

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
January 28, 2010

Technical Members Present: Dave Keck, San Juan County
Steve Christensen, City of Aztec
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield
Chico Quintana, Alternate, City of Farmington
Nica Westerling, City of Farmington

Technical Members Absent: Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington

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

Staff Absent Bob Campbell, MPO Officer

Also Present: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keck called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 11-19-09 JOINT PC/TC MEETING

Ms. Westerling made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2009 Joint Policy/Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Christensen seconded that motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 12-10-09 TC MEETING

Ms. Westerling made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2009 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Christensen seconded that motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

4. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Annual Election of Officers
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	January 20, 2010

BACKGROUND

- At the first meeting of the new year, the Technical Committee selects the Chair and Vice-Chair from their membership who will serve until the next annual election.
- The Chair presides over the meetings and is responsible for the other duties outlined in the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures document.
- The Vice-Chair presides over the meetings in the absence of the Chair.
- In 2009 Dave Keck and Julie Baird were elected and served as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

ELECTION

- Elections will take place to select a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve on the Technical Committee for 2010.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee accept nominations and vote to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori explained that elections for Chair and Vice-Chair were in order at the start of each year. Mr. Christensen indicated that he felt that the Chair and Vice-Chair positions should move from entity to entity, each year, allowing an equal opportunity for everyone to be heard. A discussion ensued and a consensus was reached.

Action: Mr. Christensen made a motion to make Julie Baird the Chair, Ms. Westerling seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Nominations for the Vice-Chair were discussed and a motion was made to elect Cindy Lopez as Vice-Chair. The motion was made by Mr. Keck and seconded by Mr. Christensen. A vote was taken and Ms. Lopez was elected unanimously as Vice-Chair.

5. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori presented information from Dr. Widoe that Mr. Lee Cabaza de Baca with LTAP was working on a training class on Soil Stabilization and Dust Suppression and asked if there was any interest from the committee. Ms. Westerling stated that the City of Farmington would be willing to host the class here in Farmington.

Mr. Quintana and Mr. Delmagori will be coordinating with Mr. Cabaza de Baca to work out the details. Ms. Westerling suggested holding the meeting at the Civic Center. Mr. Christensen suggested also notifying the planners on the reservations and surrounding communities. Dr. Widoe had also provided information to Mr. Delmagori that his retirement is currently scheduled for the end of March 2010.

6. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	MTP Document
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	January 20, 2010

BACKGROUND

- An outline of the MTP document has been prepared, which identifies when draft chapters of the MTP were completed.
- Draft chapters have been provided for review in the past few months and comments have been received by the entities.

CURRENT WORK

- All draft chapters are complete.
- FHWA has recently announced that six livability principles need to be incorporated into the MTP.
- The draft MTP document will be reviewed in detail with the Technical Committee on January 28.
- Any comments received by the Policy Committee members will be brought to the attention of the Technical Committee members on January 28.
- Public meetings on the draft MTP are being held on January 25-27.

UPCOMING WORK

- Seek approval of a public discussion draft of the MTP from the MPO committees.
- Open a 30-day public comment period on the MTP.
- Adopt the MTP.

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft MTP Chapters available on the MPO website (www.farmingtonmpo.org)
- Draft MTP Chapters provided under separate cover to the members.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the draft chapters of the MTP document and recommend approval of the public discussion draft of the MTP.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori explained that after the discussion of the draft MTP that staff would seek recommended approval of the public discussion draft of the MTP in preparation for the 30-day comment period, which will be from late February 2010 through early April 2010. Mr. Delmagori and Mr. Lucero shared the review for the MTP draft dated January 14, 2010. Mr. Delmagori started with the Introduction chapter that outlines the MTP and the MPO. The approved Vision and Mission Statements and Goals and Objectives are listed including a list that shows recently completed projects that have been identified in the Long Range Plan. The Planning Factors still need to be elaborated on since FHWA will be looking at how the MPO addresses the eight SAFETEA-LU Planning Factors in this document. Staff will be providing definitions and details where they are referenced within the document. Notice was received by the MPO staff that there are now six Livability Principles that have just been established by FHWA, the EPA, and HUD and they will also be included in this section.

