

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
May 12, 2021

Technical Members Present: Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec
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: Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield

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

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Joseph Moriarty, Planning Liaison, NMDOT

Chair Porell, Committee Member Steven Saavedra, and FMPO Staff attended in person. The other Technical Committee members attended via the GoToMeeting link.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Porell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 14, 2021 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Ms. Escobar moved to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2021 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Saavedra seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

3. AMENDMENT #7 TO THE FFY2020-2025 TIP

Subject:	Amendment #7 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP
Prepared by:	Peter Koepfel; MPO Officer
Date:	May 12, 2021

BACKGROUND

- The first Call for Projects for the FFY2020-2025 TIP Amendment #5 was sent on March 22, 2021; a reminder sent out on March 31.
- The Public Notice for Amendment #7 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP was published on the MPO's website and in the Daily Times on May 9, 2021
- The amendment includes four projects: Foothills Drive Phase 3, County Road 6100 pavement rehabilitation, the Lower Animas Valley River Trail, and the East Blanco Bridge
- The Technical Committee will consider recommending approval of proposed Amendment #7 and the Self-Certification for Amendment #7 to the Policy Committee on May 12,

AMENDED TIP PROJECT(S)

- Foothills Drive Phase 3
- County Road 6100 Pavement Rehabilitation
- Lower Animas Valley River Trail
- East Blanco Bridge

ACTION ITEM

- Staff recommends that the Technical Committee consider recommending approval to the Policy Committee of proposed Amendment #7 and the Self-Certification for Amendment #7 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS

- § 450.328 TIP revisions and relationship to the STIP.
- (a) An MPO(s) may revise the TIP at any time under procedures agreed to by the cooperating parties consistent with the procedures established in this part for its development and approval. In nonattainment or maintenance areas for transportation-related pollutants, if a TIP amendment involves non-exempt projects (per 40 CFR part 93), or is replaced with an updated TIP, the MPO(s) and the FHWA and the FTA must make a new conformity determination. In all areas, changes that affect fiscal constraint must take place by amendment of the TIP. The MPO(s) shall use public participation procedures consistent with § 450.316(a) in revising the TIP, except that these procedures are not required for administrative modifications.) After approval by the MPO(s) and the Governor, the State shall include the TIP without change, directly or by reference, in the STIP required under 23 U.S.C. 135. In nonattainment and maintenance areas, the FHWA and the FTA must make a conformity finding on the TIP before it is included in the STIP. A copy of the approved TIP shall be provided to the FHWA and the FTA.
- (c) The State shall notify the MPO(s) and Federal land management agencies when it has included a TIP including projects under the jurisdiction of these agencies in the STIP.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Koepfel reported that four projects were received for Amendment #7 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP. Three of the projects will be in the outer years of the TIP: Foothills Drive Phase III, County Road 6100 Pavement Rehabilitation, and Lower Animas Valley River Trail. The last project change is to update the funding for the existing East Blanco Bridge project.

MPO Staff recommends that the Technical Committee recommend approval of FFY2020-2025 TIP Amendment #7 and the Self-Certification for Amendment #7 to the Policy Committee.

Chair Porell opened the public hearing for Amendment #7 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP. No comments were received. Chair Porell closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Ms. Escobar moved to recommend approval to the Policy Committee of Amendment #7 and the Self-Certification to the FFY2020-2025 TIP. Ms. King seconded the motion. The motion was approved with no opposition.

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

Subject:	FFY2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development
Prepared by:	Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
Date:	May 12, 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 opened on April 22.

FUNDING AND FISCAL CONSTRAINT

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

ACTION ITEM

- MPO Staff recommends that the Technical Committee review the projects and consider recommending approval to the Policy Committee of the FFY2022-2027 TIP and Policy Committee Resolution 2021-3.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS

- 23 CFR § 450.326

DISCUSSION: Mr. Koepfel reported on the proposed FFY2022-2027 TIP for the FMPO region (see pages 9-18 of the Agenda). Projects in the current FFY2020-2025 TIP and in Amendment #7, when approved, will be incorporated into the proposed new TIP. Also, those projects in the outer years of the current TIP will be moved up into the new proposed TIP years. The TIP can, and will be, amended as needed in the upcoming years. FMPO Staff recommend that the Technical Committee recommend approval to the Policy Committee of the proposed FFY2022-2027 TIP and Policy Committee Resolution 2021-3.

Chair Porell opened the public hearing. No comments were received. Chair Porell closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Chair Porell moved to recommend adoption of the proposed FFY2022-2027 TIP and Policy Committee Resolution 2021-3. Mr. Saavedra seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

5. NEW MEXICO TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUND REVIEW & RANKING

Subject:	New Mexico Transportation Project Fund Review and Ranking
Prepared by:	Peter Koepfel, MPO Officer
Date:	May 12, 2021

BACKGROUND

- During the 2019 legislative session, the New Mexico legislature passed HB 694 which created a new fund known as the "Local Government Transportation Project Fund" (LGTPF). The LGTPF serves as an expeditious mechanism to distribute appropriated funds to local governments using the NMDOT's existing Metropolitan Planning Organization and Regional Transportation Planning Organization planning process. The Legislature changed the name of the fund during the 2020 Regular Session to the Transportation Project Fund.
- Due to the timelines specified in HB 694, the NMDOT passed an emergency rule in mid- 2019 to administer the initial \$50 million appropriation. (No money was appropriated to the fund during the 2020 Regular Session). At the same time the State Transportation Commission authorized the adoption of an emergency rule which authorized the adoption of a permanent rule. That rulemaking process has now been completed.

CURRENT WORK

- The Project Oversight Division is soliciting applications for the Department's Transportation Project Fund (TPF) for fiscal year 2022 formally known as Local Government Transportation Project Fund (LGTPF).
- Local and tribal governments in New Mexico are eligible to apply for state funded grants.
- FMPO entities submitted projects for potential TPF funding

DISCUSSION: Mr. Koepfel reported on the state issued call for projects for the Transportation Project Fund (TPF). Entity projects were to be to the FMPO by May 5 and the following shows the four projects received along with the Evaluation Criteria used by FMPO staff for the initial prioritization:

FMPO 2021 TPF Project Submittals

Project	Description	Amount requested	Planning: Is this project identified as a priority on a local or regional planning or programming document? Is this project consistent with local or regional plans?	Project Readiness: If awarded, will the applicant be able to start spending the money within 3 months from receiving the fully executed project agreement?	Priority Bridge: Is this project addressing a bridge or NMDOT's Local Bridge Priority List for Replacement/Rehabilitation?	Phasing: a. Is this project part of a phased project previously funded with other state funds (e.g. Local Government Road Fund, Municipal Arterial Program, Capital Outlay, State Road Fund etc.)? b. Is this project part of a phased project previously funded with TPF? If so, what year?	Evaluation Criteria		
							AAADT (2019 & 2020)	# of Crashes (2015-2019)	Functional Class
East Blanco Bridge	Bridge replacement	\$383,000	MTP, TIP	Yes	Yes - fair condition	Yes	2550 & 2101	N/A	Minor Arterial
Foothills Dr. Phase 3	Reconstruct road with travel lanes, bike lanes, roundabout, multi-use trail, and drainage improvements	\$1,672,950	MTP, Comprehensive Plan, ICIP, FMPO Bike Plan	Yes	No	Yes	2370 & 2114	7	Minor Arterial
Wildflower Pkwy	Resurfacing	\$605,910	Comprehensive Plan	Yes	No	No	Before Wildflower Mesa Parkway: 9719 & 8008 After Wildflower Mesa Parkway: 7066 & 5822	55	Minor Arterial
CR 6100	Resurfacing	\$603,250	TIP, Capital Replacement Plan	Yes	No	No	1808 & 1408	21	Major Collector

The Technical Committee members discussed the TPF:

- Entities may submit more than one project;
- Four project already submitted are on point as far as in size and scope;
- NMDOT District 5 is anticipating \$20,000,000 to be distributed between FMPO, Santa Fe MPO, and the RTPOs in the District;
 - Encouraged FMPO entities to add several more projects to the list;
- With extended NMDOT deadline, additional projects will be considered;
 - Aztec and Kirtland were encouraged to submit project(s);
- Project readiness will be the challenge with TPF funding for this call;
- Going forward, as TPF funding is expected to be recurring, have ongoing discussions on developing future projects that would be eligible for this funding;
- Prioritization/Ranking - combined effort with Technical Committee and FMPO staff:

- Above list used evaluation criteria derived from NMDOT's recommendations;
- Any additional project(s) need to be submitted to the FMPO by May 28;
- Complete project prioritization/ranking at June 9 meeting.
- Final projects selected will need to include a resolution passed by their Council/Commission (for required 5% local match);
- Final prioritized list must be to NMDOT by June 15.

6. STATUS OF TIP PROJECTS

Subject: Status of TIP Projects
Prepared by: MPO Staff & Technical Committee Members
Date: May 12, 2021

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 Amendment #7 to be considered for approval 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

PROJECTS ON FMPO FFY2020-2025 TIP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Aztec</u> F100091 - East Aztec Arterial Phase II ▪ <u>Bloomfield</u> F100300 - East Blanco Bridge ▪ <u>Farmington</u> 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 project is proceeding with Wilson & Company. They are working to get all the contracts on outside state funding back to NMDOT. The City of Aztec is also working with NMDOT to ensure that the federal funding has not expired.

City of Bloomfield - Jason Thomas

Mr. Thomas was unable to attend the meeting (update is noted on Status Report spreadsheet on Page 33 of the Agenda).

City of Farmington - Virginia King
Foothills Drive enhancement Phase II

This project was rebid on April 4 with two bids received. Bid opening was conducted on April 27 and contractor selected. Farmington City Council awarded the bid on May 11. Notice to Complete date has not yet been selected.

20th Street Phase III

Signed production plans and obligation letter have been submitted. Awaiting the executed co-op agreement for construction.

East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension

The City of Farmington met with NMDOT on May 4.

Red Apple Transit - Andrew Montoya

The bid for the bus shelters was awarded at the May 11 Farmington City Council meeting for a total cost of \$152,000.

San Juan County - Nick Porell

County Road 5500 Bridge Replacement

Utility relocations began this week. Contractor to be on site to begin construction on June 1.

Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension

Awaiting the co-op agreement for construction from NMDOT.

Glade Run Recreation Area Trails Extension

Public review process for the NEPA document is ongoing.

East Pinon Hills Blvd Phase III

San Juan County submitted an earmark request to Congresswoman Leger Fernandez for this project. They were notified that the project made the "short" list so they may be some right-of-way funds available later this year.

NMDOT District 5 - Javier Martinez

NM 173

This project is ready for PS&E and is expected to be constructed this year.

US 550 Pavement Rehab

NMDOT is working on developing the plans. It will be on the shelf until funding becomes available.

NM 371 / N 36

Awaiting an agreement with the Navajo Nation.

Chair Porell said he was asked why the resurfacing project on US 550 between Aztec and Bloomfield was not on the STIP. Mr. Martinez stated that as a maintenance type project, District 5 uses maintenance funds. These projects can be listed on the STIP, but funding happened so quickly in this case that it did not make the amendment cycle.

Mr. Saavedra thanked District 5 for the resurfacing being done in Aztec, but asked about repainting the crosswalks in the downtown area. The City of Aztec asked if they could enter into a maintenance agreement with NMDOT to have these sections repainted. Mr. Martinez said the contractor will re-do the crosswalks once the repaving is complete. For a maintenance agreement for other painting or striping concerns, the City would need to coordinate with Ken Barnett.

7. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

Planning Bureau - Joe Moriarty

Mr. Moriarty reported that the draft NM 2045 Plan, which is the guide for NMDOT's long range transportation plan, is available for review and feedback until June 24.

Twenty-four critical freight corridors (over 233 miles) have been approved by FHWA-New Mexico. These are viewable on NMDOT's website map gallery.

The draft Pedestrian Safety Action Plan is also out for a 45-day public comment period ending on June 13 (www.walksafenewmexico.com).

NMDOT opened the call for projects for Recreational Trails (RTP), Transportation Alternatives (TAP), and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) programs. The call is from May-October 2021 and are for projects starting in either FFY2023 or FFY2024. The program guide and application are available for download and contact either Mr. Moriarty or Mr. Koeppel if interested in applying.

District 5 - Javier Martinez

District 5 will be working on the TPF project rankings as the lists are received from the MPOs and RTPOs. The District will notify the FMPO by email of the final projects selected.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Subject:	Committee Member Discussion Items
Date:	May 12, 2021

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	May 12, 2021

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **CMAQ, RTP, and TAP Call for Projects.** NMDOT issued a call for projects for the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality, Recreational Trails, and Transportation Alternatives programs on May 3, 2021.
- b. **Proposed Changes to the Census Urban Area Criteria.** The Census Bureau has proposed changes to the criteria used to determine urban areas based on the results of the 2020 Census. Comments to the Federal Register are due May 20.

Additional Resources on the Proposed Changes to the Census Urban Area Criteria:

Federal Register Notice

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/19/2021-03412/urban-areas-for-the-2020-census-proposed-criteria>

National Association of Regional Councils Summary of Proposed Changes for 2020 Urban Areas

<https://narc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Overview-of-Proposed-Changes-to-2020-Urban-Areas.pdf>

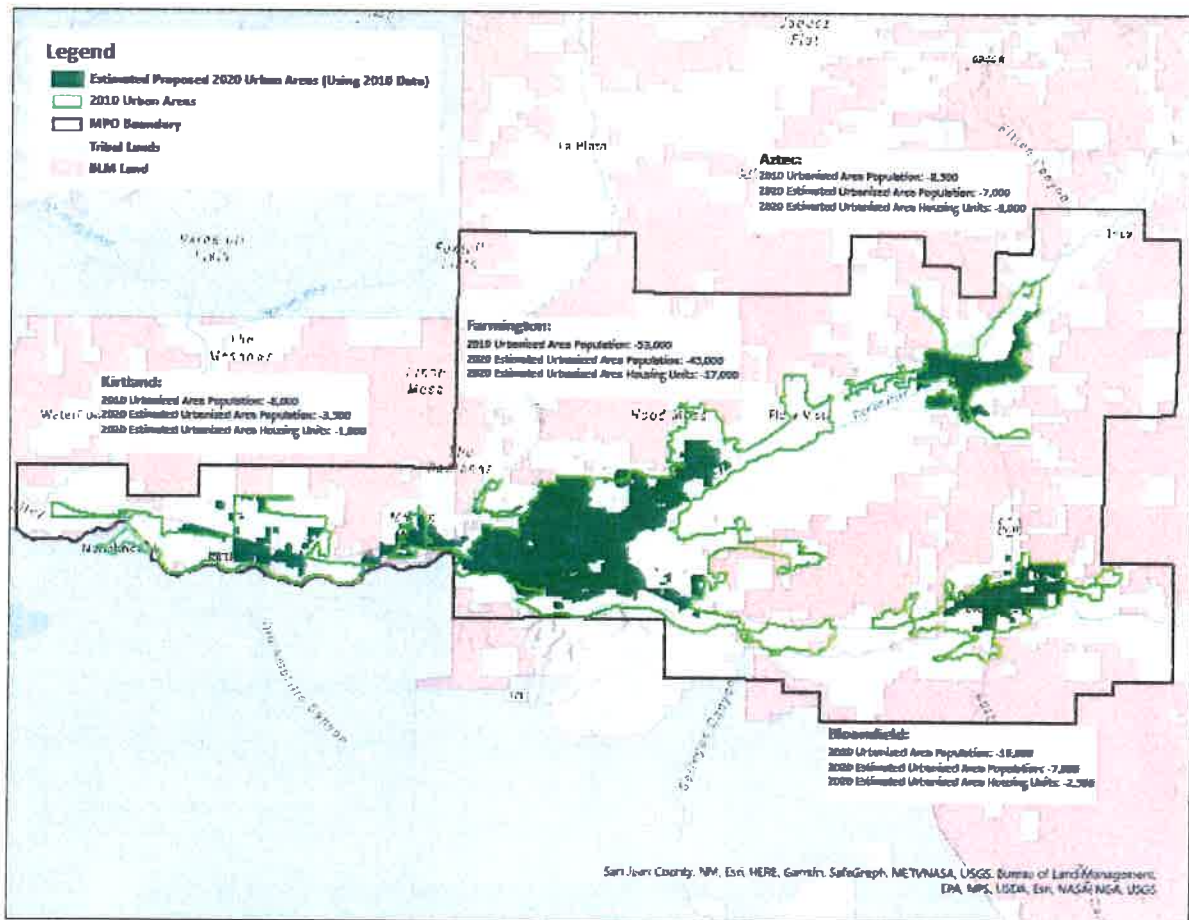
AMPO Resource Guide on Proposed Changes

<https://ampo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Proposed-Changes-to-the-Urban-Area.pdf>

DISCUSSION:

- a. Mr. Koepfel stated that all the information regarding NMDOT's call for projects for the RTP, TAP, and CMAQ programs have been shared with the Technical Committee members. There will be more discussion on this call once the TPF project ranking is completed. Please let Mr. Koepfel know if there are any questions.

- b. Ms. Leys provided information (and a map of the FMPO region showing potential impacts) on the Census Bureau's proposed changes to the criteria used in determining urban areas based on the results of the 2020 Census. FMPO Staff will continue to monitor the proposal and will be providing their comments to the Federal Register on these potentially far-reaching changes.



A summary of Ms. Leys' presentation and Technical Committee questions and comments follows:

- Proposed changes only;
- 2020 Census data not available until September 2021; this current proposal based on 2010 data;
- 2020 Census data may change the look of the map;
- Increase minimum threshold to qualify as an urban area (more people);
- Housing density rather than population density;
- Aztec and Bloomfield may no longer be considered urban area as they may not meet the minimum housing density requirement of 10,000 units;
- Farmington urbanized area could drop below 50,000 in population which could have regional impacts, but this is unclear at this time;
- USDOT's definition of "urban" or "urbanized" area is not changing;
- FHWA also has no plans to adjust their current definitions or thresholds, or alter definition for MPO designations;
- Participation in MPO by entities would not change as the planning area is larger than the urbanized area;
- Larger household sizes locally vs. less overall dense housing area;
 - o Cultural concerns and differences;
 - o Zoomed out view or technical process; not how people actually live.

FMPO Staff will continue to update the Technical Committee as more information becomes available.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Koepfel reported that the City of Farmington had asked about the condition of the pavement on NM 516 (Main Street) in the area of the Farmington Museum and he asked if District 5 had an opportunity to look at it. Mr. Martinez replied that he had forwarded the concern the District 5 Maintenance Engineer and that there should be a response soon.

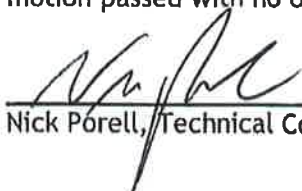
There was no additional business from the Chairman, Members and Staff.

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. Ms. Escobar seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Chair Porell adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.



Nick Porell, Technical Committee Chair



June Markle, Administrative Assistant