

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
June 23, 2011

Technical Members Present: Mike Huber, City of Aztec
Brad Ellsworth, City of Bloomfield
Fran Fillerup, City of Farmington, Alternate
Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington
Dave Keck, San Juan County

Technical Members Absent: Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide

Staff Absent: Mary L. Holton, MPO Officer

Also Present: Larry Joe, Navajo DOT
Valcita Thompson, Navajo DOT
Larry Hathaway, San Juan County

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Huber called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 26, 2011 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Ellsworth made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2011 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Fillerup seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROPOSED MPO TIER SYSTEM RELATING TO REAUTHORIZATION AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT TO SMALL MPOs

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Draft Reauthorization - Proposed MPO Tier System
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 15, 2011

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- In May, AMPO informed the nation's MPOs about a 'preliminary' draft reauthorization that describes a MPO tier system.
- Tier 1 would consist of MPOs with a population of 1,000,000 or more.
- Tier 2 would consist of MPOs with a population between 200,000 and 1,000,000.
- Small MPOs under 200,000 would either have to demonstrate their technical capacity to remain a MPO or develop a plan to be dissolved.
- MPO planning requirements would be assumed by the state DOT for all dissolved MPOs.
- AMPO has developed a list of Talking Points and is requesting Congress to keep all existing MPOs intact.
- Small MPOs are being encouraged to contact their US representatives and senators requesting that they do not support this proposal.
- Staff developed a letter to the state's US legislators highlighting the detrimental effects this proposed bill would have to the Farmington MPO.
- The letter and a report were presented to the Policy Committee on June 16.

CURRENT WORK

- MPO staff is continually being informed about this proposal through AMPO conference calls and other correspondence.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Submit the letter to Representative Lujan, Senators Udall and Bingaman, Governor Martinez, and Transportation Commissioner Butch Mathews.

ATTACHMENTS

- Excerpt from proposed authorization that describes the MPO tier system.
- FMPO Letter to US and state officials (provided at the Technical Committee meeting based on Policy Committee action).

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on a proposed tier system relating to reauthorization and its potential impact to small MPOs.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori gave a brief review of the preliminary draft reauthorization for SAFETEA LU that describes a proposed MPO tier system. Tier 1 would consist of MPOs with a population of 1,000,000 or more; Tier 2 would consist of MPOs with a population between 200,000 and 1,000,000; and small MPOs with fewer than 200,000 in population would either have to demonstrate their technical capacity and receive approval from the Governor to remain a MPO or develop a plan to be dissolved. MPO planning requirements would be assumed by the corresponding state DOT for all dissolved MPOs.

Mr. Delmagori stated that this would have major implications for FMPO as well as for Las Cruces and Santa Fe, with changes also possible for Albuquerque. AMPO is opposed to this legislation and has written a letter to Congress stating their concerns and illustrating its many drawbacks. The FMPO, along with about 75 other MPOs, signed onto this letter. The MPO Policy Committee approved its own letter describing the importance of a MPO to a small

urban area, the projects the MPO has accomplished in a few short years, and that although NMDOT is a partner in the process, they do not have the resources, time, or staff to be doing the work the MPO handles on a daily basis.

If this legislation was passed, it would take away the PL and 5303 planning funds the MPO currently receives to complete its work. Mr. Delmagori added that it would also lessen the voice and minimize the input that the local entities have with decisions made by NMDOT. Ms. Westerling asked how much in Federal planning funds the MPO received. Mr. Delmagori reported that a base amount for PL is \$185,000 and then another \$20,000 for transit work. However, for FY 2012, the MPO is expecting a boost in both funding categories and should receive about \$300,000 in federal planning funds.

Mr. Huber asked if the draft reauthorization explained what constituted “technical capacity”. Mr. Delmagori said that there has been no information that explains this in any detail or provides any criteria. He added that his interpretation of this would be the work a MPO completes and the projects it has accomplished. Mr. Delmagori stated Staff would keep the Technical and Policy Committees posted of any information as it became available. Congress and its subcommittees are expected to begin work on this reauthorization legislation after July 4th. In the meantime, the FMPO letter was sent to all the U.S. Senators and Representatives, the Governor, and the new Transportation Commissioner to inform them of where the MPO stands on this matter. Mr. Fillerup asked if other groups that the MPO interacts with would lend their support to the MPO’s position, such as the bike club, the RPO, and Navajo DOT. Ms Westerling thought that would be a great idea to further illustrate the importance of the MPO.

Mr. Delmagori stated that this issue was discussed at the MPO Quarterly Meeting held on June 22nd. The Santa Fe and Las Cruces MPOs are in the process of getting similar letters approved by their Policy committees. Also during this meeting, NMDOT representatives reported they are aware of how this could potentially impact their agency and are treating this as any other state legislation where their direction would come from the Governor. Staff will provide another status report at the July Technical Meeting.

ACTION: The report was received.

4. RECEIVE A REPORT ON RED APPLE TRANSIT DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Data Collection
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 15, 2011

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The MPO and Red Apple Transit worked with LSC Consultants to determine future transit needs and make recommendations for expansion options.

- LSC Consultants developed recommend options for both the regional and Farmington routes for modifying and expanding the existing system.
- Development of the transit study illustrated the need for transit data collection.
- The information will be used to further justify the recommendations made in the Red Apple Transit Study.

CURRENT WORK

- The data will be collected utilizing two interns that will administer onboard surveys, track boarding/alightment, and take passenger counts at various bus stop locations.
- The interns will ride on the bus to collect origin/destination data of passengers.
- Staff has developed a survey that will be administered to Red Apple passengers to help determine:
 - The frequency of usage
 - The need of the transit system
 - An estimate of 'unique riders'
- The FMPO interns are scheduled to begin collection of the data during the week of June 20th.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Staff will evaluate the collected data for any correlations between social economic factors and riders.
- Staff will evaluate the transit needs within this region.
- Staff will try to estimate the number of unique riders on the Red Apple.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori reported that earlier this year, LSC Consultants had completed the Red Apple Transit Study. Development of this transit study illustrated the need for transit data collection. The MPO has hired two summer interns who will help collect the needed data by riding on the bus to administer onboard surveys to get a better understanding of travel characteristics, track boarding/alightment, and take passenger counts at various bus stop locations to gauge ridership at particular stops. Staff will analyze the data as it comes in to further support the study's recommendations and to hopefully implement some of the changes in the near term. Mr. Delmagori said that if any of the entities had specific questions or issues they would like addressed, Staff will work those into the interns' schedule.

ACTION: The report was received.

5. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST FORMS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Functional Classification Request Forms
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 15, 2011

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- Staff discussed the possibility of helping NMDOT update their thoroughfare plan for the MPO region by submitting requests for reclassification and/or adding roadways to the classification system.
- MPO staff has reviewed the MPO Major T-Plan and has created templates to submit to NMDOT for roadways that meet classification criteria.
- Staff has worked with each member entity to fill out the reclassification request forms.
- Staff identified approximately 70 road sections based on the FMPO Major Thoroughfare Plan.

CURRENT WORK

- Staff plans on submitting 52 road sections to NMDOT for reclassification.
- These sections include declassifications, reclassification, and assigning new classifications for either newly constructed or proposed roads.
- The remaining 18 road sections have been identified but will be submitted to NMDOT at a later time.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Staff will submit completed templates to NMDOT for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a status report on the Functional Classification Change Request Forms.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lucero reported that Staff submitted 72 road sections to NMDOT for reclassification. These sections include classification changes to properly classify regional roads and declassification of some roads to better match their functionality. This was not, however, the entire set of identified road sections. Those submitted met classification criteria better and Staff wanted to ensure those would be given careful consideration by NMDOT and not be disqualified by the other remaining road sections that were not as clearly defined. Mr. Lucero stated that Staff hopes to hear back within the next month on NMDOT's initial evaluations. Staff is confident that many of the requested reclassifications will be approved.

ACTION: The report was received.

6. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

No NMDOT representatives were in attendance.

Mr. Delmagori mentioned NMDOT's press release of June 21, 2011 which reported that the Transportation Commission had approved more than \$20,000,000 for Local Government Road Fund monies to improve city and county roads state-wide. San Juan County will receive County CO-OP funding for various county roads and there will be MAP funds for the East Blanco Bridge in Bloomfield. Staff will work to make amendments to the TIP and STIP once all funding amounts have been finalized.

7. RECEIVE A REPORT ON MPO PROJECTS PROGRAMMED INTO THE FY2012-2015 STIP

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	MPO Projects Programmed into the FY2012-2017 STIP
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 15, 2011

BACKGROUND

- On May 26, 2011 the Farmington MPO were informed that NMDOT District 5 had selected five projects from the MPO priority lists to be programmed into the FY2012-2015 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- On June 14, 2011 Staff received the official notice outlining the projects and funding amounts.
- The top three Transportation Enhancement Projects from the Unfunded List had been selected.
- A phase of the Pinon Hills extension was selected.
- US 64 Phase IV will be funded in 2014 and 2015.
- In addition the City of Farmington was awarded SRTS Phase 2 funding in the amount of \$25,000 for non infrastructure activities and \$250,000 for infrastructure improvements.

CURRENT WORK

- Staff is adjusting the TIP for all the projects that were already in the unfunded portion of the FY2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program.
- The SRTS funding will be added into the STIP.
- Additional modifications will be made once maintenance funds for US 64 are identified.

ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Complete and issue out the revised FY2012-2017 TIP based on the programming of these new projects.

ATTACHMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Project details of the new MPO projects in the FY2012-2017 STIP.

RECOMMENDATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on MPO projects programmed into the FY2012-2015 STIP.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori reported that Mr. Phil Gallegos with District 5 called to say the FY2012-2015 STIP is in the final stages of approval and that several projects from the MPO's TIP Priority List were programmed into the new STIP. The MPO's top three Transportation Enhancement Projects from the Unfunded Project List - North Animas River Bridge in Aztec, Bergin Lane in Bloomfield, and 20th Street in Farmington - were selected for programming. Additionally, \$3,000,000 was programmed to do intersection improvements at Pinon Hills and NM 516 and build East Pinon Hills Blvd down to Hubbard. Phase IV of US 64 which continues the project from Bloomfield heading west toward Farmington was also programmed into the STIP. In addition the City of Farmington was awarded SRTS Phase 2 funding in the amount of \$25,000 for non-infrastructure activities which will support the activities of the SRTS Coordinator as well as biking and walking events; and \$250,000 for infrastructure improvements which will include construction of sidewalks along the north side of Apache Street from Auburn west to Apache Elementary School. Mr. Delmagori said this leaves the City of Farmington with approximately \$185,000 in infrastructure Phase 2 funding. Once the details are finalized, an amendment will be submitted to update the TIP.

Mr. Delmagori and Ms. Westerling explained that non-infrastructure items were anything that was not actually built or constructed and could include handouts/giveaways for school children or expenses incurred to hold a SRTS event at a school.

At the last Policy Committee meeting, Mr. Phil Gallegos stated that maintenance on two sections of US 64 (one near Hogback and one at the Troy King intersection) had been approved. Mr. Delmagori has not yet received confirmation of this approval from District 5. Mr. Lucero added that NMDOT hopes to have funds in the year-end closeout to overlay the right-hand lanes in both directions on US 64 from the Hogback/Waterflow area and extending as far towards Shiprock as possible.

Mr. Keck asked if NMDOT had provided any additional information on possible closeout funds being made available for projects in San Juan County. Mr. Lucero stated that during the MPO Quarterly Meeting, NMDOT representatives reported that they have begun working on the year-end closeout now instead of in August. They said they hoped to have an idea by the end of July on which projects within District 5 they will be able to fund. Also discussed was pooling all funds state-wide and then equally dividing those monies among the districts.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 15, 2011

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **TAZ-TAD Delineation.** MPO staff finalized the delineation process by meeting with entity staff. The TAZ-TAD maps have been submitted to the Census Bureau.
- b. **Joint Policy/Technical Committee Meeting.** It was recommended that NMDOT and both MPO committees discuss District 5 maintenance plans and strategies for the MPO region. Staff would like to coordinate this meeting in July
- c. **Statewide MPO Summit.** Las Cruces is proposing that the members of the Policy and Technical Committees from the state MPOs meet to share planning ideas and discuss regional transportation issues.
- d. **MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan.** MPO staff will seek approval of the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan and an alternative for the Northeast Farmington area from Farmington City Council on June 28.
- e. **Other.**

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Delmagori stated that the TAZ-TAD delineation process was wrapped up last week and the information sent to the Census Bureau.

Mr. Delmagori mentioned the Joint Policy/Technical Committee Meeting that is tentatively scheduled for July 20 at 1:30 p.m. and asked members to let Staff know if they will be able to attend.

The Statewide MPO Summit was discussed at the MPO Quarterly Meeting. Mr. Delmagori said that Las Cruces would like the Policy Committee members of all the MPOs in the state to gather once a year to discuss common issues and share ideas. Initially it was thought this summit was intended to include Technical Committee members as well, but the focus is to be with the Policy Committee members. The tentative date for this summit is September 28th and it might possibly be combined with the next MPO Quarterly Meeting to be held in Santa Fe.

Mr. Delmagori reported that the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan is scheduled to be presented before the Farmington City Council on June 28th.

9. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

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

10. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

DISCUSSION: Mr. Larry Joe had a question about the likelihood of school bus funding being cut. Mr. Keck said that although this money is contingent on the new highway bill, it is good through 2011. Mr. Joe offered the support of the Navajo DOT in the MPO's opposition to the preliminary draft reauthorization. Ms. Valcita Thompson, also with Navajo DOT in the Crownpoint area, introduced herself and offered to provide a letter of support from her Navajo DOT division in addition to the letter from Mr. Joe.

Mr. Lucero noted that in the TAZ/TAD delineation work just completed, the areas of Shiprock, Crownpoint, and Nageezi remained as part of San Juan County and, as such, ACS information for these areas could be received every three years rather than every five years.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Westerling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Keck seconded the motion. Mr. Huber adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Mike Huber, Vice Chair

June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide