TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization

June 28, 2012
10:00 a.m.

Council Chambers
Bloomfield City Hall
915 N. First Street
Bloomfield, New Mexico

AGENDA
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
June 28, 2012 10:00 AM

This meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, Bloomfield City Hall, 915 North First Street, Bloomfield, New Mexico.

ITEM	**PAGE**
1. Call meeting to order	
2. Approve the minutes from the May 24, 2012 Technical Committee meeting.	**10**
3. Receive a presentation on the Walkable Communities Workshop.	**1**
4. Receive a report on the renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).	**2**
5. Receive a report on the update to the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures.	**3**
6. Receive a report from NMDOT a. District 5 *(David Quintana)* b. Planning Division *(Maggie Ryan)*	
7. Receive a presentation that summarizes the status of transportation reauthorization.	**4**
8. Receive a report on Red Apple Transit data collection activities.	**6**
9. Receive a report on Red Apple ridership.	**7**
10. Information Items: a. City of Farmington Major Thoroughfare Plan b. Farmington MPO ITS Architecture c. Update to the Regional Traffic Model d. Other	**9**
11. Business from: a. Chairman b. Members c. Staff	
12. Business from the Floor	
13. Adjournment	

ATTENTION PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the MPO Administrative Aide at the Downtown Center, 100 W Broadway, Farmington, New Mexico or at 505-599-1466 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the MPO Administrative Aide if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item #3

Subject:	Walkable Communities Workshop
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 20, 2012

BACKGROUND
▪ The MPO coordinated with Dan Burden and the Walkable and Livable Communities (WALC) Institute and hosted a Walkable Communities Workshop for the MPO on May 30-31. ▪ Day one was a formal full day workshop and day two held walking audits and site tours in each city. ▪ The workshop and audits were well attended.

CURRENT WORK
▪ Staff has compiled in CD format a recap of the workshop and walk audits, photographs of each audit, and design recommendations from Dan Burden in voice recording ▪ The material has been distributed to each Policy and Tech committee member and others who participated in the workshop. ▪ Staff will work to encourage and facilitate ongoing activities.

ATTACHMENTS
▪ The presentation material will be provided at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a presentation on the Walkable Communities Workshop held on May 30-31.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item #4

Subject:	Renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 20, 2012

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, and San Juan County participate in the Metropolitan Planning Organization through the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).
- The JPA is set to expire on September 30, 2012.
- The JPA explains the responsibilities of the City of Farmington as the fiscal agent and the functions and organizational structure of the Policy and Technical Committees.
- It describes the roles and work products required of the MPO.
- Each Committee has performed an initial review of the JPA.

CURRENT WORK

- The language of the Joint Powers Agreement is being reviewed for possible changes.
- The JPA will go into effect from October 2012 to September 2015.
- Identified changes to the JPA include updating population figures based on 2010 Census data and the inclusion of the six livability principles.
- The entities have the opportunity to recommend other changes to the JPA.

RECOMMENDATION

- The draft JPA will be available at the meeting.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Update the urbanized area information and other population statistics in the JPA based on 2010 Census data.
- Modify other parts of the JPA as recommended by the member entities.
- Seek approval of the JPA in September by the Policy Committee.
- Approval by the local governments.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item #5

Subject:	Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 20, 2012

BACKGROUND
▪ The Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures provide the guidance for the Policy and Technical committees. ▪ Descriptions of the Chair and Vice-Chair for each committee, removal and replacement process, and voting procedures are contained within this document. ▪ The Bylaws are formally updated in conjunction with the Joint Powers Agreement every three years.

CURRENT WORK
▪ The language in the Committee Bylaws is being is being reviewed for possible changes. ▪ Identified changes to the Bylaws include better clarification on the designation of committee alternates and moving the annual election of Policy Committee officers from April to September. ▪ The entities have the opportunity to recommend other changes to the Bylaws.

ATTACHMENTS
▪ The Bylaws will be available at the meeting.

ANTICIPATED WORK
▪ Modify sections of the Bylaws as recommended by the member entities. ▪ Seek approval of the Bylaws in September by the Policy Committee.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee review the update to the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item #7

Subject:	Transportation Reauthorization
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 21, 2012

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK
▪ SAFETEA-LU has been extended through Continuing Resolutions for the past couple of years. ▪ SAFETEA-LU is currently set to expire on June 30, 2012. ▪ The MAP-21 bill passed the Senate but not in the House. ▪ H.R. 7 is the House version of reauthorization but has yet to pass in the full House.

CURRENT WORK
▪ AMPO has provided the MPOs with a presentation that summarizes the history of the reauthorization process. ▪ The presentation outlines many of the potential new changes that are being proposed by MAP-21 and H.R. 7. ▪ Staff will share the presentation with the Technical Committee on June 28.

ATTACHMENTS
▪ AMPO presentation will be given at the meeting.

ANTICIPATED WORK
▪ Another continuing resolution is expected to be passed by Congress. ▪ Monitor the features of the proposed reauthorizations on federally funded projects, the planning process, and impacts to MPOs and state DOTs.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a presentation on the status of transportation reauthorization.

Comparison of House and Senate
Draft Transportation Reauthorization Bills

Senate Proposal - MAP-21	**House Proposal – H.R. 7**
Two-year bill that provides $109 billion through FY2013	Five-year bill that provides $264.5 billion through FY2016
Passed by the Senate, not the House	Has yet to pass the House
New MPO threshold set at 200,000; Tier system for existing MPOs; must meet designation requirements	New MPO threshold set at 100,000 but all existing MPOs would be grandfathered in

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item #8

Subject:	Red Apple Transit Data Collection
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 20, 2012

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The MPO collected Red Apple ridership data in 2011.
- Interns were hired to track passenger travel and ridership by route.
- Staff used the data to estimate the number of unique riders on the Red Apple.
- Route changes were implemented in February 2012.

CURRENT WORK

- The MPO has again hired two interns to administer surveys, track boarding/alignment, and take passenger counts at various bus stop locations.
- The interns will ride on the bus to collect origin/destination data of passengers.
- Staff has revised the survey questionnaire that will again be administered to Red Apple passengers to help determine:
    - The frequency of usage
    - How the route changes made in February 2012 are being received
    - The ongoing need of the transit system.
- The interns are collecting transit data from June through September.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Staff will evaluate the collected data for any correlations between social economic factors and riders.
- Staff will evaluate the transit need within this region.
- Staff will evaluate the route changes implemented in February and provide information to address potential future transit changes.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on Red Apple Transit data collection activities.

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item #9

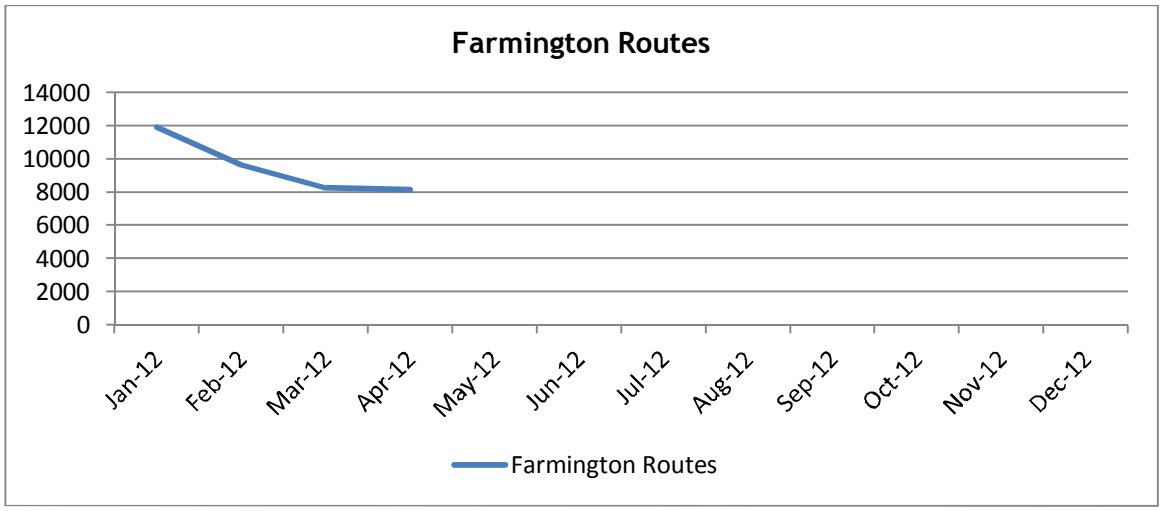
Subject:	Red Apple Transit Monthly Update
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan MPO Associate Planner
Date:	June 21, 2012

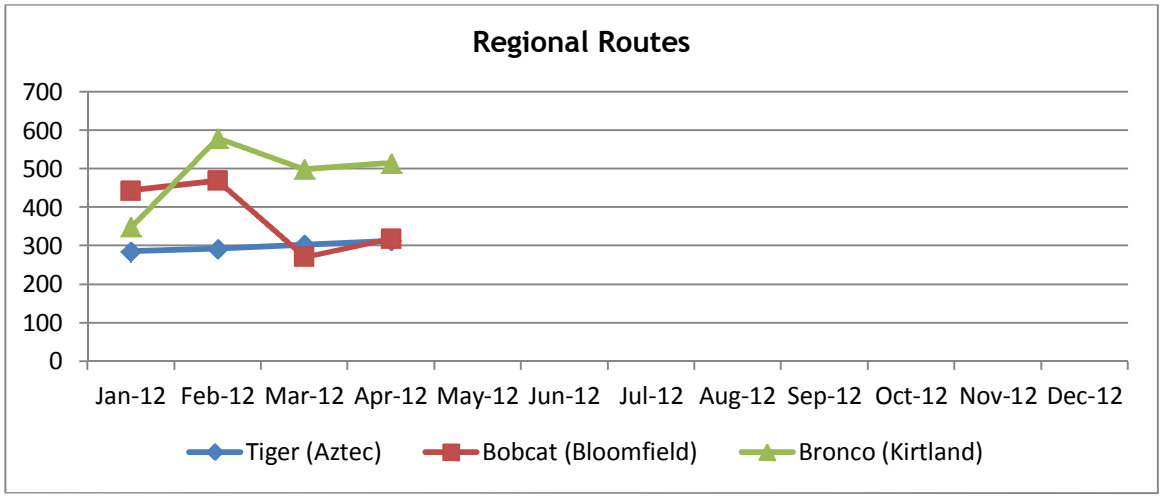
RED APPLE REPORT
▪ The new routes with additional stops and new timetables all went into effect on February 6, 2012. ▪ Ridership in 2012 through the first four months was 42,628; in 2011 ridership was 48,576 during the same period, which is a 12% decrease. ▪ Ridership for the Farmington routes between January and April did drop by approximately 3,797. ▪ The regional routes ridership (Aztec, Bloomfield & Kirtland) numbers saw a leveling effect from March-April.

