11 | Security

11.1 OVERVIEW

As one of eight national planning factors of MAP-21, each MPO must plan for security as a way to safeguard travelers and the transportation system. Security planning involves effective communication and coordination among various emergency and enforcement agencies. Furthermore, plans for how the transportation system can effectively serve the needs of the public in the event of an emergency, or to prevent hazards and incidents, must be readily understood and utilized by these agencies.

11.2 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS and HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

The San Juan County Office of Emergency Management, San Juan County and the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield and Farmington have developed an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for safety and security in the communities and the region. The EOP sets forth protocols of who will be involved in responding to emergencies and how the response occurs.

The Office of Emergency Management and the local governments have also created a Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The plan identifies hazards most likely to impact the area, and policies and procedures to save lives, minimize injuries, protect property, and perform other essential activities. The HMP addresses drought, flooding, wildfire and wildland urban interface, and hazardous material transport. The plan assesses the risks of each hazard, and describes steps for implementing a mitigation plan. The HMP also identifies projects which are needed to improve the prevention of and response to these hazards.

11.3 SECURITY PLANNING and THE ROLE OF THE MPO

While the role of the Farmington MPO may be small in terms of security planning, the MPO can partner with various agencies in pursuit of hazard mitigation and improved emergency response. The MPO is encouraged to take the following steps related to security planning:

- Review local and statewide plans for emergency planning/security elements
- Include security needs into review of proposed projects and the transportation system as a whole, including transportation network connectivity
- Incorporate transit security planning into the MTP
- Define the role of public transportation operators, the MPO, and the state in promoting security
- Identify critical facilities and transportation system elements for evacuation planning
- Develop security goals and appropriate strategies
- Work with emergency response agencies for disseminating information to the public as quickly as possible
- Implement Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies for emergency traffic flow, evacuation, etc.

There are a few roles local governments within the MPO can perform with regards to security planning:

- **Traditional** – The local governments incorporate system operations and management (O&M) into their ongoing transportation planning activities. The focus would be on specific O&M projects that arise as part of the transportation planning process, but the primary responsibility for operations-type projects would rest elsewhere, most likely with the region's operations agencies.
- **Convener** – The MPO would act as a forum where operations plans could be discussed and coordinated with other plans in the region. Regular meetings on operations issues would be held, but the MPO would still not be responsible for developing a regional operations plan.
- **Champion** – The MPO would work aggressively to develop a regional consensus on operations planning. MPO planners work with operating agencies to create programs and projects that improve system performance. The MPO takes the lead in developing regional agreements on coordinated operations.

Currently, the OEM and local government have taken the lead on security planning, with the MPO available for assistance when needed. At this time, it is very unlikely that the MPO, as a regional transportation planning forum, could program funding for O&M strategies for improving the abilities of the transportation system to handle emergency situations. Additional roles and responsibilities could be further studied and/or analyzed in the future.

11.4 SECURITY GOALS and STRATEGIES

In order to perform any type of role related to security, the MPO should consider the following strategies for achieving security goals:

- Locate funding for communications systems, such as ITS, and other technologies to disseminate information and speed response during incidents
- Identify the impacts of proposed projects on security and include security criteria in the project prioritization methodology (see Chapter 4)
- Provide a forum for security and safety agencies to coordinate prevention strategies
- Coordinate with security officials in development of prevention strategies
- Identify new strategies, technologies and projects that can help prevent events
- Conduct or fund vulnerability analyses on regional transportation facilities and services
- Secure management of data and information on transportation system vulnerabilities

11.5 EVACUATION PLANNING

In coordination with San Juan County Office of Emergency Management, the MPO has identified primary and secondary evacuation routes in the event that a security incident occurs (Map 11-1):

- **Primary Routes** – US 64, US 550, NM 516, Piñon Hills Blvd, CR 350, and NM 170
- **Secondary Routes** – NM 371, Twin Peaks/CR 6480, Wildflower/CR 390, East Blanco Blvd, NM 574, 20th St, 30th St, and Butler.

It should be noted that San Juan County already has an emergency alert system in place which sends out messages to inform the public about severe weather or other incidents. It is conceivable that the identified evacuation routes could be incorporated into this alert system so as to direct the public to which routes to use. The actual routes for evacuation depend on the details of specific events.

11.6 TRANSIT SECURITY

All efforts should be made to ensure the safety and security of public transit users. Red Apple Transit staff is involved in the planning efforts of the San Juan County Emergency Management Office and is available to assist in emergency response efforts in times of evacuation. Security and safety measures on Red Apple Transit should be taken, such as:

- Provide bus stops and shelters that are well-lit and located in places that are highly visible
- Install on-board cameras to discourage crime and monitor activities
- Continue to coordinate with emergency responder and prepare to assist during events requiring evacuation

MAP 11-1 – Identification of Major Evacuation Routes in the Farmington MPO

Farmington MPO Evacuation Plan