

**Minutes
Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Committee Meeting
June 12, 2008**

The Policy Committee of the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization met on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room, 800 Municipal Drive, Farmington, New Mexico.

Members Present: Chairman, Sam Hinson, City of Bloomfield
Mayor William Standley, City of Farmington
Dr. Henderson, San Juan County
Larry Marcum, City of Aztec

Members Absent: Dan Darnell, City of Farmington

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

Staff Absent: Mike Sullivan, MPO Officer

Also Present: Dr. Bob Widoe, NMDOT
Wanda Bengfort, Velo de Animas
Jessica Bengfort, Velo de Animas
Tonya Olsen, Velo de Animas
Keith Ashmore, Velo de Animas
Ed Horvat, River Reach Foundation
Roger Drayer, City of Farmington - PRCA
Gordon Glass
Fran Fillerup, City of Farmington
David Hamlow
Heidi Roderick
Daisy Swadesh
Beth McNally

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hinson called the June 12, 2008, Policy Committee meeting to order at 5:37p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE April 16, 2008, POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Henderson motioned and Mr. Marcum seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2008, meeting.

**3. BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 4, 2008

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- Final elements of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan were completed by staff.
- The final draft of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan was issued for public comment from May 13 to June 2.
- Staff gave a status report on the plan to the individual councils/commissions in April and May.
- A public hearing on the plan was held during the Technical Committee meeting on May 22; comments and changes have been incorporated into the plan.

CURRENT WORK

- All sections of the Bicycle/Pedestrian plan are completed.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan has four key components:
 - 1) Purpose/Need and Goals/Objectives for why the plan was developed.
 - 2) Proposed improvements to preserve future corridors and create a regional and local walking and biking network.
 - 3) Policies and recommended standards to guide bicycle and pedestrian project development.
 - 4) Funding and Implementation strategies on how to carry out the plan.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Seek adoption of the plan by the individual governments to establish support for the plan.
- Identify one or more projects from the plan that could be completed in the near term.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- Final Draft of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan (provided to Policy members; also available on the MPO website – www.farmingtonmpo.org).
- PC Resolution 2008-4 for review.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee adopt the Farmington MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan (*PC Resolution 2008-4*).

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report and said the final draft of the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan (BPP) has been issued to the public for comment. Mr. Delmagori went over the time line of events and changes for the BPP. Mr. Delmagori said projects have been identified and broken down into regional and local categories. The policies and standards have been reviewed and changed by both committees and the MPO has identified funding sources. The implementation strategies have also been discussed with the entities and will coincide with the Access Management Plan. Mr. Delmagori said he would like to thank the Technical Committee and the Bicycle Pedestrian Group for all their hard work in developing the BPP.

Mr. Hinson opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Gordon Glass of the BPAG committee said he would like to thank the MPO for the work done on the plan. Mr. Glass said the public will appreciate the efforts which took a lot of patience on the MPO's part. Mr. Glass said he would like to see all of the new standards and policies implemented in new developments. Mr. Glass added that it would be a good idea to get at least one project done as quickly as possible so the citizens can see progress being made and to show that the plan has a purpose. Mr. Glass suggested the first project should be the bike lanes on Sunrise Parkway between Butler Avenue and San Juan College. Mr. Glass also suggested the path between Aztec and Bloomfield would be a good project to be completed because it would have a high number of people who would use it.

Mr. Ed Horvat said he was the President of the River Reach Foundation and said the BPP is needed for quality of life in the area. Mr. Horvat said the River Reach Foundation really likes the BPP, but the routes along the river corridor need to be added. Mr. Horvat said he understood the issues regarding right-of-way and access along the river corridor, but he would like to have the project kept in mind for the future. Mr. Hinson said the right-of-way issues have been a problem along the river corridor for many years. Mr. Marcum agreed and said it would be nice to have a path along the entire corridor.

Mr. Hinson said he appreciated everyone's work and efforts that were put into the BPP. Mr. Horvat said the MPO has done a great job with the BPP.

Mr. Keith Ashmore said he was from Velo de Animas and he would like to see at least one project done within the next 12 months. Mr. Ashmore said that he has seen plans for bike paths before but nothing was ever completed. Mr. Ashmore agreed with Mr. Glass about the project on Sunrise Parkway being done. Mr. Ashmore said the developers need to take the BPP, the MPO and the entities seriously when they are asked to put in the paths. Mr. Ashmore added he hoped the entities would enforce the plan and not allow loop holes so developers won't have to keep up with the plan. Mr. Ashmore said having walking and biking paths and bike lanes will increase the quality of life in the area. Mr. Ashmore said the entities need to petition for funding from other sources, including earmarks. Mr. Hinson said that funding will be one of the biggest factors in the projects being completed.

Mr. Fran Fillerup said he encouraged the entities to be on board with the BPP and said the public needs to stay involved with the plan. Mr. Fillerup said the MPO really needs to push this plan to the Commissions and Councils. Mr. Ashmore added that citizens need to support the plan. Mr. Ashmore said he has seen an increase in people biking and walking to work, so people are commuting not just riding and walking for exercise. Mr. Ashmore added the MPO should get pictures of commuters who walk and bike to work in the area to show the Commissions and Councils. Mr. Hinson said with the cost of gas continually rising there will be more and more people biking and walking to work.

Mr. Marcum asked how the MPO was going to make sure the process is completed and the BPP won't be forgotten by the entities. Mr. Delmagori said he would like to see the planners in the entities be required to send the plans to the MPO for review on larger developments. Mr. Marcum asked how the MPO would close the loop so the plan will be coherent. Mr. Delmagori said the Technical Committee will need to also be involved and will need to ask the MPO for help.

Ms. Swadesh said she had been biking in the area for over 25 years and feels the BPP plan will help with the development of bike and walking paths, especially in Farmington. Ms. Swadesh

added the railroad rights-of-way should have been maintained years ago and it is too bad that people did not have any foresight at the time to hang onto those rights-of-way.

Dr. Widoe said he wanted to congratulate the MPO, the Policy Committee and the Technical Committee as well as the BPAG for getting the plan done. Dr. Widoe said the plan will help the area and the NMDOT likes to see this type of planning.

Mr. Delmagori thanked the BPAG group for all its effort in the development of the BPP.

Action: Dr. Henderson motioned and Mayor Standley seconded the motion to adopt the Farmington MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan (*PC Resolution 2008-4*). The motion passed unanimously.

**4. BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS LETTER OF SUPPORT
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Bicycle Improvements Letter of Support
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 4, 2008

CURRENT WORK

- During development of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, a local bicycle club brought to the attention of the MPO a concern about bicyclist safety on East Main.
- Westbound on East Main from Villa View to Old Aztec Hwy does not have a paved shoulder for bicyclists.
- The bike club mentioned cyclists often share the travel lane with motorists when riding into Farmington.
- The MPO would like to submit a letter of support to District 5 for securing funding for bicycle improvements to this segment of East Main.

ATTACHMENTS

- MPO Letter of Support.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve the Letter of Support for bicycle facility improvements on East Main between Villa View and Old Aztec Hwy.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report and letter of support for the bicycle facility improvements on East Main between Villa View and Old Aztec Hwy.

Action: Mayor Standley motion and Dr. Henderson seconded the motion to approve the Letter of Support for the bicycle facility improvements on East Main between Villa View and Old Aztec Hwy. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

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

Subject:	Access Management
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 4, 2008

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- Access Management policies have been finalized with the Technical Committee.
- Definitions and functions for eight road classifications have been completed.
- Standards and objectives to support the policies have been identified.
- A status report on access management development was presented to the individual councils/commissions in April and May.

