

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
November 18, 2010

Technical Members Present: Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield
Dave Keck, San Juan County
Mike Huber, City of Aztec
Chico Quintana, City of Farmington, Alternate

Technical Members Absent: Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner

Staff Absent: Bob Campbell, MPO Officer
Kathy Bonnell, MPO Administrative Aide

Also Present: Dave Martinez, NMDOT
Larry Hathaway, San Juan County

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 28, 2010 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Keck motioned to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2010 Technical Committee meeting and Mr. Quintana seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. ADOPT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2010-1

Subject:	Annual Meeting Resolution
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	November 9, 2010

BACKGROUND

- The attached TC Resolution 2010-1 establishes the procedures to be followed and notice to be given pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, provides for the annual determination of reasonable notice of meetings, and establishes the meeting times, dates and locations for the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee meetings during calendar year 2011.

CURRENT WORK

- The Technical Committee will hold twelve regular meetings during 2011.
- Meetings will be held each month on the fourth Thursday, with exceptions in November and December, which will be on the third Thursday.
- The Technical Committee meetings will rotate among the entities and be held at 10:00 am.
- The members have the opportunity to modify the meeting schedule as necessary prior to adopting the resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee adopt TC Resolution 2010-1.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori indicated staff is proposing to maintain the monthly Technical Committee meeting schedule on the fourth Thursday of every month and to rotate the meeting locations among the entities. Each meeting is proposed to be held at 10:00 am throughout the 2011 calendar year. The exceptions to the schedule are the meetings being held in November and December which were moved to the third Thursday due to the holidays. Mr. Delmagori indicated that the information is in the attached TC Resolution 2010-1.

ACTION: Mr. Quintana made a motion to adopt TC Resolution 2010-1. Mr. Keck seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. REVIEW ALTERNATIVES FOR NORTHERN ROUTE/HOOD MESA TRAIL AS PART OF THE MPO MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan Alternatives
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	November 9, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The FMPO Policy Committee adopted the Major Thoroughfare Plan at their September 9th meeting with direction to staff to review alternatives for the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection in Northeast Farmington.
- Staff has met with City of Farmington Staff to discuss alternatives to the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection.
- Alternatives were reviewed with the Technical Committee on October 7.
- The MPO held a stakeholder meeting on October 25 to review the identified alternatives.

CURRENT WORK

- Two alternatives will be discussed with the Technical Committee:
 - Run the Northern Route over the top of Foothills and connect it to College Blvd
 - Keep the connection described above but also continue the Northern Route to intersect with Glade Road.
- Review and analyze the benefits and costs for each alternative with stakeholders.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Recommend adoption of an alternative alignment for Hood Mesa Trail and the Northern Route.
- The development of a Roadway Classification Map showing all existing and future roadway designations.
- NMDOT and FHWA approval of changes to road classifications.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee review alternatives for the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection as part of the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lucero informed the committee that the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan Alternatives have been reviewed several times with the Technical Committee and that staff has also met with various stakeholder groups. He stated staff prefers Alternative #1. Mr. Lucero demonstrated on the map the connections that were reviewed by staff to make Alternative #1 the preferred choice. In this alternative, the Northern Route will be aligned over the top of Foothills and would then connect into College Blvd. Other streets, such as

Hood Mesa Trail and an unnamed road east of Foothills, would connect to the Northern Route to help disperse traffic. Mr. Lucero explained Alternative #2. It would be very similar to the first alternative, yet the Northern Route would continue west and connect to Glade Road.

Mr. Lucero stated a representative from BLM met with staff to discuss the routes and informed staff that BLM will not support a connection from the Northern Route connecting into Glade Road. However BLM viewed expanding College to the north and connecting to the Northern Route as favorable.

Mr. Lucero stated at this time the MPO is currently presenting the alternatives. Staff will seek recommendation from the Technical Committee on the alternatives for the Northern Route/Hood Mesa Trail as part of an amendment to the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan at the December 9 meeting.

Mr. Quintana commented on the opposition for tying into Glade Road. Mr. Quintana believes the connection with College to the Northern Route is less controversial than the connection to Glade Road because College has already been built as part of the North Foothills Circulation project. He feels new connections into the Glade could be a battle in the future. He asked if approval of an alternative was the first step and if the subsequent steps would be to seek updates to every plat that follows these routes. Mr. Lucero stated for the most part all this land is BLM and private holdings. The MPO is trying to gather information to take to every entity so they can update their Major Thoroughfare Plans. After adoption of the plan, each entity during the subdivision process will then be able to extract the needed right-of-way from each individual plat. He also stated the proposed lines on the map are conceptual alignments and do not necessarily dictate the best alignment. Adjustments and specific alignments can be made during the plat review process.

Ms. Lopez states that this is a precursor to amending the City of Farmington's Major Thoroughfare Plan to reflect changes based on the proposed Northern Route. She stated most of what is shown for the alternatives is in the Major Thoroughfare Plan already. Mr. Lucero stated some of the biggest changes for the City of Farmington would be the new direction of College, changing the classification of College from a collector to a minor arterial, and adding in the Northern Route.

