

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 25, 2017

Policy Members Present: Sherri Sipe, City of Aztec
Nate Duckett, City of Farmington
Linda Rodgers, City of Farmington (via phone)
Paul Brasher, NMDOT, District 5
Mark Duncan, San Juan County

Policy Members Absent: Curtis Lynch, City of Bloomfield

Staff Present: Mary Holton, MPO Officer
Derrick Garcia, Associate Planner (via phone)
June Markle, MPO Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec
Julie Baird, Asst. City Manager, Farmington
Nica Westerling, City of Farmington
Hannah Grover, Farmington Daily Times
Jeff Kiely, NWNMCOG
Evan Williams, NWNMCOG
Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit Manager
Larry Hathaway, San Juan County

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Duckett called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 27, 2017 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioner Sipe moved to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2017 Policy Committee meeting. Councilor Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. FFY2016-2021 TIP AMENDMENT #6

Subject:	FFY2016-2021 TIP Amendment #6
Prepared by:	Derrick Garcia, Associate Planner
Date:	May 15, 2017

BACKGROUND

- On April 12, 2017 the Farmington MPO advertised Amendment #6 to the FFY2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- The amendment involves several projects in the TIP as described in the attached notice.
- The Technical Committee recommended approval of Amendment #6 at their May 10, 2017 meeting.
 - In addition to the attached list, an amendment to project TF000001 was also discussed and recommended to Policy Committee for approval. The amendment was to remove FTA 5311 Funding of \$22,400 in FFY2016.

AMENDED TIP PROJECTS

Below is the list of projects included in the amendment. For more details about each specific amendment please see the attached material.

- **F100121 East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Ph. III**
- **F100040 Downtown Complete Streets Project**
- **F100099 Foothills Drive Enhancements Ph. II**
- **F100100 East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Ph. I**
- **F100101 East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Ph. II**
- **F100112 US 64 Ph. V**
- **F100113 US 64 Ph. VI**
- **F100131 20th Street Ph. III**
- **F100210 CR 350/390 Intersection**
- **F100221 Anesi Trail**
- **F100230 Verada del Rio San Juan River Trail Ph. II**
- **F100231 Verada del Rio San Juan River Trail Ph. III**
- **F100240 Glade Run Recreation Area Trails**
- **F100270 Kirtland Schools Walk Path System**
- **TF00010 Red Apple Transit Bus Route Accessibility**
- **TF00001 Red Apple Transit Capital/Operating**

Amendment #6 can be viewed on the MPO website at:
<http://www.fmtn.org/DocumentCenter/View/12776>

CURRENT ISSUES

- NMDOT has informed the MPO staff, the TC and PC chairman, and City of Farmington staff that Phase I and II of the Pinon Hills Bridge extension project over the Animas River is not fiscally constrained. They suggested three options to make it constrained-
 1. Move both phases into the planning years of the TIP (FY2020 and 2021)
 2. Show local bonding capacity or funding mechanism for the project
 3. Remove both phases entirely from the FFY2016-2021 TIP
- The large number of amendments is due to Staff's efforts to comply with the recently completed Corrective Action Procedure (CAP) between NMDOT Planning and the MPO.
- Failure to act in one of these options will result in the FMPOs TIP to be non-fiscally constrained and jeopardizes all projects listed in the TIP.

ACTION ITEMS

- Open a public hearing on TIP Amendment #6
- It is recommended that the Policy Committee consider approval of Amendment #6 to the FFY2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with the added amendment to TF000001 and the Self-Certification for Amendment #6 to the FFY2016-2021 TIP.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Holton reported that Staff had worked closely with each entity to ensure all projects were up to date and all reflected accurately on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). During the Technical Committee meeting held on May 10, the list was reviewed item by item with the Technical Committee members. Staff recommended approval of TIP Amendment #6 and the Technical Committee concurred with this recommendation.

Commissioner Sipe asked about the East Arterial Route. Ms. Holton noted that that project had been amended in April with TIP Amendment #5.

Mr. Brasher asked about projects F100100 and F100101 showing up as being moved to FFY2019. He stated that District 5 expected that, following an agreement this week with the City of Farmington and, in order to show fiscal constraint, these two projects would be moved to 2020 and 2021. Ms. Holton stated that these changes would be made next month when the new FFY2018-2023 TIP is considered.

