

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**September 28, 2017**

**Policy Members Present:**

Sherri Sipe, City of Aztec  
Eric Strahl, City of Bloomfield  
Nate Duckett, City of Farmington  
Anthony Lujan, Deputy Secretary, NMDOT

**Policy Members Absent:**

Curtis Lynch, City of Bloomfield  
Linda Rodgers, City of Farmington  
Mark Duncan, San Juan County

**Staff Present:**

Mary Holton, AICP, MPO Officer  
Derrick Garcia, MPO Associate Planner  
June Markle, MPO Administrative Assistant

**Staff Absent:**

None

**Others Present:**

Julie Baird, Assistant City Manager, City of  
Farmington  
David Sypher, City of Farmington  
Rebecca Maes, NMDOT  
Lawrence Lopez, North Region Design Center  
Director, NMDOT  
Jeff Kiely, Executive Director, NWNMCOG  
Nick Porell, 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 AUGUST 24, 2017 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Commissioner Sipe moved to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2017 Policy Committee meeting. Councilor Duckett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Annual Election of Officers
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Mary L Holton, AICP, MPO Officer
<b>Date:</b>	September 5, 2017

**BACKGROUND**

- As outlined in the MPO Committee Bylaws, the Annual Election of Officers was moved to September to allow newly elected members to become familiar with

Policy Committee proceedings.

- Each September, the Policy Committee selects the Chair and Vice Chair from their membership who will serve until the following annual election.
- The Chair presides over the meetings and is responsible for the other duties outlined in the Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures document.
- The Vice Chair presides over the meetings in the absence of the Chair.
- Councilor Duckett has been serving as the current Policy Committee Chair; Commissioner Sipe has been serving as the current Vice Chair.

#### **ELECTION**

- Elections will take place to select a Policy Committee Chair and Vice Chair until September 2018.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Policy Committee accept nominations and vote to elect the Chair and Vice Chair.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Holton stated that as outlined in the MPO Committee Bylaws, the Annual Election of Officers for the Policy Committee is held in September to allow those members newly elected in the spring to become familiar with Policy Committee proceedings prior to the election.

The Chair presides over the meetings and is responsible for the other duties outlined in the Bylaws while the Vice Chair presides over the meetings in the absence of the Chair. Councilor Duckett has been serving as the current Chair and Commissioner Sipe has been serving as the current Vice Chair

**ACTION:** Councilor Duckett asked for nominations and/or volunteers for the two positions. Commissioner Sipe nominated Councilor Duckett for Chair; Mr. Strahl seconded the motion. The vote to retain Councilor Duckett as Chair of the Policy Committee was unanimous.

Councilor Duckett nominated Commissioner Sipe to continue as Vice Chair. Mr. Strahl seconded the motion. The motion to retain Commissioner Sipe as Vice Chair of the Policy Committee was unanimous.

#### **4. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT AND THE COMMITTEE BYLAWS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed Revisions to the Joint Powers Agreement and the Committee Bylaws to Add Kirtland and Transfer of the MPO Fiscal Agent
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Mary L Holton, AICP, MPO Officer
<b>Date:</b>	September 13, 2017

### BACKGROUND

- The cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, and San Juan County currently participate in the Metropolitan Planning Organization through the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).
- The proposal includes the addition of the Town of Kirtland to the MPO and the Transfer of the Fiscal Agent to the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG).
- The JPA and the Bylaws explains the responsibilities of the fiscal agent and the functions and organizational structure of the MPO, including the Policy and Technical Committees. The documents also describe the roles and work products required of the MPO.
- The Policy Committee met on July 19 and on August 24 to discuss this item.
- This meeting will provide the Committee an additional opportunity to consider the proposals. Eric Strahl/Bloomfield is invited to discuss his comments during this meeting.
- It is planned that consideration of the revised documents will be scheduled for the Technical Committee Meeting on October 11, and for the Special Policy Committee Meeting on October 19.
- If approved by the Committees before the end of October, staff will ask for approvals of the new JPA by the Councils/Board/Commission of the member entities/new fiscal agent during their meetings in November, and submit the new JPA for approval by the DFA in late November/early December.

### CURRENT WORK

- The new documents would go into effect from January 1, 2018 through September 30, 2020.

### RECOMMENDATION

- The Policy Committee should review the proposals and provide staff with input, direction, changes, etc. so that the drafts can be finalized.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Holton stated that discussion on the updates to the JPA and Bylaws has been visited for the past three months. Copies of the current drafts of the JPA and Bylaws are included in the agenda and Staff would welcome any additional input and recommendations from the Policy Committee.

Ms. Holton said that Mr. Strahl had provided some written comments but was unable to attend the August meeting and provide his input. She asked if he would like to discuss his comments today.

Mr. Strahl clarified his earlier comments on the draft JPA and Bylaws:

- Would NWNMCOG be serving as an independent contractor;
  - o Potential IRS concerns;
  - o Cannot direct the work of an independent contractor
- If MPO employees become NWNMCOG employees should their current titles be the ones shown;

Ms. Holton stated that some of this had been explained that Ms. Rosa Kozub, Government to Government Unit Supervisor, at the August meeting. The JPA for the FMPO was modeled after JPAs from the other MPOs in the state. The MPO employees are technically employed by the MPO. The MPO is the agency contracted by NMDOT to do the required work. The MPO is different from the NWNMCOG in that it is federally

funded. Although they would become COG employees, they would remain employed by the MPO. Councilor Duckett said this would be the same as it is now with the MPO employees being employees of the City of Farmington.

Ms. Holton added that the COG is a tax exempt agency and a voluntary association of local units of government. She said she did not believe the IRS would come into play if the COG was to take over the MPO.

Mr. Kiely commented that if the COG becomes the administrative agent for the MPO, current MPO employees would become employees of the COG. Whoever is acting as the administrative agency for the MPO would be in the same position. At the same time, the MPO employees need to know who to report to in an employment relationship. Mr. Kiely said any clarifying wording would be welcome. Ms. Holton said the language was written to make it clear that the COG would manage the MPO and the MPO employees.

Ms. Holton said the JPA brings the governments together to form the MPO and would contract with the COG to manage the MPO for the region. The language in the JPA has been clarified because the previous language did not say the City of Farmington as the fiscal agent for the MPO managed the MPO. It was an implied situation. Councilor Duckett asked for recommendations for additional language to clarify this concern. Mr. Kiely suggested consulting with NMDOT if additional clarification was desired.

- Page 31 of the agenda refers to the COG designating the MPO Officer;

Ms. Holton stated that the FMPO draft JPA was developed from language found in the JPAs for Santa Fe MPO and Mesilla Valley MPO (Las Cruces) at the direction of NMDOT's Planning Division. Both of these MPOs are similar in size to FMPO. The MPO Officer is designated as being responsible for all the functions of the MPO to ensure all the work products are completed. The COG will designate who the MPO Officer will be and that person will supervise the work of the MPO employees and ensure accountability.

- Payment of dues should be a decision made by the MPO and not the COG;

Ms. Holton explained that these monies were not dues, but the local match required by NMDOT in order to spend the federal funds received. The MPO prepares quarterly invoices which are sent to NMDOT and the entities for reimbursement to the City of Farmington who currently fronts the funding of the MPO. Councilor Duckett added that how the entities might pay their local match portions has not yet been decided upon. Ms. Holton noted that once the Technical and Policy Committees have approved the JPA, it will be presented before each entity's Council or Commission for a vote to approve and execute the agreement. Once approved by all the local entities, the JPA is sent to the Department of Finance & Administration for their approval.

- Current language for payment of the annual required local match says the COG could ask for something different than a quarterly payment;

Ms. Holton explained that this is one of the options still being considered, but that nothing has been agreed to or adopted. Mr. Kiely added that the wording says, "The fiscal agent may require the payment of the anticipated annual required local match...prior to the beginning of each budget year." He stated that the COG agrees in principal that this would be up to the entities as to how and when the match would be

made. Mr. Kiely recommended changing the verbiage from "may require" to "may request". Councilor Duckett stated there would be further discussion on this concern.

Deputy Secretary Lujan asked when the Policy Committee would consider approval of the JPA. Ms. Holton said it was currently being planned for October, but this could be changed if the Policy Committee wanted additional time. Deputy Secretary Lujan said the main concern NMDOT has is they do not see a clear organizational structure to how the COG would manage the MPO. He asked if some documentation could be provided for NMDOT review that detailed the planned organizational structure. Ms. Holton asked what NMDOT would like to see provided. Deputy Secretary Lujan asked if there was an organizational chart. Ms. Holton said that information was available.

