

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 10, 2010

Policy Members Present: Gene Current, City of Aztec
Pat Lucero, City of Bloomfield
Dr. James Henderson, San Juan County
Dan Darnell, City of Farmington
Gayla McCulloch City of Farmington

Policy Members Absent: None

Technical Committee Members Present: Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield

Staff Present: Bob Campbell, MPO Officer
Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Kathy Bonnell, MPO Admin Aide

Staff Absent None

Also Present: Dave Martinez, District 5
Linda Sillers, San Juan Center for Independence

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Henderson called the June 10, 2010 Policy Committee meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 15, 2010 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Darnell made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2010 Policy Committee Meeting. Mr. Pat Lucero seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. APPROVE THE UPDATE TO THE MPO BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 1, 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.
- The MPO prioritized the regional bicycle/pedestrian projects shown in the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan as part of the 2035 MTP process.
- Public comments were received 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.
- The Technical Committee reviewed the changes to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan on May 27.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- 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).
- Summary of changes made to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee approve the update to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori highlighted the updates to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and reviewed several of the chapters with significant changes. Chapter 1 now includes the livability principles and the USDOT policies that were issued in 2009. Chapter 4 had the most changes, including the various tables that were added to reflect the completed projects and the prioritized tier projects. The chapter on Safe Routes to School was

updated to provide a history of the program in Farmington and to explain upcoming work in Bloomfield. Mr. Darnell asked when SRTS funding can be used for infrastructure projects. Mr. Delmagori explained that Farmington will need to apply for Phase 2 funding through the SRTS program prior to funding an infrastructure project through SRTS funds.

Mr. Delmagori concluded by saying the updated Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan now matches the bicycle/pedestrian chapter in the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Mr. Current commented that he was glad that local and state wide statistics were being reviewed. A discussion ensued concerning the statistical data for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Action: Mr. Darnell made a motion to approve the update to the MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Current seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE 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:	June 2, 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 Technical Committee was asked to identify locations that might conflict with known road construction schedules.
- The MPO anticipates taking counts in September and October and submitting the final counts to NMDOT by the end of December for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

- Staff recommends that the Policy Committee review the report on the traffic count program and approve the 2010 Traffic Count Location list.

Discussion: Mr. Martin Lucero discussed the Farmington MPO traffic count program and the list of locations to be counted in the fall of 2010. Traffic counts are located throughout the MPO boundary. Locations are taken according to a three year cycle and this year will be the start of a new three year cycle. Mr. Lucero also stated that the counts will be taken at the beginning of October with recounts performed in November. Staff expects to take at least 81 counts in 2010. The Technical Committee reviewed the proposed list and identified only one possible conflict due to road construction schedules. Dr. Henderson stated he was pleased with the number of counts this coming year.

Action: Mr. Darnell made a motion to approve the 2010 Traffic Count Location list. Mr. Current seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

5. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MPO MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Major Thoroughfare Plan
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 2, 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 Policy Committee receive a report on the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Martin Lucero discussed the tremendous amount of population growth in the San Juan /county between 1990-2000 and that, approximately 80% of San Juan County's population resides within the MPO boundary. The Major Thoroughfare Plan is designed to accommodate both current and projected travel demands associated with growth. Mr. Lucero also stated that as part of the long range plan update both the Technical Committee and Policy Committee have reviewed the roadway network and surrounding land uses to project the increases in population and traffic volume. Mr. Darnell asked what role or information does the MPO have in presenting facts to the political entities in preserving future corridors? Mr. Lucero stated one important thing is the MPO looks at both land use and transportation together and can present that information to the public. When either land use or transportation needs are considered without addressing the other, issues will arise. One good example is 30th Street, in the City of Farmington, where the land use is not compatible with the purpose of the road. This resulted in houses fronting along a minor arterial, making it very difficult to control the access along the roadway. Hood Mesa Trail will be another example where land use and transportation will need to be studied to determine the best interaction between the road's function and nearby development.

The MPO is looking at all the aspects to ensure the regional flow can be preserved and that critical links are not lost. Dr. Henderson stated that this does need to be looked into. Mr. Current asked for clarification of the location of Hood Mesa Trail and the proposed northern loop. Mr. Lucero showed him on the map.

Mr. Lucero stated that development of the MPO major thoroughfare plan will continue through the summer and will be reviewed by the Technical Committee members.

Action: The Major Thoroughfare Plan was reviewed.

6. RECEIVE A REPORT NMDOT

Before the NMDOT report, Dr. Henderson requested that introductions be made for all the members in attendance.

Mr. Martinez announced that Miguel Gabaldon, former District 5 Maintenance Engineer, is the new District Engineer. Mr. Martinez gave a quick overview of the functions of District 5 for the new members. Mr. Martinez explained his role as the Technical Support Engineer for District 5 and his former role as the District 5 Traffic Engineer. He has been involved with this area for the past 10 years. District 5 is comprised of 6 different counties: Torraine, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Taos, and San Juan County. District 5 is a large geographical area, which has 23 maintenance patrol yards scattered throughout the counties with one patrol yard located in Bloomfield, Farmington and Shiprock. Mr. Martinez explained that if there were any questions about District 5 operations that the entities were welcome to contact him as since he is the liaison to the Farmington MPO and Northwest Regional Planning Organization. As the District Technical Support Engineer he oversees the local Government road funding, disburses the funds to the local entities in District 5. He indicated that the local ARRA projects are all under construction or under contract. Mr. Martinez reminded the entities that with the ARRA Grant funds the local entities have to pay the contractors up front.

Reimbursements are issued after the contractors fill out the proper paperwork correctly. Currently the district is a month behind reimbursing the local entities.

