

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
May 22, 2008 10:00 A.M.

Members Present: Martin Lucero, City of Farmington
Steve Christensen, City of Aztec
Dave Keck, San Juan County
Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield

Members Absent: None

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
Larry Marcum, Policy Committee
Tonya Olsen, Velo de Animas Bike Club
Keith Ashmore, Velo de Animas Bike Club
Angela Valdez, Wilson & Company
Dave Pennington, D. Pennington & Associates
Larry Joe, Navajo DOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keck called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 24, 2008, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Christensen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lucero, to approve the minutes from the April 24, 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:	May 13, 2008

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- Final elements of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan were researched by staff and discussed with the Technical Committee.

- Staff gave a status report on the plan to the individual councils/commissions in April and May.

CURRENT WORK

- All sections of the Bicycle/Pedestrian plan are completed.
- The final draft of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan was issued for comment and review on May 13.
- Comments and revisions can be provided to the MPO by June 2.
- Staff will review the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan with the Technical Committee on May 22.
- A public hearing on the plan will be held on May 22.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Make any final changes to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan based on comments received by the public and the member agencies.
- Seek adoption of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan through resolution by the Policy Committee on June 12.
- Seek adoption of the plan by the individual governments.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- Final Draft of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan (available on the MPO website - www.farmingtonmpo.org).
- PC Resolution 2008-4 for review.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - Review the final draft of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.
 - Hold a public hearing on the final draft of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.
 - Recommend adoption of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report and said the Technical Committee needs to hold a public hearing as well as recommend adoption of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Keck opened the public meeting.

Mr. Delmagori said he would review the final draft, and would focus on key parts of the plan: identification of projects, review of policies and recommended standards, and implementation and funding strategies. Other aspects of the plan include Safe Routes to School and ADA compliance.

Mr. Christensen asked if the MPO would be the fiscal agent for the regional projects. Mr. Delmagori said the MPO cannot be the lead on any of the projects, but rather all projects must be an entity lead. The MPO can help find funding and help with the regional projects, but the MPO cannot be the lead on projects. Mr. Christensen asked if the MPO would help with the trail between the City of Aztec and City of Bloomfield. Mr. Delmagori said the MPO could help with the application process, data collection and offering support for the project. Mr. Lucero said each entity must be the lead on their part of the project. Ms. Baird said the

MPO should not facilitate the fiscal aspect of the projects because that would add work to both the MPO and the City of Farmington, and it would not be logical for the MPO to be the fiscal manager of a City of Bloomfield or Aztec project because of time and funding constraints. Dr. Widoe said the MPO can't be the fiscal agent for any of the local entities because the MPO is not equipped to handle doing this, plus it would be added work for the MPO and the NMDOT would not approve of the MPO handling entity funds. Mr. Keck said the entities will need to be their own fiscal agents.

Mr. Lucero said there needs to be some coordination between the entities on which projects are being done. Mr. Lucero said the entities need to sit down and discuss which projects will be done and how they will meet, and gave the example of a route the City of Aztec could do that did not coordinate with what the City of Farmington was planning on the same route. Mr. Lucero said he would not like to see mismatched routes because of the lack of coordination. Dr. Widoe said the planners and engineers of the entities would need to be educated. Mr. Christensen said the MPO could function as the coordination point for some of the projects. Ms. Westerling said having the MPO coordinate the projects probably would not sit well with the Commissioners and Councils and it might be better to educate everyone. Mr. Lucero said the MPO could remind the entity staff about the plan to make sure it is not forgotten about and that routes are coordinated and interconnected and just don't end abruptly.

Ms. Baird asked if the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan could be reviewed and updated. Mr. Delmagori said on page 39 it says the plan can be updated. Ms. Westerling said the plan should be reviewed when necessary and no timeframe should be associated with it, because there could be available funding that would require changes to the project list to be updated in the plan. Mr. Christensen agreed and said with funding being changed on most projects it would be good to review it more than once every three years. Ms. Westerling said the most feasible projects would be the ones that got done first. Mr. Christensen said asking for Federal and State funding would get fairly limited results and the entities are going to need to ask for the public sector to help fund some of the projects.

Mr. Keck said when the plan is presented to the Commissions and Councils the MPO should do a simple presentation and that most Commissioners and Councils will be overwhelmed by the plan. Ms. Westerling said it is a plan that may take 15-20 years to complete, but it is a plan and that could be emphasized to the Commissions and Councils.

Mr. Christensen said the cost of maintaining projects will be a bigger cost in the long run over the capital outlay funding for the projects, and this will need to be sold to the Commissions and Councils as a viable form of transportation. Mr. Lucero said once the plan is in place it will be easier to require bicycle and pedestrian facilities which will make it easier to fund. Mr. Christensen agreed and said once the road is built going back to retro-fit or redo a road often becomes a legislative action for funding. Ms. Westerling said it would be easier to pressure contractors to put the facilities in up front than to ask for the facilities later.

Mr. Christensen said the MPO needs to produce a conceptual map of where the regional routes would be located so the entities could have some idea where they would need to plan for those facilities. Mr. Lucero said the maps in the plan show most of those facilities. Mr. Christensen said he did not feel they were detailed enough maps. Mr. Lucero said the MPO does not have the authority to determine exactly where the routes will be located and that responsibility falls upon the local entity planners and engineers. Ms. Westerling added that

once the routes are set there would not be enough leeway to adjust the routes if necessary and she would rather leave the routes somewhat vague. She mentioned it is important that the plan identifies corridors to preserve for future improvement. Ms. Westerling said an example is if the routes were set then there could be topography and right-of-way issues the MPO could not have control over, and it would end up making the Commissions and Councils grant variances and the routes would never be complete. Ms. Westerling said if there is a general area for the routes the entities can plan roads and trails that they will be able to ensure are implemented. Mr. Christensen asked if the MPO could do the work to ensure all the trails matched. Dr. Widoie said the MPO could not do this as it would be too big of a task, and said the Albuquerque and El Paso MPO's are the only one's in the state that have the workforce and the funding to do such a task.

Mr. Ashmore asked if all the current trails were mapped yet. Mr. Delmagori said that all the trails were not mapped yet. Mr. Ashmore said it would be good to have a bike/pedestrian trail map with all the trails listed and available on GPS. Mr. Keck said that would be best.

Mr. Ashmore asked what maps had been used to put the BPAG maps together. Mr. Delmagori said staff used GIS and the area's aerial maps and had gone through the entities maps of bike routes.

Mr. Delmagori asked if the Technical Committee wanted to review the project list to see if any projects could be cut. Ms. Westerling said she did not want any projects cut, but that the projects should be done when funding becomes available. Mr. Lucero said the entities need to look at the maps and make sure the regional routes are matching when they get built. Mr. Ashmore suggested that the MPO monitor projects that interact with the plan so the MPO can alert the entities of the projects being compatible. Mr. Christensen agreed and said that the entities will need to coordinate with each other to make sure the trails meet properly, but the entities need to have some leeway on the regional trails. Mr. Keck said the entities will need to review new subdivisions to make sure they do not conflict with the plan. Ms. Westerling said that reviewing the subdivision and working with the contractors would be strictly up to the entities and is not part of the MPO scope of work. Mr. Delmagori agreed. Dr. Widoie said the NMDOT will not support the MPO doing the entity planning for the plan.

Ms. Baird said when the Policy Committee adopts the BPP there needs to be methods to give the entity planners some flexibility to work with developers. Ms. Westerling agreed and said that to make sure the projects are contiguous there will need to be some flexibility for the planners as new subdivisions will not be contiguous. Ms. Westerling said it could be difficult to get the councils and commissions to agree with the plan. Dr. Widoie said the case for improvements needs to be highlighted as a selling point.

Mr. Christensen said another problem may be the right-of-way issues. Ms. Westerling said there might be problems with the residential right-of-way. Mr. Keck said the other right-of-way issue is the BLM letting land and that might be a conflict with the plan if the patent easements are not retained. Ms. Westerling said the City of Farmington is making sure those easements are retained at this point. Ms. Baird suggested the MPO ask the BLM to preserve the open space. Ms. Westerling said the BLM needs to know about the plan then the BLM can show the plan to potential developers.

Mr. Delmagori said a new bullet could be added to require the Bike/Pedestrian Plan be part of the entity review process. Ms. Westerling said it needs to be a policy not a standard.

Mr. Ashmore asked if there are any plans to add a bike lane on NM 516 between Villa View and Old Aztec Hwy because there is no shoulder past the quarter mile of shoulder by Villa View. Mr. Ashmore said not having any shoulder on the road makes it very dangerous and he was surprised there has not been a fatality on the road. Mr. Martinez suggested Mr. Ashmore contact Mr. John McElroy of the NMDOT, as there will be some smaller repaving projects on 516 and the shoulders could be discussed. Mr. Martinez said the main 516 project has been put on hold and if anyone needed to discuss the project they could contact either Mr. McElroy or Mr. Gabaldone.

Mr. Ashmore said the re-striping of Pinon Hills Boulevard off of Butler Avenue needs to be changed because the merge point is at the top of hill making it hard to see if any bicyclists are using the bike lane because drivers are using the bike lane as a merge lane. Mr. Lucero said he could contact Steve Krest and discuss it with him, but it was striped this way because there were no other options as the city is out of right-of-way.

Mr. Keck closed the public hearing. Mr. Delmagori said the plan would be brought to the Policy Committee in June for adoption.

Action: Mr. Lucero motioned and Ms. Baird seconded the motion to recommend adoption of the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan with the amended bullet to the policy suggested by Ms. Westerling, that the entities will review the plan when reviewing new subdivisions. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. EAST ARTERIAL PROJECT
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	East Arterial Project
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 13, 2008

BACKGROUND

- The East Arterial project will be a relief route on the southeast side of Aztec to provide truck traffic with an alternative route around Aztec.
- The project will connect US 550 south of Aztec to NM 173 east of Aztec.
- The City of Aztec has hired Wilson & Co. to perform preliminary engineering on the project.
- Representatives from Wilson and Co. and the sub-consultant Pennington & Associates will give a presentation on the project to the Technical Committee on May 22.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a presentation on the East Arterial project.

Discussion: Ms. Angela Valdez introduced herself and Mr. Dave Pennington. Ms. Valdez said she would give a brief presentation on the East Arterial project in Aztec. Ms. Valdez said the City of Aztec wants the project so heavy truck traffic can be diverted from downtown Aztec. Souder, Miller and Associates have identified the route and Wilson & Company has done a preliminary design plan. The corridor will have a 45 mile per hour speed limit for most of the road but will drop down to 35 miles per hour at the ends of the corridor. The project will run from the east side of US 550 onto City, BLM and private land and reconnect at NM 173 back to US 550. The City of Aztec has identified two athletic facilities to be located along the road. Ms. Valdez reiterated this project is still in preliminary stages and there will need to be a great deal of earth work and slope grades changed. Ms. Valdez said according to the schedule the environmental assessment will be done in July 2008, 30% of the design will be completed by August 2008, and the first phase of the design and engineering work will be completed by October 2008.

Mr. Keck asked if the rebuilding of NM 173 was also part of the project. Mr. Marcum said the City of Aztec would help with that rebuilding portion of the project. Mr. Christensen said the City of Aztec is looking for funding, but since the project has only 30% of the design work done some funding might become available in time.

Mr. Martinez said the funding will be fiscally constricted for the next few years and had shrunk from the 2004 amount of \$35 million down to \$18 million for all the projects in the district. Mr. Martinez said the state is basically only thinking about maintenance projects at this point. Ms. Westerling asked what the status of GRIP 2 is. Dr. Widoe said the most of the bonds were sold in December but there will be a final bond sale in June which could increase funding by \$3-4 million only. Mr. Christensen asked if the earmark for the East Arterial project would be jeopardized. Mr. Martinez said it would not be jeopardized. Ms. Westerling said the private sector could be asked to help fund the project.

