

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
March 11, 2020

Technical Members Present: Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec
Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield
Nica Westerling (Alt), City of Farmington
Virginia King, City of Farmington
Scott Martin (Alt), San Juan County
Javier Martinez, NMDOT District 5
Dan Flack, Town of Kirtland

Technical Members Absent: Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit
Nick Porell, San Juan County
Fran Fillerup, San Juan County

Staff Present: Beth Escobar, Interim MPO Officer
June Markle, Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Aaron Sussman, Bohannon Huston (phone)
Joseph Moriarty, Planning Liaison, NMDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Jason Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 12, 2020 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Flack moved to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2020 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Saavedra seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

3. REPORT ON THE 2045 METROPOLITAN

Subject:	Report on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
Date:	March 11, 2020

MONTHLY REPORT

Mr. Aaron Sussman, Planner with Bohannon Huston (BHI) will call-in monthly with a report on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update.

DISCUSSION: The following is a brief summary of Aaron Sussman's update for March:

- Draft versions of the Safety and Bicycle & Pedestrian Travel chapters of the 2045 MTP were distributed;
 - Draft Transit chapter was distributed in February
 - Draft chapters for April will be the Introduction and Climate Change
 - Also in April, Mr. Sussman will be resubmitting the Transit, Safety, and Bicycle & Pedestrian Travel chapters to incorporate input received from the questionnaire during the public outreach period.
- Survey closed last week and BHI is in the process of evaluating responses and putting summary materials together.
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Travel chapter:
 - Largely a summary of the takeaways from the MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that was completed last year;
 - 2045 MTP will highlight that Plan;
 - Look at recent improvements and potential projects; will validate previous planning work
 - Let Mr. Sussman know of any missing items so they may be included; BHI has good sense of previously proposed projects.
 - BHI is working to consolidate the data and GIS layers produced as part of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan (map on Page 5) to make data management easier; update this map and produce in another format more similar to other maps produced by BHI for the MTP document.
- Safety Chapter
 - Much of the analysis is related to crash data:
 - Highlighted overall crash numbers and statistics;
 - Overall numbers across the region
 - Intersections with highest number of crashes and crash rates
 - Statewide the number of crashes is rising (tied to VMT)
 - Farmington region has crash rates lower than other areas of similar size statewide
 - The one hot spot in Farmington is East Main through Farmington and into Aztec
 - Draw connections to the type of improvements being made (i.e.: complete streets, road diets where appropriate, multi-modal elements) which enhance safety.
 - Major recommendation and logical next step would be to consider a regional safety action plan;
 - NMDOT is beginning a statewide pedestrian safety action plan;
 - A safety action plan could connect to other similar projects being pursued.
- Next steps:
 - Mr. Sussman will attend the April 8 Technical Meeting in person to present on the results from the questionnaire and the initial results from the travel model that look at existing conditions and how the

- transportation system is projected to function based on changes in land use, population, and housing;
- Also planning two informal open house events later in the day on April 8:
 - One event at lunch; one in late afternoon or early evening
 - Looking for recommendations for event locations (one in Farmington and Mr. Saavedra suggested the 550 Brewery in Aztec for a possible location).

Mr. Saavedra questioned the wording of a statement on Page 2 of the Safety chapter, "Limit the increase in total fatalities to 6.4%". He also noted that on Page 9 of the document, it references the movement toward Vision Zero or zero fatalities. Mr. Saavedra thought this might be inconsistent and asked about FMPO's overall goal. Mr. Sussman explained that the number "6.4%" was taken from the safety targets first adopted by NMDOT in 2019 and then FMPO's Policy Committee adopted those same targets (PM 1) in January 2020. Mr. Sussman added that the zero fatalities could be pursued by FMPO and might be a future vision.

Mr. Saavedra also commented on the recommendation to consider installing red light cameras noted on Page 8 of the Safety chapter. He noted that use of red light cameras in Albuquerque became quite controversial and asked if other communities were using them. Although the use of red light cameras is a fairly wide used technique, Mr. Sussman said he would get back with the Committee with a list of like-sized communities to the FMPO entities who are using red light cameras.

4. STATUS OF TIP PROJECTS

Subject:	Status of TIP Projects
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	March 11, 2020

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The STIP Protocols, finalized in early 2014, require that each MPO shall develop a process to monitor the progress and status of each project in the first two years of the TIP. These monthly reviews help correct inconsistencies in the TIP, STIP, the MPO's MTP, Agreement Request Forms (ARFs), etc. and provide for discussion among the members and NMDOT representatives. ▪ The Policy Committee approved the new FFY2020-2025 TIP during a Special meeting on July 25, 2019. ▪ The projects currently on the FFY2020-2025 TIP are listed below.

TRACKING INFORMATION (2018-2023 TIP)	
Local Agreement Status (ARF)	ITS/Sys ENG Certification
ROW Certification	Public Involvement Certification
Design Completion 30 - 60 - 90%	
Environmental Certification	
Utilities Certification	

Railroad Certification Archeology Certification	
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PROJECTS ON FMPO FFY2020-2025 TIP
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- Aztec
F100091 - East Aztec Arterial Phase II
- Bloomfield
F100300 - East Blanco Bridge
- Farmington
F100099 - Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase II
F100100 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase I
F100101 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase II
F100132 - 20th Street Phase III
TF00001 - Red Apple Transit
- San Juan County
F100021 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase III
F100240 - Glade Run Recreation Area Trails
F100290 - CR 5500 Bridge Replacement
F100320 - Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension
F100330 - Glade Run Recreation Area Trails Extension
- NMDOT
F100170 - NM 173 Safety Improvements
F100340 - US 550 Pavement Rehab
F100350 - NM 371/N36 (PE)
F100351 - NM 371/N36 (Const)

INFORMATION ITEM

- This is an information item only. Committee members will have an opportunity to provide any needed feedback/updates regarding current TIP projects status and details.

DISCUSSION:

City of Aztec - Steven Saavedra

No update on the East Aztec Arterial.

City of Bloomfield - Jason Thomas

The East Blanco Bridge project is waiting to schedule a PS&E with NMDOT. He said he would discuss this with Mr. Martinez following the meeting.

City of Farmington - Virginia King

Foothills Drive - all the certifications have been received and the PS&E plans are set. Ms. King now needs to schedule the PS&E meeting with NMDOT.

20th Street - The City received nine donations for the traffic control plan (TCP); nine "no's" and two "no response". This project will now go to the appraisals process prior to acquisition.

East Pinon Hills Boulevard

Awaiting a meeting between David Quintana and FHWA that should be happening this week.

San Juan County - Scott Martin

Waiting on appraisal review from NMDOT on CR 5500 Bridge Replacement.

NMDOT - District 5 - Javier Martinez

NM 173 Safety Improvement - This project has been scheduled for 2024.

Mr. Saavedra asked if there was any additional information on this project. Mr. Martinez said the funding issues due to right-of-way concerns pushed this project back. He would get more information for the next Technical Committee meeting.

US 550 Pavement Rehab - Scheduled for 2023. All the design plans are expected to be completed before then so the project will be shelf-ready when funding becomes available. The pavement rehab is expected to begin at NM 173 and go north to the Colorado state line.

NM 371 & N 36 -

Final design has been completed and construction may proceed in the upcoming construction season.

5. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

Joseph Moriarty - Planning Bureau

Mr. Moriarty said Senate Bill 232 which was the proposed funding bill for the Local Government Transportation Project Fund (LGTPF) was vetoed by the Governor.

House Bill 207 to change the name of the LGTPF to Transportation Project Fund (TPF) was approved by the Governor. This legislation also extends the funding to tribal/pueblo projects, and transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects. The Planning Bureau anticipates that the TPF will be funded in the future so they are continuing to work with the MPOs and RTPOs to streamline the application process.

NMDOT is working on a funding guide, application and call for projects process for the State Planning & Research (SPR) funds. MPOs will be eligible to apply. More information will be forthcoming.

The State's Long Range Transportation Plan Update workshop in the Farmington area is tentatively scheduled for April 16 at the Henderson Fine Arts Building at San Juan College. The time is still to be determined.

The USDOT has released information on a funding opportunity for BUILD grants. Applications will be due by May 18. More information on eligibility and instructional webinars are available on the BUILD website (also search under TIGER grants).

NMDOT's Planning Bureau is working on a statewide Pedestrian Safety Action Plan with an online public survey and public input map. The link to the website is: <https://nmpedplan.altaplanning.cloud/#/>

FHWA is offering free, full-day MPO/RTOI workshops on the seven pedestrian safety countermeasures included in its Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) program. The workshop would be intended for an MPO's or RTPO's technical committee (or equivalent) and staff. Technical Committee representatives from Farmington and Aztec both expressed interested in hosting the workshop. Mr. Moriarty will pass along this information to Rosa Kozub. No date for the workshop has been scheduled pending expressions of interest.

A Safe Routes to School Summit will be held April 17 in Albuquerque. Mr. Moriarty provided flyers about the Summit to the Technical Committee members.

NMDOT's Active Transportation Programs team has established a tentative schedule for calls for projects for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program. A call for projects for all three programs is planned for May 2021 for projects starting in Federal fiscal year 2023. Please see the [2020+ Call for Projects Report](#) on the NMDOT website for information on awards and programming from the previous call for projects. For any questions, please contact Shannon Glendenning at Shannon.Glendenning@state.nm.us.

Javier Martinez - NMDOT District 5

Mr. Martinez said he was the new District 5 Assistant District Engineer for Engineering. He will also be the new representative on the Technical Committee for District 5.

The call for projects for the Local Government Road Fund is March 15. Because this was a Sunday, projects may be submitted until Tuesday, March 17.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Subject:	Committee Member Discussion Items
Date:	March 11, 2020

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no additional discussion items provided by Technical Committee members for inclusion in the Agenda.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	March 11, 2020

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **UPWP Amendment #5.** Administrative Amendment #5 to the Unified Planning Work Program was approved by NMDOT on February 14. The amendment was necessary to reflect the MPO's actual awards from FHWA and FTA for FFY2020. Previous amounts reported were estimates.
- b. **TIP Administrative Modifications for February.** No change to projects. Fifteen administrative modifications were approved.
- c. **Local Government Transportation Project Fund (LGTPF).** NMDOT has notified the MPOs and the RTPOs of the presumed upcoming application process for the Local Government Transportation Project fund in anticipation of its funding in the State's FY2021. NMDOT has rescheduled the meeting to discuss statewide selection/prioritization criteria for the Fund for Friday, February 21. Information learned from this discussion will be shared with the Technical Committee at their meeting on March 11.
- d. **STEP Workshops for MPOs.** FHWA has offered to conduct free, full-day MPO/RTPO workshops on the seven (7) pedestrian safety countermeasures included in its Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) program (see attached flyer). The workshop is intended for Technical Committees and staff of MPOs or RTPOs. Is there interest by the FMPO in hosting a STEP workshop? Deadline for expressing interest is March 13.

Ms. Escobar provided the following updates:

- Administrative Amendment #5 to the UPWP was approved by NMDOT on February 14. The amendment was necessary to reflect the MPO's actual awards from FHWA and FTA for FFY20. The previously reported amounts were estimates.
- Staff processed 15 TIP administrative modifications to reflect small changes to project descriptions.
- Virginia King and Nica Westerling attended NMDOT's discussions and training on February 21 regarding Local Government Transportation Project Fund (LGTPF). The discussion focused on selection/prioritization criteria. Unfortunately, the host of that meeting reported that the Governor had signed the bill that was inaccurate.
- The Technical Committee expressed their interest in hosting a STEP workshop. Ms. Westerling offered to locate a meeting site for maybe 12-15 people. Ms. Escobar also offered the meeting area at the MPO Office as another possible alternative.

8. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Saavedra asked about the status of hiring the MPO Officer and other staff for the MPO. Ms. Escobar reported on the following new hires:

- MPO Officer - Peter Koepfel - from St. Louis, Missouri where he has worked for the East-West Gateway Council of Governments; 15 years of traffic planning experience along with his experience working with a two-state MPO. He should bring the desired sensitivity to work with all the FMPO entities. He is scheduled to begin on March 31.
- MPO Associate Planner - Kathryn Leys - from St. Paul, Minnesota where she recently graduated from the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs with a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning. She told the interviewers that she loves transportation planning. She is scheduled to begin on April 6.

The annual FMPO Quality Assurance Review with Mr. Moriarty will take place the afternoon of April 8.

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

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment on any issues not on the agenda.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

see attached
Jason Thomas, Technical Committee
Vice Chair

June Markle
June Markle, Administrative Assistant

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