

**SUMMARY OF ACTION  
MPO POLICY BOARD  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022, 5:00 PM  
ATTENDED VIRTUALLY**

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**MPO POLICY BOARD  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022, 5:00 PM  
ATTENDED VIRTUALLY**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the MPO Policy Board was called to order by Councilor Renee Villarreal at 5:00 pm, on Thursday, February 24, 2022 and was attended virtually.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor Renee Villarreal, Chair  
Commissioner Anna Hansen  
Commissioner Hank Hughes  
Councilor Jamie Cassutt  
Councilor Amanda Chavez  
Mr. Paul Brasher

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Commissioner Rudy Garcia

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Erick Aune, MPO Officer  
Leah Yngve, MPO  
Hannah Burnham, MPO  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Chair Villarreal, yes; Commissioner Hansen, yes; Commissioner Hughes, yes; Councilor Cassutt, yes; Councilor Chavez, yes; Mr. Brasher, yes.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 18, 2021**

Commissioner Hansen stated that on page one her first name is misspelled. It should be Anna. On page 6, item E it should say Lane rather than Land.

Chair Villarreal said her first name is also misspelled. It should be Renee on page one and for the signature.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, to approve the minutes as amended.

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

Chair Villarreal, yes; Commissioner Hansen, yes; Commissioner Hughes, yes; Councilor Cassutt, abstained; Councilor Chavez, yes; Mr. Brasher, yes.

**1. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**A. ANNUAL SELECTION OF MPO TPB CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Chair Villarreal said this Board changes the Chair and Vice Chair annually to allow the positions to be rotated between the City and the County. This year, the Chairmanship comes from the County and Vice Chair comes from the City.

Chair Villarreal asked if it was possible for Mr. Brasher to serve as Chair or Vice Chair.

Mr. Aune said the bylaws are silent on that.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Mr. Brasher, to elect Commissioner Hughes as Chair.

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

Chair Villarreal, yes; Commissioner Hansen, yes; Commissioner Hughes, yes; Councilor Cassutt, yes; Councilor Chavez, yes; Mr. Brasher, yes.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, to elect Councilor Cassutt as Vice Chair.

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

Chair Villarreal, yes; Commissioner Hansen, yes; Commissioner Hughes, yes; Councilor Cassutt, yes; Councilor Chavez, yes; Mr. Brasher, yes.

Chair Villarreal will continue as Chair through this meeting.

**B. ADOPTION OF 2022 TARGETS FOR SAFETY (PERFORMANCE MEASURE 1) FOR NEW MEXICO VIA SELF CERTIFICATION**

Ms. Burnham said the MPO has been adopting these Federally mandated measures since 2018 as described in the staff memo in your packets.

Chair Villarreal commented that Mr. Aune sent a full report on this issue to the Committee members via email; however, it is not in PrimeGov.

Commissioner Hughes said he read in the paper that road deaths went up in New Mexico. Is that reflected here.

Ms. Burnham said no, the new data is not included. This is 2020 data. There is a two year lag in receiving information.

Mr. Aune said since the pandemic less miles are being traveled. The irony is there is more space on the road, so people are driving faster and fatalities have increased.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, to adopt the targets for safety.

Chair Villarreal said we call these performance measures, but they are really data points. Do we have to follow the language because it is DOT language.

Ms. Burnham said we don't have to follow it. We can develop our own measures, but doing this as a data driven analysis is not a small task.

Chair Villarreal explained that she was not suggesting we change the data points, but can we change the language used in the performance measures.

Mr. Brasher stated this is the accepted terminology for DOT.

Mr. Aune added the language is established in the Federal Code of Regulations. We have to follow it.

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

Chair Villarreal, yes; Commissioner Hansen, yes; Commissioner Hughes, yes; Councilor Cassutt, yes; Councilor Chavez, yes; Mr. Brasher, yes.

### **C. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SANTA FE MPO COMMITTEE TRAINING MANUAL**

Mr. Aune said on an annual basis, in accordance with the NMDOT guidance, we are required to offer our Policy Board members training if they want a deeper dive on any issue. The MPO staff are ready to do that. This document provides a basic MPO overview and guidance for the Board and Staff. We offer a one hour sit down for new members as well. It is specified in the Federal policies that the Board be duly trained on the basics.

Chair Villarreal said she appreciated the manual. It was very helpful when she started.

Commissioner Hansen commented that MPO is still using 2010 census data for the map. When will they use the new census.

Mr. Aune said we are waiting for the updated census data from the State through the Federal Government. That will trigger a lot of things we will need to re-evaluate and update.

Commissioner Hansen asked if the railroad tracks are the south border of the MPO area.

Mr. Aune answered yes.

Commissioner Hansen asked where Edgewood and Espanola fall. Additionally is there any way to take into account that Traditional Historic Villages are designated and respected. She would like to ensure that the Historic Villages are provided with representation and protection. Traditional Historic Village is a unique designation in New Mexico and may not exist Federally. Can we define them in the guide. La Cienega is a Traditional Historic Village as well. Also, is there a formula for making the planning area bigger.

Mr. Aune said the boundaries are based on the potential for urbanization as articulated in the Federal guidelines. Before he worked for the City the Pueblo of Tesuque was not in our planning area. The 2000 census reconfigured the map to include the Pueblo of Tesuque in the planning area based on two criteria - - population growth and the relative distance to the central core of the population areas. Using that criteria Edgewood is closer to the Albuquerque planning area. Going north the area is defined by Pueblos and Federal land. We doubt that will change much. The MPO Plan strives to recognize and define Agua Fria and respects their planning efforts.

Commissioner Hansen said the Village is very concerned about roads cutting into it. There has been some discussion about Zafarano going all the way to Agua Fria.

They are extremely opposed to that.

Mr. Brasher said as you modify the Santa Fe MPO boundaries toward the north it could encroach into the Mid Region Planning Organization. If an area is added to another region or expanded the region it comes from would have to be shrunk in size equal to the area removed. Have you known that to happen.

Mr. Aune said jurisdiction to the north is under the Rural Transportation Organization, also known as the Northern Pueblos. Yes, it has happened. There are advantages to move from a rural planning area to a metropolitan area.

#### **D. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE UPDATES COMPLETE STREETS RESOLUTION**

Mr. Aune gave the history of the Complete Streets original Resolution, which was adopted by the MPO in 2007. A Complete Streets Coalition was developed and has grown expediently over the years. In 2022 the new Infrastructure and Jobs Recovery Act references following Complete Streets as a measure for pedestrian safety. Complete Streets is also included as a regulation stating that 2.5% of planning funds must be dedicated to its tenants. We are suggesting that the MPO adopt the new Resolution and invite the City and County to adopt the language in order to further reinforce the tenants.

Chair Villarreal said the Complete Streets concept has been around for a long time. It is important to reinforce this with the Resolution jointly to strengthen the effort.

Mr. Aune said he would like to show a short video and invite Councilor Cassutt to speak to the initiative before you. You can adopt the Resolution today or have more discussion and adopt it at a future meeting. Alta Consulting helped us with the Resolution to amplify the affect. We would use this when projects come before the City or County so these tenants can be considered. We would like to see the developer bring forward a least the minimum of the code.

Mr. Aune showed a brief video from the Complete Streets Coalition.

Councilor Cassutt said the American Heart Association has been working on this as a public health issue in order to get more people walking and in the area of equity. They are working with Albuquerque on this initiative. She spoke to Mr. Aune about restating the City's support for Complete Streets. She is also looking at the planning of the City and how this would fit in as we move forward to update the plan. There has been a strong call for traffic calming. She has been doing research as to what actually slows people down. Medians and bike lanes slow people down, both of which relate to Complete Streets.

Commissioner Hansen said the Resolution is a good idea. It should go before the Transportation Advisory Board at the County so they are involved. She attended a conference recently and much to her satisfaction, the National DOT talked about “dig one” inclusion in all street construction. Is that mentioned in the Resolution. She thinks it belongs there. All our roads need to be updated to support our constituents. She supports the Resolution and would like to work with Commissioner Hughes to bring it forward to the County.

Chair Villarreal said this is the beginning conversation on the Resolution. It may need to be amended a bit. We will continue the conversation.

Councilor Cassutt said she thinks it is important to pass this as a joint Resolution or mirror Resolution. She also agrees that it needs to be amended a bit. We could have some off line conversations toward passage of the Resolution in March or April.

Mr. Brasher asked in adopting this, is it automatically going to effect what is enforced by the City. How does it get codified.

Chair Villarreal said that is a great question. She was wondering the same as to how to make it part of the review process for development. She has been talking about updating the General Plan since we was elected to the City Council. How does this Resolution help in moving toward codifying the standards for development.

Mr. Aune said a Resolution has no binding effect. That is not the intention. The intent is when the City and County are looking at updating their transportation plans the Resolution, in it’s spirit, will inform regulating documents to reflect Complete Street values. It is also to bring awareness to the City and County of the values so there is a uniform approach and commitment. It allows the City and County to have conversations with developers regarding these values. Then it is not just the opinion of the MPO or just a “feel good” document. There is a clear nexus between Complete Streets and sustainability and climate change documents.

Mr. Brasher asked this is not an enforcement document, but is a guiding document for planning and standards.

Mr. Aune said absolutely.

Commissioner Hansen said she appreciated what Mr. Brasher said and how he said it. The City and County could use this and possibly, in the Resolution, it could direct staff to include this in their writing of plans and to help Land Use in direction and training to be really effective in carrying out the polices we pass.

Chair Villarreal said we could add language to inform updates for the General Plan and code. Our Land Use is well trained and is seeing inconsistencies and conflicting language and where we need to change things.



Commissioner Hughes said this is a great idea to help us move forward with better designs of all our streets. He is hearing that we will revise this a bit and pass it here then forward it on to the City and County.

Chair Villarreal said yes, that is how she sees it. We can consider approval at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hansen said she would like to take this to the County Transportation Committee and have some off line discussions.

Ms. Burnham said the County Transportation Committee meeting last week was postponed and will meet in two to three weeks.

Commissioner Hansen said she will work with Ms. Burnham and Ms. Yngve and county staff to get this on their agenda.

Chair Villarreal said the next step is to edit the Resolution and get it on our agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Aune said he has clarity he needs to incorporate the comments and get this to the County Transportation Advisory Committee then bring it back to you in April probably with the timeline. He appreciates this approach.

Councilor Cassutt asked if Mr. Aune had spoken with Public Works or Land Use on this.

Mr. Aune said we work closely with Public Works on a weekly basis so yes, we have.

Councilor Cassutt asked if this has gone to the MPO TCC.

Mr. Aune said yes, on Monday. They recommended approval.

#### **E. STAFF PRESENTATION - SOUTHSIDE SECTOR PLAN - GREENWAY LOOP VISION**

Ms. Burnham gave a Power Point presentation reviewing the Southside Greenway Loop project, which is 2.3 miles connecting neighborhoods to open spaces and trains and the El Camino Rael Academy. It is an extension of trails and future river trails and bike lanes. They are working with the National Parks Service on the project.

Chair Villarreal stated Ms. Burnham has done a great job on this.

Commissioner Hughes asked if the River Trail is part City and part County.

Ms. Burnham said yes, but in this section it is all City.

Commissioner Hansen said the County has from Grant Road down to Cottonwood then it changes to the City. The Village stops before Jemez. The County has bonded with a GO Bond for San Isidro to Silver. We also may have more funds for parks and trails depending on what happens with the South Meadows property. This is all within her District and Councilor Cassutt's District. A bit of it is in District three as well. There are a lot of possibilities here. It is fantastic. Good job.

Mr. Brasher asked if the trails would be accessible around the clock.

Ms. Yngve said we are not sure at this time.

Mr. Brasher said this looks like a good project.

Ms. Burnham said the National Park Service Historical Trails is also involved.

Commissioner Hansen said she will speak with the National Park Service about the National Heritage Project getting involved with volunteers and money.

#### **F. STAFF BRIEFING - UPDATE OF FHWA LOCAL ROADWAY SAFETY PROJECT**

Mr. Aune reported last year the Santa Fe and the Farmington MPOs were selected to do a local Roadway Safety Plan. He was pleased to see the turnout we had as far as stakeholders and law enforcement, who gave their perspective. We are looking forward to receiving more detailed data and remedy the injuries and fatalities increases we are seeing in the City and County. This also will inform the General Plan and funding requests for local streets. We will continue to update you as we move forward.

Chair Villarreal asked about the connection to noise levels such as when vehicles intentionally disrupt the night with loud noises. We have not been able to come up with a solution in the City. Chair Villarreal will send Mr. Aune an article about a censor used in France.

Mr. Aune said the ambient noise component has a real public health effect.

Councilor Cassutt said there is also the issue of cars with factory made louder mufflers. We are struggling with that in areas as a Governing Body. We have had long discussions about it.

### **3. MATTERS FROM MPO STAFF**

Mr. Aune welcomed Councilor Chavez to the Board.

Councilor Chavez said she appreciated the training she received from staff. She is excited to be part of this.

### **4. MATTERS FROM TPB MEMBERS**

Commissioner Hansen asked now that we have all this infrastructure money coming can the Via Veteranos construction be done and also West Alameda. She appreciates the money appropriated for Henry Lynch.

Mr. Brasher said on January 26, 2022 the Cabinet Secretary sent a letter out to the MPOs as a notice of the State soliciting applications for projects for funding from the Road Fund for fiscal year 23. The submittal regulations are outlined in the letter. The deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Projects will go to the State Transportation Committee in September for approval. We will try to pick projects on their merits and those that can be phased in. Our funding capacity has grown and risen to the next level. Our Secretary thinks that level will be sustained. The need is in the billions and our funding is in the millions. We will do everything we can to distribute the funds equitably. The challenge is getting the design done and out to construction. We have adopted a management plan as a tool for soliciting projects based on the conditions of pavement.

Mr. Aune stated the Alameda project has been discussed for multiple years. The estimated cost is \$7 million. This is an opportunity for the City and County to consider submitting a cooperative application to the MPO for this project for Road Project Funds. He is happy to facilitate that discussion.

Commissioner Hansen said she thinks we should start working on that.

Mr. Aune said Via Veteranos is not a priority of NMDOT. He wanted to be clear on that.

Commissioner Hansen said she gets lots of complaints on that and the interchange. Promises were made when we built the WIPP Road for bridges.

Mr. Brasher said the analysis named Via Veteranos as first in a sequence, but not as a priority of the State. He is asked from time to time for projects for the Legislature to fund. He has started putting Via Veteranos on the list.

Chair Villarreal asked if any progress had been made in filling the Pueblo representative position on the Board.

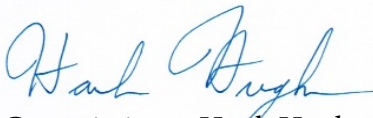
Mr. Aune said he will check with the Pueblo again. We invite them to every TCC and Policy meeting. We will keep trying.

Commissioner Hansen thanked Chair Villarreal for a good meeting and for being such a good Chair.

**5. NEXT MEETING  
MARCH 24, 2022**

**6. ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.



Commissioner Hank Hughes Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer