

POLICY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-1

REAFFIRMS THE NEED FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATION, COOPERATION, COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT BETWEEN NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NMDOT) AND LOCAL AGENCIES OF THE FARMINGTON MPO.

WHEREAS, the Farmington MPO (FMPO) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the cities of Farmington, Aztec, Bloomfield, and the urbanized area of San Juan County; and

WHEREAS, metropolitan planning organizations are designated in urbanized areas to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process coordinating decisions based on regional perspectives per 23 U.S.C. 134; and

WHEREAS, the preponderance of state-wide populations reside within MPOs; and,

WHEREAS, NMDOT and local agencies will "work together to build trust and leverage external support for transportation initiatives by coordinating early, often, and successfully with federal, state, regional, Tribal, local, and other agencies to plan, fund, and implement projects and programs" as adopted by NMDOT in its New Mexico 2040 Plan.

WHEREAS, the Farmington MPO Policy Committee is the decision-making body for the MPO and addresses the major transportation issues in the metropolitan planning area; and

WHEREAS, communication breakdowns between NMDOT and the local entities within the FMPO highlighted the need to improve transparency, ensuring the future communications are continuous, cooperative and comprehensive according to 23 CFR 134 including "that the selection of federally funded projects in metropolitan areas shall be carried out, from the approved TIP"; and

WHEREAS, the Piñon Hills Bridge over the Animas River and the East Arterial Relief Route in Aztec are respectively the number one and two regional priorities as identified in the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2040 MTP); and

WHEREAS, future TIP developments require an extensive joint cooperative vetting processes to identify funding gaps and shortfalls, as well as clear regional priorities for NMDOT and the local agencies; and

WHEREAS, a more collaborative and supportive process can eliminate the appearance of non-responsiveness by providing empowered proactive Local Programming assistance for successful project completion; and

WHEREAS, travel demand modeling by the MPO has shown that the construction of the two phases of the Piñon Hills Bridge over the Animas River and Oxbow do more to alleviate congestion on two major highways than does the widening of the two remaining phases (V and VI) of US 64; and

WHEREAS, the cost and apparent benefit of constructing the Piñon Hills Bridge with its various phases equates to \$26M exceeds that of completing the final two phases of US 64 which equates to over \$30.5M; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE FARMINGTON MPO, NEW MEXICO:

Support 1. Improvement in communication and transparency from NMDOT to its regional bodies which include Aztec, Bloomfield, Farmington and San Juan County; and

Support 2. That the NMDOT evaluate and collaborate with the Farmington MPO regarding the feasibility of a diversion or exchange of construction funds for Phase V and VI of US 64, to the Farmington MPO planning area to prioritized projects identified in the 2040 MTP; and

Support 3. Future Federal funding be directed to the completion of Phases I and II of the Piñon Hills Bridge over the Animas River as well as other regionally significant transportation projects; and

Support 4. That the development of the FMPO regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) follow 23 CFR 134 namely in cooperation with the State and any affected public transportation operator, the metropolitan planning organization designated for a metropolitan area shall develop a TIP for the area for which the organization is designated; and

Support 5. That the NMDOT resolve to explore available and alternate processes to expedite the completion and approval of project submittals, specifically but not limited to Right of Way (ROW) and environmental certifications on projects to alleviate cost burdens and time constraints on local agencies.

PASSED, SIGNED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of February, 2017.


Nate Duckett

FMPO Policy Committee Chair


June Markle

MPO Administrative Assistant