



AGENDA

**Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Committee Meeting**

**Executive Conference Room
Farmington Municipal Building
800 Municipal Drive
Farmington, NM**

**January 10, 2008
5:30 p.m.**

AGENDA
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 10, 2008 5:30 PM

This meeting will be held in the Executive Conference Room, Farmington Municipal Building, 800 Municipal Drive, Farmington, New Mexico.

ITEM	PAGE
1. Call meeting to order.	
2. Approve the minutes from the November 8, 2007 Policy Committee meeting.	1
3. Adopt PC Resolution 2008-1, supporting the funding strategies and recommendations of the House Memorial 35 Technical Committee.	14
4. Receive a status report on the draft access management policies and standards.	23
5. Receive a status report on the socioeconomic data update for the traffic demand model.	34
6. Receive a status report on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. a. Receive the first draft of recommended projects from the BPAG. b. Review the draft policies. c. Review the draft criteria.	37
7. Receive a status report on the Aztec Transportation Network Study.	43
8. Receive a report on the FY2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).	44
9. Receive a report from NMDOT. a. District 5 (<i>David Martinez</i>) b. Planning Division (<i>Bob Widoe</i>)	
10. Information Items a. 2007 Traffic Counts. b. NWRPO Technical Committee Meeting – December 12, 2007 in Gallup. c. MPO Quarterly – December 19, 2007 in Santa Fe. d. NMDOT Transportation Commission 2008 Schedule. e. FY2007 Annual List of Obligated Projects. f. Other	45
11. Business from: a. Chairman b. Members c. Staff	
12. Business from the Floor	

13. Adjournment	
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ATTENTION PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the MPO Officer at the Farmington Community Development Office, 805 Municipal, Farmington, New Mexico, at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the MPO Officer at the Farmington Community Development office if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

**Minutes
Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Committee Meeting
November 8, 2007**

The Policy Committee of the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization met on Thursday, November 8, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. in the County Council Chambers, 100 S. Oliver, Aztec, New Mexico.

Members Present: Dan Darnell, City of Farmington
Sally Burbridge, City of Aztec
Sam Hinson, City of Bloomfield
Chairman Dr. Henderson, San Juan County

Members Absent: Mayor William Standley, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Virginia Turney, Secretary

Staff Absent: None

Also Present: David J. Martinez, NMDOT
Greg Clark, NMDOT
Dr. Bob Widoie, NMDOT
Derek Meier, Wilson & Co
Eric Wrage, Bohannon-Huston
Rod Hunt, City of Farmington

1. CALL TO ORDER

Due to a scheduling conflict Dr. Henderson was unable to arrive at the meeting on time. Mr. Hinson chaired this meeting. Mr. Hinson called the November 8, 2007, Policy Committee meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE September 13, 2007, POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Darnell motioned and Ms. Burbridge seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2007, meeting.

3. FY2008-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT #2

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: FY2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #2
Prepared by: Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date: October 31, 2007

Background:

Three projects in the MPO are part of Amendment #2 to the FY2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Two of these involve adding Recreational Trails projects in Bloomfield and Farmington to the FY2008-13 TIP. The other item in Amendment #2 is changes to the project scope, funding source, and amount for Wildflower Parkway. Details of the amendment are found in the attached public notice.

Since the Recreational Trails Program is part of the Federal Aid Highway program, Recreational Trails projects are required to be on the State Transportation Improvement Program list (STIP). These projects must be included through the respective TIPs prior to STIP inclusion.

The reason for the change in scope in the Wildflower Parkway project is because the amount awarded in Municipal Arterial Program (MAP) funding by NMDOT was less than the amount requested in the original application. As a consequence of this reduction, the local match requirement was reduced. However, the original scope remains on the TIP list as an unfunded request and the City of Farmington desires to complete the original scope in the future.

The 30-day comment period for Amendment #2 opened on Sunday, September 30, 2007 and ends on Friday, November 2, 2007. The public notices have been advertised in the Farmington Daily-Times, the MPO website, and city/county halls in the area, as described in the Public Participation Plan (PPP).

The required public hearing was held during the MPO Technical Committee meeting on October 25, 2007. No public comments were received at that time.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve Amendment #2 to the FY 2008-2013 TIP.

Discussion: Mr. Messenger presented the staff report and said the Technical Committee recommended approval.

Action: Ms. Burbridge motioned and Mr. Darnell seconded the motion to approve Amendment #2 to the FY2008-2013 TIP. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.

4. FY2008 UPWP BUDGET AMENDMENT
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject: FY2008 UPWP Budget Amendment
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: October 30, 2007

Background:

The MPO received a Work Authorization that determines final FHWA PL funding available to the MPO for FY2008 for planning activities and the annual traffic count program. A Work Authorization for FTA 5303 funding is expected to be received from the NMDOT Transit Bureau.

During FY2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) development during the spring, staff was given estimates for PL and 5303 funding. While there is no change to the 5303 or Traffic Count funding, the PL is about \$2,960 more than expected. Now that official amounts have been received, a UPWP budget amendment is required. The following table indicates the estimated and final funding amounts for PL, 5303, required local match, and local overmatch. The total budget for the MPO, approved by the Farmington City Council, is also included.

	FHWA PL	PL Traffic Counts	FTA 5303	Local Match (PL, TC & 5303 Combined)	Local Overmatch	Total Budget
Estimated Amount (April)	\$77,870	\$10,680	\$20,363	\$20,181	\$132,806	\$261,900
Final Authorization Amount	\$80,830	\$10,680	\$20,363	\$20,685	\$143,782	\$276,340
Difference	\$2,960	\$0	\$0	\$504	\$10,976	\$14,440

A complete funding summary for PL, Traffic Counts, FTA 5303, and local overmatch is attached. The MPO will likely expend all of its federal and required local match funding this fiscal year. Based on previous year expenditures, it is anticipated the MPO will use 25-35% of its local overmatch in FY2008.

No changes to activities are being made to the FY2008 UPWP at this time.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve the FY2008 UPWP budget amendment.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report and said the change is due to the State issuing the work authorization letter. Final PL funding gives the MPO around \$3,000 more than estimated during FY2008 UPWP development in April. Mr. Delmagori reviewed the local match break down for the Policy Committee and said the MPO has only used between 25-35% of the local overmatch in the previous years.

Action: Mr. Darnell motioned and Ms. Burbridge seconded the motion to approve the FY2008 UPWP budget amendment. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**5. ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION (RESOLUTION 2007-4)
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: Annual Meeting Resolution (Resolution 2007-4)
Prepared by: Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date: October 30, 2007

Background:

The attached Resolution 2007-4 establishes the procedures to be followed and notice to be given pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, provides for the annual determination of reasonable notice of meetings, and establishes the meeting times, dates and locations for the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee meetings during calendar year 2008.

As proposed, there would be six meetings of the MPO Policy Committee during 2008. The meetings would be held on the second Thursday of the month in January, March, April, June, September and November. These meeting dates are arranged in order to meet anticipated local and state deadlines for completing projects and activities.

The meeting locations would continue to rotate among the member entities. Meeting cancellations or changes in the time, date or location would be advertised according to the public notice procedures. Special Policy Committee meetings, if any, would be held at Farmington City Hall.

Staff is suggesting that the meetings be moved back to a start time of 5:30 pm, which might be more convenient and could make it easier for members of the public to attend.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the MPO Policy Committee adopt Resolution 2007-4.

Discussion: Mr. Messenger presented the staff report and said staff is suggesting the time for the Policy meetings next year be moved back to 5:30 p.m. Mr. Hinson said 5:30 p.m. would be a better time. Mr. Delmagori asked if the 2nd Thursday of every month was still acceptable. Mr. Hinson said it was.

Action: Mr. Darnell motioned and Ms. Burbridge seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 2007-4. The action passed unanimously 3-0.

**6. AZTEC TRANSPORTATION NETWORK STUDY
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: Aztec Transportation Network Study
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: October 30, 2007

Background:

On September 20, Wilson & Co. held a meeting with interested agencies to discuss the project scope and identify issues to be addressed by the Aztec Transportation Network Study. The network study will assist in determining potential alternatives to the widening of NM 516 in Aztec. The first step in this study involved taking traffic counts in and around Aztec during September and October. On October 11, the second step was tracking vehicles at various locations around Aztec, which is the basis for an Origin-Destination Study. An origin-destination study determines existing traffic volumes and patterns and where traffic begins and ends.

NMDOT and its consultants will provide a status report on the network study to the Policy Committee on November 8. A design team meeting is also scheduled to be held with NMDOT, its consultants, the MPO, and local members prior to the Policy Committee meeting at 3pm that day. It will be held at the Aztec Public Library. A summary of this meeting will be provided to the Policy Committee.

After the consultant teams produce a final report on the study, the information will be provided to the MPO to assist with the review of proposed alternatives to widening NM 516 in Aztec.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a status report on the Aztec Transportation Network Study.

Discussion: Mr. Meier introduced Mr. Clark, Mr. Wrage and himself to the Policy Committee. Mr. Meier said that Mr. Delmagori had asked him to give a status update on the project.

Mr. Meier said traffic counts in and around Aztec were taken during September and October. The origin and destination study had been completed on October 11 and the information would be analyzed to find the level of service and current operational capacity. The study gathered the information on the origin and destination, the level of service and current operational capacity. The information will be processed as a way to describe existing conditions and will be sent to the MPO for use in travel modeling.

Mr. Meier said the design team had met earlier today and it was determined that a draft report could be submitted by January 24 to the Technical Committee and then to the Policy Committee. The final report will be issued to the MPO, City of Aztec, and NMDOT.

Mr. Darnell asked if crash data will be analyzed. Mr. Meier said the information will be analyzed and put in the summary. Mr. Meier said the NMDOT would be getting a new database that will contain all the information and the MPO should be able to access that information for the entities. Mr. Hinson asked if the database would be updated weekly. Mr. Meier said he did not know. Mr. Darnell said the database would be a good way to gather information. Mr. Meier agreed that having the accident data would be helpful. Dr. Widoe said the Santa Fe County just updated their accident information. Mr. Darnell added the City of Farmington includes crime data as well and the database should be open for the public to view.

Action: Report was received.

7. BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject: Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan
Prepared by: Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date: October 30, 2007

Background:

During the last several months, the MPO has solicited public input for the development of a Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan for the MPO. At the last Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAG) meeting on October 29, participants reviewed draft policies, draft criteria, and a list of proposed walking and biking improvements.

On November 8, MPO staff would like the Policy Committee to review the following items:

- A Pedestrian network map that includes the sidewalk status for roads that are collector and above: complete sidewalks, partially complete sidewalks, or no sidewalks. Similar to the bicycle map, this map shows proposed multimodal trail facilities and local trails improvements.
- A draft of policies is attached that include additional policies suggested at the BPAG meeting on September 26.
- A draft of evaluation criteria is attached that will be used to rank and prioritize proposed walking and biking improvements.

A list of proposed improvements and corresponding maps will be provided at the Policy Committee meeting.

It should be noted that the sidewalk status is based on the road inventory the MPO conducted early in 2007 and a list of deficiencies noted by the City of Farmington Traffic Division. Staff would like to reiterate to the committee, the BPAG, and the public at large that the "pedestrian" component of the Bicycle/Pedestrian plan must receive due consideration.

Anticipated work products over the next few months include further revisions of the policies, development and revisions of draft criteria, use of the adopted criteria to evaluate and prioritize projects, and development of standards.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee review the maps, the list of proposed improvements, the draft policies, and the draft criteria for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Messenger said during the October BPAG meeting the draft policies were reviewed. The group decided the draft criteria would be: Economic Vitality; Safety; Accessibility, Mobility & Congestion; Integration and Connectivity; Preservation, Efficiency & Land Development Policies; and Funding & Costs.

Mr. Darnell said the set of criteria was very good, but felt Economic Vitality as criteria may not be needed, and it felt more like a goal than criteria. Mr. Messenger said that others have said it was not needed either and the BPAG had based the criteria on the seven planning factors. Mr. Darnell said he could see how Economic Vitality could be used as criteria for automobile traffic, but he could not see how it would work for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Mr. Messenger said the idea is for people who are transit dependent to have viable ways to bike and walk to the bus stops, work and shopping. Mr. Messenger said BPAG also considered walking and biking trails an Economic Vitality because it improves the quality of life factor. Dr. Widoe said there are actually eight planning factors and that many of the factors will not apply to a bicycle/pedestrian plan, so it is up to the Policy Committee to decide what factors apply to the bicycle/pedestrian plan and the MTP standards. He mentioned there is no mandate to meet all criteria. Ms. Burbridge said she could see how a bicycle/pedestrian plan could affect economic vitality. Mr. Darnell said it was fine to leave in. Mr. Messenger said the MPO is bringing the plan before the committees to have it reviewed. Dr. Widoe said the City of Gallup has marketed their bicycle/pedestrian routes as a tourist attraction, so in that sense it could relate to economic vitality.

Ms. Burbridge asked why the criteria were being put together. Mr. Messenger said the overall goal is to have the projects ranked to create priority lists.

Action: Report was received.

