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Santa Fe MPO
Transportation Policy Board
August 16, 2007**

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MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE MPO
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

August 16, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the SFMPO Transportation Policy Board was called to order on the above date at approximately 3:20 p.m. by Commissioner Jack Sullivan, Chair, in City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated the lack of a quorum [later established] as follows:

Members Present:

Commissioner Jack Sullivan Chair
Councilor Miguel Chávez, Vice Chair
Councilor Matthew Ortíz
Commissioner Virginia Vigil [arriving later]

Members Absent:

Commissioner Michael Anaya [Excused]
Mayor David Coss [Excused]

Others Present:

Mr. Mark Tibbetts, SFMPO Officer
Mr. Lucas Cruse, SFMPO Officer
Ms. Mary Helen Follingstad, RPA Director
Mr. Phil Gallegos, NMDOT
Mr. Brian Degani, NMDOT
Mr. Shabih Rizvi, County Transportation Director
The woman from Assn of Realtors
Julie Ann Grimm, Santa Fe New Mexican

The Board began with the Information Items until a quorum was established.

B. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Corridor Studies and Transportation Model Update- SFMPO Staff and NMDOT

Mr. Degani reported working with the MPO staff on the traffic model update with socio-demographic data, etc. and were currently identifying funding. He said the updated model was for use with the corridor studies and analysis and they would come back to the Board with forecasts.

Mr. Degani identified himself as the MPO liaison from NMDOT. He said they had to identify land use, zoning, etc. with city and county staff to move forward on it so they could get a completed model for use in the corridor studies. He promised to bring a progress report to next month's meeting.

Commissioner Vigil arrived at 3:25 p.m.

Councilor Ortíz asked when the corridor studies were anticipated to be finished.

Mr. Degani said he did not have that information.

Mr. Phil Gallegos responded that the study was on hold until the model was finished. Right now they were waiting for the traffic data and then could go forward. He estimated it would be about four months after that. He said if it took two months for the model, that would put it into January.

Councilor Ortíz thought that was conservative. Mr. Gallegos agreed. He said they would move quickly after the model was done.

Councilor Ortíz was worried that the 599 study was needed for the NW Quadrant project. It seemed they would be ahead of the DOT on those data.

Councilor Chávez commented they had asked for this 599 study for several years now. He asked if the traffic model, would address the grade-separated designs along there.

Mr. Gallegos explained that the model would show traffic projections and would steer the decision of at-grade or grade-separated designs. He said it would tell which direction they needed to go. Traffic volumes, socio-economic data, all went into it. Then they would meet with the MPO on recommendations and actively try to secure

funding. He added that the 599 corridor was designed well in anticipation of grade separations so there would be less hurdles to overcome.

2. SFMPO Rail Station Location Study - SFMPO Staff

Mr. Cruse provided the update with a printed report. He said the MPO initiated a fact-finding study for the entire corridor to determine where rail stations could be on opening day as well as in the future. He said they had their first meetings and were going into the City's Transit Oriented Design and then would go to the City for approval. The first part would be used for the I-25 corridor.

Commissioner Sullivan felt one of the biggest environmental impacts was not the Rail Runner but the station location impacts with parking, etc. He said the assessment did not consider that at all except a short section on the Richard's Avenue but nothing on 599 and I-25 where it would have the biggest impact of all. He thought it was because of the complaints from Rancho Viejo. There was talk about night sky, various ordinances, and at the public meeting, an ad hoc group sprung up about the stations, not the rail runner, itself.

He asked if this study would be completed prior to the environmental assessment.

Mr. Cruse said that to this day they had not coordinated with the rail itself but focused on where the stations should go.

Commissioner Sullivan noted that the Albuquerque group was planning the railroad and it should be part of the environmental assessment.

Mr. Gallegos said the EA consisted basically of the track to get it into Santa Fe.

Commissioner Sullivan thought that was wrong. It should be all of the environmental impacts because you could not have a train without stations. It was an incomplete EA without that. He added that they could not worry about that later.

Mr. Gallegos said he would bring it up with the team looking at the stations themselves and do an amendment to the EA to look at those elements. The stations would be evaluated under a separate analysis. The stations would generate traffic and road improvements would have to address those impacts. He said they were looking at a completion by the end of 2008. No stations on the 18-mile corridor and the locations would be studied through the MPO.

Councilor Chávez agreed with part of that argument but said it was the combined

impact. He thought part of the Rancho Viejo aspect was the time element. The EA impact was a combined impact of the train itself plus the stations and they didn't know where they would be located on that corridor. The impact would have to be done on the specific locations.

Mr. Gallegos agreed they would have to be done that way, on each location. He said the only two identified on this study were at 599 and at Richards. They were not set in stone and would be studied separately. He said they might change and they were actively looking at other locations.

Commissioner Sullivan said nothing was said about the 599 station in the assessment.

Mr. Gallegos said he just go it a couple of days ago.

Commissioner Sullivan said because there was a lot on Richards but none on 599 it led him to believe DOT had already made their decision.

With a quorum achieved, the Board went back to the published agenda and Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Ortíz moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Councilor Chávez seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 3/8/07; 4/12/07; 5/10/07

Commissioner Sullivan noted that March 8 and May 10 were not meetings because there was no quorum. April 12 was a meeting but the minutes were not included in the packet today.

Councilor Chávez suggested they postpone approval of those minutes.

Commissioner Vigil moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilor Chávez seconded the motion and it passed by majority voice vote with Councilor Chávez and Commissioner Vigil voting in favor, Councilor Ortíz abstained.

A. DISCUSSION/ ACTION ITEMS

1. Complete Streets Resolution – SFMPO Staff

Mr. Cruse said the resolution came about with bicycle and pedestrian safety. In general it advocated that all modes of traffic be considered when rebuilding streets and roadways. Certain modes needed to be considered when crossing jurisdictional lines.

He said it supported developing some common ground throughout the MPO area, not necessarily to develop new standards.

Councilor Chávez asked if the resolution correlated with the lists of projects in the catchment area.

Mr. Cruse replied that those lists were separate.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if it was for jurisdictional issues.

Councilor Chávez said it had to tie in with specific projects at some point so it just directed staff to follow policies in other parts of the country.

Mr. Cruse explained that it directed staff to work together in planning and all of the parties identified supported it.

Councilor Chávez added that they had already done planning with bicycle trails and open space/parks and this would tie in with existing and future projects.

Commissioner Vigil liked the idea and thought both governing bodies had been working toward it. She noted one thing it didn't have were equestrian trails. In the last paragraph it could include, "and where appropriate, equestrian trails".

Mr. Cruse agreed to include them.

Commissioner Vigil moved to approve the resolution with her amendment. Councilor Ortíz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Recommended Road Projects for Inclusion into the 2008 -12 City-County 1/4% GRT Funding- Mary Helen Follingstad (RPA Director) and Chris Ortega (TCC Chair)

Mary Helen Follingstad presented this report. She said they had been looking at the annual review for GRT allocations from County GRT and the question was raised whether the MPO had looked at what RPA was considering for roads allocations.

She said it was a pretty big list and had been whittled down to Siler Extension and South Meadows to 599. She explained that the RPA had asked that the MPO give its blessing to these.

Commissioner Sullivan thought it was nice to have a wish list but they needed priorities.

Councilor Ortíz moved to approve the recommended road projects. Commissioner Vigil seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Chávez was excused from the meeting.

C. MATTERS FROM THE SFMPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

Councilor Ortíz asked for a hard copy of the environmental assessment.

Mr. Degani said he would get him a copy but Mr. Rizvi gave a copy to him.

Mr. Degani said they had a task force of City, County, and NMDOT looking at nine different station locations. The matrix was half done. It would be presented to this Board when completed.

He said the TCC had to evaluate the impacts and then it would go to the TPB for consideration of impacts. Just alerting you to it. He said there would also be a public involvement process involved.

D. COMMUNICATIONS FROM NMDOT AND FHWA

Nothing further.

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Approved by:

Jack Sullivan, Chair

Submitted by:



Carl Boaz, Stenographer