

**MINUTES**  
**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**April 14, 2021**

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

Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec  
Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield  
Beth Escobar, City of Farmington  
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:

None

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**

Vice Chair Beth Escobar called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Attendance was verified with the verbal roll call. Chair Porell then joined the meeting.

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

Ms. Escobar moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2021 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Montoya seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

**3. QUARTERLY EDUCATION - TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

<b>Subject:</b>	Quarterly Education:
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
<b>Date:</b>	April 14, 2021

## PRESENTATION

Staff will provide an overview of the contents and requirements of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**PRESENTATION:** Mr. Koepfel provided a quarterly education on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and noted that this presentation was in combination with Agenda Item #4 on the new FFY2022-2027 TIP development. Below is a summary of the TIP quarterly education:

### Background

- The TIP, along with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) are two of the core documents produced and maintained by the MPO.
- Per the Code of Federal Regulations, MPOs, in cooperation with the State(s) and any affected public transportation operator(s), are required to develop a TIP, which is a list of upcoming transportation projects covering a period of at least four years.
- The TIP must:
  - o Contain projects consistent with the current metropolitan transportation plan;
  - o Reflect the investment priorities established in the current metropolitan transportation plan;
  - o Be designed to make progress toward achieving the performance targets established by the MPO;
  - o Be fiscally constrained.

### TIP Selection of Projects

- As a region of less than 200,000, federally funded projects in the MPO area are carried out from the approved TIP:
  - o For projects under Title 23 (highways), the State;
  - o For projects under Section 5303 (public transportation), the designated recipients of public transportation funding;
  - o In cooperation with the metropolitan planning organization (MPO):
    - The parties involved in transportation planning and programming processes work together to achieve common goals or objectives.
    - Local governments want more insight into how to get their projects into the STIP;
    - Want “seat at table” when decisions are made that impact the MPO region;
    - Want a cooperative relationship and input on how the dollars are allocated within the District.

### In Practice

- First four years of the six-year TIP constitute the Federal TIP; the remaining two years are considered “informational years”;
  - o Projects in the informational years do not need to be fiscally constrained; hoped that these projects will eventually be funded, but that is not guaranteed;
- Updates to the TIP are coordinated with the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Every two years a new TIP is developed and extends out to the next four fiscal years;
  - o The STIP can be viewed at: E-STIP - <https://estip.dot.state.nm.us/>

- This is a database of statewide transportation projects and programs;
- Able to view phases, funding by category, along with a map and timeline.
- TIP can be amended quarterly;
  - Technical Committee members provide their project updates at each monthly Technical Committee meeting;
  - Several amendments received for the current Amendment #7 to be reviewed and considered by both Committees in May;
    - Amendments are to add, remove, modify projects, and/or add funding
- FMPO's TIP follows the federal fiscal year that runs from October 1 through September 30;
- Current TIP is through 2025; new TIP will extend to 2027 with FY2026 and 2027 being the information years;

#### Next Steps

- Review current TIP
  - Project updates are provided monthly by each of the Technical Committee members.
- Begin required public comment period (for FFY2022-2027 TIP the public notice was published on April 18, 2021);
- Review and approve final TIP in May;
- Projects included in Amendment #7 will also be considered in May and roll over into the new TIP;
- The STIP incorporates TIPs from all the MPOs and is released in August.

Chair Porell commented on the issue of seeking more transparency from NMDOT in selecting the projects to be included in the STIP. This concern has been discussed in the past especially with regard to the widening of US 64. The local entities thought the funding might be better utilized on local projects elsewhere in the region. NMDOT stated that FHWA required the funding to remain with the US 64 project and that it could not be reallocated. The Technical Committee asked what the implication might be of not recommending approval of the TIP containing NMDOT projects that had not been previously discussed with the MPO.

Staff and the Technical Committee agreed that this was not something they would choose to do, that they would seek prior conversations on projects, and hoped that everyone could work cooperatively to develop a responsive TIP. Staff commented that Policy Committee members have asked how they get a greater voice in project selection for this region. Staff has been asking NMDOT how to be able to participate in the NMDOT project discussions in an effort to better understand their process in project selection and to be able to pass this information on to the local entity representatives.

#### 4. FFY2022-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) DEVELOPMENT

<b>Subject:</b>	FFY2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
<b>Date:</b>	April 14, 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 18. 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:** The discussion on this Agenda Item is part of the previous presentation.

## 5. RED APPLE TRANSIT - BUS SHELTERS

<b>Subject:</b>	Red Apple Transit – Bus Shelters
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Andrew Montoya, Transit Manager
<b>Date:</b>	April 14, 2021

### PRESENTATION

Andrew Montoya, City of Farmington's Transit Manager, will provide a report on the new proposed Red Apple Transit bus shelters for Farmington.

**PRESENTATION:** Mr. Montoya provided a presentation on the planning and decision-making process on the selection of new Red Apple Transit bus shelters for the Farmington area. Below is a summary of his presentation:

- Eight shelter options (anti-graffiti and anti-vagrant) presented to Farmington City Council to replace 18 existing shelters;
- Options narrowed down to two styles:
  - o Four pictures below show a more open design; some with stone pillars (cleaning of graffiti off stones was possible with high-pressure washing; provide some shelter from the weather with windscreens):



- o Picture below shows second, more closed-in design:



- Considered Inclement weather and how to provide some protection:
  - o Windscreens:
    - Tempered safety glass panels, although usually safe, glass can be broken;
    - Perforated aluminum panels cannot be broken (this was recommended option);
    - Sixteen total shelters around City; four of those have a retaining wall around them. Windscreens could not be included on the replacement shelters at these locations.
- Comparison of two options:

<u>Open Design</u>		<u>Closed Design</u>		
• Shelter with Bench:	\$ 7,625	\$ 7,625	Shelter with Bench:	\$ 8,165
• Metal Windscreen:	\$ 4,350	\$ 0	No ad Wall:	\$ N/A
• Trash Can:	\$ 650	\$ 650	Trash Can:	\$ 405
• Shelter Labor:	\$ 300	\$ 300	Shelter Labor:	\$ 300
• Stones:	\$ 200	\$ 0	Stones:	\$ N/A
• Stone Labor:	\$ 400	\$ 0	Stone Labor:	\$ N/A
• Shipping:	<u>Included</u>	<u>Included</u>	Shipping:	<u>Included</u>
	\$13,525	\$ 8,575		\$ 8,870
	<u>x 12</u>	<u>x 4</u>		<u>x 16</u>
	\$162,300	\$34,300 = \$196,800		\$141,920

- o Red Apple Transit has three grants totaling \$199,000 (plus local match is set aside) to cover costs;
- City Council selected the open design with perforated aluminum windscreen, with no stone around the columns, and red in color;
- Shelters ordered and will be installed by October .

Mr. Saavedra asked about a shelter in the City of Aztec that was recently damaged by a vehicle and how Red Apple Transit might handle repair and/or replacement. Mr. Montoya replied that Aztec had a total of five shelters and four of those are still in good shape. Once the shelters in the City of Farmington are replaced, three of the existing shelters in good condition will be given to Aztec to use as back-ups or for spare parts.

## 6. STATUS OF TIP PROJECTS

<b>Subject:</b>	Status of TIP Projects
<b>Prepared by:</b>	MPO Staff & Technical Committee Members
<b>Date:</b>	April 14, 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.
- Three projects were submitted for inclusion in this Amendment to be considered in May.
- Work has begun on the new FFY2022-2027 TIP.

**TRACKING INFORMATION (2018-2023 TIP)**

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

**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**

**East Aztec Arterial**

The City of Aztec met with NMDOT recently to shore up their capital outlay funds. The environmental certification for the East Aztec Arterial needs to be updated and the City Commission is holding a special budget meeting to discuss the additional funds needed to move forward with this update.

**City of Bloomfield - Jason Thomas**

**East Blanco Bridge**

Phase I of the project is complete and Mr. Thomas is working to finish the close out documents. The City of Bloomfield is hoping to receive \$2.4 million in capital outlay funds for Phase II of the project. They hope to start on preliminary work this summer and, perhaps, begin construction this winter. The road will be closed during the construction process.

**City of Farmington - Virginia King**

**Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase II**

This project went out to bid last month and only one contractor bid on the project. The City decided to re-bid and the bid opening is scheduled for April 27.

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

The PS&E was held two months ago; however, there was some back and forth with NMDOT on ADA compliance and other issues. The City is ready to resubmit this week along with the obligation letter and hopes to get a contract within a few weeks.

**Pinon Hills Boulevard Phases I & II**

The City of Farmington has a meeting scheduled with NMDOT in May.

**Red Apple Transit - Andrew Montoya**

No additional updates.

**San Juan County - Nick Porell**

**Pinon Hills Boulevard Phase III**

In response to the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure's email of March 26, 2021, San Juan County submitted a grant request for right-of-way acquisition for Pinon Hills Phase III.

**County Road 5500**

The contract was awarded and the contract is being reviewed by the County's and the contractor's legal councils. Construction could begin in late May or early June and may be dependent on water releases from Navajo Dam by the Bureau of Reclamation.

**Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension**

Awaiting the construction agreement from NMDOT. Hope to start construction late this summer.



### Glade Run Area Trails Extension

The NEPA review is ongoing at the Bureau of Land Management. The design is complete and construction is hoped to begin this summer, weather permitting, or early fall when the temperatures are cooler and there is more moisture.

### District 5 - Javier Martinez

#### NM 173 Safety Improvements

This project is ready for PS&E and should go out to bid in September or October. Construction would be in 2022.

### US 550 Pavement Rehab

The survey has been completed, but the project is in the outer informational years of the STIP.

### NM 371 / N 36 Intersection

The plans are ready; however, NMDOT is still awaiting the signal and lighting agreement with the Navajo Nation.

## **7. REPORTS FROM NMDOT**

### Planning Bureau - Joseph Moriarty

The Transportation Project Fund (TPF) as part of SB 20 and HB 2 were signed by the Governor. HB 2 allocates a portion of the motor vehicle excise tax to fund the TPF. Early estimates indicate this change could generate about \$40 million per year. Additionally, SB 20 carved out \$100 million per year for the next five years. The TPF looks to be a recurring state funding source for local transportation projects. Eligible projects include: environmental and other studies, planning, design, construction, acquisition of right-of-way for transportation infrastructure, construction for highways, streets, roadways, bridges, crossing structures, parking facilities, and an area for vehicular/bicycle/transit/pedestrian projects. The TPF is based on a split of 95% state funds and 5% local entity match. The Planning Bureau is waiting for the final funding estimates for 2021 as well as the ranking criteria.

Each MPO and RTPPO needs to submit their ranked projects to the District Engineer by May 31. By August 1, the Secretary of Transportation will submit the list of proposed projects to the State Transportation Commission. The Commission will then approve the prioritized list of projects for funding by September 1. Award letters will be sent out and the entity has 60 days to return the signed award letter and grant agreement. All grants must be spent within 30 months of the date of the grant agreement.

The Technical Committee discussed when to submit their project applications to the MPO, when/how prioritize projects, and did the Committee want to vote on the ranking. Mr. Koepfel suggested the MPO do the preliminary ranking and then bring it to the Committee for their review. Mr. Moriarty added that the MPO may use their own ranking criteria in conjunction with the state mandated ranking criteria.

The Technical Committee members agreed to have their projects submitted to the MPO for ranking no later than May 4. Once all the project applications have been received and reviewed by the MPO, Staff will send out a list of the projects,

descriptions, and proposed budgets. The Technical Committee will review the proposals at their May 12 regular meeting.

Chair Porell recommended that with the limited funding amount going to each District in the state, entities submit projects that are phased (planning, design, right-of-way, etc.) to have a greater opportunity of the project being selected. Mr. Martinez added that projects should be shovel-ready and that funds awarded must be spent within the 30 months.

Mr. Moriarty added that NMDOT is also planning to issue a consolidated call for projects for TAP, RTP, and CMAQ programs in May with applications due in October. This call is for FFY2023 and would begin in July 2022. NMDOT is currently working on the guidance materials for this call.

**District 5 - Javier Martinez**

Mr. Martinez and others at District 5 reviewed the county arterial program and SRTS program and strived to evenly distribute the funds among the entities. Agreements will be forthcoming later this summer.

District 5 maintenance projects will begin on US 550 between Bloomfield and Aztec.

Chair Porell reported on two highway cleanups that San Juan County had planned, but which did not occur due to weather and/or COVID. The medians and shoulders are now heavily littered and he asked if Mr. Martinez would offer District 5 support in planning some right-of-way cleanup in the county around the end of May. San Juan County would offer 40 employees to augment NMDOT's crew and aid in the cleanup effort. Mr. Martinez said he would forward Chair Porell's comments to the District 5 Maintenance Engineer to expedite this request.

**8. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Committee Member Discussion Items
<b>Date:</b>	April 14, 2021

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Information Items
<b>Prepared by:</b>	MPO Staff
<b>Date:</b>	April 14, 2021

## INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **TIP Amendment #7.** The Call for Projects for TIP Amendment #7 was issued on March 22, 2021. Several projects were received for inclusion in this Amendment to be considered in May.
- b. **House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure - Request for Federal Funding.** See attached email that includes an attachment to the Member Project Designation Instruction Booklet.
- c. **State of New Mexico Transportation Project Fund.**
- d. **Follow-up on Pursuing Potential Farmington to Aztec Trail.**
- e. **Update on MPO Quarterly.** MPO Staff participated virtually in the spring MPO Quarterly held on March 16 and hosted by Mid-Region Council of Governments in Albuquerque.

### DISCUSSION:

- a. TIP Amendment #7 will be brought to the Committee in May for consideration. Three projects were received by the MPO.
- b. The email from the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure and Congresswoman Leger Fernandez for earmark funding has been forwarded to the members and several entities do plan to submit applications for funding. It remains unclear on how the projects will eventually be evaluated.
- c. Mr. Moriarty covered this item in his presentation.
- d. Mr. Koepfel asked if Chari Porell had an update on the potential trail from Farmington to Aztec.

Chair Porell reported that San Juan County did submit a TIP amendment to create this project. Prior to submitted the amendment, the San Juan County Commission weighed in on the project and gave their permission for the amendment submittal. The project is expected to be contentious especially among the landowners living along the river and the planned trail corridor. San Juan County would be the lead and there is support for the project by the City and County managers.

The plan is to submit for RTP funding in the coming call for projects for a feasibility and design award. Resolutions in support of the project would come from the Cities of Aztec and Farmington, and San Juan County.

Chair Porell reiterated that San Juan County has retained the right-of-way from the former Denver/Rio Grande/Western railroad line that ran from Farmington to Durango. When the line was abandoned, portions were transferred to the cities and the county, with the majority of the right-of-way held by the county.

The actual language in the right-of-way refers to it being for “public access and enjoyment”.

- e. The Albuquerque MPO hosted the virtual MPO Quarterly on March 16. The quarterly meeting offers a chance for the MPOs and NMDOT to share ideas, discuss funding, along with receiving updates from various NMDOT divisions.

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

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

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

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

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Saavedra moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

  
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Nick Porell, Technical Committee Chair

  
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June Markle, Administrative Assistant