ATTACHMENT
▪ 2012 monthly ridership summary for Red Apple Transit.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the Red Apple Transit monthly ridership.

Attachment 1





Monthly Ridership Numbers 2012

	January	February	March	April
Farmington Routes	11,934	9,653	8,266	8,137
Tiger (Aztec)	285	292	303	313
Bobcat (Bloomfield)	443	469	271	319
Bronco (Kirtland)	349	580	499	515
Total	13,011	10,994	9,339	9,284

Percent Change in Ridership 2012

	January-February	February-March	March-Aril
Farmington Routes	-19.1%	-14.4%	-1.6%
Tiger (Aztec)	2.5%	3.8%	3.3%
Bobcat (Bloomfield)	5.9%	-42.2%	17.7%
Bronco (Kirtland)	66.2%	-14.0%	3.2%
Total	-15.5%	-15.1%	-0.6%

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item #10

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	June 20, 2012

INFORMATION ITEMS

a. **City of Farmington Major Thoroughfare Plan.** Farmington City Council has taken recent action that has amended the Farmington Major Thoroughfare Plan. The MPO will be seeking action to amend its regional Major T-Plan to maintain consistency between the two plans.

b. **Farmington MPO ITS Architecture.** An update on the architecture will be provided to the members at their June 28 meeting.

c. **Update to the Regional Traffic Model.** MPO staff is preparing to update the regional traffic model, last completed in 2008-2009 as part of the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Staff will initially be collecting updated population and employment data based on the 2010 Census. The process will conclude with calibration and validation of the new regional model.

d. **Other.**

M I N U T E S
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 24, 2012

Technical Members Present:	Brad Ellsworth, City of Bloomfield Fran Fillerup, City of Farmington, Alternate Mike Huber, City of Aztec Nica Westerling, City of Farmington Dave Keck, San Juan County
Staff Present:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide
Technical Members Absent:	Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington
Staff Absent:	Mary Holton, MPO Officer
Also Present:	Phil Gallegos, Assistant District Engineer, NMDOT, via telephone Ray Matthew, NMDOT Planning Division Larry Hathaway, San Juan County

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Huber called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 26, 2012 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Keck made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2012 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Ellsworth seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

3. AMENDMENT #3 TO THE FY2012-2017 TIP AND AMENDMENT #1 TO THE FY2013-2018 TIP

Subject:	FY2012-2017 TIP Amendment #3
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 16, 2012

BACKGROUND
▪ On May 6, 2012 the Farmington MPO advertised Amendment #3 to the FY2012-FY2017 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment #1 to the

FY2013-2018 TIP.

- Because the project changes occur in both FY2012 and FY2013 and the projects are included in both TIPs, amendments to each TIP need to be made.
- The amendment revises four projects as described in the attached notice.

CURRENT WORK
▪ The MPO is holding a 30-day public comment period from May 6, 2012 to June 8, 2012. ▪ A public hearing on Amendment #3 and Amendment #1 will be held during the May 24, 2012 Technical Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee hold a public hearing on and recommend approval of Amendment #3 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #1 to the FY2013-2018 TIP.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Huber opened the public hearing on Amendment #3 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #1 to the FY2013-2018 TIP.

Mr. Delmagori reported that the MPO was informed by NMDOT, District 5, and San Juan County that four projects needed to be changed. He also explained that the reason for having Amendment #3 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and also Amendment #1 to the FY2013-2018 TIP was because the FY2012 TIP is currently in effect and the FY2013 TIP has already been adopted by the MPO. Any changes made to the FY2012-2017 TIP must be reflected in the FY2013-2018 TIP.

The projects being revised are:

- **CN F100111 – US 64 Phase III** – current project total is $15,841,045. Add an additional $880,920 in National Highway System to FY2012 for construction and right-of-way acquisition. Move the $1,700,000 in National Highway System funding from FY2013 to FY2012 for additional engineering costs. All funding for Phase III is now in FY2012. The new project total is $16,721,965.
- **CN FC00001 – US 64 from Harper Hill to NM 170 (MP 47 to MP 48.7)** – move the $1,100,000 in NHS for pavement rehabilitation from FY2011 to FY2012.
- **CR 7150 (Bridge #8105)** – this project, which is MPO Bridge Priority #2, will be receiving new funding for construction as follows: $1,000,000 in Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funds, $250,000 in Navajo DOT funds, and $250,000 in local County funds. In addition, the $700,000 in Bridge funding programmed to **CR 6675 (CN 5100210)** will be transferred to the CR 7150 project. The **CR 6675 project** will be removed from the TIP. The total funding for the CR 7150 project from the four funding sources (new control number pending) will be $2,200,000.
- **Safe Routes to School Phase 2 Infrastructure (CN W500012)** – combine the existing funding in the amount of $65,000 with the $185,000 in SRTS Phase 2

funding (CN W500013) for a total of $250,000. Project description will be revised to reflect general pedestrian improvements at schools participating in the SRTS program. CN W500013 will be removed from the TIP.

There were no public comments received. Mr. Huber officially closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Ms. Westerling moved to recommend approval of Amendment #3 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #1 to the FY2013-2018 TIP. Mr. Keck seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. AMENDMENT #4 TO THE FY2012-2017 TIP AND AMENDMENT #2 TO THE FY2013-2018 TIP

Subject:	FY2012-2017 TIP Amendment #4
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 16, 2012

BACKGROUND
▪ On May 16, 2012 the Farmington MPO advertised Amendment #4 to the FY2012-FY2017 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment #2 to the FY2013-2018 TIP. ▪ Because the project change occurs in FY2013 and the projects are included in both TIPs, amendments to each TIP need to be made. ▪ The amendment revises one project as described in the attached notice.

CURRENT WORK
▪ The MPO is holding a 30-day public comment period from May 16, 2012 to June 15, 2012. ▪ A public hearing on Amendment #4 and Amendment #2 will be held during the May 24, 2012 Technical Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee hold a public hearing on and recommend approval of Amendment #4 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #2 to the FY2013-2018 TIP.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Huber opened the public hearing on Amendment #4 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #2 to the FY2013-2018 TIP.

Mr. Delmagori explained that these Amendments were requested by NMDOT District 5 to add the following project:

- **CN F100170 –NM 173** – add this new project to the FY2012-2017 TIP and FY2013-2018 TIP; project is funded by the High Risk Rural Road Safety program in the amount of $2,000,000 in FY2013; project will make safety improvements on NM 173 between MP 2 and MP 3.5.

Mr. Delmagori said this project was identified through previous discussions in order to improve sight distance and other issues along the corridor.

Mr. Gallegos reported that this section of NM 173 travels over rolling hills and creates many safety concerns. The project scope encompasses adding shoulders and making corrections to the vertical curves. Mr. Gallegos said the project is anticipated to cost more than $2,000,000 and STIP funds will be added to fund the project once District 5 has a more comprehensive engineering report. Mr. Huber asked where this project would be starting. Mr. Gallegos said the project would begin right at the MPO boundary at the intersection of NM 575 and NM 173 and proceed toward Navajo Dam. Mr. Delmagori commented that based on the mileposts, the project will start near the intersection with the East Arterial.

There were no public comments. Mr. Huber closed the public hearing on Amendment #4 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #2 to the FY2013-2018 TIP.

ACTION: Ms. Westerling moved to recommend approval of Amendment #4 to the FY2012-2017 TIP and Amendment #2 to the FY2013-2018 TIP. Mr. Ellsworth seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2012 TRAFFIC COUNT LOCATION LIST

Subject:	2012 Traffic Count Program
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	May 16, 2012

BACKGROUND
▪ MPO maintains traffic counts for 224 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. ▪ The 2012 Traffic counts are the third year of the three-year cycle. ▪ Counts that were not approved last year or were affected by road construction will be counted in 2012. ▪ The MPO expects to take 88 volume counts in 2012. ▪ The MPO anticipates that speed and class count information will be provided for 30 of the 88 count locations.

CURRENT WORK
▪ The proposed location list is attached for review. ▪ The members are asked to identify locations that might conflict with known road construction schedules. ▪ Staff will ask member entities to review the list in August for any unforeseen conflicts with construction or other events. ▪ The MPO anticipates taking the counts in September and October.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ Staff recommends that the Technical Committee review and recommend approval of the 2012 Traffic Count Location list.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan explained that the MPO maintains traffic counts for 224 locations and expects to take 88 volume and 30 speed/class counts in October. The 2012 traffic counts are the third year of the three-year cycle.

Mr. Wakan asked the Technical Committee members to review the list to identify locations that might conflict with road construction schedules. The final review of the list will be at the August Technical Committee meeting prior to the consultant actually taking the counts.

