

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 10, 2021**

Technical Members Present: Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec  
*(verified by a verbal roll call)* Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield  
Virginia King, City of Farmington  
Javier Martinez, NMDOT District 5  
Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit  
Nick Porell, San Juan County  
Dan Flack, Town of Kirtland

Technical Members Absent: Beth Escobar, City of Farmington

Staff Present: Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer  
Kathryn Leys, MPO Associate Planner  
June Markle, Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Joseph Moriarty, Planning Liaison, NMDOT

*All the Technical Committee members, as well as "Others Present" attended via the GoToMeeting link*

**1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Chair Nick Porell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Attendance was confirmed with a verbal roll call.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 13, 2021 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mr. Saavedra moved to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2021 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

**3. FARMINGTON TO AZTEC TRAIL PROJECT**

<b>Subject:</b>	Farmington-Aztec Trail Project
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
<b>Date:</b>	February 10, 2021

## DISCUSSION

The Technical Committee will discuss a proposal for a trail from Farmington to Aztec.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Koeppel introduced the discussion topic for a proposed trail from Aztec to Farmington. He noted that about a year ago, the Technical Committee had expressed interest in considering a trails project between the two cities along the old railroad right-of-way. With a potential NMDOT combined call for projects this spring for the Transportation Alternatives Program, Recreational Trails Program, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, consideration of a potential trails project could be very timely. A summary of the Committee comments and discussion follows below:

- Trail proposed to follow old, decommissioned Denver/Rio Grande rail line that traveled north to Durango;
- San Juan County and the City of Farmington retained ownership of the right-of-way;
- In 2019, San Juan County had conducted drone flight of right-of-way to show possible alignment issues;
- Last year a meeting was convened with the Cities of Aztec and Farmington, San Juan County, River Reach, and others to look at possible trail, but COVID 19 concerns shifted focus away from this project;
- Project has no current funding, but if there is interest, need to be ready to move as calls for project happen quickly and would need to obtain local resolutions of support;
- Initially request funding for trail design;
- Although entities own the right-of-way, the project could be controversial as it passes through some existing high-end properties and reroutes accomplished with landowners would be needed;
- If there is interest, submit a joint application with the Cities of Aztec and Farmington and San Juan County (percentage based on land ownership). Mr. Moriarty thought a joint application would make a stronger proposal;
- Good idea to get a Recreational Trails project added to the TIP as that could open up other possible funding avenues. However, do not rule out other funding sources (TAP and CMAQ) and, potentially the Transportation Project Fund;
- Add project during next TIP cycle; identify San Juan County as the lead agency;
- Schedule meeting with City of Aztec, City of Farmington, and San Juan County to discuss further? Monthly ORII meeting on 2/11/21 with many local agency managers in attendance. Chair Porell offered to gather input and opinions from that group and report back to the Technical Committee;
- If any federal funds are used, remember that all federal rules will apply to the entire project. Chair Porell noted that funding a trails project was considerably easier to get through design and construction than a highway project.

#### 4. QUARTERLY EDUCATION

<b>Subject:</b>	Quarterly Education:
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kathryn Leys, MPO Associate Planner
<b>Date:</b>	February 10, 2021

#### PRESENTATION

In 2020, we observed the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To recognize this milestone, the MPO is sharing some questions and answers about ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

These questions and answers are provided to help FHWA and its State and local transportation department partners better understand roles and responsibilities to provide accessible transportation facilities under the ADA and Section 504 and explain the FHWA's position on the implementation of the ADA and Section 504.

Included in the packet is an edited version of these questions & answers. To access the complete Q&A's or see additional resources, including training opportunities, criteria for developing accessible facilities and, design guidelines visit:  
[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/ada/ada\\_sect504qa.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/ada/ada_sect504qa.cfm).

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Leys presented the quarterly education on the Americans with Disabilities Act. A summary of that presentation is below:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
- Projects covered by ADA and those that considered "alterations". These projects have the potential to affect the structure, grade, or use of the roadway or public right-of-way. If pedestrian facilities are required, they must be ADA accessible:
  - o Reconstruction
  - o Rehabilitation
  - o Widening
  - o Resurfacing
  - o Signal installation
- Projects not considered "alterations" are maintenance projects intended to preserve the system and maintain function:
  - o Pavement patching
  - o Filling potholes
  - o Shoulder repair
  - o Striping
  - o Minor signal upgrades
  - o Joint repair
- Transition Plans
  - o Employers with 50 or more employees must have a transition plan which is a schedule for providing accessibility where needed/required;
  - o Should be integrated in the TIP and STIP

- Improvements must be implemented unless cost is burdensome

- FHWA Oversight

Surface transportation projects under direct FHWA control:	Federally funded surface transportation projects that provide pedestrian facilities within the public right-of-way:	Pedestrian facilities within the public right-of-way, or any other FHWA enhancement project, regardless of funding source:	FHWA funded projects outside of the public right-of-way:
FHWA is responsible for ensuring that project planning, design, construction, and operations adequately address pedestrian access for people who have disabilities.	FHWA is responsible for ensuring that the public agencies' project planning, design, and construction programs provide pedestrian access for persons with disabilities.	FHWA is responsible for investigating complaints.	FHWA is responsible for ensuring that project planning, design, construction, and operations adequately address pedestrian access for people who have disabilities.

FHWA does not have ADA oversight responsibilities for projects outside of the public right-of-way that do not use federal surface transportation project funds. These projects are overseen by the DOT.

- Funding Sources for ADA Compliance

Federal Funding Opportunities for Pedestrian Projects and Programs																
ACTIVITY	NHS	STP	HSIP	RHC	TE	CMAQ	RTP	FTA	TrE	BRI	402	PLA	TCSP	FLH	BYW	SRTS
Pedestrian plan		*	*			*						*	*			
Paved shoulders	*	*	*	*	*	*				*			*	*	*	
Shared-use path/trail	*	*	*		*	*	*			*			*	*	*	*
Recreational trail							*							*		
Spot improvement program		*	*		*	*							*			*
Maps		*			*	*					*		*			*
Trail/highway intersection	*	*	*		*	*	*						*	*	*	*
Sidewalks, new or retrofit	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*			*	*	*	*
Crosswalks, new or retrofit	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*				*	*	*	*
Signal improvements	*	*	*	*	*	*							*			*
Curb cuts and ramps	*	*	*	*	*	*							*			*
Traffic calming		*	*	*									*			*
Safety brochure/book		*			*	*					*		*			*
Training	*	*	*		*	*	*				*		*			*

**NHS** National Highway System

**STP** Surface Transportation Program

**HSIP** Highway Safety Improvement Program

**RHC** Railway-Highway Crossing Program

**TE** Transportation Enhancement Activities

**CMAQ** Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program

**RTP** Recreational Trails Program

**FTA** Federal Transit Capital, Urban & Rural Funds

**TrE** Transit Enhancements

**BRI** Bridge (HBRRP)

**402** State and Community Traffic Safety Program

**PLA** State/Metropolitan Planning Funds

**TCSP** Transportation and Community and System Preservation Program

**FLH** Federal Lands Highways Program

**BYW** Scenic Byways

**SRTS** Safe Routes to School

Each program has its own specific requirements and provisions. Further details on these sources of funding may be found in the following memo: *Flexible Funding for Highways and Transit and Funding for Bicycle & Pedestrian Programs*, February 6, 2006, at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/guidance/flexfund.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/guidance/flexfund.cfm)

## 5. STATUS OF TIP PROJECTS

<b>Subject:</b>	Status of TIP Projects
<b>Prepared by:</b>	MPO Staff & Technical Committee Members
<b>Date:</b>	February 10, 2021

### 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 are listed below.
- Work has begun on the new FFY2022-2027 TIP.

### 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 - 20<sup>th</sup> Street Phase III  
TF00001 - Red Apple Transit
- San Juan County  
F100021 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase III  
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)

#### ATTACHMENT

- If available, the Status Reports-FMPO TIP Projects table for the current month will be included with the agenda. Otherwise, the table will be distributed at the meeting.

#### 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 members provided their TIP project updates:

#### **City of Aztec - Steven Saavedra**

The project contractor is updating both the ISA and the FONSI for the East Aztec Arterial.

On February 8, 2021, the City of Aztec was notified that they had until 3:00 p.m. that day to submit a reauthorization of capital outlay funds for the project. They were able to submit the required forms to our State Representative and Senator for consideration.

Mr. Martinez added that District 5 had also been notified that same morning of the need for the reauthorization. It had been submitted to the City of Aztec's Finance Director who, they later found out, had retired. The deadline was met and they are now waiting to hear if the extension was granted.

#### **City of Bloomfield - Jason Thomas**

Phase I of the East Blanco Bridge is 60% complete with the utility relocations. The project is expected to be completed in the next month or so.

#### **City of Farmington - Virginia King**

##### **Foothills Drive Enhancement II**

The City of Farmington advertised this project on February 7.

##### **East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phases I & II**

No update.

##### **20<sup>th</sup> Street Phase III**

Just received the STP site information from NMDOT so the PS&E can be scheduled later in the month.

### **Red Apple Transit - Andrew Montoya**

Mr. Montoya will be making a presentation to the Farmington City Council on February 16 on the different styles and design available for the proposed new transit shelters for the City. Installation is expected toward the end of the year.

### **San Juan County - Nick Porell**

#### **East Pinon Hills Blvd Phase II**

No update.

#### **CR 5500 Bridge**

The County engineer's estimate for the project was \$6,000,000. The bids came in on January 19 and the lowest bid was for \$9,000,000. The County is looking again at the design and will do some pre and post-construction activity in-house to be able to eliminate that from the contract. Additionally, needing to keep the bridge open during construction was a significant impact to the cost. Bridge closures may need to be considered. The project was re-advertised on February 14 and it is hoped it can awarded sometime in March. San Juan County identified additional funding so their construction budget is now at \$7,500,000.

#### **Kirtland School Walk Path Extension**

Waiting on the utility certification from NMDOT. The County is hopeful to still get the PS&E scheduled in February. Construction continues to be planned for this summer.

#### **Glade Run Recreation Area Trails Extension**

The NEPA review is ongoing at the Bureau of Land Management. It is hoped this can be wrapped up in 30 days.

### **District 5 - Javier Martinez**

#### **NM 173 Safety Improvements**

The plans are ready for the PS&E although some certifications may need to be updated due to length of time project has been sitting.

#### **US 550 Pavement Rehab**

This project is still in the outer years of the STIP. NMDOT plans to get the design shelf-ready and, if funding becomes available, will do the project in phases.

#### **NM 371 / N 36 Intersection**

NMDOT is awaiting a funding agreement with Navajo DOT for construction of the signal at the intersection. However, some of the funding for the project was to come from the casino, but since that closed due to COVID-19 concerns, Navajo DOT is not willing to sign the agreement at this time.

## **6. REPORTS FROM NMDOT**

### **Joseph Moriarty - Planning Bureau**

The Planning Bureau is following two proposed bills currently being considered on the Transportation Project Fund (TPF). The TPF is to fund local transportation infrastructure (highways, streets, roadways, bridges, crossing structures, and parking facilities, etc.) with a 95% state match and 5% local match.



HB 117 includes language and includes \$100,000,000 for the TPF; SB 20 discusses mechanisms to fund the TPF and includes language to change the distribution of the motor vehicle excise tax from the Local Government Road Fund to the TPF.

If the TPF is funded, NMDOT will also issue a call for projects for TPF in the spring as well. This call will totally be dependent on the legislature appropriating funding for this program.

NMDOT plans to issue a consolidated call for projects for TAP, Rec Trails, and CMAQ in May 2021.

**Javier Martinez - District 5**

District 5 has a planned maintenance project on US 550 between Bloomfield and Aztec. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next week; however, the contractor will not get started until the weather improves (April).

District 5 has received a purchase order from the City of Bloomfield to restripe the intersection and crosswalk of US 550 and US 64.

Checking on the timeliness of the contractor's work, Mr. Martinez asked if the pavement markings and restriping were completed along the recent stretch of re-paving done on Murray Drive. Ms. King said she would drive that stretch of roadway and let Mr. Martinez know if that work was finished.

**7. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Committee Member Discussion Items
<b>Date:</b>	February 10, 2021

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Information Items
<b>Prepared by:</b>	MPO Staff
<b>Date:</b>	February 10, 2021

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Proposed changes to delineating Metropolitan Statistical Areas.**

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Koeppel reported on a proposal from the Office of Management & Budget on how to determine what constitutes a metropolitan statistical area (MSA). The current Farmington MSA is the entire area of San Juan County with a population threshold of 50,000 of the core population. This proposal would raise the threshold to 100,000 people making the FMPO a "micropolitan statistical area". This would impact all the smaller metropolitan areas around the country. They are saying there are no implications and that it is more of a bookkeeping measure to keep track with population growth. Because the country's population has grown so much since MSAs were first calculated this way back in the 1950s. There is concern among the MPO communities and Mr. Koeppel will be sending comments to the Federal Register docket and keeping an eye on any decision reached.

Ms. Leys stated that she is creating an inventory of sidewalks in the area and identifying gaps. If there are other projects or more data would be of interest and/or beneficial, please let her know.

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

Chair Porell reported that Scott Martin had resigned from San Juan County and is moving to Florida. The County has begun advertising to fill the position.

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

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

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Saavedra moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. King seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

  
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Nick Porell, Technical Committee Chair

  
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June Markle, Administrative Assistant