

10 SECURITY & EMERGENCY PLANNING

10.1 OVERVIEW

Security is among the major planning factors identified in the FAST Act legislation and is a required element in the long-range transportation planning process. FMPO must plan for how to respond to threats to the regional transportation system in order to ensure the region's economic vitality and the well-being of its population and environment. Threats could include natural disasters, terrorism, or hazardous spills, all of which endanger people's lives and impact transportation infrastructure. Consequences of these events can include loss of transportation mobility, limited access to goods and services, and individual safety. Regions must also consider the extreme cases where evacuation may be required. General strategies to enhance transportation security include an understanding of risks and vulnerable infrastructure, infrastructure investments to increase resiliency to extreme events, and redundancy in the transportation network. See the chapter on Climate Change for additional discussion.

10.2 SECURITY PLANNING AND THE ROLE OF FMPO

The role of FMPO with respect to security planning and preparedness is to understand risks and ensure effective interagency communication. As MPOs are responsible for coordinating and communicating with federal, state, and local agencies, they are in a unique position to bring stakeholders together and consider potential impacts to the transportation system for its various users.

To support and build on hazard mitigation and security planning efforts taken at the state and local levels, opportunities exist for FMPO to partner with various agencies in pursuit of hazard mitigation and improved emergency response at the regional level and to consider impacts beyond jurisdictional boundaries. Among the steps related to security planning that FMPO may take include:

- Review local and statewide plans for emergency planning/security elements
- Include security needs in review of proposed projects and the overall transportation system, including transportation network connectivity
- Identify critical facilities and transportation system elements for evacuation planning

The FMPO region is susceptible to many types of natural disasters:

- Flooding
- Drought
- Wildfires
- Hailstorms
- High winds
- Tornadoes
- Thunderstorms, lightning, and power outages



Flooding from Animas River, June 2019

<https://www.kob.com/new-mexico-news/animas-river-overflow-floods-trails-in-farmington/5386019/>

- Develop security goals and appropriate strategies in the MTP
- Work with emergency response agencies for disseminating information to the public as quickly as possible
- Implement Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies for emergency traffic flow, evacuation, etc.
- Incorporate transit security planning into the MTP; define the role of public transportation operators, the MPO, and the state in promoting security

Table 10-1: Regional and Local Agency Roles in Security Planning

Role of Local Agencies	Role of FMPO
<p>Implementation Lead – The traditional role of local agencies applies to security planning, as municipal or county governments agencies may lead specific planning efforts and implement projects that emerge from the regional planning process.</p>	<p>Convener – FMPO can act as a forum where operations plans could be discussed and coordinated with other plans in the region. Regular meetings on operations issues could be held, and FMPO can play a role in identifying funding opportunities.</p>
<p>Emergency Response – Local jurisdictions oversee emergency response and security-related services. Local jurisdictions may coordinate with neighboring agencies on responses to public safety emergencies across jurisdictional boundaries.</p>	<p>Champion – FMPO can work to develop a regional consensus on operations planning and security needs. FMPO planners can work with operating agencies to create programs and projects that improve system performance and can coordinate with NMDOT and other state-level agencies on addressing regional needs. The MPO takes the lead in developing regional agreements on coordinated operations.</p>

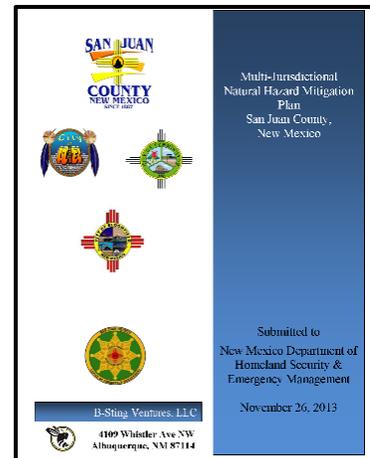
10.3 REGIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

10.3.1 San Juan County Emergency Operations and Hazard Mitigation Plans

The San Juan County Office of Emergency Management (SJCOEM) provides a comprehensive and coordinated county wide emergency management program to enhance public safety and reduce the loss of lives and property in an emergency or a large-scale disaster. While the OEM and local governments have taken the lead on security planning, FMPO is available for assistance when needed.

Together with San Juan County and the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, Farmington, SJCOEM created an *Emergency Operations Plan* (EOP) for safety and security in the communities and the region. The EOP establishes protocols of who will be involved in responding to emergencies and how the response occurs.

The Office of Emergency Management and the local governments also created a *Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan* (HMP). The plan identifies hazards most likely to impact the area, and policies and procedures to save lives, minimize injuries, protect property, and perform other essential activities. The HMP addresses drought, flooding, wildfire and wildland urban interface, and hazardous material transport. The plan assesses the risks of each hazard and describes steps for implementing a mitigation plan. The HMP also identifies projects which are needed to improve the prevention of and response to these hazards. The transportation of hazardous materials (typically liquid nitrogen) and the risk of hazardous spill incidents is specifically identified on multiple routes within the county, including: US 550, US 64, and NM 516.



San Juan County Communications Authority

The San Juan County Communications Authority (SJCCA) is the primary public safety answering point for San Juan County. SJCCA is a joint effort among the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, as well as San Juan County and the New Mexico Department of Public Safety. SJCCA serves as the 9-1-1 call center for all of San Juan County, with the exception of portions of the Navajo Nation Reservation, and communications authority dispatchers broadcast emergency calls for service to police, fire, and EMS throughout San Juan County.

10.3.2 State of New Mexico All-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan

The *State of New Mexico All-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan* (2013) establishes the New Mexico Emergency Operations System to respond to emergencies and disasters. The plan establishes lines of authority, responsibilities, and organizational relationships, and shows how all actions will be coordinated among state, federal, and local governments to provide for the safety and welfare of New Mexico residents.

The plan specifically addresses emergencies and disasters caused by natural or manmade events, acts of terrorism, or any other circumstance as determined by the Governor. The plan's guidance and protocols apply when it is necessary for the state to assist local jurisdictions whose capabilities are overwhelmed, when the state has to respond first, or when the state needs to prepare for or respond to incidents of national significance.

In addition to the EOP, the state Department of Homeland Security's *New Mexico State Hazard Mitigation Plan* (2013) considers services and facilities that may be vulnerable to a variety of hazards and extreme events. Though the most recent plan considers few transportation security-related items, further integration of transportation-related hazards may be included in future updates.