Councilor Duckett asked for input from the public in attendance. No public comments were received.

Mr. Garcia said that in addition to the attached list of project in Amendment #6, the removal of FTA 5311 funding of \$22,400 in FFY2016 for project TF000001, Red Apple Transit Capital/Operating, was also discussed with the Technical Committee and they recommended approval of this change to be included as part of Amendment #6. Councilor Duckett stated that this would be part of a motion to approve Amendment #6 to the FFY2016-2021 TIP.

ACTION: Commission Sipe moved to approve Amendment #6 to the FFY2016-2021 TIP (including the change to TF000001) and the Self-Certification for Amendment #6 to the FFY2016-2021 TIP. Councilor Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Duncan said he was not able to find the \$22,400 for the Red Apple Transit that was being removed. He stated that he was not asking for any change to the vote, but simply in the future for this information to be made more apparent. Ms. Holton said Staff would ensure this happened going forward.

4. TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT (TAM) PLAN – RED APPLE TRANSIT

Subject:	Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan - Red Apple Transit
Prepared by:	Andrew Montoya, Transit Manager
Date:	May 10, 2017

BACKGROUND or PREVIOUS WORK

- The purpose of the TAM as provided by FTA:
 - Define “state of good repair”
 - Require grantees to develop a TAM plan
 - Establish performance measures
 - Establish annual reporting requirements to the National Transit Database (NTD)
 - Require FTA to provide technical assistance
- Transit providers set performance targets by January 1, 2017; MPOs set performance targets by June 30, 2017, and; transit providers develop TAM plans by September 30, 2018

CURRENT WORK

- A PowerPoint presentation will be provided at the Technical and Policy Committee meetings in May 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

- Information only.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Montoya gave a presentation on the Transit Asset Management Plan for the Red Apple Transit and how it will prioritize the funding of transit properties:

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires all transit agencies to develop plan on how to prioritize the replacement of federally funded assets;
 - Is the fleet in good running order;
 - How the federal funds will be used to keep the fleet running.
- Can opt in or out of state plan
 - Red Apple chosen to opt out of state plan
 - Red Apple management knows vehicles and replacement prioritization better than state and wants to retain control of vehicles and funding;
- TAM Timeline
 - Transit providers set performance targets (benchmarks) by January 1, 2017
 - MPOs set performance targets by June 30, 2017
 - Transit providers develop TAM plans by September 30, 2018
- TAM Plan is to prioritize funding for assets past their Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) to keep the Red Apple Transit fleet in a state of good repair;

- The goal is to prioritize funding for replacing vehicles and equipment that are past their ULB;
- Two funding sources for the Red Apple:
 - 5339 Grant – State of New Mexico directs this grant and NMDOT sets the vehicle ULB; this grant used to purchased buses;
 - 5307 Grant – managed directly by FTA and they have their own set of vehicle ULBs.
- Performance Measures/Objectives:
 - Vehicles
 - No more than 4 (33%) vehicles exceeding their Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) in the fleet annually. Order buses based on priority as close to ULB as possible;
 - Equipment
 - No more than 20% of bus shelters at a 3 or less condition rating (fair) annually. Order shelters as needed based on condition;
 - Facilities
 - Not applicable for Red Apple Transit as there are no FTA-funded maintenance facilities; the City of Farmington maintains these facilities.
- Inventory:
 - 17 vehicles working 8 routes: 15 buses (5 of which are trolleys and the others are smaller buses (cut-aways)) and 2 para-transit vans;
 - 30 shelters
 - Facilities maintained by the City of Farmington.
- Vehicle Condition Chart
 - 5 buses in Excellent condition; 5 in Good condition; and 5 in Fair condition;
 - 2 para-transit vans are in Good condition;
 - Shelters are in Good condition.
- Replacement Schedule
 - Buses
 - 5 at Useful Life Benchmark (as of April 2017)
 - 3 in Auction and will not be replaced (excess of authorized amount – FTA only allows 4 spares)
 - 2 trolleys will be kept as spares and used for special events (will have minimal road time);

Although some buses may be past their useful life, if there is nothing wrong with them they will not be replaced immediately

- Para-transit Vans
 - 2 at Useful Life Benchmark (as of May 2016); one will be replaced and that van is on order; the other although past its useful life has low mileage so will be kept until 2020.
 - Equipment & Facilities – Routine maintenance only.
- Red Apple Transit is on track with their timeline to have the TAM Plan developed by September 30, 2018;
- Any money received on sale of vehicles is put back into the capital account;
- What happens if get a “lemon”? Mr. Montoya said he has never encountered this and would speak with FTA if this were to happen.

Due to some minor revisions to the TAM Plan not previously advertised, action on Agenda Item #5 was postponed until the June 14, 2017 meeting.

5. POLICY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2017-2: RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED TRANSIT PERFORMANCE TARGETS FROM RED APPLE'S TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT (TAM) PLAN

Subject:	Policy Committee Resolution 2017-2: Resolution to Adopt the Proposed Transit Performance Targets from Red Apple's Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan
Prepared by:	Mary Holton, AICP, MPO Officer
Date:	May 10, 2017

BACKGROUND

- The MPO received the following email from the Federal Transit Administration and David Harris/NMDOT on January 19, 2017:
Subject: FTA Reminder: State of Good Repair Performance Targets Are Due
FTA today issued a Dear Colleague letter for transit agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to remind them of timeframes to meet requirements of the Transit Asset Management Final Rule and the Metropolitan and Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning Final Rule published in 2016.
The TAM Final Rule requires transit providers to set performance targets for state of good repair by January 1, 2017. The Planning Rule requires each MPO to establish targets not later than 180 days (June 30, 2017) after the date on which the relevant state or provider of public transportation establishes its performance targets.

CURRENT WORK

- Andrew Montoya will present Red Apple's TAM Plan, which includes the proposed Transit Performance Targets, prior to consideration of this item. He will be available for any questions regarding the targets.
- A Resolution to adopt these performance targets was chosen as the method, as the MPO has been directed by Planning/NMDOT to do likewise with the Safety Targets required of the MPOs in February 2018.
- A public hearing was held during the Technical Committee meeting on May 10. There were no comments from the public. The Technical Committee voted to recommend approval of PC Resolution 2017-2.

ACTION ITEM

- Hold a public hearing on PC Resolution 2017-2.
- It is recommended that the Policy Committee consider approval of the resolution.

DISCUSSION: This item was removed from Policy Committee consideration and further discussion postponed until the next Policy Committee meeting scheduled for June 14, 2017.

6. PROPOSED FY2018 CITY OF FARMINGTON BUDGET FOR THE MPO

Subject:	Proposed FY2018 City of Farmington Budget for the MPO
Prepared by:	Mary Holton, MPO Officer
Date:	May 10, 2017

BACKGROUND

- The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) requires that the MPO Policy Committee “develop and approve an annual budget that is adequate to fund the required activities of the MPO.” It also states the FMPO’s Budget operate on the Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 through September 30)
- While the MPO’s FFY budget is prepared for two (2) years in the UPWP, aligning costs associated with MPO work products and activities, the MPO must also submit a proposed budget to its fiscal agent - the City of Farmington.
- This budget proposal includes anticipated funding (From the PL and the 5303 FTA federal grants, plus the required local matches) that began in FFY2017 (October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017) and will begin in FFY2018 (October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018).
- The proposed City of Farmington fiscal year (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018) budget proposal has been reviewed and approved by the City’s Budget Officer and is attached.
- Amendments to the UPWP that will include the anticipated reduction of \$10,783 in FFY2018 levels in PL funding are required to be considered by the MPO Committees in June.
- This anticipated reduction is also reflected in the attached budget proposal.
- However, this proposal does not include any changes that may result in a change to the fiscal agent that may occur over the next year.
- It should be noted that the fiscal agent absorbs the front end costs of all expenditures for the MPO. On a quarterly basis, MPO staff invoices the NMDOT Planning and FTA Divisions for reimbursement of the fiscal agent by the federal grants, and invoices the other entities in a similar manner.
- The fiscal agent receives no compensation for overseeing the MPO, and in fact has traditionally subsidized many of the MPO’s unallocated expenses, including the MPO Officer’s salary and benefits, office rent, office utilities, and other expenses relating to: accounting; budgeting; auditing; procurement; personnel; information technology; and, legal services.

CURRENT WORK

- Anticipated annual matches by the local entities for this budget proposal include:
 1. City of Farmington - \$31,406
 2. San Juan County - \$10,469
 3. City of Aztec - \$5,234

4. City of Bloomfield - \$5,234

This information should be provided to each entity's Finance Director.

RECOMMENDATION

- The Technical Committee considered the proposal on May 10, and recommends approval of the proposed budget to the Policy Committee.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Holton reported that the Farmington's City Council has approved the MPO budget along with all city department budgets for FY2018. She added that it is anticipated that the MPO will have some additional funding at the close of FY17. A budget adjustment will be made at that time along with another anticipated when the federal fiscal year of 2018 begins October 1.

Ms. Holton stated that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is also currently being revised due to slightly lower PL funding levels for FFY2018. A copy of the UPWP with the proposed revisions (red-lined) will be e-mailed to Policy Committee members later today to allow time to review prior to seeking approval at the special June 14 meeting.

Ms. Holton explained that the City of Farmington as the MPO's fiscal agent absorbs all the front end costs for all MPO expenditures. On a quarterly basis, the PL and FTA grants are invoiced for those expenses as well as seeking reimbursement from the local entities for their local matches. The fiscal agent receives no compensation for overseeing the MPO and has subsidized some of the unallocated expenses of the MPO such as office rent and utilities, salary of the MPO Officer, auditing, budgeting, procurement, legal services, and information technology.

The anticipated local annual matches for FFY2018 are shown on Page 34 of the Agenda. Ms. Holton asked that the entity finance directors be made aware of these anticipated matches. The Technical Committee recommended approval of this proposed budget.

Mr. Duncan asked if the \$10,469 shown for San Juan County was more than it was for FFY2017. Ms. Holton said that the anticipated FFY2018 was about the same as for FFY2017.

Councilor Duckett asked how much in federal money was put into the MPO. Ms. Holton replied that for the current FFY2017, it was approximately \$350,000 which includes all the local matches. The federal funding level for FFY2018 is expected to be approximately \$300,000. Ms. Holton said that the MPO was allowed to carryover about \$48,000 in FFY2016 funds and received an additional \$8500 in FAST Act funds, all of which had to be expended by the end of 2016. Councilor Duckett asked if the MPO would anticipate any additional funds going into FFY2018. Ms. Holton said she was hopeful that NMDOT would again allow for carryover.

Councilor Duckett asked for some detail about the line item on the budget called Planning Consultant. Ms. Holton replied that this account was earmarked for planning consultant work and for any special studies, including a future safety plan should it be desired by the Policy Committee. Councilor Duckett asked where the conversation was

with the NWNMCOG. Ms. Holton stated that Ms. Baird and Mr. Kiely would like to have an opportunity to speak to the committee following the conclusion of the agenda items.

Mr. Duncan asked if the entities would need to come up with any more money at the end of the year with the reduced grant amounts for FFY2018. Ms. Holton stated that the MPO is managed so that only if there is a match are funds spent.

7. FFY2018-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) DEVELOPMENT

Subject:	FFY2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development
Prepared by:	Derrick Garcia, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	May 15, 2017

BACKGROUND

- The TIP is a short-term program of projects expected to be completed in the next six years.
- Projects included in the TIP must be fiscally constrained.
- The TIP update process includes revising existing project information, adding new projects, and developing TIP priority lists.
- A Call for Projects was issued on February 27, 2017 to start the TIP update process.
- A Project Review Committee made up of a Policy Committee member (Mr. Duckett), and two Technical Committee members (Mr. Fillerup and Mr. Sypher and MPO Staff reviewed the TIP projects on May 1st. Scoring was completed using the MPO's new projection prioritization method (PPM).

CURRENT WORK

- Staff met with the entities, Red Apple, and NMDOT individually to discuss any updates to their project information.
- The draft TIP has been developed based on these meetings.
- The 2018-2023 STIP is scheduled to be adopted in late summer 2017.
- Projects already found in the 2016-2021 TIP are not required to be scored.
- Staff will present the final version of the TIP at the TIP projects and ranking based on the PPM before June 30.
- A 30-day public comment period on the new TIP will open on May 14, 2017, a public hearing will be held during the June 14th Technical Committee Meeting.

PROJECTS FROM PREVIOUS TIP (2016-2021)

- Those projects in the 2016-2021 TIP with funding occurring in 2016-19 are carried forward, are listed here:
- East Arterial Route, Phase II (F100091)
- East Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension Phase I (F100100)
- East Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension Phase II (F100101)
- East Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension Phase III (F100021)
- US 64 Phase V (F100112)

- US 64 Phase VI (F100113)
- CR 350/390 Intersection (F100210)
- Kirtland Schools Walk Path System (F100270)
- Red Apple Transit Bus Route Accessibility (TF00010)
- 20th Street Phase III (F100132)
- Foothills Drive Enhancements Phase II (F10099)
- Downtown Complete Streets Project (F10040)
- Anesi Trail (F100221)
- Glade Run Recreation Area Trails (F100240)
- NM 173 (F100170)
- Verada del Rio San Juan River Trail Phase II (F100230)
- Verada del Rio San Juan River Trail Phase III (F100231)
 - Red Apple Transit Capital/Operating (TF00001)

CALL FOR PROJECTS APPLICATION

- New projects being added to the TIP will need to submit an application found on the FMPOs website.
 - Project Prioritization Application
<http://www.fmtn.org/DocumentCenter/View/11058>
- Five (5) Call for Project Applications were submitted to MPO Staff. A summary of the Scoring Committee's scores/ranking will be presented to the Technical Committee by Staff.
 - East Blanco Bridge (Bloomfield)
 - Bridge Improvement CR 5500 (San Juan County)
 - Among the Waters Extension (Farmington)
 - Gateway Museum Trail (Farmington)
 - Gwynhaven Trail Extension (Farmington)

FUNDING and FISCAL CONSTRAINT

- The TIP is required to be fiscally constrained. The projects listed have identified funding, or anticipated funding can be based on a reasonable expectation for available funds.

INFORMATION ITEM

- It is recommended that the Technical Committee and NMDOT review and discuss project development in the fiscally constrained FFY2018-2023 TIP.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Holton stated that a copy of the draft FFY2018-2023 TIP would be sent to Policy Committee members today to provide time for their review prior to consideration at the special Policy Committee meeting on June 14 at the City of Aztec.

Page 41 of the Agenda is the summary of the scoring for the new projects being added to the FFY2018-2023 TIP. Councilor Duckett said he appreciated the work done by the scoring committee in helping to prioritize the five new projects.

8. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

District 5 – Paul Brasher

Mr. Brasher reported that the State Transportation Commission met several weeks ago and approved funding from the local government road fund. He stated that District 5 receives about one-sixth of all available funds and then is distributed fairly evenly around the district. Some of those projects receiving funding include:

- San Juan County - \$60,000 (state share) - pavement rehabilitation in several areas
- City of Farmington – pavement of local streets (Butler) - \$125,500 (state share)
- School district cooperative agreements – Aztec Municipal Schools, Parkview Elementary - \$22,250
- San Juan County for CR 4990 – \$131,500 (state share) - pavement rehabilitation
- School bus route agreements – San Juan County - \$83,000 – pavement rehabilitation on various county roads (1490, 1636, 2531, and 2553)

Councilor Duckett asked if the projects that received state road funds had submitted applications for the projects. Mr. Brasher said that was correct. Mr. Brasher said there is a certain amount of available local government road fund money each year that is distributed based on formulas to counties, school districts, and other entities.

Mr. Brasher reported that the paving of the bike lanes/shoulders along NM516 has been completed. This rehabilitation was from North Oliver back towards US 550.

Planning Division – Rosa Kozub

Ms. Kozub was unable to attend today's Policy Committee meeting.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Subject:	Committee Member Discussion Items
Date:	May 10, 2017

DISCUSSION ITEMS

No discussion items were brought forward.

Commissioner Sipe asked when MPO Staff wanted recommendations and Policy Committee feedback on the JPA and Bylaws. Ms. Holton said would like to receive those by the end of May.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Mary L Holton, AICP, MPO Officer
Date:	May 10, 2017

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Report from the MPO's Fiscal Agent.** The Technical Committee was provided draft minutes on this item from the Policy Committee's April Meeting. It was recommended that they discuss any questions or concerns they have with their entity's Policy Committee member.
- b. TAP and RTP Awards.** San Juan County received an RTP award for their Glade Run Recreation Area Trails project and the City of Farmington received two TAP awards: one for the construction of bike lanes and a multi-use path on Foothills Drive and one for the 20th Street sidewalks and ADA improvements.
- c. Training:** Mr. Garcia attended the New Mexico League of Zoning Officials Semi-Annual Conference in Albuquerque on May 4 and 5 and is attending the 2017 AMPO Planning Tools & Training Symposium in St. Louis on May 22-25, 2017.
- d. Reminder: June 14, 2017 Special Policy Committee Meeting**

DISCUSSION: Ms. Holton reported that draft minutes from the April 27, 2017 Policy Committee meeting were provided to the Technical Committee to make them aware of the ongoing discussions with NWNMCOG. The Technical Committee members were asked to provide their feedback regarding the JPA and Bylaws to their respective Policy Committee member.

The TAP and RTP Awards were discussed in detail during the April meeting.

Mr. Garcia attended the New Mexico League of Zoning Officials on May 4 and 5. He is now in St. Louis attending AMPO's Planning Tools & Training symposium.

Ms. Holton reminded the Policy Committee of the special June 14, 2017 meeting at 1:30 p.m. in Commission Chambers at the City of Aztec. The Technical Committee will be meeting that same day at 10:00 a.m. also at the City of Aztec.

11. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Commissioner Sipe asked about the letter forwarded to Policy Committee members from Mr. Kent Musgrove and asked if his concern regarding La Plata Highway were being taken under consideration. Ms. Holton said that any comments Staff receives from the public are passed on to committee members to keep all informed of concerns from the public.

Councilor Duckett commented that the state of disrepair along NM 170 has been discussed in the past and the safety concerns brought forth from those who travel the roadway. He thought the safety issues along NM 170 should be a priority for the state to address.

Mr. Brasher stated that NM 170 is a priority for NMDOT and they are aware of the issues. The roadway sub-base cannot be milled and overlaid especially in those areas with no shoulders and no proper drainage. He said the road is a priority to reconstruct and, in the meantime, District 5 will chip seal as much as they can afford to do. There will be a project in the STIP to do the basic reconstruction needed, to add shoulders, and with a drainage and environmental analysis, District 5 will design it and take it to the state line. Mr. Brasher said the reconstruction would likely have to be done in stages and could not be done for several years. District 5 does receive calls on the state of repair on NM 170 and noted again that it is a priority for them. They will keep repairing it until a more thorough and major reconstruction can be planned and implemented. Mr. Brasher said Mr. Musgrove's comments on NM 170 were well taken.

Councilor Duckett asked when the last time the costs for this project were considered. Mr. Brasher said there was a study done in 2010 and, if he remembered correctly, the costs were upwards of \$16,000,000. Mr. Brasher added that bids on projects throughout the state are coming in well above the estimates and the state is just not getting as much project for the dollars spent. Councilor Duckett asked Mr. Brasher to keep the Policy Committee apprised of ongoing construction plans for NM 170.

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

12. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Julie Baird, Assistant City Manager for the City of Farmington stated that she hoped to further the conversation regarding the fiscal agent changeover. She said that the city and the NWNMCOG are still researching and gathering information. She noted that Executive Director Jeff Kiely and Deputy Director Evan Williams were in attendance today to continue the dialog and to answer any questions the Policy Committee members might have. She said they are beginning to form a timeline and the NWNMCOG is working on having a proposal put together by the end of June.

Ms. Baird said the Policy Committee will be asked to hold a special work session in July to review the proposal from the NWNMCOG, discuss what the change would look like, discuss with and get input from NMDOT and how the process might move forward. Ms. Baird introduced Mr. Jeff Kiely, Executive Director of the NWNMCOG.

Mr. Jeff Kiely introduced Mr. Evan Williams who heads up program management at the COG and also provides their legislative assistance. Mr. Kiely said the COG is continuing with their due diligence. They have met with their Executive Committee as well as Ms. Baird and Ms. Holton and everything has been positive so far. They have a full meeting of the COG Board in Grants on May 31 to update everyone on the discussions.

Mr. Kiely said the COG hopes to be part of the team and to be a value added. He thought there could be some really good regional improvements by creating a stronger staff presence in San Juan County. He noted one of the issues is the cash flow and how the allocations come from FHWA and FTA through NMDOT and then on to the MPO. This technical discussion has not been had with Jessica Griffin and Rosa Kozub with the NMDOT Planning Division, but there have been assurances that any issues can be worked through.

Mr. Kiely said the COG has no predisposition on MPO staff, but they do understand that the current staff is well respected and his staff plan to meet with the MPO staff shortly to get an understanding of their work. He understands there is a senior level planning position open and how quickly a hiring process can be established will need to be evaluated as will salaries and all other current policies. Mr. Kiely said employees remain PERA eligible under the COG. Mr. Kiely asked for a special Policy Committee work session in July to review the JPA, Bylaws, the FFY2018 budget, as well as a potential timeline.

Councilor Duckett asked for some background on the COG – when did it start and what was the purpose for its formation. Mr. Kiely replied that the COG was established in 1972 and was formed under federal and state statutes and executive orders. The first was the 1965 Public Works & Economic Development Act that established an opportunity for states to designate planning districts throughout their state. This was to avoid the duplication of federal awards to different entities and regions and to act as a clearinghouse for the region. The other reason was to provide for various types of planning, but predominantly to have a comprehensive plan so any new projects proposed could be evaluated on whether they fit the general plan. The State of New Mexico then established the Regional Commission Act to be a voluntary association, but statutorily authorized, of local governments to come together to support an organization that would act on their collective behalf and achieve efficiencies of scale. An entity or region unable to have their own planning staff could look to the COG to accomplish planning on their behalf and provide a broader regional perspective. These are some of the reasons that COGs were brought into existence.

Mr. Kiely said the COG now does a combination of region-wide services and direct services to member governments. If an entity has the capacity, the COG acts as a resource to them and provides additional needed research. In other cases, the COG is asked to draft the proposal, hold the public hearings, submit the proposal, manage the funding and follow the project through to the end. Mr. Kiely said the level of COG involvement depends on the entity. The COG does more than just planning – project development, technical assistance, organizational development workshops, civil rights, substance abuse, and other special issues. The NWNMCOG now has eight staff and this number fluctuates depending on funding which comes from federal and state government as well as the COG members throughout the region.

Councilor Duckett asked how the COG might benefit from taking over as fiscal agent for the MPO. Mr. Kiely replied that demands are large, but the staffing base does not support the demands. The MPO will help balance and strengthen the COG. Transportation facilities are now seen as central to the planning effort with issues of water, waste water, transit, safety, and access to surfaces all related to it. The MPO allows the transportation function to be alongside the COG's economic development and other functions and assists them professionally. Mr. Kiely said that there would be

sufficient resources within the MPO budget to manage the additional functions, but the COG would not make a profit by taking on the MPO. The MPO would also help in re-establishing a stronger presence in San Juan County. The COG does provide services to the governments in this area, but they do not have full-time staff here. The COG is headquartered in Gallup with a satellite office at San Juan College.


Mr. Brasher asked how many members the COG had. Mr. Kiely replied there are currently three counties, six municipalities, and a solid waste authority all from the northwest quadrant of the state. There are no tribal governments that are members of the COG, but they do strongly participate on the RTPO. Mr. Kiely said the tribal governments are also invited to participate in the COG but sovereignty issues can make this difficult sometimes.

Mr. Kiely closed his comments saying the COG was looking forward to visiting further with the Policy Committee once all the critical issues are considered and a proposal can be developed.

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Duckett adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.



Councilor Duckett, Chair



June Markle, Administrative Assistant