

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 21, 2012

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

Policy Members Absent: Sherri Sipe, City of Aztec
Gayla McCulloch, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Mary Holton, MPO Officer
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide

Staff Absent: None

Also Present: Phil Gallegos, Assistant District Engineer, District
5, via telephone
Maggie Ryan, Planning Liaison, NMDOT
Larry Hathaway, San Juan County
Larry Joe, Navajo DOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Jim Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 19, 2012 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Lucero made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2012 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Darnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. AMENDMENT #3 TO THE FY2012-2017 TIP AND AMENDMENT #1 TO THE FY2013-2018 TIP

Subject:	FY2012-2017 TIP Amendment #3
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 13, 2012

BACKGROUND

- On May 6, 2012 the Farmington MPO advertised Amendment #3 to the FY2012-FY2017 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment #1 to the FY2013-2018 TIP.
- Because the project changes occur in both FY2012 and FY2013 and the projects are included in both TIPs, amendments to each TIP need to be made.
- The amendment revises four projects as described in the attached notice.

CURRENT WORK

- The MPO is holding a 30-day public comment period from May 6, 2012 to June 8, 2012.
- No comments were received during a public hearing on Amendment #3 and Amendment #1 held during the May 24, 2012 Technical Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve Amendment #3 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #1 to the FY2013-2018 TIP and the MPO Self-Certification document for Amendment #3 and Amendment #1.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan reported that Staff held the public comment period for both Amendment #3 to the FY2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment #1 to the FY2013-2018 TIP from May 6 to June 8, 2012. No comments were received during the public hearing held during the May 24, 2012 Technical Committee meeting.

The amendments revise four projects and because the project changes occur in both FY2012 and FY2013 and the projects are included in both TIPs, amendments to each TIP need to be made.

Mr. Wakan also noted the new requirement by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to self-certify that the MPO is conducting the amendments in accordance with all applicable requirements of 23 CFR 450.218 and 23 CFR 450.324 and the federal transit requirements of Section 5307(c) (1-7).

Mr. Wakan briefly reviewed the four projects being amended and noted the attached visuals for each of the projects:

- **CN F100111 – US 64 Phase III** – current project total is \$15,841,045. Add an additional \$880,920 in NHS to FY2012 for construction and right-of-way acquisition. Move the \$1,700,000 in National Highway System funding from FY2013 to FY2012. All funding for Phase III is now in FY2012. The new project total is \$16,721,965.
- **CN FC00001 – US 64 from Harper Hill to NM 170 (MP 47 to MP 48.7)** – move the \$1,100,000 in NHS for pavement rehabilitation from FY2011 to FY2012.

- **CR 7150 (Bridge #8105)** – this project, which is MPO Bridge Priority #2, will be receiving new funding for construction as follows: \$1,000,000 in Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funds, \$250,000 in Navajo DOT funds, and \$250,000 in local County funds. In addition, the \$700,000 in Bridge funding programmed to **CR 6675 (CN 5100210)** will be transferred to the CR 7150 project. The **CR 6675 project** will be removed from the TIP. The total funding for the CR 7150 project (new control number pending) will be \$2,200,000.
- **Safe Routes to School Phase 2 Infrastructure (CN W500012)** – combine the existing funding in the amount of \$65,000 with the \$185,000 in SRTS Phase 2 funding (CN W500013) for a total of \$250,000. Project description will be revised to reflect general pedestrian improvements at schools participating in the SRTS program. CN W500013 will be removed from the TIP.

Dr. Henderson asked who had requested these amendments. Mr. Delmagori said that the first two projects were requested by District 5, San Juan County had requested the bridge change, and the SRTS coordinator working with the City of Farmington requested the final SRTS amendment.

ACTION: Mr. Darnell moved to approve Amendment #3 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #1 to the FY2013-2018 TIP. Mr. Lucero seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Darnell then clarified his earlier motion to approve Amendment #3 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #1 to the FY2013-2018 TIP and the MPO Self-Certification documents for Amendment #3 and Amendment #1. Mr. Lucero seconded this motion.

4. AMENDMENT #4 TO THE FY2012-2017 TIP AND AMENDMENT #2 TO THE FY2013-2018 TIP

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	FY2012-2017 TIP Amendment #4
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 13, 2012

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On May 16, 2012 the Farmington MPO advertised Amendment #4 to the FY2012-FY2017 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment #2 to the FY2013-2018 TIP. ▪ Because the project change occurs in FY2013 and the projects are included in both TIPs, amendments to each TIP need to be made. ▪ The amendment revises one project as described in the attached notice.

CURRENT WORK

- The MPO held a 30-day public comment period from May 16, 2012 to June 15, 2012.
- No comments were received during a public hearing on Amendment #4 and Amendment #2 during the May 24, 2012 Technical Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve Amendment #4 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #2 to the FY2013-2018 TIP and the MPO Self-Certification document for Amendment #4 and Amendment #2.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan stated the public comment period for this Amendment was held from May 16 to June 15, 2012. The public hearing was held during the May 24, 2012 Technical Committee meeting and no comments were received.

Mr. Wakan added that this Amendment also included the Self-Certification document as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Amendment #4 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #2 to the FY2013-2018 TIP revise the following project:

- **CN F100170 –NM 173** – add this new project to the FY2012-2017 TIP and FY2013-2018 TIP; project is funded by the High Risk Rural Road Safety program in the amount of \$2,000,000 in FY2013; project will make safety improvements on NM 173 between MP 2 and MP 3.5.

Dr. Henderson asked where these mile posts were located. Mr. Delmagori responded that they are out on the Navajo Dam road near the Aztec arterial project. The improvements will begin at approximately that point and head east for about 1.5 miles. Mr. Delmagori said that although there are other portions of the roadway that need improvements, this is the first of several potential phases. Mr. Gallegos stated that District 5 has been planning to eliminate the vertical curves and add shoulders to this two-mile road section to enhance safety. Ms. Holton asked if there were future phases planned for the remaining roadway. Mr. Gallegos said this was the only section submitted as a safety project and approved under the safety program. For future improvements, Mr. Gallegos recommended using the MPO process and then prioritizing those projects on the MTP.

ACTION: Mr. Lucero moved to approve Amendment #4 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #2 to the FY2013-2018 TIP and the MPO Self-Certification documents for Amendment #4 and Amendment #2. Mr. Darnell seconded this motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. APPROVE THE 2012 TRAFFIC COUNT LOCATION LIST

Subject:	2012 Traffic Count Program
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 13, 2012

BACKGROUND

- MPO maintains traffic counts for 224 locations throughout the MPO boundaries.
- Locations are taken according to a three-year cycle and periodically change due to the deletion or addition of various locations.
- The 2012 Traffic counts are the third year of the three-year cycle.
- Counts that were not approved last year or were affected by road construction will be counted in 2012.
- The MPO expects to take 88 volume counts in 2012.
- The MPO anticipates that speed and class count information will be provided for 30 of the 88 count locations.
- The Technical Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the 2012 Traffic Count Location List on May 24, 2012.

CURRENT WORK

- The proposed location list is attached for review.
- The members are asked to identify locations that might conflict with known road construction schedules.
- Staff will ask member entities to review the list in August for any unforeseen conflicts with construction or other events.
- The MPO anticipates taking the counts in September and October.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve the 2012 Traffic Count Location List.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan reported the MPO maintains traffic counts for 224 locations throughout the MPO boundaries and location counts are taken according to a three-year cycle. For 2012, the MPO expects to take 88 volume counts. Speed and class count information will also be provided for 30 of these locations.

Mr. Wakan noted that the traffic count list was reviewed with the Technical Committee to identify locations that might conflict with known road construction schedules. Mr. Delmagori added that the count list would be reviewed again with the Technical Committee in a few months for any unforeseen conflicts. The counts are anticipated to be taken in September and October.

ACTION: Mr. Darnell moved to approve the 2012 Traffic Count Location List. Mr. Lucero seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Delmagori recommended receiving the NMDOT report prior to receiving the presentation on the 2010 US Census urban areas.

6. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

Mr. Gallegos reported that the project for the Light Plant Road and NM 516 intersection is ready to be let in October with construction then beginning in early 2013.

The next two-mile phase of US 64 from mile marker 60 – 62 is also ready to be let in October. Mr. Gallegos said NMDOT is currently in the right-of-way acquisition process with construction expected to begin in the spring of 2013.

Mr. Gallegos stated that the City of Farmington had requested the Pinon Hills extension project be revised to include right-of-way acquisition. District 5 has agreed with this request.

Mr. Gallegos also reported on CN F100090 which is the East Arterial project in Aztec. The funding through the Transportation Community System Preservation (TCSP) Program was just recently approved by FHWA. The project agreement is pending execution.

Mr. Delmagori asked if Mr. Gallegos could provide a status update on the MAP application for the repaving of Apache Street and Airport Drive submitted by the City of Farmington. Mr. Gallegos said he would need to check on this application status.

Mr. Delmagori also noted that the City of Farmington has STP/Enhancement funding for the East Pinon Hills sidewalk project in FY2013 but is considering using some of this money for sidewalks on Farmington Avenue. He said the City of Farmington has asked for a TIP amendment to be started. Mr. Gallegos said that was fine, it just needed to go through the MPO with a formal request submitted to NMDOT for a STIP amendment. Mr. Delmagori said that the City of Farmington also needed a contract for this project. Mr. Gallegos said he was aware of this and said they would need to contact NMDOT's contract division to get the contract started. Mr. Delmagori said he would relay the information to Nica Westerling.

Mr. Darnell asked what the right-of-way issues were with the Pinon Hills extension project, and was this request for extra rights-of-way for multi-modal consideration or for the extension itself. Mr. Gallegos said he did not know since the City of Farmington is the lead entity on this project. Mr. Delmagori recommended speaking with Jeff Smaka or Nica Westerling who should have this information available.

Mr. Darnell also asked about the requested funding for sidewalks along Farmington Avenue. He commented that he had not heard about sidewalks in this area before now, but knew there were other areas in the city where sidewalks were being considered. Mr.

Delmagori said this area is along Farmington Avenue between 20th and 30th Streets and is to fill in the gaps in the sidewalk primarily on the west side where the ranch is located.

Ms. Westerling briefly joined the meeting for discussion on the City of Farmington's MAP application request. Mr. Delmagori reported on the discussion just held with Mr. Gallegos and Committee members regarding this request. Ms. Westerling added that the TIP has to be amended before the contract can be issued. Mr. Delmagori commented that the next Policy Committee is not scheduled until September. After some discussion, it was decided that a special Policy Committee meeting will have to be called for August following completion of the required 30-day comment period.

Ms. Maggie Ryan was welcomed as the new NMDOT Planning Liaison for the MPO. Ms. Ryan said in addition to her duties as Planning Liaison, she has also been named as the Scenic Byways Coordinator. She spoke of her plans to attend the MPO Quarterly Meeting in Farmington on June 27 followed the next day by the Technical Committee meeting. Ms. Ryan said that she has most recently been working on the State long-range plan with Claude Morelli. Ms. Ryan reported that Mr. Ray Matthew was retiring from NMDOT on June 21. She also added that Jessica Griffin, the SRTS Coordinator, was promoted to Unit Supervisor for the Government to Government Bureau, so she will be dividing her time between the two divisions.

7. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE 2010 US CENSUS URBAN AREAS

Subject:	US Census Urban Areas
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 13,2012

BACKGROUND or Previous Work

- The Urbanized Area, Urban Cluster, and Urban Area definitions change following each decennial census count. With the data release of the 2010 Census and recent definition updates of urban areas, there is a need to review changes in the Farmington Urban Area and its surrounding environs. These changes have implications for MPO funding and reporting responsibilities.
- A report on the Urban Area Definitions was presented to the Technical Committee on May 24, 2012.

CURRENT WORK

- MPO staff are illustrating and analyzing past and current definitions along with population counts and trends in each area definition in the FMPO.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the US Census Urban Areas.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan gave a presentation on the 2010 US Census urban areas.

Mr. Wakan stated that numbers in the urbanized areas do affect funding and road classification system reporting. The 2010 Urban Area definitions as classified by the US Census Bureau are listed below:

Urbanized Area (UZA) \geq 50,000 People or More
Urban Cluster (UC) \geq 2,500 to 49,999 People
Urban Area (UA) All UZAs + UCs
Rural Areas - Any area outside of UZAs and UCs

Based on the 2010 Census, Los Lunas, New Mexico is a new urbanized area as they meet the population threshold of 50,000 or more people. Mr. Wakan noted that according to the 2010 Census, 66% of the population in San Juan County lives in the urban area.

Mr. Wakan noted that the 2000 Census showed the Farmington urbanized area stretching from Kirtland to Aztec and encompassed parts of Flora Vista and Spencerville. The only urban cluster in 2000 was Bloomfield. The population in the urbanized area in 2000 was 53,294 which was 65% of the total MPO population. The 2010 urbanized population is 53,049 or 55% of the MPO population.

Mr. Wakan compared some of the information from the 2000 Census against the 2010 Census. The urbanized area definition has now changed significantly as it no longer includes Kirtland or Aztec. They are now designated as urban clusters along with Bloomfield and their Census boundaries are independent of the city/municipal boundaries. The Farmington urbanized area has now decreased in size by about nine square miles and the urbanized population has decreased from 53,294 in 2000 to 53,049 in 2010. Mr. Wakan noted that this was due to the new urban clusters now standing independent of the urbanized area. The urban area population is now 79,597 (82% of population) compared to 60,925 (75% of population) in 2000. Mr. Wakan noted that the MPO is growing and becoming more urbanized.

Mr. Wakan explained that the urbanized area definition and population thresholds do affect MPO status as well as MPO functional classification systems and will play a role in funding distributions.

ACTION: The presentation was received.

8. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE UPDATE TO THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA)

Subject:	Renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 13, 2012

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) is the document that binds the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, and San Juan County to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- The JPA is set to expire on September 30, 2012.
- The JPA explains the responsibilities of the City of Farmington as the fiscal agent and the functions and organizational structure of the Policy and Technical Committees.
- It describes the roles and work products required of the MPO.
- A report on the renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement was given to the Technical Committee on May 24, 2012.

CURRENT WORK

- The language of the Joint Powers Agreement is being reviewed for possible revisions.
- Staff requests input from its members on potential changes to the JPA.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori reported that the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) is up for renewal in September which ends the current three-year cycle. The document brings all three cities and the county together and forms the MPO and describes the roles and functions of the committees and staff, and other legalities of the MPO.

A report on the renewal of the JPA was given to the Technical Committee on May 24, 2012. Staff plans to review the document over the next few months with final approval by the Policy Committee in September. This will then be followed by individual approval by each entity.

Mr. Delmagori reviewed sections of the JPA and the recommended changes:

Page 1 – update the urbanized area information using the new 2010 Census data;

Section Two – Term of the Agreement. Mr. Delmagori reported that the City Clerk has stated the current wording for the term of the agreement is misleading. The intent of the document is to have a three-year term running from 2012 to 2015, and that in the intervening years, it is automatically renewed until the three-year term has been completed.

