

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
SPECIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
August 7, 2013

Technical Members Present: Brad Ellsworth, City of Bloomfield
Cynthia Lopez, City of Farmington
Chico Quintana, Alternate, City of Farmington
Dave Keck, San Juan County

Technical Members Absent: Roshana Moojen, Alternate, City of Aztec
Nica Westerling, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Mary Holton, MPO Officer
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide

Staff Absent: None

Also Present: Phil Gallegos, NMDOT District 5
Larry Hathaway, San Juan County

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keck called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)

Subject:	Transportation Alternatives Program
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	July 30, 2013

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- MAP-21 has created the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).
- Funding for TAP projects will be based on a project selection process.
- Final TAP guidelines were developed and approved in April.
- An overview of the guidelines and project selection process were presented to the Policy Committee and with the Technical Committee in June.

CURRENT WORK

- MPO Staff scored the first round of TAP applications.
- All first round awarded projects can be funded with the full amount of FFY2014 funds and a portion of the FFY2015 funds.

- A total of \$301,348 in TAP funds remains available for FFY 2015.
- A deadline of August 5 for second round of TAP applications was offered to sponsoring agencies.
- Similar to the first round, MPO Staff will score any additional TAP project applications.
- Second round applicants will solely compete for remaining FFY 2015 funds.
- The recommended list of selected TAP projects from the first and second rounds will be presented to the Policy Committee for approval on August 7.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Approve the selected projects in August.
- Amend the TIP to include the selected TAP projects.
- Work with sponsoring agencies to ensure all TAP requirements are met by October 1.

ATTACHMENTS

- TAP applications will be provided to the Technical Committee separately.
- MPO scoring for received TAP applications will be provided at the meeting.
- TAP federal funding and local match estimates for the MPO.
- Submitted TAP projects, descriptions, and costs.
- Summary of planning factors used in the scoring process.
- Breakdown of TAP funding by category, project, and year.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee recommend approval of the selected list of projects for TAP funding in FFY2015.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan reported that the first round of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications had been scored and ranked by Staff and then reviewed by the Technical Committee at the July 25 meeting.

Mr. Wakan stated that the submittal deadline for the first round of applications was July 15. Mr. Wakan reviewed those three projects submitted:

Sponsoring Agency	Project Name	Project Scope	Target Area	Fiscal Year(s)
1. Bloomfield	Verada De Rio San Juan Trail Phase II	Trail development and infrastructure along San Juan River	Urban	2014
2. Farmington	SSRR River Trail	Trail Development along Animas River	Rural	2014
3. Farmington	20 th Street Sidewalks Phase I	Sidewalk construction - Clayton to Fairview	Urban	2014-2015

The rural project for the Southside River Road (SSRR) River Trail was the only rural project application submitted for consideration. Of the two urban project applications submitted, the Verada De Rio San Juan Trail Phase II project in Bloomfield scored higher than the 20th Street Sidewalk Phase 1 in Farmington.

Mr. Wakan said that, following the scoring and ranking of the three initial projects and with the available federal TAP funding, it was identified that all three projects could be funded using a combination of Urban, Rural, and Anywhere funds. With additional TAP funds still available, a call for a second round of applications was made in order to use all the federal funding available to FMPO.

Mr. Wakan said the submittal deadline for the second round of applications was August 5. There were two additional urban projects submitted for consideration:

Bloomfield - Verada De Rio San Juan Trail Phase 3

Project details: trail development, mitigation pond for erosion control, and scenic enhancement.

Farmington - 20th Street Sidewalks Phase 2

Project details: sidewalk construction along 20th Street from Sullivan to Fairview.

Using the TAP scoring guidelines, Mr. Wakan explained how Staff scored and ranked the two new TAP project applications:

TAP SCORECARD - 2nd Round of FMPO Projects			
Project Readiness	Possible Points	Points Awarded	
		Verada De Rio San Juan Phase 3	20th Street Sidewalks Phase 2
a. Right-of-Way	5	5	5
b. Design	5	5	0
c. Environmental Certification	5	5	0
d. Utility Clearances	5	0	0
e. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)	5	0	0
f. Railroad	5	0	0

As noted, the Verada De Rio San Juan River Trail Phase 3 application received 15 points in Project Readiness while the 20th Street Sidewalks Phase 2 application received 5 points.

Planning			
a. Infrastructure and Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP)	5	5	0
b. Other eligible plans (2 points each, max of 10)	10	8	6

The Verada De Rio San Juan River Trail Phase 3 project is named in the City of Bloomfield's ICIP and four other documents including the MPO's TIP which gave this project 13 points in this scoring section. The 20th Street Sidewalk Phase 2 project is not named in the City of Farmington's ICIP, but is included in three other documents including the MPO's TIP, NMDOT's STIP, and the Comprehensive Plan which gave this project six points in the Planning section.

Scoring Factors			
Factor 1: Economic Vitality	5	5	5
Factor 2: Safety and Security	5	4	5
Factor 3: Accessibility and Mobility through Integration and Connectivity	5	5	4
Factor 4: Protection & Enhancement of Environment:			
a. Promote environmental conservation	5	5	5
b. Improve quality of life for residents	5	5	5
c. Achieve community's land use goals	5	5	5
Factor 5: Efficient System Management and Operation	5	5	5
Factor 6: System Preservation	5	3	5
TOTAL	85	65	50

The final scoring section for these two projects required each to provide write-ups describing and explaining how the projects will satisfy or meet each of the six Scoring Factors noted above. Write-ups for both projects were thorough and both projects received a high number of points.

Mr. Wakan stated that based on the total points awarded, Staff ranked the Verada De Rio San Juan Trail project first, due to its "project readiness" when compared to the 20th Street Sidewalks project, which ranked as the second highest scoring application.

Mr. Wakan said that both of these projects requested significant funding amounts. Along with the three initial TAP project applications and the limited amount of TAP funding available, Staff drafted several scenarios on how best to distribute funding to all five projects.

Staff had distributed two handouts to Committee members that showed the two funding scenarios developed by Staff for consideration by the Technical Committee.

Mr. Delmagori explained Scenario #1 (spreadsheet shown on next page):

In the upper left corner, the overall FMPO funding table is shown which details the TAP money available by each category (Urban, Rural, and Anywhere) and the required local match. The small chart on the bottom left of the spreadsheet lists the five TAP projects (from both the first and second rounds) and the amount requested for each.

The green colored section in the middle of the spreadsheet is for the three original TAP projects submitted in July and discussed at the Technical Committee meeting on July 25. The SSRR River Trail project would use all of the Rural TAP funds for 2014 plus \$11,307 in Anywhere funds to meet the \$34,600 requested.

For the Verada De Rio San Juan Phase 2 project, the entire 2014 TAP Urban funds of \$106,999 would be applied to this project, plus an additional \$51,581 in Anywhere funds to meet the requested amount of \$158,580.

SCENARIO #1

Population Target Area	FFY 2014	FFY 2015
Pop. 4,999 or less (Rural)	\$ 23,293	\$ 23,293
Pop. 5,000 to 200,000	\$ 106,999	\$ 106,999
Pop. 200,001 +	NA	NA
Anywhere	\$ 211,322	\$ 211,322
Federal Total:	\$ 341,614	\$ 341,614
Local Match	\$ 58,215	\$ 58,215
TAP Total for MPO	\$ 399,829	\$ 399,829

Total Federal Urban & Anywhere Available for FFY2015	\$ 278,055
BlmflD is requesting	\$ 158,580
Farmington is requesting	\$ 192,240
Requested total	\$ 350,820
Difference	\$ (72,765)
How will we reduce the federally requested amounts to match the Available Federal Funds?	

FMPO FFY2014-2015 TAP Funding Awards

Applicant/Category	2014 TAP Fed Funds Requested	2014 TAP Urban Funds Awarded	2014 TAP Rural Funds Awarded	2014 TAP Anywhere Funds Awarded	2015 TAP Fed Funds Requested	2015 TAP Urban Funds Awarded	2015 TAP Rural Funds Awarded	2015 TAP Anywhere Funds Awarded	Total Local Match Requirement
SSRR River Trail (FMTN Rural)	\$ 34,600	\$ -	\$ 23,293	\$ 11,307	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,896
Verada de Rio San Juan (BLMFLD Urban)	\$ 158,580	\$ 106,999	\$ -	\$ 51,581	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,024
20th Street Sidewalks (FMTN Urban)	\$ 148,434	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 148,434	\$ 40,266	\$ 40,266	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,157
Remaining Urban/Rural Available	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 301,348	\$ 66,733	\$ 23,293	\$ 211,322	\$ 51,353
Verada de Rio San Juan Phase 3					\$ 158,580	\$ 66,733	\$ -	\$ 91,847	\$ 27,024
20th Street Sidewalks Phase 2					\$ 192,240			\$ 119,475	\$ 32,760
Total	\$ 341,614	\$ 106,999	\$ 23,293	\$ 211,322	\$ 391,086	\$ 106,999	\$ 23,293	\$ 211,322	\$ 124,861

Project	Amt Request
SSRR River Trail	\$34,600
Bloomfield River Trail Phase 2	\$158,580
20th Street Phase 1	\$188,700
Bloomfield River Trail Phase 3	\$158,580
20th Street Phase 2	\$192,240

Mr. Delmagori said that Scenario #1 shows that funding for the 20th Street Sidewalks Phase 1 project would be divided between both 2014 and 2015. The total requested for the project is \$188,700, but there is only \$148,434 remaining in the 2014 Urban funds category. The remaining \$40,266 of the requested amount would need to come from the 2015 TAP Urban funds in order to fully complete this project.

Taking \$40,266 from the 2015 Urban Funds for the 20th Street Sidewalks project would leave \$66,733 in this category for 2015 along with 2015 Rural Funds of \$23,293 and \$211,322 in Anywhere Funds.

Mr. Delmagori stated that Staff looked at the two additional TAP projects. Based on the overall score, Staff gave priority to the Phase III of the Verada De Rio San Juan project. The funds requested for this Phase III project was \$158,580 and to meet this request, Staff considered the remaining 2015 Urban money of \$66,733 and \$91,847 of 2015 Anywhere money to meet the total requested amount. This would leave a balance of \$119,475 in federal TAP money for 2015. However, Phase 2 of 20th Street Sidewalks project has requested \$192,240.

Mr. Delmagori asked the Technical Committee to look at the chart in the top right corner of the Scenario #1 spreadsheet. Staff added together the Urban and Anywhere funds for 2015 that were available after the first iteration of projects was funded. There was a total of \$278,055. This amount does not include any Rural funds since these projects are not eligible for any Rural funding. The total requested for the two new projects was \$350,820 which is \$72,765 more than what is available.

Mr. Delmagori explained Staff's funding recommendations shown in Scenario #2. This Scenario addresses the 2015 Rural funds of \$23,293 that were left unused in Scenario #1 because no additional rural applications were submitted. Because of this, Staff recommended that all of the 2014 and 2015 Rural funds go toward the SSRR River Trail project. The middle table at the bottom of Scenario #2 shows a total for Rural funds of \$46,586. The SSRR River Trail project requested \$34,600 but it would be given the additional \$11,986 in Rural TAP funds.

By giving all the Rural funds to the SSRR project, this allows the \$11,307 of Anywhere funds given to the rural project as a supplemental amount in Scenario #1 to be added back into the Urban category to help support the Verada De Rio San Juan Phase 3 and 20th Street Sidewalks Phase 2 projects. In this Scenario, there is now \$159,741 in the 2014 Anywhere funds category that can be applied to the 20th Street Sidewalks project instead of the \$148,434 shown in Scenario #1. Mr. Delmagori explained that the 20th Street Sidewalks project can now put more money toward the project in 2014 which decreases the amount the project would need in 2015. Additionally, all of the Rural funds are now being programmed to a single project.

