

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 25, 2010

Technical Members Present: Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington
Steve Christensen, City of Aztec
Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield
Chico Quintana, Alternate, City of Farmington

Technical Members Absent: Dave Keck, San Juan County
Nica Westerling, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Dee Dee Moore, MPO Admin Aide

Staff Absent Bob Campbell, MPO Officer

Also Present: Greg White, NMDOT
Ray Matthew, NMDOT
Al Kroeger, San Juan County

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Baird called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 28, 2010 TECHNICAL MEETING

Ms. Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2010 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Quintana seconded that motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item

Subject:	Statewide Public Transportation Plan
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori
Date:	February 18, 2010

BACKGROUND

- The NMDOT Transit and Rail Division is working towards completing its first strategic Statewide Public Transportation Plan focused primarily on rural and intercity public transportation services.
- The plan will identify public transportation usage, demand, and needs.
- The goal of the plan is to provide clear and concise public transportation performance measures to identify and prioritize projects across the State.

PRESENTATION

- Greg White with the NMDOT Transit and Rail Division will give a presentation on the draft plan.
- The draft Statewide Public Transportation Plan is available under the Transit Section on the NMDOT website.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a presentation on the Statewide Public Transportation Plan.

Discussion: Mr. White explained the purpose of his meeting with the MPO, first to present the New Mexico Statewide Public Transportation Plan and second to explain NMDOT's Transportation program to the MPO Technical Committee. Mr. White works specifically with the Transit section of the Transit and Rail department which is responsible for distribution of federal transit funds to the local entities. There are nine employees that handle policies and administrative functions statewide. NMDOT manages about 70 contracts totaling approximately \$21 million. These funds are used for the various transit programs such as 5307, 5310, and 5311.

The Statewide Public Transportation Plan is a policy document which includes a wide range of information such as background data for future transit planning, specific recommendations, and general guidance in developing a public transportation plan. The NMDOT Transit Department supports large urban areas, small communities, regional transit districts, and the Rail Runner.

Another function of this plan is to develop an analysis of existing transit systems within the state and the needs within the state for additional public transportation. The background and benefits section of this plan covers funding and ridership trends. The plan will identify potential projects and will consider criteria for identifying the most fundable projects. Mr. Christensen asked about the Northwest Regional Transit District structure that was proposed about a year ago. It was an idea for connecting the three counties of San Juan, Cibola and McKinley. He questioned if there is a way to set it up differently. Mr. Christensen shared that originally the NWNMCOG was spearheading the origination of the RTD. Mr. Delmagori stated that Mr. Kuipers was the representative and that the whole area had too many variables to move forward with the RTD at that time. Mr. Christensen stated, to connect to Gallup or Grants, which are 130 miles away, to the Red Apple Transit was too far in the future. The reasonable connections are to Durango and Cortez, Colorado, from Farmington, Bloomfield and Aztec. Mr. White shared that all the RTD districts are different because of regional influences. Mr. Delmagori and Mr. Christensen informed Mr. White

that in December 2009 the Road Runner Transit system began connections from Aztec to Ignacio. Mr. Christensen asked if the only way to apply for funding was through a RTD. Mr. White stated no. Mr. Christensen asked for clarification and questioned if the FMPO could still be awarded funding if they came up with their own transit plan, even if the whole Northwest RTD was not a part of the local transit system. Mr. White stated that the FMPO would need to make sure that every entity within the transit service area agrees to that system. Mr. White shared an example of the Las Cruces Park & Ride areas, which are funded with State Highway Funds. He furthered added that if the transit stops are on private property there is a requirement for a contract with the RTD. Mr. White stated that the history behind the local transit systems is important for justification of an RTD.

Mr. White directed the discussion towards funding sources. Federal funds in 2009 for public transportation within New Mexico were \$22.2 million. The ARRA added another \$27.5 million for capital projects. Within the State, six potential sources of State funding for transit are identified in the plan. As far as regional transit projects, the plan discusses the importance of the RTD's ability to seek local Gross Receipts Tax. On the local level, 15 potential funding options are identified.

Mr. White asked each attendee to take a look at the plan and asked for any comments on the plan to be addressed to him. Ms. Baird thanked Mr. White for coming to the MPO meeting and for his presentation. Mr. Delmagori and Mr. Lucero shared information regarding the current RFP in process to look at the current Red Apple Transit system and identify potential expansion options. Mr. White stated that it is important for local entities to start the process and that there are funding dollars available to do the planning.

Action: The presentation was received.

4. REVIEW THE DRAFT MTP

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	MTP Document
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	February 18, 2010

BACKGROUND

- Draft chapters of the MTP have been provided for review in the past few months and comments have been received by the entities.

CURRENT WORK

- All draft chapters are complete.
- Staff has included the SAFETEA-LU planning factors and the six livability principles into the MTP.
- The Financial Plan describes revenue scenarios to meet fiscal constraint requirements.

- Any final changes to the draft document will be completed in preparation for the start of the 30-day public comment period on February 28.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

- **February 25** - Technical Committee reviews draft MTP prior to 30-day public comment period.
- **February 28** - Open the 30-day public comment period.
- **March 25** - Public hearing on the draft MTP; recommend adoption of the MTP by the Technical Committee.
- **April 7** - Close the 30-day public comment period.
- **April 15** - Seek adoption of the MTP by the Policy Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft MTP Chapters available on the MPO website (www.farmingtonmpo.org)
- Draft MTP Chapters provided under separate cover to the members.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori discussed the chapter on Safety in detail and provided a handout to the attendees of the updated information. He discussed the various modes of travel and the goals, policies and actions to make them safer. Safety funding may be available for safety/corridors studies that use the crash data information to identify dangerous intersections. Some types of solutions may be signals or roundabouts for vehicles and countdown signals and pavement flashers for pedestrians. On page 8-4 the graphs have been updated to show a more streamlined representation of the crash data. The graphs also show the intersections with high crash rates for each entity. Also noted was that the county totals do not include any of the cities listed. Mr. Quintana asked if both of the Farmington intersections were along 20th or perhaps one of the intersection locations was on 30th. Mr. Delmagori stated that he would double check that information. Ms. Baird asked if a clarification could be added to the descriptions in the Bloomfield data since the intersection of US 550 North is the same as 1st Street and US 550 South is the same as 5th Street. Mr. Delmagori said he would make the additions and changes to help clarify the locations.

In the budget chapter, Mr. Delmagori shared how the three revenue scenarios were achieved using historical and near-term revenues to make future projections. Funding estimates ranged from a low of \$150 million to a high of \$207 million. Mr. Delmagori also explained the future revenue projection on page 11-7. The Transit Revenue projection resulted in an estimated \$1.8 million over the next 10 years for capital improvements. By factoring in a funding increase at a rate of 14%, the 25 year operating projection is \$31 million. Mr. Christensen asked that with all the budget cuts will the transit system be one of them. Mr. Delmagori explained that the Red Apple Transit is an established system and that over the 10 years of existence it has proved to be a necessity within our area. The MPO feels that the Red Apple Transit would not be a service that would be cut.

Mr. Delmagori shared that a public hearing would be held during the March 25, 2010 Technical Committee Meeting and that there would also be, a public comment period from February 28, 2010 to April 7, 2010. The timing of this public comment period would provide the opportunity for the Policy Committee to adopt the MTP at their April 15, 2010 meeting. Mr. Christensen thanked the MPO Staff for all their hard work putting this plan together.

Mr. Quintana asked about the possibility of expanding the transit system from the MPO boundary near Kirtland to Shiprock. Mr. Delmagori stated that the Navajo Transit has buses that come into Farmington and meet at a transfer point at the Civic Center. He also stated that the option to evaluate transit expansion to further outlying communities could be added into the transit study.

Action: The draft MTP was reviewed.

5. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

Discussion: Mr. Matthew introduced himself as the replacement for Dr. Wideo as the NMDOT liaison to the Farmington MPO. He shared that Dr. Wideo has been reassigned to work on completing the MOA's and has been advised to limit his travel at this time. Mr. Matthew stated that the ARRA2 project funding that was proposed as part of the Jobs Bill was dropped in the US Legislature. However, an extension of federal funding for SAFETEA-LU has been secured and will continue until the end of the fiscal year. All MPO federal funding will continue at the current levels and no drops are expected. Mr. Matthew commented that he felt the Transit Study should explain the challenges and institutional problems with the transit system. He commended the MPO for the process taken to produce the MTP funding scenarios. The low/mid/high scenarios are a good way to estimate these funds.

6. REVIEW THE DRAFT FY2011-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	FY2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	February 18, 2010

BACKGROUND

- The TIP is a short-term program of projects expected to be completed in the next six years.
- The MPO updates the TIP on an annual basis.
- The TIP update process includes revising existing project information, adding new projects, and developing a TIP Financial Plan.
- A Call for Projects was issued in January.
- The 2010-2015 TIP is available on the MPO website along with its corresponding TIP amendments.

CURRENT WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff met individually with the entities, NMDOT, and Red Apple Transit to review project information. ▪ Staff will make all needed adjustments to the TIP to reflect any additions, deletions, or corrections to the TIP during the month of February. ▪ The Technical Committee will review the revised TIP and develop an agreed-to list of projects and the TIP Financial Plan during their February 25 meeting.

ATTACHMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft FY2011-2016 TIP provided under separate cover to the Technical Committee members. ▪ The TIP Introduction document and Financial Plan will be provided at the February 25 meeting.

TIP SCHEDULE	
MONTH	ACTION
January 2010-February 2010	Call for Projects was made & Project Identification Forms were issued
February - March 2010	Entities reviewed project information; development of an agreed to list of projects and TIP financial plan
Early March - early April 2010	30-day Public Comment period is advertised and opened
March 25, 2010	Technical Committee holds public hearing on and recommends adoption of TIP
April 15, 2010	Policy Committee adopts the FY2011-2016 TIP

RECOMMENDATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the draft FY2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

Discussion: Mr. Lucero reviewed the three separate TIP handouts with the committee. The Unfunded project list identifies projects that the state can go back and pull from when additional funding is made available. The Non Regional list contains projects that are funded but are considered local projects. The Regionally Significant list contains projects with federal funding or those that are functionally classified. Mr. Lucero reviewed the projects that are receiving federal funding. He spoke about the projects that received ARRA funding. These include the East Arterial Project, W. Maple St., Wildflower Pkwy and the bridge on CR 2900. Projects receiving Safety Funding were CR 350/CR 3720 intersection, the West Main/Apache intersection, and Light Plant Rd at NM 516. Funding from the TCSP program was received for Pinon Hills Blvd and for the East Arterial. FTA funding is provided for the Red Apple Transit capital and operating. Mr. Lucero also shared that a project may be listed more than once because that project could have multiple funding sources with different control numbers from the State or Federal government. Mr. Quintana added that the City of Farmington received MAP funds for the repaving of Auburn Street and that the project needed to be added into the Regionally Significant List.

Action: The draft TIP was reviewed.

7. **REVIEW THE DRAFT FY2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AND FY2011 UPWP BUDGET**

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

Subject:	FY2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	February 18, 2010

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the fiscal year work plan for the MPO. ▪ The FY2011 UPWP is anticipated to be adopted on April 15, 2010 by the Policy Committee. ▪ Some new items that are included in the UPWP would be a Highline corridor study, a Major Thoroughfare Plan for the MPO, and the Red Apple Transit Study.

CURRENT WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff has developed a list of activities that are expected to be included in the FY2011 UPWP. ▪ Staff will review and modify the list with the Technical Committee on February 25. ▪ The draft FY2011 UPWP Budget has been developed based on funding estimates from NMDOT

ATTACHMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft FY2011 UPWP activity list by program area provided under separate cover to the Technical Committee members. ▪ The draft FY2011 UPWP Budget will be provided at the February 25 meeting.

UPWP SCHEDULE	
MONTH	ACTION
January-February 2009	Issued the Call for Projects
February - March 2009	Develop UPWP program areas
March 25, 2009	Technical Committee recommends approval of UPWP
April 15, 2009	Policy Committee approves the FY2011 UPWP

RECOMMENDATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the draft FY2011 UPWP and FY2011 UPWP Budget.

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori began his discussion explaining that each program area includes proposed staff hours and the timeframe in which those functions will be completed. At the end of each section there is a table that shows the hours and

estimated costs. The UPWP contains the following sections Program Support and Administration, General Development and Comprehensive Planning, Long Range Transportation Planning, Short Range Transportation Planning, Transportation Improvement Program and Budget Summary.

Each section was covered in detail. Mr. Delmagori reviewed the budget, noting that the MPO will be receiving more federal PL this year which will help reduce the local contribution.

Action: The draft UPWP was reviewed.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	February 18, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Safety Project Applications.** All applications will be submitted to NMDOT prior to the February 25 deadline.
- b. **Invitation to Host a NMDOT Transportation Commission Meeting.** MPO staff will work with the entities to develop a letter inviting the Transportation Commission to hold one of their meetings in this area in 2011.
- c. **Safe Routes to School (SRTS).** Theresa Lawing, a teacher at Ladera Elementary, has accepted the SRTS Champion position.

The MPO will participate in a Parent Meeting at McKinley Elementary School on March 4, 2010. The meeting will discuss the SRTS program and the progress and concerns specific to the elementary school.

- d. **Other**

Discussion: Mr. Delmagori shared that all six safety projects have been sent and received by Steve Eagan. There were 3 projects in Farmington, 1 in Aztec, 1 in Bloomfield and 1 from San Juan County.

Mr. Delmagori also shared that the Farmington SRTS program has found a new champion. Ms. Theresa Lawing is a teacher at Ladera Elementary and will be at the McKinley Elementary parent meeting on March 4, 2010.

Mr. Christensen expressed his opinion on the importance of hosting the NMDOT Commission meeting. He reminded the committee that the City of Farmington was

the official host approximately two years ago. However Aztec, Bloomfield and San Juan County all contributed to the event. Mr. Quintana asked what the goal of hosting the meeting was. Mr. Delmagori answered that it is easier for the Commissioners to get a feel for our projects and become more familiar with the area. Mr. Christensen suggested the MPO show the roadway scenario plans and how it can benefit the DOT. Mr. Matthew shared that it would be good for the Commission to hear from the MPO; however the request should come from one of the entities. Mr. Delmagori said that he would follow up with the City Managers.

Action: The information items were received.

9. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Discussion: Ms. Baird stated that there was an accident at Central Elementary School in Bloomfield. She thinks this would be a good opportunity to introduce the SRTS program to the principal. The school district has contracted with Souder/Miller who will be looking at design options to address the issues. Ms. Baird suggested that the MPO Staff, the Principal and herself could get together for a meeting. Ms. Baird also stated that the bus boundary has been changed to a one mile radius to make more students eligible to ride the bus. She feels that the change will allow for more children walking to and from school.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Discussion: There was no business from the floor

11. ADJOURNMENT

Discussion: Mr. Christensen made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Quintana seconded that motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Julie Baird - Chair

Dee Dee Moore - MPO Admin Aide