Deputy Secretary Lujan also asked if there would be a full-time MPO Officer. Mr. Kiely replied that the COG was aware of the need to designate an MPO Officer, but they have not yet created the internal budget for the COG to manage the MPO. They are working to understand the total range of costs involved with managing the MPO. The City of Farmington has absorbed some costs associated with the MPO that were not always reimbursed or were not reported as reimbursable expenses. Mr. Kiely stated that, at this time, the COG is not sure they can budget for a full-time MPO Officer, but one would definitely be designated to ensure all the required work tasks were completed.

Deputy Secretary Lujan asked about the reporting structure between the MPO Officer and the NWNMCOG. Mr. Kiely explained that initially the COG thought this could begin in a hybrid fashion where, perhaps, he or one of the COG administrators would serve in this function similar to how Ms. Holton is currently managing the job responsibilities. As the Senior Planner position is filled, the COG would look at that individual to take over the MPO Officer functions.

Councilor Duckett asked if the models used to develop this draft JPA update did not already have some clarifying language for these questions. Ms. Holton said the current JPA was used as the base for the update and language from other JPAs was included. NMDOT Planning Division recommended using these other JPAs as models to help develop the new FMPO JPA. Ms. Holton said she had worked closely with the Planning Division and coordinated the development of the JPA update with them. They had also provided numerous edits that have been incorporated. Councilor Duckett recommended provided a more specific overview of how the duties and powers would be distributed from the COG to the MPO.

Commissioner Sipe stated that the City of Aztec has some concerns about the City of Farmington's membership increasing to three representatives and having an additional vote. Ms. Holton explained that the increase is proportional with the population as well as the required local match. She noted that the population of the City of Farmington is larger than that within the urbanized areas of the County that are within the MPO boundary area. Ms. Holton reported that Rosa Kozub had expressed some concern about increasing the membership and being able to ensure the Policy Committee would have a quorum. Ms. Holton explained that the additional Policy Committee member would be an appointed member and not an elected member so that a quorum of City Councilors did not occur at a Policy Committee meeting. Additionally, as an appointed member from the City of Farmington, participation on the MPO Policy Committee would be a part of that individual's job.

Commissioner Sipe reiterated the City of Aztec's concern over the proposed voting power of the City of Farmington vs. that of the other entities. Ms. Holton referred to Page

12 of the Agenda which is Section Five of the JPA and refers to Budgeting and Cost Allocation. The chart provides the most current estimated populations and the percentage of required local match. She stated this was the rationale for the increase in membership for the City of Farmington as well as for San Juan County (increased to two).

Ms. Holton said there was a perception that the MPO employees were being utilized by the City of Farmington for City functions. She affirmed that this was not true. Commissioner Sipe said this was not the concern. The concern is with the increased voting power of the City of Farmington. Commissioner Sipe stated that, although the committee works very well together now, what could be the potential impact of a change in membership or with a vote on a controversial issue. Ms. Holton replied that the MPO Staff works on regional transportation projects and issues which typically benefit all the different entities in the region. Commissioner Sipe said she would pass on all this information to the City of Aztec and Mayor Burbridge.

Councilor Duckett summarized the discussion and the need to further clarify the MPO Officer position, identify the powers and responsibilities of the COG and MPO Staff, and further discuss funding of the MPO by the COG. Ms. Holton has asked for additional information from the Planning Division regarding the possibility of an entity handling/fronting the accounting for the COG. The Planning Division replied that they wanted Deputy Secretary Lujan to discuss this with Councilor Duckett and Ms. Julie Baird.

Mr. Kiely added that the cash flow is the primary concern for the COG. The COG's Board of Director is uneasy to put up their building as collateral to manage the MPO program. He and the City of Farmington are continuing their discussions.

Ms. Holton said a special meeting has been called for October 19, 2017 and the JPA will be added to that agenda to continue Policy Committee discussion. Any decision-making on the JPA and Bylaws will not be planned until November or later.

## **5. NEW TITLE VI PLAN**

<b>Subject:</b>	New Title VI Plan
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Mary L Holton, AICP, MPO Officer
<b>Date:</b>	September 13, 2017

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The previous Title VI Plan for the MPO was adopted on June 20, 2013.</li><li>▪ The Technical Committee reviewed the proposed draft document on August 9 and September 13, and voted 4-0-1 to <b>recommend approval</b> of the new plan at their meeting on September 13.</li></ul>

<b>CURRENT WORK</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The update is due every four (4) years in accordance with the NMDOT Policy &amp; Procedures Manual (PPM).</li></ul>

<b>ACTION ITEM</b>
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| ▪ The Policy Committee is asked to approve the new Title VI Plan. |
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**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Holton reported that this draft of the new Title VI Plan was reviewed by the Policy Committee in August. The Technical Committee considered it and voted to recommend approval of the new Title VI Plan at their meeting on September 13.

Councilor Duckett opened the public hearing. There were no comments received from those present at the meeting. Councilor Duckett closed the public hearing.

It was stated that as long as the City of Farmington remained the fiscal agent for the MPO, they would continue to provide the services as currently outlined in the Title VI Plan.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Sipe moved to approve the new FMPO Title VI Plan. Mr. Strahl seconded the motion. The motion to approve was passed unanimously.

## **6. REPORTS FROM NMDOT**

### **Deputy Secretary Anthony Lujan**

Deputy Secretary Lujan introduced Mr. Lawrence Lopez and asked him to brief the Policy Committee on the Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase I project which had been brought up during the August meeting.

Mr. Lopez stated that at the August meeting, he was unaware that this was a state-funded project, but has since followed up on the project and wanted to report on his findings. The City of Farmington provided a design variance (driveway and sidewalk), but the request got held up at NMDOT. Mr. Lopez said he spoke with Nica Westerling this morning and stated he now has the variance request which he had not had before. He reviewed the variance request and has signed off on the request. Councilor Duckett thanked Mr. Lopez for his work on getting this project moving again. Mr. David Sypher also thanked Mr. Lopez and asked if he would facilitate getting the PS&E scheduled. Mr. Lopez said he could do that. Deputy Secretary Lujan apologized for this paperwork getting lost in NMDOT's system.

Deputy Secretary Lujan reported that as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, NMDOT will have obligated all the funds they have been awarded. Being able to ensure every penny will be spent took a lot of teamwork and he was very proud of the work that was accomplished. Deputy Secretary Lujan said the department has received some additional funds and, after October 1<sup>st</sup>, will begin looking at other projects to fund. He stated that they would keep this region in mind as they begin looking for those additional projects.

Deputy Secretary Lujan reported that the proposed TIP will be partially approved and the final notifications will be made on September 14. The Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension has been deleted. NMDOT received the funding information from the City of Farmington, but no City Council resolution to state their approval was provided. Deputy Secretary Lujan said providing the resolution has always been part of the NMDOT's request.

Mr. Sypher explained his understanding of what transpired with the Pinon Hills Boulevard Extension project and the TIP. In the development of the STIP procedures, there is a proposal for the new document which says that in the future a resolution would

be required. However, in attempts by the City of Farmington to resolve long-standing issues with the Pinon Hills project, a meeting was held with NMDOT earlier this year and the City of Farmington was told to include the word "bond" in the funding source and that would keep the project in the TIP. Mr. Sypher said there was no agreement to produce a resolution and, in fact, it was discussed that this would be a future requirement to do so. NMDOT had made a commitment to fund Phases I and II of the Pinon Hill Boulevard project for \$20M. After working more than two years to clear the early acquisition and environmental issues through NMDOT's right-of-way division with nothing resolved, the funding for the project was going to be removed in September 2015. In August 2015, the City of Farmington was told that NMDOT would agree to help and have the project shelf ready should future funding become available. The City of Farmington was told to appeal to CFR 1.9 and request a "variance" to the early acquisition process and environmental concerns, and if this was completed, NMDOT would concur with a letter of support. The City of Farmington, with the assistance of FHWA, crafted the request and submitted it to NMDOT. Unfortunately, the letter of support was never moved forward into the new STIP and the City of Farmington was notified that the project was being removed from the STIP.

Mr. Sypher said the City of Farmington asked what needed to be done to keep the project in the STIP and was told to add it to the TIP. This was done with the project being shown as "locally funded" which had previously been acceptable language used throughout the state. Mr. Sypher said at the meeting last spring with Deputy Secretary Lujan and others, he was obnoxious in repeating verbatim the language NMDOT required. Mr. Sypher said all those at the meeting agreed, so this recent decision to remove the project comes as a huge surprise and varies from what was agreed on earlier this year. Mr. Sypher stated that this project is now in great jeopardy of moving forward. He emphasized that no funding was being requested and no current policies violation and thought that having Deputy Secretary Lujan's approval of the language and methodology that was then followed through with by the City of Farmington should have sufficed to keep the project on the STIP.

Deputy Secretary Lujan said Mr. Sypher had made some good points. He got involved in the discussions and meetings with the City of Farmington about two years ago assist in resolving the right-of-way issues that dated back to the 1980s along with a lack of documentation and following the federal process. The \$20M referenced by Mr. Sypher was actually the District target and was used as a means to work the project through the system, but was not money designated solely for the City of Farmington. Deputy Secretary Lujan said the District 5 target is \$20-\$25M per year and must encompass the entire district. At the meeting referenced by Mr. Sypher, I did agree that bonding would work, but we also told him that a resolution from the City Council was needed. Deputy Secretary Lujan said this was the clarification he wanted to add.

Councilor Duckett stated that the Farmington City Council did pass a resolution in 2015 for the \$20M that he understood was not the district's target, but was actually going to the Pinon Hills Project. The City Council said they would pay their required portion of a \$16M investment by the state. Councilor Duckett said this is the first time he was hearing that this money was target money for the entire district and not dedicated solely to the Pinon Hills project. Moving forward from this, Councilor Duckett restated that without a resolution from City Council that there is \$20M to pledge towards this project, the project will be taken off the STIP.



Deputy Secretary Lujan said the notification that the Pinon Hills project has been deleted will be officially announced tomorrow. He stated that he wants to work in a formal partnership with the MPO and the entities and that is why he provided the information at today's meeting.

Councilor Duckett thanked Deputy Secretary Lujan for the notification. The last time this type of notification was made it was made through the MPO and the City of Farmington was not notified.

Mr. Sypher said there was nothing further to add, but he wanted to make two clarifications. The \$20M was a funding package for a \$4M grant which was removed once the deadline had passed. It was \$8M for two subsequent years and the City of Farmington was to provide a \$4M match, with the state providing \$16M. The resolution adopted by the City Council was crafted and guided by NMDOT when it was created. Mr. Sypher said that he hoped in the future when the project is brought forward, NMDOT will provide their support.

Deputy Secretary Lujan added that NMDOT does support the project. If the money can be identified they do not have an issue with it and, if the resolution can be provided, the project will be put back into the STIP. NMDOT understands that the project is of regional significance, they support the project, and will continue to work with the City of Farmington. Councilor Duckett added that the City of Farmington was looking to have the project shovel-ready so that when funding became available the Pinon Hills Boulevard project would be at the top of the list. Unfortunately, having the project removed from the STIP removes that opportunity for the City of Farmington.

Ms. Rebecca Maes says that because the project was listed in the first two years of the new TIP (2018 and 2019), a financial commitment by means of a City Council resolution is needed. Councilor Duckett said in clarification that any project in the first two years of the TIP require a City Council resolution, but anything past that does not. Ms. Maes replied that was correct. Councilor Duckett asked if this was new. Ms. Maes said it was not and was explained in the CFRs. FHWA has issued a recent clarifying statement of fiscal constraint that will become part of NMDOT's new policy and procedure manual (PPM) that is expected to be ready later this year.

#### Planning Bureau

There were no representatives from the Planning Division in attendance.

### **7. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Committee Member Discussion Items
<b>Date:</b>	September 13, 2017

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

No discussion items were brought forward.

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS

<b>Subject:</b>	Information Items
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Mary Holton, AICP, MPO Officer and Derrick Garcia, Associate Planner
<b>Date:</b>	September 18, 2017

### INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Title VI / ADA Transition Plan Compliance Reminder.** Each entity needs to ensure they have submitted an approved (by local governing body) a Title VI Plan to NMDOT for review. In addition, each entity must also submit an ADA Policy and/or ADA Transition Plan to NMOT by December 22, 2017.

- b. **Update on NMDOT Membership & Alternates to FMPO Committees**

Policy Committee	
Anthony Lujan	NMDOT Deputy Secretary Lujan
Lawrence Lopez (Alt.)	NMDOT North Region
Technical Committee	
Paul Brasher, PE	NMDOT District 5
Rosa Kozub, AICP (Alt.)	NMDOT Planning

- c. **FFY18 Grant Awards.** The MPO has received notification that the FFY17 unspent funds from both grants will be available for use in FFY18. Additionally, the FTA has awarded the MPO \$72,856.05 (\$58,284.84 plus required local match - \$14,571.21) in 5303 planning funds for FFY18. We currently expect \$239,420 (\$204,561 plus required local match \$34,860) in FHWA PL planning funds. A budget adjustment will be prepared after the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter invoices are finalized in mid-October. This information will be provided to the Policy Committee prior to the November meeting.
- d. **UPWP 4.4 Transit System Studies.** In compliance with this subsection in the MPO's Work Program (or UPWP), up to \$30,000 in FTA 5303 FFY17 & 18 funds have been made available by the MPO to Red Apple Transit for their Route & Operations Study. Red Apple Transit will manage the project.
- e. **Quarterly Financial Update.** See attached for the FMPO's FFY17 Third Quarter Report, which provides financial information for the MPO through June 30, 2017.
- f. **Special Meeting on October 19, 2017.** This Special Meeting, scheduled at 1:30pm in the FMPO Conference Area, is needed to consider final approval of the proposed Joint Powers Agreement and Committee Bylaws & Operating Procedures. The meeting is not expected to last more than an hour.

**DISCUSSION:** a. Mr. Garcia said that NMDOT wants to remind all the entities to ensure their local governing body has submitted a Title VI Plan to NMDOT. Additionally, their ADA Transition Plans are due to NMDOT by December 22, 2017.

b. Membership changes for NMDOT representation on both the Policy and Technical Committees: Policy Committee representative is Anthony Lujan with Lawrence Lopez as the Alternate, and for the Technical Committee, Paul Brasher is the representative and Rosa Kozub is the new Alternate.

c. Ms. Holton stated that the MPO was notified that both grants will allow carryover of FFY2017 remaining funds into FFY2018. The exact funding level will not be known until the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FFY2017 invoices have been completed which will be completed within the next couple of weeks. This information will be provided to the Policy Committee once it is available along with the fourth quarter report.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FFY2017 report was provided to the Policy Committee earlier when the Agenda was distributed. Ms. Holton reviewed some of the information in that report for the Policy Committee (Pages 38 and 39 of the report):

- Expenditures summarized by grant;
- Information based on UPWP work program;
  - Five program areas;
  - Hours assessed by the work completed;
- Detail activities completed during the quarter and expenses for same;

d. The MPO is working with the Red Apple Transit (RAT) to provide up to \$30,000 to partially fund their route and operations study. This money will fund approximately 50% of the study.

e. This was already discussed above.

f. A special meeting of the Policy Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, October 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the MPO Office. This meeting will be to focus primarily on the JPA and Bylaws.

## **9. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Councilor Duckett noted that Deputy Secretary Lujan had stated earlier that NMDOT has already designated all of its funding for the coming fiscal year. In maintaining transparency for currently planned projects in each district, Councilor Duckett asked if the MPO could be provided with this information. The MPO has expressed their desire to learn as soon as possible which projects have been identified for funding and to have a conversation with NMDOT about the planned state projects within the MPO. Councilor Duckett asked when NMDOT might be able to lay out the planned projects and the money obligated for those projects. He also asked if Deputy Secretary Lujan could provide a listing of all available grants that FMPO projects might be able to apply for.

Deputy Secretary Lujan said that now was the right time to start talking about this with the beginning of the new federal fiscal year. He offered to bring a listing of the grant categories that the FMPO is eligible to apply for, as well as a list of the current and proposed projects for District 5. Deputy Secretary Lujan said he would also provide

information on the federal money that NMDOT is able to request and any additional money that the FMPO could apply for.

Mr. Garcia stated that the City of Farmington requested a letter of support from the MPO for their TIGER Grant application for the Pinon Hills Extension. The letter, signed by Policy Committee Chair Duckett, will become part of the application package. Deputy Secretary Lujan said that NMDOT would also be amenable to providing a letter of support for this TIGER Grant application for the City of Farmington. Mr. Garcia said he would give this information to Nica Westerling, City Engineer for the City of Farmington. Ms. Holton offered for the MPO would prepare and provide the letter to Deputy Secretary Lujan for his consideration and signature.

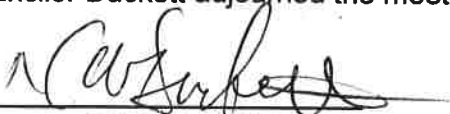
There was no additional business from the Chairman, Members and Staff.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA MP**

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
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Councilor Duckett, Chair

  
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June Markle, Administrative Assistant