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SANTA FE MPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
May 13, 2010

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**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE MPO
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
May 13, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fe MPO Transportation Policy board was called to order on the above date by Commissioner Liz Stefanics at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Liz Stefanics, Chair
Mayor David Coss, Vice Chair [arriving later]
Councilor Bushee [arriving later]
Mr. Lawrence Barreras for Max Valerio, DOT
Commissioner Michael Anaya
Councilman Mark Mitchell [arriving later]
Councilor Matthew Ortiz
Commissioner Virginia Vigil

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Vigil moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Councilor Ortiz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES B April 8, 2010

Mr. Barreras said his name was spelled Barreras - not Barela.

Chair Stefanics said Commissioner Holian was an alternate and Commissioner Anaya was the member.

Commissioner Anaya moved to approve the minutes of April 8, 2010 as amended. Commissioner Vigil seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote. Councilor Ortiz abstained.

A. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no matters from the public.

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Public Hearing on the Amendment to the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (NM599/Jaguar Drive Interchange)

Mr. Wilson explained that this project was proposed to be privately funded. The map was in your packets. The developer proposes to construct an interchange and it was already an approved access point.

Mayor Coss arrived at this time.

Mr. Wilson further explained that it was a low ranking project in the corridor study because that ranking was only for projects that were going to be publicly funded.

The scope of this project would continue Jaguar through Tierra Contenta to Aviation Drive. The Pavilion Project was on west of 599. The City Council heard the annexation request on April 28th and approved it. He said the DOT would maintain the on and off ramps. He said even though it was funded by Mr. Cook, it had to be listed in the TIP. The project cost was \$9.6 million.

Councilor Bushee arrived at this time.

Councilman Mitchell arrived at this time.

Mr. Wilson noted that Mike Gomez, the engineer was here as well as Phil Griego from DOT.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no speakers from the public regarding this matter.

Councilor Ortiz moved to approve the listing on the TIP. Councilor Bushee seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Update presentation on the Las Soleras Rail Runner Station Section 810 application B Bohannon Huston, Inc.

Mr. Wilson shared the staff report. Two years ago the TPB approved Las Soleras as a train station location with 3 conditions. Because the station would be in the median, the next step was to get approval from FHWA. Mr. Thomas was here to give the presentation.

Mr. Albert Thomas from Bohannon Huston said Denise from Prometrix was on the team and also present. He gave a quick overview of the project application process. Under the MP he reviewed the size of the project

Councilor Ortiz thanked staff for including the minutes of the approval in the packet.

Mr. Thomas said construction was now occurring on the site and tenants were expected by early next year. He showed the map of the MP. Bohannon Huston was the contractor for the 810 application. The Technical Analysis was complete. The MPO was the regional planner organization so it required approval from this Board.

He showed the conceptual design of the bridge. The bridge would span as much as six lanes. They looked at the required safety features, what kind of pedestrian fencing was needed and also the improvements needed to prevent things from being thrown onto the interstate.

The Ridership Analysis was based on existing conditions rather than future levels. Then they applied it to the proposed land use of Las Soleras. At full build-out it would have 900 riders per day. He showed the Rail Runner egress modes. Then he showed working population and living population at Las Soleras and a map of those within walking distance.

He showed the Environmental Impact Analysis and anticipated no concerns. The report would be submitted by the end of May.

Next he showed the Public Involvement Program and explained that Bohannon Huston would also hold a public information process.

Chair Stefanics thanked him for the presentation.

Mayor Coss asked what the anticipated time frame for FHWA response and approval was.

Mr. Thomas said they had been getting two week responses on their reports. He anticipated approval this summer so the station could be operational by next summer. The latest decision would be mid September and the earliest would be June or July.

The Board and staff briefly discussed the history of Richards vs. Las Soleras as a station location.

Councilor Bushee noted that on the memo it said all road improvements would be done by developer and access to south. She asked what the time frame on it was.

Mr. Tibbetts clarified that it was to be done before the station operation began.

Councilor Bushee corrected him that the memo said it would be before construction of the station.

Mr. Wilson explained that these conditions were put in the approved plans.

Councilor Bushee said her concern was about traffic there.

Mr. Wilson said it had to come through the develop review process and would be addressed.

Mr. Barreras reminded the Board that the MPO had fixed five train stop sites. Las Soleras was the fifth site.

Chair Stefanics said that decision was made before she was on this Board. Right now the RPA and RTD were doing a lot of connectors at 599. So putting in another stop was probably going to anger some people at the last stop. Also they were going into a new state administration in January. It was possible that the approvals would not get done in time for that change.

She understood the developer had the funds and that was great. They didn't have much GRT to spread around but having the connectors at 599 was a good sign. So she questioned the need for this station location. There was a SFCC Board resolution made on February 2nd but the MPO had made the decision before that time.

Mr. Wilson said the #1 condition was the written commitment on the Human Services Building that they would locate there. The ridership analysis was interesting. There were 7 times as many riders coming from Albuquerque to Santa Fe. The opportunity to walk from station to office was a big factor. The Rail Runner was still increasing in ridership as more stations were added. Eventually they might have to have an express service.

Chair Stefanics asked what further role this Board would have.

Mr. Wilson said the construction had to go into the TIP.

Mayor Coss said they were not allocating money for it.

Councilor Ortiz recalled that last year they required the developer to go through the development review process for water access. The infrastructure had to be built beforehand. Even the State buildings had to come in for development review. So expecting them by next year seemed optimistic.

He agreed with staff, on the Las Soleras location. What switched it for him from Richards was that the developer would pay for it and the Rail Runner had no more funds for it.

Mr. Philip Sena, project owner of the Pavilion but speaking as a citizen addressed the Board. He said they had represented every step of their development to the City. There was- no charge or cost to the City or the State. This was a development that wished to promote a rail station right next to 599. They thought it was a great rail station. He wondered why this station would be approved to serve a subdivision that had no water rights. He had received calls from the neighbors at Nava Adé and Governor Miles. He had received

calls from them. They had no knowledge about this super complex. So he would inform them and this chambers would be bursting on the 26th at Council meeting.

Mr. Sena said the State didn't have to comply with zoning or height. If they got control of that 20 acres he wondered how they would be able to run utilities in there. He asked that they look at this more professionally and for the benefit of the citizens of Santa Fe County.

Chair Stefanics thanked him for coming today.

3. Presentation of the Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Mr. Tibbetts said they were still waiting for some data to complete the document and should have a full draft by the end of this month. The presentation today was a final presentation of the map.

Chair Stefanics asked if action on it was required. Mr. Wilson said it was not.

Mr. Tibbetts said at the end of May they would start a 30-day public review and would ask for a vote at the end of June or first of July.

Commissioner Vigil excused herself from the meeting.

Mr. Wilson recalled at the last meeting it was asked for the road sections that would be included. It was a moving target. He handed out the latest draft of the map and said with this draft they tried to categorize all the improvements by status and funding source. He briefly explained the legend and listed roads for the various categories. The map was what they called the future road network. It incorporated all the corridor studies and recommendations from SLDP and a few smaller studies.

Councilor Ortiz asked if this was the first document that had to go through the public vetting process. Mr. Wilson agreed.

Chair Stefanics thought the latest they could vote on this was July.

Mr. Wilson said technically it was June. Then the 30 day public review time, one of which was at the TPB meeting. There were plenty of chances for more input. This list included all the projects that met the criteria.

Chair Stefanics asked what money they could bring to the table.

Mayor Coss noted they took the Richards extension off the TIP about five years ago. He didn't know how it got back on the TIP.

Mr. Wilson said they were to develop a white paper based on traffic impacts. The report was still in draft but modeling showed some improvements on nearby roads. They had received many requests for this

from the neighborhoods nearby. This process was to get the input from this Board and TCC and the public.

Next were the fiscal constraints they identified and were on the list the Board received. There were no commitments now but they did have the required match for federal funds which was 20% local match for the feds. District 5 distributed the federal funds. Mr. Gallegos said the MPO could expect \$510 million per year. So \$7.5 million per year was midpoint. They took out a percentage for bicycle and pedestrian use.

So 2010 was set. They had preliminary projects identified with \$2.5 million for South Meadows. It was being constructed now so they would find other uses for that money.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the 11/17 spreadsheet and said they categorized them by short term, medium term and long term. They also identified the public projects and based on information from corridor studies and other information categorized these projects based on need. 16 - short term for the next ten years. Then they tried to prioritize them 1 through 16.

Councilor Ortiz said he would like to see the preliminary list ranked.

Mr. Wilson said it was ranked.

Councilor Ortiz wanted a ranking based on screening for feasibility with funding. This had not gone out to the community so he was hesitant to give direction.

Mayor Coss agreed with Councilor Ortiz on feasibility of funding.

Chair Stefanics said at the next meeting they wouldn't be ready to vote. Before that she thought staff should have the finance managers for City and County present to speak to it. Santa Fe was now in a different economic time. She didn't know that the County would have money for any of these.

Mr. Wilson explained that was why they were doing fiscal constraint.

Mr. Tibbetts added that it was a federal requirement to have this document. It was a plan, not a program. Right now none of this would appear until 2013. They had already done 2010-2012. This was a guide and a menu to pull projects that should be done in the short term by 2020. They still needed to have something that was reasonable. They could cut it down and have more illustrative projects in there. But nothing would happen until they could see what they would have to put in there. Right now they just needed this document.

He appreciated the comments but they still had to produce this for the federal government. The projects needed to be reasonable but none had committed funding.

Chair Stefanics said next time they would look to a more refined list with public comments. She thanked staff for the report.

C. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

There were no matters from the Board.

D. MATTERS FROM MPO STAFF

Mr. Wilson announced a webinar on May 25th on developing walkable thoroughfares. They had 25 signed up already. He asked the Board to let him know if any were interested.

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM NMDOT/FHWA

There were no communications from NMDOT or FHWA.

F. ADJOURN - Next Meeting - June 10, 2010

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Approved by:

Liz Stefanics, Chair

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz, Stenographer