



AGENDA

Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Committee Meeting

Commission Chambers
San Juan County Administrative Bldg
100 S Oliver
Aztec, NM

April 26, 2007
5:00 p.m.

AGENDA
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 26, 2007 5:00 PM

This meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers, San Juan County Administrative Bldg, 100 S Oliver, Aztec, New Mexico.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Call meeting to order.	
2. Approve the minutes from the March 8, 2007 Policy Committee meeting.	
3. Approve Part 2 to Amendment #1 to the FY2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program - the US 64 Farmington to Bloomfield widening project.	
4. Adopt the FY2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (<i>Resolution 2007-1</i>).	
5. Receive a status report on the GRIP2 transportation bill and adopt a resolution supporting the GRIP2 projects for the Farmington MPO (<i>PC Resolution 2007-2</i>).	
6. Adopt a resolution approving the annual MPO Self-Certification document (<i>PC Resolution 2007-3</i>).	
7. Approve the FY2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).	
8. Hold a discussion on a potential link between Red Apple Transit and the Southern Ute transit authority (<i>Peter Tregillus, SUCAP</i>).	
9. Receive a presentation on the Aztec Vision report.	
10. Receive a presentation on the principles of access management.	
11. Receive a status report on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and the public advisory group.	
12. Receive the FY2007 UPWP 3rd Quarter Report.	
13. Receive a report on Red Apple Transit.	
14. Receive a report from NMDOT. a. District 5 (<i>Phil Gallegos</i>) b. Planning Division (<i>Bob Widoe</i>)	

15. Information Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Safe Routes to School Program Guideline Applications. b. Safety Projects for the Farmington MPO. c. Traffic Count Database System (TCDS) software. d. MPO Quarterly - Hosted by Farmington MPO on June 25, 2007. e. NMDOT Transportation Commission Meeting - July 19 in Farmington. f. Other 	
16. Business from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chairman b. Members c. Staff 	
17. Business from the Floor	
18. Adjournment	

ATTENTION PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the MPO Officer at the Farmington Community Development Office, 805 Municipal, Farmington, New Mexico, at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the MPO Officer at the Farmington Community Development office if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: FY2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #1 (Part 2) - US 64 Farmington to Bloomfield Phase 1
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:
The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) requested modifications to the US 64 Farmington to Bloomfield project due to reductions in Federal obligation limits. The second part to Amendment #1 modifies the funding and scope to the US 64 Farmington to Bloomfield Phase 1 project. This project had been re-advertised so as to include the change in the project scope that was not described in the original public notice.

The following table highlights the proposed changes to the US 64 Farmington to Bloomfield Phase 1 project:

Project Description	Current Funding		Proposed Funding		Current Scope	Proposed Scope
	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008		
US 64 - Farmington to Bloomfield, Phase 1	\$ 5,800,000	\$ -	\$ 2,733,171	\$ 3,757,165	Reconstruct the US 64/Browning intersection and widen US 64 from Browning Pkwy to 1.4 miles east	Reconstruct the US 64/Browning intersection and widen the road to the east for a distance to be determined
TOTAL FUNDING	\$ 5,800,000		\$ 6,490,336			

The 30-day comment period for part two to Amendment #1 opened on Sunday, February 25, 2007 and ended on Friday, March 30, 2007. The public notices were advertised in the Farmington Daily-Times, the MPO website, and city/county halls in the area, as described in the PPP.

The public hearing was held during the MPO Technical Committee meeting on March 22, 2007. A comment was received by Phil Gallegos, Assistant District Engineer for District 5, that additional funding for right-of-way (ROW) acquisition in the amount of \$52,500 would be added to Phase 1. This change will be reflected in the TIP through an administrative adjustment. A member of the public asked if this project would shut down access to Monroe St. Each comment was received and address by the Technical Committee.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the MPO Policy Committee approve the second part to Amendment #1 into the FY 2007-2012 TIP.

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: FY2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:
The MPO is taking the final steps to adopt the FY2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program, which is the list of projects expected to be completed in the next six years. The attached table indicates the status of the TIP process.

