

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
March 25, 2010

Technical Members Present: Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington
Steve Christensen, City of Aztec
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield
Nica Westerling, City of Farmington
Chico Quintana, Alternate, City of Farmington

Technical Members Absent: Dave Keck, San Juan County

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

Staff Absent: Bob Campbell, MPO Officer

Also Present: Dave Martinez, NMDOT
Ray Matthew, NMDOT
Linda Sillers, SJCI
Paula Gruber, SJCI
Rudy Ferrari, Citizen
Gilbert Motto, Citizen
Hugh Motto, Citizen
Jonah Martin, Citizen
Tootsie Barnes, Citizen
Raymond Barnes, Citizen
Keith Ashmore, Velo De Animas Bicycle Club

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Baird called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 25, 2010 TECHNICAL MEETING

Ms. Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2010 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Christensen seconded that motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Metropolitan Transportation Plan
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	March 17, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- Staff has finalized the elements of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- Staff has finished meeting with the committee members, stakeholders, and the general public to review the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- A formal 30-day public comment period was opened on February 28 and closes on April 7, 2010.

CURRENT WORK

- Review the final draft of the plan with the Committee members.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Seek adoption of the plan by the Policy Committee in April.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- Final draft of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan has been provided to the Technical Committee members.
- Final draft of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan is available on the MPO website at: <http://www.farmingtonmpo.org/mtp.html>
- PC Resolution 2010-1 for review.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - Review the final draft of the plan.
 - Hold a public hearing on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
 - Recommend adoption of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori provided a chapter by chapter overview of the MTP document to all attendees. He highlighted the main points of the chapter. When discussing potential future truck routes, Ms. Westerling stated that the City of Farmington was designing the Pinon Hills Bridge road for only 10% trucks as a freight option. With regards to the Safety data from 2005-2007, Ms. Westerling said that the problem on 20th Street at East Main may have already been fixed by adding a double left turn.

After the review was complete Ms. Baird opened the public hearing for the MTP update. Mr. Ferrari asked if this pertained specifically to the US64 project. Ms. Baird suggested that if the public had specific comments about that project to wait until the end of the meeting when comments are received from the floor. Mr. Lucero stated that that project could also be discussed within the TIP.

Mr. Christensen thought it was important to remember what Policy Committee Member Mr. Darnell brought up: how are we going to begin to acquire the right-of-way (ROW) for some of these long range projects and how are we going to coordinate with the entities to begin budgeting the necessary funds? Is that a MPO function, and how much of a function is it to help coordinate that effort? Mr. Christensen felt the need to acquire ROW for the long range projects is now. Ms. Westerling suggested doing preliminary ROW studies to identify where exactly the ROW is needed based on the best road alignment. Perhaps grant money could be sought after to do the ROW studies as part of the MPO planning process. Mr. Christensen stated that he thought the County was interested in doing part of the Highline Road study. Ms. Westerling suggested doing a study for all of the proposed roads to make sure the routes are feasible. Mr. Christensen suggested that the DOT would need to be a part of that team.

Mr. Delmagori suggested that the MPO Staff can help educate the entities involved in the process, City and County officials, BLM officials, and/or other agencies that might be involved in the process. Mr. Delmagori also stated that perhaps some of the MPO planning funds could be used for some preliminary studies. Mr. Lucero stated that identifying the corridors would be done during the major thoroughfare planning stage and at that time it would be necessary to identify what functional classification each roadway would be which would help determine the amount of ROW required.

Various audience members asked if there was an additional meeting for the US 64 project. Mr. Martinez shared that the US64 is fully designed and that there were no meetings that he was aware of. Mr. Motto asked Mr. Martinez if there was still time to address safety issues with the design of US 64. Mr. Martinez asked the attendees to address their issues during the public input portion of the agenda and that he would answer their questions as best as he could.

Mr. Martin asked what importance was placed on infrastructure during the corridor identification process that may be used to expand industrial and residential areas. Mr. Lucero shared that by using the growth rates in correlation with current available infrastructure, it is easier to identify areas that are more prone to expand. There are also other factors that can affect the modeling such as who owns the land, inaccessibility, archeological sites and regulation regarding no-build zones next to oil equipment.

Ms. Westerling stated that the MPO tries to create plans on a regional basis and then the cities try to adopt the same plans and maps for the portions that reside within the city limits. She also stated that for each project the utilities would need to be identified. Mr. Martin questioned if the utilities had not been looked at for the scenarios at this point in time. Ms. Westerling shared that some of those things were looked at during identifying the roads, but until the preliminary corridor studies are completed and the actual location established, there is no identified new infrastructure. Mr. Martin asked if there was flexibility within the MTP plan to accommodate any changes. Ms. Westerling answered yes, that plan will accommodate all changes as determined by the studies. Mr. Lucero shared that the road locations that were identified looked at the most plausible location to build, since issues such as terrain can limit the locations. The northern route uses a large portion of existing oil field road that is 60 feet wide. Ms. Westerling added that the MPO has to be fiscally constrained; however the constraint is within the entities. The MPO spending is to perform traffic studies and the MPO functions. Mr. Martin asked about the dollars assigned to the projects. Ms. Westerling stated that those figures are just estimates. Mr. Lucero stated that the next topic

would cover projects with actual dollar figures. Ms. Westerling shared that the estimate for the Pinon Hills Bridge (PHB) crossing is very accurate because that project is 90% designed.