**8. ACCESS MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND STANDARDS
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: Access Management Policies and Standards
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: October 30, 2007

Background:

In cooperation with the Access Management Advisory Group (AMAG) and the Technical Committee, the MPO finalized policies for access management in September. The policies pertain to roads and driveways, medians, corner clearances, and bicycle/pedestrian accommodations. Work is now focusing on the development of standards and objectives that will support the access policies.

During an advisory group meeting on October 16, determining road classifications in the MPO and their respective descriptions, functions, and purposes were the focal point of discussion. Because NMDOT road classification definitions are in line with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) definitions, it was suggested that the MPO should accept the NMDOT definitions to ensure roads qualify for federal funding.

The policies and standards are attached. Note that information related to policies #2-5 simply include data collected from NMDOT and local entity documents. They have not been discussed in detail with the Technical Committee or the AMAG at this point.

Once definitions, functions, and purposes for road classifications are finalized and agreed upon, the MPO will develop standards for typical road sections, intersection and driveway spacing, median control, and pedestrian/bicycle accommodations.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a status report on access management standards.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report. Mr. Delmagori said the first policy is road classifications for arterials and collectors. The AMAG went over specific definitions, functions and purposes for the policy. The AMAG has not discussed policies 2-5 yet and those policies are based on data collected from the NMDOT and local entities. The second policy is to determine a typical road section for each road classification that will have standard driveway width and spacing, intersection spacing, corner clearance dimensions, sidewalk buffer zone, speed limit range, and will be in compliance with ADA requirements. The third policy is to establish access management standards to maintain capacity of roadways, improve safety, and minimize the number of access points on arterials and collectors. The fourth policy is to establish that all arterial roadways shall have access control using medians. The fifth policy is to locate applicable bicycle and pedestrian facilities in a safe and efficient manner on all arterial and collector streets.

Mr. Delmagori said all Federal and State definitions are being used to ensure the entities can get Federal funding. Mr. Delmagori said the AMAG agreed to use those definitions, and added the rural local definition. The State and Federal Rural road definitions were combined to form a hybrid for the definition. Dr. Wideo said definitions need to match the State and Federal definitions as close as possible to ensure funding and added that rural minor collectors are eligible for Federal funding.

Mr. Delmagori said these standards would be presented to the Technical Committee next week. Mr. Hinson asked why there are no frontage roads on the highways. Mr. Delmagori said the redesign of US 64 does have frontage roads included.

Mr. Delmagori said the AMAG would meet and the MPO is planning on presenting the final draft for recommendation of approval to the Technical Committee sometime next year. The Policy Committee will be asked to approve the policies and standards which will then be sent to the entities' commissions and councils for adoption.

Action: Report was received.

9. PUBLIC TRANSIT DISCUSSION
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject: Public Transit Discussion
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: October 30, 2007

Background:

Public transit is a critical mode of transportation that serves all types of people and connects major destinations locally and regionally. The Red Apple Transit system

serves the City of Farmington and the region. In the past couple of years, it has grown considerably in terms of ridership, as evident by monthly trends that have stayed consistently over 8,000 passengers. Red Apple ridership will surpass 100,000 this year.

Based on recent and anticipated activities, the MPO would like to hold an open discussion with the Policy Committee on public transit in this area. In the past six months:

- The Southern Ute Community Action Programs (SUCAP) has approached the MPO and Red Apple about a possible transit connection for workers from this area to Ignacio.
- The RPO is considering a study for a possible Regional Transit District for northwest New Mexico.
- There has been discussion about park-n-ride services to the Raytheon company.
- At the September Policy meeting, Mr. Darnell mentioned he was told buses serving San Juan College often are at full capacity.
- During a recent Citizens Conference organized by NMDOT and UNM, a citizen's panel identified the use of public transportation to reduce driving miles and traffic by expanding services as their top recommendation.
- During the Transportation Infrastructures Task Force meeting organized by Lt Governor Diane Denish, opinions were expressed to have more frequent transit service on the regional routes to and from Farmington.

To further explore the option of expanding transit using line routes as identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, staff would like to conduct a line route analysis, in cooperation with Red Apple, to determine the number, location, and feasibility of more direct routes in Farmington. This activity, which was approved as a priority by the Policy Committee, is anticipated to start in 2008.

After discussing transit with the Technical Committee, staff was advised to write a white paper that summarizes the transit opinions received by the MPO and suggested transit improvements made at recent public forums. Staff will ask for Policy Committee approval to complete this white paper.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee hold a discussion on public transit in the MPO.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori introduced Mr. Hunt. Mr. Hunt said the ridership is up 25% from last October. The Bloomfield route ridership has been the biggest increase. The buses are starting to need more maintenance.

Mr. Darnell asked what needed to be done to increase ridership. Mr. Hunt said the ridership has increased greatly simply going from the white vans to the red buses. The red buses are handicapped equipped and the headways are shorter. Mr. Hunt added he did not feel the system needs to be advertised because the system is running at a good capacity now. Mr. Hunt said the system could not handle over 80% capacity. Mr. Hunt said at sometime in the future the system will expand.

Mr. Hunt then described a list of expansion possibilities for the Red Apple Transit. The options include reducing headways to 20 minutes, extending hours of operation, adding more trips from Farmington to the other cities, creating a trolley service through downtown Farmington, and adding on-street bus stops.

Mr. Darnell said it would be a good idea to plan expansion of the system now for the future. Mr. Hunt said the system would be viable for the next 10-15 years; however, there are many areas of the county that are not served. Mr. Hunt said he would like to see the other entities try to start a system.

Mr. Hinson asked if Mr. Hunt had specific statistics of ridership trends, fares and other information. Mr. Hunt said that information is available on the Farmington Web-site.

After Mr. Hunt's presentation, Mr. Delmagori opened the meeting to discussion on public transit. He said that Mr. Peter Tregillus is working with the Southern Ute Transit Authority to get a route from Ignacio to Aztec. Mr. Tregillus has submitted a funding grant for the project. The Raytheon Company is also looking to have a connection with the Red Apple Transit system that would provide park-n-ride services.

Mr. Delmagori said at the Citizens Conference held by UNM and the NMDOT the top recommendation was transit. Mr. Delmagori said the MPO has a transit study scheduled in the long range program of the UPWP. Mr. Delmagori said the Technical Committee requested a 'white paper' report be put together and would like to know if the Policy Committee would want the report. Mr. Darnell asked if a 'white paper' report would actually be needed. Mr. Delmagori said it would be a status report on what changes could be done to the transit system in the future. Mr. Hinson said that the MPO should just do the report and did not need to ask to do the report. Ms. Burbridge agreed and said the MPO should just present the report

Dr. Widoe said that the Northwest RPO is looking into trying to connect all the transit systems within the Northwest region. Ms. Burbridge asked if there would be jurisdiction issues with cross state transit. Dr. Widoe said there will be those issues and the NWRPO will be working on them.

Mr. Delmagori said it was great the ridership numbers were up and the Red Apple Transit system was moving forward. Mr. Hunt agreed and said the cost of maintenance and fuel had increased. Mr. Hunt said he also had need of a new maintenance bay because he was not only servicing the Red Apple Transit buses but many other vehicles operated by the City of Farmington and San Juan County.

Mr. Hunt said the fastest way to expand the routes is to offer 2-3 more daily trips to the Cities of Bloomfield, Aztec and Kirtland. Ms. Burbridge asked if those routes are currently at capacity. Mr. Hunt said they were not yet at capacity. Mr. Darnell said the route to San Juan College has people standing on the bus. Mr. Hunt said that is common on that route, but everyone is given a ride and if needed another bus can be called to pick up riders.

Mr. Darnell asked if there are any plans for the downtown area. Mr. Hunt said he would like to see a trolley for the downtown area, adding it would be the cheapest and most feasible form of mass-transit for the area. The trolleys would have on-street stops.

Action: Report was received.

10. NMDOT AND DISTRICT FUNDING
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject: NMDOT and District Funding
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: October 30, 2007

Background:

Tammy Haas, with the STIP Development Unit, gave a presentation to the Technical Committee on October 25 on the process of how funding is distributed from the state level to the NMDOT Districts. This funding helps the districts determine their funding targets and manage their budgets, which is critical to the development of the TIP, STIP, and long range plans.

The presentation is provided for review. After federal funding for the core programs (e.g. NHS, STP, Bridge) is allocated to the states, NMDOT uses its own formula percentages to determine how much funding from each program is allocated to the six districts. For example, NHS is based on average lanes-mile and daily VMT percentages. For STP, it is based on centerline mile and daily VMT percentages and population. After adjustments are made due to debt service and state programs, the District allocations are finally determined for each federal funding program.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on NMDOT funding from the state level to the Districts.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori said Ms. Tammy Haas had presented the funding distribution information to the Technical Committee. Mr. Delmagori said Ms. Haas presented how funding was distributed from the state level to the NMDOT district level. The core programs funding are allocated to the states and then the NMDOT determines the funding for each program in the six districts by formula. Debt services and state programs are reimbursed and then the district allocations are determined for each funding program.

Mr. Delmagori asked how the state totals have changed through the last few years. Mr. Martinez said three years ago the total was \$33 million per year and because of recessions the totals have decreased down to \$18 million. Dr. Widoe said the federal obligation has been reduced from 96% three years ago to 89% this year. Ms. Burbridge asked who decided the federal obligation percentage. Dr. Widoe said Congress is in charge of deciding the federal obligation amount. Dr. Widoe also said there have been several rescissions to the budget.

Dr. Widoe said that Transportation Management Areas (TMA) receive more funding than smaller MPO's. Ms. Burbridge asked what the difference is between a TMA and a MPO. Dr. Widoe said TMA's have a much larger population and after an area reaches over 200,000 in population the MPO's get more say in funding issues.

Action: Report was received.

11. AIR QUALITY MEETING WITH NMED
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject: Air Quality Meeting with NMED
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: October 30, 2007

Background:

On September 18 in Santa Fe, staff attended an air quality meeting hosted by the New Mexico Environmental Department to learn about revisions to the PM_{2.5} and ground level ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Monitoring data from stations located in San Juan and Dona Ana counties was also provided.

The Environmental Department described the minimum standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for various air quality pollutants, such as particulate matter, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide. The following table summarizes the proposed changes to PM_{2.5} and ozone standards, local station data, and possible dates when the changes could go into effect.

		Local Monitoring Stations				Possible Effect Date
		Farmington	Bloomfield	Shiprock	Blanco	
PM _{2.5} Standard	From 65 µg/m ³ to 35 µg/m ³	13.6 µg/m ³	No data	No data	7.6 µg/m ³	April 2010
Ozone Standard	From 0.084 ppm to a range of 0.07 to 0.075 ppm	No data	0.063	<u>0.071</u>	<u>0.079</u>	June 2010

The presentation and data from monitoring stations in San Juan County provided by the Environmental Department are attached for review. For the various pollutants, the county is below the standard levels. If the EPA reduces the ozone standard, it is possible that the stations in Shiprock and Blanco would be in non-attainment. However, additional data would have to be collected to make this determination. In addition, because these stations are located outside the MPO boundary, it is uncertain if the Farmington MPO would be deemed non-attainment.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the Air Quality meeting with the NM Environmental Department.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report and information on the PM_{2.5} and Ozone Standards. Mr. Delmagori said the stations in Shiprock and Blanco may become in non-attainment if the EPA reduces the ozone standards. It is uncertain at this time if it could affect the MPO's air quality status.

Action: Report was received.

12. NMDOT REPORT

Discussion: Mr. Martinez said he had nothing to report except the 20th Street TPE project was never on the STIP.

Dr. Widoe said if entities have inactive projects that are funded by FHWA they could lose funding. FHWA does not want projects to have funding and be inactive. Dr. Widoe said the MPO area has nothing to worry about because there are no inactive projects. Dr. Widoe added that Mr. Benny Martinez said that only one project was in jeopardy of losing funding in Districts 4 and 5.

Dr. Widoe said the Citizens Conference went very well and the highest priority the citizens mentioned was the need for an improved transit system.

Dr. Widoe handed out the MPO/RPO schedule and said it would help the MPOs and RPOs to know the state timetable for projects.

Dr. Widoe said he had heard nothing about GRIP2. Dr. Widoe said the state had received 18 new applications during the reapplication process. Dr. Widoe said the funding for 2008 would be \$15.3 million and he was not sure of the funding for 2009, but that \$25 million had been set aside for GRIP2.

Action: Report was received.

13. INFORMATION ITEMS FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject: Information Items
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: October 30, 2007

Background:

- a. Traffic Count Program.** During the week of November 5, Traffic Data Services is taking counts at locations that failed or produced poor data in August. This list of locations is attached.
- b. AMPO Conference.** Sally Burbridge and Joe Delmagori attended the annual conference in Little Rock, AR on October 2-5. Sessions included federal and SAFETEA-LU guidance, a land use modeling program demonstration, ITS, and access management.
- c. Citizens Conference.** The MPO and its members attended this conference on October 9 and answered questions from the citizen's panel. A list of

recommendations for transportation improvements for the Farmington and Gallup areas is attached.

- d. **FY2008 UPWP 1st Quarter Report.** The report summarized MPO planning activities and expenditures in July-September, 2007. The report is available on the MPO website (www.farmingtonmpo.org).
- e. **Safe Routes to School Funding.** Applications for the next funding cycle of the NM Safe Routes to School Program are due December 14. Program guidelines and the Phase 1 application are found on the NM SRTS website at www.nmsaferoutes.com.
- f. **FY2007 Annual List of Obligated Projects.** Staff will work with the entities and NMDOT to complete this list by December 31, 2007.
- g. **Other**

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Policy Committee receive the information.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the information items. Ms. Burbridge said if any of the other Policy Committee members had the chance to attend the AMPO conference they should and that she learned a great deal.

14. Business

- a. Chairman – none
- b. Members – none
- c. Staff – none

15. Business from the Floor

None

16. Adjournment

Dr. Henderson motioned and Mr. Darnell seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to come before the Farmington MPO Policy Committee, Mr. Hinson adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Vice-Chairman, Mr. Hinson

Secretary, Virginia Turney

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	House Memorial 35 Resolution
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 17, 2007

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- Cutbacks in funding and rising construction costs led to the creation of House Memorial 35 Technical Committee.
- October 2007 final report delivered by the House Memorial Technical Committee on sustainable funding strategies.

STATUS

- Representative Lundstrom is asking for resolutions to be passed by local governments, MPOs, and RPOs in support of the strategies outlined in the report.
- Resolutions will be provided during the 2008 New Mexico Legislative Session.
- The Technical Committee recommended adoption of PC Resolution 2008-1 on December 13, 2007

ANTICIPATED REVENUES

- If all strategies were enacted, NMDOT would receive between \$577 and \$850 million annually.
- In 19 years (2008-2026), this would total between \$11 and \$16 billion.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- The Executive Summary for the House Memorial 35 Final Report.
- A resolution of support for the strategies and recommendations described in the HM35 Final Report.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee:
1. Review the HM35 Executive Summary
 2. Review the resolution to support the proposed funding strategies and recommendations.
 3. Recommend approval of PC Resolution 2008-1

**A Resolution to Support the House Memorial 35
Transportation Technical Committee Recommendations**

WHEREAS, the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization is the regional transportation planning forum for the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington and for the County of San Juan; and

WHEREAS, the Farmington MPO, through the long range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the short range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), has identified new and ongoing transportation projects and is concerned about the increasing costs of construction materials and labor for those projects; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Memorial 35 (HM 35) as passed by the 2007 State Legislature, the New Mexico Governor appointed a Technical Committee to study and develop recommendations on short-term and long-term transportation financing strategies for the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the Final Report produced by the HM 35 Technical Committee under the expert advisement of Cambridge Systematics, the Farmington MPO acknowledges that the state of transportation funding in New Mexico is in a crisis and that there is an urgent need for new and progressive strategies to secure long-term, sustainable transportation funding for both urban corridors and rural and small-town New Mexico; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Farmington MPO finds that the funding strategies recommended by the Transportation Technical Committee in "House Memorial 35: Sustainable Funding Strategies" report are sound, and as such should be given all due consideration by the Governor and the Legislature of the State of New Mexico.
2. The Farmington MPO additionally encourages the Governor and the Legislature of New Mexico to place a high priority on implementing policies and strategies as outlined by the Technical Committee and Cambridge Systematics.
3. The Farmington MPO hereby supports the analysis and recommendations of the HM 35 Technical Committee.

PASSED, SIGNED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of January, 2008.

Dr. James Henderson, Chair

Virginia Turney, Secretary

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Access Management Policies and Standards
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 21, 2007

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- Access Management policies have been finalized with the Technical Committee.
- Ongoing development of draft standards and objectives to support the policies.

CURRENT WORK

- During the November 28 Technical Committee Work Session, the following items were discussed:
 - New objectives were added and current standards were modified to support the purpose and need for access management.
 - Eight road classifications and their respective definitions, functions, and purposes were finalized.
 - Discussion on standard dimensions for the agreed upon road classifications was started. Right-of-way dimensions were determined.
- At the request of the Technical Committee, staff developed typical road sections, showing ROW, travel lanes, medians, and bike/pedestrian facilities.
- After the MPO gathers and allocates data from these sources, staff will need to meet with the entities for review sessions.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- A Technical Committee Work Session is scheduled for January 14 to review the road sections and determine access management standards.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- The revised standards and objectives, based on the Work Session.
- A summary of road section data collected from existing NMDOT and entity documents, which also includes suggested dimensions that were used to develop the road sections.
- Draft diagrams of typical road sections for each classification.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a status report on draft access management policies and standards.

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Socioeconomic Data Update
Prepared by:	Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	December 21, 2007

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- Updating land use data to reflect new developments in 2004 and 2005.
- New land use data will be entered into travel model to more accurately reflect traffic volumes.
- Data has been collected from the entities; school data has been collected from San Juan College and a national website.

CURRENT WORK

- The MPO is creating databases of the new data.
- New developments are being allocated to their respective Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ).
- Staff has received information from the MTP consultant, LSA Associates, about how they collected socioeconomic data for the Regional Travel Model.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- After the MPO gathers and allocates data from these sources, staff will need to meet with the entities for review sessions.
- Complete the assignment of the new data to the TAZ structure.
- Once base and forecast year updates are reasonably complete, the MPO will work with the consultant, PTV America, for updating the model.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- A table showing tasks and timeframes associated with this activity.
- A summary table of new developments by entity.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a status report on the update to the socioeconomic data for the travel demand model.

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan
Prepared by:	Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	December 21, 2007

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- BPAG and entities helped the MPO create a proposed list of biking and walking improvements.
- Draft Policies and Evaluation Criteria have been developed and presented to the BPAG, the Policy and Technical Committees.

CURRENT WORK

- On December 3, the BPAG developed a recommended list of walking and biking improvements.
- On December 13, the Technical Committee tabled recommending the adoption of the evaluation criteria to be used to rank and prioritize bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Also, the committee decided to table recommended approval of walking and biking policies.
- The draft evaluation criteria, draft walking/biking policies, and the recommended project list by the BPAG will be reviewed on January 10.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Drafts of walking and biking facility standards.
- Refinements of project cost estimates.
- Determine potential funding sources.
- Further development of walking/biking priority lists.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- First draft of recommended projects from the BPAG.
- Draft Evaluation Criteria.
- Draft Policies.
- A table showing upcoming tasks and timeframes associated with this activity.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee:
- a. Receive the first draft of recommended projects from the BPAG.
 - b. Review the draft policies.
 - c. Review the draft criteria.

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Aztec Transportation Network Study (TNS)
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 17, 2007

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

On November 8th, Wilson & Co. provided a status report at design team meeting:

- Intersection and tube counts available on their FTP site. MPO needs counts in PRN format.
- Total of 65 intersection turn counts taken in September and October
- Total of 17 tube counts taken: these were combinations of 48 hr, 7-day volume and classification counts.
- Level of Service Analysis is being setup and data is being input.
- Crash data was obtained by NMDOT and analysis is currently ongoing.
- Origin-Destination data taken on October 11th:

Highway	Entering Aztec	Exiting Aztec	Total Vehicles
NM 516	2223	2124	4347
NM 574	207	254	461
US 550 North	1500	1218	2718
US 550 South	846	887	1733
NM 173	165	210	375
CR 3000	381	385	766

- Consultant team needs the following from agencies:
 1. Data from Aztec for traffic count taken at school on NM 574
 2. Proposed improvements in corridor from other studies

CURRENT WORK

- Staff will provide a report on current activities on January 10.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive the draft report of the Aztec Transportation Network Study.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	FY2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 21, 2007

BACKGROUND

- The Transportation Improvement Program is a short-term list of projects that are expected to be completed in the immediate future.
- The MPO has been updating the TIP on an annual basis and the process typically runs from December through April.
- The TIP is updated based on the procedures outlined in the Public Participation Plan (PPP).

CURRENT WORK

- A Call for Projects for new TIP projects was issued to the entities in December.

ANTICIPATED WORK SCHEDULE

MONTH	ACTION
December 13, 2007	Call for Projects & Project Identification Forms issued
January 16, 2008	Project ID Forms submitted to MPO
January – February 2008	Entities review project lists and develop priorities
Early March – early April 2008	30-day Public Comment period is advertised and opened
March 27, 2008	Technical Committee recommends adoption of TIP
April 10, 2008	Policy Committee adopts the FY2009-2014 TIP

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the FY2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	December 21, 2007

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **2007 Traffic Counts.** Data was reviewed by staff and NMDOT. 67 of 72 counts were accepted. The 2007 counts have been posted on the MPO website.
- b. **NWRPO Meeting.** Robert Messenger attended the monthly RPO meeting in Gallup on December 12.

- c. **MPO Quarterly Meeting.** Joe Delmagori attended the MPO Quarterly in Santa Fe on December 19.
- d. **NMDOT Transportation Commission Schedule.** The 2008 schedule is attached. Shiprock will host the meeting in October.
- e. **FY2007 Annual List of Obligated Projects.** Staff will publish the list in January.
- f. **Other**