CURRENT WORK

- Typical road sections for the classifications have been finalized with the Technical Committee.
- It was agreed to accept intersection and driveway spacing standards used by NMDOT for the MPO.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Develop corner clearance standards.
- Access management standards for medians.
- Develop Access Management Plan document for entity and NMDOT review.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- Summary of draft policies and standards.
- Intersection and driveway spacing standards.
- Typical urban and rural road section diagrams.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a status report on access management.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report and a recap of recent access management development. Mr. Delmagori said the Technical Committee has finalized the Access Management policies. The Definitions and functions for eight road classifications have been completed. The Technical Committee has identified standards and objectives to support the policies. MPO staff reported on the status of the Access Management Plan to the individual councils/commissions during the month of May..

Mr. Delmagori said the Technical Committee has finalized the road sections and has come up with three classifications for urban roads, four classifications for rural roads and a frontage road classification. The Technical Committee agreed to use the NMDOT standards for intersection and driveway spacing.

Mr. Marcum asked if the 12-foot travel lanes would have the typical 4-foot buffer for the bike lanes or if there will be a buffer between the bike land and traffic lane. Mr. Delmagori said the bike lanes will mostly be adjacent to the road. Mr. Delmagori said sidepaths are good for limited access roads, but on roads with several access points the bike lane should be placed within the road sections.

Action: Report was received.

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

Subject:	Regional Travel Model Update
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 4, 2008

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- PTV America was contracted to update and expand the travel model for the MPO.
- Staff has reviewed the network calibration work performed by PTV.
- 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.

CURRENT WORK

- Mid-forecast year (~2014) and revised long-range forecast (2030) land use data provided to PTV.
- Mid-forecast and long-range forecast scenarios completed by PTV.
- AM/PM peak hour models and a 24-hour daily model are in the validation stage.
- PTV is finalizing calibration/validation processes for the AM/PM peak hour and 24-hour models.
- Final documentation on the model update is being provided to the MPO.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Final reviews of work conducted by PTV.
- Use the updated and expanded model for model run requests by the entities.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report. Mr. Delmagori said the MPO will be reviewing the calibration of the travel model with PTV. Once the final model update is complete the MPO will be able to do model run requests. The update will also expand the MPO's modeling capabilities to include A.M. and P.M. peak hour and daily information.

Action: Report was received.

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

Subject:	East Arterial Project
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 4, 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 gave a presentation on the project to the Technical Committee on May 22.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The East Arterial project will provide access to new athletic fields and reservoir.
- Consultants currently working on environmental assessment: slope, drainage, vegetation, and ROW needs.
- Environmental work will take place during the summer.
- The project will use access control to limit driveways and intersections.
- The proposed cross section calls for a two travel lanes, median, shoulders, and a parallel, multi-modal sidepath.
- The East Arterial will likely open this area of Aztec to new economic development opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a status report on the East Arterial project in Aztec.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report. Mr. Hinson asked if the route would reconnect with U.S. 550. Mr. Delmagori said the route will connect to New Mexico 173 and then back to U.S. 550.

Action: Report was received.

8. TRANSIT ACTIVITIES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Transit Activities
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 4, 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.

REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

- The NWNMCOG is investigating a feasibility study for the development of a Regional Transit District (RTD) in northwest New Mexico.
- An RTD is an agreement among two or more government entities to have authority to finance, plan, construct, operate, maintain, and promote a regional transit system.
- Staff met with a consultant working with NWNMCOG to discuss local transit services and needs.
- The MPO would like to assist efforts by the COG wherever possible.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on transit activities.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report and said the Red Apple Transit numbers continue to climb in ridership. Mr. Delmagori said the NWNMCOG is doing a transit feasibility study for the development of a Regional Transit District for northwest New Mexico. The RTD will go from Interstate-40 to Shiprock and then east, with the possibility of expanding into the Durango, Colorado area. The MPO will assist with the study when possible.

Dr. Henderson said the Red Apple Transit has come a long way from the beginning of the transit system and they are doing a good job for the area.

Ms. Roderick asked who was the contact person at the City for the transit system. Mr. Delmagori said Rod Hunt is the contact person.

Mr. Hinson said the ridership in Bloomfield is up and he appreciates the system being available for the other entities to use.

Dr. Widoie said the national transit report indicated there has been a 20% increase in transit ridership nationwide. Ms. Roderick said that more people would ride the Red Apple Transit if it were more convenient. Mr. Hinson suggested that Ms. Roderick contact Mr. Hunt.

Action: Report was received.

9. NMDOT REPORT

Discussion: Dr. Widoie said the planning funding for the MPO has increased by \$1,600 and the federal obligation amount increased from 90% to 91.5%.

Dr. Widoie said the current transportation bill is going to expire in 2009 and it could be another 2.5 years before another bill is passed. However, Congress will most likely pass smaller bills keeping transportation funding available until the main bill is passed.

Dr. Widoie said the area Federal Earmarks are good, however the state STIP people had listed the description for Piñon Hills Boulevard wrong and he had informed them to fix the error. Dr. Widoie said they would fix the error and it would not affect the earmark. Mr. Delmagori asked about the other earmarks for the City of Aztec and San Juan County. Dr. Widoie said they are good, and added the MPO sent the correct descriptions on all the projects but the description for Piñon Hills Boulevard was changed at the STIP state level.

Dr. Widoie invited the Policy Committee to the next RPO meeting to be held July 9 at the Zuni Pueblo.

Dr. Widoie said that a town hall meeting will be held on August 7-9, coordinated by NMDOT and New Mexico First, to consider sustainable funding strategies for all forms of transportation. The NMDOT would like to have some representation from the Northwest corner of New Mexico and Dr. Widoie encouraged the Policy Committee to attend the meeting.

Dr. Widoie said the state is working on a Context Sensitive Solutions study. FWHA and SAFETEA-LU encourage this program. The program helps communities see the positive within the community and makes sure the vision of the growth is in accordance with what the citizens want. Farmington has been chosen as the Northwest area for the project study.

Action: Report was received.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 2, 2008

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **MPO Associate Planner.** An update on the hiring process will be provided to the Committee on June 12.
- 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.** All are in agreement to hold a Joint Policy/Technical Committee meeting to discuss current and future transportation activities in this area. Staff will suggest that this meeting be held on Thursday, July 24.
- f. **Other**

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the staff report. Mr. Delmagori asked if July 24 would be a good day to hold the Joint Policy/Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Hinson asked if the meeting would be a whole day meeting or a 4-hour meeting. Mr. Delmagori said it would be a 3 to 4-hour meeting. Mr. Marcum said that the rodeo is in town until the 24 and he would not be able to make the meeting if it was held on the 24. Mayor Standley said he would not be able to attend on July 24th either. Mr. Delmagori asked if July 27 would work better. Mr. Hinson said he would need to check and get back to the MPO. Mayor Standley said he would need to check also. Mr. Delmagori said the MPO would contact the Technical Committee and Policy Committee to schedule the meeting.

Mayor Standley asked if the NMDOT was going to have four lanes open on U.S. 64 during the rodeo. Mr. Delmagori said the District said there would be four lanes open. Mayor Standley asked if Dr. Widoe could find out and get back to the Policy Committee.

Action: Report was received.

11. **Business**

- a. **Chairman** – none
- b. **Members** – none
- c. **Staff** – none

12. **Business from the Floor**

Ms. McNally said she would like to thank the MPO and BPAG group for the work that has been done on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Ms. McNally said it is a good plan and she is glad the MPO has taken on the project which has been needed for a long time. Ms. McNally said the turn out for the meetings have always been good and there has been a great deal of public involvement with the plan. Dr. Widoe agreed and said the MPO has done a very good job with both public participation and developing a good plan.

13. Adjournment

Dr. Henderson motioned and Mayor Standley seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hinson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Chair, Mr. Sam Hinson

Secretary, Virginia Turney