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SFMPPO-TPB MEETING
February 9, 2012**

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**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FÉ MPO
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
February 9, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fé MPO Transportation Policy Board was called to order on the above date by Board Chair David Coss at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the Santa Fé City Council Chambers at City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Coss, City of Santa Fé, Chair
Commissioner Robert Anaya, Santa Fé County
Deputy Secretary Katherine Bender, NMDOT
Councilor Patti Bushee, City of Santa Fé
Commissioner Danny Mayfield, Santa Fe County
Commissioner Liz Stefanics, Santa Fé County
Councilor Ron Trujillo, City of Santa Fé (arrived later)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Ryan Swazo-Hinds, Tesuque Pueblo (excused)

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Others included Claude Morelli, Phil Gallegos and Beth Mills

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Anaya moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Stefanics seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 10, 2011

Councilor Bushee moved to approve the Minutes of November 10, 2011 as presented. Commissioner Stefanics seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority voice vote. Commissioner Danny Mayfield abstained.

A. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC- None

B. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Commissioner Stefanics nominated Commissioner Danny Mayfield for Chairperson and Councilor Patti Bushee as Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Anaya seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Mayfield took over as chair of the meeting. He said he looked forward to being chair and working with those on the Board. He thanked Mayor Coss for his leadership as chair of the Board and the City of Santa Fe.

C. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Approval of Amendment to SFMTP 2010-2035

Mr. Keith Wilson said projects that receive federal funding must be identified in the long-range MPO Transportation Plan. When the project in question was initiated it wasn't realized it was within the MPO planning area. The MPO Transportation Plan has to be amended to include the project to allocate federal funding in the (TIP) Transportation Improvement Program.

Commissioner Anaya moved to approve the amendment to SFMTP 2010-2035 as presented.

There were no comments or concerns from the public.

Commissioner Stefanics seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Approval of Amendment to the FY2012-2015 TIP

Mr. Wilson said there are two parts to the action and this was to add \$7 million to the TIP in FY 2013. The Caja del Rio Road improvements requested the project not be included in the TIP. The project has been identified as a regionally significant project and MPO has been informed the project must be included.

Commissioner Anaya said he understood the project stays on the TIP if the City chooses to fund it and would not otherwise adversely affect the project; being on the TIP wouldn't mandate the use of federal dollars.

Mr. Wilson said it was identified on the TIP as using County funds. He said how the project is funded

doesn't matter; if deemed significant it must be included in the MPT (Metropolitan Transportation Plan) and the TIP.

Commissioner Anaya moved for approval of the amendment as presented. Commissioner Stefanics seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

D. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. TIP Project Updates-MPO Staff

Mr. Wilson said Phil Gallegos would give the update on DOT projects; Eric Martinez on City projects and Beth Mills on the County projects.

Mr. Gallegos, the Assistant District Engineer for Engineering Operations for District 5 for the DOT gave an update on the current projects. A summary follows:

- **Washington Avenue to Artist Road**

In final design (anticipated August/September) and would be presented for a STIP to fully fund at the next Policy Board cycle. The current estimate is \$2.78 million and the City would contribute a portion for the East leg that would include ADA, drainage improvements and a signal upgrade.

- **599 Interchange at County RD 62 –**

Currently in the bid award process so the contractor could not be announced. Construction should start February/April.

- **The I-25/St. Francis Interchange**

Bridges would be re-decked and ramps repaved and begin February/April.

- **I-25/Cerrillos**

In draft phase and under review and alternatives are being discussed. Completion of the final environmental phase is anticipated late summer 2012; construction monies are in fiscal year 2013.

- **New Mexico 599 at Jaguar Drive**

Privately funded and entering into an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the City and the developer. The project is 100% developer; the consultant would submit 60% plans for review this month and should take 2-3 weeks. Adjustments were requested by City traffic engineers on the ramps and construction is anticipated to start mid to late summer.

- **Canoncito Interchange**

In the review process; the consultant was asked to look at one more alternative system alignment and is anticipated in 2 to 3 weeks.

Councilor Trujillo entered at this time.

Mayor Coss expressed concern about the Washington Avenue intersection starting construction during the month of Indian Market.

Mr. Gallegos said specific notes to the contractor would limit construction during that time.

Councilor Bushee asked if possible, could the information be dispersed and the City assist Mr. Gallegos in getting out the timeline and that this is a state project.

Commissioner Stefanics said people want to have the information in advance and blame the City when they aren't told. She asked Mr. Gallegos to work as much as possible with the City/County Staff.

Mr. Gallegos said a press release on County Road 62/599 Interchange was being worked on and possibly an article about the construction starting in the area could be done.

Mr. Gallegos informed the Board that the St. Francis interchange project southbound ramp would be closed and a huge press release would go out well in advance so people could find alternate routes.

Commissioner Mayfield asked if the DOT coordinated with the Rail Runner to alleviate southbound vehicle traffic. He was told that would be mentioned to the Transit Bureau.

Deputy Secretary Bender said there was sufficient space in the current Rail Runner trains to handle additional commuters and that could be worked with if they see it as a problem.

Mr. Eric Martinez said he is the Division Director with the Roadway and Trails Engineering Division and Public Works that is responsible for the City projects with City funds.

Mr. Martinez said the Cerrillos Road Phase 2 C is programmed for federal FY 2013 funding. The \$1.5 million would initiate the study, design and the right of way acquisition for the next phase and additional years funding for 2014-2015 would help fund construction of that segment.

Mayor Coss asked how long the final concrete and asphalt would take. He didn't want to see businesses disrupted a long time again in the spring.

Mr. Martinez said with good weather it should take about a week. He said the other project, the Acequia Trail/Rail Yard crossing, is a City endeavor using City funds. Current funding is available to continue the design work and the environmental study would proceed and currently was awaiting final signature with the State and the Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Martinez said the project is on the TIP because it is a regionally significant project and traverses

DOT right-of-way and US Highway 284-285. A public hearing is planned in March.

Councilor Bushee asked how much had been spent for design. She asked if there were any conclusions as to over or under from the last few public hearings.

Mr. Martinez said he doesn't have a number but the next phase for design was \$150,000-\$200,000. He said a lot of people wanted the under option but not a lot of input was received. The cost is estimated at \$3-\$4 million regardless of over or under and the sources of funding are pending.

Chair Mayfield asked about the pedestrian access on the Acequia Trail/Rail Yard crossing.

Mr. Gallegos said both the Acequia Trail and St. Francis Drive were under the State's jurisdiction and he would give them the message.

Ms. Beth Mills, County planner for the open space and trails said she would update the Board on the Rail Trail and the New Mexico Central Trail to connect Rancho Viejo and El Dorado.

She said a cooperative agreement was approved January 31 to provide FHA funds of \$750,750 for the County to construct a portion of the Santa Fe Rail Trail segments two and three and would be a match.

Ms. Mills said the BCC Board approved a cooperative project agreement with DOT on New Mexico Central, the second project, to provide federal funding of \$75,000. This is a match that would be applied to trails design and the RFP would go out next week.

Mr. Wilson introduced Claude Morelli with the NMDOT, Planning Division.

2. Presentation of the NMDOT "Look for Me" Pedestrian Safety Campaign

Mr. Morelli said a grant was received from the National Traffic Safety Administration for \$450,000 and has been matched with Public Safety money to address the high rate of fatalities in the state.

The "Look at Me" campaign involves media and enforcement in five cities: Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Farmington, Las Cruces and Gallup.

Mr. Morelli said the media campaign would have PSA (public service announcement) radio spots, bus and bus shelter wraps, tip cards, posters, hats and retro reflective vests and flashlights. The enforcement blitz looks at four intersections per city with two police sweeps at each intersection. The blitz started in October and would be repeated in April and May.

Mr. Morelli showed a slide presentation of the issues. A summary follows:

- Speed kills pedestrians and people are more likely to survive if hit by a lower speed vehicle. A map of collision locations and the most severe locations was shown.
- The State of New Mexico is one of the highest rates of pedestrian fatalities and has a lot to do with the alcohol problem (55-60 % of New Mexico fatalities.) Most pedestrian fatalities were males in New Mexico.

- One problem is youth hit by cars and people over the age of 64.
- Santa Fe has had 170 crashes over the last five years averaging 2 to 3 deaths each year; more than half of the 35-40 deaths per year are alcohol related.
- St. Michael's and Cerrillos area and several areas along St. Francis Drive have problems regarding collisions involving alcohol.
- Four intersections will be done in Santa Fe as part of the enforcement blitz; San Francisco/Sandoval intersection; Montezuma/Guadalupe; Cerrillos /Rodeo Road and St. Francis Drive/Cordova. Enforcement would continue in late April or early May.

Mr. Morelli said data is available and could be incorporated that includes cyclist but it wasn't part of the statistics.

Mr. Morelli showed the types of graphics that would be used in the media campaign. He said the key message is twofold; pedestrians look out for drivers and drivers look out for pedestrians and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Councilor Bushee said a lot of problems in her district were around alcohol. Her constituents want a cross walk and she has explained that unless the crosswalk is a pushbutton, they are less safe. She talked about the difficulty in people crossing safely in areas like West Alameda to the River Park or St. Michael's and Osage etc.

Mr. Martinez said there are now more studies and tools. He said a crosswalk is being evaluated at the Rail Trail and St. Michaels and sidewalks would be placed in the West Alameda area where currently there are none. He agreed based on federal studies that safety depends on where the crosswalks are placed.

Councilor Bushee asked that the difficult areas for crossing be looked at by Public Safety or Public Works.

Mr. Wilson said the Bicycle Master Plan identifies best practices for crosswalks for trail segments. He said once the Bicycle Master Plan was finished a Pedestrian Master Plan would be initiated and look at those situations and find improvements.

Councilor Trujillo asked about a study regarding crosswalks and rumble strips used. He suggested looking at a new tool being used in another state that has a 3-D image of a child that pops up on the street.

Mr. Gallegos said it was an issue to place rumble strips in neighborhood streets because of the noise but that could alert a driver that something was ahead they should be aware of.

Mayor Coss asked Mr. Gallegos to look at Cerrillos and St. Michael's because of several pedestrian fatalities. He wanted to see the area closed and redesigned.

Mr. Gallegos agreed. He said in addition the pedestrian activity would be looked at more in that area because of the logistics in the next phase.

Commissioner Mayfield asked if Highway 285/84 corridor was being addressed. He said people get

stuck in the corridor with flat tires etc. and were locked in for a 5 mile stretch.

Mr. Gallegos said he knew of no plans for improvements for the corridor to deal with break downs. Signs were put up at the request of the Tesuque Police Department for vehicles to pull over if they stop, but he isn't aware of fatalities in the corridor. He said eventually cameras would be there and possibly in the future someone could be sent when a break down is seen on camera.

3. Update on Federal Transportation Bill Reauthorization

Mr. Wilson said he is working on the sixth continuing resolution on the safety legislation that originally expired in 2009 and currently expires on March 31, 2012.

Mr. Wilson said the Senate has worked on their version of the reauthorization (Map 21.) The proposed bill is for two years and includes the past six months (18 months.) The big issue for the MPO is the legislation raises the minimum size of MPO's to a population of 200,000 and the bill language eliminates MPOs smaller in size. The Santa Fe MPO would be eliminated but language allows them to plead for existence with the Governor and the DOT. The Senate passed the bill (85-11) to go on next week to the Senate floor.

He said the Infrastructure and Transportation Committee has been working on House Bill 7 (American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act.) The bill is a five-year bill that raises the MPO thresholds to \$100,000 and Santa Fe would be safe.

Mr. Wilson said another issue is a requirement of 10% STP federal funding that is specifically for enhancement type projects for bicycle/pedestrian/landscape etc. The project would still be eligible in both the Senate and the House proposal but specific money would not be set aside.

Mr. Wilson said both the Senate and House propose to get rid of the Safe Routes to Schools Program. The House bill proposes to shift the funding to Transit from the Transportation Trust Fund (gas tax/ transportation related.) Funding would then be a part of the annual budget process and become more precarious as to whether funding would be received.

Mr. Tibbetts said there are 230 smaller MPOs out of 383 and raising the population of the MPO's would affect two thirds of all MPOs. The SFMPO is receiving letters to support amendments to bills before they go to a full vote. The general feeling was that what would be kept would be based on amendments from different party members.

Mr. Tibbetts said samples of letters that affect transit, Safe Routes to School or enhancement funding were included in the Committee's packet. He said Staff has to call a meeting when a request for support needs to be signed and notice is sometimes within hours.

Mr. Tibbetts asked the Committee if they wanted to give the sign off authorization to the chair. He said as this goes through the Committee process there would be a lot of these issues. The continuing resolution current funding would expire March 31 and was why there is a big push.

Commissioner Stefanics recommended that the chair and vice chair have authorization to sign off for the Santa Fe MPO; if not available then one member from the City and one member from the County.

Commissioner Mayfield asked for an example of something that shouldn't be signed on.

Mr. Tibbetts said the House bill the feeling was that a lot of the highway departments were not looking at the full transportation picture. The 10% that was set aside was part of a move toward focus on intermodal/multimodal transportation facilities. The House bill is trying to give more flexibility to the states to determine what projects are important to them.

He said most of the letters are from advocates for multi-modal who feel they have lost their guarantee and there is a shortfall of revenue for federal funding and sources are being looked at. He gave an example of new oil exploration as one issue that could be controversial and shouldn't be signed.

Mr. Tibbetts said Staff feels they can't act on these because it is the Committee's role.

Mayor Coss agreed. He said time is running out and Staff might want to prepare something to send to Senator Udall that speaks to alternative transportation, the need for funding and issues the Santa Fe MPO wants. He suggested Staff prepare a draft for the next meeting.

Commissioner Stefanics said the National Association of Counties has a federal initiative to come back to the table with the federal government so the counties are not left out. She said the Association will meet in March and the congressional delegation would be at several events with commissioners from around the state. She offered to take the letter if ready.

Councilor Bushee asked why the Safe Routes to Schools Program would be eliminated.

Mr. Morelli said he thought it was policy priorities and a desire to reduce the separate funding programs. Also the gas tax revenue is below historic levels and money for smaller programs tends to be what is looked at.

Mr. Tibbetts said Mayor Coss, among others has suggested Staff prepare a position paper to emphasize the elements of the long range MPO and MPT, safety, multi-modal etc so the City/County position is clear and shows how that would evolve and be open to all of the transportation modes.

He said a lot of the programs need to be maintained and funded and one issue is that a lot of infrastructure has met its extended life. A lot more funding would have to be directed to infrastructure and that shouldn't be at the expense of other projects.

Mr. Tibbetts said the paper could be written by Staff for Committee review prior to the events and directed to those who would be most helpful to their congressional delegation.

Mr. Tibbetts said the Board wouldn't meet until April and the critical time was prior to the end of March. He thought a preemptive type letter made sense.

Commissioner Mayfield asked Mr. Tibbetts to prepare the letter for him and Councilor Bushee's review. He said once signed the letter could be posted.

E. MATTERS FROM THE SFMPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

There were none.

F. MATTERS FROM THE MPO STAFF

Mr. Wilson said MPO is in the final stages of the Bicycle Master Plan draft. He proposed it would be out for public review by the end of February and come to the April 12 Policy Board meeting for approval. The draft would be presented to the County Commission and the Board would receive the plan for review in the next few weeks.

Mr. Wilson said the previous year the MPO had three student teams from the Polytechnic Institute work for them. This year one team would be sponsored to work on crash data analysis and look at vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle crashes and develop a list of high crash locations. The work would be coordinated with Mr. Morelli and DOT with an ultimate goal to identify the most severe crash locations and have a solid application for the Highway Safety Improvement Program federal funding, etc.

Commissioner Stefanics said the presentation by the students was very important both for the students as well as the Committee and she encouraged that.

Mr. Wilson said in April he would bring an amendment for the Washington Street project and the Unified Planning Work Program that would show where federal planning funds would be spent and the studies that should be developed, etc.

Mr. Wilson said the MPO currently is working on the plan with the Technical Coordinating Committee for the tasks over the next two-years. That would be presented for approval in April.


G. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE NMDOT AND FHWA

There were none.

H. ADJOURNMENT – Next meeting, Thursday April 12, 2012 at 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

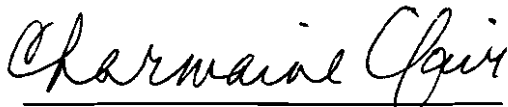
Approved by:



David Coos, Chair

DANIEL MAYFIELD, CHAIR

Submitted by:


Charmaine Clair, Stenographer