



Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization

"Promoting Interconnected Transportation Options"



Santa Fe MPO Transportation Policy Board

Thursday February 27th, 2014, 4:00 P.M.

City of Santa Fe Offices @ Market Station

500 Market Street, Suite 200, Santa Fe, NM

(Map: <http://tinyurl.com/l6kejeq>)

AGENDA

CALL to ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL of AGENDA

APPROVAL of MINUTES: *January 30th, 2014*

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 2/19/14 TIME 9:01

SEWELL BY Maria Vigil

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

A. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Approval of Amendment 3 of the FFY2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program – *MPO Staff*

C. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. Amended Joint Powers Agreement – *MPO Staff*
2. Amended Unified Planning Work Program 2012-2014 – *MPO Staff*
3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Updates – *MPO Staff*
4. Review of the proposed recommendation for the Functional Reclassification – *MPO Staff*
5. Update on the Highway Safety Improvement Program – *MPO Staff*

D. MATTERS FROM THE MPO STAFF

E. MATTERS FROM THE SFMPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

F. MATTERS FROM THE NMDOT AND FHWA

G. ADJOURNMENT – March 27th, 2014.

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to the meeting date.

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February 27, 2014

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**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FÉ MPO
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
February 27, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fé MPO Transportation Policy Board was called to order on the above date by Commissioner Miguel Chávez, Chair, at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room, 500 Market Station, Suite 200, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Miguel Chávez, Chair, Santa Fé County
Governor Robert Mora, Vice-Chair, Tesuque Pueblo
Commissioner Robert Anaya, Santa Fé County
Deputy Secretary Kathryn Bender, NMDOT
Mayor David Coss, City of Santa Fé
Councilor Ron Trujillo, City of Santa Fé

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilor Patti Bushee, City of Santa Fé
Commissioner Liz Stefanics, Santa Fé County [excused]

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Mark Tibbetts, MPO Officer
Mr. Keith Wilson, MPO Planner
Mr. Erick Aune, MPO Planner

Also present: Ms. Rosa Gozub, NMDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Liaison
Mr. Dave Quintana, NMDOT
Mr. Frank Sharpless, NMDOT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Trujillo moved to approve the agenda as presented. Secretary Bender seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 30, 2014

Secretary Bender said she was not present at the last meeting, but her substitute was present.

Secretary Bender moved to approve the minutes of January 30, 2014 as amended. Governor Mora seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

A. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no speakers from the public.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Approval of Amendment 3 of the FFY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

There were no speakers from the public regarding this public hearing and the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the presentation that was in the packet. He indicated the changes that had gone out to the public. One was the conduit for the St. Michael's Drive intersection with Cerrillos Road over to Llano Road to tie the traffic signals together. The project was moving forward and there were no issues with it. The second was the trail from Frenchy's Field up to DeFouri Street and continuing on the River Trail from DeFouri all the way to Don Gaspar. The City would use GO Bonds for part of the funding of that project.

The third change was for Gonzales Elementary School for pedestrian access and bicycle routes to and from the school via the River Trail. The cost estimate went up by \$100,000 and would use Safe Routes to Schools funding. The last change was the Santa Fé River Trail crossing at East Alameda over St. Francis Drive which was 100% funded by GO Bonds from the City. He explained it needed federal approval since St. Francis was a federal highway. It would put the project into the STIP.

Mr. Wilson said they did receive one public comment during the review period with concerns about the River Trail at East Alameda costs and felt those dollars (\$2 million) could be better spent elsewhere.

Mr. Wilson noted an oversight that happened where the project was budgeted for \$500,000 but came in at \$600,000. This funding was awarded to the City last fiscal year and it was too late in the process to obligate other funds. It came to light this week so it was not finalized. DOT said they would fund the remaining \$100,000 in federal fiscal year 2014. He asked that the board waive the public review process on this project for that remaining money.

Chair Chávez clarified that the motion needed to include a waiver for one portion and to include the amendments.

Mr. Wilson said he had the suggested action and wording on page two.

Mayor Coss moved for approval of Amendment 3 of the FFY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program as stated in the report. Secretary Bender seconded the motion.

The Board briefly discussed the implications of these changes and had clarifications made.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

C. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Amended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

Mr. Wilson provided the Amended Joint Powers Agreement to the Board members.

