

1 **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **POLICY COMMITTEE**

3
4 The following are minutes of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
5 Policy Committee (PC) meeting which was held October 8, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at City
6 Hall, Council Chambers, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.
7

8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Billy Garrett (DAC)
9 Trustee Sam Bernal (Town of Mesilla)
10 Commissioner Leticia Benavidez (DAC)
11 Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)
12 Trustee Linda Flores (Town of Mesilla)
13 Councillor Olga Pedroza (CLC) arrived 1:08
14 Councillor Nathan Small (CLC)
15 Councillor Gill Sorg (CLC) departed 2:25
16

17 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Wayne Hancock (DAC)
18 Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla)
19

20 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO staff)
21 Andrew Wray (MPO staff)
22 Michael McAdams (MPO staff)
23 Orlando Fierro (MPO staff)
24

25 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
26 Harold Love (NMDOT)
27 Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary
28

29 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

30
31 Meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.
32

33 **2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY**

34
35 Garrett: Does any Committee Member have any known or perceived conflict of
36 interest with any item on the agenda? If so, that Committee Member may
37 recuse themselves from voting on a specific matter, or if they feel that they
38 can be impartial, we will put their participation up to a vote by the rest of
39 the Committee.
40

41 No member had a conflict of interest.
42

43 Garrett: Thank you.
44

45 **3. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment**
46

1 Garrett: Public comment, do we have anyone who would like to speak to the
2 committee? Thank you.
3

4 **4. CONSENT AGENDA ***
5

6 Garrett: Could I have a motion to approve the consent agenda?
7

8 Flores: I motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
9

10 Sorg: I'll second it.
11

12 Garrett: Motion was made by Member Flores, seconded by Member Sorg. Any, is
13 that right? Who, did you do it?
14

15 Doolittle: No, it was Mr. Sorg.
16

17 Garrett: Okay
18

19 Doolittle: Yes, or, Member Sorg.
20

21 Garrett: Right, so Member Sorg was the second.
22

23 Doolittle: Right.
24

25 Garrett: Okay. All in favor, well will you poll the Board?
26

27 Wray: Mr. Chair?
28

29 Garrett: Yes?
30

31 Doolittle: I, I do have a few changes I think that need to be made to the minutes.
32

33 Garrett: Okay.
34

35 Doolittle: On page 4, line numbers 27-30, line number 38, 43, and 44 all list
36 numbers, because that's basically what we were discussing but in all
37 reality those are dollar amounts. So I think for clarity's purpose it's worth
38 putting a dollar sign in front of those numbers. On page number 32, line
39 number 34 and page number 33, line number 6, we have Bridget
40 Spedalieri's name spelled wrong. It's B-R-I-D-G-E-T, if we could make
41 that modification. It's page 32, line number 34 and page 33, line number
42 6.
43

44 SOME ELSE SPEAKING, NOT ON THE MICROPHONE.
45

46 Doolittle: G-E-T, one T.

1
2 Garrett: And is there an E on the end?
3
4 Wray: There is not.
5
6 Garrett: There is not, so it's just, okay, any other corrections or additions to that?
7
8 Wray: No, Mr. Chair. Thank you.
9
10 Garrett: Thank you very much. Would you then poll the Committee? Those in
11 favor say "yes," those opposed "no."
12
13 Murphy: Okay, this, this is for the, the Consent Agenda with the minutes amended.
14 Councillor Sorg.
15
16 Sorg: Yes.
17
18 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.
19
20 Doolittle: Yes.
21
22 Murphy: Commissioner Benavidez.
23
24 Benavidez: Yes.
25
26 Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.
27
28 Pedroza: Yes.
29
30 Murphy: Trustee Flores.
31
32 Flores: Yes.
33
34 Murphy: Trustee Bernal.
35
36 Bernal: Yes.
37
38 Murphy: Commissioner Garrett.
39
40 Garrett: Yes.
41
42 Murphy: Councillor Small.
43
44 Small: Yes.
45
46 Garrett: Thank you.

1
2 Motion passes 8 – 0 (2 members absent).

3
4 **5. * APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APPROVED UNDER THE CONSENT AGENDA**
5 **VOTE**

6
7 **5.1 *September 10, 2014**

8
9 **6. ACTION ITEMS**

10
11 **6.1 Resolution 14-09: A Resolution Approving Memorandum of**
12 **Agreement with the El Paso MPO in Planning Responsibilities in**
13 **Certain Areas of Dona Ana County**

14
15 Garrett: We'll move on now to action items. Resolution 14-09, a Resolution
16 approving Memorandum of Agreement with the El Paso MPO in planning
17 responsibilities in certain areas of Dona Ana County. Since this is on as
18 an action item, could I go ahead and get an, a motion to approve and
19 second?

20
21 Flores: So moved.

22
23 Doolittle: Second.

24
25 Garrett: Alright, so the motion was made by Member Flores and then seconded by
26 Member Doolittle. Thank you. Would you proceed with the presentation?

27
28 Tom Murphy gave a presentation.

29
30 Garrett: Very good. Thank you. Yes, Member Doolittle?

31
32 Doolittle: Mr. Chair, I did indeed meet with Mr. Medina as a member of the
33 executive committee. Also, in El Paso I've met with a few of, of those
34 representatives. I think what you have before you is, is kind of a
35 compromise between what we were asking of, of both staffs and ultimately
36 what, what needed to be covered to address the issues with both of the
37 staffs in, in Mesilla Valley and the El Paso MPOs. So I, I again support
38 what's written here. Again I don't think it covers all of the things that we
39 covered a few months ago, but I think it's a good, a good MOA that
40 addresses the issues and outlines who is responsible for what. One of the
41 things I would like to share with you is during my conversations with Mr.
42 Medina and with Mr. Murphy, they'll continue as a staff to coordinate, and
43 then if there's anything specific going on with the El Paso MPO that needs
44 to be addressed with this Board, Tom and his staff will come forward and
45 present that to us. But again I think this is a, a, a, a pretty solid and good

1 MOA as a compromise between the two groups and what our
2 expectations were.
3
4 Garrett: Thank you. Yes, Member Pedroza?
5
6 Pedroza: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm a little tiny bit hesitant because I've been
7 reading in the paper that Sunland Park is considering annexing Santa
8 Teresa and that I think is going to change an awful lot of the relationships,
9 and it's something that we need to pay close attention to. I also think that
10 and I'd like to ask Tom, you know what the status is of our invitation to the
11 New Mexico members of the El Paso MPO because I think that's also
12 going to need to get considered and I don't know what our special
13 interests are there but I believe that there probably are some. Santa
14 Teresa is certainly a very important economic and industrial or in the
15 future will be, it is already. And so I think that before we agree to a, an
16 MOA which says, "You guys do up to Berino and El Paso you do the
17 whole rest of it," we need to think a little bit more carefully about it.
18
19 Garrett: Mr. Murphy?
20
21 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Councillor Pedroza, to respond to the, the status of the
22 invitation to the, to the New Mexico delegation, we do have a draft letter
23 that we were going to, to pass out during staff comments. We're aiming
24 for an invitation to those members for the November 12th meeting. If you
25 like I could have, have that letter passed out at this point, but we do have,
26 we do have one ready for, for comment and you know final revision before
27 it'd be sent out by the Chair's signature.
28
29 Pedroza: Thank you that would be fine and I would invite comment, you know, one
30 thing at a time. Certainly we can look at the letter first or, or second but
31 are there any other members of the MPO Policy Committee that feel that
32 we need to study the question of just what would we be giving up if we
33 agree to only go as far as Berino when, when Santa Teresa, the rising
34 star, is just on the ascent?
35
36 Garrett: Mr. Doolittle?
37
38 Doolittle: I guess I do have a couple of questions. One is, or a couple of comments.
39 One, I did speak directly with Dr. Garcia and Sunland Park Mayor Perea,
40 letting them know that the invitation to attend our meetings would be
41 coming. I strongly encouraged them to attend. Representatives from
42 Anthony, I have not been able to, to meet with them yet, but I think we'll,
43 we will have at least a turnout from representatives from the El Paso MPO
44 at that meeting. The other thing I just wanted to share is this, this MOA,
45 more specifically is dealing with Berino as you mentioned; if Sunland Park
46 annexes any portion or all of Santa Teresa, ultimately that is part of the El

1 Paso urbanized area. So I agree with you that we need to stay in tune on,
2 with what's going on in the southern border area, but ultimately the El
3 Paso MPO regardless of what happens with Sunland Park and the
4 annexation will still be involved and be responsible for any planning and
5 modeling issues tied to that area. So I agree with you we need to
6 coordinate, but I don't know that it changes anything with the way the
7 MPO staffs would be working.

8
9 Pedroza: Okay, that, that makes sense to me.

10
11 Garrett: Anyone else want to comment on that? I would, I would just, in a sense
12 echo what Mr. Doolittle has said. I ... there are bound to be changes that
13 are going to happen in terms of jurisdictions in the south. I think that what
14 this document does is to record the fact that we in fact have already
15 started a process in a sense of enhanced coordination because I don't
16 want to have anybody think that there wasn't some degree of coordination
17 in the past. But I think we're, we're clearly expressing that this is
18 something that we're interested in and I think that there's plenty of room in
19 here for us to, to have those enhanced discussions about what's going on
20 in the south and how that relates to the rest of Dona Ana County. There
21 are other planning entities, the Viva Dona Ana, just as a, the primary one
22 that I think does encompass the entire area, and if anything, that helps
23 underscore why it's important to keep that kind of an initiative going,
24 because we have both the El Paso and the Mesilla Valley MPOs as
25 members of the consortium. So we're, you know, our, our challenge in a
26 way is how to deal with the fragmentation but I think as long as we are,
27 are clarifying roles and, and we're not reinforcing silos; I mean it's one
28 thing to say that different entities have different kinds of responsibilities,
29 but it's a whole another thing to, I guess what we're trying to do is to
30 informally influence those, those, that sense of responsibility in those
31 different areas. Cause one way or another there's still going to be an El
32 Paso MPO that we're going to have to be dealing with in terms of the, of
33 the border; others, other thoughts? Mr. Bernal?

34
35 Bernal: Yes, yes, Mr. Chair. By my experience and I'm pretty sure you remember
36 this from when we annexed Raasaf Hills that was a huge, huge
37 experience to the Town of Mesilla and your concern Mr. Chairman, it is a
38 concern. It is a huge concern that there's people that think it's a good idea
39 that they should annex, but the process and if they don't cross their Ts,
40 dot their Is, then they're going to be going through the same situation as,
41 as the Town of Mesilla, so it's, yes it's great to grow but if you don't know
42 what the expectations of what you're going to be coming in, getting into,
43 well that's them that are going to go through that, but it is a concern and I
44 see your view and your understanding. But it's, it's good that we get
45 involved ourselves as the MPO.

1 Garrett: Thank you. Member Pedroza?
2
3 Pedroza: Thank you. I, I agree and I think, you know I'm not saying something like,
4 "Let's stop all communication," but just so that we realize that, just how
5 important communication at this point and in the future is going to be in
6 coordination and communication disagreements and agreements,
7 hopefully more agreements than disagreements so that everybody can
8 benefit. Thank you.
9
10 Garrett: I would just add two, two points. One, one is that in the recent round of
11 planning sessions that we had with Viva Dona Ana, something that was
12 stressed again and again in terms of transportation in, and in the whole
13 south and we are not talking about just Santa Teresa, we're talking about
14 the area that basically goes from Anthony to the, to the east to, to
15 Chaparral and then around that whole connection that goes down to
16 Sunland Park and, and, and, and Santa Teresa. We're, we're behind in
17 terms of planning for that area. We're behind in terms of development of
18 the systems and it's you know this isn't to, to fault anyone. It's just that
19 our system is not set up to move very quickly and we've got a lot of
20 fragmented authorities and areas of responsibility. So I think more and
21 more people are, are starting to figure, to say, "How do we figure out how
22 to work better together in order to, to address the, the challenges that we
23 have there and to, to maximize the benefits we can get out of, out of the
24 right kind of development?" So that, that sort of leads to the fact that in
25 terms of getting this approved, it would seem to me that this is a, this is a
26 framework and the important thing is to, is to get it to work, which means
27 essentially that we had talked about looking at the, the 404 spur and that
28 whole connection at Anthony Gap as well as the West Mesa road. I think
29 that, that moving as quickly as we can to have some briefings about that,
30 because that really is, right now that, that takes us right to the heart of
31 what's going on as well as there are other studies that I know that NMDOT
32 is working on that have to do with connections of Santa Teresa to the east
33 and to El Paso and I-10. I think it would be helpful to move forward on
34 briefings so that we're able to understand what's, what's in the works, and
35 then from that we can actually have, figure out what we need to have a
36 conversation about with the El Paso MPO. So if that makes sense to you,
37 you know, I, I'm, I'm inclined to say, let's, we've got this, this negotiated as
38 far as we can. Right now, the issue is, is putting it in, into practice. And, I
39 think we've got a, a number of questions before us that are important to, to
40 move forward on. So yes, Member Pedroza?
41
42 Pedroza: Thank you, just one last thing. I, I recall that at the last meeting, we kind
43 of asked for graphics. How soon are the, are we going to get a briefing
44 like that that shows where exactly the west highway ...
45
46 Garrett: Mesa, West Mesa.

1
2 Pedroza: West Mesa highway is going to be, how it will impact 404, etc. etc. so that
3 I can understand it better?
4
5 Garrett: Yes, Mr. Doolittle, yes.
6
7 Doolittle: Mr. Chair, as part of the DOT, as part of my portion on the DOT updates,
8 I'll give you a, a quick update on the West Mesa funding issue and study
9 that we talked about last month.
10
11 Garrett: Very good. So are there any other comments that bear directly on the
12 Resolution before us? In that case I'd ask you to, to poll the Committee
13 and those in favor say "yes," those opposed say "no."
14
15 Murphy: Councillor Sorg.
16
17 Sorg: Yes.
18
19 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.
20
21 Doolittle: Yes.
22
23 Murphy: Commissioner Benavidez.
24
25 Benavidez: Yes.
26
27 Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.
28
29 Pedroza: Yes.
30
31 Murphy: Trustee Flores.
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33 Flores: Yes.
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35 Murphy: Trustee Bernal.
36
37 Bernal: Yes.
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39 Murphy: Commissioner Garrett.
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41 Garrett: Yes.
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43 Murphy: Councillor Small.
44
45 Small: Yes.
46

1 Garrett: The motion passes by unanimous vote.

2
3 Motion passes 8 – 0 (2 members absent).

4
5 **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

6
7 **7.1 2015 Meeting Calendar**

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9 Garrett: Discussion items, the 2015 Meeting Calendar. Mr. Murphy.

10
11 Tom Murphy gave a presentation. The November meeting for the 2015 calendar year is
12 cancelled due to Veterans' Day.

13
14 Garrett: Okay. So, in terms of the chart we have on page 47 and the, the change
15 there would simply be that we would have a gray box that would fill in for
16 November under the Policy ...

17
18 Murphy: That is correct.

19
20 Garrett: Okay, is anyone concerned with eliminating the November meeting?
21 Okay, so we don't have to vote on this, but you have our concurrence to
22 move ahead and put a gray box there.

23
24 Murphy: Alright, thank you.

25
26 **7.2 Transportation Improvement Program Briefing**

27
28 Garrett: The next item has to do with the TIP procedures briefing.

29
30 Andrew Wray gave a presentation.

31
32 Garrett: Any questions? If you wouldn't mind, could you send us all an electronic
33 copy of the presentation?

34
35 Wray: Yes, I, thank you Mr. Chair, and I, I meant to mention, I believe the
36 STIP/TIP procedures were e-mailed to you in June but I intend to e-mail
37 those again after this meeting today just cause it's been several months
38 and it's probably been deleted by your automatic archive service so I want
39 to make sure everyone has access to this document. So I will e-mail both
40 of them.

41
42 Garrett: Yeah, thank you. This was a, a good summary, anything else on, on this?
43 Let me just ask what happens in terms of projects that are outside of, of
44 our particular jurisdictional area that we still might have an interest in?
45 How do we address that?

