

M I N U T E S
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
October 7, 2010

Technical Members Present: Julie Baird, City of Bloomfield
Chico Quintana, City of Farmington, Alternate
Dave Keck, San Juan County
Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington
Roshana Moojen, City of Aztec

Technical Members Absent: Nica J. Westerling, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner
Kathy Bonnell, MPO Administrative Aide

Staff Absent: Bob Campbell, MPO Officer

Also Present: Ray Matthew, NMDOT
David Krutsinger, LSC Consultants

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 26, 2010 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Keck motioned to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2010 Technical Committee meeting and Mr. Quintana seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. RECEIVE REPORT PRESENTATION FROM RED APPLE TRANSIT STUDY

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item**

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| Subject: | Red Apple Transit Study |
| Prepared by: | Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner |
| Date: | September 23, 2010 |

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The MPO and Red Apple Transit are working with LSC Consultants to determine future transit needs and make recommendations for expansion options.
- LSC Consultants developed a Technical Memorandum that determined current transit need and identified future transit demand out to the year 2035.
- The second public meeting on the transit study was held on July 29th.
- Other stakeholder meetings were held to review the Technical Memo.

CURRENT WORK

- Demand estimation was developed for 2020 and 2035 and initial observations for service expansion were made.
- LSC developed Technical Memorandum #2, which identified scenarios that reallocate existing resources for system improvements and expansion options based on additional resources.
- LSC will present material that outlines overall system concepts and possible options to revising the existing transit system.
- Estimated ridership and costs for the scenarios are provided in the Technical Memo.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Hold the third series of stakeholder and public meetings from October 5-7.
- LSC Consultants will issue the Technical Memorandum #2 to the stake holder group for review.
- LSC Consultants will further analyze and make final recommendations in its draft report.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a presentation from LSC on the Red Apple Transit Study.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori introduced David Krutsinger from LSC Transportation Consultants to the Technical Committee. Mr. Delmagori also gave a brief overview of the study.

The study focuses on population and growth areas for the three cities over the next ten to twenty years. The study also evaluates areas of large transit dependant population, zero

vehicle homes, low income, and elderly that rely on the Red Apple Transit services. Mr. Delmagori stated all of those items were addressed in Technical Memo #1. LSC then evaluated service concepts with various alternatives and options to restructure or expand the current transit system.

Mr. Delmagori reviewed the presentation made by Mr. Krutsinger to the Farmington City Council as well as the public meeting that was held on October 6, 2010 at the Civic Center. A final presentation was made to the city planners from each member entity.

Mr. Delmagori then gave the floor to Mr. Krutsinger. Mr. Krutsinger began his power point presentation discussing several options that would benefit the Red Apple Transit System. He addressed walking distance, split loops, linear routes, two hub routes, and the difference between peak hours. He also discussed the difference between each option by comparing the cost, service levels, and labor.

Mr. Krutsinger then discussed the concerns received from the stakeholder and public meeting. During the meetings there were several citizens that were concerned with the distance they would have to walk to ride the transit system. Other concerns included limited service and the need for additional stops along existing routes.

Mr. Lucero introduced Ms. Moojen with the City of Aztec, Mr. Keck with San Juan County and Ms. Baird with the City of Bloomfield. He stated with representatives present from all our entities this would be a good time to discuss the identified issues of not enough stops and the possibility of adding more routes.

Mr. Quintana asked how accurate the model is that LSC uses. He elaborated on his question asking how the model determines how much time to allot for each additional stop. Mr. Krutsinger responded that there are two kinds of analyses that are done, one is how many stops, how many people ride in a quarter mile, walking distance, and the population per stop. The second is speed and distance in between stops. Mr. Quintana asked if Mr. Krutsinger felt there was a shortage of buses. Mr. Krutsinger stated that will be part of the analysis. However, the main thing is the public is requesting more stops which will then slow down the response time. He also stated that an eighth bus would need to be added if more stops were added to the current system. When compared to the other bus systems in the comparison group, the Red Apple Transit is managed well. Mr. Delmagori stated that the study is being conducted to evaluate if more buses need to be added to the current system as well as what the potential ridership could be as a result of changes. All the comments received and analysis will be factored in when the study is completed.

Mr. Krutsinger discussed the difference between circular routes and fixed routes in the outlying communities. There is even the possibility of adding a call rider service which gives a little more flexibility. Most of the public comments received at the public meeting indicated that circulators may not be needed if there were just more stops.

Mr. Lucero stated the smaller communities such as Aztec, Kirtland, and Bloomfield could possibly create public-private partnerships to secure a portion of the funds needed to run a local circulator for a year or two with the remaining money needed coming from Federal grants or earmarks. Mr. Krutsinger stated this can be a four year or six year plan, and each community will fund the local shares themselves.

Mr. Quintana questioned if the maintenance cost was included into the cost per rider. Mr. Krutsinger stated the Red Apple Transit is not making a profit and is subsidized to provide the service to the community. Ms. Lopez questioned if the \$100,000 per year includes the projected recapture of bus fares or does the \$100,000 just reflect the additional cost. Mr. Krutsinger stated that the \$100,000 was just the additional cost. Ms. Lopez asked if there will be some recapture. Mr. Krutsinger stated that there would be approximately an 11% recapture rate.

Ms. Moojen stated that a public-private partnership would be something the City of Aztec would be interested in. However, it would all be contingent on the implementation and timing of the other pieces. This could be feasible since the City of Aztec is currently developing public-private partnerships.

Mr. Matthew asked if each community could possibly create local circulators for less. Mr. Krutsinger stated it is possible by shortening the hours of service and the number of stops. Mr. Krutsinger added it would reduce the amount of people served in relation to the number of hours decreased.

Ms. Moojen asked if there is a proposed time frame for Regional Option #1. Mr. Krutsinger stated an exact time has not been identified but it would be in the short term. Mr. Delmagori stated it would depend on the phasing as to when it will take place. With the current Farmington routes it is possible to modify it now with little to no cost. So with all the information given, all the options will be looked at to see which one will better serve the community within the next five to ten years.

ACTION: The presentation was received.

4. REVIEW ALTERNATIVES FOR NORTHERN ROUTE AND HOOD MESA TRAIL (MTP)

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

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| Subject: | MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan |
| Prepared by: | Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner |
| Date: | September 23, 2010 |

| BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Staff identified road classifications that differ between the local agencies and NMDOT.▪ Staff reviewed NMDOT criteria for functional classifications.▪ Staff in conjunction with the Technical Committee members identified differences in road classifications.▪ The FMPO Policy Committee adopted the Major Thoroughfare Plan at their September 9th meeting with direction to staff to review alternatives for the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection in Northeast Farmington. |

CURRENT WORK

- Staff has met with City of Farmington Staff to discuss alternatives to the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection.
- Alternatives will be reviewed with the Technical Committee on October 7.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Recommended adoption of an alternative alignment for Hood Mesa Trail and the Northern Route.
- The development of a Roadway Classification Map showing all existing and future roadway designations.
- NMDOT and FHWA approval of changes to road classifications.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee review alternatives for the Northern Route and Hood Mesa Trail connection as part of the MPO Major Thoroughfare Plan.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori informed the Technical Committee of the adoption of the Major Thoroughfare Plan by the Policy Committee. He further elaborated that staff was directed to evaluate alternatives for the Northern Route and Hood Mesa connection.

Now that the Major Thoroughfare Plan has been adopted staff can work with NMDOT on reclassifying existing roads into the Federally Classified Roadway Registry.

Mr. Lucero informed the Committee of the meeting that Staff had with the Farmington city planners and engineering staff. At the meeting Staff presented possible issues such as washes, arroyos and other natural barriers. Mr. Lucero added that there are no current homes fronting along the new proposed alignments. Mr. Lucero then presented possible options for alternative alignments to the committee.

Mr. Lucero suggested for the Northern Route to connect into Foothills, Hood Mesa Trail, a northern extension of College, and a new north-south road east of Pueblo de Farmington. Option #2 would not be recommended as it would affect sensitive areas as it moved west through the Glade. If Option #2 is chosen it would require Glade Road to be upgraded to a Minor Arterial.

Ms. Lopez stated this is a future plan and that all options need to be look at. She added that this would alleviate a portion of the traffic off of Pinon Hills Blvd. These options will also create more connections. Ms. Lopez did not feel that upgrading the Glade Road would be difficult or controversial as the road is already being utilized.

Mr. Delmagori wanted to reiterate that the short term improvements identified in the MPO Long Range Plan focus on the Crouch Mesa area. The thoroughfare plan will preserve corridors for the future.

Staff will seek recommended approval of one of the options at the October 28, 2010 Technical Meeting.

