

M I N U T E S
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
October 28, 2010

Technical Members Present: Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington
Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington
Dave Keck, San Juan County
Mike Huber, City of Aztec
Chico Quintana, City of Farmington, Alternate
Roshana Moojen, City of Aztec, Alternate

Technical Members Absent: Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield

Staff Present: Bob Campbell, MPO Officer
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Kathy Bonnell, MPO Administrative Aide

Staff Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Tommy Roberts, City of Farmington
Mary Holton, City of Farmington
Bill Craven, NMDOT Rail Bureau
Dave Martinez, NMDOT
Larry Hathaway, San Juan County
William E. Sharer, NM State Senate
Margaret McDaniel, San Juan Economic
Development Services
John Byron, D.J. Simmons
Ron Nott, Citizen
Mike Eisenfield, Citizen

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lopez called meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 7, 2010 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Quintana motioned to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2010 Technical Committee meeting and Ms. Moojen seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM NEW MEXICO STATE RAIL PLAN

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	New Mexico State Rail Plan
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	October 19, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The Transit and Rail Division of the NMDOT is developing the New Mexico State Rail Plan to address current and future rail needs throughout the state.
- The new rail plan will replace the 1996 Rail Plan Update developed by the Intermodal Management Bureau of the New Mexico Highway and Transportation Department.
- The plan was developed in cooperation with various stakeholders such as rail carriers, transit providers, tribal and local governments.
- Purposes of Rail Plan Study
 - Set forth State policy involving passenger and freight rail transportation
 - Present priorities and strategies to enhance rail service that benefits the public
 - Serve as the basis for Federal and State rail investment

CURRENT WORK

- Bill Craven from the Transit and Rail Division of the New Mexico Department of Transportation is traveling throughout the state to present and conduct public outreach concerning the Draft New Mexico State Rail Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a presentation from Bill Craven from the Transit and Rail Division of the New Mexico Department of Transportation on the Draft New Mexico State Rail Plan.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori introduced Mr. Bill Craven with the New Mexico State Rail Division. Mr. Craven proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation to inform the committee as well as the public what the future plans are for the rail service. Mr. Craven stated the purpose of the Rail Plan is to develop a plan for the future and set rail policies for the state. He stated the reasons for developing the plan are to receive

future funding, renew Federal emphasis on railroad investments, and to refocus the planning effort of the Rail Runner. Mr. Craven also informed the committee and the public about the visions, goals, and objectives of the rail system. He stated this plan is in the draft stages and will continue its process through stakeholder meetings, rail plan publication, and formal public meetings.

Mr. Craven discussed existing rail service in New Mexico, noting the major freight lines and the commuter rail service from Santa Fe to Belen. He talked about how other public meetings have offered ideas about extending commuter rail service to Taos and possibly having high speed rail from El Paso, through New Mexico, and all the way to Denver.

Mr. Craven concluded his presentation by stating NMDOT is seeking comments on what types of rail improvements are needed. There will be many opportunities for public input, including additional public meetings and providing feedback through the rail plan's website. He anticipates a final plan completed in early 2012.

The floor was opened to the public for comments. State Senator Bill Sharer asked if the State knew about the rail ROW from Pruitt to Bloomfield and how that might factor into this plan. Mr. Sharer then asked that this area think about what resources could be hauled into and out of San Juan County in the present as well as in the future.

Mayor Tommy Roberts stated he was not aware of the meeting but suggested maybe publicizing the meetings. He also stated on behalf of the City of Farmington he wants to be very active in the process as well as some of the community entities. Mayor Roberts also suggested possibly having one of Mr. Craven's representatives take notes of what is conveyed at the meetings to better understand what the public wants and what the needs of the community are as far as the rail system. Mr. Delmagori stated the meeting is being recorded and the comments will be summarized. The MPO can pass along the public comments to him if he would like. Mr. Roberts stated he felt it is important to have some record of what was said, and it is also important for the Department of Transportation to have a record of what was said in the meeting as well.

Margaret McDaniel, director of the San Juan Economic Development Services, stated there was an informal rail study done in the past by SJEDS and would like to be involved with the current plan. John Byron stated the oil industry in this town would benefit from the rail system to transport oil to vendors. Ron Nott stated he is a fan of the rail system because of the Navajo Agricultural Products Industries (NAPI) that can be hauled out to vendors. Ms. Westerling informed Mr. Craven of the former rail right-of-way that was turned over to municipalities but also stated many parts of the right-of-way are encroached upon by private owners. Mr. Craven stated he will ask the consultant team to get in contact with the local economical development organization and Mayor Roberts in the next week. Mr. Roberts stated he would like to stress to the members and the general public to weigh in on this plan. Ms. McDaniel stated she would like to help facilitate the meetings as well.

Mr. Lucero stated from the MPO stand point, staff would be able to help organize a public meeting because this is a transportation issue. He also stated he will be in touch with SJEDS to plan a public meeting regarding the rail system.

