

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 17, 2009

Members Present: Sam Hinson, City of Bloomfield
Dan Darnell, City of Farmington
Dr. Henderson, San Juan County

Members Absent: Sherri Sipe, City of Aztec
Mayor Standley, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Mike Sullivan, MPO Officer
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Dee Dee Moore, MPO Admin Aide

Staff Absent: None

Also Present: Steve Christensen, City of Aztec
David Martinez, NMDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hinson called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 18, 2009 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Henderson made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2009 meeting. Mr. Hinson seconded the motion. Motion carried and minutes were approved.

3. **APPROVE TIP AMENDMENT #2 TO THE FY2010-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	FY2010-2015 TIP Amendment #2
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	September 9, 2009

BACKGROUND

- On August 9, 2009 the Farmington MPO advertised Amendment #2 to the FY2010-FY2015 Transportation Improvement Program.
- The amendment adds several projects to the TIP due to NMDOT programming local projects into its FY2010-2013 STIP.
- A public hearing will be held on Amendment #2 during the August 27, 2009 Technical Committee meeting.
- The amendment includes four projects, US 64 Farmington to Bloomfield Phase III, Pinon Hills Blvd Sidewalks, North Animas River Bridge and a bridge along CR 6675.
- The four projects represent approximately \$9.9 million in new funding for this area.

CURRENT WORK

- Full project details are attached.
- The MPO held a 30-day public comment period from August 9, 2009 to September 9, 2009 with no comments received.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Approve the amendment.
- The new FY2010-2013 STIP will reflect the new funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- Public Notice describing the projects that are part of Amendment #2.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve Amendment #2 to the FY2010-2015 TIP.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero reviewed the four projects that will be receiving federal funds and the additional two projects that are part of the second amendment to the FY2010-2015 TIP. The four federally funded projects were selected by the DOT from the unfunded list that is part of the appendix to the TIP. The first of the other two projects will use Federal Aviation Administration Funding in the amount of \$175,000 to acquire

land from the BLM at the north end of the Aztec Municipal Airport. The second project being funded at \$171,456 was the East Bronco Blvd. Project, Phase 1, for designing and engineering of the road which extends from US550 to Saiz Lane. Mr. Christensen responded to Mr. Darnell's question about what was changing at the Aztec Municipal Airport and identified that the cross-wind runway would be using the addition land acquired and additional funding would be used to level the existing runway to increase visibility due to crowning on that runway. Dr. Henderson asked about the bridge on CR6675 and Mr. Lucero explained that this was an originally identified project but was unfunded until now. Mr. Lucero further explained to Dr. Henderson that the work to be done in Bloomfield would be Phase 2 of the US64 project. Phase 3 would continue from the completion point in Bloomfield west towards McGee Park until the funding ran out.

Action: Mr. Darnell made the motion to approve Amendment #2 to the FY2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program. Dr. Henderson seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

4. APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	September 9, 2009

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) is the document that binds the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, and San Juan County to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- The JPA is set to expire on September 30, 2009.
- The JPA explains the responsibilities of the City of Farmington as the fiscal agent and the functions and organizational structure of the Policy and Technical Committees.
- It describes the roles and work products required of the MPO.
- The recommended updates to the language of the Joint Powers Agreement and suggested changes have been made by staff.
- A final review and recommended approval by the Technical Committee was performed at its August 27 meeting.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Adoption of the JPA by the Policy Committee and approval by each member entity.

ATTACHMENTS

- The final draft of the JPA is provided to the members under separate cover.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve the renewal to the Joint Powers Agreement.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero enumerated each of the changes that had been made at the request of the Technical Committee. All of the existing dates were changed to reflect the timeframe of the new document. On page two, the NM State Statute 3-48-1 was removed. Page four had the verbiage for the Ex-Officio member changed from 'shall' to 'may' in regards to voting status. Finally on page 7, the population numbers were changed to reflect the 2008 population base previously approved this year by the Policy Committee and the entity billing was changed to Quarterly from Bi-Annually.