Page 2 - Section Three – Fiscal Agent. Anticipate that the City of Farmington will continue to act in this capacity.

Section Four – Organizational Structure – A1. Anticipate this remaining consistent.

Page 5 - Section Four – D - #1. The federal planning process will remain the same, but the livability principles have been added. If Congress passes a new transportation bill and planning factors are changed, this section would be updated accordingly.

Page 7 - Section Five – Budgeting and Cost Allocation. The population numbers in this section will be updated to reflect the 2010 Census figures and consideration given to how the new numbers factor into the funding share. Mr. Delmagori said that any changes to the percentages of local funding share would be up to the entities.

Dr. Henderson asked about the estimated county population of 36,173. Mr. Delmagori explained that this number is based on Census block data and reflects the estimate of the county population that is in the MPO but outside of the cities.

Mr. Delmagori said the remaining pages of the document contain boilerplate and legal information which has been maintained throughout each previous update to the JPA. No formal action will be requested for another few months and should any changes be required, Mr. Delmagori asked the Policy Committee members to speak with him or with their respective governing entity.

ACTION: The report was received.

9. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE UPDATE TO THE COMMITTEE BYLAWS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject:	Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Planner
Date:	June 13, 2012

BACKGROUND

- The Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures provide the guidance for the Policy and Technical Committees.
- Descriptions of the Chair and Vice-Chair for each committee, removal and replacement process, and voting procedures are contained within this document.
- The Bylaws are formally updated in conjunction with the Joint Powers Agreement every three years.
- A report on the update to the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures was given to the Technical Committee on May 24, 2012.

CURRENT WORK

- The language in the Committee Bylaws is being reviewed for possible revisions.
- Staff requests input from its members on potential changes to the Bylaws.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the update to the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori reported that in conjunction with the JPA, the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures are formally updated every three years. This document illustrates the voting procedures, the assignment and removal procedures of Committee members, as well as roles and responsibilities of Staff.

Mr. Delmagori reviewed the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures document:

Page 1 – Voting Members. New paragraph added to clarify the assignment of alternates as well as of the Committee members. Designation of members and alternates is made by the City Manager or County CEO. Member and/or alternate designation would remain in effect until they can no longer serve in the capacity.

Dr. Henderson asked about Section B – Ex-Officio Members and if ex-officio members could come from the private sector or only from FHWA or NMDOT. Mr. Delmagori clarified that this section also says, "...or other appropriate agency". He believes this would include former Committee members and/or private sector candidates.

Page 2 – Officers. Staff has recommended that the Policy Committee hold the Annual Election of Officers at their September rather than the April meeting. With local municipal elections in March, this would give entities more time to designate their representative and allow that newly appointed member time to learn about the MPO and their responsibilities.

Page 2 – Removal Procedure. Attendance requirement of 75% translates into attendance at five of the six regularly scheduled Policy Committee meetings each year. The removal process is also explained in this section. The attendance requirement does not apply to the alternates.

Page 9 – Small change was added to indicate that attendance requirements do not apply to Technical Committee alternates.

Mr. Delmagori noted this was only a report today to update the Committee on recommended changes and that approval will be sought in the coming months.

ACTION: The report was received.

10. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE WALKABLE COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP

Subject:	Walkable Communities Workshop
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Planner
Date:	June 13, 2012

BACKGROUND

- The MPO coordinated with Dan Burden and the Walkable and Livable Communities (WALC) Institute and hosted a Walkable Communities Workshop for the MPO on May 30-31.
- Day one was a formal full day workshop and day two held walking audits and site tours in Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington.
- The workshop and audits were well attended.

CURRENT WORK

- Staff has compiled in DVD format, a recap of the workshop and walk audits, photographs of each audit, as well design recommendations from Dan Burden in voice recordings; all to be distributed to each Policy and Technical Committee member, workshop participants, and other elected officials from the various local jurisdictions.
- Staff will work to encourage and facilitate ongoing activities.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the Walkable Communities Workshop held on May 30-31.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan gave a presentation on the Walkable Communities Workshop held on May 30-31, 2012.

