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SANTA FE MPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
February 23, 2009

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**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE MPO
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

1. INTRODUCTIONS:

a. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Santa Fe MPO Technical Coordinating Committee was called to order by outgoing Chair, Jon Bulthuis at approximately 1:30 p.m., on the above date in the City Councilors Conference Room, City Hall, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

b. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jon Bulthuis, Outgoing Chair – City of Santa Fe
Mary Helen Follingstad, Vice Chair – RPA Director
Johnny Baca – Santa Fe County
David Martinez for Phil Gallegos, NMDOT District 5
Reed Liming – City of Santa Fe
Josette Lucero – NCRTD
Chris Ortega – City of Santa Fe
John Romero – City of Santa Fe

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Larry Samuel – Tesuque Pueblo
[Vacancy – Santa Fe Public Schools]

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Tibbetts – MPO Officer

OTHERS PRESENT

Karl Sommer
John Mahoney
Jim Siebert
Claude Morelli
Jack Valencia
Andrew Jandáček
Robert Martínez

c. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Tibbetts said the UPWP was not ready yet.

Mr. Ortega moved to approve as amended. Mr. Romero seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

d. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2009.

Mr. Baca noted that Andrew Jandáček's name was spelled incorrectly.

Mr. Morelli noted that Pat Oliver-Wright on page 8 and on page 10 was incorrectly identified. On page 2, the \$22,000 was a reference to 5303 funds, not 5311 funds.

Ms. Follingstad noted that on page 12 2nd paragraph, her name was misspelled.

Mr. Liming moved to approve the minutes of January 26, 2009 as amended. Mr. Baca seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

e. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Bulthuis mentioned the suggested nominees from last meeting and asked for nominees from the Committee.

Ms. Lucero, Ms. Follingstad and Mr. Romero were all nominated. They were asked for their willingness to serve and responded briefly.

Mr. Liming moved that Mr. Romero be elected as Chair and Ms. Follingstad be elected as Vice Chair. Ms. Lucero seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice.

Mr. Ortega clarified the term was 12 months.

2. ACTION ITEM:

a. Approval of Amended Transportation Improvement Program FY 2008-2011

• Overview of criteria and categories under the Economic Recovery Program

Mr. Tibbetts referred to the matrix on the back page of the packet. He had been told that the span for project starts had been lengthened to one year. It would open it up a lot to still deal with projects that were ready but also go back to other projects. He shared some emails from Pat Oliver-Wright on them.

Mr. Robert Martínez explained that they did not attach the County road projects but did have them ready.

Mr. Tibbetts explained that the amount of money to District 5 was a moving target. He asked Mr. David Martínez to say more about it.

Mr. David Martínez agreed it was a moving target. They had a special District meeting last week, inviting the planners they dealt with in the district which included Santa Fe MPO and Farmington MPO and 3 RPOs. They solicited projects from all of them to determine federal eligibility and whether they could meet the time tables that were set up. In November it had been start dates up to 120 days and then dropped to 90 and now was up to one year. That would change their process. Right now the estimated total was \$10,062,000.

The State did a typical distribution by district and the district had a list of 52 projects, many of which were not federally eligible. They went through the entire list and invited planners to address the projects. They discussed each one so they could rank them for most eligible and most worthy projects and came up with initial recommendations. In Santa Fe they chose the Siler Road project at \$2.5 million. The City said they only needed \$1.5 million so they revised it. Last week the Mayor and the transportation commissioner gave a new list with the priority for Airport Road. The District agreed to support it with \$2 million.

Mr. Tibbetts clarified that it was the City's priority #1, not necessarily the MPO's #1. Today he wanted the TCC to come up with the priorities for the MPO. They would be sent to the TPB for approval.

Mr. Ortega explained the rationale for their ranking. First was Airport Road; second was Siler Road; and the third project was for Rodeo Road enhancements (landscaping) at \$150,000. That would complete the rodeo safety project. They took off the last two projects.

Mr. David Martínez said it was not the District's intent to circumvent the MPO process. They just now got the County's list. He was asked to do a 3 tier level. Tier one were shovel ready within 90 days. Tier 2 - was 90-120 beyond that. Tier 3 was one year.

Mr. Ortega asked if rapid deployment was still a priority. Mr. David Martínez agreed.

Mr. David Martínez said he was disappointed to see this matrix from the County because they asked for specific categories.

Ms. Lucero said the NCRTD submitted a project to DOT and was the only transit project in District 5.

Mr. David Martínez said they were not told they would administer any transit funds at all but acknowledged that the list included scenic byways and transit projects. He referred Ms. Lucero to Pat Oliver-Wright or David Harris.

Mr. Romero had to excuse himself from the meeting and Ms. Follingstad chaired the rest of the meeting.

Ms. Follingstad asked if with the moving target nature of this they should wait on prioritizing.

Mr. David Martínez urged them not to wait.

After more effort to clarify what would happen, Mr. David Martínez said it appeared that the District would likely fund one project in the Santa Fe MPO for about \$2 million (since Santa Fe also got GRIP money), three projects in the Farmington MPO and four for the Northern Pueblos RPO including one in Española, and one in Los Alamos. He said Airport Road might be Tier one but might be Tier two. They wanted to concentrate on the projects they felt would likely be accomplished within the time frame. They felt confident with Siler Road and it became their number one project.

Mr. Tibbetts thought they could classify all of them in tiers and assign those most ready to go. He added that they would still get their regular funding for projects this FY. It would start the basis for a true TIP.

Mr. Ortega felt if it was \$2 million for the whole MPO then it would become a tug of war among county, city and pueblo. He personally didn't want it to be only for Airport Road. It would be in their interest to identify anything that would be ready that would add up to \$2 or 3 million.

Ms. Follingstad said every time they talked about it, they got further away from a decision.

Mr. Tibbetts felt they should not focus on the \$2 million but should work towards these improvements.

Ms. Follingstad said it was not framed in a way this group could make a proper decision here.

Mr. Tibbetts asked how they could adjust it to make it work. Tesuque didn't have a project on the table. It could exceed the \$2 million but that might be where it ended up.

Mr. Robert Martínez said if it was only \$2 million dollars, the County might just withdraw the road projects and just leave in the trails. He wasn't sure of the total for trails projects.

Ms. Follingstad said the total for the County trail projects was \$ 6 million.

Mr. Tibbetts agreed but noted that only some of them were shovel ready. Just paving Rabbit Road south would be a huge connection. Maybe it didn't need to go all the way to Eldorado.

Ms. Follingstad said they needed to know the criteria here.

Mr. Tibbetts said that was part of this discussion.

Mr. Ortega thought they might need a special meeting. The project needed to also meet the federal eligibility requirements. They would need SHPO, archaeology and right of way documentation.

Mr. Tibbetts said they were told that transit and STP had to be included.

Mr. Morelli said a minimum of 3% was stated this morning.

Mr. Tibbetts said there were 2 criteria: that it be shovel ready and how many jobs it would create.

Ms. Follingstad said there was nothing in it about jobs.

Mr. David Martínez said project readiness was the top one. But it didn't change the money picture. There was money they recommended for a Rio Arriba County bridge but they didn't have a good track record. There was one in Santa Fe County that dropped off because they kept asking for renewals. DOT needed to see that they were using the funds.

Ms. Follingstad wondered why they were submitting a long list when they had not even talked about the criteria.

Mr. Ortega felt that uncertainty should not stop them from making a recommendation for putting projects into the TIP. They also didn't know what the TPB would do with it. But if they didn't get something in the TIP soon, they might get nothing.

Ms. Follingstad saw 8 miles of trails ready to construct.

Mr. Romero moved to include the top two from City Public Works (Airport and Siler) and Mr. Robert Martínez's recommendation to have the County trail projects that were truly ready.

Mr. Liming suggested they could amend it later.

Mr. Bulthuis agreed. The trail readiness was something to be worked out.

Mr. Ortega seconded the motion with an amendment that all three city projects be included (Rodeo Road). Mr. Romero accepted it as friendly.

Ms. Follingstad clarified that the County would verify trail project readiness and no county road projects would be included.

Mr. Robert Martínez agreed and said the trails would be more feasible.

Mr. Tibbetts asked if any of the county road projects should be included in the appendix. All of this was an addendum to the TIP. It might fall out but the Committee should look at them. There was a specific request from a County Commissioner for South Meadows and Mr. Tibbetts would like to have that in the TIP.

Mr. David Martínez asked if it was possible to get a priority ranking on this list.

Mr. Robert Martínez agreed to prioritize the trails.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- **Selection of projects for transit and surface transportation funding**

Mr. Robert Martínez asked if this was reimbursement funding.

Mr. David Martínez said it was reimbursement after the first month.

Mr. Robert Martínez asked if the City had to have it budgeted before the project start.

Mr. David Martínez said it was by contract.

Mr. Ortega agreed and said it was okay.

3. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION:

- a. Update on continuation of Santa Fe Studies (I-25, New Mexico 599 and St. Francis Dr) (Dave Quintana, NMDOT)**

Mr. Quintana was not present.

Mr. Tibbetts said the first corridor study meeting would be tomorrow night at the SFCC. At it, Mr. Quintana would say they would be set up in such a way and the consultant would come back each month to the TCC meetings to inform the Committee.

- b. MTP public meetings coordination**

Mr. Tibbetts said they would have a table at each of these meetings. He was not sent a schedule but agreed to email it when he got it. Tomorrow's meeting was from 3-5 p.m.

Ms. Follingstad asked if they would be an open house format. Mr. Morelli agreed.

Mr. Tibbetts said March 11th at Gonzales Elementary was the one for St. Francis; SFCC was for the I-25 study.

Once those were finished they would then look at alternatives presented to TCC and then TPB with recommendations.

c. Update on public transit coordination and Rail Runner Express station construction

Mr. Tibbetts said they needed to get an idea from RPA how they were coordinating with Santa Fe Trails and NCRTD. They were at a loss here. Particularly Commissioner Stefanics had asked.

Mr. Bulthuis commented that Commissioner Stefanics would become a new member of NCRTD and RPA so she was on a steep learning curve.

Mr. Tibbetts asked if Commissioner Vigil was on the RPA. Mr. Bulthuis agreed.

Ms. Follingstad said she would be pleased to give a presentation on it at any time. The RPA agreed to have a contractor bring a plan for services needed and they were now doing public meetings. There were meetings on March 10 and 12. One in Eldorado and the other at SFCC. A third one would be in the northern part of the county at the County Extension Office. The purpose was to take public information on the expansion of transit connections.

She hoped to have a service plan ready on day one so that they had a better understanding of what was happening. She hoped to have it before the RPA in May and finalize it in June. Down the road they had a need for managing the GRT revenue.

d. Review of draft UPWP FY 2010

This item was postponed under Approval of the Agenda

4. MPO Officer Report

Mr. Tibbetts announced the MPO was getting Keith Wilson as a new staff person. He was now in Weston Mass and would start April 6th. He was from Scotland and had been in the states for 15 years.

5. TCC Member Comments

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Valencia asked for a letter of support regarding the stimulus proposal from the NCRTD for transit services. He explained that he needed to present it at the DOT meeting in Santa Rosa on Thursday.

Mr. Tibbetts clarified that the decision to support would have to come from the TPB since the TCC was really not the MPO.

Mr. Valencia said he understood.

7. ADJOURN – Next TCC meeting: Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. Ortega moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bulthuis seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Approved by:



John Romero, Chair

Submitted by:



Carl Boaz, Stenographer