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SANTA FE MPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
July 27, 2009

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**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE MPO
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MONDAY, July 27, 2009**

INTRODUCTIONS:

a. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Santa Fe MPO Technical Coordinating Committee was called to order by V Chair, Mary Helen Follingstad at approximately 1:30 p.m., on the above date in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

b. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Helen Follingstad, Vice Chair – RPA Director
Johnny Baca – Santa Fe County
Jon Bulthuis – Santa Fe Trails [arriving later]
Rick Devine for John Romero, Chair – City of Santa Fe
Phil Gallegos – NMDOT District 5
Andrew Jandáček – Santa Fe County
Reed Liming – City of Santa Fe
Chris Ortega – City of Santa Fe

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Josette Lucero – NCRTD [excused]
Larry Samuel – Tesuque Pueblo
[Vacancy – Santa Fe Public Schools]

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Tibbetts – MPO Officer
Keith Wilson – Senior Planner

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Jeannette Walker – Bohannon Huston
Mr. Eric Wrage – Bohannon Huston

c. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Ortega moved to approve the agenda as published. Mr. Liming seconded the motion and it

passed by unanimous voice vote.

d. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 22, 2009.

Mr. Liming moved to approve the minutes from June 22, 2009 as submitted. Mr. Baca seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

1. ACTION ITEMS

a. Recommendation of Amended 2009-2010 UPWP – MPO Staff

Mr. Tibbetts said that the changes are slight and involved unobligated funds being carried forward. He needed to find out how they would be redistributed around the state. Santa Fe MPO got \$123,715 more than expected. Seven percent was going to the MTP Plan for redoing the traffic count data collection and updating architectures, revising TIP and other initiatives they were going to work on.

He mentioned the Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force, revisions on Safe Streets to Schools, a workshop on roundabouts in the fall and smoothing out language between UPWP and bylaws.

Vice Chair Follingstad said on page 6 the title in the middle of page, the title should be Northern Pueblos RPO because that was what that paragraph was about.

Mr. Tibbetts said RPO was the general term for the state and they should insert that into this document.

Vice Chair Follingstad asked about the additional staffing that was in the document.

Mr. Tibbetts said it was put in before Mr. Wilson came on board and they were not sure what skills staff would possess. Mr. Wilson brought skills that allowed the MPO to function well without adding more staff for at least a year or two.

Vice Chair Follingstad referred to page 10 on membership and felt it was too open-ended with possible membership from a list of groups and needed to be fixed.

Mr. Tibbetts agreed and said that Mr. Bulthuis and Ms. Lucero represented the two groups on the TCC that were not represented on the TPB presently. Such a change would need to go to the TPB. Vice Chair Follingstad agreed.

Mr. Bulthuis joined the meeting at this time.

Vice Chair Follingstad said another question was on page 11 regarding equitable financial contributions to the SFMPO from each member entity. She wondered if a budget item was presented to the

County to request equitable matching funds.

Mr. Tibbetts said it hadn't been done because this was for 2010 but he was working on a plan to be brought forward as a proposal. It was included in the JPA.

Vice Chair Follingstad cautioned that the County was already in 2010 FY.

Vice Chair Follingstad asked for clarification if this was due for FY 2009 or 2010.

Mr. Tibbetts said it was for 2010 he explained that it was a five year time frame from when it was passed in 2005 so it was due in 2010.

Mr. Wilson shared a handout to change budget (Summary by Task).

Mr. Liming moved to approve the UPWP amended version in the packet with the updated summary. Mr. Ortega seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. Recommendation of Amended 2010-2013 TIP – MPO Staff

Mr. Wilson said this TIP was approved in April and again in June because there were some discrepancies and some projects were not on it. He briefly reviewed the items on the TIP and highlighted the changes. They included a new amount for Museum Hill, changes to the St. Francis interchange and shifting to 2013, and a reduction for the Santa Fe Rail Trail

Mr. Gallegos pointed out that on the STIP, South Meadows showed an incorrect amount that was corrected in the draft for 2010.

Mr. Ortega moved to approve the amended 2010-2013 TIP. Mr. Liming seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

c. Recommendation of Amended Joint Powers Agreement and MPO By-laws – MPO Staff

Mr. Tibbetts reported the change was necessitated by a need to change the membership and to make it more a JPA with the County and DOT. This revision cut out some specific language in the makeup of the TCC to show there would be a certain number of members and that each of the TPB would be represented by staff. At present, any change in the TPB could only be approved with a unanimous vote of the constituent members. The proposed language would eliminate some redundant language in the bylaws. It also included the sovereignty of Tesuque. It eliminated four pages regarding liability and the Governor approved that change. The other revisions from April 2008 were pending legal review by City and County attorneys. The City recently gave the okay. The bylaws affecting the TCC were the only changes.

Mr. Ortega noted the UPWP listed 11 members for the TCC and the By-laws listed 13 members.

Mr. Tibbetts said that needed to be rectified and the UPWP didn't need specific numbers. He noted that in comparison, Las Cruces had 18 members on their Board and Albuquerque had 30. He said the difference was the representative from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force and the Transportation Planner that were not in the by-laws. As it appeared in the TIP was much more current. The Committee agreed that the Transportation Planner was from the County Growth Management and Long Range Planning and was the new position. Mr. Jandáček was the Transportation Planner.

Mr. Ortega questioned the need for adding a representative from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force since those interests were served by BTAC and COLTPAC.

Mr. Bulthuis agreed with the concern because they were talking about an advocacy group. To open that door would bring disability groups or transit groups to seek a place at the table.

Mr. Tibbetts reminded them that two years ago they had an ADA representative on TCC. She left a year ago. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force was not an advocacy group but was composed of public entities. He reminded them that Complete Streets was looking at accommodating all modes of transportation. The corridor studies have to have that focus also. The Task Force was just a way to get that included.

Mr. Ortega felt the TCC had the ability to ask for advisory participation or recommendations from BTAC and COLTPAC.

Mr. Ortega moved to approve the JPA revisions and bylaws with the exception of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force representation. Mr. Bulthuis seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Follingstad asked if having 12 members presented any problem.

Mr. Liming said the quorum would be 7.

Vice Chair Follingstad was concerned that this draft didn't show the changes from the original language so she could not see what was deleted or added.

Mr. Gallegos said the JPA needed to include a signature line for DOT.

Mr. Bulthuis noted the RPA was not called out here. They have taken on a large new role and that should be acknowledged in the JPA.

Vice Chair Follingstad clarified that he was looking at the UPWP which had already been acted on.

The motion to delete the Bicycle/Pedestrian member position passed by unanimous voice vote.

d. Review and Recommendation of Phase A. Alternatives Matrix for New Mexico 599 Interchange Corridor Study – NMDOT & Bohannon Huston, Inc.

Ms. Jeanette Walker shared copies of the evaluation matrix and explained the format and the terminology used in it. The matrix had the approximate costs and gave the relocations required, the cost of relocation, improvement in safety at existing intersections, level of service, removal of traffic from adjacent intersections, and environmental impact. She used a powerpoint presentation to show the locations they considered along New Mexico 599 and commented briefly on them.

They included a speed study in the area between Ridgetop Road and US 84/285 and determined the average speed was 68 mph. The speed differentials were a concern.

Mr. Gallegos agreed and commented that if everyone drove the speed limit there would be no problem but they were not law enforcement. DOT did put in flashing lights and they didn't seem to help.

Vice Chair Follingstad noted this matrix was an action item and asked Ms. Walker if they would be coming back the next time with recommendations.

Ms. Walker said they were at the end of the study for Phase A. At this point they would go to the Phase B study which was more detailed. With the results of Phase B they would make recommendations to the TCC. If Phase A was approved at this meeting, they would take it to the TPB in August and would be able to complete Phase B by January 15, 2010.

Mr. Wilson clarified that this was the continuation of their last presentation so the matrix was the recommendation.

Mr. Gallegos commented that once the study was complete with the locations that rated high for safety DOT would try and secure federal safety funds sooner than later.

Mr. Liming saw 3 primary ones: the frontage overpass, Airport Road and CR 62. Mr. Gallegos agreed.

Mr. Liming moved to approve the Phase A study for 599 and the matrix of alternatives. Mr. Ortega seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

e. Review and Recommendation of Phase A. St. Francis Drive Corridor Study – NMDOT & Bohannon Huston, Inc.

Mr. Eric Wrage provided handouts for the TCC and used a powerpoint presentation. He clarified that it was in the same format as 599. It provided the initial evaluation of alternatives in the completed draft report. The study went from Rabbit Road up to 599 on St Francis Drive. They used the update of the VISUM Model completed last year and created a future road network that followed the MPO Network. Then they developed a series of alternatives to address a range of issues - local approved plans and increased congestion. He noted that traffic volumes were expected to increase 15-50% on the north end.

He explained that the study divided up St. Francis into three segments. He pointed out that Zia and Sawmill had worst operation. Cerrillos Road also required large improvements. There were 10 of 12

signals that would require minor improvements for traffic operation.

He shared the large number of alternatives they considered. He commented on some of them, going through them rather quickly. He identified the alternatives that made it through the first cut at Segment 1 (Old Agua Fria through San Mateo). Then he listed the alternatives that made it through Segment 2 initial screening (San Mateo to Alamo). Segment 3 (Alamo to 599) included some closures proposed. Complete Streets and reduced lane widths were alternatives for all intersections.

He listed the secondary screening criteria and commented on possible lane conversions to bus and enhanced transit that were considered as regional solutions. He also showed a tunnel/roundabout for St. Francis and Cerrillos. Then he showed the summary of proposed alternatives to continue to Phase B.

Mr. Liming commented that he got really disoriented when North was not always up on the maps. He asked Mr. Wrage how the volumes and traffic count would change if they went from 2 lanes to 3 lanes and to what degree.

Mr. Wrage said it was in the report. The LOS was much worse.

Mr. Liming clarified that he was asking for a comparison of St. Francis when it was two lanes each way to the current three lanes each way.

Mr. Wrage said he didn't have the two vs. three comparison in this report.

Mr. Ortega asked if it was fair to say that none of the alternatives were improvements to be made through the whole length.

Mr. Wrage agreed.

Vice Chair Follingstad commented that the regional way would have to deal with transit. This presentation seemed to preclude buses on St. Francis Drive. Buses were not in the list anymore.

Mr. Wrage said if he gave the impression that transit was not allowed on St. Francis, he didn't mean it.

Vice Chair Follingstad said that nevertheless, the study didn't allow for stops of buses on St. Francis.

Mr. Wrage said they were not recommending bus only lanes but were not precluding the use of buses on St. Francis. It was a community decision whether to make lanes for bus only.

Vice Chair Follingstad said that transit on St. Francis would be a difficult thing with these alternatives and there was not enough transit going on now in the community.

Mr. Ortega asked if Acequia Trail was in the over/under discussion too. Mr. Wrage agreed.

Mr. Liming asked if they knew what percentage of trips were through trips on St. Francis vs. 599. Mr. Wrage had no information on that and said they could only infer what the split was. It was something they really would like to know.

Mr. Ortega moved to recommend the St. Francis Corridor Phase A Study to the TPB. Mr. Jandáček seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Update on Santa Fe Studies - I-25 Corridor Study – NMDOT

Mr. Wilson said the I-25 Study was submitted to DOT on July 20th. There would be an open house in August to go over the specific recommendations. He agreed to put the Phase A report on line for everyone and also at the DOT web site.

b. Rail Runner Service Update – MPO Staff

1) NM599 Station Opening and Coordinated Service Brochure

Mr. Wilson announced that the 599 station would open this Saturday. A brochure would be updated for that stop.

2) Rail Runner Local Service between NM599 and Santa Fe Depot

Mr. Tibbetts said there was nothing more to update. The cost and funding was of concern because there was not much from GRT. There could also be environmental issues that would require more public input.

3) Status of Zia Station Opening

Mr. Tibbetts said this was still under study now. They were looking at the impediments to starting that service. Those things could happen but it might be some time between now and end of the year. The next step was talking with Councilors of that district and checking in generally on status. The developer said everything was open. They would be open to service before things were completed.

c. Santa Fe Area Transit Service Plan Update – RPA Staff

Vice Chair Follingstad said the RPA held off on any decision regarding continuing NCRTD service and city routes wouldn't change until after the transit study was complete. It would be completed in mid August.

d. Progress report on MTP Update – MPO Staff

Mr. Tibbetts said staff were still working on it and negotiating in the discussion a possible consultant. They should have a decision ready in the next couple of weeks.

3. MPO OFFICER REPORT

None.

4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM TCC MEMBERS

None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

6. ADJOURN – Next TCC Meeting: Monday, August 24, 2009

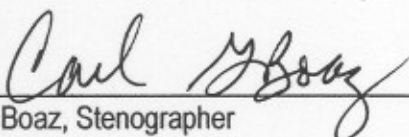
Mr. Liming moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Baca seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Approved by:



Mary Helen Follingstad, Vice Chair

Submitted by:


Carl Boaz, Stenographer