ACTION: The report was received.

5. RECEIVE REPORT FROM NMDOT

DISCUSSION: Due to no representatives present, no report was received from NMDOT at this time. Mr. Martinez arrived at the end of the meeting and his report was given after the Information Items.

6. RECEIVE REPORT ON RED APPLE TRANSIT STUDY

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Study
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	November 9, 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 four public meetings on the transit study.
- Other stakeholder meetings were held to review the Technical Memos and to gather additional inputs from the community.
- Options were developed for both the regional and Farmington routes.
- From the multiple routing options, a preferred alternative has been selected, which identifies linear routes for Farmington and creating all day service for portions of the regional routes.

CURRENT WORK

- LSC has issued a draft final report that explains the recommendations, the implementation schedule for the recommendations, and the financial plan.
- Farmington City Council received a presentation on the draft final report on November 9.
- During the November 10 public meeting, LSC Consultants presented the service and phasing recommendations and the financial plan for implementing the preferred alternative.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- LSC Consultants will issue the Final Report based on final input from the entities, stakeholders, and the public.
- Seek approval of the Final Report in January.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori informed the committee that Mr. Krutsinger was in town on November 9-11 to give presentations on the draft final report. On Tuesday, November 9 he presented the draft final report to Farmington City Council. On Wednesday, November 10 he led a public meeting to go over his findings and to receive any public comments regarding the draft final report. Mr. Delmagori discussed the multiple routing options and how the preferred alternative was determined. The preferred alternative identifies linear routes for Farmington and begins to create all day service for portions of the regional routes. He mentioned that Mr. Krutsinger has performed some analysis on the potential cost and expected ridership of the preferred alternative.

Mr. Delmagori referred to the draft final report and focused on Chapter 9. Mr. Delmagori explained how Mr. Krutsinger broke down the recommendations for the transit system. Short term recommendations can be implemented within the next two years through the addition of stops to the existing route structure and creating bidirectional travel. Long term recommendations would be the transition from the current system to the routes outlined in the preferred alternative.

Mr. Delmagori stated in Chapter 10 of the draft report there is information on the cost to implement the proposed changes. The breakdown includes the costs associated with the transition, capital purchases such as bus stops and shelters, and a marketing program. The financial plan indicates how much additional funding the entities will have to provide in order to implement the changes. The end of Chapter 10 discusses marketing strategies for how the long term recommendations can be implemented.

Ms. Lopez questioned if Mr. Krutsinger has met with the bus drivers as requested by the Farmington City Council. Mr. Delmagori confirmed that Mr. Krutsinger is in the process of setting up meetings with the bus drivers.

Mr. Quintana asked if the figures have been presented to the Policy Committee. Mr. Delmagori affirmed that the figures had been presented last week at the Policy Committee Meeting and to the Farmington City Council. Mr. Quintana asked how the figures were received. Mr. Delmagori stated there is some hesitancy regarding the amounts proposed for each entity, but with this plan it gives each entity time to budget for the proposed increases shown in future years.

ACTION: The report was received.

7. RECEIVE REPORT ON RED APPLE TRANSIT RIDERSHIP

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Update
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	November 9, 2010

RED APPLE UPDATE

- Overall ridership peaked in March 2010 reaching a high of 12,835 passengers.
- The combined Farmington Routes have seen an average annual growth of 2%
- Bloomfield’s highest ridership occurred in August of 2008 with 617 passengers.
- Bloomfield’s peaks occur during late summer and early fall.
- Bloomfield’s rise in ridership outpaces the lulls creating a positive seasonal trend.
- Kirtland’s seasonal cycle is much shorter than that of the other regional routes with six month highs and lows.
- Kirtland’s overall ridership trend is positive with a steady annual growth of 4%.
- Aztec’s highest ridership occurred in July of 2007 with 289 riders.
- Aztec has had various peaks and valleys over the lifespan of the route, but has had an average annual growth rate of 4%.
- The ridership report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lucero presented the compressive ridership report for the Red Apple Transit, which shows the ridership trends from 2002 through 2010. He explained to the committee the peaks and valleys found with the regional routes. Mr. Lucero stated the overall ridership has increased since additional routes have been added and headways were cut in half. The diagram shows the overall number of riders increased in the summer of 2008 likely because of four big events.

Mr. Lucero stated that the overall ridership peaked in March 2010 reaching a high of 12,835 passengers. He also stated the Farmington route has an annual growth of 2%, Kirtland has an annual growth of 4%, and Aztec with a annual growth of 4%.

Mr. Lucero then concluded by discussing seasonal trends for each route. Color maps of the ridership graphs will be sent out to the members.

ACTION: The report was received.