Mr. Lucero continued the review with Chapter 2 - Existing & Future Conditions, identifying that the information included in this chapter was approved by the Policy Committee during the summer. A footnote will be added to the table on 2-4 showing that after year 2015 the population's growth within the MPO Boundary will slow due to constraints of available land, and other factors that would limit the development of new residential structures. This could be affected if things such as the MPO boundary change occurred. Areas outside the MPO boundaries, such as Shiprock and other areas within the county that have room to grow, will continue to do so. Ms. Westerling asked when the 2010 census data will be available. Mr. Lucero stated that it takes 6-8 months for the initial draft to come out; however the official report takes 1½ to 2 years to get published.

Mr. Lucero shared that Chapter Three - Public Participation will be updated to show the four meetings that took place during the last week in January. There was also a presentation at the San Juan Center for Independence that will be added.

Mr. Lucero began the review of Chapter Four by sharing that descriptions for road classifications from the Access Management Plan had been used within this chapter. There is a table on 4-4 that highlights the five scenarios that were adopted and are also explained in this part of the MTP with maps and details highlighted for easy identification. Mr. Christensen asked if the only difference between scenario one and two was the N8 section. Mr. Lucero stated that is the only difference. Mr. Keck said that he had flown over the proposed N8 area and from the air the whole connection of the Highline Road makes total sense. Mr. Lucero stated that the table on 4-4 will also be referenced in other chapters. Ms. Westerling mentioned that a gray scale copy is harder to read than the color copies and perhaps a different line type might be better used to differentiate on a Xerox copy of the map. She suggested also checking the background color. A new section was incorporated into this chapter on page 4-11 titled Establishing Priorities in the Farmington MPO to help the NMDOT understand what the MPO hopes to accomplish and guide them towards common goals. Mr. Christensen was concerned about a disconnect between the MPO goals and the NMDOT continuing to move forward without taking the MPO projects into consideration. He proposed informing the NMDOT on the MPO alternatives that can show how the scenarios can help them maintain the integrity of their roads by moving traffic volumes from existing facilities. Mr. Lucero shared that the MTP is being reviewed by the NMDOT and they will see the scenarios that are priorities to the entities. Ms. Westerling stated that the language should point out the benefits that building the new roads will have on existing roads. Mr. Lucero

stated that he would work on the wording as discussed today. Mr. Delmagori stated that the Crouch Mesa area is being looked at as a supplemental network to support existing roads. Mr. Christensen suggested hosting a NMDOT Transportation Commission meeting to give them and the Secretary of Transportation a presentation on the scenarios. Mr. Delmagori stated that the MTP will also be used as a tool for the Statewide Long Range Plan. Mr. Lucero shared that the NMDOT has made comments regarding the MTP document.

Mr. Delmagori continued the review with the transit chapter and how the first two pages describe the baseline information of the existing system that is currently serving Aztec, Bloomfield, Kirtland and Farmington. Ridership data for 2009 shows approximately 132,500 passengers. Mr. Delmagori shared that the MPO is going to be doing a RFP for a Transit Study with a consultant, and the primary objective would be to identify how the system can expand throughout the whole network and possibly be converted to a bi-directional route system. Any recommendations from the transit study will be added into the MTP as an amendment. Staff has been in contact with Mr. Hunt regarding the scope of work on the upcoming transit study. Ms. Westerling asked how much of the increase in ridership is contributed from the external routes. Mr. Delmagori stated that the number of outlying riders was around 10,000.

The most relevant information from the Bike/Pedestrian Plan was added directly into Chapter Six. The critical lists of regional projects which were ranked late last year by the Technical Committee MPO Staff is now included in the chapter. The conclusion of the chapter shows the policies and standards to create these bike and pedestrian facilities into any future planning when possible.

Mr. Lucero continued the discussion on Chapter Seven - Other Modal Connections. The state has a freight transportation study and parts of that report were inputted into this chapter, which is shown as a map on page 7-2. Growth in Air Cargo in this area will need to be addressed; likewise the connectivity to industrial parks in Aztec that are on major arterials help increase the importance of the airport. Mr. Christensen stated the regional Fed-Ex Ground is currently using the Aztec airport for local distribution in the Four Corners Area. The commuter/light rail section describes the potential benefits of having commuter rail connecting the Farmington area to Albuquerque and of having light rail serving the three cities. Information on establishing an equestrian network is the last section in this chapter.

Mr. Delmagori discussed Chapter Eight - Safety which meets the SAFETEA-LU planning factors. The first section covers road safety and the charts and tables related to crashes in this chapter were pulled from the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau. Ms. Westerling asked for better scaling on the graphs to better identify the data. Intersection safety also includes pedestrian safety. Ms. Baird pointed out that on the Top Crash Rate Locations that US550 South is the same intersection as South 5th Street. The crash data from 2005-2007 was combined for this report data. Ms. Westerling questioned how much the road work on Browning and US64 contributed to the NM516 and Browning accidents. Mr. Delmagori pointed out that the language addressing how to improve intersections with innovative strategies was recently issued in a report from the FHWA. Ms. Baird asked if the pedestrian/vehicle alcohol-involved related crashes were showing that the driver was intoxicated or the pedestrian, or both. Mr. Delmagori stated he would get a clarification on that data from the report or from the Traffic Safety Bureau. Ms. Westerling mentioned that the accidents in Farmington, accidents per 1,000 population,

are not always the same since the weekends tend to have an influx of people coming into town to shop. The summary of the Safe Routes to School program, identified improvements to locations around the schools, and the goals and objectives of the program are all listed within the last section.

The chapter on Security, which is another of the SAFETEA-LU planning factors, does not create a large role for the MPO because of the Emergency Management Team in the county that already coordinates with the cities and has its own emergency operations plan in place. The MPO would work within that existing plan. On page 9-3 the map shows an evacuation plan which identifies primary and secondary routes. Ms. Westerling suggested contacting Don Cooper with the San Juan County as he is the Emergency Manager and may provide useful input to add to the plan.

Mr. Lucero talked about the Policies and Strategies related to transportation as found in Chapter Ten. Transportation and land use policies are being identified as a continuing planning tool for the cities. The next section in this chapter covers the growing emphasis on environmental issues and some national strategies that can be used locally to evaluate our own air quality. System Preservation covers the need to preserve the right-of-way for future corridors from the roadway scenarios that have been identified. Mr. Christensen stated that the AMP and a Complete Streets Policy, that integrates all transportation modes, would be necessary and he would encourage the City of Aztec to participate. He further mentioned that a consultant from Durango gave a presentation on Complete Streets to the City of Aztec. Mr. Delmagori thought perhaps a meeting with that group could be arranged within the next few months. Ms. Westerling suggested inviting all council and commission members from all the entities, the policy committee, and the technical committee.

Mr. Delmagori concluded the review of the draft MTP chapters with the final chapter which defines the financial plan. SAFETEA-LU has requirements in place that state that the MTP needs to be fiscally constrained. Using three different scenarios that project low/mid/high revenue funding ranges, the scenarios allow the MPO some flexibility to identify the road projects for the upcoming years and meet the budget constraints. Ms. Westerling asked if the MPO can get money for capital projects or be the lead agency. Mr. Delmagori answered that the MPO cannot receive funds or become the lead on any project.

Action: The Technical Committee reviewed the draft chapters of the MTP. Ms. Westerling made a motion to recommend approval of the public discussion draft of the MTP, Mr. Christensen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. RECEIVE A STATUS REPORT ON THE FY2011-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject: FY2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
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Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	January 20, 2010

BACKGROUND

- The TIP is a short-term program of projects expected to be completed in the next six years.
- The MPO updates the TIP on an annual basis.
- The TIP update process includes revising existing project information, adding new projects, and developing a TIP financial plan.
- The 2010-2015 TIP is available on the MPO website along with its corresponding TIP amendments.

CURRENT WORK

- A Call for Projects is being issued in January.
- Staff will meet individually with the entities, NMDOT, and Red Apple Transit to review project information.

TIP SCHEDULE

MONTH	ACTION
January 2010-February 2010	Call for Projects was made & Project Identification Forms were issued
February 12, 2010	Project ID Forms submitted to MPO
February - March 2010	Entities review project information; development of an agreed to list of projects and TIP financial plan
Early March - early April 2010	30-day Public Comment period is advertised and opened
March 25, 2010	Technical Committee holds public hearing on and recommends adoption of TIP
April 15, 2010	Policy Committee adopts the FY2011-2016 TIP

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a status report on the FY2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero mentioned that the TIP update process has begun and the new TIP projects and updates are due in February. MPO Staff will be meeting with each entity to discuss projects, additions, deletions or corrections. Ms. Westerling brought up the question of what kind of funding does the NMDOT expect. Mr. Lucero stated he would call and see if they had that information on the funding amounts. Ms. Westerling said she had a problem placing projects on this list that will probably be scheduled six or seven years out, when they really need to be done tomorrow. Mr. Keck said that if the projects are on the list, then the public can see what construction projects are being planned. Ms. Baird was surprised to get the call for applications for MAP and Co-op funds when there isn't any funding available and they actually cut funding for an existing project by 25%. Mr. Christensen requested to know which agency is next to receive MAP funding based on the agreed rotation. Mr. Keck said that his funding was cut about

22%. Mr. Lucero shared that it is best to have a list to submit. Mr. Keck brought up the NM173 highway project and asked the committee to have the MPO put the first four miles on the TIP and then the remainder of the road could be submitted by the RPO next year. Mr. Christensen stated that the 1st mile is currently funded as part of the East Arterial project.

Action: The status report was received.

8. RECEIVE A REPORT AND THE CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE FY2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	FY2011 UPWP Call for Projects
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	January 20, 2010

BACKGROUND

- Over the next few months, the MPO will develop its annual work plan for fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011).
- The FY2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is anticipated to be approved on April 15, 2010 by the Policy Committee.
- Entities are asked to submit new projects and other planning tasks to be accomplished by the MPO by February 17.

FY2011 UPWP INITIAL TASKS

- Yearly Activities
 - Annual Certification
 - Development of FY2012 UPWP
 - FY2010 Annual List of Obligated Projects
 - Quarterly Newsletters
 - Quarterly Reports
 - Traffic Count program
 - Traffic studies and model runs requested by the entities
 - Transportation Improvement Program
- New Activities
 - Needs Assessment/ Line Route analysis study for Red Apple Transit
 - Develop a major thoroughfare plan for the MPO region
 - Develop a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
 - Develop a Complete Streets policy
 - Develop transportation and land use policies

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report and the Call for Projects for the FY2011 UPWP.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero mentioned that the Call for Projects for the FY2011 UPWP will be discussed with the entities when staff meets with them individually. The UPWP projects will cover work projects, such as modeling or corridor studies. The MPO Staff has completed most of the tasks identified in the current UPWP with the exception of the update for the FY2011-2016 TIP process which has just recently started.

Action: The report was received.

9. 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:	January 20, 2010

The Red Apple Report

- The Red Apple Transit had a total ridership of approximately 12,000 riders in December and 132,534 for the year.
- Aztec and Kirtland both experienced drops from the previous month with a 34% drop and a 3% drop respectfully.
- The Bobcat and Farmington Routes had increases over the previous month with a 5% and 16% increase respectfully.
- However, Bloomfield experienced a 10% decrease over the same period last year.

ATTACHMENT

- The Red Apple Report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Discussion: Mr. Lucero provided the year end numbers for Red Apple Transit ridership. The Red Apple had 132,534 riders from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. The majority of the growth was seen within the Farmington routes. The Bloomfield route is showing irregularities within the seasonal trends and additional evaluation is required to find what is causing the issues which will be one of the items to be identified and explored through the Transit Study.

Action: The report was received.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	January 20, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **MPO Officer.** Mike Sullivan retired in December from the City of Farmington and subsequently as the MPO Officer. Bob Campbell was appointed as the MPO Officer by the City of Farmington.
- b. **2009 Traffic Count Program.** Traffic Data Services (TDS) provided the count data during the month of December. The final counts were sent to NMDOT for validation and approval. The 2009 Traffic Counts have been posted on the MPO website.
- c. **Safe Routes to School (SRTS).** The Farmington Walk & Roll Program is in need of a new SRTS Champion. Walk-ability and school site assessment will take place at McKinley Elementary in the spring. Student arrival counts are planned for all three participating schools in April and May.
- d. **Other**

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori confirmed Ms. Westerling's comment that Steve Krest had mentioned that he has a new champion for the SRTS program. She is a current teacher at Ladera Elementary School.

Mike Sullivan has retired and his replacement is Bob Campbell, Assistant City Manager for the City of Farmington.

The 2009 Traffic Count Program had three failures out of 86 counts taken. The counts along Hood Mesa Trail and College from 30th to Windsor had lower than reasonable AADT and Piñon Hills between Butler and College had failed in collecting data. Any counts that have failed or were rescheduled for construction over the last couple of years will be added to the scheduled counts for next year.

The Policy Committee is rescheduled for January 28, 2010 at 1:30pm at the MPO office conference room.

Mr. Keck said that his safety project has been modified to include a traffic signal at that intersection and the cost has increased to \$1.5 million.

Action: The report was received.

11. **BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Discussion: There was no business from the chairman, members or staff

12. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Discussion: There was no business from the floor

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Discussion: Ms. Westerling made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Baird seconded that motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:39am.

Julie Baird - Chairman

Dee Dee Moore - MPO Admin Aide