ACTION: The report was received

5. RECEIVE REPORT FROM NMDOT

DISCUSSION: Mr. Matthew discussed an Air Quality presentation he attended in Albuquerque. The New Mexico Environment Department has made a proposal to FHWA for additional CMAQ air quality funds to cover some expenses for nonattainment communities due to the new proposed ozone standards. Currently Farmington is at 0.075 parts per million with a new proposed standard of 0.070 parts per million. If the proposed standard is implemented Farmington will be in nonattainment. Because of this there will be some changes in the planning process.

Mr. Matthew stated there has been some recent air quality improvement because of the replacement of older vehicles with newer models. However, this may be limited due to the large percentage of ozone coming from stationary sources.

Mr. Matthew informed the Committee the final decision will be made at the end of October or first part of November. The NMDOT is consulting with the New Mexico Environmental Department regarding the standard. The New Mexico Environmental Department will hold special meetings throughout the state in the affected areas regarding the new standard and possible nonattainment status. The meetings will explain the impact of the new standard. Mr. Delmagori added that there is a grace period after the area is designated as nonattainment.

Mr. Lucero asked if the two year grace period still applied to develop an implementation plan. Mr. Matthew stated the MTP will need an update to the air quality section. He also stated the MPO will need to create a new plan and start a new planning process on a four year cycle.

Ms. Lopez questioned if an application is required for the CMAQ funds. With all the counties in nonattainment there will be competition for the funds. Mr. Matthew stated there are formulas based on the population of the non-attainment areas that will determine the disbursement of funds.

Mr. Matthew informed the Committee the MPO in the future will have to analyze each project to see how it contributes to the levels of ozone. Mr. Quintana asked who is focusing on emission requirements for each vehicle, which is a requirement for registering a vehicle in other states. Mr. Matthew stated the CMAQ funds come out of FHWA so it would not be applicable to stationary sources. That would have to be Federal, State, or New Mexico Environmental Department or even possibly the EPA. He stated for the mobile source CMAQ funds can be used for the Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance program (I/M). The I/M program was proposed to be possibly extended to the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area. Those kinds of programs are very common in nonattainment areas.

Ms. Moojen asked what would be the ramification of nonattainment status on the entities ability to pursue Federal funding for transportation projects and extensions. Mr. Matthew answered the planning process would be affected in that it would not be easy to have major

amendments to the plan, TIP or STIP because of the conformity evaluations that need to be done. The MPO staff would have to go back and do a Conformity Analysis on that project and look to see if it meets the standards.

Ms. Lopez stated the biggest concerns for our area are the stationary sources. Mr. Lucero added although the largest concern is the stationary sources once you are declared in nonattainment the requirements to do mitigated transportation planning are the same. Even if all the vehicles in this area were removed we would still be in nonattainment and would still be required to go through all the steps.

Ms. Lopez asked what the impacts for all mobile sources are. Mr. Delmagori stated the Environmental Department has been focusing on the stationary sources and have not come out with a determination for the mobile sources.

ACTION: The report was received

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Subject: | Information Items |
| Prepared by: | Martin Lucero, MPO Associate Planner |
| Date: | September 23, 2010 |

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **MPO Quarterly.** Staff attended the MPO Quarterly meeting hosted by the Santa Fe MPO on September 28.
- b. **NHI class on Transportation Safety and Planning.** Staff attended the course led by Jim Thorne from FHWA on transportation safety and planning. A portion of the discussion was on Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) for the state. The course was held in Santa Fe on September 29 and 30.
- c. **AMPO Conference.** Joe Delmagori will be attending the national MPO conference in St. Louis on October 19-22.
- d. **Other.**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori stated the quarterly meeting in Santa Fe went very well. There was a GIS presentation on applications for transportation. He added that the safety class was also very informative. The instructors explained how to integrate safety into the planning process from developing goals and objectives to implantation. He stated there were some things that could be expanded in our MTP.

Mr. Delmagori informed the Committee he will be attending the AMPO Conference in Saint Louis on October 19-22.

7. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Discussion: Ms. Baird informed the Committee that the Bloomfield City Hall will be moving temporarily to the new Police Department building while renovations are being completed at City Hall. Ms. Moojen announced the new Public Works Director Mike Huber will be starting at the City of Aztec. She also stated that he would become the permanent member for the Technical Committee and she will become the alternate.

8. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

DISCUSSION: There was no business from the floor.

9. ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION: Mr. Keck made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Cindy Lopez-Vice Chair

Kathy Bonnell- Admin Aide