8. RECEIVE REPORT ON THE 2010 TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	2010 Traffic Count Program
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	November 9, 2010

BACKGROUND

- The MPO identified 81 traffic count locations to be counted in 2010.
- TRA collected traffic counts during the weeks of October 11th and October 18th.
- Initial data has been provided for 79 count locations.

CURRENT WORK

- Staff will validate count information for completeness and discrepancies.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Staff will forward TRADAS count files to NMDOT for review and acceptance.
- Staff will upload count information into the TDS website database after acceptance by NMDOT.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the traffic count program.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lucero informed the committee that the MPO identified 81 traffic count locations to be counted in 2010 and that 79 had valid data. One count had to be removed due to construction and the other one had an unrealistic drop in volume which makes the validity of the count questionable. He added that Traffic Research & Analysis (TRA) was the new consultant that conducted the 2010 counts.

Mr. Lucero stated staff reviewed the counts for completeness and discrepancies. The data is being provided to NMDOT for their review and approval. Mr. Lucero continued by indicating that the overall initial review showed the MPO region has experienced a decrease in traffic volume. The decrease may be due to higher gas prices, a drop in employment, and possibly more trip chaining. Mr. Lucero stated the only way to verify if this is a new trend or an anomaly is to wait until the 2011 data is collected.

Mr. Quintana asked if the drop in volume had something to do with the oilfield company that closed along CR 350. Mr. Keck stated there are still some companies up there at this time. Ms. Lopez questioned if there was a way to conduct a class count on

vehicles going through the traffic count locations. Mr. Lucero stated staff is currently reviewing the class counts to breakdown how many are actually commercial vehicles and how many are regular cars. Ms. Lopez added that the counts might also be affected by the companies piggybacking their trips to cut down on fuel costs.

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:	November 9, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **FMPO-NMDOT Memorandum of Agreement.** The Policy Committee took action on the FMPO-NMDOT Memorandum of Agreement at their meeting on November 10. The MOA takes effect on January 1, 2011 and continues through June 30, 2015.
- b. **NMAPA Conference, November 3-5, 2010.** Martin Lucero presented at the 2010 NMAPA Conference in Las Cruces, NM on the FMPO Long Range Plan. The Farmington MPO regional transportation policies and strategies were highlighted during the presentation.
- c. **Other.**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori informed the Committee that the Policy Committee approved the FMPO-NMDOT Memorandum of Agreement at their meeting on November 10. The final step will be to have the Farmington City Council approve the MOA. The MOA will go into effect on January 1, 2011.

Mr. Delmagori stated Mr. Lucero gave a presentation on the FMPO Long Range Plan at the 2010 NMAPA Conference in Las Cruces. It was very well attended and well received.

Mr. Delmagori mentioned that Kathy Bonnell had recently resigned from her position and he thanked her for her time and assistance to the MPO.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

DISCUSSION: Mr. Martinez arrived and was asked to give his NMDOT report. He informed the committee that payment has been issued for San Juan County's ARRA project. He stated he would like to meet with Ms. Baird today concerning some issues with Bloomfield's project. He has a meeting with Aztec later in the afternoon to discuss the NM 516/Light Plant Rd safety project. Mr. Quintana mentioned he wanted to speak with Mr. Martinez about his ARRA questions.

Ms. Baird asked if there was an update for US 64. Mr. Martinez answered that he thought that the project had been awarded and that due to the unseasonably warm weather, some work may begin shortly. He will check to make sure the contract has been awarded and inform Ms. Baird when he returns to Santa Fe.

Mr. Keck asked the NMDOT when maintenance or improvements may be expected for NM 516. He stated the local politicians are receiving lots of calls regarding the condition of NM 516. When asked by the county manager, Mr. Keck explained that the current focus for District 5 is US 64. Mr. Keck proceeded to question if NM 516 will get worked on at any point prior to the freeze/thaw cycle of winter. He stated the City of Aztec is very interested in possibly improving the section of road near Spencerville. The intersection to that community is dangerous because there is no left turn lane and drivers are using the left through lane to make the turn.

Mr. Huber stated he is also receiving calls regarding NM 516. Citizens want him to make repairs to the road but he has explained to them that he cannot just repair the road since it is not a local facility. Aztec citizens do not understand why repairs cannot be made. Mr. Huber concurred that the road condition is poor.

Mr. Martinez stated that Mr. Gabaldon is scheduling a meeting with the Aztec City Manager sometime after Thanksgiving. Mr. Delmagori and Mr. Keck expressed interest in attending. Mr. Martinez stated he will make the recommendation to Mr. Gabaldon that all appropriate entities are invited. Mr. Martinez also stated possibly trying to look for funding to do some spot repairs on NM 516. Mr. Martinez said the State budget has been cut dramatically which in turn has affected the district budgets. Currently each district is evaluating which projects are deemed the most important.

11. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

DISCUSSION: There was no business from the floor.

12. ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION: Ms Lopez made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Quintana seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Julie Baird- Chair

Joe Delmagori - MPO Planner