

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 18, 2010**

Policy Members Present: Sherri Sipe, City of Aztec  
Sam Hinson, City of Bloomfield, Chair  
Dr. Henderson, San Juan County  
Dan Darnell, City of Farmington

Policy Members Absent: Mayor Standley, City of Farmington

Technical Committee Members Present: Steve Christensen, City of Aztec  
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield  
Dave Keck, San Juan County

Staff Present: Bob Campbell, MPO Officer  
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner  
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner  
Dee Dee Moore, MPO Admin Aide

Staff Absent None

Also Present: Barbara Carruthers, San Juan County  
Al Kroeger, San Juan County  
Sandi Spencer, San Juan County  
Dave Martinez, NMDOT

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Hinson called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 28, 2010 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Dr. Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Sipe seconded that motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

### 3. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MTP UPDATE

#### FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>     | MTP Document               |
| <b>Prepared by:</b> | Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner |
| <b>Date:</b>        | February 11, 2010          |

#### BACKGROUND

- Draft chapters were reviewed by the Committees in January.
- The latest iterations of the draft chapters reflect changes made by the Committee members.

#### CURRENT WORK

- The Introduction Chapter describes MPO actions related to the SAFETEA-LU planning factors and the Livability Principles.
- The Transit Chapter describes the expected work that will be part of the Transit Study for Red Apple Transit.
- The Financial Plan outlines revenue scenarios to meet fiscal constraint requirements.
- Any additional comments received will be added into the draft document.

#### UPCOMING WORK

- Open a 30-day public comment period on the MTP at the end of February.
- Adopt the MTP at the April 15, 2010 Policy Committee meeting.

#### ATTACHMENTS

- Draft MTP Chapters are available on the MPO website ([www.farmingtonmpo.org](http://www.farmingtonmpo.org))
- Draft MTP Chapters provided under separate cover to the members.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee review the draft chapters of the MTP document and approve the public discussion draft of the MTP.

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori explained that the analysis of the MTP chapters is complete and that both committees have reviewed the draft chapters. The MTP is in the last months of an 18 month process and the draft document is available on the FMPO website. Mr. Delmagori explained that he will review the changes since the January meeting. Pages 1-5 & 1-6 now include how the MPO is addressing the eight SAFETEA-LU Planning Factors. On page 1-7 the Livability Principles are listed with an outline, description and action needed to fulfill those principles.

Mr. Lucero shared the change on page 2-4 regarding the new paragraph describing constraints that may affect the population after 2015. Mr. Hinson asked how the MPO

came up with that conclusion. Mr. Lucero stated that there was a land inventory taken within the MPO boundary, then he had other stake holders provide land use information such as BLM, and then overlapped the information within the GIS program. Mr. Lucero looked at factors such as the topography map, archeological sites and terrain to determine where growth is not feasible.

Mr. Lucero noted that there were no significant changes to Chapter 3. In Chapter 4, on 4-1 language was added to the overview to explain the flexibility the entities have for determining future road scenarios and projects within the MPO. On page 4-12 a paragraph was added to establish priorities in working with the state and other agencies with regards to the MPO regional priorities. Mr. Darnell shared the frustrations with the lack of an “established corridor” like the Northern Route which connects into Hood Mesa Trail. Mr. Lucero explained that those corridors are listed in Appendix B in a three-tier process. Mr. Darnell thinks that each city is project focused but there is a need for the MPO to get the future roadways out to the public to explain the need for expansion within the cities and securing right-of-way. Mr. Lucero explained that one of the by-products of the MTP, and perhaps as early as this spring, could be the adoption of a major thoroughfare plan for the MPO. If adopted by all the entities it could be used to protect the corridors that are currently identified. Mr. Christensen shared that everyone knows that these corridors are essential, but who is going to do the corridor study to determine the alignments and who is going to provide the money to perform the study? It will take cooperation among all the entities to fund the process in order to establish the future roadways. Mr. Christensen stressed that the committee needs to make sure that the tremendous work that the MPO has done on the transportation plan is brought to the attention of the NMDOT and Federal agencies so they can understand the current priorities within the FMPO. Mr. Lucero shared that the Pinon Hills Corridor was identified almost 20 years ago. The development of the Pinon Hills Corridor shows how long range planning can work. Mr. Darnell explained that the Pinon Hills Corridor was all within the City of Farmington’s city limit, however the northern route will involve the City of Farmington, Aztec, and San Juan County, and at this point the ownership of the corridor is not yet defined. Mr. Lucero shared that the majority of the alignment is currently on BLM land and hopefully it will be released with a stipulation of right-of-way for that road. Mr. Christensen shared that perhaps the MPO can acquire funding for a corridor study, but that the City of Farmington would have to be the fiscal agent, because we have to move forward in our planning. Mr. Darnell stated that even during this time of economic downturn, you still need to think to the future, while still making everyone aware that planning is important for the future. Mr. Lucero stated that the MTP identifies how to go about preserving the corridors that are necessary for the growth in this area.

Mr. Delmagori continued the discussion, with the changes to the Transit Chapter. Page 5-7 outlines the potential transit demand and identifying which areas need service. Mr. Delmagori continued to explain the need to switch from a loop system to a bi-directional ‘hub and spoke’ type of system and the effects it could have to the outlying areas. These areas will be evaluated by a consultant in addition to identifying how to improve the system to expand ridership.

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan chapter did not have any significant changes. Page 6-6 covers ways on how to integrate these facilities into new roads and subdivisions. Mr. Hinson shared that riding next to the traffic is less favorable than having a buffer zone and off-street facilities.

Mr. Lucero reviewed the chapter on Other Modal Connections, which covers airport, freight and equestrian. More than moving people around, transportation also

encompasses goods and services and the ability to provide the facilities to improve mobility throughout the area.

Mr. Delmagori spoke about the Safety Chapter. He discussed the various modes of travel and the goals, policies and actions to make them safer. Safety funding may be available for safety/corridors studies that use the crash data information to identify dangerous intersections. Some types of solutions may be signals or roundabouts for vehicles and for pedestrians, countdown signals and pavement flashers. Mr. Delmagori continued with an explanation that there will be revisions to the graphs illustrating bike and pedestrian crash data on pages 8-5 and 8-6. Mr. Darnell shared that a study of countdown signals proved advantageous to both pedestrians and vehicles and asked whether they are being looked at to replace the existing hand signals. Mr. Martinez stated that there shouldn't be a significant cost difference since the countdown signals have almost become the current standard. Mr. Delmagori shared that around the city of Farmington when old hand signals fail the newer countdown signals are installed. The end of this chapter contains a section on the Safe Routes to School program for the three participating schools. It outlines several improvements for the schools. The section also includes goals to achieve a 20% rate for the number of students walking to school and recruiting new schools to join each year.

The Security Chapter had minimal changes and after speaking to Don Cooper with San Juan County, Mr. Delmagori confirmed that the maps and content of this chapter were consistent with the San Juan County Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. Delmagori stated the Transportation Policies and Strategies chapter discusses the MPO's role in planning for the future. Reductions in ozone air quality standards may impact the MPO and the county. Dr. Henderson asked if the MPO would be in a position to support San Juan County if it decided to oppose the EPA decision if the impacts from the EPA decision were too great for our area. Dr. Henderson continued to state that the EEE has stated in their publications that they will take care of the whole state however he believes that the responsibilities will be returned back to the counties. There are 20 counties in New Mexico that are impacted by some kind of environmental issues and this county will also be affected, especially with the power plants.

The last chapter is the Financial Plan and Mr. Delmagori identified the funding sources available to the entities. He also explained the three future revenue scenarios, low/mid/high scenarios that were developed using historical and upcoming funding amounts. The table on page 11-4 describes the scenarios and the funding approximated for each scenario. On page 11-5 it shows the historical information from both the district and local contributions. Also shown on page 11-6 are the funding scenarios and the projects that may be funded within each option. Page 11-7 shows the capital side of the transit system. Mr. Delmagori explained that Mr. Hunt shared that buses have approximately a 10 year life cycle and the replacement cost is around \$200,000 per bus. Mr. Hinson asked who picks up the remaining share of the \$1.1 million operating. Mr. Delmagori stated that there are subsidies that go to every transit system, federal and state funds, that augment these systems along with the other entities that contribute. Mr. Hinson asked if there was a budget sheet that showed expenditures and revenues. Mr. Darnell said he has seen one. He also stated that comments he has heard show that the infrequency between the cities is a large hindrance which decreases the ridership. Mr. Darnell asked whether a cost analysis would be part of the consultant's transit study. Mr. Delmagori stated that that was one part of the study requirements.

**Action:** The review was received. A motion was made to approve the public discussion draft of the MTP by Mr. Darnell. Ms. Sipe seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**4. REVIEW THE DRAFT FY2011-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Subject:</b>     | FY2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) |
| <b>Prepared by:</b> | Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner                 |
| <b>Date:</b>        | February 11, 2010                                    |

**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 2010-2015 TIP is available on the MPO website along with its corresponding TIP amendments.
- A Call for Projects was issued in January.

**CURRENT WORK**

- Staff met individually with the entities, NMDOT, and Red Apple Transit to review project information.
- Staff will make all needed adjustments to the TIP to reflect any additions, deletions or correction to the TIP during the month of February.
- The Technical Committee will review the revised TIP and develop an agreed-to list of projects and the TIP Financial Plan during their February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**TIP SCHEDULE**

| <b>MONTH</b>                   | <b>ACTION</b>  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| January 2010-February 2010     | Call for Projects was made & Project Identification Forms were issued                                    |
| February – March 2010          | Entities review project information; development of an agreed to list of projects and TIP financial plan |
| Early March – early April 2010 | 30-day Public Comment period is advertised and opened  |
| March 25, 2010                 | Technical Committee holds public hearing on and recommends adoption of TIP                               |
| April 15, 2010                 | Policy Committee adopts the FY2011-2016 TIP  |

**RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee review the draft FY2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

**Discussion:** Mr. Lucero reviewed the 3 types of TIP handouts to the committee. The unfunded project list identifies projects that the state can go back and pull from when additional funding is made available. The Non Regional list contains projects that are funded but are considered local projects. The Regionally Significant list is projects with federal funding or those that are functionally classified. Mr. Lucero reviewed the major projects that received funding. He spoke about the projects that received ARRA funding. These include the East Arterial Project, Maple St., Wildflower Pkwy and the bridge on CR 2900. Projects receiving Safety Funding were CR 350, the West Main/Apache intersection, and Light Plant Rd at NM 516. Funding from the TCSP program was received for Pinon Hills Blvd and for the East Arterial and FTA funding is provided for the Red Apple Transit capital and operating. The MPO met with each of the entities to add new projects, revise information from existing projects, and remove completed projects.

**Action:** The draft was reviewed.

**5. REVIEW THE DRAFT FY2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>     | FY2011 Unified Planning Work Program |
| <b>Prepared by:</b> | Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner |
| <b>Date:</b>        | February 11, 2010                    |

**BACKGROUND**

- Over the next few months, the MPO will develop its annual work plan for fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011).
- The FY2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is anticipated to be approved on April 15, 2010 by the Policy Committee.
- The entities have suggested new projects and other planning tasks to be accomplished by the MPO.

**FY2011 UPWP INITIAL TASKS**

- Yearly Activities
  - Annual Certification
  - Development of FY2012 UPWP
  - FY2010 Annual List of Obligated Projects
  - Quarterly Newsletters
  - Quarterly Reports
  - Traffic Count program
  - Traffic studies and model runs requested by the entities
  - Transportation Improvement Program

- New Activities
  - Needs Assessment/ Line Route analysis study for Red Apple Transit
  - Develop a major thoroughfare plan for the MPO region
  - Highline Road and East Main corridor studies
  - Develop a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
  - Develop a Complete Streets policy
  - Develop transportation and land use policies

**RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee review the draft FY2011 UPWP.

**Discussion:** Mr. Lucero stated that the MPO Staff met with each entity and presented the UPWP draft. Each entity was asked if there was any functions that they would like staff to provide. The new activities identified were listed within the document. One of the critical projects was a major thoroughfare plan which would include any identified future roadways. The cities of Aztec and Bloomfield, along with San Juan County, have asked the MPO to do a Highline corridor and alignment study. The west side alignment is clearly identifiable; however the east side has several options. Terrain and right-of-way plays a large part in the placement of that section of road. Mr. Lucero stated that a safety study for the NM 173 corridor was also identified. The first mile of NM173 was designed in conjunction with the East Arterial. There are safety issues that are inherent to that stretch of road and funding could be requested by the MPO for the first four miles and then the RPO could request funding for the remainder of that road. Typical yearly activities are listed in the staff report and include administrative tasks, the traffic count program, and the annual TIP update.

Mr. Delmagori talked about the draft budget for the UPWP. The financial plan was provided as a handout, showing a table with the breakdown by each section. In FY2009, \$85,000 was the typical amount per year. In Fy2010, there was \$110,000 in additional unobligated PL that was added to the MPO's typical PL amount, which makes the FY2010 amount around \$195,000. The base PL funding for the Farmington MPO starting in FY2011 is now at a level of \$185,000 per year. The 5303 funds have been estimated and show an increase of \$1,500 over last year. Out of the estimated grand FY2011 budget of \$304,000, \$210,000 will be funded by federal money and any remaining expenditures will be paid by the entities. Mr. Hinson asked if only Farmington benefitted from the additional funds. Mr. Delmagori shared that the Santa Fe and the Las Cruces MPO's also received additional funds.

**Action:** The draft was reviewed.

**6. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE NMDOT**

**Discussion:** Mr. Martinez shared that the TIGER grants have been awarded. NMDOT was not successful in receiving any TIGER grant monies. The Navajo Nation did receive a grant for \$31 million for the US 491 corridor. This should benefit all the Districts since it will free up \$31 million in the state funds. There will be a pavement preservation project from Shiprock to the Colorado state line which is the only remaining undeveloped portion of US 491 in District 5. Two of the ARRA projects within the MPO area have been out to bid, one in Aztec and one in Bloomfield. San Juan County has a pre-bid

meeting set for next week, and Farmington had their pre-bid meeting last week. Mr. Martinez is hoping to have everything ready to go by the middle of April.

7. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>     | Information Items          |
| <b>Prepared by:</b> | Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner |
| <b>Date:</b>        | February 11, 2010          |

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. **New Policy Committee Members.** Staff would like to thank Mayor Standley and Sam Hinson for their time and contributions to the MPO. The City of Farmington and the City of Bloomfield will need to appoint new members to the Policy Committee prior to the next meeting on April 15.
- b. **NMED Ozone Standards Public Meeting.** NMED will hold a public meeting to discuss proposed changes to the ozone standards on Thursday, February 25 from 3:15pm to 5:00pm in the SUNS Room at San Juan College.
- c. **Other.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori shared that Ray Matthew has been assigned to be Dr. Widoe's replacement from the NMDOT. The NMED is holding a public meeting on new ozone standards on Thursday, February 25 at San Juan College. The MPO recognized Mr. Hinson and Mayor Standley for their service to the MPO Policy Committee. Mr. Hinson expressed heartfelt joy working with everyone involved with the MPO. Mr. Delmagori presented him with a certificate thanking him for his time and commitment to the MPO. Mr. Darnell wished him the best in his future endeavors. Mr. Hinson thanked the Technical Committee members for all the hard work they have put into this organization. Dr. Henderson said he has enjoyed working with Mr. Hinson and wished him good luck. Ms. Sipe shared that it has been good to get to know Mr. Hinson and work with him.

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Hinson shared that he did not know who the City of Bloomfield was planning to appoint to this position on the Policy Committee. Dr. Henderson asked if Dr. Widoe was retired yet and expressed the need to reach him. Mr. Martinez stated that Dr. Widoe's retirement date is now set for April 15, 2010. Mr. Delmagori introduced Mr. Bob Campbell as the new MPO Officer.

## **9. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Discussion:** Mr. Keck asked Mr. Martinez if he knew of any maintenance plans for NM 516 or US 64. Mr. Martinez said that the budget shortfall has already eliminated the chip seal program this year. Dr. Henderson shared that at a recent meeting with the Secretary of Transportation he was informed that there was no money even for repairs. Safety Funding is the only area where there is still money, and NM 173 is a project on that list. Mr. Martinez suggested that Safety funding could be used on NM 516 to provide normal maintenance. Mr. Keck stated that his funding has dropped from previous amounts of \$2-3 million to a low of \$300,000. He feels a possible solution is for the entities to pass a quarter of a cent gross receipt tax and fund these transportation projects for the near future. Mr. Darnell stated that every time the state passes a GRT tax increase it disables the ability of local governments to ask for an increase, however the only way that might pass would be as a referendum. Mr. Keck agreed that a referendum would be the only way to get these projects funded and built.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Discussion:** Dr. Henderson made the motion for adjournment. Mr. Darnell seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

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Dr. James Henderson - Chair

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Dee Dee Moore - MPO Admin Aide