

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
December 10, 2009

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

Technical Members Absent: Nica Westerling, City of Farmington

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

Staff Absent: Mike Sullivan, MPO Officer

Also Present: Roshana Moojen, NWNMCOG

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keck called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

2. ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Annual Meeting Resolution
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	December 1, 2009

BACKGROUND

- The Technical Committee adopted TC Resolution 2009-1 at the Joint Policy/ Technical Committee meeting on November 19, 2009.

CURRENT WORK

- The Technical Members are asked to amend TC Resolution 2009-1 to change the meeting dates in January and October from the 21st to the 28th to be consistent with meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee amend TC Resolution 2009-1 to reflect the new dates.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero explained the changes to the meeting dates in January and October from the 21st to the fourth Thursday, the 28th. He mentioned that these dates were incorrectly labeled on the resolution passed by month. To keep the Technical Committee meetings consistent on the fourth Thursday, the resolution was amended to reflect meeting dates on the 28th for January and October.

Action: Mr. Christensen made the motion for amending TC Resolution 2009-1 to reflect the new dates. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - CALL FOR PROJECTS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Safety Project Prioritization
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 1, 2009

BACKGROUND

- The NMDOT is requesting proposals for safety improvement projects for consideration for funding in FY2010 and FY2011.
- The final submittal deadline to NMDOT is February 25, 2009.
- Projects will be prioritized and submitted by the MPO.
- All projects received are in competition at the state level.

CURRENT WORK

- At the December 10 Technical Committee meeting, the entities will present their safety project.
- The committee members will determine a recommended prioritized list.
- The recommended prioritized list will be presented to the Policy Committee members for final approval.

CRITERIA

- NMDOT has outlined the following criteria to assist with project selection:
 - Cost should be \$2,000,000 or less.
 - Crash analysis shows a history of serious crashes or fatalities.
 - A safety study shows the project will reduce traffic hazards.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - a. Receive presentations from those entities submitting projects.
 - b. Determine a priority list of projects for the MPO.
 - c. Recommend approval of the prioritized list of Safety projects.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori asked the members of the committee for safety projects for each entity and after hearing each member a list will be created to submit to the state.

Mr. Christensen shared that the City of Aztec’s project is a continuation of last year’s safety project at the intersection of NM516/NM574, which is a partnership with DOT. The continuation of the project will be north along Light Plant Road from Lydia Rippey Road north to McWilliams and the city limits, approximately half a mile. The project will include pedestrian facilities, curb, gutter, sidewalk, drainage, and property acquisition (ROW). There was an accident just last week in this area where a pedestrian was hit. The cost estimate is approximately \$1.9 million.

Ms. Baird presented the City of Bloomfield’s project which is on East Blanco. She distributed photos that show the half mile of road within the project. This section of road has only a small portion of sidewalk opposite the high school and Aquatic center but no sidewalk on the south side at all. The project will replace the bridge over the Bloomfield Wash with box culverts. The bridge inspection from April 2009 labeled the bridge Functionally Obsolete. Studies were done to show how the box culverts would fit within the Right-of-Way. Traffic and Crash data show 2 fatalities on this stretch on road. The cost estimate is just under \$2,000,000.

Mr. Keck will submit the San Juan County’s project which will be geometric improvements to the intersection of CR390 and CR350. There is a need to isolate the in and out traffic at the corner store which currently enters in many directions. There is no current need for a signal but curbs and gutters would help the traffic flow. There has been 1 fatality at this location. The estimate is at about \$500,000.

Mr. Quintana spoke about the East Main bike lane project for the City of Farmington. It is approximately 3/4 mile in length and they are looking at installing curb, gutter and asphalt, and to widen the shoulder. Mr. Lucero stated that this project is a high priority project for the local bike club. A cost estimate is not known at this time. Mr. Quintana shared that the City of Farmington would like to also submit the bike lane on the north side of Pinon Hills and La Plata.

Mr. Delmagori asked if there were any other projects that could be added to the list. Mr. Keck stated that he would like to see a consultant study of the 5 county projects that appeared on the State Issued List of Rural Roads 5% List. He would like the consultant to identify why these roads are on the list and what the safety issues are. Mr. Lucero suggested the NM173 project to continue with a safety study of the corridor. The design of the first mile of that project is 90% complete because it is part of the East Arterial project. Mr. Christensen stated he would like to add the US 550/NM 173 intersection since it is one of the most dangerous intersections in Aztec and has had fatalities in the past. Mr. Lucero also mentioned that the sidewalk on Apache from Auburn to Apache School has been identified as an area of safety concern by the Safe Routes to School Committee.

Mr. Christensen made a suggestion to rank all of the entities' first choice equally on one list and then to add any other projects to a secondary list. The committee all agreed with this ranking process.

The top tier list will include the following projects, all equally ranked as #1:

City of Aztec	Light Plant Road to McWilliams
City of Bloomfield	E. Blanco - US550 to Saiz Lane
San Juan County	Intersection of CR390 & CR350
City of Farmington	E. Main - Villa View to Old Aztec Highway

The secondary list will include the remainder of the projects:

City of Aztec/SJC	Safety study of the NM173 Corridor
City of Farmington	Apache sidewalk improvements
San Juan County	Study to evaluate the 5 projects on the 5% List
City of Aztec	US550/NM173 intersection and improvements to NM 173 beyond the first mile
City of Bloomfield	Phase 2 - E. Blanco, Saiz Lane to City Limit

Action: Mr. Christensen made the motion to recommend approval of the above project lists. Ms. Baird seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. MTP ELEMENTS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	MTP Elements
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	December 1, 2009

BACKGROUND

- Staff has maintained a timeline of activities to ensure the various components of the MTP are completed.
- An outline of the MTP document has been prepared, which identifies accomplishments as well as work yet to be finished.
- Draft chapters on population/employment data, public participation, and the bicycle/pedestrian plan are available for review.

CURRENT WORK

- Additional draft chapters of the MTP document will be handed out at the meeting.
- A freight element is being developed which identifies freight corridors and safety measures.
- Actions and policies for the various modes are being taken from the current MTP and further developed by staff.
- The members are welcome to provide additional actions and policies.
- The most pertinent elements of the regional ITS architecture will be included in the MTP document.

UPCOMING WORK

- Research other MTPs for policies related to air quality, transportation/ land use, and system preservation.
- Information on intermodal improvements (Freight/Air) needs to be developed.

ATTACHMENTS

- Outline of the MTP Document.
- Draft MTP Chapters, including the Future Roadway Plan, Other Modal Connections, Safety, and Security (provided at the meeting).
- A summary of actions and policies.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive information on the various elements of the MTP.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero discussed the Outline and the purpose of the MTP Binders. These binders will be distributed with updated draft copies of the chapters along with the Agendas one week prior to the scheduled Technical Committee meeting. MPO Staff is asking the members to mark any questions or comments directly onto these copies. Staff will recollect the binders during the next meeting. This process will continue throughout the MTP Update. The last three draft chapters should be available by the next meeting in January.

Mr. Lucero began the review of the existing draft chapters with “Existing and Future Conditions”. This chapter describes population and employment and briefly ties Transportation and Land Use together with a section on traffic modeling. Mr.

Delmagori began his review with the draft chapter on Public Participation. He reviewed the sections and listed the meetings and presentations that have been held and how they relate to the MTP Update.

Mr. Lucero spoke on the draft Road Plan chapter. He described the overview relating to functional classification and road hierarchy. He then reviewed the approved road scenarios and the various proposed road projects that make up the scenarios. These scenarios and projects are the top priorities for the MPO. He discussed the possible adoption of a major thoroughfare plan for the entire MPO as a byproduct of the MTP. He finished by highlighting road policies and actions that support the road plan.

Mr. Christensen asked how does the MPO and the entities make sure that NMDOT staff understand what the MPO priorities are and Mr. Delmagori stated that this portion of the MTP shows the NMDOT exactly what the MPO believes road priorities for this area need to be. Mr. Keck agreed that if the other roads that the MPO is planning are going to shift the traffic off of the state roads, then the NMDOT needs to be made aware that the funding could need to shift from an existing project and be reallocated to other roads.

Mr. Delmagori moved on to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan draft chapter and informed the committee that most of the information contained in this chapter was pulled directly from the approved Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, except for the table that shows the ranking that was agreed upon by the committees last month. He also reviewed the draft chapter on Other Modal Connections which covers freight and air cargo.

Mr. Christensen questioned whether the entities should group efforts to keep their own airports. Mr. Lucero stated that the plans that the City of Aztec has for industrializing around the airport are great and the future proposed Northern Loop could be a link between the two cities to support the airport and the surrounding industries. The future of the airports could be for the movement of freight rather than passengers. Mr. Christensen could see that scenario working well at the Aztec Municipal Airport. Mr. Lucero stated that improvements to the current traffic corridors will only assist in promoting any new ventures located around the airport and will help with area surface transportation.

Mr. Delmagori continued with the remainder of the Other Modal Connections: ITS elements, possible rail projects, and equestrian. The Safety chapter provides crash data for the entities and describes possible techniques and strategies for making roadways, intersections, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities safer. The Security chapter describes coordination with existing emergency agencies and identifying evacuation routes for this area in the future.

Mr. Christensen asked the MPO Staff how much of an impact the schools and the traffic associated with drop-offs have to do with the traffic issues in the three cities. He reflected on how important Safe Routes to School (SRTS) could be to the MPO because of how much it affects the operation cost to the cities which might be able to save money if there is more effort to promote SRTS.

Action: The report was received.

5. MTP FINANCIAL PLAN

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	MTP Financial Plan
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 1, 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

- The MPO is working with the District to determine targets that will help estimate federal funding revenues for the MPO over 25 years.
- Staff has contacted the local entities regarding estimates for local contributions to transportation projects over 25 years.
- Cost estimates for road projects have been finalized.
- Staff has developed a few future revenue scenarios based on historical funding received through District 5.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Develop a 'year of expenditure' inflation rate that will be applied to cost estimates.
- 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.
- Revenue scenarios for estimating future funding through District 5.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - a. Discuss projected revenues.
 - b. Discuss estimated project costs.
 - c. Develop a 'Year of Expenditure' inflation rate.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori reminded the committee that SAFETEA-LU requires that the MTP show it has a fiscally constrained financial plan. Of the funds received by District 5 over the years, this MPO has received on average approximately \$6 million per year. For projection purposes, District 5 advised the MPO to take into consideration a 25% reduction of that average, which would give an average of \$4.5 million. Future revenue Option 1 multiplies this amount over 25 years and would amount to \$113 million in federal money to the MPO area. Option 2 calculates that if the MPO continues to receive an average amount of \$52 million every 10 years, then it can expect to receive \$130,000,000 over 25 years. Option 3 takes the average \$6 million for 25 years which is almost \$152 million in estimated federal funding. This exercise shows that the estimated funding range for the Farmington MPO is between \$113-\$152 million. The top tier projects are then compared to these totals to see which projects can potentially be funded within the next 25 years.

Mr. Christensen asked if there were any other DOT projects besides US64 that fit in here, such as NM574, NM173 and NM170. Mr. Delmagori believes that the DOT's focus is currently on US64. Mr. Christensen feels that it is important to have a dialogue with the DOT so they understand the MPO's direction and priorities. Mr. Delmagori stated that the MPO works with the DOT to develop priorities.

Mr. Delmagori concluded with the estimated road cost information handout and the way the dollar figures were estimated. After working with Farmington engineering staff to develop estimates, a year of expenditure inflation rate was incorporated into these estimates. Mr. Quintana asked about the status of the entities' ARRA projects as he was waiting for FHWA approval. Mr. Christensen stated that his project is being advertised and bids open in early January. Mr. Quintana asked about training for the reporting requirements and Mr. Christensen stated that the City of Aztec is having a mandatory pre-bid meeting with the DOT and will explain to the contractors exactly what reporting is required so the contractors can incorporate it into their bid. Mr. Keck had not yet received the County's obligation however Dave Martinez had told him it would be forthcoming. Ms. Baird had received a call from Senator Udall's office asking what their office could do to help with the process. She stated that she would return that call and enlist their help to expedite the projects for the City of Bloomfield, for Farmington, and for the County.

Action: The committee discussed the financial information and agreed with the MPO revenue scenarios.

6. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

Dr. Wideo was unable to attend but sent information to Mr. Delmagori to share with the committee. Dr. Wideo sent information that his retirement date had been extended until the end of March 2010. Dr. Wideo heard that any possibility of Capital Outlay Funding is unlikely at this point.

7. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE RED APPLE TRANSIT

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Update
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	December 1, 2009

RED APPLE UPDATE

- Overall ridership reached 11,483 passengers in November.
- Farmington saw a 1% increase in ridership over previous month.
- Aztec saw a 32% increase in ridership over the previous month.
- Bloomfield and Kirtland all saw decreases in ridership over previous months, with -10% and -6% respectfully.
- Aztec and Kirtland had increases over the same period last year with 19% and 11% respectfully.
- Bloomfield had 22% decrease over the same period last year.
- Farmington saw a 37% increase over this time last year.
- The ridership report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on Red Apple Transit.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero addressed the Red Apple Transit ridership and that MPO Staff is considering a consultant to study the current Transit System. The charts show that the numbers are following the seasonal curve, except for Bloomfield, which has seen a drop in ridership over the past few months. This may be contributed to having reached full capacity.

Action: The report was received.

8. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE FY2009 ANNUAL LIST OF FEDERALLY OBLIGATED PROJECTS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	FY2009 Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 1, 2009

CURRENT WORK

- A SAFETEA-LU requirement is for an MPO to develop an Annual List of Federally Obligated projects (23 CFR 450.332).
- A table is attached that shows details of transportation projects that received federal funding between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009.
- Once reviewed by the MPO entities, the list will be made available on the MPO website and published in the local newspaper.

ATTACHMENTS

- The FY2009 Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the FY2009 Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori directed the committee to review the 2009 Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects. Mr. Christensen stated that the \$588,000 was not for Phase 1A and should be removed from the description, but that it was strictly for the East Arterial to use wherever it was needed. He also stated that \$303,000 was missing as an earmark for the East Arterial from 2008. Mr. Keck shared that the list is missing a \$490,000 design grant that is an earmark for design and/or construction for two bridges. The County split that grant into \$270,000 for the design on CR7150 (bridge) and \$220,000 for the design on CR2900. Each of the bridge projects is in the TIP. He also mentioned that \$100,000 was earmarked for Chaco Canyon.

Action: The report was received.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	December 2, 2009

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Safe Routes to School.** Action Plans for the participating schools have been developed and the Walk Across America program continues. Students will be part of the Downtown Farmington parade on December 3 as a way to promote the SRTS program.

- b. **2009 Traffic Count Program.** TDS took reset counts during the week of November 16. The data is waiting to be received, which will then be reviewed by the MPO and NMDOT.
- c. **FY2010-2015 TIP Administrative Adjustment.** NMDOT informed the MPO that \$1 million is being removed from the US 64 Phase 2 project in FY2010 to cover other projects in the STIP. As a result, the TIP has been changed administratively. It is expected that the \$1 million will be reprogrammed back to this project in FY2011.
- d. **TIP Call for Projects.** The entities are asked to submit new projects as part of the annual TIP update.
- e. **Other.**

Discussion: Mr. Lucero informed the committee that the Farmington Walk and Roll Program participated in the Farmington Christmas Parade with 50 kids. They were featured on the front page of the Daily Times and received a ribbon. Ms. Meszaros, SRTS Champion, will be moving to Australia at the end of December 2009.

The 2009 Traffic Counts are expected to be received in the next few weeks. Four counts failed and three additional counts were taken on the outskirts of our boundary to determine how much traffic is coming into this area.

Mr. Delmagori stated that a TIP Administrative Adjustment was made to show that \$1 million is being removed from the US64 project but is expected to be reprogrammed back to this project in FY2011.

Mr. Delmagori reminded the committee to be thinking about new projects for the TIP update. This will be discussed in more detail after the holidays.

Action: The report was received.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Discussion: Mr. Keck reconfirmed that the entities are in support that the state should submit a Project Identification Form (PIF) on the NM173 project. Ms. Moojen stated that she would reword the supporting resolution on NM173 so that the three entities are supporting the state. She will be talking with Bob Kuipers, Bob Widoe, and Dave Martinez about this project. Mr. Delmagori shared that the resolution should be structured with a request for the DOT to take the lead and they create the PIF. Ms. Moojen will revise the PIF and send copies to the entities. San Juan County, the City of Aztec and the City of Bloomfield will all remove the resolution from their current city agendas until they receive the new information from Ms. Moojen. Mr. Delmagori stated that a support letter from the MPO could be discussed at the next Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Keck reminded everyone of the Public Hearing on the Environmental Assessment for San Juan County's portion of the Piñon Hills Extension being held December 16 at 6:00pm at the County. The design phase and the Environmental Assessment are complete at this time. Mr. Keck was asked to bring a set of plans to the next meeting for the committee to review.

11. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no discussion from the floor.

Discussion:

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Christensen to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Lopez made a second and the meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.

Dave Keck - Technical Committee Chair

Dee Dee Moore - MPO Admin Aide