

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
May 27, 2010

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

Technical Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Kathy Bonnell, Secretary II
Dee Dee Moore, Community Development Admin Assistant

Staff Absent: Bob Campbell, MPO Officer
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner

Also Present: Clancy Donnelly, NWNMCOG
Ray Matthew, NMDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms.Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 25, 2010 TECHNICAL MEETING

Ms. Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2010 Technical Committee meeting. Mr.Christensen seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2010 TRAFFIC COUNT LOCATION LIST

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	2010 Traffic Count Program
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	May 18, 2010

BACKGROUND

- MPO maintains traffic counts for 221 locations throughout the MPO boundaries.
- Locations are taken according to a three year cycle and periodically change due to the deletion or addition of various locations.
- This year will be the start of a new three year cycle with some count locations now having multiple years of information.
- Counts that were not approved last year or were affected by road construction will be counted in 2010.
- The MPO expects to take 81 counts in 2010.

CURRENT WORK

- The proposed location list is attached for review.
- The members are asked to identify locations that might conflict with known road construction schedules.
- Staff will ask member entities to review the list in August for any unforeseen conflicts with construction or other events.
- MPO anticipates taking the counts in September and October.

RECOMMENDATION

- Staff recommends that the Technical Committee review the report on the traffic count program and recommend approval of the 2010 Traffic Count Location list.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero discussed the proposed traffic count location list for 2010. After the Technical Committee reviewed the list, Ms. Westerling mentioned possibly taking traffic counts along Vine and Navajo, Vine and Laguna, Hood Mesa and Lakewood, and Hood Mesa and College. Ms Baird would double check the construction schedule for the traffic count located at US550 and Maple. Mr. Steve Christensen indicated that the City of Aztec may have additional locations that they would like to add and that he would contact staff at a later date. Mr. Lucero stated that the list could be amended after approval at the subsequent meetings later in the year.

Action: The 2010 Traffic Count Program report was reviewed. Ms. Westerling made a motion to recommend approval of the current list. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVE THE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Agenda Item

Subject:	Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	May 17, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The original Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan was adopted by the MPO Policy Committee on June 12, 2008.
- Elements of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan were incorporated into the 2035 MTP by staff and discussed with the member entities, stakeholders, and both the Technical and Policy Committees.
- Public comments were received as part of the 2035 MTP process.
- The MPO prioritized the regional bicycle/pedestrian projects within the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan as part of the 2035 MTP process.

CURRENT WORK

- Updates to key sections of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan have been completed to reflect changes made during the MTP update.
- Staff will review the changes to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan with the Technical Committee on May 27.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Seek approval of the update to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan by the Policy Committee on June 10.
- Send plan update to the individual governments.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- Final Draft of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan provided to the Committee members (also available on the MPO website - www.farmingtonmpo.org).

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee:
 - Review updates to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.
 - Recommend approval of the update to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero highlighted the updates to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. A discussion was had on the various tables that were added to reflect the completed projects and the prioritized tier projects. Ms. Westerling questioned whether the list of projects were updated or prioritized and asked if new projects were added to the list or if this list reflected the recently adopted 2035 MTP. Mr. Lucero stated that the projects listed in the

BPP update were consistent with the 2035 MTP and the list was originally prioritized during the Joint Policy-Technical Committee back in November.

Action: Ms. Westerling made a motion to recommend approval of the update to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

Discussion: Mr. Matthew mentioned that the quarterly MPO meeting will be held in Farmington on June 23, 2010.

6. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Major Thoroughfare Plan
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	May 18, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- From 1990 to 2000 San Juan County experienced a tremendous amount of population growth - 25 percent in ten years.
- The County grew from 91,567 in 1990 to 114,043 in 2000.
- Approximately 80% of the population of San Juan County lives within the MPO boundary.
- Approximately 85% of the population of San Juan County is employed within the MPO boundary.
- The Major Thoroughfare Plan (MTP) is designed to accommodate both current and projected travel demands associated with growth.
- As part of the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan staff reviewed with both the Technical and Policy Committees the roadway network and surrounding land uses as well as projected increases in population and traffic volumes.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- The development of a Roadway Classification Map showing all existing and future roadway designations.

BACKUP MATERIAL

- Reasons and justifications for developing a major thoroughfare plan within the FMPO.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the Major Thoroughfare Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero shared that the MPO staff is currently working on the development of a Roadway Classification Map and will be meeting with each entity to get their input. Mr. Lucero also stated the reasons why MPOs adopt a Major Thoroughfare plan. The plan would take into consideration various items such as the land uses, surrounding transportation network, future demographics and other existing plans. The Technical Committee reviewed the proposed map that was presented by Mr. Lucero. Ms. Westerling shared that the new portions of the Hood Mesa Trail is currently classified as a collector, but she has enough right-of-way to build it as a minor arterial. She would recommend leaving it on the proposed thoroughfare map as a minor arterial. Mr. Lucero stated the important factor in planning is integrating the roadway network and surrounding land uses.

Action: The report was received.

7. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE Red Apple Transit Study

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Study
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 17, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The 2035 MTP identifies a need to evaluate the current transit system.
- The MPO, in cooperation with Red Apple Transit, will work with a consultant to determine future transit needs and recommend expansion options.

CURRENT WORK

- Seven firms were evaluated in April.
- LSC Consulting in Colorado Springs has been selected for the study.
- A six month work schedule has been developed and will be discussed with the Technical Committee members on May 27, 2010.
- Staff will begin work with LSC in late May.

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ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Invite stakeholders and the public to a kick-off meeting in June that describes the study and anticipated outcomes.▪ Provide population and employment data to the consultant.▪ Assist with land use and demographic analysis.

BACKUP MATERIAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Proposed work schedule.

RECOMMENDATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the Red Apple Transit Study.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero informed the committee that LSC Consulting has been selected for the transit study. There will be a public meeting on June 3, 2010 at Farmington Civic Center from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The study will include an evaluation of the current loop route system plus recommendations for expansion, possible connections to Navajo Transit and local public transportation deficiencies, timing, and funding. Staff has identified stakeholders throughout the MPO and contacted them concerning this meeting. Mr. Lucero requested that the committee members forward the information to all of the stakeholders which they would like to attend and have input in the process. He also emphasized that all of the committee members would be welcomed to attend along with any other staff members from the local entities or elected officials.

Action: The report was received.

8. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE TIGER II GRANT PROGRAM

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	TIGER II
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 17, 2010

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Last year's TIGER applications have been submitted, reviewed, and awarded.▪ US 491 was the only TIGER application funded in New Mexico.

CURRENT WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pre-applications must be submitted by July 16, 2010. ▪ Final applications are due by August 23, 2010. ▪ Road, bridge, public transit, and intermodal facility projects are all eligible. ▪ A total of \$600 million is available for the program. ▪ Individual project awards will be between \$10-\$200 million in urban areas. ▪ Federal funding will cover 80% of the total. ▪ Similar selection criteria as last year's TIGER grant will be used.

ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist the entities with applying if needed.

BACKUP MATERIAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TIGER II Fact Sheet.

RECOMMENDATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the TIGER II Grant Program.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero shared that the only TIGER application that was funded in New Mexico last year was US 491. Mr. Lucero provided the current information on the TIGER II grant program. There will be a \$150 million limit for each state for this program. Mr. Lucero stated that District 5 had submitted US 64 from Bloomfield to Farmington under the TIGER program last year and that the City of Farmington and San Juan County had submitted the Piñon Hills Bridge. Mr. Lucero shared that there is no guarantee that projects would be awarded, but due to the application requirements being very similar to the first TIGER program, he did not feel it would be too strenuous for the entities to apply for Tiger II funding.

Mr. Matthew stated TIGER II applications are being taken for safety type projects and suggested updating any previous applications and resubmitting them. One of the factors in selecting projects is readiness and that it is a viable, stand alone project. Ms. Westerling shared information from a TIGER II webinar she listened to regarding possible TIGER II projects. She indicated that an emphasis was made that projects should be innovative and she stated that we do not have a project that is innovative enough for them to look at. She also commented that job creation was not a high priority in the project selection. However, projects are selected from the project ready category. Also it stated we do not need to meet the 9 criteria but pick one and focus on that criteria for the project.

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:	May 17, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Safety Announcement Follow-up.** Since Farmington and San Juan County received a project selection decision of “RSA/ Safety Study /Technical Support”, each entity needs to contact the NMDOT Safety Bureau to determine the follow-up technical support services that are needed.
- b. **Safe Routes to School Program Update.** The MPO finished taking arrival counts for the three participating schools within the Farmington School District. The MPO has also been meeting with the Bloomfield School District and City staff to begin efforts to establish a program within Bloomfield.
- c. **MPO Quarterly.** The Farmington MPO will host the next MPO Quarterly on June 23.
- d. **Other.**

Discussion: Mr. Lucero reminded the Technical Committee about the need to contact the NMDOT Safety Bureau for technical support services. Mr. Lucero explained that although there weren't any funds made available for construction that the entities still needed to respond in writing that they are still interested in the safety studies by the NMDOT. Mr. Lucero explained that the Safe Routes to School Program is having a kick off meeting on June 30th in Bloomfield in hopes of establishing a SRTS program in Bloomfield. Mr. Lucero reiterated that the MPO Quarterly will be held in Farmington June 23, 2010 at the MPO office. Mr. Donnelly from the NWNMCOG introduced himself to the Technical Committee and audience members.

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: Ms. Westerling made the motion to adjourn. Ms Lopez seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

Julie Baird-Chair

Dee Dee Moore-Admin -Assistant