10.4 EVACUATION PLANNING

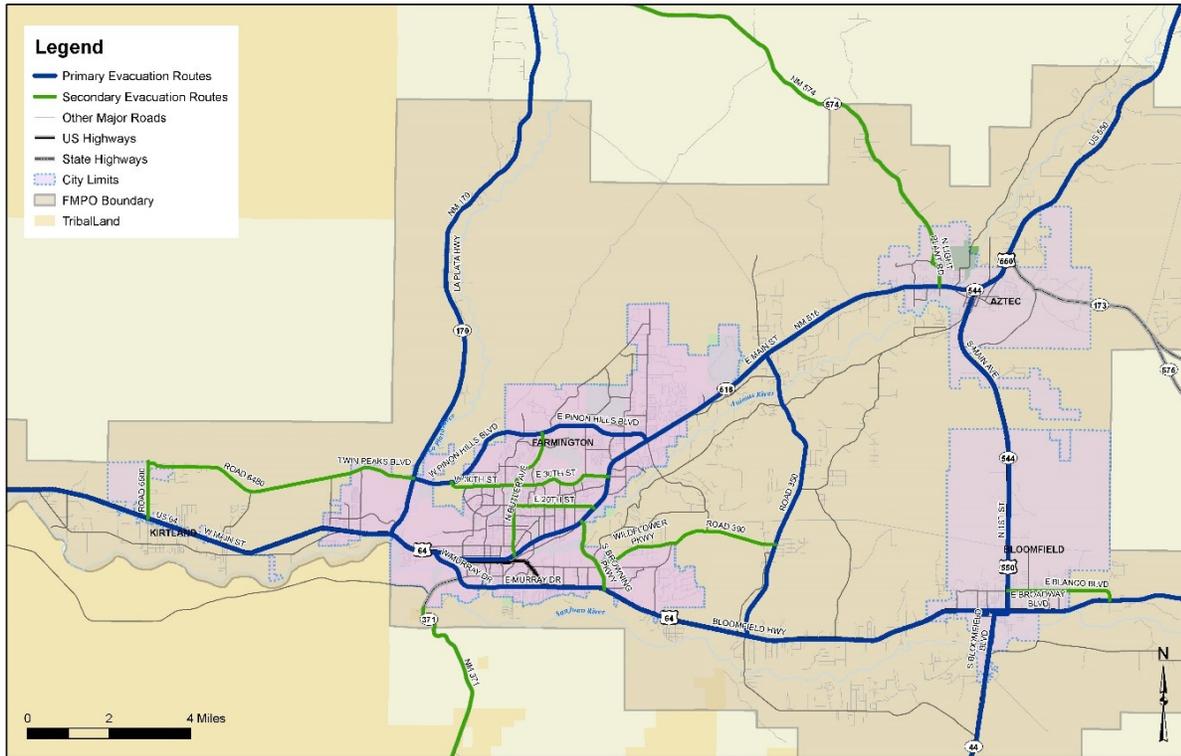
In coordination with San Juan County Office of Emergency Management, the FMPO has identified primary and secondary evacuation routes in the event that a security incident occurs (See Table 10-2 and Figure 10-1). These routes serve as the primary means of exiting region, should an emergency event occur. These routes should be maintained to a high standard and subject to regional emergency plans and contingencies such as protocols for reversing lanes and managing traffic during an evacuation. FMPO may conduct further analysis to consider the impacts if one of these routes is affected by an extreme event or security concern and becomes impassible.

It should be noted that San Juan County has an emergency alert system in place that sends out messages to inform the public about severe weather or other incidents. It is conceivable that the identified evacuation routes could be incorporated into this alert system to direct the public to specific routes. The actual routes for evacuation depend on the specific details of the event.

Table 10-2: Primary and Secondary Evacuation Routes

Primary Routes	Secondary Routes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US 64 • US 550 • NM 170 • NM 516 • Piñon Hills Blvd • CR 350 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NM 371 • NM 574 • CR 390/Wildflower Pkwy • CR 6480/Twin Peaks Blvd • E 20th St • E 30th St • Browning Pkwy • Butler Ave • East Blanco Blvd

Figure 10-1: Primary and Secondary Evacuation Routes



10.5 TRANSIT SECURITY

All efforts should be made to ensure the safety and security of public transit users. Red Apple Transit staff is involved in the planning efforts of the San Juan County Emergency Management Office and is available to assist in emergency response efforts in times of evacuation. Security and safety measures on Red Apple Transit should be taken, such as:

- Provide bus stops and shelters that are well-lit and located in places that are highly visible
- Install on-board cameras to discourage crime and monitor activities
- Evaluate on-vehicle features to ensure the security of drivers
- Continue to coordinate with emergency responder and prepare to assist during events requiring evacuation

10.6 SECURITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION ITEMS

10.6.1 General Strategies

FMPO can play an ongoing role in regional security planning. General strategies include:

- Provide a forum for security and safety agencies to coordinate prevention strategies
- Coordinate with security officials in development of prevention strategies
- Identify new strategies, technologies and projects that can help prevent events

10.6.2 Action Items

- Consider the impacts of proposed projects from a security perspective and include security criteria in the project prioritization methodology
- Locate funding for communications systems, such as ITS, and other technologies to disseminate information and speed response during incidents
- Coordinate with NMDOT on regional and statewide travel modeling efforts to assess the impacts of an extreme event if major statewide freight and travel corridors were compromised
- Conduct or fund vulnerability analyses on regional transportation facilities