

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2012

Technical Members Present: Mike Huber, City of Aztec
Cynthia Lopez, City of Farmington
Chico Quintana, Alternate, City of Farmington
Larry Hathaway, Alternate, San Juan County

Staff Present: Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide

Technical Members Absent: Brad Ellsworth, City of Bloomfield
Dave Keck, San Juan County

Staff Absent: Mary Holton, MPO Officer
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner

Also Present: David Quintana, NMDOT District 5
Stefan Bach, NMDOT Infrastructure Division

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Huber called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 25, 2012 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Ms. Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2012 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Hathaway seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.

3. RECEIVE A STATUS REPORT ON COMPLETE STREETS

Subject:	Complete Streets
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	November 7, 2012

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- Complete Streets is a means of designing a roadway so that it accommodates all

modes of travel, such as walking, biking, and transit.

- Complete Streets promote safety for all users, improve connectivity among modes, and helps create economic growth.
- Overview presentations on Complete Streets were provided to the MPO committees in July and September.
- The Complete Streets Advisory Group held a kickoff meeting on October 23.

CURRENT WORK

- Members of the Advisory Group provided good feedback on what they would like to see from Complete Streets.
- Resolutions were shared with the Advisory Group and they offered suggestions on what themes the MPO resolution should include: economic vitality, health benefits, reduced congestion, aesthetics, and designing for the appropriate scale.
- MPO staff is giving presentations to further the education on Complete Streets.
- Presentations are confirmed for the Homebuilders Association on November 14, Bloomfield City Council on November 26, Aztec City Commission on November 27, and San Juan County Commission on December 4.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a status report on Complete Streets.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan reported that presentations on Complete Streets have been given to both the Policy and Technical Committees over the past few months. Following these presentations, an Advisory Group was formed to assist with creating Complete Streets policy and design guidelines for the MPO.

Mr. Wakan stated that the Advisory Group had their first meeting on October 23, 2012. The meeting was well attended and there was great participation from the Group. The Group commented that the Complete Streets concept needs to start from the bottom up and not the top down. They also recommended holding off on creating the policy guidelines until further education on Complete Streets can be provided to the public and entity decision makers.

Mr. Wakan said the Advisory Group also suggested adding more structure to a Complete Streets presentation and to include discussion on the multi-modal aspects, connectivity influences, health benefits, safety factors, and the potential for increased economic vitality. Mr. Wakan reported that Ms. Lopez and he made the first Complete Streets presentation to the San Juan County Homebuilders Association on November 14. Both Ms. Lopez and Mr. Hathaway, who were in attendance, commented that the group had a lot of good questions and was very engaged in the discussion. Mr. Hathaway said this can be a tough audience, but they were very receptive to the presentation. Ms. Lopez added that they were attentive and she recommended making a follow-up presentation at a later time.

Mr. Wakan reported that additional presentations are scheduled. Staff will direct and continue to help facilitate the presentations with assistance from the local planning staffs. Mr. Hathaway said he would contact the local realtors and attorneys groups to ask if they might be interested in receiving a Complete Streets presentation. Ms. Lopez also asked if the

engineering group recommended by Nica Westerling during the last Technical Committee meeting had been contacted yet. Mr. Wakan said that Staff would make that contact. Ms. Lopez believed it was important to get this group up to speed on Complete Streets and to hear their recommendations.

Mr. Wakan added that following the Complete Streets presentations, the Advisory Group will reconvene to review comments and suggestions received and to begin developing a policy, design guidelines, and resolution that can then be adopted and implemented by each of the entities. Mr. Huber commented that he was enthusiastic about this project and was excited to see New Mexico on the cutting edge of transportation engineering and science with Complete Streets.

ACTION: The report was received.

4. RECEIVE A STATUS REPORT ON THE 2012 TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM

Subject:	2012 Traffic Count Program
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	November 7, 2012

BACKGROUND

- For the 2012 traffic count program, there were 88 locations that were taken in October.
- Speed and class data was scheduled at 30 of those locations.
- The traffic count data was recently provided to the MPO from its traffic count consultant.
- The preliminary count results are being processed and reviewed.
- The Policy Committee received a report on the 2012 Traffic Counts on November 8.

CURRENT WORK

- Staff is comparing 2012 counts to previous counts to determine changes in volume trends.
- 3 locations were affected by construction and no counts were taken.
- 5 locations may have experienced higher volumes due to re-routes from nearby construction locations.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the 2012 Traffic Count Program.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan reported that the 2012 traffic counts had been completed in October and the data from the consultant has now been provided to the MPO. Staff has been reviewing and formatting the data to provide easy references for each of the count locations.

Mr. Wakan referred to Pages 3-5 of the Agenda which showed data for each of the 88 count locations. Thirty of these locations were also scheduled for speed and class data collection which has not yet been received.

Mr. Wakan noted some of the count locations that had shown a significant percent change:

- AZ_123 Oliver Avenue +278%
(NM 516 to End of Route/Waste Water Treatment Plant)

Mr. Huber and Mr. Hathaway both commented that with construction of the sheriff's office addition, a service road to the west of Oliver was closed for approximately three months. This closure could have moved traffic over to Oliver Avenue resulting in the percent change. They noted that other than the road closure due to the office addition, there had been no new developments that would have triggered this increase.

- FM_29 Beckland Drive +225%
(NM 516/E Main to End of Route)

This count was believed to have been impacted by the construction on East Main.

- SJ_110 NM 317 -51%
(CR 7100 to Old Fruitland Hwy.)

The new average daily traffic (ADT) normal will be in the 6,000 range and not 12,500.

Mr. Wakan added that those locations impacted by construction issues or problems with the consultant's counting equipment will be recounted later in December or early January. Mr. Huber asked if traffic numbers were higher or lower than normal. Mr. Wakan stated that Staff had not completed a detailed evaluation of the data, but believed the volumes were stable overall.

Mr. Hathaway asked if Staff had noted any correlation between traffic counts and Red Apple Transit use. Mr. Wakan said that MPO Staff had not considered this correlation, but could investigate this further. Mr. Wakan noted that the traffic counts and new Red Apple Transit routes will be added to the traffic model.

ACTION: The report was received.

5. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

Along with Mr. Quintana, Mr. Huber welcomed Mr. Stefan Bach with the Infrastructure Division of NMDOT.

Mr. Quintana reported on the following projects:

- US 64 (Phase II) - winter suspension with continuation in the spring 2013;
- US 64 (Phase III) - contract to be let in December 2012;
- US 64 (Phase IV) - final design has been awarded to Wilson & Company; expected to be let at the end of 2013; construction will be from mileposts 58 to 60.
- NM 371 - NMDOT is negotiating a contract for a study of this roadway. The portion most of interest to FMPO would be the section coming into Farmington and the intersection with N36.
- US 64 roadside safety audit between Old Kirtland Highway and NM 170 - requested by Steve Krest of Farmington. Consultants or in-house engineers will conduct a study of this road section to look at roadside features, hazards, possible additional signage or lighting, and evaluate crash data. This study would be utilized by NMDOT to identify potential future projects and improvements.
- NM 516 - repaving of the turning lanes. NMDOT is trying to get a change order implemented, but is having some issues with pricing from the contractor. Mr. Quintana expected to have more information in a few weeks.

Mr. Quintana said that NMDOT has determined that local government projects currently funded with Transportation Enhancement Program (TPE) under the old SAFETEA-LU bill for FY2013 and that can be ready to proceed in FY2013 will remain funded under TPE. Projects funded with TPE funds in the outer years of 2014 and 2015 will fall under MAP-21 and fall under the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Those projects will be required to follow the new competitive process for project selection as detailed in MAP-21. Mr. Quintana reported that the criteria for the process should be established by January or February 2013. He added that this program will now be a results-oriented process. Ms. Lopez asked if entities would have to reapply for funding. Mr. Quintana said that entities would be required to submit a new Project Identification Form (PIF) which is currently being revised by the Planning Division.

Mr. Quintana added that he believed the RPOs would be more affected with the new TAP program than MPOs because MPOs have typically already identified their projects. The RPO process is different and the new program will be more difficult for them.

Mr. Chico Quintana asked about a project to install a turning lane on Browning Parkway to go into the MOC area and who should he speak with at NMDOT about the package requirements. Mr. David Quintana referred him to Mr. Ruben Garcia, the District's traffic engineer.

Mr. Hathaway asked if the construction on US 64 would continue with the same contractor. Mr. Quintana said that NMDOT wants to finish out the construction with the current contractor and hold them to the contract to complete the intersection of US 64 and US 550.

Mr. Huber said the City of Aztec has a cooperative agreement for a pedestrian bridge that spans FY2013 and FY2014 and asked if that project would be allowed to proceed with the current TPE funding. Mr. Quintana said he would check with the General Office Program Director, but he believed that since funding was obligated and identified in FY2013, the project should not be affected by MAP-21. Mr. Huber asked Mr. Quintana to look into this question for him and added that the project has a lot of momentum and would be adversely impacted should the anticipated funding go away in the middle of construction. Mr. Quintana

said to ready the bid package by the August 15 deadline just like any other year and, once construction funding was obligated to the project, the project would go forward.

Mr. Stefan Bach added that the infrastructure department appreciates the calls and questions from local governments as well as the opportunity to review the status of project plans. He looks forward to working closely with each entity and establishing good communications between his office and local governments. Mr. Huber commented that the entities also appreciate having individuals at NMDOT who can be contacted for answers to questions and who can help them navigate through the NMDOT process.

6. RECEIVE A REPORT ON RED APPLE TRANSIT DATA COLLECTED FROM JUNE-SEPTEMBER

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Data Collection
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	November 8, 2012

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The MPO collected Red Apple ridership data from June - September 2012.
- The MPO hired interns to administer surveys, track boarding/alignment, and take passenger counts at various bus stop locations.

CURRENT WORK

- MPO Staff is currently summarizing the results of the On-board Counts, Passenger Counts and a Transit Survey.
- Staff is evaluating results with the City of Farmington to provide data interpretation and result analysis.
- Staff is evaluating the collected data for any correlations between social and economic factors and riders.
- Staff is evaluating the transit need within this region.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on Red Apple Transit data collected from June-September.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan reiterated that transit data collection was completed for the months of June - September 2012. He noted that ridership numbers increased throughout the summer on all the routes. There was a definite positive impact on ridership with the beginning of fall classes at San Juan College. Staff continued to review the survey data that was received. The number of survey responses received was much lower than last year and feedback provided is limited.

Mr. Wakan noted some general observations made by Staff about the transit routes:

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- The Blue route has the greatest number of riders;
- Two new multi-directional routes were added in February - Purple and Yellow. Both had strong ridership numbers;
- Of the regional routes, the Kirtland route is growing the quickest; Aztec and Bloomfield routes remain generally steady.

Mr. Wakan reviewed some of the hour-by-hour boarding and alightment numbers that Staff calculated and also reported some of the observations made by Staff for each of the routes:

Kirtland Route

- Civic Center stop added and it proved to be very effective.
- The Mesa Mobile Home Park stop is very popular and a stop in each direction might be very useful for this route.
- Current ridership to San Juan College West is limited.
- Two stops with very little usage are at CR 6299 and CR 6225. These stops could be replaced with other locations that need stops.

Aztec Route

- The top stops for Aztec are Orchard Plaza and Safeway/West Express.
- There continues to be no usage at the Marseille, Mickey Drive, or Olive Garden stops.
- The primary travel continues to be to and from Farmington (Orchard Plaza) with virtually no trips within Aztec.
- The WalMart East stop gets a consistent number of boarding and alightments each month as do the county-area stops along NM 516.

Bloomfield Route

- Orchard Plaza by far has the highest number of boarding and alightments per month on this route with primary travel continuing to be to and from Farmington (Orchard Plaza).
- As with the Aztec Route, the bus is not used for trips within Bloomfield.
- The Cultural Center and Blanco Apartments stops see the most ridership.
- At previous public meetings, a stop at Wildhorse Valley was requested, but this stop has been rarely used since being added to the route.
- The McGee Park stop has higher usage heading east to Bloomfield, likely because the bus actually stops on the racetrack/casino grounds.

Blue Route

- This route is the most popular of all transit routes and a second Blue Route to travel on East Main may be considered.
- There is strong ridership between the Civic Center and Orchard Plaza for both directions.
- The vast majority of Blue Route stops have good ridership.
- AT&T/Lowe's and Olive Garden have the least ridership although public comments had indicated that employees do use these stops.
- The new stops at MVD and 30th/Gila are popular stops.

Red Route

- This route is heavily used by San Juan College students as proven by the significant increase in ridership in August and September.
- Direct connections to and from Orchard Plaza and San Juan College are most beneficial for college students.
- Berg Park/Scott Avenue stop is well used as it is a transfer point for the Green Line.
- The MOC stop has very little use.

Green Route

- The Civic Center has the highest boardings and alightments as passengers use this transfer location to get to and from the southern parts of the city.
- The Berg Park/Scott Avenue stop is heavily used due to it being a transfer point for the Red Route.
- The Green Route might be hampered by the service along Browning and US 64. It might be better for the route to run each direction on Southside River Road and serve stops in both directions.
- This route has the most stops and riders have requested an additional Green Route be added. Ridership numbers do not necessarily warrant an extra bus at this time.

Yellow Route

- Orchard Plaza and Smith's stops are heavily used as transfer locations.
- Stops at the Northgate Apartments and WalMart West show strong boardings and alightments each month.
- The Aquatic Center and Airport (both Northbound and Southbound) stops show virtually no usage.
- Although a stop in the Westland Park neighborhood was requested at public meetings, the stop does not have a lot of ridership.

Purple Route

- Civic Center, Smith's and San Juan College Library stops are heavily used.
- Public comments have asked for a stop at the Administrative Building (Clock Tower) at San Juan College and this will be considered.
- There is minimal use of the Brookside Pool stop.

Ms. Lopez recommended having Red Apple Transit maps available to better explain the data and relay information on the different routes, ridership numbers, and potential changes.

ACTION: The report was received.

7. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE NEW STATEWIDE PL DISTRIBUTION FORMULA

Subject:	Statewide PL Distribution Formula
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	November 7, 2012

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The state MPOs and NMDOT Planning Division met on October 26 to discuss and revise the statewide PL distribution formula.
- The formula needed to be revised due to final 2010 Census population figures and the new Los Lunas urbanized area that will become part of MRCOG.
- It was agreed that the revised formula would be based on population, but the formula would also provide an equity factor for the small MPOs since the MRCOG population is so much larger.

CURRENT WORK

- The FMPO equity factor will be \$110,000 which provides a base level of funding for staff and carrying out the required planning functions.
- The FMPO will also receive \$87,063 based on its portion of population.
- This total of \$197,063 in federal PL is an 11% increase over the \$177,801 being received in FY2013.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the new statewide PL distribution formula.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan stated that Mary Holton and MPO Staff had attended a meeting in Albuquerque with NMDOT Planning Division and the other MPO staffs to discuss a new PL distribution formula. The formula needed to be revised due to final 2010 Census population figures for the MPOs and the new Los Lunas urbanized area, which will become part of MRCOG.

Mr. Wakan said there was good discussion and consensus was reached. The formula was revised to be based on population with an equity factor to balance out the formula for the smaller MPOs. This factor will allow for a base amount of \$110,000. FMPO will also receive \$87,000 based on the FMPO population numbers. Mr. Wakan referred to Page 10 of the Agenda which detailed current and projected PL funding for FMPO.

Fund Source	FY2013 Authorized Amts (Sept 2012)	Projected FY2014 PL Funding	Difference
FHWA PL - Federal Share	\$ 167,121	\$ 186,383	\$ 19,262
FHWA PL Required Match	\$ 28,479	\$ 31,762	\$ 3,282
FHWA PL Total	\$ 195,600	\$ 218,145	\$ 22,544
FHWA PL Traffic Counts - Federal	\$ 10,680	\$ 10,680	
FHWA PL Required Match	\$ 1,820	\$ 1,820	
FHWA PL Traffic Counts Total	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	
Federal PL Total by FY	\$ 177,801	\$ 197,063	

Mr. Wakan also noted that the required local match to spend the new level of federal PL funds will increase from \$28,479 to \$31,762. He noted this new formula will go into effect in FY2014.

ACTION: The report was received.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	November 8, 2012

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **2013 Technical Committee Schedule.** The Technical Committee Annual Meeting Resolution will be reviewed for approval at the December 20, 2012 meeting. Staff will discuss the upcoming meeting schedule with the members on November 15.
- b. **Update on TAZ Boundary Revisions.** A brief status report on work relating to the TAZ boundary revisions will be provided on November 15.
- c. **VISUM Training.** Duane Wakan will attend a two-day training class on the VISUM modeling program in Orlando, FL on December 3-4.
- d. **MPO Quarterly.** Staff will attend the next MPO Quarterly in Las Cruces on December 11.
- e. **Other.**

DISCUSSION: The meeting schedule was not available at today's meeting, but a draft schedule will be included in the agenda for the December 20th meeting for Committee review. Approval of the Annual Meeting Resolution will be sought at that meeting.

Mr. Wakan said Staff is completing the TAZ boundary revisions and the results of the analyses will be explained and reviewed at the December meeting.

Mr. Wakan reported that he will be attending VISUM training to learn the traffic modeling program and then be able to complete this work in-house.

Mr. Wakan noted that Mr. Delmagori attended a planning conference on November 14 while in Chicago. The seminar was sponsored by the American Planning Association (APA) and was to teach more techniques possible with the graphics tools (Sketch-up, GIS, and Illustrator) used by the MPO.

Mr. Wakan and Mr. Delmagori plan to attend the MPO Quarterly meeting in Las Cruces on December 11.

9. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

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

10. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business from the floor.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lopez moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hathaway seconded the motion. Mr. Huber adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Mike Huber, Chair

June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide