

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 28, 2008 10:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Steve Christensen, City of Aztec  
Dave Keck, San Juan County  
Cliff Steinmetz, City of Bloomfield, Alternate  
Martin Lucero, City of Farmington

Members Absent: Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington  
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield

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

Staff Absent: Mike Sullivan, City of Farmington

Also present: Dr. Bob Widoe, NMDOT  
Maron O'Brien, City of Bloomfield

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Christensen filled in as vice-chair and called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 14, 2008, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MEETING**

Mr. Lucero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Steinmetz, to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2008, Technical Committee Work Session Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 31, 2008 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MEETING**

Mr. Lucero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Steinmetz, to approve the minutes from the January 31, 2008, Technical Committee Work Session Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 31, 2008 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mr. Steinmetz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lucero, to approve the minutes from the January 31, 2008, Technical Committee Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. FY2009-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	FY2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	January 15, 2008

<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 priority list and financial plan.</li> <li>▪ The current TIP is available on the MPO website.</li> </ul>

<b>CURRENT WORK</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A Call for Projects was issued in December.</li> <li>▪ Staff will meet individually with the entities, NMDOT, and Red Apple Transit to review project information.</li> </ul>

<b>TIP SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
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

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a status report on the FY2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program.</li> </ul>

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report. Mr. Delmagori said the Technical Committee needs to look at project information to see if it is correct. The Technical Committee also needs to review the list of new projects and rank according to the MTP criteria. After the Technical Committee has completed the ranking and review the TIP will be advertised for 30 days for public review and input.

Mr. Christensen said the projects need to be ranked on regional significance. Mr. Lucero agreed and added that the roads should be at least regional collectors.

Mr. Delmagori asked for the status of the City of Aztec airport projects. Mr. Christensen said the maintenance project would be on-going and the other project would be completed fairly soon.

Mr. Delmagori asked what the status of the projects on page 37 was, which included the East Arterial, South Oliver, and Oliver/McWilliams. Mr. Christensen said the North Oliver project was an MAP project.

Mr. Delmagori asked for the status of the City of Bloomfield West Blanco Blvd. Phase 3 project. Mr. Steinmetz said the project would be completed by this summer. Mr. Delmagori

said the project could be removed from the TIP since it would be finished prior to the new fiscal year.

Mr. Delmagori asked if the East Main and Pinon Hills Boulevard project on page 42 was good. Mr. Lucero said it would be up to the EPA because they may want an expansion bridge. If the City of Farmington does not get some variance on the bridge and the EPA asks for the expansion bridge, the project will be dead. Mr. Delmagori said the TIP would keep the project on with the numbers Ms. Westerling had provided.

Mr. Delmagori asked if the Hutton/Main safety project would be kept. Mr. Lucero said the City of Farmington safety project may need to be moved back a year or moved to a sidewalk project at Piedra Vista. Mr. Delmagori said he would contact Ms. Westerling regarding the project. Mr. Lucero said the current safety project doesn't have much done except for some preliminary engineering.

Mr. Delmagori asked if County Road 6675 project was done. Mr. Keck said it would be done by the calendar year. Mr. Keck said the county needs to have the Chaco Project on the TIP. Mr. Delmagori said it was on page 55 and is listed in the non-regionally significant list because of the location of the project.

Mr. Delmagori asked if the non-regionally significant section of the TIP had any changes. Mr. Christensen said that South Oliver needs to be moved to the unfunded list. Mr. Delmagori said the project was in the regionally significant list.. Mr. Christensen said there is expected funding and hopefully something with the county will be worked out. Mr. Keck said Mr. Marcum at the county wants to work with the City of Aztec to come up with some agreement on the project. Mr. Delmagori asked if the project needed to stay on the TIP. Mr. Christensen and Mr. Keck both said it needed to stay on the TIP.

Mr. Christensen asked if the intersection at the Old Aztec Highway and Lakewood was still going to happen. Mr. Lucero said the City of Farmington would like the project to happen, but is waiting on the NMDOT to decide where the Old Aztec Highway access would be. Mr. Lucero added the City of Farmington would not be working on the road until then because the City did not want a misaligned intersection as the road would be a large north south collector. Mr. Delmagori said the City of Farmington and NMDOT have been working on the project.

Mr. Christensen asked if the NMDOT was working on a way to implement fees on developers when a major thoroughfare would be impacted. Mr. Lucero said the City of Farmington was working on an impact fee. Mr. Christensen said the City of Aztec was also working on an impact fee but he would like to see a regional fee set. Mr. Lucero said the County would need to be the collector of fees outside the entity limits.

Mr. Steinmetz said the dollar value on the Saiz Lane project was wrong; it is listed at \$380,000 and an additional \$1 million should be added. Mr. Delmagori said he would fix the error.

Mr. Keck asked if the Technical Committee could make a motion to accept the ranking as presented. Mr. Delmagori said if the Technical Committee agreed that would be fine and the projects would be ranked as presented.

**Action:** Mr. Christensen made a motion and Mr. Steinmetz seconded the motion to keep the TIP priority list ranked as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 14, 2008

**BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK**

- The Technical and Policy Committees have reviewed the list of proposed walking and biking projects, evaluation criteria and policies.
- The Technical Committee has recommended Policy Committee approval of the walking and biking policies and evaluation criteria for prioritizing projects.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAG) has gone through the second and third iterations of selecting draft lists of the top 20-30 priority projects at the January 29 and February 19 meetings, respectively.

**CURRENT WORK**

- Develop draft lists and maps of walking and biking projects for the MPO region and for local projects in Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington.
- Refinement of cost estimates for proposed projects.

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- Development of bicycle/pedestrian standards for all road classifications as well as for new commercial and residential developments.
- Work with entity staff to evaluate and prioritize projects:
  1. Into short, medium, and long range lists; and,
  2. Into MPO region and entity-specific lists

**BACKUP MATERIAL**

- BPAG list of walking and biking improvements with voting results.
- Draft of MPO regional list of walking and biking projects.
- Draft map of pedestrian and bicycle networks for the MPO region. Large maps will be available at the meeting for review.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the draft list and maps of MPO regional walking and biking improvements and suggest revisions/deletions/additions to the list.

**Discussion:** Mr. Messenger presented the staff report and said both committees have reviewed the list. The MPO now has a draft map of regional routes, which is a selection of

projects from the overall improvement list. Regional projects are being defined as those that connect cities or get someone through a city. Mr. Messenger said that one project the BPAG would like to see done is to have the old railroad right-of-way on Scott Avenue turned into a bicycle/walking path and to extend the river trail to connect Berg Park. Another project is the Sunrise Parkway project from Butler to Sunrise. Mr. Lucero said the Vista del Arroyo is an actual park which may be important to the Sunrise Parkway project. Mr. Messenger asked if Panther Trail will be part of the park. Mr. Lucero said it could be a part of a system in that area of town if there is funding.

Mr. Christensen asked how the BPAG ranked the projects. Mr. Messenger said if the project received 4 votes or more it was put on the project list. Mr. Messenger said the river trail projects received many votes.

Mr. Lucero asked what the cost was based on. Mr. Messenger said the cost was only the construction cost, not the cost of right-of-way or design costs.

Mr. Messenger then presented other projects including the Ruins Road trail, the BLM trails, a trail along the La Plata River to Jackson Lake and Gateway Park to Farmington Lake.

Mr. Messenger asked if the Technical Committee felt the projects were good projects to move forward. Mr. Lucero said the MPO has done a good job balancing out the entity projects and the list looked good.

Mr. Christensen said the Alien Bike Trail in Aztec is not on the list. Mr. Messenger said it was not brought up but could be added. Mr. Christensen said it would be both a County and City trail. Mr. Delmagori asked if the trail already exists. Mr. Christensen said yes but it needs to be greatly improved.

Mr. Keck asked if there was anything else on the bicycle/pedestrian plan that needed to be discussed. Mr. Delmagori said the plan would include regional projects and the MPO will focus on those regional projects. Mr. Lucero asked how many projects there are. Mr. Messenger said there are approximately 40 total projects.

**Action:** Report was received.

**7. ACCESS MANAGEMENT**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	Access Management
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 19, 2008

**BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK**

- Access Management policies have been finalized with the Technical Committee.
- Definitions and functions for eight road classifications and their respective typical road sections have been completed.
- Standards and objectives to support the policies have been identified.

**CURRENT WORK**

- Typical urban and rural road sections are provided for review.
- Spacing standards will be discussed by the Technical Committee.

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- Continue development of standard driveway and intersection spacing and corner clearance.
- Access management standards for medians.

**BACKUP MATERIAL**

- Policies and supporting standards.
- Draft urban and rural road section diagrams.
- NMDOT intersection spacing standards
- Intersection spacing guidelines from TRB.
- Comparison of intersection spacing standards from other MPOs and DOTs.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee develop intersection, driveway, and corner clearance spacing standards for access management.

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori presented the road section criteria summary, the placeholder table for the intersection access specifications and the road sections previously discussed with the Technical Committee.

Mr. Christensen asked if the Access Management Plan was passed if the roads would need to be built as shown, because on North Oliver there will need to be some changes. Mr. Christensen added that on North Oliver having the bike lanes next to the road would be nearly impossible to do and only experienced bikers would ride next to the traffic. Mr. Christensen said the City of Aztec wants to have the bike and pedestrian lane located on a separate path on North Oliver. Mr. Messenger said the AMP is asking that the proper right-of-way be obtained for new roads. Mr. Lucero said on page 81 there is an illustration of the type of road design Mr. Christensen was looking for. Mr. Lucero also said the road design is a suggestion and the design can be manipulated as long as the proper right-of-way is available.

Mr. Christensen said he was definitely more interested in bike paths instead of bike lanes on heavily trafficked roads. Mr. Delmagori said the AMP is a guide to building future roads and the designs can be road specific and side-paths can be incorporated. Mr. Lucero said with a 100 foot right-of-way there should be enough room to have a buffer and be able to meet the criteria of the plan. Mr. Lucero said that separate bicycle/pedestrian paths would be very expensive.

Mr. Christensen asked if wording could be added to say that roads could have safe bicycle/pedestrian routes not adjacent to the road. Mr. Messenger said it is in the policies already which also say bicycle/pedestrian facilities are to be provided with the roads when possible.

Mr. Christensen said he would like to see these policies on new roads and the developers need to have explicit policies or they will do the bare minimum.

Mr. Keck said during a meeting the state held Ms. Faught said the funding for roads is going to be decreased and some roads will go back to being dirt roads due to the lack of maintenance funding. Mr. Keck said he did not know how the County would be able to pay for the types of cross-sections the AMP calls for and many developers will confront the County about not being able to develop land because of the cost of the roads. Mr. Christensen said he would have the same problems in the City of Aztec. Mr. Steinmetz said the plan would be hard for the City of Bloomfield to implement also. Mr. Keck added that the County Commission will have a hard time passing the AMP.

Mr. Keck said that if the county gets the full right-of-way for roads with that width then people will start to speed along the roads. Mr. Keck said another issue is the cost to developers for roads that won't ever serve enough traffic to justify the rights-of-way. Mr. Keck said many of the criteria can't be met by the entities or developers at this time and could become like the County's speed hump policy. Mr. Messenger suggested the policy be looked at for routes to schools and parks.

Mr. Keck said no one knows what the future is going to hold and unless the state or earmarks come through for the entities the roads are probably going to slide backwards. Mr. Keck said the developers and entities can only put up so much funding for roads. Mr. Delmagori said the road sections can be configured differently. Mr. Lucero said the construction of the roads could be a mix and match of the road sections in the AMP, but he said only so much can be done and one way to start is to make sure the entities get enough right-of-way now.

Dr. Widoe said the entities will need to buy off on the plan that is best for all possible worlds. Dr. Widoe said that if the standards are not met then this will increase the budget drastically and it will cause problems. Dr. Widoe added the standards and criteria can be modified if something needs to change. Dr. Widoe advised the standards and criteria should be doable for the entities and the developers because if the plan is adopted but not enforced it will cause legal problems for the entities. Mr. Keck said the county already has that problem with the guard rail policies, and the cost of building guardrails to specifications is too high so it is easier for the county to not build guard rails.

Mr. Keck said when this plan is presented to the Policy Committee it needs to be fully explained to them. Mr. Lucero said it may be a good idea if the planners of the entities really go over the plan and then have those options in the plan as well.

**Action:** Report was received.

**8. FY2009 UPWP**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	FY2009 UPWP
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 19, 2008

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the fiscal year work plan for the MPO.</li> <li>▪ The FY2009 UPWP is anticipated to be adopted in April.</li> <li>▪ Entities are asked to submit new projects and other planning tasks to be accomplished by the MPO by March 7.</li> <li>▪ The most important project in FY2009 will be the update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.</li> </ul>

<b>CURRENT and ANTICIPATED WORK</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff has developed a list of activities that are expected to be included in the FY2009 UPWP.</li> <li>▪ Staff will review and modify the list with the Technical Committee on February 28</li> <li>▪ The MPO will develop its annual work plan for fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009) in preparation for approval in April.</li> </ul>

<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FY08 UPWP Work List that provides a status of FY2008 UPWP activities.</li> <li>▪ Draft FY2009 UPWP activity list.</li> </ul>

<b>UPWP SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
January-February 2008	Issue the Call for Projects
February - March 2008	Develop UPWP program areas
March 27, 2008	Technical Committee recommends approval of UPWP
April 10, 2008	Policy Committee approves the FY2009 UPWP

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the draft activity list for the FY2009 UPWP and suggest revisions/additions/deletions to the UPWP.</li> </ul>

**Discussion:** Mr. Messenger presented the staff report and added the MTP update will begin in the fall and take up to 18 months to complete. The Joint Powers of Agreement will also begin next fiscal year. Mr. Messenger said the Traffic Count program and Line Route Analysis for the Red Apple Transit system will also take place. Mr. Delmagori said the MTP draft timeline will be presented at the next Technical Committee meeting.

**Action:** Report was received.

**9. RED APPLE TRANSIT  
 FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
 Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	Red Apple Transit
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner

<b>Date:</b> February 19, 2008
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<b>BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Farmington routes surpassed 101,300 riders in 2007.</li><li>▪ Riders on regional routes from Farmington totaled nearly 6,800.</li><li>▪ Ridership increased in January after small decreases in previous months.</li></ul>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
<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. Delmagori presented the report he received from Mr. Hunt to the Technical Committee.

**Action:** Report was received.

**10. NMDOT**

**Discussion:** Dr. Bob Widoe gave an update on GRIP II. The New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) originally did a conservative estimate of bonding capacity. After reviewing the original estimate, the NMFA determined that there is an additional 3 million dollars in bonding capacity. The NMFA will sell the remainder of 2008 bonds in June. Only 12 million dollars is available for 2009 that has not already been obligated and there are 69 entities competing for this amount.

Dr. Widoe said August 15 is the drop dead date for project certification and the entities need to make sure all their certifications are in by that day. The projects will not be able to roll over this year. Dr. Widoe said it was not a good scenario for funding. Dr. Widoe said funding for District 5 had been \$27 million two years ago and is down to \$19 million this year.

Dr. Widoe said the state had not received any Safe Routes to School applications from the entities in the MPO area.

Dr. Widoe said the NWNMCOG is planning on holding town hall meetings to discuss HM35. On May 14 and 15, the Bicycle Pedestrian Equestrian (BPE) advisory group will hold their next quarterly meeting in Aztec.

The Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP) has software training and other training opportunities available.

Regarding the local government road program, the NWNMCOG is asking the NMDOT to go back to having a 2-year cycle so there is enough money to complete the projects.

Dr. Widoe said the NWRPO will be holding their April meeting at the Navajo Nation DOT in Window Rock and then in San Juan County in June. Dr. Widoe suggested the MPO meet with the NWRPO in June.

Dr. Widoe said he has been contacted by Jose Ortiz and Sal Soto about presentations regarding ADA and Civil Rights issues.

**Action:** Report was received.

11. **INFORMATION ITEMS**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Agenda Item**

<b>Subject:</b>	Information Items
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 19, 2008

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. **Socioeconomic Data for Regional Travel Model.** Data collection is nearly complete and final preparations are being made to hire a consultant to update and expand the model.
- b. **Year of Expenditure Meeting.** According to SAFETEA-LU, revenue and cost estimates for the MTP need to use inflation rates for 'year of expenditure dollars'. The FMPO will likely use 2% for estimating outer year estimates during the MTP update.
- c. **Aztec Network Study.** A design team meeting was held on February 20 to review the draft network study report.
- d. **FY2008 UPWP 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter report summarizes MPO activities between October and December 2007. It is available on the MPO website.
- e. **Quarterly Newsletter.** The current newsletter is available on the MPO website.
- f. **Other**

**Discussion:** Mr. Delmagori presented the information items.

**Action:** Report was received.

11. **BUSINESS FROM:**

- A. **Chairman:** None
- B. **Business from Members:** None
- C. **Business from Staff:** None

12. **BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** None

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Lucero motioned and Mr. Steinmetz seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Keck adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

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Secretary, Virginia Turney

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Vice chair, Dave Keck