Mr. Keck asked if the intersection of NM 173 and US 550 would be signalized. Mr. Christensen said it would be signalized.

Ms. Westerling asked if there has been any feedback regarding the need of the arterial. Mr. Christensen said both Fed-Ex and Pepsi have shown interest in the project. Mr. Delmagori said the initial surveys issued by Aztec indicate the road would be used.

Ms. Westerling said there will need to be an access plan to limit access to the road or it could end up much like 20th Street in Farmington. Mr. Pennington said the plan is to develop access points and the Access Management Plan being developed by the MPO will help determine those access points. Mr. Christensen said both the AMP and City of Aztec land use policies are being used to determine access. Mr. Christensen said a good portion of the land is owned by the BLM. Dr. Widoe said the BLM is beginning to sell their land. Mr. Martinez said there may be issues with access if there is no zoning on BLM land. Ms. Westerling said the City of Aztec could annex the land into the city.

Mr. Pennington said it would not be hard to use the AMP standards on this project. Ms. Westerling asked if walking and biking facilities have been considered for this project. Mr. Christensen said they have been considered and will be located off site on a trail. Mr. Lucero said that would work well but the access must be managed so there won't be too many access

points that will interfere with the ability to walk and bike the corridor. Mr. Delmagori said Mr. Tim Rogers at NMDOT has more information on side-paths if needed.

Action: Report was received.

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

Subject:	Access Management
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 12, 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.
- A status report on access management development has been provided to the four local councils/commissions

CURRENT WORK

- The MPO is finalizing typical urban and rural road sections based on changes discussed at the April 24 Technical Committee meeting.
- Spacing standards will be developed 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 (to be provided at the meeting).
- Intersection spacing standards from NMDOT and other MPOs.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - Finalize typical road sections for access management.
 - Review and develop spacing standards for access management.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori said he researched the standards from the NMDOT and other MPO's for basic types of road sections, driveway spacing and other access management issues. Mr. Martinez said the road section drawings need a 2% crown specifically mentioned and the crowns need to drain to the outside gutters or they will be built wrong. Mr. Delmagori said he would add those slope requirements. Ms. Westerling said there needs to be a note on the section types so the engineers will have some flexibility on cut slopes.

Mr. Keck asked if county standards were taken into consideration for the rural areas. Mr. Delmagori said they were and the paved sloped shoulders have been added to 2-lane rural local road sections. Mr. Keck said asking for the paved shoulders may be a problem in really rural areas. Ms. Westerling said there needs to be an exemption clause for the shoulders. Mr. Keck said that was a good idea. Ms. Westerling said it would be better to have some flexibility or the Policy Committee and Council/Commissions will not approve the plan, or will grant too many exemptions.

Mr. Martinez said the curb and gutter needs to be shown differently to mark what they look like. Ms. Westerling agreed and said the engineering department could help with the drawing if needed.

Mr. Keck said there needs to be examples of the types of roads listed. Ms. Westerling agreed. Ms. Baird said good and bad examples should be given, if possible. Ms. Westerling said that 20th Street could be used as an example of bad access management.

Ms. Baird asked if the Policy Committee has been updated. Mr. Delmagori said the MPO has been updating the Policy Committee. Mr. Lucero asked if there had been any major objections to the plan. Mr. Delmagori said there has not been any major objections. Mr. Lucero said the AMP will affect local roads and will help with standardization of the roads. Mr. Keck said the Councils and Commissions will need to adopt the plan and perhaps the plan should be presented stating all the benefits including how it would help development in the future. Ms. Westerling said both the Policy Committee and Councils/Commission will need to be sold on the positive features of the AMP. Ms. Baird said that a power-point presentation would be useful to take to the Councils and Commissions.

Dr. Wideo introduced Mr. Larry Joe of the Navajo Nation DOT. Mr. Joe said that he liked the Plan and would like to work with the MPO and NMDOT.

Mr. Delmagori asked if the Technical Committee would like to hold a separate work session to finish reviewing and changing the AMP. Ms. Westerling agreed. Mr. Delmagori asked if the work session would be held on June 3, 2008. The Technical Committee agreed.

Action: Ms. Westerling called for a Technical Committee work session to be held on June 3, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the Downtown Center Conference.

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

Subject:	Regional Travel Model Update
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 13, 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

- PTV and MPO staff discussed solutions to resolve areas of the network where there is considerable difference between the model volumes and the actual traffic counts.
- PTV is finalizing calibration of the AM and PM peak hour models.
- Mid-forecast year (~2012) land use data has been provided to PTV.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- The MPO will conduct final reviews of AM/PM peak hour model calibration and validation process.
- PTV will work to develop the Daily model component.
- Mid-forecast and long-range forecast scenarios will be completed by PTV.
- PTV will create documentation reports and provide final versions of the new traffic model.
- All work expected to be completed by the end of May.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the report.

Action: Report was received.

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

Subject:	Red Apple Transit
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 12, 2008

RED APPLE UPDATE

- Between February and April, ridership has remained steady at around 9,200 passengers.
- Bobcat ridership increased 20% from March to April; Bronco and Tiger ridership stayed relatively the same.
- The ridership report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori said the ridership stayed steady for the months of April and May.

Action: Report was received.

8. **NMDOT REPORT**

Discussion: Mr. Martinez said he had nothing to report.

Dr. Wideo said Mr. Moses Mondary had moved to the New Mexico State Parks and Recreation Department.

Dr. Wideo said the earmarks have been added to the STIP, except there was one mistake the state made to the Pinon Hills Boulevard project, which would be fixed through an administrative change.

Dr. Wideo said that a Suzy Glucksman called asking about the earmarks. Dr. Wideo added she was not from Senator Bingaman's office or any office he was in contact with and asked if the Technical Committee knew who she was. Mr. Keck said he had not heard the name before and asked if any of the Technical Committee members know who she is to let Dr. Wideo know.

Dr. Wideo said the project certification deadline is August 15. There will be a building better streets conference in Albuquerque on May 29 and 30. Mr. Lucero said he had received an email about the conference.

Action: Report was received.

9. **INFORMATION ITEMS**
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 12, 2008

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **MPO Associate Planner.** An update on the hiring process will be provided to the Committee on May 22.
- b. **FY2009-2014 TIP and FY2009 UPWP.** The adopted Transportation Improvement Program and the approved Unified Planning Work Program are available on the MPO website (www.farmingtonmpo.org).
- c. **FY2008 UPWP 3rd Quarter Report.** The summary of activities and expenditures by the MPO during January-March is now available on the MPO website.
- d. **Federal Earmarks and the STIP.** The NMDOT Transportation Commission took action to amend the STIP at their May 15 meeting. The amendment adds the local federal earmarks into the STIP.
- e. **Joint Policy/Technical Committee Meeting.** Staff will determine a meeting date with the committee members on May 22. The joint meeting will likely occur in July.
- f. **Other**

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori said there have been five applications received for the MPO Associate Planner.

Mr. Delmagori said TIP and UPWP were approved by the Policy Committee and can be found on the MPO website, as can the 2008 UPWP 3rd Quarter report.

Mr. Delmagori said the Federal Earmarks have been added to the STIP by the NMDOT.

Mr. Delmagori said a joint Technical Committee/Policy Committee meeting will be likely scheduled in July.

Dr. Widoe said the NMDOT is teaming with New Mexico First to hold a town meeting on sustainable transportation, with a two-day conference to process the transportation needs of the region. This plan is an outgrowth from HM35. Dr. Widoe said the meeting will be held between August 7-9.

Action: Report was received.

10. BUSINESS FROM:

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

11. BUSINESS FROM FLOOR: None

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Westerling motioned and Mr. Lucero seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Keck adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Secretary, Virginia Turney

Vice chair, Dave Keck