

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 23, 2009 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Dave Keck, San Juan County
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield
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
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Dee Dee Moore, MPO Admin Aide

Staff Absent: Michael D. Sullivan, MPO Officer

Also Present: Dr. Bob Widoe, NMDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 23, 2009 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting was made by Ms. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Quintana, motion passed unanimously.

3. 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:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	April 14, 2009

BACKGROUND

- Staff has developed a future road network map.
- Staff held three public meetings in February and has met with various stakeholders and organizations in March and April.
- Population and employment data in the MPO boundary has been collected showing change from 2000 to 2008.

CURRENT WORK

- 1) Review the MTP Vision and Mission statements.
- 2) Staff suggestions for additions to the MTP Goals and Objectives are provided.
- 3) Population and employment statistics:
 - Base year data
 - Future projections for years 2015, 2025, and 2035
- 4) MTP Public Participation Surveys:
 - Made available during March and early April via the MPO website and distributed at public destinations
 - Staff is working on analysis of the results
 - Preliminary results will be provided to the Technical Committee
- 5) Transit Plan:
 - Summarize transit needs expressed by the public through the surveys

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Approve MTP Vision and Mission statements and MTP Goals and Objectives.
- Review and approval of population/employment statistics.
- Transit needs assessment for the Transit Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

- MTP Vision and Mission statements.
- MTP Goals and Objectives.
- Population and employment projections

RECOMMENDATION

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

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori questioned whether anyone had changes to make to the Vision and Mission statements. The committee members had no changes and the Vision and Mission statements will remain as written. Mr. Delmagori moved on to the list of Goals and Objectives highlighting the suggested changes or additions to the current list. Discussion was held regarding the implied limitation of mentioning 'Farmington region' in the goals. The concern was it could be conceived that the Farmington MPO only does planning for Farmington. Ms. Lopez suggested changing the name to San Juan Region. Mr. Delmagori said that this could be misleading since the MPO boundaries do not include places such as Shiprock and others far to the south of the county. Mr. Keck suggested keeping Farmington MPO but including the word

Region. The committee came up with three options to present to the Policy Committee. They were: Farmington Region, MPO Region or Farmington MPO Region. Mr. Delmagori moved onto the other items that were labeled as staff suggestions to add to or modify the current MPO Goals and Objectives. Integrating Land Use and Transportation Planning was the first listed bullet for discussion. Mr. Delmagori suggested this be merged into the last goal on page 15 or added in as a self standing goal. Dr. Widoie stated the FHWA and his department recognize this as an important item. Ms. Lopez suggested making it a new goal using the current language on the handout which is: "Integrate transportation and land use planning to improve quality of life and to protect the natural environment."

Ms. Lopez suggested the next bullet looked like it could replace the final objective on page 16 of the Agenda. Ms. Baird shared that one is encouraging the local entities to adopt the plans and the other supports the local plans. Dr. Widoie suggested incorporating both into one objective that would become bi-directional supporting both objectives. Ms. Baird suggested taking Dr. Widoie's advice and merging the two objectives into one. The Committee agreed to merge the two statements so that the revised objective would read: "Encourage the local entities to integrate regional transportation policies into their adopted local plans."

Mr. Delmagori moved on to the suggested changes for the next bullet. The committee was in favor of adding the following as its own objective: "Develop strategies to educate the public about how travel choices affect air quality." Mr. Delmagori talked about adding a new goal that states: "Ensure public safety and security for all modes." Dr. Widoie recommended that Safety and Security be separate elements because that was the congressional intent when SAFETEA-LU began. Mr. Delmagori would work out the language and present safety and security as two separate goals to the committee members at the next meeting. As a supporting objective, the Committee accepted a new objective that states: "Promote safety design practices for all modes."

The final bullet was a suggested new objective that said: "Implement Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies for improving the safety and security of transportation modes. Mr. Keck informed Mr. Delmagori that the committee would accept the language and the suggestion of a new objective.

Mr. Lucero presented the San Juan County Socio-Economic Profile to the committee. The graphs reflect the time period from 1970 to 2008. The recession periods were indicated on the graphs by a thick vertical bar. The actual census numbers were included at their corresponding years. The graphs showed population, employment, and income trends. The population took into account birth rates, death rates and migration. In addition, assumptions were made regarding the projections: no annexations would be made by the cities and no new BLM land would be released; no increase in the MPO boundary; and birth/death rates would remain constant. Ms Lopez reminded everyone about the LaPlata Ranch development in northwest Farmington that would be annexing 300 acres. Mr. Keck believed that BLM is interested in trading land to the cities and the county.

Mr. Lucero explained his projections tables. In 2015 the total population for the MPO will be approximately 120,000. In 2020 the MPO population projection grows to 124,000 and in 2035 the population is projected at 137,000. Mr. Keck indicated that once MPO Staff is comfortable with these projections that they should be presented to the City and County Managers. Mr. Quintana asked if the projection growth will provide a multiplier to use with traffic counts. Mr. Lucero stated that those projections are included as part of the transportation system updates and all of the projections will be publicized within the Metropolitan Transportation Planning (MTP) update and be posted on the MPO website. Mr. Lucero concluded by saying once the population numbers are okay and agreed upon, the numbers will need to be distributed to the Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) in the traffic model.

Mr. Delmagori continued with a summary of the survey results. In March, the MPO issued two public surveys, one on general travel characteristics and needed improvements, and one on public transit. A total of 639 surveys were received. Following are the preliminary results:

- 87% responded that they drive alone.
- Typical trip to school or work was less than 10 miles.
- 7-8am was the common departure time from home and after 4pm was typical return to home time.
- Top answers for reducing congestion were: Signal Timing, Road Connectivity and Expansion of the Transit System.
- 65% stated they would not support Toll Roads to pay for new construction.
- 75% of the people said they do not use public transit.
- Of the people who use public transit, 40% said they use it for work and 37% use it for shopping.
- 68% are aware that there is service to outlying cities.
- 73% would like to see additional services, such as service to more places in Farmington and San Juan County, and more frequent service.
- 62% said they would support taxes for transit services and 24% said maybe.

Dr. Widoe asked whether there was a demand response service here because there is funding in the 5310 category. Mr. Lucero stated that there is one.

Action: The report was received.

4. **RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE RENEWAL OF THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA)**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	April 14, 2009

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) is the document that binds the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, and San Juan County to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- The JPA is set to expire on September 30, 2009.
- The JPA explains the responsibilities of the City of Farmington as the fiscal agent and the functions and organizational structure of the Policy and Technical Committees.
- It describes the roles and work products required of the MPO.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Over the next several months, the MPO and its members will review and update the JPA as needed.
- The MPO requests input from its members on potential changes to the JPA.
- Current staff descriptions as outlined in the JPA could be added and modified.
- This would be an opportunity to discuss future staff positions.
- New local funding contribution formulas could be discussed based on population proportions within the member entities.
- NMDOT and the statewide MPOs are holding initial discussions about possible restructuring of PL funding equations, which could provide additional PL funds to the FMPO.
- The renewal process for the JPA will likely conclude in September with adoption of the new JPA by the Policy Committee through resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the fact that the Joint Power Agreement was due to expire in September 30, 2009. Mr. Delmagori outlined a list of potential changes to the JPA as part of the renewal process, including modifying current staff descriptions, expanding staff, and developing new local funding contribution formulas.

Ms. Lopez questioned whether MPO Staff had heard any mention regarding the additional funding that may be available to the MPOs. Mr. Delmagori stated that the MPOs met with the Department of Transportation and it was determined that the FMPO is in line to receive nearly \$109,000 in additional PL for a total of around \$200,000 in PL when approved by DOT for FY2010. Because of this funding it is anticipated that there will be no overmatch due from the entities.

Mr. Delmagori returned to the portion of the JPA that stipulates the semi-annual billing deadlines. Entities have requested that the billings be changed to monthly in order for the billing process to operate better. This will need to be a recommendation that comes out of the JPA renewal process.

Mr. Lucero shared that the additional PL funding could also be used for another staff position within the MPO which would allow current staff to increase the depth of

services currently provided to the MPO members. Dr. Widoe reminded the committee and staff that the last time the JPA was renewed it turned into a very lengthy process.

Action: The report was received.

5. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE NMDOT

Discussion: Dr. Widoe shared that the DOT still had no news in terms of a certified local project list for the ARRA program which remains in the Governors' office. Mr. Keck stated that there is a high level of frustration because of the delays. His office is ready to build and is just waiting for the NMDOT Contracts. Dr. Widoe assured the committee that the contracts are ready and they are waiting for approvals to continue. Dr. Widoe passed around an updated Project Identification Form (PIF). Mr. Keck and Ms. Baird stated that they each had filled one out and returned them to NMDOT yesterday. All of the information collected on the PIF will be directed to the Government Agreement Unit.

Dr. Widoe said his department is doing work on a MPO/RPO Handbook and he requested information and ideas from the committee members for updates. Dr. Widoe touched briefly on the High Priority Projects (HPP) that Congress has requested. He stated that his department was not made aware of the request for projects. Dr. Widoe explained that HPP projects are usually large ticket items above \$50 million and have some relationship to national significance. Dr. Widoe finished his report with what he has heard about AASHTO releasing their recommendations regarding consolidating or integrating smaller MPOs with larger MPOs, which he believes would not work in New Mexico. With the next census count it is possible that Roswell will be designated a MPO.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **FY2010 Budget Scenarios.** NMDOT and the statewide MPOs meet on April 16 to discuss PL funding scenarios. Any possible changes to PL funding for the FMPO will likely be reflected in the FY2010 budget.
- b. **FY2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.** The Policy Committee adopted the new TIP on April 9.

- c. **FY2010 Unified Planning Work Program.** The Policy Committee approved the annual list of planning activities on April 9.
- d. **Safe Routes to School Program Update.** A summary of the latest activities will be provided at the meeting.
- e. **Other.**

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori previously shared the budget scenarios during the report of the Joint Powers Agreement. He stated that the Policy Committee approved both the FY2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the FY2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at their April 9, 2009 Meeting. Mr. Lucero provided a projected student count from Apache Elementary and McKinley Elementary schools. Initial counts show that approximately 10% of the kids are walking. He reminded the Committee that the Safe Routes to School Farmington Walk and Roll Program will be hosting a Bike Rodeo on May 30, 2009 at the Henderson Fine Arts Parking Lot at San Juan College from 10:00 am until 2:00pm. The MPO Staff will have an informational booth available at that event.

7. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Discussion: Ms. Baird brought to the committee's attention that she was contact by the NMED Air Quality Bureau regarding a grant relating to diesel and was interesting in knowing what other entities were contacted. Mr. Keck said that the San Juan County was contacted by Bob Spillers and believes that truck dealers are initiating this because of retrofits for the trucks. Mr. Delmagori shared that MPO Staff has completed pamphlets for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Access Management Plan and the Bike/Pedestrian Plan that will be available during all public events attended by the MPO Staff. Lastly, Mr. Delmagori stated that the Farmington MPO has been in effect for 6 years on April 25, 2009.

8. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Discussion: There was no business from the floor.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Discussion: Ms. Baird made the motion for adjournment, Ms. Lopez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:38am.

Dave Keck, Chairman

Dee Dee Moore, MPO Admin Aide