With there being no further questions, Ms. Baird closed the public hearing. Mr. Delmagori stated that after recommended adoption by the Technical Committee that the MTP would go to the Policy Committee on April 15, 2010.

Action: The presentation was received. Ms. Westerling recommended adoption of the MTP. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. FY2011-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	FY2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	March 17, 2010

BACKGROUND

- The MPO updates the TIP on an annual basis.
- Staff has met with the entities to revise project information.
- The TIP Introduction and financial plan have been developed.
- The draft FY2011-2016 TIP has been issued for public comment.

CURRENT WORK

- Final revisions have been added to the TIP.
- A 30-day public comment period closes on April 7.
- A public hearing on the TIP will be held during the Technical Committee meeting on March 25.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Any potential public comments will be incorporated into the final TIP document.
- The Policy Committee is expected to adopt the FY2011-2016 TIP through resolution at their April 15 meeting.
- The STIP will be revised based on the MPO TIP.

ATTACHMENTS

- FY2011-2016 TIP Introduction, Regionally-Significant, Non-Regionally Significant, and Unfunded project lists (provided under separate cover to committee members and entity staff; document also available on MPO website).

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - a. Hold a public hearing on the FY2011-2016 TIP.
 - b. Recommend adoption of the FY2011-2016 TIP.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero reviewed the three separate TIP handouts with the attendees and notified the public that he would address any questions regarding the TIP. The Regionally Significant list contains projects with federal funding or those that are functionally classified. The Non Regional list contains projects that are funded but are considered local projects. The Unfunded project list identifies projects that the state can go back and pull from when additional funding is made available. Mr. Lucero reviewed the projects that are receiving federal funding. He spoke about the projects that received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. These include the East Arterial Project, which is scheduled to begin in April 2010, W. Maple St., Wildflower Pkwy and the bridge on CR 2900. Projects receiving Safety Funding were CR 350/CR 3720 intersection, the West Main/Apache intersection, and Light Plant Rd at NM 516. Funding from the Transportation and Community and System Preservation (TCSP) program was received for Pinon Hills Blvd and for the East Arterial. FTA funding is provided for the Red Apple Transit capital and operating. Mr. Lucero also shared that a project may be listed more than once because that project could have multiple funding sources with different control numbers from the State or Federal government. Mr. Lucero added that any changes previously noted have been corrected.

Mr. Motto shared that their property has about a 40' drop from US 64 to the level of their property and that there have been four or five accidents where people have driven over this drop. Their family has attended several of the US64 meetings and voiced concerns about this issue. Currently the family is in negotiations for ROW and wants to know if there is a way to bring these safety issues into the negotiations. When an accident occurs the fences are down and their livestock have free access to the highway. Also the insurance on the property was cancelled due to the perception of not doing enough to keep people from driving off the road. Mr. Motto shared there is a retaining wall going in at the Sacred Winds Communication Center, but that is the only wall being built.

Mr. Martinez explained that there is a difference between a retaining wall and a safety barrier. A safety barrier is considered a fixed object and creates its own traffic hazard. Roads are designed to minimize fixed traffic hazards. Depending on the steepness of the slope, the AASTO guideline for geometric design, and other national guidelines are reviewed concerning barrier use. Mr. Martinez stated that he can look into the past history of this issue. Mr. Motto stated that he had talked with Randy Crocket. Mr. Martinez brought up the meeting with the NMDOT regarding the acquisition of their property for the ROW and that they would be meeting face to face with the Motto's. Mr. Martinez shared that the meeting would be a good time to address those issues and make them part of the ROW acquisition agreement. Mr. Martinez also informed all the landowners that he attends the ROW status meeting twice a month and meets with the negotiators and the appraisers. The NMDOT have a September deadline to acquire the entire additional ROW. Mr. Martinez supplied the landowners with his business card and suggested they call him if they had any further questions. The Motto's are waiting to hear when their ROW meeting will be scheduled and Mr. Martinez volunteered to attend that meeting and see what can best suit their safety needs and the NMDOT requirements.

Mr. Lucero shared that the accident rates at intersections can be brought to the MPO's attention and that data can sometimes be used to identify safety projects that qualify for federal funding.

Mr. Motto stated that access to US64 from Newby Lane is difficult because it is on the curve. The trees limit site distance and their family has done trimming and maintenance on that stretch of road to help reduce safety concerns.

Mr. Motto added that while looking at areas that may expand, they have commercial property within the city limits that need to have utilities provided prior to building and perhaps that should be done before the highway is built.

Mr. Ashmore asked about the road identified as 14A in the MTP scenarios and if there were plans/drawings showing the Bicycle Lane/Path. Ms. Westerling stated that ROW is pending and that when something is drawn up she can contact him. His other concern is on project 43, San Juan to Pinon Hills Blvd, identified as a bike path/multi use path. Mr. Delmagori shared that that project was intended to be a separate path parallel to E. Main. Mr. Ashmore asked if the project along East Main Street would continue to Old Aztec Highway. Mr. Delmagori shared that project was identified as a Safety Project to widen the shoulder on the west bound side. Mr. Ashmore asked what about the eastbound side. Ms. Westerling said that part of the plan is dependent on how the NMDOT does the widening project which could take five to six years. Mr. Delmagori shared that the short-term project could be 10 years. Ms. Westerling said that "higher priority" might be a better definition than "short-term" because when funding is available that is when the City of Farmington would build the project. However with the upcoming budget meetings at the Farmington Library and with the city council being composed of a new Mayor and a new Councilor the priorities may differ. Public comments are welcome and Ms. Westerling urged the bicycle enthusiasts to attend.

Action: The draft TIP was reviewed. Ms. Baird opened and closed the public comment period for the TIP, noting that the MPO would record those comments made by the public into the TIP. Ms. Westerling recommended adoption of the TIP. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE FY2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	FY2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	March 17, 2010

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the fiscal year work plan for the MPO, covering work activities from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.▪ Staff reviewed the draft UPWP with both the Technical and Policy Committees in February.

CURRENT and ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Revisions to the draft list of activities, products, and timeframes have been made.▪ FHWA PL funding is estimated to be about \$185,893 for FY2011.

- Staff has been advised by the Transit Bureau to use current 5303 funding for FY2011.
- Staff anticipates \$23,500 in FTA 5303 funding for FY2011.
- Staff will review the final draft FY2011 UPWP with the Technical Committee on March 25.
- The MPO will seek approval of the annual work plan in April.

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft FY2011 UPWP (provided under separate cover to committee members and entity staff; document also available on MPO website).

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee recommend approval of the FY2011 UPWP.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori asked if there were any questions regarding the UPWP. Ms. Baird shared that the UPWP had been reviewed previously. Mr. Delmagori shared that the only change was the addition of the Introduction.

Action: The draft UPWP was discussed. Ms. Lopez recommended approval of the UPWP. Ms. Westerling seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

Discussion: Mr. Martinez shared that all the ARRA projects have been out to bid and recommendation for contract approval have been sent out. He asked Ms. Baird for an update on Bloomfield’s project. She stated that a Letter of Concurrence from Benny was expected on Monday. Mr. Martinez informed the committee that the State Legislative recently rescinded capital outlay money and letters should be received this week. Mr. Lucero asked whether it will affect the current TIP information. Mr. Martinez indicated that it only affected those projects that had not started or had not made any recent progress. Mr. Delmagori asked Mr. Martinez to remind Phil about getting the local TCSP projects into the STIP as amendments in May. Mr. Martinez stated some entities that procrastinated on starting older projects lost funding, some up to \$2 million.

Mr. Matthew had no information to share regarding planning.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	March 17, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **NMED Air Quality Public Meeting.** Staff attended the NM Environmental Department's public meeting on the new proposed federal ozone standards on February 25, 2010.
- b. **MPO Quarterly Meeting.** Staff attended the statewide MPO meeting in Albuquerque on March 16.
- c. **Safe Routes to School Program Update.** A summary of the latest activities and events will be provided at the meeting.
- d. **Other.**

Discussion: Mr. Lucero shared that staff attended the NMED Air Quality meeting on February 25, 2010 and that if the standard drops below .070, two out of the three monitors within the MPO boundary will be in non-attainment. Staff also attended the MPO Quarterly Meeting in Albuquerque on March 16, 2010. An additional school is considering joining the three participating schools in the SRTS program. Mr. Lucero handed out a copy of the recent Red Apple Transit report. The Red Apple Transit numbers on the graph are good, but the dates are not. The data starts on February 2009 for one year. It shows a negative trend when compared to last year at this time but has a positive increase from last month. An RFP for the transit study has been issued. Mr. Delmagori shared that Mr. Quintana raised the question of transit to Shiprock and that language to this effect has been added to the scope of the RFP.

Action: The information items were received.

8. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Discussion: There was no business from the Chairman, members or staff.

9. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Discussion: There was no business from the floor

10. ADJOURNMENT

Discussion: Ms. Lopez made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Westerling seconded that motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Julie Baird - Chair

Dee Dee Moore - MPO Admin Aide