

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2009 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield  
Steve Christensen, City of Aztec  
Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington

Members Absent: David Keck, San Juan County  
Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington

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

Staff Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. James Henderson, San Juan County  
Kim Carpenter, San Juan County  
Dave Martinez, NMDOT  
Dr. Bob Widoe, NMDOT  
Roshana Moojen, NWNMCOG  
Rita Bates, NM Air Quality Bureau  
Mark Jones, NM Air Quality Bureau  
Mike Arnold, Citizen  
Ed Cooper, Citizen  
Lori Meszaros, Citizen  
Anne Coupland, Citizen

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Ms. Baird called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 29, 2009 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Motion was made by Mr. Christensen and seconded by Ms. Lopez to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2009 Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON AIR QUALITY AND OZONE STANDARDS FROM THE NEW MEXICO AIR QUALITY BUREAU.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item

<b>Subject:</b>	Air Quality Presentation
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 17, 2009

**BACKGROUND**

- On March 12, 2008 the EPA revised the ozone standard from 0.084ppm to 0.075ppm.
- The station near Navajo Lake has a three year average reading of 0.077ppm which puts the station in non-compliance.
- The San Juan substation has a three year average reading of 0.071ppm; the Bloomfield station has a three year average reading of 0.065ppm.
- If the county is designated non-attainment, new measures will go into effect:
  - Stricter air quality requirements for industries
  - Offsets
  - Requirements for reducing transportation emissions
  - Implementing a plan that outlines how the county will get back into attainment

**TIMELINE**

- New Mexico must designate recommended attainment/non-attainment areas by March 12, 2009.
- EPA will make final designations by March 12, 2010.
- For areas in non-attainment, they must prepare non-attainment plans by March 12, 2013.

**PRESENTATION**

- The New Mexico Environmental Department will present an overview of the new ozone standards and discuss the data from the local monitoring stations.
- A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a presentation on air quality and ozone standards from the NMED Air Quality Bureau.

**Discussion:** A PowerPoint presentation was presented by Air Quality representatives Rita Bates and Mark Jones. Ms. Bates started the presentation with facts regarding the EPA's role in the monitoring station readings and the components of such readings. She explained the drop in the ozone standard from 0.084ppm to 0.075ppm, which puts the Navajo Lake station in non-attainment. Its reading is 0.077ppm.

Extensive discussion from committee members and public attendees of the meeting was held encompassing all aspects of the findings leading up to non-attainment, including EPA's role in the placement of the monitors, transportation's part in the formula, how ozone is formed and the locations of well heads and sites.

Mr. Jones continued the presentation with the next steps needed to move forward towards attainment. On March 12, 2009 the state designated team will make their recommendation to the EPA. The final designation will be in March 2010, and then the plan will need to be completed by March 2013. An attainment date will depend on the severity of non-attainment, and could be anywhere from 2013 to 2030. The area of non-attainment will include all of San Juan County and the western portion of Rio Arriba County from the Continental Divide, a natural geographically feature, west to the San Juan County line. EPA will make a designation of the part of the county within the Navajo Nation.

Ms. Bates explained that the MPO will be a partner in the development of a conformity plan. Any type of emissions modeling for transportation will become a responsibility of the MPO. Conformity involves evaluating new projects to ensure that they will not worsen the air quality. Dr. Widoe mentioned that funding programs like CMAQ funds are available to assist with conformity.

Ms. Bates and Mr. Jones concluded the presentation by discussing the implementation timeline. Comments on the draft non-attainment designation area report issued by NMED will be received until March 4. NMED will hold a public meeting in April to discuss the designation areas and another one in June to discuss the emissions modeling. A public comment period will be held in November in preparation for the final designation made by EPA in March 2010.

Dr. Henderson mentioned the importance of the local governments working together with the environmental department to address air quality. Ms. Lopez stated that we should be looking to achieve a lower ozone standard because it is likely that EPA will continue to lower the national standard in years to come.

Vice-Chair Baird thanked the Air Quality Bureau representatives for their time and their presentation.

**Action:** Mr. Delmagori will forward any names he receives to Mr. Jones to be placed on his email list. This list is used to inform the public about current happenings regarding Air Quality and also any public meetings that may be scheduled. The presentation was received.

4. RECEIVE A STATUS REPORT ON THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) UPDATE.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item

<b>Subject</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 18, 2009

**BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS WORK**

- A schedule and timeline have been developed to outline MTP activities and gauge estimated time needed to complete the activities.
- Staff has developed a future road network map that identifies potential future road improvements and proposed road classification changes.
- Staff held a public meeting on November 12, 2008 to kick-off the update to the MTP.

**CURRENT WORK**

- Staff continues to work with the entities to gather land use data, which will assist with developing base and forecasts for population and employment.
- Staff held public meetings on February 18, 19, and 23 to seek public input on the road network map, on transit expansion, and goals/objectives for the MPO.
- Staff is finalizing transportation surveys for mass distribution.

**BACKUP MATERIAL**

- The current MTP Goals and Objectives.

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- Land Use data projections and evaluations.
- Transit needs assessment.
- MTP survey analysis.
- Analysis of identified road alternatives.
- Freight analysis.

**CURRENT WORK**

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a status report on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update.

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori shared that three public meetings took place over the last 10 days. He handed out a summary of the comments that were made. Concerning road infrastructure and concerns, people pointed out areas of existing congestion, and liked the Piñon Hills extension project. On the transit side, regional routes to and from Farmington, connections between Aztec and Bloomfield and additional mid-morning or mid afternoon routes in Aztec and Bloomfield were the primary comments made. Mr. Lucero spoke about population density. The 2000 Census data was used for a base line map. Using GIS and address points, a 2008 population map for the MPO

was also completed. The current MPO population is approximately 110,000. Dr. Wideo questioned whether or not the MPO Boundary would need to be revisited. Mr. Lucero stated that it would but not as part of this project. Mr. Delmagori suggested timing it with the 2012 Census. Dr. Wideo shared that the MPO needed to be careful of any linear projects, and also that no one knows the impacts of the economic situation will be. Mr. Lucero confirmed that the 2008 numbers were not a linear projection and that future projections would not be a linear correlation.

**Action:** The report was received.

**5. FY2010-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	FY2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 18, 2009

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The TIP is a short-term program of projects expected to be completed in the next six years.</li> <li>▪ The MPO updates the TIP on an annual basis.</li> <li>▪ The TIP update process includes revising existing project information, adding new projects, and developing a TIP financial plan.</li> </ul>

<b>CURRENT WORK</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff held meetings with the entities to review current project information.</li> <li>▪ A draft TIP will be provided during the Technical committee meeting for review.</li> </ul>

<b>TIP SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
December 2008-January 2009	Call for Projects was made & Project Identification Forms were issued
January - March 2009	Reviewed project information with the entities; developed TIP Introduction and TIP financial plan
Early March - early April 2009	30-day Public Comment period is advertised and opened
March 26, 2009	Technical Committee holds public hearing on and recommends adoption of TIP
April 9, 2009	Policy Committee adopts the FY2010-2015 TIP

**RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
  - Review the draft TIP project list.
  - Approve publication of the draft FY2010-2015 TIP for the 30-day public comment period.

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori informed the committee that a Public Comment period will be in effect from March 1, 2009 to April 3, 2009. Staff has finished updating project information based on TIP meetings held individually with the members. Also, the recently awarded Safety projects, the recommendations for the stimulus package, and the SRTS funding award have all been added to the revised TIP. Currently the TIP is on scheduled for recommendation for approval at the April 9, 2009 Policy Committee meeting.

**Action:** Mr. Christensen made a motion to approve publication of the draft TIP. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. REVIEW THE DRAFT FY2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	FY2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 18, 2009

**BACKGROUND**

- The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the fiscal year work plan for the MPO.
- The FY2010 UPWP is anticipated to be adopted on April 9, 2008 by the Policy Committee.
- The most important project in FY2010 will be the update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

**CURRENT WORK**

- Staff has developed a list of activities that are expected to be included in the FY2010 UPWP.
- Staff will review and modify the list with the Technical Committee on February 26.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Draft FY2010 UPWP activity list by program area.

UPWP SCHEDULE	
MONTH	ACTION
January-February 2009	Issue the Call for Projects
February - March 2009	Develop UPWP program areas
March 26, 2009	Technical Committee recommends approval of UPWP
April 9, 2009	Policy Committee approves the FY2009 UPWP

RECOMMENDATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the draft activity list for the FY2010 UPWP and suggest revisions/additions/deletions to the UPWP.</li> </ul>

**Discussion:** The members agreed that, in the interest of time, the draft UPWP be discussed during a Work Session.

**Action:** Mr. Christensen made a motion to table this item and have a separate Work Session for the UPWP. Motion was seconded by Ms. Lopez, and carried unanimously. Mr. Delmagori will schedule and inform members of the UPWP Work Session.

**7. RECEIVE A REPORT ON RED APPLE TRANSIT.**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	Red Apple Transit Update
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 18, 2009

RED APPLE UPDATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall ridership reached nearly 10,000 passengers in January.</li> <li>Farmington saw a 7% increase in ridership over previous month.</li> <li>Aztec, Bloomfield, and Kirtland all saw increases in ridership over previous months, with 18%, 12%, and 16% respectfully.</li> <li>Aztec, Bloomfield, and Kirtland had increases over the same period last year with 38%, 67%, and 31% respectfully.</li> <li>Farmington saw a 20% increase over this time last year.</li> <li>The ridership report is attached.</li> </ul>

RECOMMENDATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on Red Apple Transit.</li> </ul>

**Discussion:** Mr. Lucero started the report with ridership numbers all showing increases. He informed the committee that surveys are being distributed to encourage public involvement. Mr. Lucero also shared that the Red Apple is starting to increase their fleet, therefore enabling higher capacity of ridership without increasing routes or stops.

**Action:** The report was received.

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Martinez provided an update on the Stimulus Package. The District 5 recommendations for the MPO are still intact: \$900,000 for Maple Street in Bloomfield, \$1.1 million for Wildflower Parkway, and \$2 million for the East Arterial Project in Aztec. Mr. Martinez spoke of a tier system that he has been asked to assign to projects that could be included in the stimulus package. Tier 1 would be projects that are ready now, Tier 2 would be projects ready in 3-6 months, and Tier 3 would be projects ready in a year. Dr. Wideo shared that under FHWA regulations no monies will be reimburse for any work performed prior to having a signed and approved contract. Mr. Martinez informed the committee that the NMDOT is starting to revise its Access Management document and that some changes may work for our own AMP.

Dr. Wideo stated that the contract template for these projects has been developed and is ready to go. By Mid-April all certification and proof of readiness will need to be to NMDOT. Ms. Lopez asked if there is a completion timeframe. Dr Wideo stated that it was 3 years. Mr. Martinez added that reimbursement must be started during the first year.

**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>	February 18, 2009

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. **2008 Traffic Count Program.** Traffic Data Services (TDS) has corrected the file formats errors in the 2008 traffic count data. The final counts were sent to NMDOT for validation. The count data will be made available on the MPO website once the information has been accepted by the NMDOT.

- b. **FMPO Access Management Plan.** The access management plan was adopted by the Policy Committee on January 8, 2009. The City of Farmington adopted the plan on February 10. San Juan County and the City of Aztec adopted the plan on February 17. The City of Bloomfield is expected to adopt the plan on February 23. The adopted access management plan is available on the MPO website at: <http://www.farmingtonmpo.org/documents.html>.
- c. **Local Safety Projects.** From the prioritized list the MPO entities received full funding for:
  - i. Geometric improvements and signalization of the CR 350/ CR 3720 intersection in San Juan County
  - ii. Geometric design, ROW acquisition, sight distance improvements, and sidewalks at the NM 516/ Lt Plant Road intersection in Aztec
  - iii. Rebuild and replace the traffic signal at Apache/West Main in Farmington.
- d. **FY2009 UPWP 2nd Quarter Report.** The 2nd Quarter report summarizes MPO activities between October and December 2008. It is available on the MPO website.
- e. **Quarterly Newsletter.** The current newsletter is available on the MPO website.

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori informed the committee that 79 traffic counts were approved by NMDOT and the MPO for this past year, the Access Management Plan was adopted by all four entities during February 2009, and 3 of the 4 Safety Projects that were submitted by the MPO were approved. Mr. Delmagori also shared that the Safe Routes to School - Phase 1 Funding was approved. This grant is for Education activities and provides \$15,000.

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Christensen shared that the City of Aztec is back to work on the pedestrian bridge and is moving along as scheduled.

**11. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR.**

**Discussion:** There was no business from the floor.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Christensen and seconded by Ms. Lopez. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

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Julie Baird, Vice-Chair

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Dee Dee Moore, MPO Admin Aide