The MPO coordinated the Workshop with Dan Burden and the Walkable and Livable Communities (WALC) Institute. Mr. Burden is renowned for his work designing walkable communities.

Day one was a formal full-day workshop with a walking audit in the Farmington MRA area downtown. Later on during day one, Dan Burden and MPO staff hosted a technical training meeting designed for planners and engineers that discussed design criteria to consider implementing. Day two saw the walking audits and site tours in Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington. Mr. Burden and his staff were instrumental in helping city leadership envision what they should be working toward to improve pedestrian access and livability of their city.

Mr. Wakan summarized some of the presentation to emphasize some of the important concepts that might be utilized locally and regionally in the MPO:

- Use of back-in parking on main streets;
- Bulb outs and trees to enhance appeal of main streets;
- Narrow crosswalks;
- Reduce speeds;
- Provide and maintain sidewalks;
- Use of longitudinal crosswalk markings to alert motorists;
- Create inviting spaces/sense of place;
- Create connectivity (use grids)/analyze street networks;
- Need developer with vision to get things started which leads to greater economic activity.

Mr. Wakan explained the concept of a “road diet” which is transforming a four or six-lane roadway into one that is accessible and usable by all modes such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. The result of a road diet becomes a complete street.

Mr. Darnell commented that in Mr. Burden’s presentation he spoke about slowing traffic, reducing the number of lanes, yet being able to move the same volume of traffic. Mr. Darnell asked how this was possible and the need to sell the community on the use of roundabouts to keep traffic flowing. Ms. Holton recommended completing a before and after case study of an actual location that would provide step-by-step details on what was involved to provide a real sense of what occurred. Mr. Darnell said that would be very helpful to get a true understanding of what is needed. Ms. Holton added that to provide the needed education and get buy-in both from the public and elected officials, this information needs to be provided in a black and white format.

Mr. Wakan showed a slide from Mr. Burden’s presentation showing that for every \$16,000,000 spent on constructing of a new road mile, only \$250,000 is spent on bike and pedestrian infrastructure that is ADA compliant. The appropriate funding levels for pedestrian safety or complete street are not being allocated.

Mr. Darnell stated that during this workshop Mr. Burden commented on current construction in the area and things that are happening here right now. He noted that Mr. Burden suggested there might be other methods, but did not believe that issue was totally covered during the workshop. Mr. Darnell asked for real life examples of what could be done regionally to encourage connectivity. For example, could some of the funding that has been allocated for other projects, but not yet spent, be used elsewhere to create desired outcomes by different methods. Mr. Darnell suggested we look for ways to achieve some of the Mr. Burden’s recommendations. Ms. Holton said Staff plans to begin working on a complete streets plan. The plan will look at the actual roadway networks in the MPO to see what should be changed and show how performance in different areas could actually be improved.

Mr. Wakan spoke on the correlation between driving speeds and pedestrian accidents:

- at 20 mph there is a 5% chance of pedestrian death;
- at 40 mph the chance of pedestrian death increases to 80%.

Mr. Wakan also reported on the use of roundabouts: they handle the same traffic capacity as a four-way stop, provide better pedestrian access, a safer environment, and better aesthetics. He noted the cost difference in maintaining a roundabout versus electrical costs for a four-way signaled intersection. Mr. Darnell noted, however, that the initial cost for constructing a roundabout is higher than installing traffic signals. When economic times are tough and budget cuts are being made, the most affordable choice is typically selected.

Mr. Wakan reviewed some of the pros and cons from the walk audits held in Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington on Day Two of the workshop:

Aztec (Main Street)

Good use of public art; draws in visitors
Narrow streets are good
Vibrant pedestrian crossing
Obstacles impeding some pedestrian traffic
Improve crosswalk timing at US 550 and NM 516

Bloomfield (South 1st Street)

Good river trails and access

Roadway too wide; add bike lanes and on-street parking

Create gateway to facilities

Public facility disconnected – facing away from street – need to engage public

US 64 & NM 550 intersection too wide; pedestrian can be trapped on refuge island that separates turning traffic from through traffic

Farmington (Farmington Avenue)

Good trees and shade on Main Street

Good use of mast arms

Glazing too dark on downtown store fronts

Asphalt mixture issue (leaching onto crosswalk markings)

Parking lot accessibility is too wide

Mill bike lanes to increase safety and avoid a lip in the pavement

Sidewalks too narrow; obstacles in middle of sidewalks

Both the workshop and walking audits were well attended by planners, engineers, city officials, and business leaders.

ACTION: The report was received.

11. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE STUDENT ARRIVAL COUNTS FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROGRAM

Subject:	Student Arrival Counts
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 13, 2012

BACKGROUND

- In the spring and fall, student arrival counts are taken at the schools participating in the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program.
- Volunteers count students as they arrive by vehicle, by bus, or if they walk or bike to school.
- The count process began in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009.
- The MPO has taken on the evaluation element of the SRTS program.

CURRENT WORK

- Spring 2012 counts were taken in April at Apache, Ladera, McKinley, and Mesa Verde.
- Yearly data now enables staff to evaluate the number of students walking and biking to school.
- Mesa Verde and Apache have a consistent number of walkers.

- McKinley has had the highest number of walkers but recently has seen that number decrease.
- Ladera tends to have a high number of walkers although the number has dropped this school year

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the student arrival counts for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori reported that data has now been collected for three years and summarizes the trends in walking at the SRTS participants. The data enables staff to evaluate the number of students walking and biking to school.

ACTION: The report was received.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item #12**

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 13, 2012

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **NMED Air Quality Meeting.** The New Mexico Environmental Department held an air quality meeting on Wednesday, May 30 at San Juan College. Topics included reports on ozone, emissions, and shale gas. Documents from the May 30, 2012 Four Corners Air Quality Group Meetings are now posted on the following website: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/4C/>.
- b. **MPO Quarterly.** The Farmington MPO will host the next MPO Quarterly on Wednesday, June 27 at the MPO office.
- c. **Other.**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan reported that at the NMED Air Quality meeting it was reported that one facility in the county (Navajo Dam) is close to exceeding the threshold. There was a report provided on what is being done to mitigate and reduce emissions. Mr. Wakan reported that San Juan County is currently in attainment, but even if one monitoring station exceeds the threshold, it would cause the entire county to be in non-attainment. Mr. Delmagori added that current thinking is that emissions build up in the cities and the wind pushes it out east to Navajo Dam. Mr. Darnell said that there have

been concerns in the past with intentional tampering of the monitoring sites and commented that the exact location of the sites should be kept confidential.

Mr. Delmagori reported that the MPO Quarterly meeting will be in Farmington on June 27 at the MPO Office. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr. Delmagori said a presentation on governmental conduct for public employees and elected officials was forwarded by the City Attorney. Staff will e-mail this presentation to Policy Committee members.

13. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

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

14. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Larry Joe with Navajo DOT commented briefly on the work on the Carson Bridge on CR 7150. This was a high priority project on the Navajo Nation TIP.

Mr. Joe also explained the need for a future project on the Chaco Canyon Road. He noted that it is well traveled by residents in the area of Torreon and is paved most of the way except for a ten-mile stretch.

Mr. Joe asked to receive a copy of the Walkable Communities Workshop DVD.

Mr. Joe asked if there was further information on the intersection of Navajo 36 and NM 371. Mr. Delmagori said he had no additional information, but would ask Mr. Gallegos for an update.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lucero made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Darnell seconded the motion. Mr. Huber adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Dr. James Henderson, Chair

June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide