

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
March 10, 2021

Technical Members Present:
(verified by a verbal roll call)

Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec
Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield
Isaac BlueEyes (Alt), City of Farmington
Javier Martinez, NMDOT District 5
Nick Porell, San Juan County
Dan Flack, Town of Kirtland

Technical Members Absent:

Virginia King, City of Farmington
Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit

Staff Present:

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

Staff Absent:

None

Others Present:

Rosalyn Fry, Commissioner, City of Aztec
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 the verbal roll call.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 10, 2021 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Saavedra moved to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2021 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

3. FFY2022-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) DEVELOPMENT

Subject:	FFY2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development
Prepared by:	Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
Date:	March 10, 2021

BACKGROUND

- The TIP is a short-term program of projects expected to be completed in the next four (4) years.
- Projects included in the TIP must be regionally significant and fiscally constrained.
- The TIP adoption process includes updating project information, adding new projects, and developing a TIP priority list.
- A Call for Projects was issued on December 18, 2020 to start the new TIP adoption process.
- See the schedule published in the Call for Projects memo distributed on December 18, 2020 for submittal deadlines for all projects.

CURRENT WORK

- Staff continues to discuss updates to current projects and/or new projects with the entities, Red Apple Transit, and NMDOT.
- The STIP is scheduled to be updated in August 2021
- The new TIP needs to be submitted to NMDOT by June 30, 2021.
- A 30-day public comment period on the new TIP will open on April 22. Public hearings will be held during the May 12 Technical Committee meeting and the Policy Committee meeting on May 27.

FUNDING AND FISCAL CONSTRAINT

- The TIP is required to be fiscally constrained. The projects listed have identified detailed funding sources as required.

INFORMATION ITEM

- MPO Staff recommends that the Technical Committee review the TIP development process.
- The final draft FFY2022-2027 TIP will be on the May agenda for the Technical Committee to consider forwarding a recommendation of approval to the Policy Committee for their adoption on May 27, 2020.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS

- 23 CFR § 450.326

DISCUSSION: Mr. Koepfel reported that no new projects were submitted after the Call for Projects was issued for the FFY2022-2027 TIP was issued in December 2020. The projects in the current FFY2020-2025 TIP will roll over to the new TIP. The Committees will consider the proposed FMPO TIP in April with approval sought in May. Staff is also watching the progress in the state legislature of the pending CMAQ, RTP, and TAP funding bills.

NMDOT is working on the statewide transportation improvement program (STIP) and Mr. Martinez stated that it should be submitted in June or July 2021.

4. STATUS OF TIP PROJECTS

Subject:	Status of TIP Projects
Prepared by:	MPO Staff & Technical Committee Members
Date:	March 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.
- Listed below are the projects currently on the FFY2020-2025 TIP.
- TIP Amendment #7 Call for Projects on March 22, 2021
- 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 - 20th 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)

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 FONZI and environmental certification for the East Aztec Arterial project have expired. The City Commission has approved the additional cost to have these updated and resubmitted. Once completed and approved by NMDOT, the City hopes to take the project out to bid.

Mr. Saavedra also asked about timing of the next call for TIP projects and, along with that, would FMPO staff provide an overview of project funding options and the funding process and required local matches, and timelines. Mr. Koepfel reported that the next call for projects will be made on March 22.

The City Commission asked if NMDOT had any plans to make improvements on NM 173 to the US 550 intersection. Mr. Martinez responded that the pending project for NM 173 has identified repairs to curves and shoulders, but no additional funds are available. Additional rehabilitation could be identified as a future HSIP project. The HSIP program now looks at the accident crash history when considering project funding and any new project would compete against others in the state.

City of Bloomfield - Jason Thomas

Phase I of the East Blanco Bridge project is 90% complete.

City of Farmington - Isaac BlueEyes
Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase II

The project bids were received and opened on March 9.

20th Street Phase III

The PS&E occurred on February 24 and, this week, the City is addressing the comments received.

San Juan County - Nick Porell
CR 5500 Bridge Replacement

The re-bid on this project closes on March 16.

Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension

The PS&E on this project is scheduled for March 10.

Glade Run Recreation Area Trails Extension

The design is complete and working through the NEPA process with BLM, which is expected to be completed in early May. The design and build contractor has already been assigned so no advertising of the project is required. Construction will follow obligation of the construction funds. This process should happen quickly and construction could then begin in May and would last approximately two months.

NMDOT District 5 - Javier Martinez

NM 173 Safety Improvements

The plans for this project are ready with one more PS&E planned to update the certifications. The project will go to bid later this year and construction would begin next year. This timeline allows the City of Aztec to relocate the water line.

US 550 Pavement Rehab

District 5 plans to complete the project design and have this project shelf-ready should funding become available.

NM 371 / N 36 Intersection

NMDOT is waiting on the signed agreement with the Navajo Nation.

5. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

Planning Bureau - Joseph Moriarty

Mr. Moriarty reported that project updates on the state's 2045 Plan is available on the project website: <https://newmexico2045plan.com/>. A draft of the plan will be issued for public review in the next couple of weeks.

In preparation for the upcoming May call for projects for RTA, TAP, and CMAQ, NMDOT has updated the program guides. The revised guides were included in the March 8, 2021 NMDOT Govt to Govt Update.

Earlier in March, and in advance of the forthcoming Census Urbanized Area update process, the Functional Classification Guide and Change Request Form were sent out for review and input. Please submit any ideas and input by April 6.

Mr. Porell asked about recent correspondence saying that funding for the Local Government Transportation Fund might be allocated this year. Mr. Moriarty said this was proposed in Senate Bill 20 under the new name of Transportation Project Fund (TPF). The bill considers reallocating the motor fuel excise tax to the TPF. This newly named fund is for transportation projects including roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit. It is a disbursement program with federal funding at 95% and the local match at 5%.

District 5 - Javier Martinez

Mr. Martinez said District 5 will begin work on repairs to US 550 between Bloomfield and Aztec. Additionally, they have extended the repair work being done on Murray Drive up to Browning Parkway.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Subject:	Committee Member Discussion Items
Date:	March 10, 2021

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	March 10, 2021

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Call for TIP Amendment #7.** The Call for Projects for TIP Amendment #7 will be issued on March 22, 2021. Completed applications and A-1340 Forms will be due to the MPO on April 5.
- b. **Follow-up on Interest in Pursuing Potential Farmington to Aztec Trail.**

DISCUSSION:

- a. Mr. Koepfel reported that the TIP Amendment #7 Call for Projects will be issued on March 22, 2021.
- b. Mr. Koepfel stated that the Policy Committee members expressed interest and support of pursuing a potential Farmington to Aztec recreational trail. Chair Porell commented that he plans to attend a user group meeting tomorrow made up of members from the Cities of Aztec and Farmington as well as representatives from San Juan County to discuss this proposal. He asked if the FMPO wanted this potential project added to the outer years of the TIP and to pursue Recreational Trails funding. Chair Porell thought it was important for the user group to understand the implications of seeking federal funds and the required guidelines that would need to be followed with design and construction of the trail. Chair Porell will contact the FMPO if the decision is made to add the project to the TIP and will report on the discussion at the April meeting.

8. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Koepfel introduced Isaac BlueEyes, City Engineer for the City of Farmington, as the new Technical Committee Alternate for Virginia King.

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

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Escobar moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Saavedra seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.



Nick Porell, Technical Committee Chair



June Markle, Administrative Assistant