

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
April 24, 2008 10:00 A.M.

Members Present: Martin Lucero, City of Farmington
TJ Richards, San Juan County, Alternate
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield
Lori Martinez, City of Aztec, Alternate
Chico Quintana, City of Farmington, Alternate

Members Absent: Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington
Steve Christensen, City of Aztec
Dave Keck, San Juan County

Staff present: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Virginia Turney, Secretary

Staff Absent: Mike Sullivan, City of Farmington

Also present: Dr. Bob Widoe, NMDOT
Dave Martinez, NMDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lucero called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 27, 2008, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Ms. Baird made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richards, to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2008, Technical Committee Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

3. BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	April 16, 2008

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The Policy Committee approved the walking and biking policies and evaluation criteria for prioritizing projects at the March 13 meeting.
- On March 27, the Technical Committee decided to accept the regional list of walking and biking improvements, but chose not to prioritize them at this time.
- A BPAG meeting was held on April 21 to inform the public about recent Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan development.

CURRENT WORK

- Tables and maps of walking and biking projects for regional and local projects are being finalized.
- Develop acceptable bicycle/pedestrian standards.
- Research funding sources that will help support the proposed improvements.
- Identify implementation strategies that the MPO and entities can use to carry out the plan.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Finalize acceptable bicycle/pedestrian standards.
- Issue a final draft of the plan for public review.
- Complete the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan for MPO action in May and June.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- MPO regional list of proposed walking and biking improvements.
- Local proposed walking and biking improvements by entity
- An initial list of walking and biking standards.
- ADA Requirements.
- Implementation strategies and funding sources.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - Review the accepted list and map of draft regional and local routes that are part of the proposed walk/bike network.
 - Review walking and biking standards.
 - Review remaining elements of the plan
 - Discuss final steps in plan development.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report. The Policy Committee reviewed the improvements. Mr. Delmagori described the differences between regional projects and local projects, the MPO will take the lead on the regional projects and the entities will be in charge of the local projects.

Mr. Lucero asked that the regional routes be highlighted and given an explanation to their importance. Ms. Richards agreed and added that it would be easier to explain to the councils and commissions if it was simple.

Mr. Lucero said he liked keeping all the ADA requirements. Mr. Delmagori said it is required to keep the ADA specifications.

Mr. Delmagori asked if the 4-foot sidewalk standard was acceptable. Mr. Lucero said the ADA won't allow sidewalks under 4-foot, but he would like to see at least 5-foot sidewalks, but the minimum should be kept at 4-foot. Dr. Widoe said the ADA standards are required by the FHWA. Dr. Widoe said that Jody Ortiz is the NMDOT ADA contact person and if the MPO would like an ADA presentation Mr. Ortiz could come to the area and present information on ADA requirements.

Mr. Delmagori said the ADA curb-cut standards also apply. Mr. Delmagori said he would pull ADA and sidewalk related information from other MPO's for information.

Mr. Delmagori said the bike lanes should be kept at 5 feet. Mr. Delmagori said he had incorporated the County's shoulder requirements into the plan. Mr. Delmagori said Mr. Keck said 8-foot lanes would be ideal, but in most instances 4-5 foot lanes would be available. Ms. Richards agreed. Dr. Widoe said that one issue would be acquiring the right-of-way needed. Ms. Richards said on current roads it would be a big problem but on new roads it could be required up front.

Mr. Delmagori said BPAG said traffic activated signals should be looked at. Mr. Martinez said the state is going to video detection signals and the MPO should look into that type of signal as the NMDOT will not support other types of signals. Mr. Lucero said Mr. Krest said the City of Farmington is going to have video cameras on all major signalized intersections so adding bicycle video detection should not be a big issue. Mr. Delmagori asked if the cameras can detect bicyclist. Mr. Martinez said they can detect bicyclists and can be set at different ranges.

Mr. Delmagori said Mr. Krest informed him the bike route signs on San Juan Boulevard had been taken down because of safety issues. Mr. Delmagori said the Wichita bicycle plan has good criteria and it could be used by the MPO for specification regarding speed and safety issues for bike routes. Mr. Lucero said anything with a speed limit of 40 or over would be unsafe on a narrow road. Mr. Lucero added that older roads such as 20th Street would also be a problem and the plan may need separate bike paths. In addition, some of our proposed bike route projects might violate the standard since the current speed limit on those roads is already over 40mph. Ms. Baird said that both Aztec and Bloomfield have plans for separate bike paths including a path parallel to US 550. Mr. Lucero said that speed and traffic volume need to be considered when deciding upon separate bike and walking paths. Mr. Delmagori said he would look into the issue.

Mr. Lucero said bike racks are also needed and they need signage. Mr. Lucero gave the example of the bike rack in the City of Farmington Annex: it is never used because people don't know about it. Mr. Lucero said the bike racks could be listed on a biking/walking map which would help people determine where they want to bike to. Mr. Delmagori said that having those listed on the map would be a good idea.

Mr. Delmagori said the ADA requirements must be followed and will be incorporated. Mr. Delmagori said the MPO will continue looking into alternate funding sources through and FHWA.

Mr. Delmagori said projects in the plan will need to be on the local CIP's which could help in getting funding for projects.

Mr. Delmagori said having the list of projects helps the plan move forward and once the plan is adopted the standards will apply to all new development. Mr. Delmagori said the Policy Committee would like to finish up the plan in June, and he will be sending the final draft out in mid-May for comment. At the May meeting, there will also be a public hearing held and the Technical Committee will need to recommend the Policy Committee adopt the plan. The plan will also be presented for adoption to the entities after adoption by the MPO.

Action: Report was received.

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

Subject:	Access Management
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	April 15, 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 developed.
- Standards and objectives to support the policies have been identified.

CURRENT WORK

- The MPO continues to develop typical urban and rural road sections.
- Road sections incorporate multi-modal elements where feasible.
- For some sections, variations are provided to compensate for all anticipated scenarios.
- The sections are intended to show the ideal placement of all elements when a road section reaches full build out.
- Spacing standards will be discussed with the Technical Committee.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Develop intersection and driveway spacing and corner clearance standards.
- Access management standards for medians.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- Summary of draft policies and standards.
- Draft urban and rural road section diagrams.
- Comparison of intersection spacing standards from other MPOs and DOTs.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - Review and revise typical road sections for access management.
 - Receive information on spacing standards from other MPOs and DOTs.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori said the policies have been finalized, the definitions and classifications have been developed and the standards to support the policies have been identified. The MPO will continue to work on road section classifications. The MPO would like to identify all build out possibilities. Mr. Delmagori said Figure 1 will be full road build

outs and will require 100 foot right-of-way, 4 travel lanes, a median and buffer, and sidewalks. Figure 2-A has the options for full build out of a minor arterial or collector. Figure 2-B is a variation of a collector for a residential area. Figure 2-C looks at various options for a collector. Figure 3-A is one option for a rural arterial and would be a good transition from rural to urban areas.

Mr. Martinez said the scale on the drawing needs to be fixed. Mr. Delmagori said he would fix the drawing. Mr. Delmagori said 3-B is a variation of rural principal roads with a 10 foot shoulder. Mr. Delmagori said Mr. Keck said that it may be too much paving width for the road. Mr. Delmagori said drawing 4-A is a rural minor arterial, drawing 4-B is also a rural road and both are very similar. Drawing 5-A is for a major collector and 5-B recommends that no sidewalks be required but shoulders could be used as a walking/biking path. Mr. Delmagori said that drawing 6-A incorporated the county's road standards that he received from Mr. Keck. Mr. Delmagori said 6-B is a variation for residential county roads. Mr. Delmagori said figure 7 is for a frontage road.

Mr. Lucero asked why the buffer on 2-C was taken out since there is still enough room in the right-of-way for one to be there. Mr. Delmagori said he would look into it and will likely make the correction. Mr. Lucero said the shoulders need to be paved to encourage biking and walking. Mr. Lucero said riding a bike on a dirt shoulder is not easy and that most bikers gauge where they are by the outside white line. Ms. Richards said many people in the county ride on the white line. Mr. Lucero suggested a double white line be painted.

Mr. Martinez said the standards need to have crown and slope information included to be adopted. Mr. Lucero agreed and said some roads in Farmington do not have the right crown and slope which causes the road to flood in the middle which deteriorates the asphalt quickly and agreed that the plan needs those specifications listed. Mr. Delmagori said he would add those specifications.

Dr. Widoe said the sidewalks on the frontage road would need to be better defined as sidewalks are only found on one side of frontage roads and are usually found in front of businesses for access. Mr. Lucero said that Utah has spent millions trying to get businesses to use frontage roads and that it is still a problem. Dr. Widoe said that access to frontage roads needs to be clearly defined or there will be access issues. Dr. Widoe added that there should be no sidewalks accessing major highways from frontage roads. Mr. Lucero said that issue does need to be defined and sidewalks should only allow access for the businesses along the frontage road and not to the main road for safety reasons. Mr. Lucero said the access from business to business should be allowed in front of the businesses only.

Mr. Delmagori said the MPO is not seeking approval of the Access Management Plan today and will continue to meet with the entities to revise the plan. Mr. Delmagori said access spacing and driveway cuts still need to be discussed and the DOT standards will be used as a guide for those standards. Mr. Martinez said the DOT had looked at other states' regulations and standards when designing its own standards. Mr. Delmagori said once that information is received and reviewed it will be put in the appropriate tables.

Action: Report was received.

5. **REGIONAL TRAVEL MODEL UPDATE**
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Regional Travel Model Update
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	April 14, 2008

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- PTV America was contracted to update and expand the travel model for the MPO.
- Staff provided revised 2005 and 2030 land use tables to PTV.
- Staff provided count data from 2004-2006 to PTV to assist with calibration efforts.

CURRENT WORK

- The consultant has completed a first iteration of the PM peak hour calibration process.
- Staff is reviewing the results with particular attention to areas of the network where there is considerable difference between the model volumes and the actual traffic counts.
- PTV is working on calibration of the AM peak hour period.
- Work with entities to develop a mid-forecast year (~2012) based on updated base year data.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- PTV will continue to calibrate/validate and expand the model to have AM Peak Hour and Daily capabilities (completion anticipated in May 2008).
- PTV will create documentation reports and provide final versions of the new traffic model.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the update to the regional travel model.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori said the MPO is working with PTV on the VISUM traffic model. The staff has provided land use data which will help in calibration efforts of the model. Mr. Delmagori said most of the traffic count and land use data was good, but there are a few pockets that do not match and will require some tweaking. The model will be able to provide both A.M. and P.M. peak hour results and will provide 24-hour information. Ms. Baird asked if the A.M. peak was established for each entity. Mr. Delmagori said they will be available and 4-6 p.m. was used for the P.M. peak hours and 6-8 a.m. were used for the A.M. peak hours.

Action: Report was received.

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

Subject:	Red Apple Transit
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	April 14, 2008

RED APPLE UPDATE

- In February and March, ridership averaged 9,200 passengers.
- Tiger and Bobcat ridership increased during this time; Bronco ridership decreased slightly.
- The FTA Triennial Review for Red Apple will occur in July.
- There will be a 10% increase in transit contract costs due to an increase of 25% in fuel costs and an increase of 3% in operators' contract costs.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the transit report supplied by Mr. Hunt.

Action: Report was received.

7. **NMDOT**

Discussion: Dr. Widoe said the Policy Committee asked about the status of the US 64 project. Dr. Widoe reported the project is on schedule and the project is to end in October or November. The NMDOT is aware of the National High School Finals Rodeo event and will work with the contractor to provide adequate access to the area. Mr. Lucero said the Connie Mac World Series will be happening in August as well as the Regional Swim Meet, and US 64 will be one of the main corridors for people traveling to the Farmington area. Mr. Lucero said the NMDOT is working on alternate routes. Mr. Martinez said the person who will be the best point of contact is the NMDOT traffic engineer for the area. Mr. Quintana asked who that point of contact would be. Mr. Martinez said it is Randy Crockett, but his office has moved and he has a new phone number. Mr. Martinez said his new phone number should be 632-2291 and his fax number is 632-5497.

Dr. Widoe said there is no news on GRIP2. Dr. Widoe said the BPE Quarterly meeting will be held in Aztec on May 14 and 15. The meeting on May 14 is only for the BPE, but the meeting on the 15 will be open to the public. Dr. Widoe encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Delmagori said he confirmed the meeting would be held in Aztec.

Dr. Widoe said UNM will be hold a Great Streets conference and he would encourage entity planners to attend. The conference will discuss funding from FHWA and other sources, design of multi-modal streets, community centered transportation and other issues. Dr. Widoe said

UNM is working with other cities around the country regarding building better streets. Mr. Martinez said he believed the conference would be on May 29 - 30. Mr. Lucero asked what the registration fee would be. Dr. Widoie said registration is \$90.

Dr. Widoie said the state's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) division is working on environmental and urban planning to provide solutions for Stakeholders to make sure multimodal solutions provide community preservation, safety and mobility. Dr. Widoie said Mr. Bill Hutchinson is the point of contact at the CSS. Mr. Delmagori said there will be a Scenic Byways public meeting on Wednesday, April 30 from 12-2 at the Civic Center which the Council of Governments is hosting. Mr. Delmagori encouraged everyone to attend.

Dr. Widoie said the Aztec Chamber has submitted an application for scenic byway funding but the State Tourism Department will not move on the application until after the Corridor Management Plan study is complete. Mr. Delmagori said there are copies of the application at the MPO office.

Action: Report was received.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	April 14, 2008

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **MPO Associate Planner.** An update on the hiring process will be provided to the Committee on April 24.
- b. **NW RPO Meeting.** Joe Delmagori attended the monthly RPO meeting in Gallup on April 9. The RPO Annual Work Program involves completing the Corridor Management Plan for the Trail of the Ancients and working on a feasibility study for a Regional Transit District for northwest New Mexico.
- c. **NMDOT BPE Quarterly Meeting.** Aztec will host the next BPE meeting on May 15. Staff will present the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Check the NMDOT website for time and location. All are welcome to attend.
- d. **Other**

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report. The MPO Associate Planner position has been posted.

The RPO is working on the Corridor Management Plan for the scenic byway and a feasibility study for a Regional Transit District. The MPO will provide the RPO with information for these projects.

Mr. Delmagori said the NMDOT BPE Quarterly Meeting will be held in Aztec, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Mr. Delmagori said the MRCOG is offering a tutorial on the Federal Regulations and is coming to the area in May to do the presentation. Mr. Delmagori said everyone is invited and the Technical Committee members and planners are encouraged to attend. Mr. Delmagori said it would be a good way to educate everyone about the regulations.

Action: Report was received.

9. BUSINESS FROM:

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

10. BUSINESS FROM FLOOR: None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Richards motioned and Ms. Baird seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lucero adjourned the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

Secretary, Virginia Turney

Chair pro-tem, Martin Lucero