To match SAFETEA-LU requirements, the TIP includes a priority list of projects for the MPO, a table showing completed projects in FY2006-2007, and projects delayed in FY2006. As determined by the Technical Committee on March 2, there are four priority lists for the MPO based on project type: new projects, maintenance projects, airport projects, and enhancement projects. It also includes a financial plan for FHWA funding programmed to the MPO and FTA funding programmed to Red Apple Transit. For reference, Appendix A will be included in the TIP to list Non-Regionally Significant projects and Unfunded projects.

Upon review of the TIP by MPO staff and the Technical Committee, several suggested changes to the TIP Introduction have been made and will be reviewed. Additions are shown with an underline and deletions are shown with a strikethrough. In addition, in the past month minor changes have been made to project information:

- NMDOT informed the MPO that additional funding for ROW acquisition in the amount of \$52,500 will be provided for the US 64 Farmington to Bloomfield project.
- FMPO GRIP2 projects will be included as placeholders until the exact funding year is known.
- Based on public comment, funding for Hood Mesa Trail in Farmington was shifted to accurately reflect that it is for preliminary engineering rather than construction funding.

A copy of the final draft TIP with updated changes will be provided under separate cover to the Policy Committee members. The Policy Committee will be asked to review the TIP at the April 26 meeting.

The 30-day public comment period for the FY2008-2013 TIP opened on Sunday, March 11, 2007 and ended on Tuesday, April 10, 2007. Copies of the TIP along with comment forms were made available on the MPO website, the city/county hall buildings, the area libraries, and the Community Development and MPO offices. The public hearing on the FY2008-2013 TIP was held during the MPO Technical Committee meeting on March 22, 2007. A summary of public comments is attached and will be included with the FY2008-2013 TIP document.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the MPO Policy Committee adopt the FY2008-2013 TIP through PC Resolution 2007-1.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject: GRIP2 Transportation Bill
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:

The Governor Richardson Investment Partnership (GRIP2) is a state-funded bonding program intended to assist local jurisdictions fund their most critical transportation need. During this year's Special Session of the Legislature, the GRIP2 transportation bill was amended by the Senate. The changes resulted in a reduction in overall available funding, the required local matches increased, funding will be dispersed in three years rather than five, and project selection will be competitive based on project readiness and a commitment to the required local match.

The attached summary highlights the significant changes to the bill, which was signed by Governor Richardson on April 17, 2007. Revised funding for the Farmington, Aztec, and San Juan County projects is also attached.

NMDOT has issued project identification forms and instructions on the GRIP2 application process for the local entities to document project readiness and commitment to the local match. The local entities are also requested to pass a GRIP2 resolution through their city council/commission. Upon receiving an award, the entity will need to complete a questionnaire provided by the New Mexico Bonding Attorney. It should be noted that \$75 million of the \$102.8 million allocated to GRIP2 will be awarded in FY2007.

The Policy Committee will be asked to review and adopt a blanket resolution that reiterates support for the local GRIP2 projects in the MPO area. The Resolution will be submitted to NMDOT.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the MPO Policy Committee receive the report on GRIP2 and adopt PC Resolution 2007-2, supporting the Farmington MPO projects in the GRIP2 bill.

MPO ANNUAL SELF-CERTIFICATION

In accordance with 23 CFR 450.334, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Farmington, Aztec, and Bloomfield and the urbanized area of San Juan County hereby certify that the transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

- I. 23 U.S.C. 134
- II. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VI assurance executed by the State of New Mexico under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794;
- III. 49 U.S.C. 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity and Section 324 of 23 U.S.C., prohibiting discrimination based on gender;
- IV. Section 1101 (b) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users and 49 CFR part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funded planning projects (sec. 105(f), Public Law 97-424, 96 Stat. 2100; 49 CFR part 26);

- V. Americans with Disabilities Act and US DOT regulations governing transportation for people with disabilities (49 CFR parts 27, 37, & 38; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973);
- VI. “Anti-lobbying” provisions as described in 49 CFR part 20.

