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MINUTES OF THE SANTA FÉ MPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE February 28, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fé MPO Technical Coordinating Committee was called to order on the above date by Chair John Romero at approximately 1:30 p.m. in the Coronado Room, Santa Fé Community Convention Center, 201 Marcy Street, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Romero, Chair - City of Santa Fé Jon Bulthuis – Santa Fé Trails [arriving later] Phil Gallegos – NMDOT District 5 Andrew Jandáček – Santa Fé County Shelley Cobau for Jack Kolkmeyer – Santa Fé County Richard Macpherson for Reed Liming – City of Santa Fé Jack Valencia for Josette Lucero - NCRTD Eric Martínez – City of Santa Fé Robert Martínez – Santa Fé County Tamara Baer for Greg Smith – City of Santa Fé

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Vacancy – Tesuque Pueblo Vacancy - RPA

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Claude Morelli, NMDOT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Robert Martínez moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Eric Martínez seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 24, 2011

Mr. Macpherson moved to approve the January 24 2011 minutes as presented. Mr. Gallegos seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

1. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no communications from the public.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

a. Election of the Chair - MPO Staff

Mr. Eric Martínez was nominated but declined the nomination.

Mr. Robert Martínez moved to re-elect John Romero as Chair. Ms. Baer seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. Development of the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program __ MPO Staff

Mr. Wilson referred to the handouts in the packet. Back in January they had a deadline for Project Information Forms and received them from City and County and one from Rio Metro. They met with District 5 (Miguel Gabaldon) and went through the forms and came back with recommendations.

The County had submitted for the NE Connector and the SE Connector combined into one study project.

The other project was the multi-bridge project for the City and it was suggested to split them out into smaller projects and prioritize them. So in the evaluation by Mr. Eric Martínez a couple of new bridges came in.

There were a few trails and Rio Metro improvements to South Capital Station.

They had hoped to have all the district's projects. The Commission hasn't met yet and they were looking at March 10.

The strategy here was to rank the projects. They needed to get it done so the TPB could approve it.

Mr. Gallegos said DOT was meeting on Monday and today they only needed the priority decision. On Monday they would allot money for Santa Fé and then the TCC could have a special meeting to put them in the TIP. He agreed to let staff know by Tuesday morning.

Mr. Wilson referred to the summary sheet for all PIFs. They had identified key factors for the projects some time ago. Now they could take the projects in order until they reached the fiscal constraints. The projects in yellow had PIFs submitted.

The time deadline was a factor in ranking them. There were conversations about including the cost as a factor so there was a ranking without cost.

Mr. Bulthuis arrived at this time.

Mr. Wilson said the third project was the multi-bridge project.

If they took out cost, the rankings were Cerrillos, SE Connector Rufina. With cost included, the rankings were Cerrillos, SE Connector, Rufina and NE Connector.

Mr. Gallegos said DOT couldn't give a specific amount without knowing how much they would have. The Department's highest priority was Cerrillos Road.

Ms. Cobau shared a report on traffic congestion problems on Richards prepared by Jennifer Jenkins. She said lots of people were affected by that congestion and the letter asked the MPO to help alleviate the problems there.

Mr. Jandáček said the County submitted bids for both NE and SE connectors and were told to do them as study projects so they resubmitted for that. There were many residents in SFCC and Rancho Viejo who had asked for help. They met to discuss a solution. The highest priority County project was the SE Connector.

Ms. Cobau thought safety and mobility/congestion should be solid for that. It would be impossible to get an ambulance down Richards at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Wilson said they could include these projects in the MTP. At the meeting they seemed to be in favor of investing and later shied away from participating in it.

Mr. Gallegos clarified that in order to follow the process and go through federal requirements; they had to do study projects first because the environmental had to be cleared first. So phases a, b, c could be done together and their impacts overlap. The money was for 2014-2015. Money for 2013 was all gone.

Mr. Tibbetts added that it took at least 21/2 years to get through those environmental studies. They

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didn't know how much money would be available in any given year. But if they had \$100,000 for the first studies and had public involvement and was an alignment study they should take it all the way to Eldorado.

Mr. Gallegos said at the District quarterly meeting it would be adjusted and they might be able to get it into 2012. The RFP would have to go through the DOT to make sure it met federal requirements. That would mean a part of the study might be put in. It depended on how much it would cost. To take it through Phase C would take \$500,000.

Ms. Cobau said it was on the WIPP route and if something happened, the truck would have to use Rabbit Road. She wondered if they could capture some WIPP funding.

Mr. Gallegos said this year it was going into St. Francis Drive. The only way Richards would qualify would be to go through this study. The WIPP money was very specific.

Mr. Wilson said a frontage road might be questionable. Mr. Gallegos agreed.

Mr. Robert Martínez said regardless of whether DOE ever took it over, it would operate as one.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that \$18 million was hard to fund in one chunk. If they got through phase B they would know better what cost would be.

Mr. Robert Martínez said what had been decided was to build a secondary access on the north side and to allow SFCC to move their primary entrance 300 feet to the south. They should be building the north connection this spring and main entrance relocation in summer or fall.

Chair Romero thought it seemed to be a reasonable request.

Mr. Tibbetts recalled they started the process in May when they were trying to get \$35 million in a bond at that time. At first it was to have an east entrance but now was a north access and relocation of main entrance. It was still on Richards. If SFCC could provide some funding, phase A could get started.

Chair Romero said it then would be part of the MPO process instead of the SFCC Task Force process.

Mr. Tibbetts agreed. He saw their role as supporting the County. What they were talking about was the whole SFCC district roads network.

Mr. Wilson said it required at least a 20% match.

Mr. Robert Martínez figure the County would likely have go to a bond issue in 2013. \$18 million for two projects was a large amount.

Mr. Gallegos suggested getting funding from the state and then they would be eligible for federal funds if new funds became available.

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Mr. Valencia asked how much time would be saved for DOT future work if the County and SFCC jointly funded that.

Mr. Gallegos thought it could possibly have construction in 2014.

Ms. Cobau said it served far more than just county residents, including IAIA, SFCC students, day care, schools, etc.

Mr. Wilson said a traffic impact analysis with a roundabout put in and Richards should be back to smooth flowing in the short term and buy time for the process. No matter what, it was a two-year study process just to get something out to bid.

Mr. Gallegos said if the state funded it that would be done in 2014-2015.

Mr. Eric Martínez said they should get it on the TIP and fund through a study process. In the meantime they could look for funding through impact fees to get it going and started before 2014.

Mr. Gallegos said if the County could fund all or a portion with bond money for the study, then they could use federal money for construction. He urged Mr. Martinez to make sure the local match was in the budget for that year.

Mr. Wilson went back to the list and said the bridges were all city projects.

Mr. Eric Martínez thought he had them listed correctly.

Mr. Wilson said the priorities then would be the NE and SE Connectors, Cerrillos, Rufina, La Tierra and the Bridges.

Mr. Robert Martínez asked if Colleen Baker submitted any PIF.

Mr. Wilson said he got none.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Eric Martínez briefly discussed the city trails.

Mr. Gallegos asked if the TCC wanted to use the enhancement monies for Cerrillos or elsewhere. Also there were balances often at end of FY and that might be the best way to fund Cerrillos, depending on how much they had at closeout.

Chair Romero asked Mr. Gallegos if with this basic priority list he could report back after the Monday meeting. Mr. Gallegos agreed and would get with Mr. Wilson. Next week he could tell what would get funding for 2012. Right now the enhancement funds were to be used for the Acequia Trail, South Capital and then the Gonzales pedestrian trail.

Mr. Valencia moved to approve the list as discussed. Mr. Eric Martínez seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-3 majority voice vote with Mr. Robert Martínez, Mr. Jandáček and Ms. Cobau voting against it.

Ms. Baer asked about the pedestrian enhancements on Airport Road - whether the bike lanes and sidewalk expansions were enhancements and if that was part of the Airport Road project. Chair Romero said that was not included.

Mr. Eric Martínez said it was just medians and landscaping.

Chair Romero added that the bike lanes were compliant now.

Mr. Robert Martínez said it seemed to him that the County was always taking a back seat on these.

Mr. Jandáček said the SE Connector as it related to Cerrillos did have a great safety basis. If they changed the safety factor on SE Connector then it would equal the Cerrillos Road project for priority.

Chair Romero said the factor was not public safety but safety as used by that facility. This scaling was approved during the MTP process.

Mr. Gallegos added that if the District put money in here for the study he would have to put some money into the construction phase. Once it was there they had to find a way to beef it up.

Mr. Robert Martínez doubted that SFCC would contribute anything to the project.

Ms. Cobau put the onus of short-sightedness on I-25 upon the DOT shoulders. Mr. Gallegos didn't disagree.

Mr. Wilson asked if they could set up a meeting for next week. He noted there would be a TPB next Thursday at 4:00.

Three members couldn't meet on Thursday.

The Committee decided to meet next Wednesday, March 9th at 10:00 a.m.

3. MPO OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Wilson announced two webinars coming up. One on the 9th about roundabout development from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Tibbetts talked about a meeting tomorrow to answer questions.

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4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM TCC MEMBERS

There were no communications from TCC members.

5. ADJOURNMENT - Next TCC meeting - Tuesday, March 8th (Tentative) The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Approved by:

John Romero, Chair

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz, Stenographer

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