

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
June 10, 2020

Technical Members Present: Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec
Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield
Virginia King, City of Farmington
Javier Martinez, NMDOT District 5
Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit
Fran Fillerup, San Juan County
Nick Porell, San Juan County
Dan Flack, Town of Kirtland

Technical Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Peter Koepfel, MPO Officer
Beth Escobar, Community Works Planning Manager
Kathryn Leys, MPO Associate Planner
June Markle, Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Rosalyn Fry, City of Aztec Policy Committee Member
Aaron Sussman, Bohannon Huston (phone)
Joseph Moriarty, Planning Liaison, NMDOT
Sharon Cruz, North Region Design, NMDOT
Scott Martin (Alt), San Juan County
Michael Wright, Sites Southwest
Colin Daly, Citizen, Souder-Miller

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health concerns, the members of the Technical Committee listed above as "Technical Members Present" attended via GoToMeeting, as did Peter Koepfel, Beth Escobar, and those listed as "Others Present". Chair Porell, Kathryn Leys, and June Markle attended in person.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nick Porell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and a roll call was taken of those in attendance.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 20, 2020 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Saavedra moved to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2020 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

3. REPORT ON THE 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) UPDATE

Subject:	Report on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
Date:	June 10, 2020

MONTHLY REPORT

Mr. Aaron Sussman, Planner with Bohannon Huston (BHI) will call-in monthly with a report on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update.

DISCUSSION: Two additional new draft chapters for the 2045 MTP were distributed to Technical Committee members on June 9: Climate Change, and Security and Emergency Planning. Mr. Sussman asked Committee members to provide him with their comments and feedback on these chapters.

Security Chapter

The MPO's role in security planning and preparedness is to understand the risks and ensure effective interagency communication. The MPO is responsible for coordinating and communicating with all agencies, bring stakeholders together, and consider potential impacts to the transportation system for users.

Climate Change Chapter

The Climate Change chapter begins to look at long-term trends and considers the potential for extreme events. It also addresses the relationship of the built environment and the transportation infrastructure to climate change. In addition, how can the MPO manage the impacts and risks, and also mitigation and taking action to reduce the greenhouse gas emission levels and VMT.

Mr. Sussman said that one of the next steps is to put together the funding and the financial considerations, and finalizing the project list. The project list from the 2040 MTP was used as a starting point with the idea that projects could be moved, revised, or totally removed from the TIP if funding was considered to not be reasonably available. Mr. Sussman needs feedback from the Technical Committee members on funding and budgetary considerations in order to build the financial analysis. Projects shown in the 2045 MTP will be projects where there is a reasonable expectation that funding will be available from NMDOT as well as from a local level from NMDOT. This information will be contrasted against the proposed list of projects to provide some level of prioritization.

Mr. Sussman discussed two public outreach events to provide additional opportunities for community participation and asked that this information be shared on websites and Facebook pages:

6/24/20 - 12-1 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86556433709?pwd=M3luMG9yN1BuK1ZLQytlZkIQWIFZz09>

6/24/20 - 7-8 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89846878634?pwd=SkNtUW5ldU50RnJnaDZvZzdvdIRiZz09>

Chair Porell asked if there had been any political pushback on the Climate Change chapter. Mr. Fillerup replied that the corresponding chapter in the 2040 MTP was titled "Environment" and it tracked how emissions and ozone levels were trending. It reported on existing regulations and the MPO stance and there was not much pushback at the time the 2040 MTP was adopted. The BHI Climate Change chapter is much more robust and expands on what was shown in the earlier MTP. Chair Porell thought that the chapter was kept very data driven with few conclusions drawn.

Chair Porell commented that in the section on severe weather and volatile storm events, Mr. Sussman consider adding the drought monitor map. This information includes short and long-term impacts on hydrology and vegetation. Loss of vegetation increases erosion and runoff and current drainage structures may not be able to meet that increase capacity. Mr. Sussman said he would add more detail to this particular item.

The Technical Committee also discussed the roadway network, the results of the traffic demand modeling, and considerations for the 2045 MTP:

- How to identify future projects when the capacity projects identified in the last MTP may not be the next steps;
- Do agencies have a comprehensive and specific list of projects that enhance the existing roadway network;
- Many new projects expanded on capacity that the traffic demand modeling has identified as not being needed;
- Recommended to allow model to continue to speak for itself suggesting there are is no real capacity issues, but to leave all the projects in as there may be a need for these projects in the future;
- What intersection projects and safety improvements need to be added (develop comprehensive list of those);
- Leverage ITS and use of better signalization to improve current network (identify this as a study project for the MTP);
- Include line item in MTP to address these issues (enhance safety, rehabilitation, investment in operations/maintenance enhancements), but exact locations would not be listed, but identified over time or added as situations emerge;
 - Individually these are not substantial, but grouping them together make them major projects;
- CMAQ funding is available for Farmington and Santa Fe;
- Page 11 of the Climate Change document on Adaptation Strategies-most local agencies already discourage development in a flood plain.

4. FFY2021-2022 PROPOSED UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Subject:	FFY2021-2022 Proposed Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
Prepared by:	Peter Koeppel MPO Officer
Date:	June 10, 2020

BACKGROUND

- The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the MPO's work plan for two federal fiscal years. The UPWP pairs the MPO's required work tasks/products with the MPO's anticipated funding.
- The FFY2021-2022 UPWP will cover planning activities and work products to be completed from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022.
- Based on the Planning Procedures Manual (PPM), the MPO needs to provide a draft UPWP to NMDOT in late April, receive input/corrections from NMDOT by June 1 (NMDOT comments have been incorporated), and obtain the approvals by the Committees in June, before submitting the final version to NMDOT before July 1.
- Both the Committees reviewed the proposed FFY2021-2022 UPWP during their May 2020 meetings.
- A 30-day public comment period was noticed from May 24, 2020 to June 22, 2020
- Page 9 of the document outlines the five major work program tasks for the MPO; these tasks are based on a format provided by NMDOT. Subtasks are listed below. You should be aware that the same numbering system is utilized in the MPO's quarterly invoicing system and in our financial reports, including the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER), which we prepare and submit at the end of every FFY.

CURRENT WORK

- Annual activities in the UPWP include administering the MPO's programs, TIP development and management, development of performance measures, GIS activities, Safe Routes to School activities, transit data collection and mapping.
- Major activities for the FFY2021-2022 UPWP will include the implementing the policies of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, land-use and transportation planning support activities, transportation performance management, and travel demand modeling updates.
- Per NMDOT direction, staff projects that FHWA PL funds of \$244,019.97 and FTA 5303 funds of \$74,386.25 (both including local matches) for each of the two (2) federal fiscal years will be available. These numbers are subject to change.

ACTION ITEM

- Staff recommends that the Technical Committee consider recommending approval to the Policy Committee of the proposed FFY2021-2022 UPWP and Policy Committee Resolution #2020-2.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Koeppel reported that the Technical Committee would be considering recommended approval to the Policy Committee of the final draft of the FFY2021-2022

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Policy Committee Resolution #2020-2 today. He explained that the UPWP was the biannual MPO work program and budget and provided a brief summary of the new UPWP under consideration. Mr. Koeppel stated that Staff recommends that the Technical Committee consider recommended their approval.

Chair Porell opened the public hearing; no public comments were presented; Chair Porell closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Mr. Fillerup moved to recommend approval to the Policy Committee of the proposed FFY2021-2022 UPWP and Policy Committee #2020-2. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion was passed with no opposition.

5. REVIEW THE PROPOSED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPTA) AND COMMITTEE BYLAWS & OPERATION PROCEDURES

Subject:	Review and provide comments on the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and Committee Bylaws and Operating Procedures proposals
Prepared by:	Beth Escobar, AICP, Community Works Planning Manager
Date:	June 10, 2020

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, and San Juan County formed and have participated in the Metropolitan Planning Organization through the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) since 2003; Kirtland was added to the FMPO in June 2018.▪ Recommended changes include: cleanup of both documents, clarification in the Bylaws of the attendance requirements for committee members, changing the annual elections for the Policy Committee to January and also adding an option to hold virtual meetings when necessitated by health concerns to the committee bylaws. The JPA is being amended to reflect the City of Farmington as the Fiscal Agent and the estimated population numbers have been updated.▪ Comments from the May 20th Technical Committee meeting and the May 28th Policy Committee meeting have been incorporated into the draft.

CURRENT WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The 30-day public review period was posted on May 24, 2020.▪ Action on the JPA and the Committee Bylaws documents will be sought by both committees in June.

ACTION ITEM

- Staff recommends that the Technical Committee consider recommending approval of the JPA and Committee Bylaws to the Policy Committee.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS

- 23 U.S. Code § 134 - Metropolitan transportation planning
- 23 CFR 450.310 - Metropolitan planning organization designation and re-designation
- 23 CFR 450.314 - Metropolitan planning agreements
- 23 U.S. Code § 134 - Metropolitan transportation planning
- Joint Powers Agreement Act, being Sections 11-1-1 et. Seq., NMSA 1978, as amended.
- NMDOT Planning Procedures Manual, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Internal Structure, pages 46-48

DISCUSSION: Ms. Escobar reported that the drafts of the JPA and Committee Bylaws were reviewed by the Technical Committee on May 20 and the Policy Committee on May 28. All the recommended changes from both committees have been included and include:

Committee Bylaws Revisions

- Option to hold virtual attendance;
- Policy Committee annual elections changed to January;
- Other cleanup in sections on meeting attendance.

JPA Revisions

- City of Farmington is fiscal agent for the MPO.

The Technical Committee considered making a change to allow for virtual meetings even after public health restrictions have been lifted and to allow for virtual meetings to be held from the MPO Office rather than rotating meetings among the entities. After much discussion, Ms. Escobar recommended that the Technical Committee consider their approval of the Committee Bylaws with no additional revisions.

Chair Porell opened the public hearing; no comments were received; the public hearing was closed.

ACTION: Mr. Martinez moved to recommend that the Technical Committee consider recommending approval of the JPA and Committee Bylaws to the Policy Committee. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was passed with no opposition.

6. LETTER OF SUPPORT-TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS BYWAY

Subject:	Letter of Support - Trail of the Ancients Byway
Prepared by:	Beth Escobar, AICP, Community Works Planning Manager
Date:	June 10, 2020

BACKGROUND

- The New Mexico Council of Governments and New Mexico Department of Transportation have requested a letter of support from the FMPO for the nomination for a National Scenic Byway designation for the portion of the Trail of the Ancients Byway within New Mexico. This designation would support the regional economy and facilitate the connection to the nationally designated Trail of the Ancients Byways in Utah and Colorado.
- At their May 20, 2020 meeting the Technical Committee considered recommending approval to the Policy Committee, but several questions were raised concerning this possible designation.
- Action on the item was tabled until the questions could be answered.

CURRENT WORK

- The Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG) provided answers to the questions raised at the Technical Committee meeting of May 20:
 - A revised copy of the map of the proposed portion of the byway designation is attached.
 - NM 57 is not included in the current State Byway, so is not eligible for inclusion in the nomination letter.
 - Does the designation impact existing conditions? It does not although could be a selling point for future improvement projects in the STIP.
 - Will existing billboards be required to be removed and/or future billboards prohibited? Existing and future billboards will follow local land use ordinances and State and Federal regulations that exist at that time. NWNMCOG's current Corridor Management Plan defers decisions and any enforcement to the appropriate governmental body.
 - Are there any other impacts to be aware of? NWNMCOG said not to their knowledge.
 - Has the Navajo Nation been asked to support this designation? Yes.

ACTION ITEM

- Staff recommends that the Technical Committee consider recommending approval to the Policy Committee for the Policy Committee Chair to sign the proposed Letter of Support.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Escobar explained that consideration of recommending approval of this Letter of Support to the Policy Committee had been tabled at the May meeting in order to get answers to several questions raised by Technical Committee members. Ms. Escobar reported that the NWNMCOG was able to provide answers to the questions noted above:

- *A revised copy of the map of the proposed portion of the byway designation and clarified that NM 57 is not included in the current State Byway and is not part of the nomination letter.*
- *Does the designation impact existing conditions? It does not although could be a selling point for future improvement projects in the STIP.*

- Will existing billboards be required to be removed and/or future billboards prohibited? *Existing and future billboards will follow local land use ordinances and State and Federal regulations that exist at that time. NWNMCOG's current Corridor Management Plan defers decisions and any enforcement to the appropriate governmental body.*
- Are there any other impacts to be aware of? *NWNMCOG said not to their knowledge.*
- Has the Navajo Nation been asked to support this designation? *Yes.*

It was noted that most of the roads in the Letter of Support are NMDOT routes and are largely on tribal land. Mr. Martinez said that NMDOT's District 5 did send a letter of support for the nomination and map as presented today. Mr. Moriarty agreed that the map concerns have been addressed.

ACTION: Mr. Fillerup moved to recommend approval to the Policy Committee for the Policy Committee Chair to sign the proposed Letter of Support. Mr. Saavedra seconded the motion. The motion was approved with no opposition.

7. STATUS OF TIP PROJECTS

Subject:	Status of TIP Projects
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	June 10, 2020

BACKGROUND

- The STIP Protocols, finalized in early 2014, require 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. and provide for discussion among the members and NMDOT representatives.
- The Policy Committee approved the new FFY2020-2025 TIP during a Special meeting on July 25, 2019.
- The projects currently on the FFY2020-2025 TIP or pending are listed below.

TRACKING INFORMATION (2018-2023 TIP)

Local Agreement Status (ARF)	ITS/Sys ENG Certification
ROW Certification	Public Involvement Certification
Design Completion 30 - 60 - 90%	
Environmental Certification	
Utilities Certification	
Railroad Certification	
Archeology Certification	

PROJECTS ON FMPO FFY2020-2025 TIP

- Aztec
F100091 - East Aztec Arterial Phase II

- Bloomfield
F100300 - East Blanco Bridge
- Farmington
F100099 - Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase II
F100100 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase I
F100101 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase II
F100132 - 20th Street Phase III
TF00001 - Red Apple Transit
- San Juan County
F100021 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase III
F100240 - Glade Run Recreation Area Trails
F100290 - CR 5500 Bridge Replacement
F100320 - Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension
F100330 - Glade Run Recreation Area Trails Extension
F100360 - CR 3000 Bridge Replacement
F100370 - CR 3500 Bridge Replacement
- NMDOT
F100170 - NM 173 Safety Improvements
F100340 - US 550 Pavement Rehab
F100350 - NM 371/N36 (PE)
F100351 - NM 371/N36 (Const)

INFORMATION ITEM

- This is an information item only. Committee members will have an opportunity to provide any needed feedback/updates regarding current TIP projects status and details.

DISCUSSION: The Technical Committee provided their TIP status updates:

City of Aztec - Steven Saavedra

No update on the Aztec East Arterial.

City of Bloomfield - Jason Thomas

The East Blanco Bridge Phase I project will be advertised on June 14. Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Martinez for his assistance in getting the project to this step.

City of Farmington - Virginia King

Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase II

The City is working on completing the project design for the PS&E. They hope to have to have this finished soon.

East Pinon Hills Blvd. Extension Phases I and II

The City was instructed to move these projects from the informational years into the funded years of the TIP provided the project is fiscally constrained. More information on these projects will be available when the City Engineer returns to the office. Chair Porell commented that the next TIP Amendment call for projects is schedule for June 22.

20th Street

The City is still working to secure nine traffic control plans (TCP) and has started the appraisal process.

San Juan County - Nick Porell

East Pinon Hills Blvd. Extension Phase III

No update on this project.

Glade Run Recreation Area Trails

Mr. Porell has a pre-construction meeting later today with a tentative startup date of July 14. The construction period on this project is expected to be only 45 days.

CR 5500 Bridge

Coverage from the Army Corps of Engineers was just received, so San Juan County can now submit for their environmental certification from NMDOT. There are five signed right-of-way agreements from eight landowners, a tentative agreement with another, and an understanding to agree from the seventh. There has been no contact from the final landowner.

NMDOT- District 5 - Javier Martinez

NM 173

District 5 still needs the City of Aztec to move the water line that is in the right-of-way. In order to move the water line, the City needs to ensure receipt of the capital outlay funds that are to be determined during the upcoming special legislative session. Mr. Martinez said that, unfortunately, if the City of Aztec is unable to timely move the water line, the project will need to be moved out to the planning years of the STIP.

NM 371 and N 36

Waiting for word from the legislative special session on funding.

8. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

District 5 - Javier Martinez

Mr. Martinez reported that construction on US 64 is on track to finish in late summer.

Chair Porell asked about the issues encountered with the rebuilding of the bridge on NM 574 over the La Plata River. Mr. Martinez replied that several new sections of the deck had rebar showing and were insufficiently covered. The contractor is having to rip out what was complete and re-pour the entire deck. The project is expected to now take the rest of the summer to repair.

Planning Bureau - Joseph Moriarty

Mr. Moriarty reported on some recent reorganization in the Planning Bureau.

Work on the NMDOT 2045 Plan (<https://newmexico2045plan.com/>) continues, but with the ongoing health concerns, the stakeholder workshops will be held virtually in July. More information on exact dates will be forthcoming. Mr. Fillerup encourage participation by the members.

The Multi-Modal & Planning Bureau is planning an upcoming webinar in the next 2-3 weeks to present on the PM1 Safety Targets.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Subject:	Committee Member Discussion Items
Date:	June 10, 2020

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no additional discussion items provided by Technical Committee members for inclusion in the Agenda.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	June 10, 2020

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **City of Farmington's Off Road Vehicle Trail Head Map.** The City of Farmington has prepared an Off Road Vehicle Trail Head Map. This map identifies access to BLM and federal lands from public and private roads within the municipal boundary.

The purpose of the map is twofold:

- Support the City's Outdoor Recreation Industry Initiative (ORII). This map provides access information to residents and tourists.
- Identify accesses that have become problematic to surrounding residences and eliminate them from any official, approved access.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Escobar reported on the City of Farmington's off-road vehicle trailhead map to identify access to BLM and federal lands as opposed to public and private roads within the municipal boundary, and also to support the City's Outdoor Recreation Industry Initiative (ORII). There have been numerous complaints from residents about noise and traffic and some have even tried to block access. It is hoped that this map will assist in identifying appropriate access points where off-road vehicles are allowed. Staff has also discussed with Mr. Sussman about including some information on off-road vehicle use and access on a regional basis. Mr. Saavedra commented that the City of Aztec has experienced similar issues with off-road vehicles.

11. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

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

12. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Porell seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Chair Porell adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.



Nick Porell, Technical Committee Chair



June Markle, Administrative Assistant