for Projects made & issue Project Identification Forms for completion
February 18, 2011	Project ID Forms submitted to MPO
February – March 2011	Entities review project information; development of an agreed to list of projects and TIP financial plan
Early March – early April 2011	30-day Public Comment period is advertised and opened
March 24, 2011	Technical Committee holds public hearing on and recommends adoption of TIP
April 21, 2011	Policy Committee adopts the FY2012-2017 TIP

RECOMMENDATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the FY2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program schedule. 	

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori indicated that the start of the calendar year signals the start of the TIP update cycle. Mr. Delmagori discussed the TIP update process for new TIP projects and updates to the existing projects. The call for new projects is due in February. MPO Staff will be meeting with each entity individually to discuss projects, additions, deletions or corrections. Staff will seek adoption of the TIP by the Policy Committee on April 21, 2011.

Action: The report on the FY2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program was received.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	January 10, 2011

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **FY2010 Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects.** The annual list includes all projects in the MPO that received federal funding between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010.

b. **2010 Census Workshop.** Staff will attend a workshop in Albuquerque on January 26 that will discuss new census tools and the American Community Survey (ACS).

c. **Other.**

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori reviewed the FY2010 Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects. The list includes all of the ARRA and Safety Projects that have been awarded within the MPO. Mr. Delmagori stated that the final list has been submitted to FHWA and the State. Mr. Martinez asked if the Aztec ARRA project was missing and mentioned the wrong control number was used for the County's ARRA project. Mr. Martinez thought that the City of Aztec ARRA project was obligated at the same time as the other ARRA projects within the MPO. Mr. Delmagori indicated that the project was on last year's Federally Obligated List. He would also correct the wrong control number had been used for the County's project.

Mr. Delmagori indicated that Mr. Lucero will be meeting with NMDOT to review the traffic count data base and the accepted traffic count locations and splits. After his meeting on January 25 he will be heading to Albuquerque to attend a training on how to access and use the 2010 Census information. Training is being hosted by MRCOG.

Mr. Delmagori welcomed Mary Holton as the new MPO Officer.

Action: The report was received.

9. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Discussion: Dr. Henderson stated that he would like a report on any information that the MPO is able to gather from the Census training. He is very interested as well as the cities within the County on the population and employment information as it will be pertinent to redistricting.

Mr. Darnell asked about the functional classification for Dustin Ave. Mr. Lucero and Ms. Holton explained it is a Minor Arterial on the City of Farmington Major Thoroughfare Plan, although they acknowledged the difficulties this classification presents given the adjacent residential homes along sections of Dustin.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Discussion: There was no business from the floor.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Action: Mr. Pat Lucero made the motion for adjournment. Mr. Darnell seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Dr. James C. Henderson – Chair

Joe Delmagori - MPO Planner