

**SPECIAL MEETING  
SANTA FE MPO POLICY BOARD  
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021, 6:00 PM  
ATTENDED VIRTUALLY**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Santa Fe MPO Policy Board was called to order by Chair, Commissioner Anna Hansen, at 6:01pm, on Thursday, March 18, 2021, via virtual attendance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Anna Hansen, Chair  
Councilor Renee Villarreal, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Hank Hughes  
Councilor Jamie Cassutt-Sanchez  
Commissioner Rudy Garcia  
Paul Brasher  
Mayor Alan Webber

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Henry Roybal  
Erick Aune, MPO Officer  
Hannah Burnham, MPO

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez, seconded by Mr. Brasher, to approve the agenda as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Chair Hansen, yes; Councilor Villarreal, yes; Commissioner Hughes, yes; Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez, yes; Commissioner Garcia, yes; Mr. Brasher, yes; Mayor Webber, yes.

#### **4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

##### **A. FORMAL SUPPORT OF “COMMENTS” TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET/WHITE HOUSE REGARDING THE FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE THAT SOLICITS PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA STANDARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE 2010 STANDARDS FOR DELINEATING METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.**

Mr. Aune noted his staff report included in the meeting packet. He reviewed the bullet points with the Board.

Mr. Aune stated that he had met with the Mayor regarding this issue as well as his fellow MPOs. They expressed a high level of concern regarding the proposed changes and potential loss of funding. He is heartened by the letter from Congress opposing this change.

Chair Hansen informed the Board that this issue came to her attention last week when it was discussed at the Rural Action Caucus Meeting. She reached out to Erick and this special meeting was called. This is urgent and serious. It effects Santa Fe County and San Juan County and brings with it a significant funding loss. It is quite alarming.

Mr. Brasher asked the designation is figured on the County population, not the City, correct.

Chair Hansen said it is figured on the largest City population wise, within the County.

Mr. Brasher said that puts Santa Fe in competition with the rural smaller counties for funding. The Census Bureau is also looking at changing the definition of urban areas to housing based rather than population. A urban area is designated now if there are 385 houses within a square mile. They are looking to changing that number to 500. They are turning this whole thing upside down. It is also an economic development issue. Companies use these designations when they are looking at sites. He urges as many comments and letters as possible.

Chair Hansen stated that she had reached out to our Congressional Delegation. Our County Attorney is aware of the issues of the Census Bureau as well.

Mr. Brasher said it is a slippery slope. The natural fallout from this will be

significant.

Mr. Aune said he had heard the same concerns across the MPOs. We are monitoring the Census Bureau issue closely and will be preparing a memo for the Board on that. The Census Bureau uses in their calculations 2.6 persons per house across the United States. Both Farmington and Santa Fe would remain status quo. It would be a lost opportunity for Roswell. They are on the cusp of becoming an MPO. It would take them another 100 years to accomplish that.

Chair Hansen thanked the Mayor for writing and sending a letter from the City. She wishes the County would do the same.

Councilor Villarreal asked Mr. Aune why the Office of Management and Budget is taking this on.

Chair Hansen said this rulemaking was filed on January 19<sup>th</sup>, the last day of the Trump Administration. It had worked its way through the Administration.

Mr. Aune said within the Office of and Budget, there is a Division of Information and Regulatory Affairs. That is where this rulemaking came from. He believes it is not a political discussion. It is a group of statisticians who provide data for Legislation. Their job also included reducing paperwork and increasing efficiencies. He thinks they were looking at bringing the calculations and designations up to date.

Councilor Villarreal asked what is the action that our Congressional Delegation is taking.

Chair Hansen said Congresswoman Teresa Ledger Fernandez has already signed the letter from Congress that is included in our packet. She believes Senator Lujan is going to write and send a letter. She has not heard back from Senator Heinrich's office yet.

Councilor Villarreal asked what the next steps are for this Board.

Chair Hansen said it is to approve the draft letter in our packet from the Board so that they can get it out.

Councilor Villarreal asked how they would work the signatures.

Mr. Aune said the letter would be signed by the Chair. It can be modified tonight is you wish.

Chair Hansen said we could list the members and have the Chair sign it.

Mr. Aune said he could do that. The deadline is tomorrow. It would be daunting

to get all the signatures of the members by then, but he would be happy to do that.

Chair Hansen said lets list the members in the last line of the letter.

Everyone agreed to that process.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Brasher, seconded by Councilor Villarreal, to approve the letter as is from the Board to the Office of Management and Budget regarding the proposed changes proposed by the Statistical Area Standard's Review Committee.

**DISCUSSION** Commissioners Garcia and Hughes stated that the letter was well done.

Commissioner Roybal said feel free to add his name as an alternate if that will help.

Chair Hansen said that would be great.

#### **AMENDED**

**MOTION** Mr. Brasher amended his motion to delete the words "as is" and replace them with "with the addition of the names and titles of the Policy Board members and alternates" included in the last line of the letter.

Councilor Villarreal agreed.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows:

Chair Hansen, yes; Councilor Villarreal, yes; Commissioner Hughes, yes; Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez, yes; Commissioner Garcia, yes; Mr. Brasher, yes; Mayor Webber, yes.

Mayor Webber said he wanted to thank Chair Hansen for raising the flag on this issue. It is a very important issue. The Chair deserves a round of applause for raising the flag, jumping on the issue and getting us together.

Mr. Brasher said he seconded the Mayor's comments.

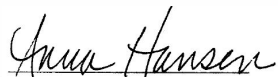
Chair Hansen thanked the Board members for attending the meeting and addressing the issue.

Mr. Aune thanked the Board on behalf of the staff.

Chair Hansen thanked Mr. Aune for his hard work.

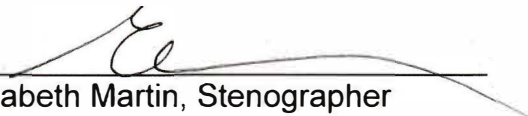
**5. ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.



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Commissioner Anna Hansen, Chair



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Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer