

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
March 9, 2022

Technical Members Present: Nick Porell, San Juan County
Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec
Dan Flack, Town of Kirtland
Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield
Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit
Beth Escobar, City of Farmington
Lisa Hale-BlueEyes, San Juan County
Virginia King, City of Farmington
Javier Martinez, NMDOT District 5

Technical Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
Kathryn Leys, MPO Associate Planner

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Rosa Kozub, Planning Liaison, NMDOT
Amanda Knight
Bruce Eisenhart, ConSysTec

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Porell called the meeting to order at 10:01.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 9, 2022 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Ms. Escobar moved to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2022 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Saavedra seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

3. STATUS OF ENTITY PROJECTS

Subject:	Status of Entity Projects
Prepared by:	MPO Staff & Technical Committee Members
Date:	March 9, 2022

BACKGROUND

- The STIP Protocols, finalized in early 2014, require that each MPO shall develop a process to monitor the progress and status of each project in the first two years of the TIP. These monthly reviews help correct inconsistencies in the TIP, STIP, the MPO's MTP, Agreement Request Forms (ARFs), etc. and provide for discussion among the members and NMDOT representatives.
- Listed below are current entity projects some of which are part of the FFY2022-2026 TIP.
- The Policy Committee approved the new FFY2022-2026 TIP on May 27, 2021, which became effective on October 1, 2021.

INFORMATION ITEM

- This is an information item only. Committee members will have an opportunity to provide any needed feedback/updates/details regarding the status of current projects.

DISCUSSION:

Aztec - Steven Saavedra

F100091 - East Aztec Arterial Phase III: The City of Aztec was able to resolve their issue with the gap in funding due to inflation. NMDOT was able to assist in filling that gap.

Mr. Saavedra is hopeful the project will stay on track, outside of being delayed by two months. The project should be in Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) by June or July and then go out to bid and start construction.

Bloomfield - Jason Thomas

F100300 - East Blanco Bridge: The City of Bloomfield is still working on utility certifications and working with CenturyLink to relocate to underground conduits, which the City of Bloomfield is providing to them. They are still waiting to get permission to get an appraisal in the last acquisition, however this most likely has been resolved. The hope is to start the last appraisal next week and successfully buy last section of property needed for the ROW.

Farmington - Virginia King

F100099 - Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase II: The project is still in suspension for the winter. The contractor proposed April 4th as the date to end the suspension. There is the potential for the suspension to end sooner.

F100100 - East Pinon Blvd Extension Phase I: There is no update on East Pinon Hills Blvd at this time. Isaac BlueEyes is the contact person for

this project and Ms. King was unable to get an update from him prior to the meeting.

Chair Porell added that both the City of Farmington and the County were in discussions with the DOT on this project, however he is not sure that t.

F100132 - 20th Street Phase II: The project went out to bid. TRC Construction was awarded the contract. The City of Farmington is waiting on a Notice to Proceed letter. They are planning to schedule a preconstruction meeting at the end of March.

F100390 - Foothills Drive Phase II: The City of Farmington is updating the ROW maps. Farmington is using Tierra Right of Way Services for acquisitions.

The City is also updating the design for Phase II of the project. The design is about 90% done and the City is waiting for the ROW before completing the PS&E stage.

TF00001 - Red Apple Transit: 15 of the 16 shelter have been installed. The last one is being installed in Bloomfield. The cement pad has been installed and Red Apple Transit is waiting for the shelter to be installed.

Kirtland - Dan Flack

F100420 & F100430 - CR 6405 & CR 6411: The Town of Kirtland is starting the submittal process of clearances.

Chair Porell asked if a contractor had been hired to complete the construction of these projects.

Mr. Flack said that because contractor prices are more expensive than the budget for the project, they have yet to find a contractor and they would be happy to contract the work out to the county.

Chair Porell responded to that by saying a further conversation about this would be useful. The County's wage and equipment cost probably not reimbursable in the LGRF grant program, as most of the funding they use can only go towards materials. The Town of Kirtland would need to identify local funding for labor.

Mr. Flack said that would probably work for Kirtland but he will share quotes or estimates with the county.

Chair Porell added for the record that no commitments are being made by the county as of now.

San Juan County - Nick Porell

F100290 - CR 5500 Bridge Replacement: The project is proceeding towards a completion date April 20th, 2022.

F100320 - Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension: Ms. Hale-BlueEyes will manage this project through construction, but the County is anticipating a construction start date of April 1st for a 120-day construction contract

F100360 & F100370 - CR 3000 & CR 3500 Bridge Replacement: The County has committed local dollars towards the design of both of these projects.

Chair Porell added he want to discuss, with Mr. Koeppel, changing the funding for these projects from later year to the fiscally constrained year of the TIP with a TIP amendment.

NMDOT - Javier Martinez

F100170 - NM 173: Construction is being delayed until June 1st, however there is a contractor on board and construction is planned to begin as soon as the City of Aztec moves their waterline.

Mr. Saavedra commented later in the meeting that the City of Aztec has a contractor who was awarded the bid to move the waterline. There should be no further delays with construction.

F100350 & F100351- NM 171/Navajo 36: NMDOT is waiting on the agreement with Navajo DOT. The funds are ready to be used once the agreement is in place. This project should be under construction by late summer or early fall 2022.

F100341 - US 550 Pavement Rehab: Design plans are at 60% as of this meeting. NMDOT is working to get the plans to 90% and enter PS&E. The project is on schedule to get that done this year with construction being completed next year (2023).

4. QUARTERLY EDUCATION

Subject:	Quarterly Education
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	March 9, 2022

PRESENTATION

As the Farmington MPO finishes up the update of their Regional ITS Architecture, the consultant working on the update, Bruce Eisenhart from ConSysTec, will give a brief

presentation highlighting how planners and engineers can use the ITS Architecture in transportation planning and project funding.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Koeppel introduced Bruce Eisenhart, from ConSysTec and FMPO’s consultant on the update of their Regional ITS Architecture Update.

Mr. Eisenhart began with a brief update on the Farmington ITS Architecture Update. This is an update to the original Architecture the was created in 2017. The architecture is a framework collaborative implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) or project in the MPO region and focuses on all the technological transportation projects in the region. The purpose of the ITS Architecture is to give the MPO and the local agencies insight in to the intelligent transportation projects in the region and form institutional agreements across the local agencies.

Mr. Eisenhart briefly talked about why we are updating our Regional ITS Architecture. There is a FHWA regulation that requires any agency that uses Highway Trust Fund money, they must have an architecture in place and show how they are using that architecture. The MPO is updating their Regional ITS Architecture in order to meet those requirements.

Mr. Eisenhart went on to show the Farmington Regional ITS Architecture Update and how it can be used by committee members and local agencies. First, he highlighted how the Update directly connects to other planning documents, like the MTP. He then showed how the Update can be used to complete the system engineering analysis, which is required in order to use federal funds. Lastly, this is a useful tool for storing all the regional projects information in one central location.

The main product is a hyperlink website. Mr. Eisenhart showed the committee how to access the Update and displayed what it looks like. He explained that the website is primarily organized by stakeholders. One of the parts of the plan the Mr. Eisenhart emphasized as being the most useful was the list of projects by stakeholder. For each stakeholder, the website contains a list of projects. These projects are linked to diagrams that show what ITS strategies are used in that project.

Lastly, Mr. Eisenhart emphasized that this Update has a 20-year horizon and it is not a fiscally constrained document.

5. MOSAICS ACADEMY

Subject:	Mosaic Academy
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	March 9, 2022

Amanda Knight of Mosaic Academy will discuss a proposed turn lane on US-550.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Thomas began by stating that the region should be filling vacant oil and gas properties. The Mosaics academy is looking at renovating an existing building on Main Street in Aztec, however DOT is putting some additional requirements on the school to improve the entrance. Mr. Thomas asked the committee to help Mosaics Academy identify any funding opportunities that will allow them to meet those additional requirements. He then turned the conversation over to the principal of Mosaics Academy, Ms. Knight.

Ms. Knight emphasized that she is working with the City of Aztec on this project and that she believes this project will be beneficial for the entire city as it will encourage drivers to reduce speeds as they enter downtown Aztec. She then briefly introduced Mosaics Academy as a public charter school in Aztec and explained the funding they are looking for will be specifically focused on installing a turn lane at the entrance of the school. They are also having trouble with getting contractors to bid on the project. Ms. Knight asked the committee for any input or ideas on these issues.

Mr. Thomas asked if Mosaics Academy had any cost estimates on the right-of-way improvements. Ms. Knight said this was allowed at \$200,000.

Mr. Saavedra asked about changes made to the site plan, specifically a marked driveway on the opposite side of US 550. Mr. Martinez responded by saying that the only requirements from DOT is the right turn lane, bike path, and sidewalk. There may be some minor improvement needed to meet those requirements, but the driveway on the site plan is not part of those improvements. Mr. Flack added that the drawing has changed several times in the last few weeks and the final site plan will be sent out soon. This will be the site plan the NMDOT would need to approve.

Chair Porell commented that legislative appropriation or capital outlay funds would be a good way to fund this project with the Aztec School District being the requester. The timeline may cause issues though because the legislative session is over and it would be another twelve months until these funds would be available again. That is a major source of funding for schools in San Juan County and well as other capital needs and, if the entrance permit approved by NMDOT, this would be the type of project that is eligible for that program. Because Chair Porell was unaware of the timeline Mosaics Academy had for the project, he did add that it might be too late to apply for this funding. Ms. Knight responded by saying that in previous years, they did apply for that funding, however because they have different constraints that the Aztec School District they were unable to request funds. She also added that they are under a tight timeframe, with plans to have the facility ready by August 2022.

Mr. Thomas asked if the DOT might have any discretionary funds that would be available. Mr. Martinez explained that the LGRF program has funding for school bus routes, and this may be a potential funding source. But other

discretionary funds are not available because NMDOT does not help fund development. However, because the deadline for applications is next week, this is mostly likely to short of a time frame. Chair Porell added that the county only gets about \$80,000 for school bus routes and is mostly used for paving roads that are school bus routes. With such a limited funding like that, he is unaware that the county could afford to commit two years of funding to the school, especially since it is within Aztec city limits. Furthermore, this would not be in alignment with the counties 5 year extended resurfacing plan.

Mr. Saavedra asked if this project would be eligible for TPF funds. He couldn't guarantee the City would submit this as a project but wanted to know if that was a possibility. Mr. Martinez said it would be eligible but it would need a letter of support from District 5. Chair Porell did bring up that this might not fit into the school's timeline as these funds are typically disbursed in late fall through early December. Mr. Thomas added that this funding does require a 5% local match, but Chair Porell pointed out that they would be able to apply for a match waiver if needed.

Mr. Saavedra added that the City of Aztec does have some funding available for non-profits, but the highest he has ever seen rewarded was \$20,000 and \$200,000 is most likely out of their budget range.

Mr. Koepfel said that although the timing may be off, the TPF fund is probably the best option for the school, as \$200,000 is not a large amount to request from that funding source. Mr. Saavedra said he can meet with Ms. Knight at a later time to discuss the details on how to apply for the TPF.

6. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

Planning Bureau - Rosa Kozub

Ms. Kozub had a couple of updates for the committee. First, NMDOT's Strategic Highway Safety Plan has been approved by FHWA and NMDOT will start implementing that plan.

Ms. Kozub also informed the committee the most likely next week, NMDOT will call for projects for state planning and research funds. This is funding for planning grants that the MPO staff would be project managers for. This is funding that FMPO would be eligible to apply for. There is a 20% local match requirement. MPO staff would be the contact to refer to if that is something the local entities are interested in.

Chair Porell asked Ms. Kozub if she knew the timeline for awarding the latest round of TAP funding. Ms. Kozub said because NMDOT does have targets for future years of the TPF funding sources, so it is unclear what the obligation limitations on those funds will be. At this point, the applications are ranked and ready to be funded once NMDOT gets the funding targets. This is supposed to happen in March, once they are received awards will be sent out by the end of March. However, if anything changes, NMDOT will be in communication with the MPO to share those changes.

District 5 - Javier Martinez

NMDOT has a maintenance project on NM170. There will be one section within the City of Farmington and another section in the county portion of NM170. This project will be starting in the spring. Mr. Martinez had no additional updates.

DISCUSSION:

There was no further discussion.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	March 9, 2022

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **2023 Transportation Project Fund Applications**
Due to MPO staff by 4/15
- b. **Local Road Safety Plan Stakeholder Meeting**
Scheduled for 3/15, from 10am-12pm
- c. **Volkswagen Settlement Pre-Application Meeting Workshop**
The application period for the third round of Volkswagen (VW) settlement funding closes on 3/15
- d. **Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grants**
New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Department has \$7 million available in funding for shovel-ready recreation trails. Applications accepted on a rolling basis starting March 1.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Koeppel informed the committee that TPF applications are due to NMDOT by the end of May. The state is expecting about \$100,000,000 for the program. District 5 is expecting \$6,000,000 to \$9,000,000. The MPO should expect about \$4,000,000 of funding. Mr. Koeppel asked committee members to discuss the projects they wanted to submit in order to get a better idea of how the region should proceed.

Mr. Koeppel also noted that committee members should submit their application around the middle of April, in order to allow the MPO ample time to rank the projects and gather all the necessary signatures.

Chair Porell commented that it's great news that the funding levels for the TPF are similar to that of last year, with about \$120 million available last year and \$100 million available this year. He added that the county has two projects

they were thinking of submitting, including a resurfacing project and a small bridge replacement.

Chair Porell commented that last year the MPO was close to requesting the most funding they could have. He asked Mr. Koepfel who received the most funding from last year's TPF. Mr. Koepfel said all the entities were awarded at least one project, however he was unaware of who received the most funding. Overall the MPO region and the whole state did quite well, those who submitted project received funding for at least one of their projects.

The other entities continued to share projects that they will potentially submit to the TPF. Mr. Thomas noted that the City of Bloomfield started the preliminary engineering on Bergin Lane and will most likely apply to the TPF for completing the design work on this project.

Ms. King added that the City of Farmington was discussing submitting West Main Street, from Murry Drive to Lake Street for resurfacing. The cost estimate for that project was quite large but they are still considering submitting this project. The City of Farmington is also considering resubmitting the resurfacing of Wildflower Parkway, from Browning Parkway to Yarrow Trail, as this application was not awarded funding last year. Chair Porell added that the county was also considering submitting the resurfacing of CR 390, which is the extension of Wildflower Parkway. He said it might make sense to do those projects at the same time, although he would be more inclined to prioritize that resurfacing project for if or when the Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension project gets completed.

Mr. Saavedra reported that the Public Work Engineer for the City of Aztec would like to move forward on a project on a street on North Oliver. If a TPF application was submitted for this project, it might be just for design work, because the DOT wants shovel-ready projects, that would be a constraint for this project. Main Avenue improvement, which includes a road diet, does have the design work already complete and has received capital outlay funds last year was another potential project to submit to the TPF from the City of Aztec. This project would require substantial coordination with NMDOT, as that is their right-of-way. Lastly, with the previously discussed Mosaics Academy project, that may also impact what projects the City of Aztec will submit.

Mr. Koepfel asked if the TPF funds could be used for design or only construction. Mr. Martinez said they can be used for design, construction, construction inspection, or any piece of the project. He added another thing to look for when thinking of projects to submit is the recent increase in cost of construction. If there are new gaps in funding due to these increases, the TPF may be used for that. However, these projects cannot have any federal funds attached to any of the previous phases.

Chair Porell encouraged the committee to use this funding as a way to fill the funding gaps if there are no federal dollars attached to the project. But he also commented that this is very easy funding for resurfacing projects, as the design work and certifications are very easy to complete and the funds are very

easy to spend quickly. As he noted, the County received its funds in December and all funds will be spent by the end of August 2022.

Ms. King Asked if the entities should give cost estimates on the projects they are interested in submitting to the TPF. Chair Porell commented that there will be one more Technical Committee meeting before the applications need to be near completion. Mr. Koepfel asked the committee members to continue thinking about projects and bring a list of projects that they intend on applying for to the next meeting.

Mr. Martinez wanted to clarify that these is about \$100 million available in funding. If that is divided that among the six districts, and minus the amount the Secretary of Transportation took out of each district, that results in about \$15 million per district. District 5 is shared among FMPO Santa Fe MPO and three RTPOs, it is estimated that the MPO should submit about \$5-7 million, potentially up to \$9 million, in projects. Depending on the need by the other RTPO's or Santa Fe MPO, the district will decide if the MPO gets more or less awarded project.

Chair Porell asked, since the deadline to spend the funds from the first TPF round of awards, does NMDOT have any indications about the success of the program and the ability for those awarded projects to spend the money. Mr. Martinez stated that about 3 projects will be reverted back, although he said this could be for a variety of reasons, including politics. However, the district is tracking this information and overall the TPF does appear to be successful.

Mr. Saavedra asked that is a project is in NMDOT right-of-way, like the Mosaics School project, what type of coordination with DOT would that require. Mr. Martinez said they will need a letter of support from the district, and because it is in the DOT right-of-way, it will also require all the certification needed to complete the project and will need to follow DOT specifications. Chair Porell asked if there is a limit to the number of projects an entity can submit. Mr. Martinez said that is not necessarily the case, this is up to the MPO on how they rank their projects.

Ms. King asked if the forms for the TPF would be the same as last year. Mr. Koepfel told the committee he would send an email with the application information following the meeting.

There was no further discussion on the 2022 TPF.

Mr. Koepfel informed the committee that the Tuesday following the meeting, there will be a stakeholder meeting on the Local Road Safety Plan. This is a project the MPO has been working on with a consultant and FHWA. The research and analysis components have been completed and findings will be presented at this meeting. There was no further discussion.

Mr. Koepfel next informed the committee that he had sent an email regarding the VW settlement funds, which can be used for clean vehicles and electric

charging stations. He gave the deadline of March 15th. There was no further discussion.

Lastly, Mr. Koepfel informed the committee about the Trails+ Grant program, from New Mexico's Outdoor Recreation Division. There is \$7 million in funding available statewide and the applications are accepted on a rolling first-come-first-serve basis. Mr. Saavedra asked, regarding the Trails+ Grant, is there a good contact to ask about the match requirement and rural vs urban areas, specifically what areas were considered within the 10-mile radius of Farmington. Chair Porell noted that Axie Navas is the NMORD director and is a good contact. Mr. Koepfel added that he will share that contact information and any other additional information he has with Mr. Saavedra. Chair Porell also added that this program is very good with working with a soft match. For example, if the City of Aztec used Youth Conservation Core the program would most likely work with a soft match. There was no further discussion.

9. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Koepfel noted that the next meeting of the Technical Committee was originally scheduled to be in Kirtland, however since they are still working on installing fiber optics for communications the meeting will be moved to the MPO office and virtually on GoToMeeting.

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

10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment on any issues not on the agenda.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Escobar moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. King seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. The meeting at 10:57.



Nick Porell, Technical Committee Chair



MPO Staff