

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JANUARY 26, 2012**

Technical Members Present: Mike Huber, City of Aztec  
Brad Ellsworth, City of Bloomfield  
Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington  
Dave Keck, San Juan County

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

Technical Members Absent: Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington

Staff Absent: None

Also Present: David Quintana, NMDOT District 5, via telephone  
Larry Hathaway, San Juan County, Alternate  
Dr. James Henderson, San Juan County

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 15, 2011 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mr. Huber made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2011 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Ellsworth seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Ms Lopez said the Annual Election would be held once either of the other Technical Committee members arrived and proceeded to the FY2013-2018 TIP agenda item.

**3. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE FY2013-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	FY2013-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	January 16, 2012

#### 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 TIP priority projects.
- A Call for Projects was issued and projects were received.

#### CURRENT WORK

- Staff will present the current TIP at the January 26 Technical Committee meeting to discuss the projects.
- The current TIP priority lists will also be discussed.
- Aztec and Bloomfield have submitted new projects
- Staff is meeting with the entities, Red Apple, and NMDOT individually to update project information as necessary.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the FY2013-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Delmagori said the beginning of each year brings the beginning of the TIP update cycle. About a month ago, the call for projects was issued and there was one project each from Bloomfield and Aztec. Any modifications or revisions to the TIP will actually begin in February. Over the next few weeks, Mr. Delmagori will meet individually with the entities and NMDOT to review each of their TIP projects.

Mr. Delmagori reviewed the federally funded list of projects for FY2012-2017 on the Regionally Significant Project List:

#### REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECT LISTS

##### Aztec

The City of Aztec identified \$100,000 in local funding to help support the project design for the second pedestrian bridge over the Animas River. This bridge project has been funded for 2013 and 2014 with \$600,000 allocated for each year.

Mr. Delmagori stated that the STIP is showing the 2013 funding going to Main Street for other activities rather than the bridge. Mr. Huber added that the project wording was trail design from North Main up to the bridge and this was interpreted to include the bridge footings as part of the trail design. Mr. Huber said they were able to set the project schedule such that the two funding sources would overlap and they will be able to build the entire project. He added that it may be practical to review what was submitted as the purpose of the project to ensure everyone knows what this funding is to cover. Mr. Delmagori added that if an adjustment to the STIP is required following further discussion, Staff will work with NMDOT to get it resolved.

### Bloomfield

Mr. Delmagori reported that the first of two Bloomfield projects is the Bergin Lane pedestrian improvement project for 2015 for \$1,000,000. Following discussion at the Policy Committee meeting on January 19, the City of Bloomfield is also considering possible landscaping of the stretch of US 64 currently under construction. Mr. Delmagori will be discussing this new project with the City of Bloomfield to determine how it fits into the current MPO TIP listing. Mr. Quintana said that if both the City of Bloomfield and MPO agree, it would be possible to use the TPE funding for the landscaping instead of the sidewalk project. Mr. Delmagori stated there needs to be further discussion and comparison of the construction of sidewalks vs. adding landscaping. He added that Mr. Pat Lucero, who sits on the Policy Committee and represents Bloomfield, had expressed his interest in the sidewalk project and his concerns for the safety of school children who would be using the new walkway. Mr. Quintana added that he thought the City of Bloomfield planned to address the pedestrian needs without using all of the funding. Mr. Ellsworth said the Bloomfield City Council is still discussing how to best use the funds.

The other Bloomfield project is funding for the recreational trail along the San Juan River. Mr. Ellsworth said the City's Parks Department is responsible for this project.

Mr. Keck arrived at the meeting.

### Red Apple Transit

Mr. Delmagori stated the Red Apple Transit annual operating funds through the FTA 5307 Program will remain constant.

### Farmington

Mr. Delmagori explained that the latest TIP Amendment changed the TCSP funding for the E. Pinon Hills Blvd. extension from FY2011 to FY2012. He added that in 2015, there is \$3,000,000 to use for intersection improvements at Pinon Hills and East Main St and the actual road construction down to Hubbard Street. Once completed this road will function as an outlet for the neighborhood and eventually be upgraded to an arterial once the bridge is constructed.

Mr. Delmagori reported that the City of Farmington also has funding for FY2013 and FY2014 for trail development in Lions Wilderness Park and there is TPE funding for FY2014 for pedestrian facilities along 20<sup>th</sup> Street to include adding sidewalks where sidewalks are currently missing.

Mr. Delmagori said that similar to Bloomfield, the City of Farmington is re-evaluating its TPE funds in FY2013 to construct sidewalks on Pinon Hills Blvd. Staff was just informed that the Farmington's Public Works Department will be discussing another potential project for consideration. Once that decision is made, necessary TIP and STIP amendments will follow.

### Safe Routes to School

Farmington also has Safe Routes to School Phase II Infrastructure funds for construction of a sidewalk from Apache Elementary School to the intersection with Auburn Avenue.

### NMDOT

Mr. Delmagori explained the NMDOT projects for the MPO:

- The intersection of NM 574 and Light Plant Road in Aztec;
- Phase III of US 64 will continue from where Phase II leaves off in Bloomfield and will head west towards Farmington. This project is funded in two-year increments at about one mile per phase;
- Phase IV of US 64 will pick up from Phase III in years 2014 and 2015.

### San Juan County

Mr. Delmagori reported on the projects for San Juan County. The first project is \$450,000 for the Chaco Canyon Road (CR 7950).

The second project was part of the TIP Amendment #1 to move the earmark from FY2011 to FY2012 for the project on CR 7500.

The County also has bridge rehabilitation funds in FY2013 for CR 6675.

### UNFUNDED PROJECT LIST

Mr. Delmagori reviewed the current Unfunded Project List which includes all the priority lists which are broken down by funding source as well as a general listing of all the other projects brought to the attention of the MPO. These additional projects are those which are waiting to move up in significance as other priority projects get funded. Some may also eventually be locally funded.

### Bridge Priority

U-F10	E Pinon Hills Blvd
U-SJ12	CR 7150
U-B13	E Blanco Blvd. (Phase 1)
U-SJ7	CR 5500 (crosses San Juan River)

### Safety

Mr. Delmagori commented that some of the projects that had been on the Safety list were removed because they received highway safety funding. Just a month or so ago, there was an additional round of applications considered for safety funding and Safety Project #2 - Light Plant Rd. and Safety Project #3 - intersection of CR 350 and CR 390 were submitted to NMDOT. Mr. Delmagori expects a decision on these projects from NMDOT in March or April at which time they could potentially move to the Regionally Significant Project List.

### Surface Transportation

Projects on this list include:

- Remaining portion of the Pinon Hills extension;
- In correlation with the Pinon Hills extension above, there is the County portion along CR 3900;

- East Arterial Route in Aztec (Phases 1 and 2);
- Bergin Lane in Bloomfield (further road improvement);
- East Blanco Blvd. (Phase 1)
- Pinon Hills (widening of the 4 lanes from Butler west to 30<sup>th</sup> St.)
- US 64 - Phase 5

Transportation Enhancement (TPE)

- 5<sup>th</sup> St. in Bloomfield
- Wildflower Pkwy

Mr. Delmagori stated the remaining priority list is the General Listing of projects that entities would like to have considered in the future. Mr. Delmagori will also review this portion of the Unfunded Project List with each entity individually in the next few weeks.

**ACTION:** The report was received.

**4. HOLD THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

**Subject:** Annual Election of Officers  
**Prepared by:** Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner  
**Date:** January 16, 2012

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ At the first meeting of the new year, the Technical Committee selects the Chair and Vice-Chair from their membership who will serve until the next annual election.</li> <li>▪ The Chair presides over the meetings and is responsible for the other duties outlined in the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures document.</li> <li>▪ The Vice-Chair presides over the meetings in the absence of the Chair.</li> </ul>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee accept nominations and vote to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair.</li> </ul>

**ACTION:** With four of five Technical Committee members present, the Annual Election of Officers was held. Ms. Lopez made a motion to nominate Mike Huber for Technical Committee Chair for the new year of 2012. Mr. Keck seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations. The vote was unanimous to name Mike Huber as Technical Committee Chair.

Ms. Lopez nominated Brad Ellsworth for the Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee. Mr. Keck seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations. The vote was unanimous to name Brad Ellsworth as Technical Committee Vice-Chair.

Mr. Huber took over the meeting as the new Technical Committee Chair.

## **5. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE 2011 TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM**

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

<b>Subject:</b>	2011 Traffic Count Program
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	January 16, 2012

#### **BACKGROUND**

- For the 2011 traffic count program, there were 87 locations where counts were taken in October.
- Speed and class data was collected at 27 of those locations.
- The data was processed and reviewed in November and December.

#### **CURRENT WORK**

- The majority of counts show a decline in average daily traffic when comparing 2011 counts to previous counts.
- Of the 87 locations, 82 were accepted.
- The other 5 locations were not accepted due to exceptionally low volumes.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the 2011 Traffic Count Program.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Delmagori said the actual traffic count was completed in October with the data processed and reviewed in November and December. Of the 87 locations, 82 were acceptable. The remaining five locations were not accepted due to exceptionally low volumes and staff could not determine any explanations as to why the counts were so low. Mr. Delmagori also noted that overall the counts were down and Staff believes that unemployment and other economic factors could play a part in why there was a decline in average daily traffic in the area.

Mr. Delmagori reviewed those counts that had a significant volume percentage change:

Foothills (Crestwood to Rinconada) - 41% decrease. Staff believes the decrease is due to the paving of College and Hood Mesa Trail. This improved access provides an alternate route for drivers to reach Pinon Hills or Main Street instead of using

Foothills. The availability and use of another outlet seems to indicate that traffic is now being dispersed in the area.

Hood Mesa Trail (Pinon Hills to Anasazi) - 75% decrease. Mr. Delmagori stated that Staff has decided to accept the count of just over 100 cars even though it is a 75% decrease over the first count taken in 2006. This count has been re-taken in 2008 and 2009 with a resulting count of approximately 100-200 cars. Because these counts were so much lower than the 2006 count, they were originally rejected. Now, however, the trend shows that 100-200 cars is the norm and the count is considered accurate and acceptable.

Navajo E (Vine to Main St.) - 69% increase. Mr. Delmagori said that this location saw a significant increase of more than 1,000 vehicles. Staff believes this increase could be due to the new coffee shop and retail business in the parking lot near the count location.

West Blanco (Frontier to Bergin) - 50% increase. Mr. Delmagori reported that Staff believes this increase is due to the construction on US 64. Drivers are looking for alternate routes around the construction.

Mr. Delmagori said traffic counts will be taken again in September or October of 2012.

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

Mr. David Quintana reported that the project for pavement preservation of NM 516 and US 550 was let on January 20<sup>th</sup> to Four Corners Materials at a bid of \$3,400,000. The executed contract should be completed in approximately two-three months with construction beginning in May or June.

Mr. Quintana said the current construction on US 64 should be substantially completed by October 2012.

The next phase of the US 64 project is currently under final design. The final design review was conducted on January 11<sup>th</sup>, a Plans, Specifications and Estimate (PS&E) review is scheduled for July, with an expected production date of August 2012. Bid opening would be in October with construction starting in January or February of 2013.

Mr. Quintana reported that NMDOT is writing the request for proposal to get a consultant on board for the final design of the next phase of US 64 which will take construction to mile marker 58. The project is funded for FY2014-2015 with \$8,300,000 funded for the project. Mr. Quintana said cost estimates are coming in slightly higher than expected, but the funding will be programmed as needed.

Mr. Quintana said the District is reviewing the previous intersection study of NM 371 and Navajo 36, as well as recent traffic counts taken prior to the casino opening. Representative Begay and Senator Pinto are trying to identify some funding during this current legislative session to address improvements to this intersection. Mr. Quintana

added that some remedy is required for this intersection and NMDOT will be working with the MPO once some alternatives are identified.

Mr. Huber asked in what direction the resurfacing of NM 516 and US 550 would begin. Aztec has a beautification project beginning in the spring that they do not want to interfere with the resurfacing project. Mr. Quintana said he would have an answer to this question in about two months following the pre-construction conference. He said he would instruct the District's contact in Bloomfield, Mr. Herman Patterson, to include Aztec and San Juan County in the pre-construction conference so they can alert the contractor to the need for coordination.

## **7. RECEIVE THE CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE FY2013 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

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

<b>Subject:</b>	FY2013 UPWP Call for Projects
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	January 16, 2011

#### **BACKGROUND**

- Starting in February, the MPO will develop its annual work plan for fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013).
- The FY2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is anticipated to be approved on April 19, 2012 by the Policy Committee.
- Entities are asked to submit any new projects and other planning tasks to be accomplished by the MPO during FY2013 to staff by February 15, 2012.

#### **CURRENT WORK**

- Develop projects and planning tasks in February.
- Prepare the FY2013 UPWP budget based on PL and 5303 estimates from NMDOT.
- Review the work program with the Technical and Policy Committees.
- Approve the FY2013 UPWP in April.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive the Call for Projects for the FY2013 UPWP.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Delmagori said that at the beginning of each year, the MPO begins development of the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which covers the MPO work from July 2012 to June 2013. In the next few weeks, Staff will send out a checklist of the current fiscal year's completed activities, items that are ongoing, and

projects that still to be addressed. In another month or so, the MPO should receive estimates for the Federal PL and 5303 funds that will be available for FY2013.

Some of the ongoing yearly activities that will be part of the FY2013 UPWP are:

- Administrative activities
- Committee meetings, public participation, and presentations
- Quarterly Reports, Budgets, and Newsletters
- Annual Certification
- Development of FY2014 UPWP
- Annual List of Obligated Projects
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) activities
- Traffic Count program
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

New Activities that staff has identified include:

- Renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement and Committee Bylaws - expire in September 2012; begin working on revisions and changes this summer.
- Data collection activities for Red Apple Transit - anticipate hiring two interns again for the summer to collect transit data; by the summer months the new routes, which take effect on February 6<sup>th</sup>, should be fairly well established.
- Develop a Complete Streets Policy - Mr. Delmagori is in contact with the Albuquerque MPO who is working on a Complete Streets Policy. This could be something FMPO may want to consider. Mr. Delmagori will share information from Albuquerque as it is available.
- Finalize the update to the MPO/NMDOT functional classification databases - Staff submitted a long list to NMDOT back in the summer. Mr. Matthew has completed his initial review, and following another review by NMDOT, the classification list will be sent to FHWA for their approval of the changes. This could be wrapped up in FY2012, but may roll over into FY2013.
- Other actions outlined in the 2035 MTP.

Mr. Delmagori also stated that the MPO's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) architecture has not been reviewed for several years, so this could be another activity for FY2013. Mr. Delmagori asked the entities to consider other projects that the MPO could assist them with. He will have a working draft of the UPWP prepared for the February meeting.

**ACTION:** The report was received.

## **8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	Information Items
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	January 16, 2012

## INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **MPO Associate Planner.** A status report on the hiring process will be provided at the meeting.
- b. **City of Farmington Major Thoroughfare Plan.** A status report will be given at the meeting about the City of Farmington's public meetings to gather input on possible amendments to its Major T-Plan.
- c. **MPO Quarterly.** Joe Delmagori attended the MPO Quarterly meeting in Las Cruces on January 18.
- d. **Other.**

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Delmagori reported that the search for the Associate Planner is continuing. The first round of telephone interviews began on January 25 with several more scheduled for next week. Mr. Delmagori plans to narrow the search down to two or three final applicants who will then be brought in for in-person interviews in February. He hopes to have someone hired and on board in March.

The City of Farmington has been holding public meetings on the major thoroughfare plan seeking comments and input on potential amendments to the City's plan. Two meetings were held the week of January 16<sup>th</sup> with two additional meetings upcoming in February.

Mr. Delmagori attended the MPO Quarterly Meeting in Las Cruces on January 18. The MPOs were informed that the NM division of FHWA wants to conduct a review of the planning process for each MPO. There were no details provided regarding what FHWA would be looking for, but a letter will be forthcoming describing the review process.

Also at the MPO Quarterly Meeting, there was discussion of the final draft of the TIP/STIP protocols. The Albuquerque MPO had some questions about the differences between amendments and administrative modifications. They are unhappy about some new information added to the protocols by FHWA and do not want to accept the new protocols. Mr. Delmagori will review the protocols and the Albuquerque MPO letter explaining their objections and will report back to the Technical Committee in February.

**ACTION:** The report was received

## **11. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

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

**12. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

There was no additional business from the floor.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Lopez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Keck seconded the motion. Mr. Huber adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

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Mike Huber, Chair

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June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide