

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 22, 2009 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Dave Keck, San Juan County  
Steve Christensen, City of Aztec  
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield  
Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington  
Chico Quintana, City of Farmington, Alternate

Members Absent: Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Mike Sullivan, MPO Officer  
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner  
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner  
Dee Dee Moore, MPO Admin Aide

Staff Absent: None

Also Present: Dave Martinez, NMDOT

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Baird called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting was made by Mr. Christensen and seconded by Mr. Quintana. Motion passed unanimously.

3. RANK THE LONG-RANGE REGIONAL BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS BASED ON APPROVED EVALUATION CRITERIA.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item

<b>Subject:</b>	Ranking Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	October 14, 2009

**BACKGROUND**

- A list of regional bicycle/pedestrian projects were identified as part of the MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.
- Evaluation criteria for prioritizing projects were adopted as part of the plan.
- Projects have been initially grouped into ranges in preparation for the ranking and prioritization process.
- The Technical Committee has ranked the short and mid range projects.

**CURRENT WORK**

- The Technical Committee has agreed to rank the projects using a 0-5 point scale which is applied to each evaluation category.
- Projects that were voted in the top 10 by the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAG) will receive supplemental points.
- The Technical Committee will rank the long range projects on October 22.
- Staff will total the rankings and present the results.

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- Compare projects from all three ranges following the ranking exercises to determine a final prioritized list.
- Approve a prioritized list of bicycle/pedestrian projects as part of the MTP update.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Evaluation Criteria.
- Long range project ranking template (provided under separate cover).
- Average scores from the short and mid range project rankings.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee rank the Long Range Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian projects based on approved evaluation criteria.

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori stated that this was the last phase of the ranking procedure, ending with the long-range projects. These projects would be ranked by the same criteria that the committee previously approved. Ms. Baird brought up Project 19 that is located on US550 between Aztec and Bloomfield, and the realization that the bike project will most likely be on road rather than a separate side path because of the terrain. Mr. Sullivan stated that Project 55 ties into Project 19 and was ranked on the mid-range however Mr. Delmagori shared that the differences were one would be on-road and one would be more of a recreational off-road type project. Mr. Christensen thought that there was a trail planned for the east side of US550 that would tie into the arterial near the existing Alien Trail and that the Aztec Trails and Open Space (ATOS) group was working on something on that east side.

Mr. Delmagori provided a brief description for each of the seven projects listed on the long-range list. Project 20 had no additional discussion from the committee members. Project 41 goes along the same route as the proposed northern route and east past Light Plant Road and the river in Aztec and then branches south close to Navajo Ram Road. Mr. Sullivan asked if there was an existing bridge for the proposed route. Mr. Delmagori stated that a bridge would need to be built, however the proposed bike project would go hand and hand with the proposed road. Mr. Christensen provided information regarding a pedestrian bridge that is scheduled in 2013 and informed Mr. Sullivan, in regards to his question, that yes it is currently on the STIP. In addition the City of Aztec received a grant through the National Park Service to assist in securing additional Right-of-Way around the Aztec Ruins site.

Mr. Delmagori moved to the next project on the list which was Project 55. This project runs parallel to Project 19 which was on the Mid-range list. Mr. Baird stated that it is further west than Ruth and connects into Wilderness Park. Mr. Christensen asked the cost estimates and Mr. Delmagori explained that the cost estimates were figured on “material cost times distance” and Right-of-Way was not included.

Project 64 is a trail system in Farmington that starts at another proposed trail along the La Plata River and works its way eastward over the Foothills area and back. Mr. Sullivan stated that Project 64 is currently shown on the Comprehensive Plan and ties into the Glade Run Trail system. Mr. Christensen asked if MPO Staff would be dedicating more time to the projects that rank the highest. Mr. Delmagori informed the committee that the top projects would become our critical needs projects so that if or when transportation enhancement money or other federal funding grant money becomes available we would have a prioritized list available. Ms. Baird shared that the Animas River Trail needs to be connecting into Gateway Park and Mr. Sullivan suggested moving that project to the short-range list. Mr. Lucero stated that the purpose of this exercise was to define, using the ranking averages, which projects would end up on the Short, Mid and Long-Range Lists. Mr. Sullivan shared that being unable to connect the two trails involved a couple of sections of property that the City of Farmington did not have Right-of-Way access.

Mr. Delmagori shared that the MPO Staff were requested to rank the projects at the last meeting and handed out the spreadsheet that compared the Technical Committee averages to the MPO Staff averages except for the Long-Range Projects.

**Action:** The Technical Committee ranked the seven Long-Range Projects and provided those numbers to the MPO Staff for averaging.

#### 4. REVIEW THE ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED FUTURE ROAD NETWORK PROJECTS

##### FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed Future Roadway Analysis
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
<b>Date:</b>	October 14, 2009

##### BACKGROUND

- The Technical Committee reviewed the proposed road analysis at its September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The model has been calibrated for both the base year and 2035 model year using the newest adopted land use numbers.
- Model runs have been performed for the base year and future 2035 model year.
- Difference networks have been created to show the impact that different road scenarios might have on traffic volumes.

##### CURRENT WORK

- Additional discussion on various scenarios will be discussed with the Technical Committee members on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Project evaluation is being considered with regards to impacts and possible future issues such as ROW acquisition.
- Projected traffic volumes, vehicle miles traveled (VMTs), and vehicle hours traveled (VHTs) are being calculated to help facilitate discussion and evaluate the proposed scenarios.

##### ANTICIPATED WORK

- Perform additional model runs for additionally requested scenarios.
- Prioritize road projects based on evaluation categories and feasibility.

##### ATTACHMENTS

- Comparisons of traffic volumes, VMTs, and VHTs will be provided under separate cover at the Technical Committee Meeting.

##### RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the analysis of the proposed future road network projects.

**Discussion:** Mr. Keck assumed the chair from Ms. Baird at this point in the meeting. Mr. Lucero provided on-screen the tables that represent the road network scenarios. Mr. Christensen asked if there was one that showed the Highline Road but without the proposed Northern Loop. Mr. Lucero did not have the particular scenario that Mr. Christensen was

asking for. However, Mr. Delmagori said that MPO Staff would like to schedule a time to meet with each entity individually and focus on particular scenarios that would best fit their city needs. Mr. Sullivan asked if the population and employment numbers, used in the model runs, were the same base numbers agreed upon by the committees earlier this year. Mr. Lucero stated that the numbers used in this exercise were the same base numbers and that the PTV Program Trainer reviewed the modeling inputs and the outputs of the MPO model and stated they are appropriate for this area. Mr. Sullivan shared that it may be up to the entities to shoulder the burden of maintaining new construction to benefit the DOT, such as Pinon Hills Bridge. Mr. Martinez favored this type of exercise because of the opportunity to set a framework of roads so that if anyone might want to build a development the entities have a plan in place. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the committee keep in mind the phrase “Corridor Preservation” because the money may not currently be available and the roads might not be currently needed but each entity must work to ensure that the ability to build it later exists.

Mr. Delmagori explained that the benefit of this plan is to identify up to 5 projects that could likely be built within the next 20-25 years. This list would be similar to the TIP. In addition, the MTP can have an appendix of unfunded requests. Mr. Lucero stated that an additional benefit by this exercise is that at the end of the MTP process that the MPO would basically have a MPO Thoroughfare Plan using these scenarios to identify the most beneficial projects

**Action:** The report was received.

**5. REVIEW THE MTP TRANSIT PLAN, NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND POTENTIAL TRANSIT EXPANSION OPTIONS**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	MTP Update Transit Plan
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	October 14, 2009

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The transit system will be analyzed as part of the MTP Update to ensure that transit service meets future demand.</li> <li>▪ Staff has collected Census data for vehicle ownership and for elderly, disabled, and low-income populations by census tract to better understand potential transit demand.</li> <li>▪ Using Census 2000 data, potential transit demand has been projected out to future years (2020 and 2035).</li> <li>▪ Regional transit options were presented to begin linking areas of future population growth.</li> </ul>

#### CURRENT WORK

- Areas of future population and employment growth will be presented.
- Initial transit expansion options will be reviewed with the Technical Committee.
- Staff will work with the members on ways to link destinations within the MPO.

#### ANTICIPATED WORK

- Develop various scenarios for transit expansion options.
- Determine costs and benefits to the Red Apple system based on those scenarios.
- Develop annual ridership projections based on future transit demand.

#### ATTACHMENTS

- Maps and data will be presented to the Technical Committee at their meeting on October 22.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
  - a. Review population and employment growth areas
  - b. Review potential transit expansion options and transit hub locations
  - c. Identify additional expansion options within the MPO

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori began the discussion with a review of the work shown last month. He presented a map which layered the population and employment information by TAZ on top of existing road network map. The population TAZ layer was split by color: less than 500 is left white, 500-1000 is blue, 1000-2000 is green and greater than 2000 is red. The next layer outlines the existing transit system and the following layer shows potential expansion routes that reach the growing areas. Mr. Delmagori explained that MPO Staff is presently developing a hub and spoke type transit system. Ms. Lopez asked about the route outlined between Aztec and Bloomfield and that the map doesn't show any future expansion along that route so why put it in. Mr. Sullivan also asked how much trip generation would there be between the two cities. Mr. Christensen said that the community pool was located in Bloomfield but it is a seasonal and isolated instance. Mr. Lucero shared that during the public meeting held by the MPO that the connection between to two cities was high on the list because of new medical services and offices being offered within Aztec. Mr. Sullivan reported that almost 100% of the ridership is transit dependent, that they ride the bus because it is their only means of transit.

**Action:** The report was received.

6. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MTP FINANCIAL PLAN

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item

<b>Subject:</b>	MTP Financial Plan
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	October 14, 2009

**BACKGROUND**

- A SAFETEA-LU requirements for the MTP is to have a fiscally constrained financial plan (23 CFR 450.322 (f)):
  - The financial plan shall contain project estimate costs and revenue sources that are reasonably expected to be available to adequately operate and maintain Federal-aid highways and public transportation.
  - Revenue and cost estimates in the first 10 years must reflect 'year of expenditure dollars' developed in cooperation with the MPO, NMDOT, and transit operators.
  - Cost ranges can be used for projects beyond 10 years.

**CURRENT WORK**

- Staff is working with District 5 to determine the percent of funding that is typically programmed to this area each year.
- Staff has developed cost estimates for road projects for the Technical Committee to review.
- The MPO will work with the District to determine targets that will help estimate federal funding revenues for the MPO over 25 years.

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- Determine cost estimates that reflect year of expenditure dollars.
- Determine available revenues for the funding of projects.
- Determine costs and revenues for transit projects.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Federal regulations on the MTP Financial Plan.
- Estimated costs for projects identified as part of the MTP update.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the MTP Financial Plan.

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori explained that the MTP Financial Plan is a SAFETEA-LU requirement. At the MPO Quarterly meeting, there was discussion about the MTP Financial Plan and methods for predicting revenues and costs in the next 10 to 20 years were discussed. This method suggest taking a 10 year historical record, however, the Farmington MPO only has 6 years since it was created. This information is then adjusted for inflation year by year. Ms. Lopez asks what if you have a deflation period, especially during this current economic downturn. Mr. Delmagori stated that all of those concerns go into the number of projects that can get funding during the timeframe we are looking at. Mr. Delmagori also stated that the he would like to compile this information within 2-3 months. Mr. Delmagori shared that some of the current MTP Projects that are 4-5 years old could drop from the list because of changes to the plans, but MPO Staff is hoping to identify and prioritize a list of up to 5 projects. Mr. Lucero identified the need for MPO Staff to know when roads are being built so that the traffic model can be updated. Mr. Sullivan shared his concern about the use of the word “widen” in most of the projects on the list. Mr. Martinez addressed this with the reasoning that by widening you are providing opportunities for accommodating growth. Mr. Christensen stated that every building permit that is issued in San Juan County affects transportation, especially the Oil & Gas Industry because of the heavy truck traffic. Mr. Keck spoke about the need to look at impact fees like some of the other counties are now doing because none of the entities want to raise taxes.

**Action:** The report was received.

**7. REVIEW THE MTP UPDATE TIMELINE AND SCHEDULE**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	MTP Update Timeline and Schedule
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	October 13, 2009

**CURRENT WORK**

- Staff has maintained a timeline and work schedule for tracking MTP activities.
- The most current timeline is attached for information.
- The timeline shows completed projects, ongoing work, and upcoming activities along with anticipated timeframes by month.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the MTP Update Timeline and Schedule.

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori stated that the MPO Staff is still on track with the MTP Update schedule. With 6-7 months remaining to develop this plan the MPO Staff is completing the analysis phase of the road plan and in the middle of the analysis phase of the transit expansion. The Bike/Pedestrian portion is scheduled to be completed next month at the Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Delmagori informed the committee that the last portion of this year and the early portion of next year will be used to finish up the policy development for each of the modes and the financial plan talked about earlier. During January, February and March of 2010 the document will be compiled chapter by chapter, another session of public meetings will be held, and a public comment period will be opened for 30 days.

**Action:** The MTP Update Timeline and Schedule was reviewed by the Technical Committee.

## **8. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT**

**Discussion:** Mr. Martinez started with a reminder to the entities to make sure that everybody turn in their letter of request to extend the deadline for each of their ARRA projects to the end of November. The second item of news Mr. Martinez shared was an update regarding the special session on Capital Outlay Funds and the needs to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party agreement already in line, or you could be in jeopardy of losing any money that you may have. Mr. Martinez also noted that the list he was given has a number of projects that are already closed. The State is trying to convert the funds from General Funds Expenditures to Severance Tax Expenditures. Mr. Martinez informed the committee members that there is a new Certification Form that relates to an ITS element and that those forms should be forward to him. His last announcement was the call for safety projects which is 100% funding. Mr. Delmagori shared that he had received the email and that for FY2010-2011 there is over \$26 million available statewide for safety projects. Mr. Martinez stated that if you have projects in the \$1-2 million range there is a greater chance of receiving funding than for one large \$10-15 million project. Mr. Christensen asked if they could request more funding for an existing project and Mr. Martinez stated that was a possibility. Mr. Lucero shared that if the entities had a project in mind that the Joint Policy/Technical Committee meeting would be a good place to discuss any projects. Mr. Martinez mentioned that the NM 173 project that was presented at the last Technical Meeting could be a potential candidate for a portion of those funds.

## **9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	Information Items
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
<b>Date:</b>	October 14, 2009

## INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Joint Policy/Technical Committee Meeting.** On November 19 there will be a Joint Policy and Technical meeting held in Aztec. The meeting is scheduled to be held from 10:00am to 2:00pm.
- b. **FY2010 UPWP 1st Quarter Report** - The 1st Quarter report has been completed and sent to NMDOT and the various entities. A full copy of the report will be placed on the MPO website.
- c. **Quarterly Newsletter.** The MPO Quarterly Newsletter has been completed and will be distributed to the local entities. A full copy of the newsletter will be placed on the MPO website.
- d. **Safe Routes to School.** In September, the MPO helped complete student arrival counts for the three participating elementary schools in Farmington and helped with the International Walk to School Day on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The three schools have been joined by Tibbetts Middle School. The schools have launched a Walk Across America campaign.
- e. **2009 Traffic Count Program.** TDS placed traffic counters during the week of October 12, 2009. TDS will be back to retake counts that failed during the last half of October. The final counts are expected to be received and discussed during the November committee meetings and sent to NMDOT by the end of the year.
- f. **Other.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori began with a reminder that the Joint Policy/Technical Committee meeting will be held at the Aztec Public Library on November 19, 2009 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and that lunch will be provided. Continuing on, Mr. Delmagori shared that the Newsletter and the quarterly reports will be complete by week's end. Student arrival counts for SRTS were taken last month. Traffic Data Services were in town performing traffic counts last week and MPO staff is waiting for the results of those counts.

Mr. Delmagori shared information he received from Dr. Bob Wideo to provide to the committee beginning with Ray Matthew being assigned to the MPO when Dr. Bob retires. Dr. Bob provided some information regarding LTAP Training and if anyone has questions they should contact Lee Cabaza de Vaca. Mr. Quintana shared that LTAP would be having training in Farmington soon but there is no firm date scheduled yet but he will provide that information as he receives it.

**Action:** The report was received.

**10. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

**Discussion:** Mr. Keck shared that Irvin Pete is unable to continue as the RPO representative or the alternate for the MPO because of medical reasons. Mr. Keck will assume the RPO representative role for the current future. Mr. Keck stated that the RPO expressed compliments to the MPO and its involvement with the RPO. He also said that it really shows how fortunate the entities are to have a MPO.

Mr. Christensen apologized that he missed John McElroy's retirement, however, Mr. Martinez stated that it was a going away lunch next Wednesday at the Elks Club in Santa Fe. Mr. McElroy's last day in October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**11. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Discussion:** Mr. Christensen made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Quintana seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am.

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Dave Keck, Chairman

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Dee Dee Moore, MPO Admin Aide