

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
December 9, 2010

Technical Members Present:

Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield
Dave Keck, San Juan County
Mike Huber, City of Aztec
Chico Quintana, City of Farmington, Alternate

Technical Members Absent:

Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington

Staff Present:

Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Kathy Bonnell, MPO Administrative Aide

Staff Absent:

Mary Holton, MPO Officer

Also Present:

Ray Matthew, NMDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 18, 2010 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Huber motioned to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2010 Technical Committee meeting and Mr. Quintana seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. AMEND ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION 2010-1

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Annual Meeting Resolution
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 1, 2010

BACKGROUND

- The Technical Committee adopted TC Resolution 2010-1 at the Technical Committee meeting on November 18, 2010.

CURRENT WORK

- The Technical Committee is asked to amend Exhibit "A" to the TC Resolution 2010-1 to change the March 24, 2011 location to the Bloomfield Cultural Center.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee amend Exhibit "A" to TC Resolution 2010-1 to reflect the new location for the March 24, 2011 meeting in Bloomfield.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori stated it was brought to the staff's attention due to the construction at the Bloomfield City Hall the March 2011 meeting will be relocated to the Bloomfield Cultural Center. The amendment showing the new meeting location is reflected in Exhibit "A" on page 15 of the agenda. Mr. Delmagori indicated that no other changes were made to the meeting schedule.

ACTION: Mr. Quintana made a motion to amend Exhibit "A" to TC Resolution 2010-1. Mr. Keck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF MPO MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN ALTERNATIVES

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan Alternatives
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	November 29, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The FMPO Policy Committee adopted the Major Thoroughfare Plan at their September 9th meeting with direction to staff to review alternatives for the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection in Northeast Farmington.
- Staff has met with City of Farmington Staff to discuss alternatives to the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection.
- Alternatives were reviewed with the Technical Committee on October 7 and November 18.
- The MPO held a stakeholder meeting on October 25 to review the identified alternatives.

CURRENT WORK

- Two alternatives are being discussed with the Technical Committee:
- Alternative #1 - Run the Northern Route over the top of Foothills and connect it to College Blvd; classify College Blvd as a Minor Arterial
- Alternative #2 - Keep the connection described above but also continue the Northern Route to intersect with Glade Road.
- Review and analyze the benefits and costs for each alternative with stakeholders.
- Recommend approval of an alternative alignment for the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- The development of a Roadway Classification Map showing all existing and future roadway designations.
- NMDOT and FHWA approval of changes to road classifications.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee recommend approval of Alternative #1, connecting the proposed Northern Route to College Blvd, as part of the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lucero stated staff made a listing of proposed changes to the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan based on each proposed alternative. The lists show the proposed road extensions and reclassifications that would affect the adopted MTP. Mr. Lucero stated that Staff preferred Alternative #1. The main reclassification change for Alternative #1 would be the reclassification of College Blvd and Foothills from Collectors to Minor Arterials. Staff wanted to make it clear as the Farmington MTP Plan would need to be updated to reflect those changes. The rest of the changes are extensions which currently are not reflected in the Farmington MTP.

Mr. Lucero stated for the Alternative #2 the major difference from Alternative #1 would be an extension of the Northern Route further west of the proposed College extension to the Glade. This would lead to a reclassification of Glade as a minor arterial. Mr. Lucero stated after

speaking with the different Policy Board Members, as well as with BLM and stakeholder groups, staff is recommending Alternative #1, as it appears to be the most viable. Mr. Lucero stated that the other notable item is that the portion of College that is extending north of Hood Mesa Trail is extended north to the Northern Route instead of heading west towards the Glade making College a nice North and South Arterial from 30th Street to the Northern Route.

Ms. Lopez questioned what the horizon year is for this plan. Mr. Lucero stated that the FMPO MTP would become part of the MPO's Long Range Plan and with a horizon date of 2035. Ms. Lopez questioned if changes are needed would it be possible to make revision to the MTP. Mr. Lucero stated yes.

Ms. Lopez asked if the proposed amendments would be brought to the Planning Department. Mr. Lucero stated how staff planned to proceed. Staff would bring the proposed amendment to the Policy Board for adoption. Then the approved amendment would need to be brought back to the entities for review and adoption on the local level. Mr. Lucero stated it will be a process that may take until early spring for adoption by the local entities. Staff will work with each entity starting next year.

Mr. Quintana questioned the reclassifications on the extensions. Mr. Lucero stated the reclassifications do not mean that the road will be built to the classification or any immediate changes will be done to the identified roads, but it will help individuals understand what the road may become in the future and help preserve the needed right-of-way.

Ms. Lopez stated that an MTP is used as part of the planning process. As projects or subdivisions come in during the platting process, the Planning Department makes sure they extract the right-of-way.

ACTION: Mr. Keck made a motion to recommend approval of Alternative #1 to the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan. Mr. Quintana seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. REPORT FROM NMDOT

DISCUSSION: Mr. Matthew stated Congress is expected to give an extension of the current funding for SAFETEA LU for another year. The NMDOT is expecting changes with the appointment of a new secretary and will most likely include some accommodations made due to the current deficit.

Mr. Matthew asked Mr. Delmagori about the status of the MOA. Mr. Delmagori stated staff received signature from the Policy Committee last month and City Council will take action on Tuesday.

Mr. Matthew stated that the presentation that District 5 made on the PEL project process is going to come into play next year. The NMDOT will be arranging a two part training: the first part will include a National Instructor from FHWA to teach a NHI course. The course will be given twice, one course in the South and one in the North. Local governments will be trained in the NEPA process related to preliminary engineering and environmental work. They will also be given training on upcoming changes to that STIP program. Mr. Matthew stated a second part will be given by District staff, with emphasis on providing training to smaller

communities and local governments that may not have resources to do some of the preliminary scoping and engineering. This will most likely start in April of 2011. Mr. Matthew stated that NMDOT will be scheduling and sending out announcements soon.