The US 64 project is currently in production. NMDOT has a July production deadline which means they have to have the right-of-way acquisition to a point where they can get project certification. Because of this the project has a September letting in order to receive the funds that are allocated within this fiscal year. Dr. Henderson requested that Mr. Martinez elaborate on the location of the next phase of US 64. Mr. Martinez talked about the phase being the portion within the city limits of Bloomfield. Mr. Martinez also added that the US 64 project will take place from 3rd St. to the city limits for approximately 1.3 miles of construction. Ms. Baird stated it will go towards the Angel Peak RV, which is near the city limits.

Mr. Martinez discussed a safety grant awarded for Navajo Dam Road (NM173). The grant is for \$2 million and will be used to correct safety issues from approximately mile marker three to four. Dr. Henderson interjected that people that live along NM173 will appreciate it because that road needs some maintenance. Mr. Current stated that the intersection of NM 173 with the new East Arterial is a concern and the truck radius turn from NM 173 to the new East Arterial looks real tight. Mr. Martinez will have a turning radius analysis performed for the intersection. He stated that the intersection is part of the City of Aztec ARRA stimulus.

Mr. Delmagori requested some information on the \$2 million safety grant and its location. Mr. Martinez stated that the focus is around mile marker three to about mile maker four along NM173 near its intersection with NM 575. Because it is within the MPO boundary, Mr. Delmagori said he would work with District 5 to get this project on the TIP and STIP. Ms. McCulloch was glad to hear about this grant, stating there is a need for maintenance and repair on NM 173. Dr. Henderson stated he heard the Secretary of Transportation state that they don't have maintenance funds at this time but hopefully they can find some money somewhere.

Mr. Martinez stated District 5 has made a request to upper management that they submit a \$90 million TIGER II application for the remaining portion of US 64. District 5 is also submitting a request that some deobligated ARRA funds be used for the City of Farmington Wildflower project since project costs are higher than the bid estimate.

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:	June 1, 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

- 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 Policy Committee members on June 10.
- A kick-off public meeting was held on June 3 to discuss the study and receive input from participants.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Provide population and employment data to the consultant
- Assist with land use and demographic analysis
- Transit needs assessment
- Transit expansion scenario development

BACKUP MATERIAL

- Proposed work schedule

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on the Red Apple Transit Study.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori discussed the Red Apple Transit Study and how the LSC Consulting from Colorado Springs has begun the study. It is a 6 month study and they should conclude the study no later than November of 2010. Mr. Delmagori also elaborated on the kick off public meeting that was held on June 3 2010, which received lots of input from the participants. Input was received on having more stops and how to make the system more efficient. Mr. Darnell added that it was suggested that the Red Apple Transit routes start going in opposite directions to help accommodate more of the public. Dr. Henderson stated he felt that the study would help improve the ridership and availability within the cities. Mr. Darnell stated that there were a lot of great comments from the public.

Action: The report on the Red Apple Transit Study was received.

8. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE RED APPLE TRANSIT

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Update
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 2, 2010

RED APPLE UPDATE

- Overall ridership reached 12,517 passengers in April.
- Farmington and Aztec saw a decrease in ridership over previous month, with 3% and 5% respectfully.
- Bloomfield and Kirtland saw increases in ridership over previous months, with 6% and 10% respectfully.
- Aztec, Bloomfield, Kirtland, and Farmington had increases over the same period last year with 17%, 18%, 35% and 12% respectfully.
- The ridership report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive a report on Red Apple Transit.

Discussion: Mr. Martin Lucero stated that the total Red Apple Transit ridership was up from last year and from the previous month. The numbers of riders on the Farmington and Bloomfield routes are down from the prior year. The Bronco route has increased its ridership and has very similar numbers to the Bobcat route. The Bloomfield route is not following the seasonal pattern for ridership on the Red Apple Transit. Mr. Darnell asked how many stops are in Aztec. Mr. Lucero stated there are three stops.

Action: The Red Apple Transit Update was reviewed.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 2, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Safe Routes to School Program Update.** The MPO finished taking arrival counts for the three participating schools within the Farmington School District in April and May. The MPO has also been meeting with the Bloomfield School District and City staff to begin efforts to establish a program within Bloomfield.
- b. **MPO Quarterly.** The Farmington MPO will host the next MPO Quarterly on June 23.
- c. **TIGER II Grant.** Grant applications for the next round of TIGER funding must be submitted by August 23. Road, bridge, and transit projects are eligible. Federal funds will only cover 80% of the cost and select criteria is similar to last year's TIGER grants.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori discussed the Safe Routes to School and the counts that were done to track the number of students walking and/or riding bikes to school. He also elaborated on the SRTS kick off meeting for Bloomfield to introduce the Safe Route to School program.

Mr. Delmagori then discussed the MPO Quarterly meeting that will be held on June 23 at the MPO office. Mr. Delmagori explained the TIGER II Grant and that applications would be accepted until August 23. He quickly explained the details of the program: \$600 million nationwide is available for the program, applications can be between \$10 and \$200 million, but only 80% will be covered by the TIGER II funding so the other 20% will have to be a match. Mr. Delmagori indicated that there were some conflicts with meetings in the coming months. There was discussion on when the next Policy meeting should be held and a consensus was reached that the next meeting will be held on September 9 at 3:00p.m.

Action: The Information Items were received.

10. BUSINESS FROM

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. AJOURNMENT

Discussion: Dr. Henderson adjourned the meeting at 2:59pm

Dr. James C. Henderson-Chairman

Kathy Bonnell-MPO Admin Aide