

MINUTES
FARMINGTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Policy Members Present: Glojean Todacheene, San Juan County
 Julie Baird, City of Farmington
 Jeanine Bingham-Kelly, City of Farmington
 Javier Martinez, NMDOT

Policy Members Absent: Ken George, City of Aztec
 Paul Brasher, NMDOT, District 5
 John Beckstead, San Juan County
 Sean Sharer, City of Farmington
 Tony Herrera, City of Bloomfield
 Mark Duncan, Town of Kirtland

Staff Present: Peter Koeppel, MPO Officer
 Olivia Groeber, MPO Associate Planner

Staff Absent: None

Others Present:

Aaron Sussman, Toole

Shannon Glendenning, Planning Bureau

Jim Maes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jeanine Bingham-Kelly called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 26, 2022 AND AUGUST 25, 2022 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

No quorum so we skipped approving the minutes until next time

MOTION -

SECOND -

_____ moved to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2022 & August 25, 2022 Policy Committee meeting. _____ seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

3. Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update

Presented by: Aaron Sussman - Tooles Design Group

Introduction to the project and team - Groundworks Studio in ABQ for the outreach efforts of the project

Overview of purpose and scope of the project: Desire to make better (using existing network), support economic development, and make region more desirable to live. Focus on implementation, what look like to make plan actionable/ usable.

Anticipated projects: set priority network, project lists, (cost estimates, quick build things like striping, putting in bike lanes, crossing recommendations) policy recommendations, and general strategies to pursue over time.

General approach/ orientation: think about who users are, recommendations for broad range of users (think stress/ comfort across users). Most in the interested and concerned category for cyclists.

Map of existing network from the 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Desire to include recent improvements but also add to plan.

Bike user stress is quantified in new plan to create a more user friendly, all ages, all abilities in new plan. Brief highlight of recent projects (trail in Kirkland connecting to the high school, Main St. in downtown Farmington, and complete streets re-striping, addition of bike lanes, etc.)

Starting point: look at existing conditions (review of the previous 2019 Bike and Pedestrian Plan), do technical analysis, key destinations, think about barriers and safety concerns.

Upcoming community outreach efforts: Tentatively set a community meeting date November 7th (day before election day), online survey released in October and interactive map, and targeted stakeholders to reach out to. In outreach looking for: reasons walk/ bike, barriers to walking/ biking, preferred facility types, key destinations, etc.

Project schedule: September is kick off, technical analysis fall into winter 2022, early spring analysis and prioritization, implementation late spring early summer 2023, draft/ final plan late summer 2023 (online story map – highlighted in conjunction with a traditional document)

4. NM 173 Safety Discussion

Presented by: Peter Koepfel

Technical Committee has been discussing the resolution passed in 2019 encouraging NMDOT to improve Hwy 173 mainly with safety concerns in mind. The question is how to proceed with resolution from 2019. Do we revisit?

Presented on the history of the concern brought by citizens. Jeremy Maes invited to share about the citizen concern for Hwy 173/ Navajo Dam Rd.

Maes began with personal background: worked with federal government (29 years) and then went into Santa Fe for work, worked with Abes fly shop, helped open Highlands at San Juan College, forest service after.

Maes is here for endorsement on project (25 years work) Highway 173 - resolution from 2019 - economic development (main thought was safety, built by volunteers in the 50s), met with Coalition of Governments to fix road (was on 5-yr plan, fell off eventually), 2007 revive met with RPO predecessor of MPO, moved back 2 years ago (Why? Safety primary reason, dangerous road, secondary reason, economic development). Maes had a recent lunch meeting to discuss the community concern about Hwy 173 support given to continue pursuit of project.

Maes provided a draft of recommended updates in a document, 4 miles of quality waters rather than the 3 miles stated and another "whereas" statement to be added for

economic growth and ecotourism with context of safety, and a stop light at intersection of Hwy 550 and Hwy 173.

From conversations between Maes and District Engineer (Paul Bracher) - fixing last 3 miles, 3 million per mile road that gets built - need 15 miles = 45 million dollars need another 30 million to fix road (thinks can go to Federal Hwy Admin for matching funds 15 million, also get money from oil and gas to raise another 15 million – thoughts on making it a toll road), bring employment to Navajo Nation young adults, recreation for the arches in Aztec also on Hwy 173, hiking, ruins, animal interests (hunting, bird watching, fishing), camping. From Maes correspondence work on design for 2025 at Federal Highway, the money is the limiting factor in Maes's opinion - need to have community backing and slogans etc. (suggestions were provided).

Peter: (Staff recommendation) take a look at the 2019 resolution and Maes' draft recommendations and bring back to committee meeting in November with updates.

Vice Chair Jeanine Bingham-Kelly: Agreed to bring resolution back and take a look at it (example from Pinion Hills), there were no major oppositions

Peter: Decision to bring a more formal resolution in November.

Maes: Shared correspondence with Mayor Padilla - handing out printed documents for reference.

5. Policy Committee Meeting Schedule for 2023:

Review the proposed FY2023 Policy Committee meeting schedule

Presented by: Peter Koeppel

Need formal resolution at the next meeting in November (with full quorum) but confirming that there are no major conflicts.

6. FFY2023 Non-Reimbursable Expenditures:

Review and consider authorizing an amount to be used in FFY2023 for FMPO non-reimbursable expenditures

Presented by: Peter Koeppel

Another housekeeping item. Besides local match 80-85 is federal government, and city match rest. Other things that are not part of those funds: we have things not on regular reimbursement lists or bills that get sent to us late.

Spending is less than \$2,000 is divided among entities must be approved. Not usually have formal vote, but we do submit those charges and wanted to make the policy committee aware.

7. REPORTS FROM NMDOT

Planning Bureau – Shannon Glenning

Updates: Later this afternoon Glenning send performance measures 1: safety measure report, detailed descriptions how set performance measures

Entities have until February 2023 to establish their own performance measures or adopt NMDOT performance measures.

NM 2045 freight plan update: The document is up for review and comments can be made up until mid-October.

Funding opportunities: Several grants coming out (some state DOT and others USDOT) go to DOT Navigator to find the grants and when those funds become available/ when they need to be applied to by.

Notice to begin developing projects for recreation trails, mainly motorized trail use, some for 2024, grants launch in next couple months (people can begin apply for funding for eligible projects now).

District 5 – Javier Martinez

Work on NM Hwy 173 - Ongoing, not finish until after winter (next spring, 2023).

US Hwy 550 - project at 550 intersection and north 3 miles - begin construction next year (2023).

DISCUSSION:

Glojean - Navajo Fair Parade coming up, is there a permit?

Discussed concern for falling rocks by hog back near Shiprock area, what is being done? (Comments on signage and attention that Colorado has for their rock fall events/ areas of concern.)

Javier: Comments on the Navajo Fair: Yes. There is signage and the police know how to function in terms of traffic movement.

Javier Comments on rock fall: Study underway for rockfall in district 5, we would need to ask the consultant specifically about hogback plans and recommendations - in process of seeing the plans and getting cost estimates (this is prioritized based on amount of rock fall per location), maintenance staff will work implementation.

Jeanine Bingham-Kelly - Question for 516 (Browning to Aztec) there have been complaints on Hwy, are there plans to address those?

Javier: No, and also not in STIP. We can talk to maintenance, but that are is currently not in plan but we will maintain best we can.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

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a. **Final LRSP - Local Road Safety Plan**

In touch with the consultant - plan almost in hand.

DISCUSSION:

There was no further discussion.

9. BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS AND STAFF

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

10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION –

SECOND –

TIME –

Peter moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeanine Bingham-Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Jeanine Bingham-Kelly adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.



Sean Sharer, Policy Committee Chair



MPO Staff