ACTION: Report received from NMDOT.

6. RECEIVE REPORT ON THE 2010 TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	2010 Traffic Count Program
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	November 29, 2010

BACKGROUND

- The MPO identified 81 traffic count locations to be counted in 2010. Traffic Research & Analysis (TRA) collected traffic counts during the weeks of October 11th and October 18th.
- Initial data has been provided for 79 count locations.

CURRENT WORK

- NMDOT received and accepted 76 of the 79 counts taken.
- Staff is uploading the approved count information into the TCDS website database.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Staff will issue payment for the speed/class and volume counts to TRA.

TRAFFIC COUNT ANALYSIS

- The average traffic volume change over the past three years has declined by 12%.
- Traffic counts for FM_101 (Navajo St), FM_71 (Hood Mesa Trail), SJ_58 (CR 5580), and SJ_110 (NM 371) will have to be rescheduled for next year.

RECOMMENDATION

- Staff recommends that the Technical Committee receive a report on the traffic count program.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lucero stated that staff has submitted all the 2010 traffic counts to the state. The state has accepted all but five counts this year. Three of them were because of the low numbers and two were because of faulty start times. The five counts will be repeated during next year's count cycle.

The 2010 counts were conducted by our new consultant Traffic Research and Analysis Inc. out of Phoenix. Mr. Lucero stated the counts were performed in a timely manner as well as the reports returned within a three week period. Mr. Lucero stated the counts are currently loaded into the MPO system and posted onto the web site.

Mr. Lucero stated the MPO has verified the US 64 counts and worked with the City of Farmington to evaluate the counts by reviewing the permanent count station information within the city limits. The City of Farmington provided a month's worth of counts from the permanent station. Mr. Lucero stated that US 64 has increased in traffic volume by 30%.

Mr. Lucero stated that US 64 is being highly used and if not maintained the road will not make it through the next several winters. He also stated if the road was not maintained there might be a need to rethink alternative routes to divert the large volume of traffic elsewhere.

Mr. Huber questioned the difference between speed and volume counts. Mr. Lucero explained to Mr. Huber the difference between a speed count and a volume count. Ms. Lopez questioned if it also takes weight into consideration. Mr. Lucero stated that it does not it only takes into consideration the number of axles and the speed of the vehicle.

Mr. Keck stated that there are different types of counters. For instance there are counters that utilize plates that can be put on the road to count the volume and speed. The plate counters also report back the weight of the vehicles that traveled along the corridor.

ACTION: The report was received.

7. RECEIVE REPORT ON THE FY2012-2017 TIP SCHEDULE

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	FY2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 1, 2010

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 a TIP financial plan.
- The FY2011-2016 TIP is available on the MPO website along with its corresponding amendments.

CURRENT WORK

- A Call for Projects is being issued in December.
- Staff will meet individually with the entities, NMDOT, and Red Apple Transit to review project information.

TIP SCHEDULE

MONTH	ACTION
December 2010-February 2011	Call for Projects made & issue Project Identification Forms for completion
February 18, 2011	Project ID Forms submitted to MPO
February - March 2011	Entities review project information; development of an agreed to list of projects and TIP financial plan
Early March - early April 2011	30-day Public Comment period is advertised and opened
March 24, 2011	Technical Committee holds public hearing on and recommends adoption of TIP
April 21, 2011	Policy Committee adopts the FY2012-2017 TIP

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the FY2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program schedule.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori stated at the end of the calendar year and leading into the New Year the MPO goes through the process of updating its Transportation Improvement Program. This is a list of transportation projects over the next six years that are on federally classified roads or receive federal funding. The update process looks at current project information, adding new projects and developing a TIP financial plan. Mr. Delmagori added that staff will issue out a template that will need to be filled out. Mr. Delmagori informed the committee when all information is collected staff will then meet with each entity to go through their project list.

Mr. Delmagori stated in March a 30 day public comment will be advertised. After finalizing the TIP with the Technical Committee, the MPO will seek adoption by the Policy Committee in April.

Mr. Delmagori informed the committee that the STIP is coming up on its 2 year update.

ACTION: The report was received.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	November 29, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Red Apple Transit Study.** LSC is currently working on the Final Report for the study and anticipates a review period starting on December 20.
- b. **FY2010 Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects.** A SAFETEA-LU requirement is for an MPO to develop an Annual List of Federally Obligated projects (23 CFR 450.332). This list shows details of transportation projects that received federal funding between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010
- c. **Other.**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori informed the committee that the Red Apple Transit Study is coming to an end and Mr. Krutsinger is currently finalizing the report. Staff is anticipating it to be complete by the end of next week so it can be reviewed internally by staff.

Mr. Delmagori stated at the beginning of January the final report will be issued out to everyone on the stakeholder's list as well as the committees.

Mr. Delmagori informed the committee at the end of the year staff puts together a list of Federally Obligated Projects, which is one of the requirements for SAFETEA-LU. Staff received information from NMDOT and is currently developing the list.

9. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

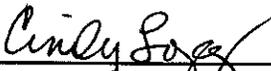
DISCUSSION: Ms. Lopez informed the committee that there will be a Land Use Law workshop coming up if anyone was interested. The City of Farmington is hosting the workshop.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

DISCUSSION: There was no business from the floor.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Keck made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Quintana second the motion. Ms. Lopez adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.



Cindy Lopez - Vice Chair



Joe Delmagori - MPO Planner