

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
September 14, 2022

Technical Members Present: Beth Escobar, City of Farmington
Javier Martinez, NMDOT District 5
Andrew Montoya, Red Apple Transit
Nick Porell, San Juan County
Steven Saavedra, City of Aztec
Dan Flack, Town of Kirtland
Virginia King, City of Farmington
Beth Forman - NMDOT
Lisa Hale-BlueEyes, San Juan County
Steve Morse, City of Aztec (Alt.)
Jason Thomas, City of Bloomfield

Technical Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Peter Koepfel, MPO Officer
Olivia Groeber, MPO Associate Planner
Tamra Spencer, Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Jim Maes
Ben Maes

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE August 10, 2022 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Ms. Escobar moved to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2022 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Saavedra seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update




Subject:	Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update
Prepared by:	Aaron Sussman Toole Design Group
Date:	September 14, 2022

Presentation

Aaron Sussman, Toole Design Group and Maren Neldam, Groundwork presented the following:

Farmington MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Farmington MPO Technical Committee
September 14, 2022

Plan Purpose and Scope



Further expand opportunities to safely walk and bike across the Farmington region



Support economic development through increased access to jobs and services



Enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities



Focus on implementation

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Anticipated Products

- Priority networks and project lists
- Cost estimates
- Quick-build opportunities / key pedestrian crossing locations
- Policy recommendations



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General Approach

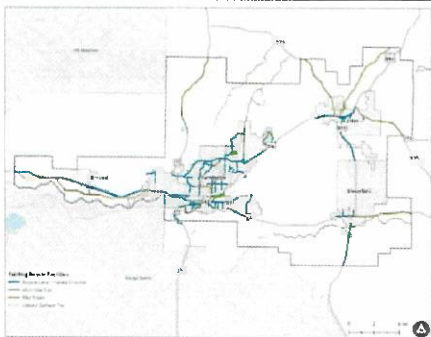
- Develop a well-connected network that provides access to key destinations
- Create low-stress options that appeal to a broad range of users



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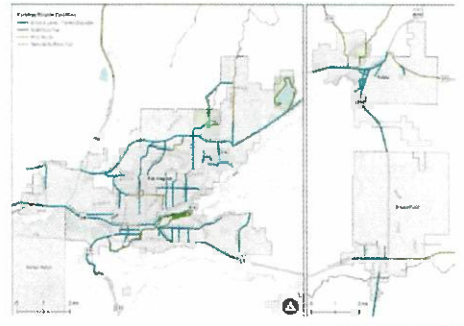
Existing Network (as of 2019)



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Existing Network (as of 2019)

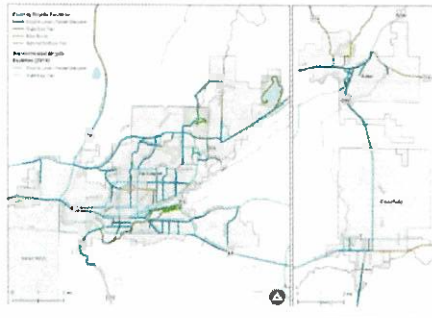


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Proposed Network

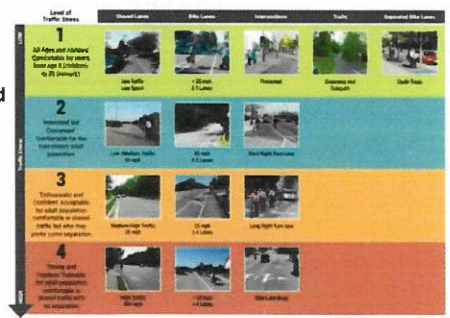
Based on 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan



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Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress and Bicycle Network Analysis



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Recent Projects

Kirtland HS/CR 6100 Trail Main Street Farmington Complete Streets Restriping



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Existing Conditions and Plan Review

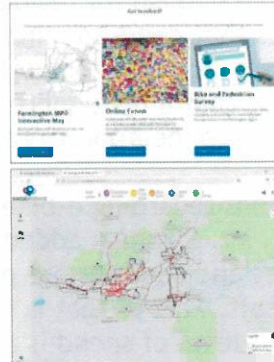
- Network gaps assessment
- Key destinations
- Safety/crash analysis
- Level of comfort analysis
- Review of *2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*
- Assess progress and whether recommendations are still valid

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Community Outreach Efforts

- Community meetings (first event on November 9)
- Online survey
- Interactive map
- Targeted stakeholder outreach



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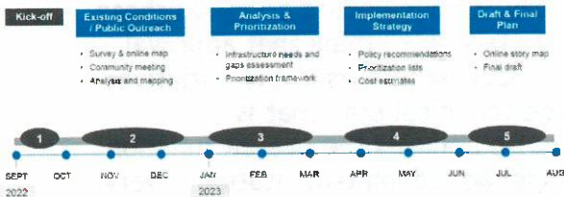
Survey Questions

- Reasons for walking and biking
- Barriers to walking and biking more
- Preferred facility type
- What else do you want to know?
- How do we feel about e-bikes?

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Project Schedule



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Next Steps: Technical Committee Updates

- **October 12**
 - Update on outreach efforts
 - Preview of interactive map
- **November 9**
 - Existing conditions analysis
 - Lunchtime workshop

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Questions

Peter Koeppel – pkoeppel@fmtn.org

Aaron Sussman, AICP – asussman@tooledesign.com

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Mr. Sussman asked for comments and questions.

There is a conflict on the scheduling; one of the members will not be able to make the November 9th public meeting date. It was proposed to move the public meeting to a different date.

Chair Porell would like to include a section on a broader recreation initiative to see how that would tie into the bicycle pedestrian plan. Possibly, to include river recreation, program creation, off road bicycle. He would like to see how that could tie into public land recreation. Mr. Sussman asked if he was thinking how that might appeal to visitors, tourists or additional recreation opportunities for area residents Mr. Porell replied yes, making sure way finding is simple enough for residents and tourists. Mr. Sussman believes there are some opportunities that come to mind. With way finding and user amenities that one might like to see at access points for those recreational opportunities. He needs to think about that a little more because that is not an explicit part of the scope, will look into ways to incorporate those suggestions.

Ms. Escobar would like to see some general questions regarding e-bikes incorporated into the survey to see how the public would react. Mr. Sussman added there is an emerging set of policy guidance that municipalities and counties are providing about what class of e-bikes are appropriate on local streets. Part of that is from a policy standpoint about where use is acceptable and what level of speed is acceptable.

Mr. Saavedra asked what the vision for the region was. Mr. Porell replied, on the last plan, he put together four grant applications and they received some gap funding for the Kirtland Schools multi-use path. He uses that plan as a reference because it has some reference to recreation and he uses that as a supporting document to grant applications for funding that were successful. Obviously, a policy board approves these plans, ultimately, that is comprised of our elected officials, but I think that approval gives us, as staff, a good competence, in our political backing to pursue the initiatives that are outlined. The NMDOT has their own statewide technical plan that is represented on the committee and policy committee. He believes the overall function is to provide some credence to these ideas. Mr. Koepfel added implementation is very important, he believes NMDOT is going to announce addition TAP and trails funding which will pave the way.

3. STATUS OF ENTITY PROJECTS

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item #4

Subject:	Status of Entity Projects
Prepared by:	MPO Staff & Technical Committee Members
Date:	September 14, 2022

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.
- Listed below are current entity projects some of which are part of the FFY2022-2027 TIP.
- The Policy Committee approved the new FFY2022-2027 TIP on May 27, 2021, which became effective on October 1, 2021..

ATTACHMENT

- The Status Report Table of project updates received from Technical Committee members. Members will present subsequent project updates will be presented by members during the committee meeting.

INFORMATION ITEM

- This is an information item only. Committee members will have an opportunity to provide any needed feedback/updates/details regarding the status of current projects.

DISCUSSION:

Aztec - Steve Morse

F10091 - East Aztec Arterial Phase III: All signatures have been obtained and will be moving forward with the utility certifications

F100410 - McWilliams Road: Design is complete

Bloomfield - Jason Thomas

F100300 - 2.8-Acre property, waiting for ROW certification.

Farmington - Virginia King

F100099 - Foothills Drive Enhancement Phase II: The close out process has been started. They are completing the last items on the punch list.

F100100, F100101, & F100102 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase I: BHI provided a new estimates for construction on Phase I and Phase II. Phase I is about nine million, Phase II is estimated at about 29 million. They had the environmental meeting with the City of Farmington, NMDOT, BHI and NMDOT District 5. At the Commission meeting, the City was told NMDOT would provide 40 million for the entire project. That leaves 30 million for the City and remainder for the County. This amendment was nine million for Phase I and 19 million for Phase II and NMDOT was asking for a right of way map, it referenced 25 acquisition, and the City is looking for the acquisitions.

F100132 - 20th Street Phase III: This is still in construction started on May 2nd and construction is in progress.

F100390 - Foothills Drive Phase III: We are updating the design, and we are in the acquisition process for right of way.

Red Apple Transit: Mr. Montoya reported three new busses he had ordered have been delayed until next month.

Kirtland - Dan Flack

F100420 & F100430 - CR 6405 & CR 6411: The City of Kirtland has a new clerk, when she is certified they will be able to bid both projects.

San Juan County - Nick Porell

F100021 - East Pinon Hills Blvd Extension Phase III: The County is received the design agreement on Monday and we are still waiting for the congressional earmark for right of way. Which will happen in the first quarter of the federal fiscal year 23, which starts at the end of the month.

F100320 - Kirtland Schools Walk Path Extension: The project is completed, they are working with the contractor on closeout documentation.

F100360 & F100370 - CR 3000 & CR 3500 Bridge Replacement: TYlynn has the contract, they are working through the design process.

F100400 - Lower Animas Valley River Trail: The request for design consultant proposals closes this Thursday.

NMDOT - Javier Martinez

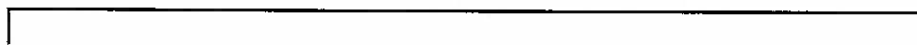
F100170 - NM 173: This is under construction; unfortunately, it does not look like it will be finished before winter, there will be a winter shutdown.

F100350 & F100351 - NM 173/Navajo 36: They are waiting on the agreement.

F100340, F100341, & F100342 - US550 Pavement Rehab: This will go out to bid in October and construction will begin in the spring.

5. NM-173 SAFETY DISCUSSION

**FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Agenda Item #5**



Subject: NM-173 Safety Discussion
Prepared by: FMPO Staff
Date: September 14, 2022

Chair Porell asked MPO Officer Koepfel to research and locate the MPO Resolution that was prepared for consideration by the policy committee in 2019.

See the Resolution below:

Mr. Koepfel added the Policy Committee did pass a resolution in support of safety improvements on NM-173 back in June of 2019. He asked how do we process, do we want to pass another resolution or follow up on this one. Mr.

POLICY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 2019-6

TO STRONGLY ENCOURAGE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REPAIR, IMPROVE, AND REBUILD NEW MEXICO STATE ROAD 173 FROM US 550 IN AZTEC, NEW MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO 511 NEAR NAVAJO DAM, NEW MEXICO (APPROXIMATELY 18.09 MILES).

WHEREAS, the Farmington MPO is the designated metropolitan planning organization for the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, Farmington, Kirtland, and the urbanized area of San Juan County; and

WHEREAS, the Farmington MPO Policy Committee is the decision-making body for the MPO; and

WHEREAS, the Farmington MPO Technical Committee provides the MPO Policy Committee with technical advice and recommendations, and concurs with this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Farmington MPO is responsible, with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, for addressing the planning process in accordance with 23 CFR 450.334; and

WHEREAS, the Farmington MPO annually addresses the major issues in the metropolitan planning area; and

WHEREAS, a portion of NM 173 is located in the MPO's planning area and is on the MPO's TIP. The roadway's safety improvements were identified in the MPO's 2040 MTP and will be further addressed in its 2045 MTP update; and

WHEREAS, state park visitation in 2018 was 557,547 visitors; the commercial activity on that part of the San Juan River last year consisted of 5,252 trips that serviced 10,197 clients (53 guide companies with over 100 guide permits issued for that three miles of river. Visitors to the park and neighboring area typically stay 5-8 days on average; and

WHEREAS, the current condition of New Mexico State Road 173 was presented by the motoring public to the FMPO at the May 8, 2019 FMPO Technical Committee Meeting as a safety concern for residents and visitors travelling to the Navajo Dan Community due to inadequate roadway width, lack of shoulders, and current vertical geometry; and

WHEREAS, a 15-page petition of signatures from concerned area residents will be provided to the New Mexico Department of Transportation (Exhibit A) to request an investigation and resolution to the following:

- a. Level roadway at mile marker 4 to provide a better line of sight from both traffic lanes;
- b. Provide shoulders to allow drivers to safely pull over to avoid oncoming traffic;
- c. Provide a pedestrian walkway along the existing bridge across the San Juan River;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (FMPO):

Requests the New Mexico Department of Transportation to make needed road repairs and improvements to New Mexico State Road 173 as noted and identified.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of June 2019.


J. Sharer,
MPO Policy Committee Chair


J. Martinez,
Administrative Assistant

Legal Department
Approved
By: 
Date: 

Porell feels it is up to NMDOT, the Planning Committee has done what they can.

Javier Martinez, NMDOT, mentioned he would have to work through a TIP amendment process at for this to be priority project for the area. We don't know if federal funds or interstate funds are appropriate. Ms. Escobar agrees with Mr.

Porell, she thinks the Policies resolution stands and expresses the opinion of the FMPO on what should be done, and the rest is out of our control.

Mr. Koeppel with re-present, with some background, the resolution to the Policy Committee

6. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION Agenda Item #6

Subject:	Reports from NMDOT
Prepared by:	Beth Forman, NMDOT
Date:	September 14, 2022

Planning Bureau - Beth Forman

District 5 - Javier Martinez

Mr. Martinez reminded the committee on NM-173 the first project was awarded HSIP funds; road safety audit was conducted it-identified improvements for that septic portion of NM-173. The corridor meets the requirements of the HSIP program. The next available funds are in 2025. That would only be for the design; you would have to look for construction funds for that project. He feels the quickest way to get funds is if the legislature awards funds specifically for this project to get another portion of NM-173 under design. Mr. Porell asked Mr. Martinez to explain the process of Legislative Appropriation from NMDOT's perspective. Mr. Martinez explained NMDOT relies on local entities to identify that in the area. If it is awarded for a state route then NMDOT will be lead on that project.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject:	Information Items
Prepared by:	MPO Staff
Date:	September 14, 2022

INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Final LRSP

We have submitted the final comments to each consulting team, and are just waiting for the final document to post and publish and get the implementation steps.

DISCUSSION:

No discussion

8. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Nothing from Chairman, members or staff.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Jim Maes brought the Committee up to date, there was a meeting in July that was attended by Senator Neville, Mike Padilla, Jim Crowley, Nick Porell, Steve Lanier, Paul Brasher and Tom Taylor. Mr. Maes added he has talked to Terry Fortner and she was very interested in this project.

Senator Neville has put informed the group that he had put in a request for \$15 million in legislative funding to get the project started.

Mr. Maes thinks the resolution needed to be updated to include a statement about economic development. Priority number one should be for safety and secondly should be the economic development aspect of it. There are people that travel from all over the world to come fly fish in our quality waters. These people spend quite a bit of money on out different amenities.

He feels improving Hwy 173 would make it safer for people visiting our area for eco tourism. We have natural arches, Native American ruins, biking, hiking, bird watching and other outdoor amenities.

Mr. Maes also informed the Committee that in 1993 the North West Council of Governments put Hwy 173 improvements on their five year plan, but since then it had fallen off their list.

Paul Brasher, the district engineer, indicated he was going to have a study done to find out about putting a traffic light at the intersection of Hwy 550 and Hwy 173. . If you look at the history and look at the amount the traffic has grown in the last several years, you will find that there has been a tremendous increase in the traffic there, creating safety issues.

Mr. Maes also feels that since the oil and gas industry is using those roads, he would like to see if the industry would help fund the Hwy improvement with private money.

Chair Porell informed Mr. Maes that the role of the Technical Committee was to present transportation plans to the Policy Committee for their consideration and approval.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. King moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Escobar seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. The meeting at 11:13 AM.



Nick Porell, Technical Committee Chair



MPO Staff