Mr. Tibbetts explained that in the 2012 FTA review there were two changes that needed to be made in the JPA. The first was on page 5 on funding allocation and the second was on conflict resolution. He went through the proposed changes and explained that at present the City was contributing 100% of the required cash match. DOT and FHWA would like to see some kind of cost sharing of county and city approved by the Board. He said the amendment had to be reviewed and approved by City Council, County Commission and Tesuque Tribal Council and then to NMDOT as the first step in the process. The cost sharing and conflict resolution were the most significant changes. Mr. Tibbetts thought in 1990's, the County was brought into the MPO and before that it was just the City of Santa Fe.

Mr. Tibbetts said Las Cruces used an allocation based on population with a ratio of 70/30 split. The City provides office space and in-kind services now. One of the concerns was that, as far as stake holders JPA signatories to have a sense of ownership in the MPO needed to make a contribution. The impression was that it mostly was a city function. The MO now had three staff and were in a better position to go forward. If the Board wanted to keep the same pattern they could.

Mayor Coss asked if all the of the City contribution was in-kind.

Mr. Tibbetts said it was also cash contribution. He explained the cash match requirements which included from one FHWA grant a match of 15%. The FTA grant required a 20% match. The total cash contribution now was about \$50,000 to \$70,000. The former RPA had a budget of about \$200,000 and was shared by City and County.

Councilor Trujillo asked if the County was not invested in this at all.

Mr. Tibbetts commented that at present, Tesuque Pueblo was not required to make any cash contribution. And the DOT didn't contribute cash to any MPO in the state. So it was just between the county and city as far as cash contributions. In-kind match was a different matter and open to discussion.

Mayor Coss said both governing bodies had to have an involvement included in their budgets. He thought maybe the Las Cruces model is the best way to go. (Population) I just put it in a bigger context. In

the end the tax payers pay for all of it.

Chair Chávez asked Commissioner Anaya to refresh his memory on the Commission's budget process and the timing and his thoughts

Commissioner Anaya agreed that overall they had a good relationship with the City and he appreciated the work of the MPO over the last 12 years. This was timely because of their budget process right now. He proposed they start with the Las Cruces model and go from there. He said they could make that happen.

Secretary Bender alerted the Board that this JPA amendment was time sensitive and she believed that if the Board could come up with something now based on population it would be a good format to follow. She didn't know if they had any idea of what that would be.

Mr. Wilson thought a 70/30 split would be appropriate.

Chair Chávez said if that was the consensus he would ask staff to look at one more scenario and put it out for discussion.

Commissioner Anaya moved to direct staff to look into the Las Cruces model for funding allocation of the MPO.

Secretary Bender reminded the Board that they could always amend the JPA.

Commissioner Anaya said for clarity of his motion, they were focusing on the cash match portion.

Chair Chávez agreed.

Councilor Trujillo seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Chávez went to Section H - Conflict Resolution

Mr. Tibbetts gave an overview.

Commissioner Anaya thought the proposed amendment seemed reasonable. He thought the Board resolved matters as a board fairly well and this was a reasonable stab at a written process.

Councilor Trujillo asked if they were talking about conflicts between city and county

Mr. Tibbetts said it was only for conflicts within this organization.

Councilor Trujillo said one of my concerns, since they had DOT involved was that he had a conflict of interest as an employee of the DOT. He asked if that would be a conflict on voting.

Mr. Tibbetts said he was representing the City and his capacity at the table was City Council, not his employment.

Councilor Trujillo said as long as he disclosed it, there would be no conflict.

Mr. Wilson said the JPA was addressing conflicts between governing bodies.

Councilor Trujillo wanted to be sure about that

Mr. Tibbetts said a more typical conflict in a larger MPO was if they had a lot of discretionary funding. One group may feel the other entity was getting all the money and others were not happy and might refuse to approve a TIP. So having some specific mechanism to resolve it would be a good thing to have.

Chair Chávez agreed.

Governor Mora said from his point of view, until the pueblo ever asks for funding from the City or if they got fully involved by annexation, they would have to voice their concerns at that time. He felt they were here as a figurehead and here out of courtesy. Until they saw funding or assistance from the City he felt they had to stay neutral.

Chair Chávez thought they had covered this amendment.

Mr. Tibbetts went over a couple of other small things in the proposed amendments about required work projects and the MTP. The documents had to be consistent with City plans and County plans but in the document itself, was treated by the federal authorities as guidance basically of any projects were in there and they had to be identified in there to get federal funding. On page two of the JPA, c-1 identified the MTP as the primary guidance for transportation policy and transportation infrastructure in the MPO area over the next 25 years.

Mayor Coss asked how the MTP would affect the regional transit plan.

Mr. Tibbetts explained that the metropolitan planning area was included in the RTD area but they identified transit services. The MPO did this to coordinate with Santa Fé Trails and the NCRTD.

Mayor Coss asked if this was a subset of the NCRTD plan

Mr. Tibbetts explained that this was a long range 25-year plan.

Chair Chávez reported that the NCRTD just approved their 5-year service plan with some additional service routes on a trial basis. They would be presenting it to the County Commission in the next month or two. That did dovetail with Santa Fe Trails.

Mr. Tibbetts said Mr. Aune attended all the NCRTD meetings. The idea was that they were trying to create integration of other plans into this planning document. It would make it easier for federal review.

Secretary Bender referred to Section 6 and shared the first inclusion which said it was the choice of the Board.

Chair Chávez just wanted to make sure everyone was okay with that.

Mr. Tibbetts said this document would be reviewed on an annual basis.

Chair Chávez asked where that language was.

Mr. Tibbetts was not sure.

Secretary Bender said it was on page 5, in G1 and it was crossed out.

Mr. Tibbetts said they would restore it.

The Board members were all in agreement.

Commissioner Anaya pointed out that there were lots of communications that went on between the city and county and DOT on projects. It seemed to him that they could expand on the language in the JPA to use this as a forum to roll up those communications. He gave an example about things sometimes getting lost in the shuffle. Being able to put forth items and raise questions that would help enhance communications would be important. He asked if Secretary Bender thought that was reasonable.

Secretary Bender deferred to Ms. Gozub.

Ms. Gozub said most of the activities happening in the MPO boundary were included in the TIP unless it was a state source of funding.

Commissioner Anaya said what he was speaking to was that they had a good relationship but ran into snags at times. This could be a good mechanism for all of us to roll up what is happening. It was not complicated but members could bring up issues on projects.

Mr. Wilson asked if this needed to be formalized or just to do them through the agendas. If anyone had a specific project to discuss we could include that on the agenda.

Mr. Tibbetts read the purpose on page 2.

Commissioner Anaya said he was just thinking of enhancing the meetings.

Mr. Tibbetts agreed the MPO does serve as a forum for transportation and the communications and cooperative decision making regarding transportation related matters among members in the MPO planning area and among federal and state agencies and receiving public input to assist other governmental agencies and public by supplying transportation related information and data gathered by staff. So it was there in the JPA.

Commissioner Anaya was glad they had that conversation on the record because that was what he intended.

Mayor Coss moved to approve the amended JPA as proposed, recognizing a cost allocation component would be coming forward. Commissioner Anaya seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Amended Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Tibbetts went over the UPWP summary in the packet.

Chair Chávez referred to page 27 you have under management and asked if there was a reason ...

Mr. Tibbetts agreed. Public participation initially focused on the organized meetings and then on education for things like webinars.

Chair Chávez asked if staff did that in-house.

Mr. Wilson said every month they provided them free and there were some that members could subscribe to.

Chair Chávez thought that could get somewhat expensive.

Mr. Tibbetts agreed that for public participation it could be expensive with printing costs.

Chair Chávez understood this was noticed as possible action.

Commissioner Anaya moved to approve the Amended Unified Planning Work Program as presented. Councilor Trujillo seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor asked to be excused from the meeting and thanked all the Board members for their work.

3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Updates

Mr. Wilson said the updates were in packet and he reviewed the projects on the chart

David Quintana provided updates for the state projects.

Commissioner Anaya asked Mr. Quintana about the Cañoncito ramps and Mr. Quintana clarified the project.

Commissioner Anaya said in general Goodwin road was a massive disaster area. The County received good cooperation on that. The County was investing a lot in roads and commented that to see there was a good road restoration program was a credit to everyone at the table and the voters.

Chair Chávez added that the County did a survey and in it roads and the condition of roads and paving was on top of the list. He thanked the voters for approving the GO bond.

Chair Chávez asked if it was the Acequia Trail that had the diverging diamond design.

Mr. Quintana clarified that the trail project was near the railroad and not close to the diverging diamond design at I-25 and Cerrillos Road.

4. Review of the proposed recommendation for the function Reclassification

Mr. Wilson noted this had been on the agenda for the last several months and it was getting closer to completion. He provided a brief overview and said they hoped to finalize the draft recommendation next month and then have a public review and come back to the Board on March 27th. Then it would go to the State and they had until September to submit it to FHWA who would have until the end of the year to approve it.

5. Update on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

Mr. Wilson had included memos from DOT in the packet and page 4 of staff report. Mr. Wilson gave a brief overview of HSIP.

Chair Chávez asked what the 5 MPOs in New Mexico were.

Mr. Wilson said they were Las Cruces- Mesilla Valley, Santa Fe, El Paso, Farmington and Albuquerque.

D. MATTERS FROM THE MPO STAFF

Mr. Tibbetts said they would provide the Pedestrian Master Plan draft phase one report at the next meeting.

Mr. Tibbetts reported that Mr. Aune was working on a survey on the MTP that would be heavily distributed. He was also getting responses on the public transit master plan.

Mr. Wilson gave a summary of the history of the Zia Rail Station and the traffic study at that intersection which was finalized last week. He had not had a chance to fully scrutinize it but staff would be meeting with DOT staff on Monday. It appeared the finding indicated very little traffic impact on opening of the station.

Councilor Trujillo asked for some information, when they met with DOT, about how the traffic study was done. He noted they had a perfectly good facility sitting there and rotting away. Councilor Dimas had a resolution for expanding holding lanes there and eliminating left turns. He was concerned because he didn't know what DOT had planned for Zia to know if the City should put money toward that.

Chair Chávez recalled that at one point there was a decision from Council that the Zia station would not be a park and ride station.

Councilor Trujillo agreed.

Chair Chávez asked if the traffic study was based on that model.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that the trains didn't go through there during peak times. It would have minimal impact but didn't know right now who would be using that station. Based on current train schedules they were outside of the peak periods.

Councilor Trujillo asked who held the cards right now to determine when it would open.

Mr. Wilson said it was DOT. He agreed to put it on the next agenda.

E. MATTERS FROM THE SFMPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

Commissioner Anaya thought it was going to be important to roll up anything done on the Southwest Chief for Amtrak. He was going to sit down with Mr. Sharpless to discuss it. He asked if the City had taken any action by resolution or otherwise. It would have a massive impact to the area if they lost that line. He had concerns about organization of a group. He asked if the Transportation Commission had taken a position.

Councilor Trujillo and Secretary Bender said no.

Commissioner Anaya thought the Board needed to take a position on this as a Policy Board. He thought it was huge to our state and region.

Secretary Bender said it came before the legislature and they did not take any action on it. DOT met with Amtrak and they were disappointed and were going to look at their approach. The line went from Chicago to Los Angeles and they were going to look at other states as well. In a year they might move to the transcontinental line.

Commissioner Anaya said that would destroy our economic impact.

Commissioner Anaya said a lot of the discussion has revolved around "pony up the money or we are going to reroute this line." We need to take a posture of organizing to make sure that Congress and the feds fund it.

Mr. Sharpless was concerned as well and was going to get a lot more involved. If we could have a presentation and understand what some of the other New Mexico policy groups have done maybe we could figure out a game plan. He thought all the policy boards needed to take a formal position. BNSF was saying if they and Amtrak had not figured out how to pay for it they wanted a decision made by January

15th, 2015.

Chair Chávez agreed to work on getting a presentation.

Councilor Trujillo had concerns regarding the bridge underpass in spending \$2 million to build this. He wondered what the one by Sam's Club had cost. He was also concerned about the inequality in Santa Fé that the south side always got less and the east side got more.

Chair Chávez recalled that the \$2 million was something Councilor Calvert threw out there but the project was not scoped in the way being suggested. He hoped that the two projects wouldn't compete and that they would learn from each other.

Councilor Trujillo said he submitted a resolution for cross walks along Cerrillos Road and asked if that had come to the staff.

Mr. Wilson said it had not but he would check on it. He asked if that was from St. Michaels to the north.

Councilor Trujillo said the resolution was for the entire length of Cerrillos Road.

Mr. Quintana said typically the DOT didn't like to promote crossings like that - mid block crossings.

Governor Mora agree with what Councilor Trujillo was saying about the south side. A problem contributing to it was where the bus stops were located.

Councilor Trujillo brought up with District 5 the gigantic icicles on the bridge going over St. Michaels an the danger if one of those things dropped onto someone's windshield.

Mr. Quintana promised to take that to the maintenance engineer.

Mr. Tibbetts said it was in the pedestrian master plan.

F. MATTERS FROM THE NMDOT AND FHWA

Secretary Bender commented regarding the Zia study, that the DOT had been contacted by the Candlelight Subdivision. She had asked to attend their meeting. Some of us will attend and will discuss the traffic study with them and the findings.

G. ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting - March 27, 2014

Councilor Trujillo moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Anaya seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p. m.

Approved by:


Miguel Chávez, Chair

Submitted by:


Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.