Action: Mr. Darnell made the motion to approve the Joint Powers Agreement. Dr. Henderson seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

5. APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE COMMITTEE BYLAWS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	September 8, 2009

BACKGROUND

- The Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures are guidelines by which the Policy and Technical Committees are run.
- Descriptions of the Chair and Vice-Chair for each committee, a removal and replacement process, and voting procedures are contained within this document.
- The Bylaws are formally updated in conjunction with the Joint Powers Agreement every three years.
- Staff has entered the requested changes from both the Policy and Technical committees.

CURRENT WORK

- Proposed changes to the Bylaws are part of the final draft.
- The Technical Committee recommended approval of the renewal of the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures on August 27th.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Adopt the renewal to the Bylaws in September.

ATTACHMENTS

- A copy of the final draft is provided under separate cover for the Policy Committee members.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve the renewal to the MPO Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori reviewed all changes and deletions from the previous Bylaws starting with general housekeeping changes to the expiration date that was changed to 2012. Page 1, Section 2 added notification to the MPO by a letter designating the committee member alternate. Under Part D, Removal Procedure, page 2, Mr. Delmagori described the procedure to be followed if a member is not attending. The new procedure describes how the Chair of the committee will speak with the non-attending member. If necessary, the Chair will recommend to the corresponding city/county manager that a new member be selected.

The next change was under Section 8, Regular Meetings, and revisions were made that provide for the yearly resolution to specify the actual month, day and time of the committee's meeting schedule. The above changes were made to both the Policy Committee and the Technical Committee portions of the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures. Lastly on page 10, Part B, the addition of a telephone vote process was included for the Technical Committee. The document will go into effect on October 1, 2009 and remains in effect until September 30, 2012. Mr. Darnell commented that as long as the telephone voting procedures didn't conflict with the individual entities he was alright with that addition since the Open Meetings Acts allows the same procedure. Mr. Delmagori shared that only one member per meeting is allowed to vote by phone.

Action: Mr. Darnell made the motion to approve the Renewal of the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures. Dr. Henderson seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

6. **APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE FY2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AND FY2010 BUDGET**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	FY2010 UPWP & FY2010 Budget Amendments
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	September 8, 2009

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The MPO prepared its FY2010 Budget based on initial funding estimates from NMDOT for FHWA PL and FTA 5303.
- Work Authorizations were provided to the MPO with official amounts for PL and 5303 funding
- NMDOT informed the MPOs that a one-time distribution of unobligated PL funds is available.

CURRENT WORK

- Staff has identified planning activities and tasks for distribution of the unobligated PL funds.
- The FY2010 UPWP budget has been updated to reflect final funding amounts.
- The members may provide input as to what types of planning activities the unobligated PL funding could be used for.

ATTACHMENTS

- The UPWP Amendment that links planning activities to the unobligated PL funds.
- The FY2010 UPWP Budget Amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the FY2010 UPWP and FY2010 Budget.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori reminded the committee that last March and April the MPO was given federal funding estimates for the Fiscal Year. The included worksheet provided the new actual funding amounts based on signed Work Authorizations, plus explanations for the additional unobligated funds that are being distributed to the MPO this year. Mr. Delmagori explained that the FHWA was requesting an amendment to the UPWP to explain where the additional funds would be used. Mr. Delmagori directed the committee to page 24 of the agenda that gave the details for each of the program areas. Under the traffic count category Mr. Christensen began a discussion about the MPO not needing to purchase count equipment because most of the entities already had units that sat idle most of the time. Mr. Hinson agreed that the statement was true for

Bloomfield. Mr. Delmagori suggested that the MPO would update that category to reflect that the money would go towards general consultant fees instead. The Policy members agreed with this change.

Mr. Delmagori continued his report identifying money being used towards a transit component to upgrade the traffic model program and for developing scenarios for mitigating Air Quality or policy development for the MTP update. Dr. Henderson asked what kind of quality would be measured. Mr. Delmagori stated that the New Mexico Environmental Department is the primary organization that would be monitoring the air quality in San Juan County, however, the MPO will have a role in this if we become non-compliant. Dr. Henderson asked if you can measure separate sources and Mr. Delmagori shared that the NMED can measure both point sources, like the power plant or mobile sources such as vehicles. Mr. Darnell agreed that if we are able to collect our own data we would have the opportunity to present that information to the NMED if their data showed otherwise.

