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SANTA FE MPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
May 26, 2009

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**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE MPO
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, May 26, 2009**

INTRODUCTIONS:

a. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Santa Fe MPO Technical Coordinating Committee was called to order by Chair, John Romero at approximately 1:30 p.m., on the above date in the Conference Room 326, Federal Building, 120 S. Federal Place, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

b. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Romero, Chair – City of Santa Fe, or Rick Devine
Phil Gallegos, NMDOT District 5 or David Martínez
Reed Liming – City of Santa Fe or Katherine Mortimer
Josette Lucero – NCRTD or Jack Valencia
Desirae Luján for Chris Ortega – City of Santa Fe

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jon Bulthuis – Santa Fe Trails or Donald Martínez
Mary Helen Follingstad, Vice Chair – RPA Director
Robert Martínez (or Johnny Baca) – Santa Fe County
Andrew Jandáček, Santa Fe County
Larry Samuel – Tesuque Pueblo
[Vacancy – Santa Fe Public Schools]

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Tibbetts – MPO Officer
Keith Wilson, Senior Planner

OTHERS PRESENT

Lucas Cruz
Claude Morelli
John Nitzel
Roscoe Herman

c. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Liming to approve the Agenda as published. Mr. Gallegos seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

d. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 23, 2009 & APRIL 27, 2009.

March 23, 2009

Mr. Gallegos moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2009 as presented. Ms. Lucero seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

April 27, 2009

Chair Romero requested a change on page 2, second to last paragraph. It should have said \$250,000 for safety, not \$2 million.

Mr. Gallegos requested a change on page 3, half way down to strike that last sentence. It wasn't accurate He was guessing.

Mr. Liming moved to approve the minutes of April 27, 2009 as corrected. Mr. Gallegos seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

1. ACTION ITEMS

a. MPO-TIP 2009 Amendment: Airport Road Safety Project

Mr. Wilson said he was not sure but what transpired on this. The State people said there was about \$750,000 available for safety this year. The median improvement was a safety improvement so it would go from \$250,000 to \$750,000.

Ms. Luján said she had asked them about ADA considerations. She got an email from Elias Archuleta saying that maybe \$120,500 would be available.

Mr. Liming asked if those changes qualified as administrative. Mr. Wilson thought so.

Mr. Gallegos clarified that for the STIP it required Commission approval. He was not sure about the TIP. He added that they might have one more amendment in August for the STIP but the MPO could amend the TIP beforehand. To get the money they would have to amend the STIP.

Mr. Wilson suggested they could move to recommend it to the TPB and leave the amount open.

Mr. Gallegos said the motion would be to amend the TIP with whatever other money was available.

Mr. Liming moved approval of 1-A and any additional funding be recommended to TPB. Mr. Gallegos seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. Review and Recommendation of Phase A Alternatives for I-25 Improvements (Santa Fe Studies)

Chair Romero said these corridor studies would become amendments to the transportation plan and possibly amendments to the TIP. He introduced Roscoe Herman - Project Manager and John Nitzel, consultant.

Mr. Herman said they submitted a preliminary draft of the report. He used a Power Point to go through the recommendations for phase A and said they would present it on June 11th to TPB. They wanted to get comments from the TCC before they turned it in.

He said they had three public meetings on the I-25 corridor study. They took the draft back to stakeholders and came up with criteria for these concepts.

The recommendations would be put into a model and then develop a prioritized list of improvements.

Mr. Liming asked if any of this had been modeled yet.

Mr. Herman said it had not.

Mr. Nitzel pointed out how this showed the deficiencies. The accident rates were higher with 5 fatalities in 3 years. The highest section was in the St. Francis area, at Cerrillos Albuquerque off ramp and where El Dorado traffic merged into one lane. With this design they separated them. That pulled it way back from Buckner. It was a good example of what they tried to follow to alleviate people getting off the interstate and coming up to a signal. The lack of lighting was also identified. Also emergency vehicle access could no longer cross the median and they had to use existing access points.

Mr. Herman said they were searching for a way to get them across the tracks.

Mr. Nitzel said they had accident data by tenth of a mile.

Mr. Liming asked if it tended to be people trying to merge onto the Interstate.

Mr. Nitzel said much was speed related but not much DWI. There was also some pedestrian. But when you look at the merge deficiencies, it would create more problems in the next 10-15 years due to just more traffic.

Mr. Herman showed a concept for a new interchange at Richards. There was discussion about using roundabouts there.

Mr. Liming said he assumed they would need new bridges there anyway. It had been controversial and he guessed the Rail Runner span would allow for four lanes.

The Committee also discussed overpasses at Yucca and Camino Carlos Rey.

Mr. Morelli asked about bike safety considerations with a roundabout.

Mr. Herman said they could look at that

Mr. Nitzel commented there was a lack of N-S bike facilities. He talked about the overpasses in relation to the possible rail stop.

Mr. Liming thought it seemed odd that they had to have these overpasses to get the Richards interchange.

Mr. Herman ended his power point with a brief comment on auxiliary lanes on I-25 that would provide the same level as a six lane freeway between on and off ramps with sufficient length for traffic weaving. Widening would not be required with the interchange area.

Mr. Wilson said that if no action was needed, this would be considered at the next TPB regular meeting. They were getting some clarification from FWHA.

Chair Romero said the TCC did need to make a recommendation in order to go on to Phase B.

Mr. Wilson asked if this should just be on the TPB agenda or if it should rise to the level of a public hearing.

Chair Romero reminded them it would have at least one public meeting.

Mr. Liming thought a special evening meeting would elevate the sense that it was more permanent. The regular meeting was still a public meeting. No public hearing was required at this point.

Mr. Liming moved that the TCC concur with recommendations for Phase A; to move to Phase B based on what was presented today. Ms. Lucero seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Nitzel asked if they would still provide feedback on things that they might have missed.

2. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Progress Report on MTP Update

Mr. Wilson said the update was in the back of the packet. He and Mr. Tibbetts had met with agencies

on input for improvements to the long range plan. They would be scheduling public meetings in the first week of June and explored bringing on one consultant from bicycle specialists.

Mr. Tibbetts arrived at this time.

Mr. Tibbetts said the 2010-2013 TIP was just reflecting what they talked about last month. They wanted to put it into this form for presentation to the TPB and there were no changes from what they had talked about. There were some issues with match but, basically, the projects themselves were as is.

He referred to the bridge project and the Cerrillos Road and how they plotted them in the fiscal years. He referred them to page three. They would put the Cerrillos Road project in 2011 and then the bridge project would be in 2012 to make up the amount so it didn't cut into the amount for the bridge.

Chair Romero noticed he had the bridge down twice and asked if they were straddling the two fiscal years.

Mr. Tibbetts agreed. The amount stays the same; they were just moving it around. He briefly went through the projects as had been agreed upon.

Mr. Liming asked where South Meadows was positioned.

Mr. Tibbetts said it was in 2012. He added that they would keep refining it as they got more information on it.

3. MPO OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Tibbetts said after the last meeting they had an I-25 meeting at SFCC and talked with Chris Blewett about local train service. The trains now sat on the siding all day long. He liked the idea. And they would get an estimate on fuel costs. They could have those trains running from 599 to downtown with regularity. Then when Zia comes on line it could be a local stop. Then the express wouldn't stop at every station and would maintain better times. It would encourage local commuters to use the train. It would not cost more than a dollar each way. They wouldn't have the pressure to make the trip all the way to Albuquerque. So he would prepare a project proposal. The fuel costs might come out of the local revenue share.

The Bicycle-Pedestrian Task Force was looking to work closer with the County and BTAC to work on connections.

Mr. Tibbetts said they did get an update on the unobligated funds for planning. They had talked about contracting out the MTP so they could spend more time on other important tasks.

Mr. Liming said they could expect those any moment now.

Mr. Morelli asked how soon they could get a consultant on board.

Mr. Tibbetts said it would depend on how much they could pay him. Maybe they could use different consultants for different portions.

Mr. Morelli said DOT liked the MTPs and were anxious to see them. They needed to be done by June 30, 2010.

Mr. Tibbetts asked if there was to be no elevator at the 599 station.

Mr. Gallegos agreed. He said it would be an ADA compliant ramp.

4. TCC MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.


6. ADJOURN – Next TCC Meeting: Monday, June 22, 2009

Mr. Liming moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lucero seconded the meeting 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