The Verada De Rio San Juan project stays the same in Scenario #2. This leaves \$289,362 in available Urban and Anywhere funds for 2015. Mr. Delmagori referred to the table in the top right of the spreadsheet for Scenario #2 that shows the available \$289,362, less the money requested for the Bloomfield and Farmington projects of \$350,820. This leaves a difference of only \$61,458 compared to a difference of \$72,765 that was shown in Scenario #1.

Mr. Wakan commented that should the SSRR River Trail project receive all Rural funds for 2014 and 2015, the project would need to be phased over the two-year period. Mr. Delmagori stated that the local match required for the project would also increase because it would be receiving more federal money.

Mr. Delmagori summarized Staff's recommendations to the Technical Committee. Based on the project scoring, Staff recommended putting all available 2015 money to Phase 3 of the Verada De Rio San Juan project. The 20th Street Phase 2 Sidewalks project would then need to take a reduction in requested federal funds of either \$72,765 as shown in Scenario #1 or \$61,458 as shown in Scenario #2. Staff thought this might be accomplished by shrinking the termini of the project.

Mr. Quintana asked if the funding reductions needed to all come from the City of Farmington project. Mr. Delmagori said that after much thought, this was what Staff was recommending since the City of Bloomfield project scored the highest and because there would be more impact to the completion of the loop for Phase 3 of the Verada De Rio San Juan project versus the linear aspect of the 20th Street Sidewalks project if funding was reduced.

Ms. Lopez asked if the City of Farmington project was fully funded in Scenario #1. Mr. Delmagori responded that the project would receive \$148,434 of the requested \$188,700. Scenario #2 provides \$159,741 of the requested \$188,700 because all the Rural funds in this scenario are being applied to the SSRR River Trail project and the Anywhere Funds of \$11,307 are back in the pot of Urban funds. Ms. Lopez asked if these Rural funds could be used for an Urban project. Mr. Delmagori explained that only a rural project can receive the Rural funds. The \$11,307 Anywhere Funds used in Scenario #1 to help support the rural SSRR River Trail project are returned to the Urban Funds category in Scenario #2 and can then be used toward the 20th Street Sidewalks Phase 1 project. Anywhere Funds can be used for either an urban or rural project.

Mr. Quintana asked if a project could receive a percentage of the requested amount based on how the project scored. He added, however, that the sidewalk project could easily be cut back to fit the amount of available funding. Ms. Lopez asked if an environmental certification was needed when removing old asphalt and, if it is not required, a project such as this would lose out on those project readiness points. Ms. Holton said that environmental certifications are still required whether it's a built environment or a non-built environment.

Mr. Quintana asked if Staff believed that cutting back on the City of Bloomfield Phase 3 trail loop and mitigation pond project would be more difficult to adjust than the City of Farmington's sidewalk project. Mr. Delmagori said that was what Staff believed. Mr. Ellsworth agreed that having a gap in the City of Bloomfield trail loop would be difficult, but also said he wanted to see the money distributed fairly.

Scenario #2

Population Target Area	FFY 2014	FFY 2015
Pop. 4,999 or less (Rural)	\$ 23,293	\$ 23,293
Pop. 5,000 to 200,000	\$ 106,999	\$ 106,999
Pop. 200,001 +	NA	NA
Anywhere	\$ 211,322	\$ 211,322
Federal Total:	\$ 341,614	\$ 341,614
Local Match	\$ 58,215	\$ 58,215
TAP Total for MPO	\$ 399,829	\$ 399,829

FMPO FFY2014-2015 TAP Funding Awards									
Applicant/Category	2014 TAP Fed Funds Requested	2014 TAP Urban Funds Awarded	2014 TAP Rural Funds Awarded	2014 TAP Anywhere Funds Awarded	2015 TAP Fed Funds Requested	2015 TAP Urban Funds Awarded	2015 TAP Rural Funds Awarded	2015 TAP Anywhere Funds Awarded	Total Local Match Requirement
Southside River Road River Trail (Farmington Rural) from west of Pinon Hills Blvd extension	\$ 23,293	\$ -	\$ 23,293	\$ -	\$ 23,293	\$ -	\$ 23,293	\$ -	\$ 7,939
Verada de Rio San Juan Phase 2 (Bloomfield Urban) heading east from existing trail	\$ 158,580	\$ 106,999	\$ -	\$ 51,581	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,024
20th Street Sidewalks Phase 1 (Farmington Urban) from Clayton to Fairview	\$ 159,741	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159,741	\$ 28,959	\$ 28,959	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,157
Verada de Rio San Juan Phase 3 (Bloomfield Urban) heading east from Phase 2					\$ 158,580	\$ 78,040	\$ -	\$ 80,540	\$ 27,024
20th Street Sidewalks Phase 2 (Farmington Urban) from Fairview to Sullivan					\$ 130,782			\$ 130,782	\$ 22,287
Total	\$ 341,614	\$ 106,999	\$ 23,293	\$ 211,322	\$ 341,614	\$ 106,999	\$ 23,293	\$ 211,322	\$ 116,430

Project	Fed Amt Request	Comments
SSRR River Trail	\$46,586	The original federal funding request for SSRR Rivertrail was \$34,600. This amount was increased to \$46,586 so that this rural project would use all of the rural TAP funds available to the FMPO.
Bloomfield River Trail Phase 2	\$158,580	
20th Street Phase 1	\$188,700	
Bloomfield River Trail Phase 3	\$158,580	
20th Street Phase 2	\$130,782	The original federal funding request for 20th St Phase 2 was \$192,240. This amount was reduced to \$130,782 due to availability of funds.
Total Federal Funds Awarded (2014 & 2015)	\$683,228	

Ms. Lopez said that the Technical Committee had already recommended approval of the three initial TAP projects and believed recapturing the \$11,307 was a good idea because it got each of the projects closer to completion. She added that the 20th Street Phase 3 Sidewalks project could be scaled back and those sections included in the next phase. She recommended Scenario #2.

Ms. Lopez asked if the 20th Street Sidewalks project could wait until 2015 to do Phase 2 of the project. She said she believed the scoring was accurate, but wanted to see if the City of Farmington could phase their project and wait until 2015 for that additional funding. Ms. Lopez said she did not know if the money set aside in the City of Farmington's budget for this project would allow them to wait until 2015. Mr. Wakan added that these monies are 100% reimbursable to the City of Farmington, but they would have to spend the money up front for the project and seek reimbursement from NMDOT upon completion. He noted that NMDOT would only reimburse for the obligated 2014 funds. The 2015 portion of the project would have to wait until 2015 to be constructed and reimbursed.

Ms. Holton said MPO Staff needed a recommendation from the Technical Committee this morning as the Policy Committee would be asked to approve the TAP projects at their meeting later in the day. She said there was no time to go back formally to the City of Farmington and seek approval of the funding or project changes and she asked Mr. Quintana for his opinion on the physical impact to the 20th Street Phase 2 Sidewalks project. Mr. Quintana said he thought this was something the City of Farmington could do, the scoring was fair, and the scope of the sidewalk projects could be cut back to fit available funding.

Mr. Keck stated that projects needed to be authorized and obligated before any construction was begun. He added that NMDOT will not reimburse an entity for projects completed prior to the project being authorized and obligated. Ms. Holton believed the entities were aware of this. She noted that the 20th Street Sidewalks project was not in the city's ICIP was because the City Council had not prioritized the project. She noted that the City provides additional funding to the Public Works Department that is used to fund a "project of opportunity".

Ms. Lopez said her concern was that the project would get started but then be held up until the following year because of funding issues. Mr. Keck reiterated that funding for a project must be obligated prior to construction beginning. Mr. Delmagori said this was correct and that the City of Farmington could only construct enough of the 20th Street Sidewalks Phase 1 project as the \$159,741 would provide for. He noted that the TAP Guide speaks to money obligated in 2014 being available for four years.

Ms. Holton stated that both projects for the City of Farmington would be considered "projects of opportunity". She said there were no plans in the ICIP to build either of the projects. The City of Farmington has awarded money for sidewalks and the Public Works Department will build as much sidewalk as the money will fund. Ms. Holton said the City of Farmington is very familiar with dealing with these types of issues.

Mr. Ellsworth asked if this type of TAP programming would continue into 2016 and 2017. Mr. Delmagori said MAP-21 was only a two-year bill, but Staff assumed the TAP funding process would continue since no other funding methods have been identified.

He noted, however, that this project selection process would not be done again by the MPO for two years.

Ms. Lopez recommended that all the available money be spent. She noted that if other entities in the state do not spend all of their TAP funds, additional funding could be made available for other projects that were unable to be totally funded. Mr. Delmagori said this might be possible in 2014 if additional monies become available and FMPO could request additional funding for the 20th Street Sidewalks projects.

Mr. Delmagori said that Scenario #2 uses all the available TAP funds but does require one or both of the additional TAP projects to shrink down to accommodate the deficit of \$61,458. Ms. Holton said she believed that all the entities would be interested in receiving some of this money. Mr. Quintana said one or both of the project scopes could be reduced by the amount of the deficit. Mr. Hathaway asked if the approach is taken to reduce the scope of the projects and eliminate the deficit, what would happen if additional funds become available from NMDOT. Would FMPO projects even be considered for additional TAP money if their projects already show that they were given all the requested project amounts? Ms. Lopez believed FMPO was better off showing a need for additional money in order to possibly qualify for additional funding.

ACTION: Ms. Lopez moved to recommend approval of the selected list of projects for TAP funding in FFY2015 and to use Scenario #2 as presented by Staff. Mr. Ellsworth seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

There were no representatives from NMDOT in attendance at this point in the meeting. Mr. Keck moved on to Agenda Item #4.

4. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Ms. Holton reminded everyone of the New Mexico APA Conference to be held in Farmington on October 2-5, 2013. The conference registration is now open and if any Committee member is interested in attending, the MPO will pay the \$150 registration fee for that member. There is an added charge for attending one of the four mobile workshops scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Don Elliott will be the Keynote Speaker on Thursday morning. Mr. Elliott is a land use attorney and planner from Denver. On Friday there is a tribal planner roundtable in the morning and a commissioner training in the afternoon sponsored by the New Mexico Municipal League. Technical training on ArcGIS Online and Google Sketchup will be hosted by MPO Staff and ESRI on Saturday morning.

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

Mr. Phil Gallegos with NMDOT District 5 arrived and presented a report for NMDOT.

3. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

Mr. Gallegos said Phase II the US 64 project in Bloomfield is expected to conclude by the end of the summer.

Mr. Keck reported on some issues the County hopes to head off with the possible requested use of CR 5290 when the next phase of the US 64 project begins. This county road is two miles west of Mesa Manzano and the County has this road informally restricted and it cannot be used to access pit facilities by heavy trucks. Truck traffic is required to use CR 350 which is a well-maintained haul road and keeps the heavy traffic out of the residential neighborhoods. Mr. Gallegos said he would instruct the contractor for the next US 64 phase to find their own material sources.

Mr. Gallegos reported that Phase 3 of US 64 heading west for two miles from Bloomfield is expected to begin construction in the spring of 2014. The project will be put out to bid in either August or September. Phase 4, which will pick up where Phase 3 ends, is 90% designed and is being funded over FFY2014/2015. It will be put out to bid a year from now or sooner if the STIP targets are adjusted. Mr. Gallegos said that almost all of the phases are now in the STIP. Mr. Delmagori said that Phase 5 is in the unfunded portion of the TIP, but the amount currently shown is only about one-half of what the two-mile sections have actually been costing. Mr. Gallegos and Mr. Delmagori will look into the status of the phases of US 64 in the TIP and STIP.

Mr. Gallegos said there was an issue requiring the re-evaluation of the environmental portion of Aztec's East Arterial project. NMDOT is working with Aztec to ensure they can meet the fiscal deadline and do not risk losing the \$2,000,000 in STP money already programmed for this project. NMDOT believes this will be a simple re-evaluation and the money salvaged once Aztec has a consultant on board who can address the environmental issues. David Quintana and Margaret Haynes with NMDOT are working with Aztec planners to get this problem corrected.

Mr. Delmagori reported that Staff will be submitting a TIP amendment to NMDOT to remove projects from the TIP that were funded under the old Transportation Enhancement Program (TPE) and to include the new TAP projects once they have been approved.

Mr. Gallegos also commented that the North Animas River Trail Bridge in Aztec is also facing the possible loss of funding if problems with the biological portion of the environmental certification cannot be cleared up by the August 15 deadline. Mr. Gallegos stated that if the issue is not resolved, the project will go back for consideration for possible TAP funding. Aztec officials are working with NMDOT to hopefully get this project back on track in time to meet the deadline.

Mr. Delmagori asked about the project to reconstruct the intersection of NM 516 and Light Plant Road. Mr. Gallegos said the pre-construction conference is being held soon with groundbreaking to begin shortly thereafter. He believed Albuquerque Underground had been awarded the contract for this project.

Mr. Delmagori asked about the 2013 TPE projects in Farmington to construct sidewalks along Farmington Avenue and Pinon Hills. Mr. Gallegos said David Quintana and Margaret Haynes are working on these projects with the City of Farmington.

Mr. Gallegos noted that the final package review is not begun until the package is totally complete. He noted that several packages submitted throughout the District were incomplete and, if the deadline for obligation would be impacted by waiting for the missing documents, the project was rejected. Mr. Gallegos said NMDOT is creating two new positions that will assist and support local projects throughout the design process and to ensure that all federal requirements are being followed and that money can be obligated on time. NMDOT hopes to have these positions filled this fall.

Mr. Wakan asked about the scheduled ADA training on July 26 hosted by NMDOT. Mr. Gallegos said there are several courses planned to help update everyone on new ADA requirements as well as provide information on inspection details. He noted some issues NMDOT is having with the installation of their audible detectors because the interpretation of the installation guidelines has been a subjective decision.

Mr. Gallegos stated that the repair of the overlay on NM 516 between Aztec and Flora Vista will be done later this fall. This corrective project is to level off the drop offs in the turning lanes created by the overlay and will include ADA upgrades to the road section.

Mr. Hathaway noted that with the recent rains, weeds in the medians throughout the area are growing and the County is receiving complaints from citizens. He noted that in some areas, the weeds have created a safety issue. Mr. Gallegos said he would check with David Martinez and the maintenance crews to see where the mowing project is at. Mr. Keck said he had spoken with NMDOT's Farmington patrol and was simply told that the mowers were broke. Mr. Gallegos added that broken mowers are an issue district-wide. Mr. Keck said the County has mowers available and would be willing to work with NMDOT to get the work done. Mr. Gallegos said he will speak with Dave Martinez and Miguel Gabaldon to consider entering into a formal agreement with San Juan County to do this work.

Mr. Keck said the County has several pending MOA's with NMDOT that have yet to be finalized. Mr. Gallegos said he was aware of these outstanding MOAs and would get back with Mr. Keck on Monday with a status report. He stated that Dave Martinez will be taking the lead on these for NMDOT going forward.

Mr. Keck also mentioned the ongoing lighting issue in Shiprock and working with Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Navajo DOT. He noted that both NTUA and BIA seem interested in stepping away from these issues and having Navajo DOT take the lead. Mr. Gallegos said David Quintana will be taking this over shortly and Mr. Gallegos will set up a meeting with all parties involved to get this process underway. Mr. Gallegos also commented that there was no information available on a speed study for Nageezi requested by Mr. Keck. He has requested a speed study be done for the area, but noted that if there is no available crash history or existing sight distance issues, the speed through that area will remain the same.

Mr. Keck said that San Juan County has amended their road policy and implemented a variance process. This new policy mirrors what the City of Farmington has. Pavement variance requests must provide comments and then go to a committee for review. Following the committee review, the request goes before the County Commission for final approval.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business from the floor.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lopez moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Quintana seconded the motion. Mr. Keck adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Dave Keck, Chair

June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide