

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**August 12, 2020**

Technical Members Present: Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec  
Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield  
Beth Escobar, City of Farmington  
Virginia King, City of Farmington  
Javier Martinez, NMDOT District 5  
Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit  
Scott Martin, San Juan County  
Nick Porell, San Juan County  
Dan Flack, Town of Kirtland

Technical Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Peter Koepfel, MPO Officer  
Kathryn Leys, MPO Associate Planner  
June Markle, Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: None

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

*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health concerns, the members of the Technical Committee listed above as "Present" attended via GoToMeeting, as did those listed as "Others Present". Chair Porell, Jason Thomas, Scott Martin, Peter Koepfel, Kathryn Leys, and June Markle attended in person.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nick Porell called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 8, 2020 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mr. Thomas moved to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2020 Technical Committee meeting. Chair Porell seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

### 3. REVIEW AND PROVIDE COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED FINAL DRAFT OF THE 2045 MTP

<b>Subject:</b>	Review and provide comments on the proposed final version of the 2045 MTP
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Peter Koepfel, MPO Officer and Aaron Sussman, Planner with Bohannon Huston
<b>Date:</b>	August 12, 2020

#### **BACKGROUND**

- The Consulting Services Agreement with Bohannon Huston, Inc. (BHI) as the consultant for development of the FMPO's 2045 MTP was effective August 14, 2019.
- The final 2045 MTP is to be considered for adoption by the Policy Committee at their September 24, 2020 meeting.
- The FMPO Technical Committee to serve as the Steering Committee.
- Public participation events have included:
  - Survey Monkey to share thoughts on regional transportation
  - Online updates on the project at: <http://fmpo2045mtp.bhinc.com>
  - Public events on October 17 and 18, 2019 in Aztec, Bloomfield, Kirtland, and two locations in Farmington;
  - Two virtual open houses held on June 24, 2020:  
6/24/20 - 12-1 PM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86556433709?pwd=M3luMG9yN1BuK1ZLQytlZkIQUWIFZz09>  
6/24/20 - 7-8 PM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89846878634?pwd=SkNtUW5ldU50RnJnaDZvZzdvdIRiZz09>
  - [Additional virtual open houses scheduled for August for public comment on the final draft 2045 MTP document.](#)
- Aaron Sussman, Senior Planner with BHI, has provided monthly updates on development of the MTP to the Technical Committee.
- The proposed draft 2045 MTP was distributed on August 3, 2020 to Technical Committee members for their review and comments

#### **CURRENT WORK**

- The 30-day public notice was posted on July 26, 2020 (in both English and Spanish) to cover public comment periods and public hearings for the August Committee meetings to review the proposed draft 2045 MTP and also for the September Committee meetings to consider adoption of the final proposed 2045 MTP.
- Review the proposed draft 2045 MTP.

#### **INFORMATION ITEM**

- Staff recommends that the Technical Committee review and provide additional comments to the proposed draft 2045 MTP.

## APPLICABLE CITATIONS

- 23 CFR § 450.324 Development and content of the metropolitan transportation plan

**DISCUSSION:** Aaron Sussman gave a presentation on the public review draft of the 2045 MTP that is now available for comment through September 9. Below is a summary of that presentation:

### Virtual Open Houses

August 13 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. and from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

### Upcoming Committee Presentations

#### Technical Committee

August 12 - updates/questions

September 10 - consider recommending approval to Policy Committee (will include all public comment received to date)

#### Policy Committee

August 27 - summary presentation

September 24 - consider final approval

### Recent Updates (Added 8/3 - 8/10/20) to Draft MTP

Summary of key recommendations included in appendix.

Budget assumptions defined (cost of all transportation projects contrasted against the budget)

Continue to include comments/clarifications from staff and Technical Committee.

### Regional Story

- Modest population growth
- Evolving economic conditions
- Opportunity to invest in the existing transportation system
- Rehabilitation/reconstruction projects can feature safety improvements, access management multi-modal infrastructure (align infrastructure to support quality of life and economic opportunities; this is new to the 2045 MTP)
- Challenge: funding availability
- Transportation can support economic development challenges, but cannot solve them
- Focus spending on projects that support quality of life and new economic opportunities (outdoor recreation/tourism)

### MTP Project List & Budgeting

MTP attempts to account for general preservation/rehabilitation projects

NMDOT projects - capacity expansion projects identified in 2040 MTP were reclassified as *preservation* efforts

Additional regional needs will emerge - projects should be consistent with goals and recommendations of the MTP

## Revenue

- State funding from capital outlays and Transportation Project Fund are not included;
- Additional project funding is likely from non-recurring sources

Projects in the MTP Projects List were classified:

- Current (or ongoing) - funded through 2023;
- 2024-2030 - higher priority projects but funding has not been fully identified;
- 2031-2045 - long-term projects list;
- Post 2045 - previously identified roadway projects for which funding and need are less certain (Northern Route).

## Major Recommendations

Maintenance of the existing system

Implement Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

Expand upon trails network

Update Context Sensitive Design Guide

Corridor Studies - safety and access management (US 64 through Kirtland; NM 516 between Farmington and Aztec)

Regional Safety Action Plan

Respond to public demand for transit improvements:

- Construction of downtown transit hub
- Regional Transit Action Plan

## Next Steps/Potential Action Items

Prioritization Process for TIP development

Connections to outdoor recreation/tourism sites

Scenario planning

Regional coordination on economic development and transportation investments.

The Technical Committee set August 28 as the date for all members to provide their comments on the 2045 MTP draft to MPO staff who will forward them to Mr. Sussman. There were a couple of questions raised:

1. Page 22 - Section 2.2.3 - Small Area Projections  
It was asked if Aztec should potentially be identified as a growth area in this section based on an article in the Durango Herald earlier this year. The article reported an increased interest by people living in Southern Colorado to move to Aztec and about Aztec becoming a "bedroom community" for Durango. The members discussed the fact that the data might be insufficient to make projections on for 2045. Although cautiously optimistic about the growth potential, there are still large parcels of land with no service and which are not right for annexation. There could be a note in this section noting a possible population shift from southern Colorado into Aztec.
2. Page 53 - Section 4.4.2 - Existing Operations Issues  
Ms. Escobar wondered why Butler and Dustin Avenues were the only north/south roads identified in this section and thought more information could be provided about other north/south roadways in Farmington.

The Technical Committee members thanked Mr. Sussman for a well done project and for providing a realistic picture of the region and keeping it data driven.

Chair Porell opened the public hearing. Receiving no comments, the public hearing was closed.

#### 4. AMENDMENT #4 TO THE FFY2020-2025 TIP

<b>Subject:</b>	Amendment #4 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
<b>Date:</b>	August 12, 2020

##### **BACKGROUND**

- The firsts Call for Projects for the FFY2020-2025 TIP Amendment #3 was sent out on June 22, 2020; a reminder sent out on July 13.
- The Public Notice for Amendment #4 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP was published on the MPO's website and in the Daily Times on August 9, 2020
- The amendment currently includes a City of Farmington project and one from NMDOT.
- The next Call for Projects will be on September 21, 2020.
- The Technical Committee will consider recommending approval of proposed Amendment #4 and the Self-Certification for Amendment #4 to Policy Committee at their meeting on August 12.

##### **AMENDED TIP PROJECTS**

- City of Farmington's East Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension Phase 1.
- NMDOT's safety project on NM 173.

##### **ACTION ITEM**

- Staff recommends that the Technical Committee consider recommending approval to the Policy Committee of proposed Amendment #4 and the Self-Certification for Amendment #4 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP.

##### **APPLICABLE CITATIONS**

- § 450.328 TIP revisions and relationship to the STIP.
- (a) An MPO(s) may revise the TIP at any time under procedures agreed to by the cooperating parties consistent with the procedures established in this part for its development and approval. In nonattainment or maintenance areas for transportation-related pollutants, if a TIP amendment involves non-exempt projects (per 40 CFR part 93), or is replaced with an updated TIP, the MPO(s) and the FHWA and the FTA must make a new conformity determination. In all areas, changes that affect fiscal constraint must take place by amendment of the TIP. The MPO(s) shall use public participation procedures consistent with § 450.316(a) in revising the TIP, except that these

procedures are not required for administrative modifications.) After approval by the MPO(s) and the Governor, the State shall include the TIP without change, directly or by reference, in the STIP required under 23 U.S.C. 135. In nonattainment and maintenance areas, the FHWA and the FTA must make a conformity finding on the TIP before it is included in the STIP. A copy of the approved TIP shall be provided to the FHWA and the FTA.

- (c) The State shall notify the MPO(s) and Federal land management agencies when it has included a TIP including projects under the jurisdiction of these agencies in the STIP.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Koepfel reported that there were two projects in TIP Amendment #4:

- City of Farmington - East Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension-Phase I - Move \$250,000 into 2023 for design work and to break the project into phases;
- NMDOT - NM 173 Safety project - move \$100,000 to 2021 in design funds to have the design consultant on site during the project.

Mr. Koepfel stated that MPO staff recommend approval of TIP Amendment #4.

There was a question about NMDOT's requirement for a project planning to use bond funds to provide the bond initiative. Mr. Koepfel noted that the \$250,000 in 2021 was using Local General Funds. The proposed \$4,000,000 in Local Bond Funds is in 2024 which is in the outer (informational) years of the TIP.

Chair Porell opened the public hearing; no comments were received. Chair Porell closed the public hearing.

**Action:** Mr. Thomas moved to recommend approval of TIP Amendment #4 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP and the Self-Certification to Amendment #4. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion.

## **5. PROPOSED TITLE VI PLAN**

Subject:	Proposed Title VI Plan
Prepared by:	Peter Koepfel, MPO Officer
Date:	August 12, 2020

### **BACKGROUND**

- The first Title VI Plan for the FMPO was adopted on June 20, 2013.
- A revised Title VI Plan was adopted by the Policy Committee on September 13, 2017.

- A new Title VI Plan is due every three (3) years in accordance with the NMDOT Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM).

**CURRENT WORK**

- The 30-day public notice was advertised on July 26, 2020 (in both English and Spanish) to cover public comment periods and public hearings held in August and September for consideration and review of both the draft and final proposed Title VI Plan.
- Hold a public hearing at the Technical Committee meeting on August 12.
- The Policy and Technical Committees will review and provide input at their August meetings.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

- Staff recommends that the Technical Committee review and provide input on the proposed Title VI Plan for the FMPO.

**APPLICABLE CITATIONS**

- As a recipient of federal assistance, the Farmington MPO is subject to Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as amended, and must ensure that no one is discriminated against based on race, color, or national origin.
- NMDOT's Construction and Civil Rights Bureau requires all sub-recipients of federal funds to update or review their Title VI Plan at least every three years.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Koepfel explained that as a recipient of federal financial assistance, the FMPO is required to have a Title VI Plan (see draft on Pages 14-31 of the Agenda) and update it every three years. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that no person, shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability be discriminated against for any FMPO program, activity, or service.

Mr. Martin commented that the organizational chart should be updated to reflect the change in name from Community Development to Community Works.

Chair Porell opened a public hearing on the FMPO's Title VI Plan. No comments were received. Chair Porell closed the public hearing.

**6. QUARTERLY EDUCATION - FHWA-ROAD DIETS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Quarterly Education: FHWA – Road Diets
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kathryn Leys, Associate MPO Planner
<b>Date:</b>	August 12, 2020

## PRESENTATION

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) remains committed to reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries on our Nation's roadways through the use of proven safety countermeasures, including **Road Diets**. Road Diets have the potential to improve safety, convenience, and quality of life for all road users. Road Diets can be relatively low cost if planned in conjunction with reconstruction or simple overlay projects since applying Road Diets consists primarily of restriping.

The attached handout from the FHWA answers some of the most frequently asked questions about Road Diets and provides additional resource on how to determine if a Road Diet is appropriate for your community.

**DISCUSSION:** The quarterly education looked at road diets and was presented by Ms. Leys. She emphasized the potential for road diets to improve safety by reducing head-on crashes, calm traffic and allow for dedicated space for other users such as pedestrians and bicycles. An attachment from FHWA was included in the Agenda on Pages 33-36 which provided some answers to questions about how a road diet might help individual communities. Ms. Leys said that MPO staff is available to answer questions and to help in evaluating the success of a road diet. More information is available at:

[https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/road\\_diets/resources/pdf/fhwasa17021.pdf](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/road_diets/resources/pdf/fhwasa17021.pdf)

Chair Porell noted some of Farmington's good use of road diets on College Boulevard, Main Street, and the restriping on Sullivan Avenue.

### 7. STATUS OF TIP PROJECTS

<b>Subject:</b>	Status of TIP Projects
<b>Prepared by:</b>	MPO Staff & Technical Committee Members
<b>Date:</b>	August 12, 2020

#### BACKGROUND

- 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Aztec</u> F100091 - East Aztec Arterial Phase II</li> <li>▪ <u>Bloomfield</u> F100300 - East Blanco Bridge</li> <li>▪ <u>Farmington</u> F100099 - Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase II F100100 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase I F100101 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase II F100132 - 20<sup>th</sup> Street Phase III TF00001 - Red Apple Transit</li> <li>▪ <u>San Juan County</u> 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 F100360 - CR 3000 Bridge Replacement F100370 - CR 3500 Bridge Replacement</li> <li>▪ <u>NMDOT</u> F100170 - NM 173 Safety Improvements F100340 - US 550 Pavement Rehab F100350 - NM 371/N36 (PE) F100351 - NM 371/N36 (Const)</li> </ul>

INFORMATION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is an information item only. Committee members will provide any needed feedback/updates regarding current TIP projects status and details.</li> </ul>

**DISCUSSION:** The Technical Committee members provided their TIP project updates:

City of Aztec - Steven Saavedra

The City of Aztec has finalized all property acquisition for the East Aztec Arterial.

Aztec is also moving forward with relocating the water line on NM 173 that was creating a delay for NMDOT's planned safety project along this roadway.

City of Bloomfield - Jason Thomas

Phase I of the East Blanco Bridge project was awarded to Halo Services of Bloomfield. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for August 19.

City of Farmington - Virginia King

Foothills Drive Enhancement-Phase II

The design is still in review. The City of Farmington is working to get a PS&E scheduled in the next week or so.

East Pinon Hills Boulevard-Phases I and II

The City has submitted a TIP amendment to get the project moving again.

20<sup>th</sup> Street-Phase III

No change. The appraisal is still in process.

Red Apple Transit - Andrew Montoya

Ridership for July 2020 was 4,473; normal average monthly ridership is over 10,000, The total year-to-date ridership is 37,687 compared to the same time last year which showed ridership at 73,396.

San Juan County - Nick Porell

East Pinon Hills Boulevard-Phase III

No update.

Glade Run Recreation Area Trails

Construction began three weeks ago. The mountain bike trail has been completed to Farmington Lake from the existing trail network (southern portion 7 Sisters tie-in) with four new miles still to be installed. The project should be completed within the next few weeks. A ribbon cutting is being planned with the San Juan County Commission and BLM.

CR 5500

The PS&E package was submitted two weeks ago. One property is in the condemnation hearing process; all other certifications are in place. San Juan County expects to award this project this fall with some possible early construction activities before the winter.

Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension

The 30% design submission made to NMDOT last week with the intention to go directly to 90% design. The project is expected to be underway shortly.

Glade Run Recreation Trails Extension

The RFP process is complete. A recommendation to award the contract will be made to the County Commission next week. Construction is anticipated to happen next spring and summer.

Bridge Replacements - CR 3000 and CR 3500

Some preliminary work has begun on these two projects.

NMDOT-District 5 - Javier Martinez

NM 173

Mr. Martinez thanked Mr. Saavedra for the update on moving the water line on NM 173. This project is scheduled for 2021.

US 550 Pavement Rehab

NMDOT is working on plans for this project which is scheduled for the outer years of the TIP.

NM 371 and N 36

The PS&E plans are in progress. The signal and lighting agreement has been agreed upon with Navajo DOT and the City of Farmington.

**8. REPORTS FROM NMDOT**

**District 5 - Javier Martinez**

Mr. Martinez reported on several maintenance projects that NMDOT has planned for the area:

Murray Drive - this will be a mill and inlay project expected to begin within the next two weeks at a cost of \$1,800,000;

US 550 - This is also a mill and inlay project from milepost 151.7 to 159.9 from Bloomfield to Aztec. It will begin later in September or October and be completed in 2021. Cost is \$4,400,000.

**Planning Bureau - Joseph Moriarty**

Mr. Moriarty stated that the Tribal/Local Public Agency website has been changed and this page has been updated.

The proposed FFY2021-2022 UPWPs are moving through FHWA and FTA Region VI. The Notice to Proceed is expected in mid to late September.

Mr. Moriarty thanked all those who participated in the workshop on the NM 2045 Plan for their comments and input. Comments may still be provided at: [NM2045Plan.com](http://NM2045Plan.com).

The governor is seeking applicants for the Recreational Trails Board. For those who may be interest, contact Mr. Moriarty or Maggie Moore, also with the Planning Bureau.

**9. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Committee Member Discussion Items
<b>Date:</b>	August 12, 2020

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Chair Porell commented on a grant opportunity through the state's outdoor recreation office for new trail projects or trailhead improvement. The total amount available is approximately \$100,000 with a maximum award of \$25,000 (with a 50/50 match that can be in kind with labor) to any one agency. Chair Porell noted that he plans to submit an application for materials to do some trailhead paving.

**10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Information Items
<b>Prepared by:</b>	MPO Staff
<b>Date:</b>	August 12, 2020

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. **Virtual Open Houses.** Staff will provide an update on the upcoming 2045 MTP virtual open houses.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Koeppel reiterated the virtual open houses for the draft final 2045 MTP scheduled for August 13 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. and again from 6:00-7:00 p.m. All links and details are on the FMPO website.

**11. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

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

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA**

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

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Escobar moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Chair Porell adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

  
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Nick Porell, Technical Committee Chair

  
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June Markle, Administrative Assistant