

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 27, 2021

Policy Members Present

Rosalyn Fry, City of Aztec
Julie Baird, City of Farmington
Jeanine Bingham-Kelly, City of Farmington
Sean Sharer, City of Farmington
Javier Martinez (Alt.), NMDOT District 5
Steve Lanier, San Juan County

Policy Members Absent:

GloJean Todacheene, San Juan County
George Walter, City of Bloomfield
Thomas Wethington, Town of Kirtland

Staff Present:

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

Staff Absent:

None

Others Present:

Joe Moriarty, Planning Liaison, NMDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sharer called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 22, 2021 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioner Lanier moved to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2021 Policy Committee meeting. Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

3. AMENDMENT #7 TO THE FFY2020-2025 TIP

Subject:	Amendment #7 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP
Prepared by:	Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
Date:	May 27, 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 recommended their approval of proposed Amendment #7 and the Self-Certification for Amendment #7 on May 12,

AMENDED TIP PROJECT(S)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foothills Drive Phase 3 ▪ County Road 6100 Pavement Rehabilitation ▪ Lower Animas Valley River Trail ▪ East Blanco Bridge

ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Technical Committee and Staff recommend that the Policy Committee consider approval of proposed Amendment #7 and the Self-Certification for Amendment #7 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ § 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 on Amendment #7 to the FFY2020-2025. This amendment adds three projects to the outer years of the current TIP (Foothills Drive Phase 3, County Road 6100 Pavement Rehabilitation, and Lower Animas Valley River Trail (trail from Farmington to Aztec)) and updates the funding for one existing project (East Blanco Bridge). These projects will also be included on the proposed FFY2022-

2027 TIP upcoming for consideration by the Policy Committee in Agenda Item #4. The three new projects added to the outer years of the TIP are currently unfunded, although the FMPO is cautiously optimistic that some could be funded in the future.

The Policy Committee members had no questions regarding the projects in proposed TIP Amendment 7. Chair Sharer opened the public hearing. No comments were received. Chair Sharer closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Councilor Bingham-Kelly moved to approve TIP Amendment #7 to the FFY2020-2025 TIP. Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

4. FFY2022-20247 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) DEVELOPMENT

Subject:	FFY2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development
Prepared by:	Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
Date:	May 27, 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.
- The Technical Committee recommended their approval of the proposed FFY2022-2027 TIP and Policy Committee Resolution 2021-3 on May 12.

CURRENT WORK

- Current projects and/or new projects were discussed 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.
- Seek Technical Committee recommended approval on May 12.

FUNDING AND FISCAL CONSTRAINT

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

ACTION ITEM

- The Technical Committee and Staff recommend that the Policy Committee review the projects and consider 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 stated the TIP is a short-term program of projects expected to be completed in the next four years. Every two years the State and the MPOs update their current TIP. Projects in the current TIP will roll into the new proposed FFY2022-2027 TIP and the three new projects just approved in TIP Amendment 7 will be incorporated into the new TIP. Staff and the Technical Committee recommend approval of the proposed FFY2022-2027 TIP.

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

ACTION: Councilor Bingham-Kelly moved to approve the FFY2022-2027 TIP and Policy Committee Resolution 2021-3. Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

5. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

District 5 – Javier Martinez

The maintenance project on US 550 between Aztec and Bloomfield is complete except for the pavement markings (crosswalks and turn lanes). Work on the pavement markings is forthcoming.

Mr. Martinez reported that District 5 is anticipating up to \$5,000,000 in Transportation Project Fund (TPF) funds could be awarded to the FMPO as long as the projects submitted by the MPO come up to that level. District 5 will submit the final project lists from FMPO, Santa Fe MPO and the RTPOs to the Cabinet Secretary who will ultimately determine which projects will receive TPF funding.

Commissioner Lanier commented on the potholes and rough pavement of NM 173 and a recent incident where he had a tire blow out while driving to Navajo Lake. Mr. Martinez said he would pass on Commissioner Lanier's comments and concerns.

Planning Bureau – Joseph Moriarty

Mr. Moriarty commented on the draft New Mexico 2045 Plan which is NMDOT's guide on long range transportation policy. The draft plan is available until June 21 for review and feedback.

Additionally, the draft Pedestrian Safety Action Plan is out for a 45-day comment period until June 13. The draft documents is available for review at: walksafenm.com

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Subject:	Committee Member Discussion Items
Date:	May 27, 2021

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	May 27, 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. This call is open until October.
- 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 were due by 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>

- c. **New Mexico Transportation Project Fund (TPF).** NMDOT's Project Oversight Division is accepting applications for the TPF for fiscal year 2022. The FMPO

and the Technical Committee plan to submit a list of local projects for potential TPF funding (see preliminary project list attached).

DISCUSSION:

- a. Mr. Koeppel reported that along with the TPF call for projects, which the Technical Committee members are working on, NMDOT also issued a call for projects for funding under Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Congestion, Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ). Projects eligible for these federal funding sources include bicycle, pedestrian and trail projects. This call for projects is open until October. Policy Committee members were encouraged to submit any project ideas to their Technical Committee representative. The FMPO would like to see as many projects submitted as possible to permit the region to more favorably compete with projects submitted from other MPOs and RTPOs around the state.

- b. Ms. Leys provided some information on changes proposed by the Census Bureau to the criteria used to determine urban areas based on the results of the 2020 Census. Following is a brief summary of that presentation and concerns:
 - FMPO submitted comments to proposed changes by May 20;
 - Census is based on numbers and counts only: other agencies have not weighed in on the proposed changes;
 - USDOT and FHWA are not changing their definitions or thresholds;
 - Map provided (Page 24 of Agenda) shows current boundaries based on proposed Census definition changes and is a visualization of what the region might look like;
 - 2020 Census data not available until September 2021;
 - Increase thresholds to qualify as an urban area;
 - To qualify as urban area, proposed change is to use housing density vs. population density;
 - o Would adversely affect larger, multi-family households;
 - o Aztec and Bloomfield would no longer be considered urban areas as they could not meet the housing density of 4,000 units;
 - o Kirtland could become part of the Farmington urban area;
 - Reduce distance of "jumps" and the land (gap) between two qualifying areas could not be included as part of the urban area designation;
 - o Gaps are landmarks such as desert landscapes, lakes, mountains, steep slopes, etc.
 - MPO would not be affected by proposed changed as the planning area is much larger than the urban area;
 - Staff will keep MPO Committees informed of adopted changes and any direct impacts to the FMPO region.

- c. Entity are submitting their projects for review and consideration of potential funding under the Transportation Project Fund (TPF), which is a State legislative funding source. District 5 will review the project list submitted by FMPO, Santa Fe MPO, and the RTPOs before submitting them to the Cabinet Secretary for final review and approval.

8. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

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

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bingham-Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Chair Sharer adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.



Sean Sharer, Policy Committee Chair



June Markle, Administrative Assistant