

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
July 12, 2017

Technical Members Present: Steven Saavedra (Alt) City of Aztec
Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield
Taylor Clem (Alt), City of Farmington
David Sypher, City of Farmington
Stephen Lopez (Alt), NMDOT District 5
Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit
Fran Fillerup, San Juan County

Technical Members Absent: Bill Watson, City of Aztec
Cindy Lopez, City of Farmington
Paul Brasher, NMDOT District 5

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

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Larry Hathaway, San Juan County
Rosa Kozub, NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Unit Supervisor
(via telephone)
Susan Aguirre, Business Owner, City of Aztec

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 14, 2017 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Thomas moved to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2017 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Sypher seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. FFY2018-2023 TIP UPDATE

Subject:	FFY2018-2023 TIP Update
Prepared by:	Derrick Garcia, Associate Planner
Date:	July 5, 2017

BACKGROUND

- On July 2, 2017 the Farmington MPO advertised the update to the FFY2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- The update involves several projects in the TIP as described in the attached notice.
- The Technical Committee will consider the update and may make a recommendation at their July 12, 2017 meeting.
- During the Two Year Update of the TIP and STIP the NMDOT S/TIP Procedures Manual allows for changes /updates to be made between June 30th and August 15th.
 - NMDOT has requested a change be made to two of their projects (F100112 and F100113).

AMENDED TIP PROJECTS

- Below are the projects seeking an update. For more details about each specific update please see the attached material.
 - F100112 (NMDOT) US 64 Phase V
 - F100113 (NMDOT) US 64 Phase VI
- This update can be viewed on the MPO website at:
<http://www.fmtn.org/DocumentCenter/View/14212>

ACTION ITEMS

- Open a public hearing on TIP Update.
- Staff recommends the Technical Committee consider recommending approval of the Update to the FFY2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and PC Resolution 2017-4 for Policy Committee Approval on their July 19, 2017 Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Garcia referred to Page 7 of the Agenda which is a page from the State Transportation Improvement Program Procedures. This section explains that any changes to a new TIP can be taken back to the Policy Committee from June 30 to August 15 and, if approved, become part of the new TIP. NMDOT is exercising this right with a change to Phase V (F100112) and Phase VI (F100113) of US 64.

Mr. Garcia reported that NMDOT is adding \$2,000,000 in NHPP funding to FY2018 and \$1,500,000 to Phase VI in FY2018 to align both projects to be completed together next year. Mr. S. Lopez said NMDOT anticipates some additional costs for Phase VI and asked that the dollar amounts be switched between the two projects putting \$1,500,000 to Phase V and \$2,000,000 to Phase VI. Mr. Fillerup clarified that the breakdown of the numbers shown on Page 2 and 3 of the Agenda were correct with the only change being to the switching of the dollar amounts between Phase V and VI.

Mr. Fillerup opened the public hearing. A member of the public, Ms. Susan Aguirre, asked to speak about issues along Main Street in Aztec. Mr. Fillerup clarified that the open public hearing was for comments on the changes to US 64 and the new FFY2018-2023 TIP. He explained that Ms. Aguirre would have an opportunity later in the meeting to bring forth her concerns and comments about US 550 in Aztec.

There were no public comments received on the proposed changes to the FFY2018-2023 TIP. Mr. Fillerup closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Mr. S. Lopez moved to recommend approval of the Update to the FFY2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and PC Resolution 2017-4 to the Policy Committee. Mr. Sypher seconded the motion. The motion to recommend approval was passed unanimously.

4. 2040 MTP UPDATE

Subject:	2040 MTP Update
Prepared by:	Derrick Garcia, Associate Planner
Date:	July 5, 2017

BACKGROUND

- The FMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) serves as the MPO's Long-Range planning document and was adopted by the Policy Committee on September 24, 2015.
- Beginning with the Call for Projects during the development of the FFY2018-2023 TIP, some scoring committee members expressed concerns with Chapter Four (Project Prioritization Method) .
- There are some projects in Chapters Five (Roadway Plan) and Nine (Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan) that need to be added, amended, or removed from the lists of Tier 1 ,2, and 3 projects.

CURRENT ISSUES

- Review Chapters 4, 5, and 9 and discuss the need for an amendment to the MTP.
 - Chapter 4, Section 5 - Prioritized Projects
 - Chapter 5 - Tables 5-3, 5-4, and 5-5
 - Chapter 9 - Tables 9-1, 9-2, and 9-3
- Collect Committee Member input to integrate into pending amendment.

INFORMATION ITEM

- This is an information item only.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Garcia reported that the scoring committee formed for new TIPFFY2018-2023, an issue was noted in Chapter 4 of the MTP which now shows a prioritized list for the FFY2016-2021 TIP.

Mr. Garcia referred to Page 10 of the Agenda which shows Section 4.5 (Prioritized Projects) of the MTP and recommended that the prioritized project list be removed from the MTP and, instead, shown as a cover page in the TIP. This would allow for updating of this list as the TIP is periodically updated throughout the year rather than

in the long-range MTP. Mr. Garcia noted that this is where other MPOs typically list their prioritized projects.

Mr. Garcia said that the lists of Tier 1, 2, and 3 roadway and bike/ped projects shown in Chapters 5 and 9 of the MTP all need to be updated. The proposed MTP amendment will offer the opportunity to make those changes.

Ms. Holton stated that this is a discussion-only item at today's meeting. Staff will work individually with each Technical Committee member to get direct input. Once a draft amendment is ready, it will be brought back to the Technical Committee. She added that there was no time frame for completing an amendment.

Mr. Sypher clarified that the Technical Committee would be given at least 30 days in which to review and discuss any changes to the MTP chapters. Ms. Holton said, yes, and restated that there was no deadline on this amendment so more time can be taken, if needed.

Mr. Garcia restated that he would propose that a short-range project ranking system be shown in the TIP and not in the MTP which is a 20-year planning document. He referred to Page 10 of the Agenda and said that Table 4.3 is the list he proposes be removed from the MTP. The list of projects shown on Page 11-15 of the Agenda (Tables 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 9-1, 9-2, and 9-3) are not in any ranked order within the "tier", but are ranked by the tier they are shown in. Tier 1 projects are project expected to be completed in the next 1-5 years; Tier 2 are expected to be completed in the next 5-10 years; and Tier 3 projects are those expected to be completed in the next 10-15 years.

Table 4.3 shows the projects that were scored in the TIP scoring process and Mr. Garcia will recommend that this list be moved to the TIP. Mr. Sypher said that the prioritized projects would be shown in the TIP as well as in the tier tables in Chapters 5 and 9 of the MTP.

Mr. Sypher noted that more discussion and consideration is needed on how to rank the old, "grandfathered" projects in with the newly ranked projects. He originally understood that the grandfathered projects would remain ranked as they had been with any newly ranked projects added into that current listing. Mr. Sypher stated that this process needs to be discussed further. Mr. Garcia said this will be discussed further at future meetings.

Mr. Sypher said that when the MTP was last updated, Phase I of the Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension was underway and ranked number one. That project has now been defunded and is no longer on the current prioritized list and was removed from the STIP by NMDOT. He asked if this changed the MPO or the region's priority of this project. Mr. Sypher still believes this is the number one regional priority, but now that it is not shown, he wants to discuss this further.

Mr. Fillerup asked if a new form for Phase I of the Pinon Hills project had been completed under the new project prioritization methodology. Mr. Sypher said no form was completed since it was thought this project was already being funded and was previously ranked number one. He added that this is part of the discussion around the

original intent of grandfathered projects and newly ranked projects. Mr. Fillerup reiterated the question of what to do with projects previously ranked and not currently re-ranked using the PPM. Mr. Garcia said that Staff will recommend that the PPM outlined in Chapter 4 of the MTP be required for any new project added to the TIP outside of a regular TIP update cycle. Requiring this will ensure all projects are equally ranked going forward. This process will need to be further discussed since it is unlikely a scoring committee would be convened for each new project.

Mr. Fillerup reiterated that any project intended to be listed in the MTP would, in the future, go into Chapters 5 or 9. This would be a place for a project to be listed and identified, but not ranked. Mr. Sypher said he did not see the downside to having the projects ranked. Mr. Garcia said the tiers showed regional priority and not necessarily ranking. Mr. Sypher thought this confusion needed to be clarified.

Mr. Garcia asked the Technical Committee members to review these chapters and consider possible changes for discussion. Any recommended project changes to the tier lists in Chapters 5 and 9 should be addressed to Ms. Holton and will be addressed in the one-on-one meetings between the entities and Staff.

5. STATUS OF TIP PROJECTS

Subject:	Status of TIP Projects
Prepared by:	Derrick Garcia, MPO Associate Planner
Date:	July 5, 2017

BACKGROUND	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The STIP Protocols, finalized in early 2014, indicate that each MPO shall develop a process to monitor the progress and status of each project in the first two years of the TIP. These monthly reviews help correct inconsistencies in the TIP, STIP, the MPO's MTP, Agreement Request Forms (ARFs), etc. ▪ Changes to the FFY2018-2023 TIP will be considered by the Technical Committee on July 12 and adoption by the Policy Committee sought on July 19, 2017. 	

TRACKING INFORMATION (2016-2021 TIP)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Agreement Status (ARF) ▪ ROW Certification ▪ Design Completion 30 - 60 - 90% ▪ Environmental Certification ▪ Utilities Certification ▪ Railroad Certification ▪ Archeology Certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ITS/Sys ENG Certification ▪ Public Involvement Certification

EXISTING PROJECTS IN FFY2016-2021 TIP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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)
- 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)
- Red Apple Transit Capital/Operating (TF00001)

DISCUSSION ITEM

- This is a discussion item only. Committee members will have an opportunity to provide feedback regarding TIP project status and details.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Garcia asked the Technical Committee members for their project updates:

East Pinon Hills Boulevard - Phase III

Mr. Fillerup reported that this project is at 60% design. They continue to work through the right-of-way. Mr. Fillerup said that the engineering firm updated their sediment and drainage factor which led to a change in the drainage facility which has impacted the right-of-way. He noted this was the problem with designing a project over multiple years.

Glade Run Recreation Area Trails

No agreement will be entered into until October.

Kirtland Walk Path

The right-of-way and environmental work on this project are complete. The project will require an amendment in a future cycle to change the termini once again as San Juan County works to design the project within the budget.

CR5500 Bridge

San Juan County had a study done to determine design alternatives in order to begin the federal design process. The study was completed and the load rating, originally at 22 tons, was reduced to 13 tons due to its deteriorated state. The County Commission is considering whether to use the \$8,000,000 in bonds previously identified for Pinon Hills-Phase III for this bridge repair. There is a public information meeting tomorrow night at McGee Park at 6:30 p.m. and some preferred alternatives will be presented.

East Blanco Bridge

Mr. Thomas reported that this project is in the middle of its 60% review. He received an update from Brad Fisher with the North Design Center who said that since the project has no current federal funds for design and construction, NMDOT is not obligated to provide a design review. When and if federal funds are awarded, then a design review and approval would be provided, but until then he could only provide a

cursory review. Mr. Fisher recommended a LGRF agreement be obtained from District 5. Mr. Thomas reviewed that the City of Bloomfield has local government road and MAP funds. The project is not fully funded, but is fiscally constrained. Mr. Thomas explained that the utilities could possibly be relocated and the right-of-way obtained with the MAP funds, but they were encourage to follow all federal standards particularly on right-of-way to ensure they were no issues later on. Mr. Thomas stated there was confusion as to why Mr. Fisher would not provide a legitimate review at this stage of the project. Mr. Thomas said the City of Bloomfield would like to have formal comments now so they are able to work through any issues and so that when funding is sought and, hopefully, awarded all the issues would have been addressed.

Mr. Sypher stated this was how the City of Farmington lost \$22,000,000 for the Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension project. They had purchased right-of-way without prior NMDOT review and down the road when a grant was awarded, the project was disqualified. The City of Farmington tried for two years to get a retroactive review with no success. Mr. Sypher advised of the need to obtain a NMDOT right-of-way review beforehand.

Mr. Fillerup restated that a design review by NMDOT is not required because there is no federally funding yet. If, however, you pay for the design without a review, which is what is being suggested in this instance, then the project will likely not receive construction funding. Mr. S. Lopez clarified that District 5 does review state-funded projects while federally funded projects are reviewed by Mr. Fisher. Mr. Thomas asked if District 5 would do a review for structural and drainage issues on their designs. Mr. S. Lopez said, yes, and that these reviews are also coordinated with the right-of-way division and the general office. Mr. Thomas asked if the project could then obtain a right-of-way acquisition review. Mr. S. Lopez said this would need to pass through District 5 and then they would make a request to the general office. Mr. S. Lopez encouraged Mr. Thomas to make sure any consultant they hire is familiar with NMDOT procedures.

Mr. Sypher recommended that Nica Westerling with the City of Farmington would be able to provide Mr. Thomas with further information and clarification. There was also a right-of-way issue with the Foothills project that caused a year's delay.

Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension - Phases I and II

These projects are both going through a process as directed by Deputy Secretary Anthony Lujan and Rebecca Maes which is expected to put these projects into the STIP this fall. This should conclude the stipulations set forth by NMDOT to get the CFR right-of-way waiver.

East Arterial Route

The land patent from BLM was received and the route is now in the appraisal process. Mr. Saavedra said that due to the workload at NMDOT, this review is expected to be weeks out.

6. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

District 5 - Steven Lopez

Mr. S. Lopez reported that Phases V and VI of US64 have a November production date. The projects have been moved to FY2018 to make sure all the rights-of-way have been completed.

Mr. Garcia asked for assistance from District 5 in completing an HSIP project application for the intersection of English and Main Street with the City of Farmington. The HSIP Coordinator, James Mexia, sent the application information to Staff yesterday and suggested they coordinate with District 5 on completing the application. Mr. S. Lopez said that crash histories will be needed in order to request the road safety audit (RSA). The RSA for this project has already been completed. Mr. S. Lopez said it should be sufficient to simply note on the application that the RSA report is attached. Mr. S. Lopez said he would add this to the next District 5 meeting agenda. Ms. Holton said with the tight deadline for submittal (due 7/21/17), any assistance from District 5 would be appreciated. Mr. Garcia asked if Mr. S. Lopez could review the application before it was submitted and Mr. S. Lopez said that he could.

Mr. Garcia also asked if District 5 had begun working on their outer year programming and prioritizing projects. Mr. S. Lopez said they are in process of finalizing the FFY2018-2023 STIP and he would need to speak with Paul Brasher on programming for the outer years for San Juan County. He thought this prioritization might be completed by the next MPO meeting date. Mr. Fillerup commented that this would not allow for a coordinated review with the MPO and the following issues were discussed:

- No input or involvement by FMPO in programming the priorities for FMPO;
- In December 2016 asked for assistance on how to avoid District 5 setting priority without gathering input from FMPO; now another year has passed with no resolution and no partnership;
- District 5 has many priorities/needs and limited funding;
- District 5 is a part of the FMPO and became members on both the Technical and Policy Committees in 2015;
- Public process is integral in all federal and state procedures:
 - Fundamental process
 - Asking for a voice and to be heard in the process
 - District 5 is making decisions for FMPO with no input from FMPO
 - FMPO is being ignored
- With the funding shortage, it is more critical for District 5 and FMPO to communicate and cooperate;
- Previous discussion and debate about the widening of US and the huge amount of funding being spent on the project and FMPO asking for that funding to be spent on other regional priorities;
- Make recommendation to Policy Committee to ask NMDOT to open up the prioritization process and make clear the need for cooperation with FMPO;
 - Desire for due process, openness and transparency
 - Priorities on state highways also valued by FMPO yet not included in any discussions
 - US 64 project planned many years ago;
 - Once US 64 completed, other FMPO projects will be possible

- Can projects be put on the STIP when there has been no cooperation and state and federal CFR procedures have not been followed?
- FMPO participation has been recommended, but final funding not determined by District 5
 - Funding control rests with NMDOT management (Anthony Lujan and Armando Armendariz)
- Consensus of Technical Committee to ask Policy Committee to draft a letter requesting that Deputy Secretary Anthony Lujan and Chief Engineer Armando Armendariz allow for FMPO input, cooperation, and participation in the District 5 project prioritization process for FMPO;
 - Send a formal letter and request ability to provide input and participate in this process.

Mr. Saavedra said the City of Aztec has requested some information from NMDOT and had not received a response, so he asked if Mr. S. Lopez could address the question if it was, or should be, normal practice to dedicate right-of-way for public access on public property. Mr. S. Lopez asked Mr. Saavedra to forward the e-mail to him and he would follow-up with the right-of-way division since this was in their area of expertise.

Mr. Sypher said this answer would normally come from Brad Fisher, but when Mr. Sypher last worked with Mr. Fisher, Mr. Fisher was not empowered to speak with the right-of-way division to seek answers from them (Mr. S. Lopez nodded head "yes" with this comment). Mr. Saavedra commented this was likely why the City of Aztec has yet to receive an answer to their question.

Planning Division - Rosa Kozub -

Ms. Kozub reported on recent personnel changes:

- New Recreational Trails Program Coordinator, Shannon Glendenning;
- Wade Patterson is the new interim TAP Coordinator

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Subject: Committee Member Discussion Items Date: July 3, 2017
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DISCUSSION ITEMS

No discussion items were presented.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	Mary Holton, AICP, MPO Officer
Date:	July 5, 2017

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Staff Training.** Mary Holton and Derrick Garcia attended a STIP Procedures Update Meeting in Albuquerque on June 30, 2017. Copies of the Draft Revised Procedures have been emailed to the Tech Committee with the Agenda. Rebecca Maes advised that the final version will be available for distribution soon.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Holton reported that the new committee member training manuals were available and asked each member to pick one up at the end of today's meeting. Actual training for the new members is still to be scheduled and some of the documents continue to be updated, such as the MPO Overview, JPA, and Bylaws.

Ms. Holton and Mr. Garcia attended a STIP Procedures Update meeting in Albuquerque on June 30. A draft of the revised procedures was e-mailed to the Technical Committee members with the meeting agenda and once the final version is available, it will be provided and Staff will schedule training.

Mr. Sypher asked if the adoption of the FFY2018-2023 TIP and the new STIP procedures would correlate and if they might be implemented at the same time. He also questioned whether the new STIP procedures could adversely impact current TIP projects that were in process. Mr. S. Lopez said this was not the intent of the new procedures.

Mr. S. Lopez reported that one of the items changing with the new STIP procedures is that the local non-match is going away. A local non-match will need to be identified and state what the actual funding is. Ms. Holton added that the new STIP procedures will require that all entities provide proof of their funding such as the City of Bloomfield's bond letter for the East Blanco Bridge.

9. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Fillerup asked if Mr. S. Lopez knew which projects in District 5 were being prioritized. Mr. S. Lopez responded that with HSIP funding, District 5 is looking at I25 and I40 as the primary routes; also US 64 from Shiprock to Arizona; US 285, and going north from Taos to Questa. The draft for the future outer years is evolving and will be posted on the NMDOT website when it is completed. Mr. Fillerup expressed frustration about the lack of information and STP funding for any critical local projects (East Blanco Bridge and CR 5500 Bridge) being unavailable for eight years.

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

10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Fillerup welcomed Ms. Susan Aguirre, owner of the Lil Aztec Flower Shop at 101 North Main Street in Aztec. Ms. Aguirre spoke at the beginning of the meeting regarding the concerns held by many about the heavy truck traffic on Main Street in Aztec and Mr. Fillerup asked her to hold her comments until this public comment section of the agenda. He introduced Mr. S. Lopez of NMDOT, with responsibility for US 550 through Aztec and Mr. Steven Saavedra, Community Development Director for the City of Aztec to Ms. Aguirre.

Ms. Aguirre restated some of her concerns:

- Vibrations from the large semis and tankers traveling along Main Street have a negative impact on historic buildings and their foundations;
- Gravel and road pebbles are kicked up onto the sidewalks and hurled into store windows causing breakage;
- Remove all large truck traffic from Main Street;
- Slow traffic and enforce 25 mph speed limit.

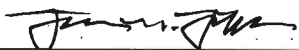
Mr. Fillerup commented that the City of Aztec is working to address these issues with the construction of the East Arterial Route. Mr. Saavedra thanked Ms. Aguirre for her attendance. He agreed that these were all very real everyday concerns in Aztec. The heavy truck traffic, noise and safety concerns all hurt commerce in the downtown area and are some of the reasons for pursuing the East Arterial.

Mr. Fillerup stated that the City of Aztec is actively working on completing the East Arterial in cooperation with NMDOT. He thanked Ms. Aguirre and encouraged her to continue communicating with City of Aztec officials. Ms. Aguirre replied that they saw her every day. Along with being a business owner, Ms. Aguirre is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and asked if she and other groups in Aztec could do more to raise awareness about the issue. Mr. Fillerup said that along with staying in contact with city officials, she could consider sending a letter to the local member of the State Transportation Commission, Mr. Butch Mathews who owns M&R Trucking.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sypher moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. S. Lopez seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously and Mr. Fillerup adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.



Fran Fillerup, Chair



June Markle, Administrative Assistant