

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

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

Members Absent: Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington

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

Staff Absent: Michael D. Sullivan, MPO Officer
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner

Also Present: Dr. James Henderson, San Juan County
Dave Martinez, NMDOT
Dr. Bob Widoe, NMDOT
Rob Fijol, FHWA
Roshana Moojen, NWNMCOG
Steve Krest, City of Farmington

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Keck called the meeting to order at 10:10am.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 26, 2009 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting was made by Ms. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Baird, passed unanimously.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 9, 2009 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2009 Technical Committee Work Session Meeting was made by Ms. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Baird, passed unanimously.

4. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE BOTTLENECKS REDUCTION PROGRAM

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Bottlenecks Reduction Program Presentation
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	March 16, 2009

PRESENTATION

- Rob Fijol with FHWA will give a presentation on the Bottlenecks Reduction Program.
- Funding through this program is available.
- Ideal projects are low cost and can be quickly implemented.
- Types of Bottleneck Reduction projects include:
 - Signal re-timing
 - Signal coordination
 - Actuated or adaptive signal control (ACS Lite)
 - Signal upgrades
 - Access management principles for retrofitting corridors
 - Re-striping

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a presentation on the Bottlenecks Reduction Program.

Discussion: Mr. Fijol handed out a brochure that provided information about the Bottlenecks Reduction Program. He mentioned that this program looks to fund projects that have a safety component to them. Safety data is needed to support the project. Mr. Krest asked about repaving projects and was told that this funding does not cover that type of project. Mr. Martinez noticed that in one part of the handout it states that the projects must be in the TIP, but in another section it says that these projects are low cost, quickly implemented, not yet planned for projects. Mr. Fijol informed the committee that they are looking for new projects, and that they do need to be included in the TIP before funding can be released. Mr. Krest asked when the evaluation of projects occurs and Mr. Fijol stated that it is twice a year and that the last evaluation was approximately three months ago. Mr. Krest asked about the amount of money available to the state and for individual projects. Mr. Fijol said that the usual amount of funding was around \$100,000 for projects but could go as high as \$200,000. Dr. Bob shared that the state amounts are around \$12 million for the Safety program. Mr. Fijol reviewed the types of projects available for funding and told Mr. Krest that his request for ACS lighting was exactly the type of project they were looking to fund.

Action: A report was received.

5. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE FY2009 UPWP BUDGET AMENDMENT

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	FY2009 UPWP Budget Amendment
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	March 16, 2009

BACKGROUND

- Due to unexpended FTA 5303 funds, NMDOT redistributed out the funds to the MPOs in the State.
- The FMPO is receiving an additional \$16,404 in 5303 with a required match of \$4,101 for a total of \$20,505.
- A Work Authorization was submitted to the MPO on March 9 with final FTA 5303 amounts.

CURRENT WORK

- A budget amendment is needed to approve the additional \$16,404 in federal 5303 that is available to the MPO.
- The new FTA 5303 funding levels for FY2009 are as follows:
 - \$38,214 in federal share
 - \$9,554 in required local match
 - \$47,768 in total FTA 5303

BACKUP MATERIAL

- Summary tables that show the revised FTA 5303 amounts for the MPO.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee recommend approval of the FY2009 UPWP budget amendment.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori shared with the committee members that the Farmington MPO had received additional dollars from the NMDOT Transit Bureau. The additional federal money for the FTA 5303 is \$16,404 plus a required local match of \$4,101 which brings the total additional dollars to \$20,505. The revised increase in monies that will be required from the local entities was summarized in the tables that were included in the agenda.

Action: Ms. Lopez made a motion to recommend approval of the FY2009 UPWP budget amendment. Mr. Quintana seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Technical Committee passed a motion recommending approval of the FY2009 UPWP budget amendment.

6. OPEN A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE
FY2010-2015 TIP

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	FY2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	March 16, 2009

BACKGROUND

- The MPO updates the TIP on an annual basis.
- Staff has met with the entities to revise project information.
- The TIP Introduction and financial plan have been developed.
- The draft FY2010-2015 TIP has been issued for public comment.

CURRENT WORK

- Final revisions have been added to the TIP, including Safety Projects and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects.
- A 30-day public comment period closes on April 3.
- A public hearing on the TIP will be held during the Technical Committee meeting on March 26.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Any potential public comments will be incorporated into the final TIP document.
- The Policy Committee is expected to adopt the FY2010-2015 TIP through resolution at their April 9 meeting.
- The STIP will be revised based on the MPO TIP.

ATTACHMENTS

- FY2010-2015 TIP Introduction, Regionally-Significant, Non-Regionally Significant, and Unfunded project lists (provided under separate cover to committee members and entity staff; document also available on MPO website).

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - a. Hold a public hearing on the FY2010-2015 TIP.
 - b. Recommend adoption of the FY2010-2015 TIP.

Discussion: A motion to open up the meeting for public comment was made by Ms. Lopez and Mr. Quintana seconded the motion. During the Public Comment period Mr. Delmagori explained the 3 different categories of TIP Projects, asking the committee to review content for accuracy. He highlighted the federally funded projects shown in the TIP. Chairman Dave Keck stated that the County project was only for \$1 Million, not \$1.1 Million and requested that the change to the dollar amount be made. Mr. Delmagori concurred and would make that correction. Mr. Delmagori shared that there were no changes to the Non-Regionally Significant list. Ms. Baird had requested changes to the East Blanco Project and Mr. Delmagori handed out revised pages that reflected those changes. Mr. Keck asked for any other public comments, none was received, and Ms. Lopez made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Quintana seconded the motion and Mr. Keck closed the Public Hearing.

Action: Ms. Baird made a motion to recommend approval of the FY2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Lopez seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously. The Technical Committee recommended adoption of the FY2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

7. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE FY2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	FY2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	March 16, 2009

BACKGROUND

- The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the fiscal year work plan for the MPO, covering work activities from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
- The most important project in FY2010 will be the update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- Staff reviewed the draft UPWP with both the Technical and Policy Committees earlier this month.

CURRENT and ANTICIPATED WORK

- Revisions to the draft list of activities, products, and timeframes have been made.
- FHWA PL funding estimates have been received.
- Since no 5303 estimates were provided, staff has been advised by the Transit Bureau to use current 5303 funding for FY2010.
- Staff will review the final draft FY2010 UPWP with the Technical Committee on March 26.
- The MPO will seek approval of the annual work plan in April.

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft FY2010 UPWP (provided under separate cover to committee members and entity staff; document also available on MPO website).

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee recommend approval of the FY2010 UPWP.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori touched on the changes made to the plan as outlined in the March 9, 2009 Work Session. The first change related to the Public Involvement section, which added in language regarding creating a list of local decision makers and other stakeholders to involve them with the work of the MPO. The Long Range Transportation Plan section has revisions requested by the City of Aztec to add in the Highline Road Study and the Northwest Loop Study. Also included was general information about the Air Quality and the Ozone Standards. Under the Budget Summary information was expanded with more accurate dollar values. Mr. Martinez stated that the shaded areas were hard to read. Mr. Delmagori said they were in color and he could change that format.

Action: Ms. Lopez made the motion to recommend approval of the FY2010 UPWP. Mr. Quintana seconded that motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Technical Committee recommended approval of the FY2010 UPWP.

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

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	March 16, 2009

BACKGROUND

- Staff has developed a future road network map that identifies potential future road improvements and proposed road classification changes.
- Staff held three public meetings in February to seek input on the future road network map and on possible transit expansion options.
- Population data in the MPO boundary showing the change from 2000 to 2008 has been collected.
- MTP Goals and Objectives have been reviewed by the Technical Committee

CURRENT WORK

- Surveys have been issued to the public and various organizations to seek input on travel characteristics and needed transportation improvements.
- Freight data collection.
- Research on transit needs assessments.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Collect employment data to show change from 2000 to 2008.
- Complete population and employment projections.
- Finalize the future road network map.
- Begin the needs assessment for Red Apple Transit.

ATTACHMENTS

- Population growth maps will be provided at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori started the report with the population maps that were displayed on the table. He shared that Mr. Lucero has been working with the GIS department of the Cities and County to retrieve data to assist with the population projections. The maps show census block data from 2000 and estimates for 2005 and 2008. Changes are apparent in the southeast portion of Farmington where the Mesa Vista Subdivision is being built, around the Crouch Mesa area and Lee Acres, south of the fairgrounds. Ms. Lopez questioned why the Farmington Airport showed up in red. Ms. Delmagori stated that the census block for the airport also includes the apartments and trailer parks located on the north side of Apache Street. Mr. Delmagori moved on to the employment data maps. Chairman Keck pointed out that no one seems to work at the airport. Mr. Delmagori reiterated that any questionable areas should be brought to staff's attention to confirm that the data is correct. Mr. Martinez noticed that the lakes are the same color as some of the census blocks and is slightly confusing. Mr. Delmagori concluded by indicating that the land use numbers and the proposed new roadways would be compared to analyze whether new transportation projects were meeting the needs of growing population areas.

Mr. Delmagori moved to the Freight Study portion of the MTP Update. There is a study from the NMDOT that identifies US 550 as a freight corridor. Other Federally Designated truck routes in this area include; US 64 from Farmington west to the Arizona State Line, NM 516 and US 550 from Aztec to the Colorado State Line. That same study shows State Designated truck routes to include: US 64 Farmington to Bloomfield, US 550 from I-25 to Aztec and NM 371 from Farmington south.

Mr. Delmagori finished his report with some initial information that will be required for the upcoming needs assessment for the transit element of the MTP. He explained that increases in ridership from 72,000 riders in 2006 to 111,000 riders in 2008 show

positive signs of growth within the communities. This will give staff base information to use for ridership projections. The use of census data will help identify areas where populations are dependent on transit, such as people with disabilities or the elderly.

Action: The report was received.

9. 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:	March 16, 2009

RED APPLE UPDATE

- Overall ridership reached nearly 10,423 passengers in February.
- Farmington saw a 7% increase in ridership over previous month.
- Aztec, Bloomfield, and Kirtland all saw decreases in ridership over previous months, with -12%, -3%, and -20% respectfully.
- Aztec, Bloomfield, and Kirtland had increases over the same period last year with 5%, 67%, and 10% respectfully.
- Farmington saw a 13% 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. Delmagori provided highlights of the latest transit report. He mentioned that overall ridership had reached over 10,000 passengers in February even though Aztec, Bloomfield and Kirtland had decreases in ridership during February.

Action: A report was received.

10. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE NMDOT

Discussion: Mr. Martinez started the report by informing members that their department has not received any confirmation on their submitted Stimulus Package recommendations. The deadline has been set for March 31, 2009. He will forward approval to MPO Staff when it is received. Dr. Widoe passed around a copy of the reporting forms and informed Mr. Delmagori that he would forward to staff a copy of the PowerPoint presentation providing guidance with filling out the forms.

Mr. Martinez shared that they have been told that all local government project certifications must be done by August 15, 2009. Mr. Keck thought that he would be able to meet that deadline for certification. Ms. Baird asked about the contract date for starting construction. Mr. Martinez stated that date was September 30, 2009. Reporting forms are currently being revised by the State. The cut-off date for submitting them to the NMDOT will probably be on the 20th of each month to provide the State time to prepare their reports to FHWA.

Dr. Widoe requested that the entities use him as a single point of contact for questions to Ms. Wildharbers' department to avoid unnecessary processing delays. Mr. Martinez stated that he will be the one contacting the entities for setting up the forms properly and making sure that the reports are submitted. Mr. Keck asked who would be handling the PS&E Meetings. Mr. Martinez shared that the entity will coordinate it and he would be sure to attend. Dr. Widoe informed everyone that a letter recommending approval of the function class change for Maple Ave in Bloomfield has been forwarded to Pat Oliver-Wright for signature.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	March 16, 2009

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **NMED Air Quality Recommendation.** The NM Environmental Department issued a letter on March 12 stating that San Juan County will not be recommended as non-attainment for ozone due to the validity of data collected at the Navajo Lake station.
- b. **MPO Quarterly Meeting.** Staff attended the statewide MPO meeting in Albuquerque on March 18.
- c. **Safe Routes to School Program Update.** A summary of the latest activities and events will be provided at the meeting. The Bike Rodeo at San Juan College will be held on May 30.
- d. **Other.**

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori mentioned that the NM Environmental Department did not recommend San Juan County as non-attainment for ozone. During the MPO Quarterly Meeting, members were informed that there may be additional PL funding available to the MPOs; however, no dollar amounts have been confirmed. The bottom line is that these dollars would be used to balance out entity overmatch. Mr. Delmagori shared

that Ms. Meszaros is currently looking for donation and sponsors for the May 30, 2009 Bike Rodeo. Staff will look into having a booth at that event. Staff will assist with student arrival counts during April. Mr. Delmagori completed his report on the Joint Powers Agreement, stating the revision of that document will be starting next month. The current JPA is due to expire in September 2009.

12. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Discussion: Mr. Martinez ask Mr. Delmagori what happens if any TIP public comments are received between today and the end of the comment period on April 3rd. Mr. Delmagori stated that any comments received would be brought directly to the Policy Committee before approval. There have been no comments received to date.

13. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Discussion: There was no business from the floor.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Discussion: Ms. Lopez motioned for adjournment, Mr. Quintana seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.

Dave Keck, Chairman

Dee Dee Moore, MPO Admin Aide