Mr. Delmagori provided a summary for the possibility of hiring a consultant to assist the Farmington MPO with the comprehensive transit study of the Red Apple Transit as well as external connection such as Navajo Transit or the Road Runner Transit in Ignacio. Mr. Darnell brought up a comment received from a citizen who had a petition of 30 signatures from residents of Wild Horse Valley requesting transportation. The Red Apple Transit goes right by but does not stop. Mr. Darnell asked if these are the type of issues the MPO is looking at during this evaluation. Mr. Delmagori stated that identifying new stops and routes would be part of that process. Mr. Hinson also brought up the area of Lee Acres needing transit services.

Mr. Delmagori confirmed the actual funding dollars available for the MPO this fiscal year, adding that because of the additional unobligated PL funds each entity will see an approximately 66% decrease in their contribution to the MPO when compared to estimates back in April.

Action: Dr. Henderson made the motion to approve the amendment with the modification regarding the consultant addition. Mr. Darnell seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

7. **APPROVE LETTERS FROM THE FARMINGTON MPO TO NEW MEXICO LEGISLATORS AND TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION REGARDING TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Transportation Authorization Letter to Legislators and Transportation Organizations
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	September 9, 2009

CURRENT WORK

- SAFETEA-LU expires on September 30, 2009.
- A new authorization bill is being proposed by Congressman Oberstar.
- Proposals in the new bill raise some concerns for the MPOs in New Mexico.
- A list of concerns is explained in the attached letter:
 - Focus is mostly on large metro areas and rural areas
 - Recommendation for proportional voting for committees
 - Establishing performance measures for MPOs
- The New Mexico MPOs intend to submit the letter to AMPO after all of the respective Policy Committee chairmen have signed it.
- The Technical Committee recommended that similar letters from the Farmington MPO be submitted to Congressman Teague, AASHTO, and Senators Udall and Bingaman.
- A summary of the proposed authorization bill is attached for information.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve letters from the Farmington MPO to transportation organizations and New Mexico Legislators regarding Transportation Authorization.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented the concerns about the current reauthorization process and added that the letters discussed today would bring about awareness of MPO concerns to AMPO and legislators in New Mexico. Dr. Henderson requested also providing letters to the other two congressmen, Ben Ray Lujan and Martin Heinrich. Dr. Henderson asked MPO staff if they had a department chart for the FHWA with line and staff responsibilities listed. Mr. Delmagori stated that MPO staff did not have a current list but would check with Bruce Bender, the NM Divisional Liaison and see if one was available. He also suggested that MPO Staff could arrange for Mr. Bender to give a presentation on the oversight that his position provides.

Action: Mr. Darnell made the motion to approve the letters and Dr. Henderson seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

8. RECEIVE A REPORT FOR NMDOT

Discussion: Mr. Martinez provided an update on the 2nd phase of the US64 Project, which is in the 60% design review stage and hopefully would be under construction in a year from now. For the ARRA program, all four local entity projects received extensions, so now the deadline for the ARRA projects is September 25th for finalization of project certifications and Mr. Martinez does not see any holdup for this MPO.

Dr. Wideo was unable to attend but provided information to Mr. Delmagori to share with the Committee. Mr. Delmagori updated the committee with regards to the nationwide rescission funding of \$8.7 billion. The New Mexico share is about \$82 million, however Mr. Delmagori was told by Dr. Wideo that the PL money for the MPOs is secure and as far as he knew there were no unobligated projects in this MPO.

Dr. Henderson asked Mr. Martinez if the DOT had a chart that shows the line and staff and the areas of responsibilities. Mr. Martinez stated that there was an organization chart that he could provide to the MPO.

9. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE ANALYSIS OF THE FUTURE PROPOSED ROAD NETWORK

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Initial Roadway Analysis Results
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	September 8, 2009

BACKGROUND

- Staff developed a future road network map that identifies potential future road improvements and proposed road classification changes.
- Staff worked with each individual entity to evaluate each proposed road change and classification.
- Staff held four public meetings in August to seek input on the future road network map and public input on road network priorities.
- The Technical Committee reviewed the initial analysis of the proposed road network at their August 27th meeting.

CURRENT WORK

- Model runs have been performed for the base year and future 2035 model year.
- Model has been calibrated for both the base year and 2035 model year using the newest adopted land use numbers.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Calibrate midyear model for 2015.
- Perform model runs for the model year 2015.
- Prioritize road network based on evaluation categories, feasibility, and efficiency.

ATTACHMENTS

- Road network model runs provided to the members under separate cover.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on initial analysis of the proposed future road projects.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero described the process and benefits of scenario planning and its application to the proposed road analysis. He then presented several model runs comparing various proposed road network scenarios for the year 2035. The various model runs illustrate the changes in traffic patterns and volumes based on the premise that identified new roads are built to improve the existing road network. Mr. Darnell questioned the reality of the Pinon Hills Bridge extension being incorporated into the base road network plan. He asked if the scenario could be run without the Pinon Hills Bridge Extension to see if the traffic patterns would remain the same on the other roads requiring US64 to eventually be six lanes. Mr. Lucero stated that the road combinations are endless and that any requests for additional scenarios could be provided. Mr. Darnell also had questions about the Northern Loop Road impacting the BLM Open Spaces and The Glade Area. Mr. Lucero informed the committee that the current proposed road layout crosses empty land.

Mr. Christensen asked if the addition of the Highline Road shows less of a need for six lanes in Aztec because of the projected decrease of traffic on US64 and Hwy 516. The apparent need for the Highline Road and the Northern Loop was agreed by the committee. Mr. Darnell mentioned that land use planning or a corridor plan should be applied to the Northern Route before construction starts to help determine the potential for an economic corridor. Mr. Delmagori stated that ideally the Northern Loop would be patterned after Pinon Hill Blvd using the Access Management Plan to restrict access points by providing frontage roads.

Action: The report was received.

10. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MTP PUBLIC MEETINGS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	MTP Public Meetings
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	September 8, 2009

CURRENT WORK

- The MPO held public information tables at four public events in August:
 - August 11 at the Farmington Farmer’s Market.
 - August 12 at the Connie Mack World Series.
 - August 14 at the San Juan County Fair.
 - August 26 at San Juan College.
- The public was asked to identify their preferred road and bicycle/pedestrian improvements based on estimated federal funding for this area over the next 25 years.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- The public can provide input through the month of September.
- Preferred improvements by the public will be considered when the MPO and its members prioritize the regional road projects.

ATTACHMENTS

- Summary of comments received at the public meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on comments received at the MTP Public Meetings.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero reported that on pages 36 through 38 of the agenda are the comments received from the 4 public meetings listed above. The locations provided chances to reach a large mix of the population and the comments reflect those opinions. Based on comments, members of the public were in favor of the Northern Route, the East Arterial, and the Pinon Hills Extension.

Action: The report was received.

11. RECEIVE A STATUS REPORT ON THE PRIORITIZATION OF REGIONAL BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	September 8, 2009

BACKGROUND

- A list of regional bicycle/pedestrian projects were identified as part of the MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.
- Evaluation criteria for prioritizing projects were adopted as part of the plan.
- Projects have been initially grouped into ranges in preparation for the ranking and prioritization process.

CURRENT WORK

- In August, short range bicycle/pedestrian projects were ranked by the Technical Committee using a 0-5 point scale for each evaluation criteria.
- Projects that were voted in the top 10 by the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAG) will receive supplemental points.
- Mid and long range projects will be ranked at the September and October Technical Committee meetings.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Projects from all three ranges will be compared following the ranking exercises to determine a final prioritized list.
- Present a final list to the Policy Committee in November.
- Approve a prioritized list of bicycle/pedestrian projects as part of the MTP update.

ATTACHMENTS

- Evaluation Criteria.
- Project information sheet for all identified regional bicycle/pedestrian projects (provided under separate cover).

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a status report on the prioritization of regional Bicycle/Pedestrian projects.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori reviewed that when the Bike/Pedestrian Plan was approved a large numbers of projects had been identified. The list of projects is currently being prioritized by the Technical Committee through a simple scale of 0-5 points for the categories and 0-3 points for the Bicycle Pedestrian Advocacy Group ranking. The list has also been divided into three groups: Short-Range, Mid-Range and Long Range. The Short-Range list has already been ranked by the Technical Committee. The Mid-Range list will be addressed at the September Technical Committee meeting and the Long-Range ranking will take place at the October Technical Committee meeting. A fully prioritized list is planned for presentation to the Policy Committee at the November Policy Committee meeting.

Action: The report was received.

12. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE TRANSIT PLAN FOR THE MTP UPDATE

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	MTP Update Transit Plan
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	September 9, 2009

BACKGROUND

- The transit system will be analyzed as part of the MTP Update to ensure that transit service meets future demand.
- A needs assessment for Red Apple has been started.
- Staff has collected Census data for vehicle ownership and for elderly, disabled, and low-income populations by census tract to better understand potential transit demand.

CURRENT WORK

- Passenger counts on Red Apple were taken throughout the month of July to assist with origin-destination matrices for AM, mid-day, and PM peak periods.
- A summary report of the passenger counts has been completed; the report describes common connections and general observations of the transit system.
- Staff will discuss the passenger counts and some of the observed travel patterns at the Policy Committee meeting on September 17.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Make projections for future transit demand based on annual ridership and Census data.
- Using the passenger count information, assess how transit service can be expanded.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the Transit Plan for the MTP Update.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori passed out tables and maps to the members and explained that this information was run through a graphic program to illustrate the TAZs based on population ranges. The Crouch Mesa Area, the Kirtland area and a couple of areas in and around Bloomfield are growth areas identified for future transit planning, which is based on characteristics of the population that typically generate transit demand. The next step will be for the MPO Staff to lay down the existing Red Apple Transit system and see how many of the highly populated TAZ ranges are captured with the existing system. Mr. Darnell pointed out that the new Sycamore Community Center does not have a bus stop, but should be added in if possible. Mr. Delmagori mentioned that when adding stops the time schedule would be altered. Also a route change or additional routes might need to take place to accomplish reaching other identified locations. The benefits and costs of any changes will need to be further studied.

Action: The report was received.

13. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROGRAM

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	September 8, 2009

BACKGROUND

- The City of Farmington was awarded a SRTS Phase 1 grant in July.
- The SRTS Committee in Farmington meets monthly to discuss upcoming activities.
- Active school participants include Mesa Verde, McKinley, and Apache schools.

CURRENT WORK

- Student arrival counts are being taken at the three participating schools during the month of September to track the number of students who are dropped off, take the bus, or walk/bike.
- Evaluations of areas of concern at the schools are being conducted this month.
- The SRTS Committee is developing a 'Walk Across America' program activity for the school year.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Develop an Action Plan and apply for SRTS Phase 2 funding.
- Participate in the October 7 International Walk to School Day.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the Safe Routes to School program.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori shared that the City of Farmington did receive a Phase I grant through the SRTS program. The SRTS committee meets monthly and discusses various events and opportunities to share the program. In addition to Mesa Verde Elementary, Apache Elementary and McKinley Elementary are now part of the program. Student counts are being taken this month and evaluation of areas of concern will be conducted. Mr. Delmagori stated that the schools will be participating in a Walk Across America program to help promote the program. International Walk to School day is October 7th and the Daily Times will be on hand to document the event. The Phase II funding application process is from October to December with a maximum funding of \$250,000 that can be used for infrastructure projects such as new sidewalks or crosswalks.

Action: The report was received.

14. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE RED APPLE TRANSIT

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Update
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	September 9, 2009

RED APPLE UPDATE

- Overall ridership reached a new peak in ridership of 11,610 passengers in July.
- Farmington saw a 5.60% increase in ridership over previous month.
- Aztec, Bloomfield, and Kirtland all saw increase in ridership over previous months, with 34.87%, 8.52%, and 28.94% respectfully.
- Aztec and Kirtland had increases over the same period last year with 2.50% and 108.97% respectfully.
- Bloomfield had a decrease of -20.70% over the same period last year.
- The ridership report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Discussion: Mr. Lucero presented the ridership statistics and discussed the decrease in the Bloomfield route. Several factors will need to be evaluated to find out what has caused this downward trend. Mr. Lucero stated that the timing issue, only three routes a day, or a capacity issue may be the primary cause, but that all factors would be looked at by the MPO Staff. Mr. Delmagori shared that the MPO Staff actually rode the in-town routes 3 times a day and have a summary of the observations as well as actual numbers that were tracked. Mr. Darnell asked what steps are next for the MPO to take regarding identifying the Bloomfield route concerns. Mr. Lucero shared that several factors could contribute to the ridership numbers including weather, public events, US64 construction, bus capacity, and timing. Mr. Darnell stated that even Aztec and Kirtland have the same timing with only three routes a day, and questioned why would Bloomfield be the only one to show a dramatic decrease? Mr. Lucero again mentioned capacity and perhaps the Aztec and Kirtland routes are not at capacity so no one is being left behind to wait for the next route. Based on the numbers, the Aztec and Kirtland route together are almost equivalent to the Bloomfield route. Mr. Darnell asked if a larger bus on the Bloomfield Route would address that problem. Mr. Lucero stated that a larger bus might fix the problem now, but what happens if it reaches capacity too? Additional routes to Bloomfield may be one answer or optimizing the route itself. These are the things that will need to be evaluated before any recommendations are made by the MPO. Mr. Delmagori commented that this is a situation that may require hiring a consultant to assist with the evaluation and recommendation. Mr. Darnell stated that he was asking the Policy Committee members to provide the MPO Staff with direction to try and pursue this issue. Mr. Hinson agreed that the need to research the Red Apple Transit was great

and that the MPO has reached a point where a consultant was needed to pursue the issue.

Action: The Policy Committee directed the MPO Staff to conduct further research into the ridership decrease on the Bloomfield routes and how the Red Apple system can expand.

15. INFORMATION ITEMS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	September 9, 2009

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Four Corners Air Quality Meeting.** The New Mexico Environmental Department hosted a meeting on regional air quality in Durango on August 27. Initial results of measures to reduce ozone were presented and discussed. At this time, most mitigation strategies are focused on reducing emissions at power plants and from the oil/gas industry.
- b. **VISUM Advanced Training Course.** PTV America, the company that has created the VISUM travel model program, will provide a one day training on the software in Santa Fe on September 29.
- c. **MPO Quarterly.** The Santa Fe MPO will host the next MPO Quarterly on September 30.
- d. **Statewide Traffic Count Program Meeting.** On October 1 in Santa Fe, the NMDOT Traffic Count Bureau will hold a statewide meeting to review traffic count programs, procedures, and formats.
- e. **Other.**

Discussion: Mr. Lucero stated the Mr. Delmagori attended the Four Corners Air Quality Meeting that was held in Durango last month. Dr. Henderson asked if there were any groups in attendance that were strongly opposed to the meeting. Mr. Delmagori said no, not at this meeting. Mr. Christensen stated that when the numbers at the Navajo Dam were in question, pressure from the MPO had the NMED revisiting those sites. Mr. Darnell stated that he has received various emails regarding the power plants and the air issues that surround the emissions. Dr. Henderson stated that we cannot allow the Oil & Gas industry or the Power Plants to be shut down because of the drastic effect it would have on the economy in our area. The Air Quality situation needs to be maintained and the industry must try to meet the standards.

Mr. Lucero spoke about the upcoming VISUM training course, the MPO Quarterly meeting, and the Statewide Traffic Count Program Meeting in Santa Fe that he and Mr. Delmagori would be attending.

Mr. Delmagori recommended a Joint Policy/Technical Committee meeting on November 19 because both meet in Aztec. The joint meeting would be scheduled for 10:00am-2:00pm and that lunch arrangements would be made. The Policy members were okay with this meeting.

Action: The report was received.

16. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

There was no business from the Chairman, Members or Staff.

17. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business from the Floor.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Darnell made the motion to adjourn, Dr. Henderson seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

Sam Hinson - Policy Committee Chair

Dee Dee Moore - MPO Admin Aide