

Farmington MPO

Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures

Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization

Aztec * Bloomfield * Farmington * San Juan County

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Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization

Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures

Purpose

The Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is established by a Joint Powers Agreement with the participating members of Aztec, Bloomfield, Farmington, and San Juan County and as designated by the Governor of the State of New Mexico, and contracts between the City of Farmington and New Mexico State Department of Transportation. The purpose of the MPO is to carry out the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process as defined within the provisions of 23 CFR Section 450 and SAFETEA-LU Section 3005.

The contracts and Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) establish a number of operational and procedural requirements for the MPO. The purpose of these Bylaws and Operating Procedures is to establish guidance on issues not formally covered in the JPA or contracts.

The MPO Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures were originally adopted by the Farmington MPO Policy Committee on January 15, 2004. This document was renewed by the Policy Committee on September 14, 2006.

For the next three year period, the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures were approved for renewal by the Farmington MPO Policy Committee on September 17, 2009. The document will be in effect from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012.

Sam Hinson, Policy Committee Chair

Dave Keck, Technical Committee Chair

Michael D. Sullivan, MPO Officer

Policy Committee

I. Authority

The Policy Committee has authority granted under the current Joint Powers Agreement, applicable to contracts and State and Federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to 23 CFR Section 450.

II. Membership

A. Voting Members

The Policy Committee is made up of five (5) voting members appointed by the governing bodies of the participating local governments. Only elected officials from the governing body may serve as a representative or designated alternate. The governing body of each participating member is responsible for appointing an elected official to the Policy Committee as follows:

- One (1) from San Juan County;
- One (1) from the City of Aztec;
- One (1) from City of Bloomfield; and
- Two (2) from the City of Farmington.

Alternates may be designated by the participating member's governing body; the alternates must also be elected officials from the governing body. The governing body shall submit a letter to the MPO Officer and to the MPO Planner designating the alternate member. The alternate's designation shall remain in effect until the alternative can no longer serve in that capacity. A new letter designating a new alternate will then need to be submitted by that entity. Each Policy Committee member or their designated alternate has one vote. If a Policy Committee member is absent for more than two (2) consecutive meetings in a calendar year, the Policy Committee may petition the absent member's governing body for a new appointment.

B. Ex-Officio Members

The Policy Committee may establish ex-officio members from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) or other appropriate agency.

C. Officers

The officers of the Policy Committee shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary.

1. Because the city governments hold their municipal elections in March, the Policy Committee will hold their Annual Election of Officers during their April meeting or during their first regularly scheduled meeting after the municipal elections. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be chosen from among the members of the Policy Committee. The duties of the Chair shall be to preside at all meetings of the Policy Committee. The Vice Chair shall be responsible for presiding at the meetings in the absence of the Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve for a 12-month period.
2. The MPO Administrative Aide or designee shall be the Secretary and shall have the responsibility for maintaining accurate records of all Policy Committee meetings. The MPO Planner and Associate Planner shall prepare agendas and such other duties as may be designated from time to time by the MPO Policy Committee.
3. If the Chair or Vice Chair position becomes vacant, the remaining Policy Committee members shall elect a replacement officer at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
4. If neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair can attend a regular Policy Committee meeting, the remaining members will select among themselves a member to serve as Chair for that meeting.

D. Removal Procedure

1. Attendance is required at all Policy Committee meetings. If a Policy Committee member fails to attend seventy-five (75) percent of the Policy Committee meetings in a twelve-month calendar period, his membership may be terminated. Committee attendance is recorded and archived by the MPO Administrative Aide.
2. The Chair shall speak with a Policy Committee member who is subject to removal through nonattendance to determine if that member will make a commitment to attend Policy Committee meetings. If the member cannot make the commitment, the Chair will send a recommendation to the corresponding City or County Manager that a

new member from that entity be designated to serve on the Policy Committee.

3. In the event that it is the Policy Committee Chair that is subject to removal through nonattendance, the Vice Chair shall conduct the process as described above. If the Vice Chair is unable to participate, the remaining Policy Committee members shall choose someone amongst themselves to conduct this process.
4. In the event of a dispute concerning the abandonment or vacation of a Policy Committee member, the Policy Committee member affected may petition the MPO Policy Committee to be allowed an opportunity to show cause why he or she should not be removed from office.
5. The MPO Policy Committee may remove any Policy Committee member upon the grounds of malfeasance or nonfeasance of office through an affirmative vote of three (3) members.

E. Replacement Procedure

The designated appointing entities shall make any and all replacement appointments to the Policy Committee. All replacement appointments made shall be provided in writing to the MPO Officer and MPO Planner in a timely manner.

III. Meetings

All meetings held shall be in compliance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and the Open Meetings Resolution adopted annually by the Farmington MPO Policy Committee.

Written notice of meetings (agendas) and supporting documentation shall be provided to the Policy Committee members on the following schedule:

- Regular Meetings – one (1) week notice
- Special Meetings – four (4) day notice
- Emergency Meetings – four (4) hours prior to the meeting

Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed, except that the Chair may make motions, participate in discussion and vote on any motion.

A. Regular Meetings

1. Regular Meetings shall be held at least six (6) times per year as adopted by an annual resolution which establishes the meeting times, dates, and locations for the Policy Committee. The Committee Meeting Schedule will be determined for the upcoming calendar year by the Policy Committee at its last meeting of the previous calendar year by resolution. Locations for the Policy Committee meetings will be held on a rotating basis among the entities. Any item of business may be acted on at these meetings.
2. Each year at the April Policy Committee meeting or the first regularly scheduled meeting after the municipal elections, the Policy Committee shall hold the Annual Election of Officers in addition to any other business.

B. Special Meetings

Special Meetings shall be held as needed. Special Meetings may be scheduled by the Chair or a majority of the members of the Policy Committee.

C. Emergency Meetings

Emergency Meetings shall be held only when time constraints prohibit consideration of an issue at a Special Meeting. Concurrence of a majority of the members of the Policy Committee is necessary to hold an Emergency Meeting.

D. Quorum

A quorum of the Policy Committee is defined in the Joint Powers Agreement as consisting of a majority of the voting members. No action shall be taken without a quorum of the Policy Committee in attendance at that meeting. Any action taken by the Policy Committee shall require a majority vote of all members of the Policy Committee.

E. Voting Procedure

1. The method of taking a vote is by voice vote (“yeas or nays”).
2. The responsibility of announcing the vote rests upon the Chair who has the right to have the vote taken again, by a “show of hands”, by “raising the right hand”, by ballot, by roll call, or by rising and having the vote counted, if necessary.
3. Telephonic vote shall be allowed when the quorum is not present at any Policy Committee meeting. Telephonic vote shall be enacted only to approve actions that have a deadline prior to the next regular meeting and postponement of actions would have adverse financial or other consequences for the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Telephonic vote shall be enacted on the request of any present Policy Committee Member with the approval of the majority of the present members. Only one Policy Committee Member shall vote telephonically at any allowable meeting. A Policy Committee Member shall be eligible to vote telephonically in a meeting only when he/she had indicated that he/she would be present at that meeting, prior to the meeting, and could not do so for reasons beyond his/her control.

Telephonic vote shall not conflict with the codes and regulations of the entity that is represented by the Policy Committee Member. The telephonic action shall be in accordance with the New Mexico Open Meeting Act (5661 NMSA 10-15-1).

IV. Staff

A. MPO Officer Designated

The City of Farmington, as the administrative agent of the MPO, shall designate the MPO Officer.

B. MPO Staff Responsibilities

The MPO Officer shall be the primary staff person for the Policy Committee, responsible for directing all operational functions of the MPO.

The MPO Officer shall maintain liaison and act in advisory capacity to the Policy and Technical Committees.

The MPO Officer shall provide staff assistance to the MPO Technical Committee as necessary.

The MPO Officer shall be responsible for transmitting notice of all official actions taken by the MPO to its constituent members and to the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

The MPO Planner and Associate Planner shall be responsible for making written quarterly reports on MPO activities to the Policy Committee and the New Mexico Department of Transportation and an annual report to the Federal Highway Administration.

The MPO Planner and Associate Planner are responsible for preparing agendas and staff reports in a timely fashion as described in the Bylaws for all committee meetings.

The MPO Administrative Aide is responsible for agenda distribution, recording meeting minutes, recording committee attendance, and collecting signatures for resolutions and minutes from the Chairpersons of each Committee.

Technical Committee

I. Name

The committee acting as technical advisors to the Policy Committee shall be named the Technical Committee (TC) of the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

II. Responsibilities

As noted in the Joint Powers Agreement, the Technical Committee is established by the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization and shall be responsible for providing technical review of all transportation plans within the urban area and input to the MPO Policy Committee on issues directed to it by its membership and the Policy Committee. MPO staff shall advise and recommend actions from

the Technical Committee. Other responsibilities shall include those as may be designated from time to time by the MPO Policy Committee.

III. Membership

Membership in the Technical Committee shall be governed by the Policy Committee of the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization.

A. Members

Voting Members of the Technical Committee shall include:
one (1) representative appointed by the City of Aztec;
one (1) representative appointed by the City of Bloomfield;
one (1) representative appointed by San Juan County; and
two (2) representatives designated by the City of Farmington.

The MPO Officer may be designated as an ex-officio member of the Technical Committee by the Policy Committee.

B. Alternate Member

Each representative from an agency may appoint an alternate to the Technical Committee to serve when the appointed member cannot attend. The agency shall submit a letter to the MPO Officer and to the MPO Planner designating the alternate member. The alternate's designation shall remain in effect until the alternative can no longer serve in that capacity. A new letter designating a new alternate will then need to be submitted by that entity. The designated alternate shall have all of the voting privileges of the regular member when attending a meeting in the place of the regular member.

C. Membership Appointment

The MPO Policy Committee may appoint new voting or ex-officio members to the Technical Committee as it deems necessary.

D. Officers

The officers of the Technical Committee shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary.

1. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be chosen annually from among the voting members of the Technical Committee at its first meeting of the calendar year.
2. The succeeding Chairman shall officiate at the first meeting of the calendar year and shall serve for twelve (12) months.
3. The Chair shall preside at the meetings, call the meetings, and may choose to present a progress report covering the Technical Committee's recommendations to the Policy Committee.
4. The Vice Chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair. If neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair can attend a regular Technical Committee meeting, the remaining members will select among themselves a member to serve as Chair for that meeting.
5. If the Chair or Vice Chair resigns, the remaining Technical Committee members shall elect a replacement officer at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
6. The MPO Administrative Aide or designee shall be the Secretary and shall have the responsibility for maintaining accurate records of all Technical Committee meetings. The MPO Planner and Associate Planner shall prepare agendas and such other duties as may be designated from time to time by the Technical Committee with consent from the MPO Policy Committee.

E. Removal Procedure

1. Attendance is required at all Technical Committee meetings. If a Technical Committee member fails to attend seventy-five (75) percent of the Technical Committee meetings in a twelve-month calendar period, his or her membership may be terminated. Committee attendance is recorded and archived by the MPO Administrative Aide.
2. The Chair of the Technical Committee shall speak with a Technical Committee member who is subject to removal through non-attendance to determine if that member will make a commitment to attend Technical Committee meetings. If the member cannot make the commitment, the Chair will send a recommendation to the corresponding City or County Manager that a new member from that entity be designated to serve on the Technical Committee.

3. In the event that the Technical Committee member subject to removal through non-attendance is the Chair, the Vice Chair shall conduct the process described above. If the Vice Chair is unable to participate, another Technical Committee member shall be chosen to conduct the process.
4. In the event of a dispute concerning the proposed removal of a Technical Committee member, the affected Technical Committee member may petition the MPO Policy Committee to be allowed an opportunity to show cause why he/she should not be removed from office.
5. The MPO Policy Committee may remove any Technical Committee member by the affirmative vote of three (3) members upon the grounds of malfeasance or nonfeasance of office.

F. Replacement Procedure

The designated appointing entities shall make any and all replacement appointments to the Technical Committee. All replacement appointments made shall be provided in writing to the MPO Officer and MPO Planner in a timely manner.

IV. Meetings

All meetings held shall be in compliance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and the Open Meetings Resolution adopted annually by the Farmington MPO Technical Committee. The Technical Committee shall meet on a monthly basis, as adopted by an annual resolution which establishes the meeting times, dates, and locations for the Technical Committee. The Chair or the MPO Officer may call for meetings from time to time as needed.

Written notice of meetings (agendas) and supporting documentation shall be provided to the Technical Committee members on the following schedule:

Regular Meetings – one (1) week notice
Special Meetings – four (4) day notice

Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed, except that the Chair may make motions, participate in discussion and vote on any motion.

A. Quorum

A quorum of the Technical Committee shall consist of a majority of the voting members. No action shall be taken without a quorum of the Technical Committee in attendance at that meeting. Any action taken by the Technical Committee shall require a majority vote of all members of the Technical Committee.

B. Voting Procedure

1. The method of taking a vote is by voice vote (“yeas or nays”).
2. Responsibility for announcing the vote rests upon the Chair who has the right to have the vote taken again, by a “show of hands”, by “raising the right hand”, by rising, by ballot, by roll call, or by rising and having the vote counted, if necessary.
3. Telephonic vote shall be allowed when the quorum is not present at any Technical Committee meeting. Telephonic vote shall be enacted only to approve actions that have a deadline prior to the next regular meeting and postponement of actions would have adverse financial or other consequences for the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Telephonic vote shall be enacted on the request of any present Technical Committee Member with the approval of the majority of the present members. Only one Technical Committee Member shall vote telephonically at any allowable meeting. A Technical Committee Member shall be eligible to vote telephonically in a meeting only when he/she had indicated that he/she would be present at that meeting, prior to the meeting, and could not do so for reasons beyond his/her control.

Telephonic vote shall not conflict with the codes and regulations of the entity that is represented by the Technical Committee Member. The telephonic action shall be in accordance with the New Mexico Open Meeting Act (5661 NMSA 10-15-1).

Amendment Process & Renewal

I. Amending the Bylaws

If the Bylaws require an amendment, the formal procedures are described as follows:

1. MPO staff will bring the proposed amendment to the attention of the Technical Committee.
2. After reviewing the amendment, staff will recommend that the Technical Committee recommend approval of the amendment to the Policy Committee.
3. The Policy Committee will be asked to review the amendment and approve the change to the Bylaws document.

II. Renewal of the Bylaws

The Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures document will guide MPO committee meetings for a three year period. The document will be formally reviewed in conjunction with the MPO Joint Powers Agreement near the end of the three year period to make necessary changes and updates. The renewal of the Bylaws, adopted by the Policy Committee on September 17, 2009, will be in effect from October 1, 2009 until September 30, 2012. In the months prior to renewal, the MPO will review the document with the Technical Committee. A 30-day public comment period will be opened prior to approval by the Policy Committee. The Bylaws document will be made available on the MPO website (www.farmingtonmpo.org) and at the MPO Office (100 W. Broadway, Farmington).