Mr. Eisenfield asked for the name of the consultant team. Mr. Craven stated the consultant is Cambridge Systematics.

Mr. Delmagori asked Mr. Craven about any feedback he has received regarding Rail Runner expansion around the state. Mr. Craven stated there is some interest in expanding its limits through Santa Fe and Espanola and there has also been some interest in expanding it through Santa Fe to Las Vegas as well. He also stated possibly extending it south from Belen to serve Socorro, Las Cruces, and possibly as far as El Paso. Mr. Delmagori stated he can possibly see an extension branching out from Albuquerque and going out all eight directions serving all corners of the state. Mr. Huber suggested that rail lines in New Mexico should connect to those in neighboring states.

ACTION: The presentation was received.

4. RECEIVE APPROVAL OF THE FT2011-2016 TIP AMENDMENT #2

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	FY2011-2016 TIP Amendment #2
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, Associate MPO Planner
Date:	October 19, 2010

BACKGROUND

- On October 3, 2010 the Farmington MPO advertised Amendment #2 to the FY2011-FY2016 Transportation Improvement Program.
- The amendment modifies funding to the Wildflower Parkway Widening project.

CURRENT WORK

- The original ARRA amount obligated to the project was \$1,000,000.00; an additional \$347,265.70 has now been authorized for a total of \$1,347,265.70.
- The MPO is holding a 30-day public comment period from October 3, 2010 to November 3, 2010.
- Hold a public hearing on FY2011-2016 TIP Amendment #2 during the October 28, 2010 Technical Committee meeting.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Present any public comments to the Technical Committee.
- Approve Amendment #2 to the FY2011-2016 TIP at the November 11th Policy Committee meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- Public Notice describing the funding changes in Amendment #2.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee hold a public hearing on and recommend approval of Amendment #2 to the FY2011-2016 TIP.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lucero stated the TIP Amendment #2 concerns the Farmington ARRA project on Wildflower Pkwy. The NMDOT has funds that are still available from the ARRA due to bids throughout the state coming in lower than the actual cost of the project.

Mr. Lucero stated District 5 allocated these additional funds to the Farmington project. He stated the original amount was for \$1,000,000.00 and an additional \$347,265.70 has now been authorized for a total of \$1,347,265.70 to go towards the Wildflower Parkway widening project. The MPO is holding a public comment period on the Amendment #2 until November 3, 2010.

Ms Lopez opened the public hearing. With there being no public comments, Ms Lopez closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Ms. Westerling recommended approval of Amendment #2 to the FY2011-2016 TIP and Mr. Keck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. RECEIVE REPORT FROM NMDOT

DISCUSSION: Mr. Martinez stated the ARRA projects are coming to a completion. He did inform the City of Aztec that there are some issues with paperwork that are getting resolved. Mr. Martinez stated there was one TIGER II grant awarded to New Mexico, which was received by the Pueblo of Laguna for their pedestrian study.

ACTION: The report was received

6. RECEIVE REPORT ON MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Agenda Item

Subject:	Memorandum of Agreement
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	October 19, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- It is the purpose of the Memorandum of Agreement to serve as a planning contract between the MPO and NMDOT.
- It makes provisions that determine the responsibilities for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process.
- These responsibilities are identified in the MOA and are between the MPO, NMDOT, and the fiscal agent serving the metropolitan planning area.
- The department and the MPO also enter into a contractual agreement to establish the terms and conditions for performance and payment.
- The current MOA is set to expire at the end of December 2010.

CURRENT WORK

- NMDOT is currently developing a Final MOA that cover a five year period.
- Staff has reviewed the Draft MOA and will present the Final MOA to the Policy Committee at their November meeting.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- The City of Farmington, acting as the fiscal agent will execute the contract with NMDOT.

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft MOA between the Farmington MPO and NMDOT.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the Memorandum of Agreement.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori stated the Memorandum of Agreement with the MPO and the NMDOT is set to expire at the end of December. He stated the NMDOT Planning Division has submitted a final draft for the Committee to review. Mr. Delmagori brought to their attention some of the changes: in Section Six, language about the districts providing funding targets to the MPO was added and the submittals of Project Identification Forms are now shown as the responsibility of the local entity.

Mr. Delmagori informed the Committee that NMDOT is currently developing a Final MOA that will cover a five year period. The Final MOA will be presented to the Policy Committee at November's meeting for approval.

ACTION: The report was received

7. RECEIVE REPORT ON RED APPLE TRANSIT STUDY

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Study
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	October 19, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The MPO and Red Apple Transit are working with LSC Consultants to determine future transit needs and make recommendations for expansion options.
- LSC Consultants have developed two Technical Memorandums and have held three public meetings on the transit study.
- Other stakeholder meetings were held to review the Technical Memos and to gather additional inputs from the community.
- During the October 6th stakeholder meeting LSC Consultants presented several route options that modify and expand the existing Red Apple system.
- Options were developed for both the regional and Farmington routes.
- A linear system where routes would run from east-west and north-south was selected for the Farmington Area.
- An all day service option for the regional routes that would extend from Flora Vista to west Farmington was selected.

CURRENT WORK

- LSC is currently developing a Draft Report that will combine the two preferred options for the Farmington and Regional Routes.
- Staff in conjunction with LSC, is identifying additional stops that may be added to the newly identified routes.
- Estimated headways and transfers locations will be developed and included in the Draft Report.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Hold the final series of stakeholder and public meetings from October 9-11th.
- LSC Consultants will issue the Draft Report to the stake holder group for review.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori informed the Committee that the MPO is currently working with LSC Consultants to identify potential new options for the Red Apple Transit. He stated LSC is conducting a comprehensive study of the Red Apple Transit to identify some potential modifications or expansions for the system in future years.

Mr. Delmagori stated Mr. Krutsinger was in town a couple weeks ago to go over some options and to review the draft that he presented. He informed the committee the draft was presented to the public on October 6, 2010 for feedback.

Mr. Delmagori showed a map to the Committee to inform them of the options that were presented from LSC of the different routes that can be looked at and possibly changed. Mr. Delmagori demonstrated on the map the preferred alternative, where there would be a more linear system in Farmington where the routes would go more directly from north-south and east-west and the regional routes would run all day to better serve some of the outlying areas.

Mr. Delmagori stated LSC will be presenting the preferred alternative in November, which will include estimated costs, the potential ridership based on the changes, and an implementation schedule. Mr. Delmagori stated Mr. Krutsinger will be back in town on November 9 to present his findings to Farmington City Council and also to present to the Policy Committee on November 11.

Mr. Lucero stated on the regional route the buses will only be running halfway between Farmington and Aztec and Bloomfield all day. He also stated the buses will continue to run to Aztec, Bloomfield, and Kirtland three times a day. Mr. Lucero stated the route would serve a lot more riders and there would be minimal cost to change the regional route to better serve the community.

Mr. Delmagori stated Mr. Krutsinger should have a final draft of the study when he comes out in November.

Ms. Westerling stated the Aztec route might not benefit the riders that work in Farmington. She suggested maybe changing the time so the riders would be able to use the Red Apple Transit on their way home.

ACTION: The report was received.

8. RECEIVE REPORT ON RED APPLE RIDERSHIP REPORT

Subject: Red Apple Transit Update
Prepared by: Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date: July 13, 2010

RED APPLE UPDATE

- Overall ridership reached 11,771 passengers in September, an increase of 3% over the previous month.
- Aztec saw a significant increase of 71% in ridership over the previous month.
- Bloomfield and Kirtland saw increases in ridership over the previous month, with 34%, and 10% respectfully.
- Farmington remained relatively flat with a -.1% from the previous month.
- Aztec, Bloomfield, Kirtland, and Farmington had increases over the same period last year with 46%, 27%, 36% and 1% respectfully.
- The ridership report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lucero informed the Committee of the overall ridership for the Red Apple Transit. He stated the overall ridership increased by 3% in the previous months. Mr. Lucero stated Aztec saw a significant increase of 71% in ridership over the previous months. He discussed the increase in ridership of all the routes and will provide the numbers to LSC for the transit study.

Mr. Lucero stated next month staff will provide a comprehensive report to show the overall increase in the ridership and the breakdown cost per stop.

Ms. Moojen asked if it was possible to receive a report on the Aztec route with the number of riders per stop. Mr. Lucero stated the Red Apple Transit is working on getting the numbers per stop for the next two weeks. He informed Ms. Moojen that the transit division has not done this in the past but will be working on getting the information requested.

ACTION: The report was received.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	October 19, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Technical Committee 2011 Meeting Schedule.** Staff is proposing the continuation of the current meeting schedule which is every fourth Thursday of the month at 10am. The meeting locations would also continue the current pattern of rotating location among the entities.
- b. **Hood Mesa/Northern Route Connection Alternatives.** Staff is currently working with the City of Farmington and community stakeholders to develop an alternative to the Hood Mesa Trail- Northern Route Connection. Staff will bring the preferred alternative to the Technical Committee for review in November.
- c. **Other.**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lucero informed the committee that staff will be proposing the continuation of the current meeting schedule which is every fourth Thursday of the month at 10:00am. He stated the meeting locations will rotate among the entities.

Mr. Lucero stated that staff is currently working with the City of Farmington and stakeholders to develop an alternative route through Northeast Farmington. He stated the public requested more information on the alternative route. Mr. Lucero stated staff will bring the preferred alternative route to the Technical Committee at November's meeting.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

DISCUSSION: There was no business from the Chairman, members or staff.

11. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

DISCUSSION: There was no business from the floor.

12. ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION: Mr. Keck made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Westerling seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Cindy Lopez- Vice-Chair

Kathy Bonnell- Admin Aide