Dr. Jim Henderson
Farmington MPO
Policy Committee Chair

Date

Rhonda Faught
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Department of
Transportation

Date

Supplemental Information for Self-Certification Document

1. Metropolitan Planning - *The MPO shall annually certify to FHWA and FTA that the planning process is addressing major issues facing its area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable transportation planning requirements.*

The Farmington MPO is the designated metropolitan planning organization for the cities of Farmington, Aztec, Bloomfield, and the county of San Juan. The FMPO carries out the planning process through the development of its 25 year Metropolitan Transportation Plan, its short-term Transportation Improvement Program, and yearly Unified Planning Work Program. The MPO explicitly considers the planning factors stated in current federal legislation when developing its plans and programs. The MPO has been addressing new SAFETEA-LU provisions that affect the MPO planning process. The MPO works in consultation with the entities and NMDOT when developing transportation plans and the UPWP. The MPO works cooperatively with its entities through the Technical Committee and Policy Committee. The MPO actively involves the general public through the requirements described in its adopted Public Involvement Plan.

2. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - *Title VI prohibits exclusion from participation in and discrimination under federally assisted programs on grounds of race, color, or nation origin.*

The Farmington MPO involves the public in all relevant projects, activities, and public meetings pursuant to the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and in accordance with the adopted MPO Public Participation Plan. Notices are posted in public buildings and local newspapers and are also posted on the MPO website. Notifications are delivered electronically to those who request them. The MPO will continue these efforts and explore new ways to reach out to the public. Efforts are made to hold meetings at times and at locations that maximize public participation, especially by under-represented groups.

3. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) - *This program ensures equal opportunity in transportation contracting markets, addresses discrimination in transportation contracting, and promotes increased participation in Federally funded contracts by small, socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.*

The City of Farmington procurement process addresses the DBE requirements. The contracting done by the MPO is very limited and highly specialized. The MPO has maintained a contract for the annual traffic count program in the past three years.

4. American with Disabilities Act - *Programs and activities funded with Federal dollars are prohibited from discrimination based on disability.*

All meeting locations are accessible and meeting notices include messages that state accommodations to individuals with disabilities will be made. The MPO actively

solicits input from the disabled community, primarily through its working relationship with the San Juan Center for Independence and others.

5. Lobbying Restrictions - *No appropriated funds by recipients shall be used to pay any person for influencing a federal employee regarding Federal contracts, grants, loans, or cooperative agreements.*

The MPO does not provide funding to people or outside parties to lobby federal officials, organizations, or members of Congress.

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: FY2008 Unified Planning Work Program
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describes the administrative tasks, transportation studies, and other planning activities that staff expects to complete during the coming fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2007. The FY2008 UPWP has been reviewed by staff and the entities in order to be approved by the Policy Committee.

The FY2008 UPWP includes the introduction material, the work products expected to be completed, and estimated FY2008 budget tables. The MPO received estimated FY2008 PL and FTA 5303 funding levels from New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT). Each amount increased slightly over FY2007. For comparison, the FY2007 MPO budget and the anticipated MPO FY2008 budget are shown below:

	FHWA PL	PL/ Traffic Counts	FTA 5303	Total Local Match	Local Overmatch	Total Budget
FY2007	\$86,616	\$10,680	\$19,136	\$21,417	\$110,638	\$248,434
FY2008	\$88,551	\$10,680	\$20,363	\$22,001	\$120,305	\$261,900
Difference	\$1,935	\$0	\$1,227	\$584	\$9,667	\$13,466

The FY2008 UPWP will build upon work conducted by staff in FY2007. Policy development, a line route analysis for Red Apple Transit, GIS development, and assistance with corridor studies are expected to be some of the primary work activities in FY2008 in addition to standard work products and day-to-day operations of the MPO. The FY2008 UPWP will be provided to the Policy Committee under separate cover.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Policy Committee approve the FY2008 Unified Planning Work Program.

Agenda Item

Subject: Potential link between Red Apple Transit and Southern Ute Transit Authority
Prepared by: Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:

On April 3, 2007, Peter Tregillus, Director of the Southern Ute Community Action Programs (SUCAP), contacted MPO staff about the possibility of investigating transit coordination between Red Apple Transit and Road Runner Transit of the Southern Ute Tribe. Road Runner Transit operates service between Ignacio and Durango, and between Bayfield and Durango.

The purpose of coordinating transit service is to meet the short- and long-term employment transportation needs at the Casino. Currently, it is estimated that 60% of the employees at the Casino are coming from New Mexico via US 550. Mr. Tregillus noted that the Southern Ute Tribe is expanding its Casino-Hotel-Conference Center and expects to have a construction workforce of 400 employees in June 2007 and a permanent workforce of 600 employees when construction is complete.

SUCAP-Road Runner was one of three entities to receive a short-term technical assistance package for tribal entities from the Community Transportation Association. In the application for the grant, SUCAP noted the high housing costs in Durango and Bayfield and the expectation that a significant amount of the new employees will be coming from northwest New Mexico.

Although the assistance package is temporary, it is expected that the need for casino-hotel-conference center workers will be permanent. The tribe expects to build worker housing for about a quarter of the workforce over the next few years and about a quarter of the workforce already lives near Ignacio. This leaves about 200-300 persons who could commute daily from New Mexico to the casino for work.

The timing of this award complements the NWRPO's proposal of \$50,000 (submitted to the State Legislature by Rep. Patty Lundstrom) for a Regional Transit District (RTD) Feasibility Study. The MPO wants to begin a discussion among the RPO, Red Apple Transit, SUCAP, and other stakeholders about possible coordination across the New Mexico - Colorado borders.

Peter Tregillus with SUCAP will attend the meeting to discuss this idea with the Policy Committee.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee hold a discussion about a potential link between Red Apple Transit and Southern Ute Transit Authority.

Agenda Item

Subject: Aztec Vision Report
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:

The city of Aztec has developed a transportation vision report that describes alternatives to the potential widening NM 516 to six lanes within the city limits. Carlos Betancourth, consultant for Aztec, will give a presentation on some of the findings and alternatives described in the report. Copies of the report will be available at the meeting.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a presentation on the transportation vision report for Aztec.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject: Roadway Access Standards Policy
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:

In the past couple of months, the MPO has been working on developing a roadway access standards policy for this area by completing a scope of work for the policy. The purpose of roadway access standards is to promote safety, maintain capacity, and preserve the function of roads classified as collector and above in the MPO area. A regional policy is expected to be adopted by the local governments and the Policy Committee. The policy would then be applicable to all of these road classifications in the MPO.

Staff has obtained a presentation on the principals of access standards that will help to explain what is involved with the standards. The presentation was created by the Transportation Review Board (TRB) and will be presented during the Policy Committee meeting.

In coming months, staff will be working with entity staff and selected stakeholders to collect data and develop the specifics of the access standards for each road classification. Participants in the advisory group will review the work products and provide input into the process.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive the presentation on the principles of access management.

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: Bike/Pedestrian Plan
Prepared by: Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:

MPO staff held the first kickoff meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAG) on April 2, 2007. This report includes the accomplishments at the first meeting, and the expectations for the next meeting to be held May 7, 2007.

At the April 2, 2007 meeting, MPO staff presented the current status of bicycle and pedestrian components of the transportation system within the MPO boundaries as well as planned future improvements. Staff distributed page-sized base maps of the Farmington, Aztec/Bloomfield, and Kirtland/Fruitland areas so that participants could show their biking and walking routes. Participants were asked to complete and return these maps so the results could be presented at the next meeting. Approximately 9 biking route and 5 walking route maps have been received as of this writing.

During a feedback period on April 2, the participants provided comments that can be grouped into five categories: political and departmental support, challenges, cost-effective strategies, encouragement, and engineering:

Political and departmental support

- Need to have multi-modal education for city officials - mindset change. Educate the elected officials that it doesn't have to be about the car.
- Get city council to back the idea, get them on board.
- BPAG should include: traffic engineers, zoning, police.

Challenges

- Problem is funding to get to the completion phase.
- Challenges to acquiring R-O-W for trails (one unwilling landowner can break the deal).

Cost-effective strategies

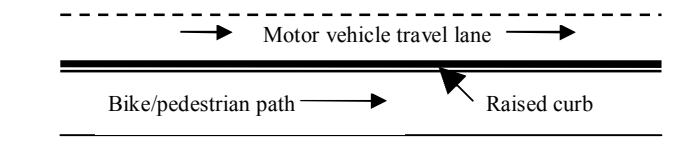
- Get biggest bang for the buck.
- Take advantage of opportunities to build trails concurrently with new development.
- Build bike/walking paths along pipelines, ditches, and other infrastructure.

Encouragement

- Easy to build, example projects will help encourage involvement.
- Have dedicated bike trails/ lanes.
- Roads/ areas for pedestrian/bike improvements (possible example projects):
 - NM 516
 - 20th street
 - US 550
 - Brookside/Apache St. connections and Glade area from Apache Elementary up to Brookside Park
 - Sunrise Parkway between Butler and San Juan College

Engineering

- Need to address ADA compliancy issues - especially for sidewalks, intersections, and access to transit stops.
- Another type of facility is a bike/pedestrian trail that is adjacent to the street; a raised curb separates motor vehicles from bicyclists and pedestrians (see sketch, below).



Because this meeting was delayed, there was not enough time to have break-out group discussions as originally planned. Instead, it was decided to discuss purpose/need, goals, strategies, and desired outcomes at the next meeting.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive the report on the first meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAG).

Proposed Agenda for May 7, 2007 BPAG meeting

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review discussion notes from April 2 meeting
3. Present maps showing biking and walking routes identified by participants - compare against current and future proposed facilities.
4. Form break-out groups to brainstorm drafts of purpose/need statement, goals, strategies, and desired outcomes of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.
5. Reconvene entire group. Break-out groups present results.
6. Summary and discuss next steps for June or July meeting.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject: FY 2007 UPWP 3rd Quarter Report
Prepared by: Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:

FY2007 UPWP 3rd Quarter Report

The Unified Planning Work Program identifies the planning activities to be completed by the MPO. The UPWP 3rd quarter report is a summary of activities completed by the MPO between January 1, 2007 and March 31, 2007. The following list highlights some of the accomplishments:

- MPO staff developed the FY2008 UPWP with the entities.
- The Policy Committee approved the Public Participation Plan (PPP) to comply with requirements stated in SAFETEA-LU.
- The FY2006 Annual List of Federally Obligated Projects was published.
- The MPO received NMDOT approved 2006 traffic count data and posted data on MPO website.
- Policy development began on road access standards and a Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan for the MPO.
- MPO staff conducted several model runs for the Northeast Farmington Access and Circulation Study.

- The Policy Committee approved an amendment to the FY2007-2012 TIP for the Animas River Pedestrian Bridge in Aztec.

The third quarter report will be handed out to the Policy members at the meeting.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive the FY2007 3rd Quarter Report.

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: Red Apple Transit Report
Prepared by: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:

The February and March report on Red Apple Transit ridership statistics and transit cost share for the entities is attached.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive the report.

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: Information Items
Prepared by: Robert Messenger, MPO Associate Planner
Date: April 17, 2007

Background:

- a. **Safe Routes to School Program Guideline Applications.** The guideline and application forms can be found at the NMDOT Safe Routes to School website (www.nmsaferoutes.com).
- b. **Safety Projects for the Farmington MPO.** The list of safety projects submitted by the city of Farmington is attached.
- c. **Traffic Count Database System (TCDS) software.** A link and explanations on how to use this software have been posted on the MPO website.
- d. **MPO Quarterly - Hosted by Farmington MPO on June 25, 2007.**

- e. **NMDOT Transportation Commission Meeting - July 19 in Farmington.** The meeting date has been changed from its original August 16 meeting date. Preparations for the meeting will be a collective effort among the local entities rather than the MPO.
- f. **Other.**

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Policy Committee receive the information.