Mr. Fillerup asked if construction on English to build the secondary access to Piedra Vista High School would be completed in time to be added to the traffic count list. He added that with the other English locations currently on the list, having counts on this new road section would provide valuable information. Ms. Westerling said it was possible the construction might be completed in time for the 2012 traffic counts but, if not, Mr. Steve Krest would be asked to take the initial counts. Mr. Delmagori agreed that using the City of Farmington's Traffic Engineer to take initial counts on this new road section was a good idea especially in lieu of the City's interaction with the school district in getting this road section built.

Mr. Ellsworth stated that with the current construction along US 64, traffic count #BL_176 along US 64 from US 550 South to First Street may encounter issues. Mr. Delmagori stated there might be some lingering construction issues and, if so and on the direction of the Technical Committee, this count could be dropped and scheduled to be counted in 2013.

ACTION: Mr. Ellsworth moved to recommend approval of the 2012 Traffic Count Location list. Ms. Westerling seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Delmagori recommended receiving the NMDOT report before the presentation on the 2010 US Census urban areas.

6. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NMDOT

Mr. Phil Gallegos reported that the current phase of US 64 will be completed this fall. The next phase of the project will begin in the spring of 2013, connecting to the current project and continuing two miles west. The subsequent phase (Phase 4) has been programmed for 2014-2015.

Ms. Westerling asked about planned work on US 64 from NM 170 to Troy King Road. Mr. Gallegos said the bid package is being prepared and will go out to bid this summer. This project was just added to the TIP and was part of the federal closeout projects from last year. It will now be funded this year through the regular STIP program. Ms. Westerling asked if the project would be able to be completed during this paving season. Mr. Gallegos said he hoped that would be possible assuming the award was issued timely. He added this is a pavement rehabilitation project between NM 170 and Troy King Road with some minor improvements to the intersection of NM 170.

Mr. Huber asked about a safety project that the City of Aztec had applied for to improve NM 574 from NM 516 north to McWilliams at Koogler Middle School. He noted that the project had been rejected because there had been no documented serious crashes on this road section. Mr. Gallegos said that, unfortunately, documented crashes, a high crash rate, and/or deaths are necessary to qualify for funding under the safety program. He added that District 5 initially thought the project would be approved and said they will continue to work to obtain funding for the project. Mr. Gallegos stated that he would speak with NMDOT's safety committee and get more details. Mr. Huber stated that the City of Aztec would help wherever they could on this funding effort as this is their top priority safety project.

Mr. Gallegos also noted that District-wide few safety projects were approved because the overall safety program was fairly small this year. Many of the projects not approved were recommended for a roadway safety audit (RSA). Once the safety audit is completed, NMDOT reviews the detailed information, identifies/confirms the need, and determines that the project is eligible for funding. Mr. Gallegos said he believed the Aztec project had simply been rejected and had not been recommended for a roadway safety audit. He said he would follow up to see if a roadway safety audit could be competed and believed that an audit would highlight the concerns noted in Aztec's application.

Mr. Keck reported on a San Juan County project at the intersection of CR 350 and CR 390 that was given an RSA last year. Mr. Keck said he contacted NMDOT and was told a consultant would be assigned to conduct an analysis of the project, but nothing has taken place to date on this audit. Mr. Gallegos said he would look into what happened with this audit and commented that several District 5 audits had also been delayed due to consultant issues.

Mr. Ray Matthew reported that that the safety program is set up at the federal level and targets high mortality rate areas. Other areas in the state are competing for the same safety funding and they have the crash statistics to meet the program requirements. Additionally, safety program funding is substantially less than it has been in previous years. Mr. Matthew commented that the RSA is similar in concept to complete streets. He believes the audits are being completed, but funding is so tight that no actual work can be performed following the audit. Mr. Keck asked if an entity

could re-apply for safety funding for the same location. Mr. Matthew said that an entity could re-apply, but the location would still have to meet the same criteria to be eligible. Mr. Huber asked how the application process and RSA were linked and if there was any weight given to the RSA. Mr. Matthew said he did not believe the RSA carried much weight. The RSA provides a more comprehensive understanding of the issue for all parties. Mr. Matthew re-stated that each safety project application is competing state-wide for the same funds and those with fatalities and crash histories will be given priority. He added that with District 5 reviewing Aztec's application in more detail, other means of funding the project may be identified.

The Committee members agreed that with no serious crash history or fatality, safety funding was improbable and they would need to consider other funding options. Mr. Huber commented that Aztec could perhaps look into pedestrian improvement funding for a portion of this road section and break down the proposed road section into separate pieces and projects.

Mr. Fillerup asked that if once an audit was completed would construction money be forthcoming. Mr. Delmagori and Ms. Westerling both said this was not the case. Funding the audit could not even be considered design money for the project, but is only evaluation money. Mr. Fillerup said then that the audit is really to get different users to participate in evaluating a possible concern. Mr. Keck said for the County's project at CR 350 and CR 390, audit input would be expected from the Sheriff's office and individuals who shop at the Dino Mart convenience store. Mr. Fillerup asked why is it that an intersection that is considered dangerous has there been no fatalities. Everyone agreed that it was just a matter of luck. Ms. Westerling added that although an intersection or road section has had a fatality that may not be sufficient to obtain safety funding. Mr. Keck added that all entities should get used to the idea of these types of program are slowly dying off and less federal money being available. Mr. Matthew said that unfortunately the safety program is reactive and not proactive. He added that federal road funds are declining and entities will have to make some hard choices and find other ways to fund projects.

Mr. Matthew reported that transportation funding continues under the continuation bill. A new federal joint sub-committee has been identified to develop a transportation bill. Mr. Matthew commented that even if a new bill was developed, it would have to go through the House and Senate and then be signed by the President before the upcoming election. Getting all these steps completed before the election is highly unlikely. He said the highway trust fund is taking in less and has decreased by as much as 10%. This is because of a decline in travel due to the recession and to the purchase of more fuel efficient vehicles.

Mr. Matthew said the Planning Division has begun work on an ambitious long range plan. The first year will consist of data gathering via a series of surveys to prioritize the needs of the state. They will be using broader survey groups and will include assistance of NMDOT technical staff. The MPO will be asked to assist in this effort by verifying census information used by NMDOT.

Mr. Matthew also reported on holding an RPO roundtable to discuss the RPO planning process, boundaries, and possible restructuring. He stated that currently the RPO contracts are held by the Council of Governments. Mr. Matthew added that any

changes involve multiple groups and he does not anticipate that anything will be implemented this year.

Mr. Fillerup asked if a continuation bill would be more favorable to funding levels. Mr. Matthew said that was correct. This is one of the highest levels of federal funding so the current funding level is correspondingly high.

Mr. Huber asked if there had been any discussion at the state level about utilizing the general fund to fund transportation projects. Mr. Matthew replied that the Governor's office has given instructions that there will be no revenue or tax increases. The Legislature may decide to allow a one-time use of the general fund and NMDOT has presented cases for such one-time uses. Mr. Matthew commented that other states do use their gas tax for transportation projects.

Mr. Huber asked if anyone is looking at how to increase state funding if the federal funding goes down. Mr. Matthew added that we continue to be in a recession which creates a tough current funding situation. In a recent survey, people were not in support of an increase in gas tax to fund transportation infrastructure projects. Ms. Westerling added that most taxpayers probably believe the gas tax they already pay goes for transportation projects.

7. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE 2010 US CENSUS URBAN AREAS

Subject:	US Census Urban Areas
Prepared by:	Duane Wakan, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	May 16, 2012

BACKGROUND
▪ The Urbanized Area, Urban Cluster, and Urban Area definitions change following each decennial census count. With the recent data release of the 2010 Census, there have been changes to the Farmington Urban Area definitions and its surrounding environs. These changes have implications for MPO funding and reporting responsibilities.

CURRENT WORK
▪ MPO staff are illustrating and analyzing past and current definitions along with population counts and trends in each area definition in the FMPO. ▪ Staff will give a presentation on Urban Areas at the May 24 Technical Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the US Census Urban Areas.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wakan gave a presentation on the 2010 US Census urban areas.

Mr. Wakan stated that numbers in the urbanized areas do affect funding and road classification system reporting. The 2010 Urban Area definitions as classified by the US Census Bureau are listed below:

Urbanized Area (UZA) ≥ 50,000 People or More
Urban Cluster (UC) ≥ 2,500 to 49,999 People
Urban Area (UA) All UZAs + UCs
Rural Areas - Any area outside of UZAs and UCs

The top ten most urbanized areas in the United Stated are not necessarily the ten largest cities. The Census Bureau calculates an urbanized area by looking at the census block which must contain 1,000 people per square mile.

Based on the 2010 Census, Los Lunas, New Mexico is a new urbanized area. Based on population, Los Lunas could potentially become their own MPO. Mr. Matthew added that this is one of the boundary issues being discussed and said they could become their own stand-alone MPO or become a part of MRCOG. He added that the Governor must first approve any boundary change of this type.

Mr. Wakan explained that the Farmington 2010 urban area was made up of 79,597 people (82% of the FMPO population) and now has urban clusters of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Kirtland surrounding it.

Mr. Wakan compared some of the information from the 2000 Census against the 2010 Census. One of the changes was population where the 2000 Census showed 81,378 people in the FMPO. Also the urbanized area boundary was 68,212 people (72% of the population) and Bloomfield was the one urban cluster. The urbanized area definition has now changed significantly as it no longer includes Kirtland or Aztec. The designation of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Kirtland as urban clusters caused the Farmington urbanized area to have a slight reduction in population from 53,294 in 2000 to 53,049 in 2010. But the actual UZA became smaller by about nine square miles. During the same time period, the urban area population went from 60,925 (75% of population) to 79,597 (82% of population) respectively. Mr. Wakan noted that the MPO is growing and becoming more urbanized.

Mr. Fillerup asked why the areas were redrawn. Ms. Westerling replied that those areas now contain more than 1000 people/square mile. As more people move into an area, an urban cluster is formed. As urban clusters grow together, they become a UZA.

Mr. Wakan explained that the US Census Bureau reports their urban definitions to the US Department of Transportation, FHWA, and Federal Transit Authority. These agencies use this data for allocating program funds, setting program standards, and implementing aspects of their programs.

Mr. Wakan said the MPO is allowed to work with NMDOT and make additions to our urbanized area. To do this, the MPO must evaluate current census blocks and determine if there are ways to add to the UZA. The process for determining this is by "hops" and "jumps" which allow for the calculation of denser population that are separated from a UZA by certain distance thresholds. Any adjacent population cluster

surrounding a UZA can be captured to create a larger and more appropriate definition for an area.

An example of this might be the La Plata Ranch development. As it grows and begins to populate with neighborhoods, the MPO could begin looking at redefining the UZA to capture this area as it grows.

Mr. Fillerup asked if the next threshold for recalculation of the MPO would be at a population of 200,000. It was noted, however, that the entire current population of San Juan County is only 130,000 so reaching a population of 200,000 is not possible in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Wakan discussed the American Community Survey (ACS) and House Bill 391. Several weeks ago, the House first voted to make responses to the ACS voluntary and then voted to eliminate the survey entirely. In two Census Bureau reports and several more recent analyses, they concluded that the mail response rates to a voluntary ACS would drop dramatically by more than 20%. The decline in response rates would then force the Bureau to use more costly methods of data collection, such as telephone and door-to-door visits, thereby increasing the cost of the survey by thirty percent ($60 million at the time of the 2003 field test). Mr. Wakan noted that in the current fiscal climate, Congress is unlikely to increase funding for the ACS by the amount necessary to overcome low initial response rates, leaving the Census Bureau with insufficient responses to produce reliable data for smaller areas (e.g. rural communities; towns; urban neighborhoods) and population groups (e.g. people with disabilities; veterans; immigrant groups). The consequence would be ACS data of greatly diminished quality. The test also showed that the percent of completed interviews (conducted if a household fails to mail back a form) fell significantly if the survey was voluntary, adding to the problem of data reliability. Perhaps not surprisingly, cooperation in traditionally low mail response areas (which tend to equate with hard-to-count communities, such as people of color, low income families, and rural households) declined even further when ACS response was voluntary. Mr. Wakan added that the impact to MPOs and city planners is that without reliable data, good decisions cannot be made.

Mr. Fillerup asked if the state conducted their own ongoing counts/surveys and produced annual figures. Mr. Wakan said the state does their own population estimates but not at a geographically significant level. Mr. Matthew added that the state does do research and estimates but they are based on the census data. Mr. Wakan noted that private sector groups do provide accurate demographic data, but results are extremely costly to obtain.

ACTION: The presentation was received.

8. <u>RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE UPDATE TO THE JOIN POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA)</u>

Subject:	Renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 16, 2012

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK
▪ The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) is the document that binds the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, and San Juan County to the Metropolitan Planning Organization. ▪ The JPA is set to expire on September 30, 2012. ▪ The JPA explains the responsibilities of the City of Farmington as the fiscal agent and the functions and organizational structure of the Policy and Technical Committees. ▪ It describes the roles and work products required of the MPO.

CURRENT WORK
▪ The language of the Joint Powers Agreement is being reviewed for possible changes. ▪ Staff requests input from its members on potential changes to the JPA.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori reported that the Joint Power Agreement (JPA) which is the document that binds the entities to the MPO is up for renewal in September 2012 which ends the current three year cycle.

Mr. Delmagori said with this initial review, the recommended changes to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to be considered by the Committees are underlined in a copy of the current JPA. More detailed revisions would be prepared and discussed at later meetings.

Page 1 – update the urbanized area information using the new 2010 Census data;

Section Two – Term of the Agreement. Mr. Delmagori reported that the City Clerk has stated the current wording for the term of the agreement is misleading. The intent of the document is to have a three-year term that is automatically renewed each year until the three years has been completed, at which time it will be renewed for another three-year term.

Section Four – Organizational Structural. Consider leaving in place, but more discussion can take place if needed.

Section Four – D - #1. If a new transportation bill is passed and planning factors are changed, this section would be updated accordingly.

Section Five – Budgeting and Cost Allocation. The population numbers in this section will be updated to the 2010 Census figures and consideration given to how the new numbers factor into the funding share.

Mr. Delmagori said the remaining pages of the document contain boilerplate information which has been maintained throughout each previous update of the JPA. The Policy Committee will review this document at their June 21 meeting.

9. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE UPDATE TO THE COMMITTEE BYLAWS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject:	Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 16, 2012

BACKGROUND
▪ The Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures provide the guidance for the Policy and Technical committees. ▪ Descriptions of the Chair and Vice-Chair for each committee, removal and replacement process, and voting procedures are contained within this document. ▪ The Bylaws are formally updated in conjunction with the Joint Powers Agreement every three years.

CURRENT WORK
▪ The language in the Committee Bylaws is being reviewed for possible changes. ▪ Staff requests input from its members on potential changes to the Bylaws.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee a report on the update to the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori stated that the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures document is also renewed every three years. Similar to the JPA, he mentioned that areas that might be revised are noted but more detailed discussion will occur at future meetings.

Mr. Keck asked if Dr. Henderson would be leaving the Policy Committee. Mr. Delmagori said that Dr. Henderson would be leaving as an active Policy Committee member when his County Commission term ends in December 2012.

ACTION: The report was received.

10. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE WALKABLE COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP

Subject:	Walkable Communities Workshop
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 16, 2012

BACKGROUND
▪ The MPO is coordinating with Dan Burden and the Walkable and Livable Communities (WALC) Institute to organize a Walkable Communities Workshop for the MPO on May 30-31. ▪ Day one will be a formal full day workshop and day two will be walking audits and site tours. ▪ An agenda has been finalized based on input from the member entities and the WALC Institute. ▪ Staff has held conference calls with the WALC staff to coordinate activities and other preparations for the workshop.

CURRENT WORK
▪ Approximately 30 people have signed up for the workshop. ▪ Walking audit locations have been identified for each city on May 31. ▪ A press release was issued to local media outlets encouraging their participation. ▪ Staff is meeting with the WALC Institute representatives on May 29.

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the Walkable Communities Workshop on May 30-31.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori reported that the Walkable Communities Workshop is scheduled for May 30 & 31, 2012. Preparations have been finalized with Mr. Dan Burden and his organization. Mr. Burden is expected to be in the Farmington area over the weekend to begin viewing walking sites and generally familiarizing himself with the tri-city area.

Mr. Delmagori said the two-day agenda is complete. During day one of the workshop, there will be a short walking audit of downtown Farmington to apply and illustrate some of the information being presented at the workshop. The afternoon session will discuss barriers and other obstacles that prevent walkability and funding options. The wrap-up will discuss what to do in the near and long-term to achieve walkable communities. Following the general workshop, there will be a technical session to provide the finer details on what a walking community is and what it takes to create and design one.

Day two of the workshop will consist of walking audits in Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington. Mr. Delmagori encouraged participation by all members and asked them to extend an invitation to their parks and public works employees and others who may have an interest.

Mr. Delmagori thanked the Technical Committee members for their assistance in developing the workshop agenda.

ACTION: The report was received.

11. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE STUDENT ARRIVAL COUNTS FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROGRAM

Subject:	Student Arrival Counts
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 16, 2012

BACKGROUND
▪ In the spring and fall, student arrival counts are taken at the schools participating in the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. ▪ Volunteers count students as they arrive by vehicle, by bus, or if they walk or bike to school. ▪ The count process began in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009. ▪ The MPO has taken on the evaluation element of the SRTS program.

CURRENT WORK
▪ Spring 2012 counts were taken in April at Apache, Ladera, McKinley, and Mesa Verde. ▪ Yearly data now enables staff to evaluate the number of students walking and biking to school. ▪ Mesa Verde and Apache have a consistent number of walkers. ▪ McKinley has had the highest number of walkers but recently has seen that number decrease. ▪ Ladera tends to have a high number of walkers although the number has dropped this school year

RECOMMENDATION
▪ It is recommended that the Technical Committee receive a report on the student arrival counts for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori presented an overview of the student arrival counts that were recently completed.

Mr. Delmagori said that every fall and spring, Staff takes student arrival counts at the four participating schools as part of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Mr. Delmagori reported that numbers at Apache Elementary and Mesa Verde Elementary have been consistent for every semester and every year. Ladera and McKinley Elementary both showed potential, but have seen drops in the recent semesters counted. McKinley has always had the largest number of students walking to school, but their numbers have dropped in the last year possibly due to the loss of the parent representative to SRTS in the school.

The SRTS Committee will work during the summer months to improve their approach and strategy so that things are ready for the beginning of the next school year in September.

ACTION: The report was received.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Joe Delmagori, MPO Planner
Date:	May 16, 2012

INFORMATION ITEMS

a. **NMED Air Quality Meeting.** The New Mexico Environmental Department will hold an air quality meeting on Wednesday, May 30 from 1pm-5pm at San Juan College. Topics include reports on ozone, emissions, and shale gas.

b. **MPO Quarterly.** The Farmington MPO will host the next MPO Quarterly on Wednesday, June 27 at the MPO office.

c. **Other**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Delmagori reported that the New Mexico Environmental Department will be holding an air quality meeting on Wednesday, May 30.

The MPO Quarterly meeting will be hosted by Farmington on June 27.

13. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

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

14. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no additional business from the floor.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Westerling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Keck seconded the motion. Mr. Huber adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

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Mike Huber, Chair June Markle, MPO Administrative Aide