



# Newsletter

FY2007—4th Quarter April—June 2007

## BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN

The Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (FMPO) has begun to develop a Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan for the MPO area. The purpose of the Bicycle/Pedestrian plan is to improve networks and facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, to improve the safety of these networks, and provide mode choice. The intention is to create a plan that will provide guidance to decision-makers on how to make short- and long-term improvements to encourage greater use of biking and walking modes.

The MPO has created an advisory group, named the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAG), to assist with plan development. The following is a summary of the BPAG meetings:

### April 2, 2007 meeting

This meeting consisted of a Safe Routes to School presentation by Jessica Frost, New Mexico's Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Director, and an overview of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Staff discussed the role of the BPAG and an outline of the planning process over the next few months. The MPO distributed page-sized maps for participants to mark the walking and biking routes that they currently use.

### May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting

Participants in break-out groups developed initial Purpose, Needs, and Goals statements for the plan. The following is a draft of the Purpose statements that the BPAG participants created:

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan is to link communities, provide access to parks, schools and businesses, encourage walking and biking for commuting, and improve the health of the citizens and the communities within the Farmington MPO boundaries.

The BPAG will work on Purpose/Needs and Goals statements at future meetings.

### June 18, 2007 meeting

Staff presented maps that showed where persons currently bike and walk within the MPO (these were based on the maps that participants marked and turned in to the MPO). Next, breakout groups indicated areas for suggested walking and/or biking improvements on the map and prioritized their list of improvements.

At the next meeting on August 20 (location TBD), staff will present the first draft of the Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan. Staff will ask the BPAG to review and modify the purpose, need, goals, and suggested areas for biking and walking improvements. For more information, visit the Bicycle/Pedestrian page at [http://www.farmingtonmpo.org/Bicycle\\_ped\\_plan.html](http://www.farmingtonmpo.org/Bicycle_ped_plan.html)

### **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WORKSHOP**

The NMDOT and the City of Farmington along with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) held a Pedestrian Safety Workshop on June 18-20 at the Farmington Civic Center. Each day around 25 people attended with the purpose of learning how to improve pedestrian safety through better intersection and crosswalk design. Instructors provided many examples of these improvements and exercises were held to identify solutions to local problems. The workshop was a critical step in learning how to plan and design for pedestrian safety and will help the MPO to develop a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. The plan will involve a wide range of stakeholders and include pedestrian policies, countermeasures to reduce the number of crashes, and implementation strategies. It is likely that the Action Plan efforts will be incorporated into the MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

## Aztec Network Study

On June 13, the MPO met with entity staff, NMDOT, and members of the public to summarize the Aztec Vision Report and to receive a status report on the upcoming Aztec Transportation Network Study. The purpose of the vision report and the network study is to identify alternatives to the potential widening of NM 516 within the city limits.

The vision report, titled "Developing a Civic Highway," consists of five main themes:

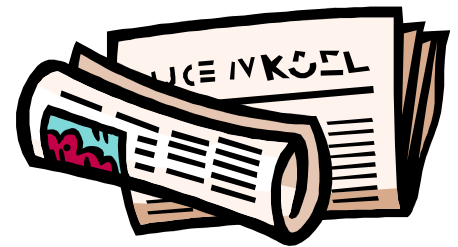
- NM 516 becomes a series of experiences that enhances its surrounding environments in addition to getting vehicles to various destinations.
- A new transportation network should be created that connects local destinations in Aztec without requiring the need to travel on NM 516.
- Investigate alternatives that could increase capacity but not widen the highway.
- A balanced highway should be designed that is favorable to several modes of transportation.
- Intersections should be reconsidered and viewed as activity clusters for the city.

For the Aztec Network Study, NMDOT will take traffic counts and will complete an origin-destination study of existing conditions on the roads. It will help to identify alternatives but will make no recommendations. The area to be studied will include the Flora Vista area on the west, the Aztec City Limits on the north and south, and US 550 to NM 173 on the east. Information gathered in the network study will be given to the MPO to build new scenarios of the area. The study, likely to begin in September, is expected to further build upon concepts described in the vision report.

The NM 516 Corridor Study and the Aztec Urban Study have been stopped due to lack of funding. It may be approximately two years before funding is available. NMDOT is stopping all studies for projects that have not secured construction funding.

## ..... FROM THE MPO NEWSROOM .....

- **MPO Policy Committee Actions on April 26 and June 14;**
  - ◇ Adopted the FY2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program
  - ◇ Adopted a resolution supporting GRIP2 projects for the Farmington MPO
  - ◇ Approved the annual self-certification document
  - ◇ Approved the FY2008 Unified Planning Work Program
  - ◇ Approved the traffic count locations for 2007



- **SAFETEA-LU Compliance** – New requirements applicable to MPO documents set forth by the transportation bill SAFETEA-LU were met prior to the July 1, 2007 deadline.
- **Access Management** – An advisory group meeting was held June 11. Work will first focus on overall policies for the MPO followed by details on standards.
- **MPO Quarterly Meeting** – The Farmington MPO hosted the quarterly meeting of the New Mexico MPOs on June 25. The majority of the meeting focused on the new SAFETEA-LU requirements.
- **NMDOT Transportation Commission** – The City of Farmington will host the monthly meeting of the Transportation Commission on July 19. The City of Aztec will host an outdoor reception the evening before.

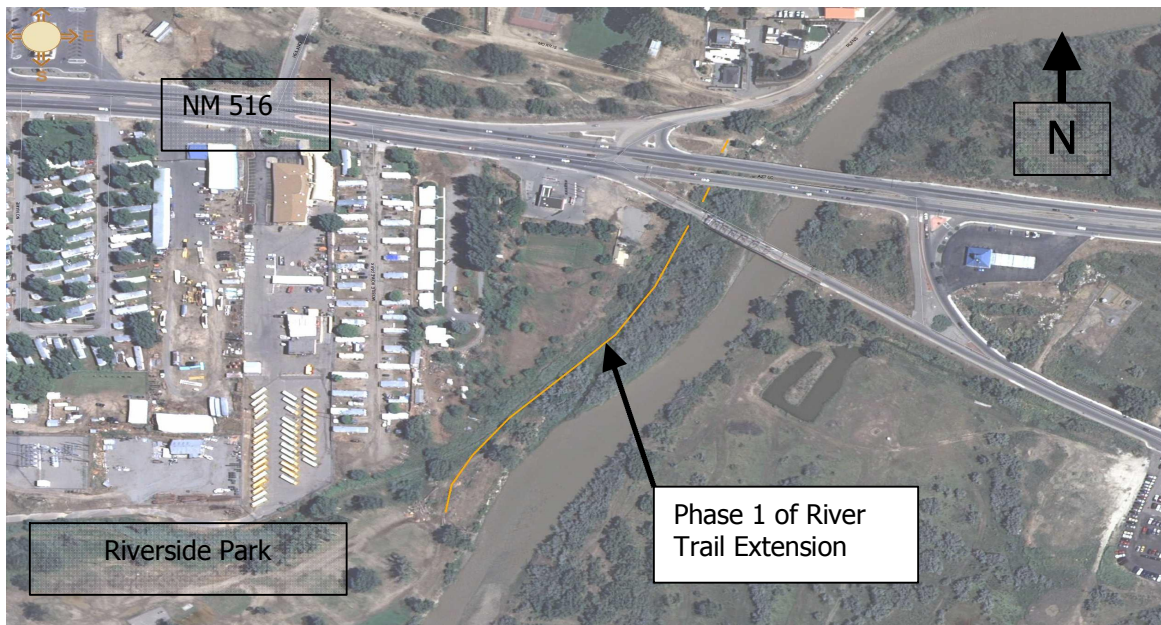
# Aztec Trails and Open Space

The purpose of Aztec Trails and Open Space (ATOS) is to promote and develop public awareness of our natural and cultural resources with dedication to establishing, protecting, and maintaining trails, river restoration and wildlife habitat within Aztec and extending into San Juan County. One of the main tasks of ATOS is the Animas River Trail project, which will be a looped pathway incorporating the most significant and unique assets in the community. The goal of this project is to provide safe and pleasant routes through the city, connecting the Animas River to the Historic Downtown District, Aztec Ruins National Monument, Aztec’s recreational parks and sports facilities, residential areas and local schools.

In May, 2007, ATOS completed part of the River Trail Extension, which is the first piece of the trails project. The River Trail Extension goes from the north

end of the River Trail in Riverside Park, and continues under the old Animas River Bridge (Chaco Street). Eventually this trail will continue north to the Aztec Ruins National Monument (see map, below). During Aztec’s Fiesta Days on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, ATOS provided a float for the parade and had an informational booth with before and after displays of the River Trail Extension.

Future activities of the ATOS include: preparing materials for 501c3 (nonprofit) status, applying for weed spraying grant at open space property south of Riverside Park, finishing work on the north end of the River Trail Extension, and planning outreach events in September and October. The next meeting of ATOS will be at 6 p.m. on July 31, 2007 in the Commission Room of the Aztec City Hall.



## Is this covered under SAFETEA\_LU?

AP Bend, Ore—Last weekend, Kent Couch settled down in his lawn chair with some snacks — and a parachute. Attached to his lawn chair were 105 large helium balloons. Destination: Idaho.

With instruments to measure his altitude and speed, a global positioning system device in his pocket, and about four plastic bags holding five gallons of water each to act as ballast — he could turn a spigot, release water and rise — Couch headed into the Oregon sky.

Photo and Story found at:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/19694083/>



Do you want to be notified of MPO meetings? Would you like to receive a copy of the newsletter? To add your name to our mailing list, just send us an e-mail, write us a letter, stop by our office, send us a fax, fill in the form on the website or give us a call. We'll need to know your name, an address to send the information (either electronically or via mail), and whether you want meeting notification, the newsletter, or both. Here's how to reach us:

<b>Mail:</b> 800 Municipal Drive Farmington, NM 87401 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:vturney@fmtn.org">vturney@fmtn.org</a> <b>Web Page:</b> <a href="http://www.FarmingtonMPO.org">www.FarmingtonMPO.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b> (505) 599-1466 <b>Fax:</b> (505) 599-1299 <b>Office:</b> 100 W. Broadway Farmington, New Mexico 87401	<b>Staff:</b> <b>Charity Fechter:</b> MPO Officer <b>Joe Delmagori:</b> MPO Planner <b>Robert Messenger:</b> MPO Associate Planner <b>Virginia Turney:</b> Administrative Aide
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<b>POLICY COMMITTEE</b> 5:00 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month (except as noted)		<b>TECHNICAL COMMITTEE</b> 10:00 a.m. 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month (except as noted) Executive Conference Room Farmington Municipal Building, 800 Municipal Drive Farmington, New Mexico	
Date	Location	Date	
September 13, 2007	City Council Chambers Bloomfield City Hall 915 N. First St. Bloomfield, New Mexico	July 26, 2007	
		August 23, 2007	
		September 27, 2007	
November 8, 2007	Commission Room Aztec City Hall 201 W. Chaco St	October 25, 2007	
		November 15, 2007 *(3rd Thursday)	
		December 13, 2007 *(2nd Thursday)	



800 Municipal Drive  
 Farmington, NM 87401