46

1 Wray: It could not be done through our MPO process. It would have to be done
2 through the, the, the process of either the, the MPO or the RTPO. I don't
3 know whether would the MPO as a body be able to send in any sort of
4 letter of support or any kind of comment regarding at least some sort of, of
5 letter of interest or letter of support could be sent in, but it, it, it does need
6 to be emphasized that, that anything that is not within the jurisdiction of
7 the Mesilla Valley MPO would have to be handled through the process of
8 whatever jurisdiction the project was taking place in.
9

10 Garrett: So does the, the RPO handle things in the same sequence, the same time
11 frame, same deadlines?
12

13 Wray: Generally speaking I believe so. There's been, we've wanted to synch,
14 we've, we've wanted, there's been a move by DOT over the past couple of
15 years to sort of synch up the RTPO and the MPO processes so that they
16 look broadly similar. I'm, I'm not intimately familiar with all the processes
17 at the RTPOs, but broadly the DOT has wished to kind of make them
18 similar.
19

20 Garrett: Okay. I'm thinking here about the Upham exit in terms of its connection to
21 the southern road and the need to get progress going in terms of the
22 interchange there so and the County did approve a resolution supporting
23 full vehicular access including an interchange modification there so it
24 might be something that we'd be interested in taking a look at. Yep.
25

26 Flores: Would that fit in the, the earlier language that she had (*inaudible*) it was
27 one of the first slides that you had where it defined regionally important
28 projects such as access to?
29

30 Wray: Mr. Chair, Trustee Flores, the, that definition though is very specific to
31 projects within, again it's, you have to go through the process within that
32 specific jurisdiction. Whether or not an outside entity wished to make a,
33 some kind of vocalization of support, that wouldn't necessarily serve as a
34 justification for doing so. I, I would say that the interest of the entity in
35 question would be enough of a, of a justification if they wanted to pursue
36 making their voices heard in the process.
37

38 Garrett: So, if I, if I'm understanding you correctly, the, the language here is
39 intended to apply to projects within our jurisdictional boundary even if the
40 project has, and, and particularly for those projects that have greater
41 significance outside the boundary as well as inside the boundary.
42

43 Wray: Yes, Mr. Chair.
44

45 Garrett: Okay.
46

1 Wray: Again, as alluded to in the earlier item, obviously coordination would
2 hopefully be taking place between the, the jurisdictions in that case.
3
4 Garrett: Sure, okay, anything else? Yes Commissioner Flores do you have
5 anything or, or Member Flores?
6
7 Flores: No, I'm just looking at the words.
8
9 Garrett: Okay, alright. Yes, Member Pedroza?
10
11 Pedroza: I wonder if you could answer a question for me. I'm not clear at all about
12 this. Recently there have also been references in the newspaper to some
13 roads in southern Dona Ana County which is not part of our, even, even
14 with the new MOA, part of our jurisdiction. So how, what's the process for,
15 say for instance the construction of those roads that they were, everybody
16 was complaining about, Airport Road and I can't remember.
17
18 Garrett: Industrial.
19
20 Pedroza: Yes, thank you. Is it handled by DOT, New Mexico DOT, USDOT, Texas
21 DOT, the MPOs, or, or who exactly is responsible for making those
22 decisions?
23
24 Wray: Mr. Chair, specifically those two roads are Dona Ana County roads. I
25 know that they've been coordinating with the Department on some funding
26 for design but ultimately those are two County facilities.
27
28 Pedroza: The County? I thought they were not, that they did not, they had not been
29 dedicated to the County, so the County was saying that they did not have..
30
31 Garrett: No, I think they are County roads.
32
33 Pedroza: They are?
34
35 Garrett: Yes, but, but there's not money to do the repairs, so we've been looking
36 for money from the State Legislature and anyone else that wants to give
37 us money, so ...
38
39 Pedroza: Thank you.
40
41 Garrett: Certainly, any other comments or questions? Thank you very much for
42 this presentation.
43
44 **7.3 NMDOT Updates**
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46 Garrett: NMDOT updates. Mr. Doolittle.

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Doolittle: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll give you a real brief construction update. Vado/Mesquite interchange, we do still currently have the eastbound on and off ramps closed. We're currently placing hot mix on those shoulders and those ramps, trying to get those open, painting the abutment and the beams on the bridges, looking at trying to get traffic switched over in the next couple of weeks so we can basically do the same thing on the other side. So again we got off to a little bit of a slow start; we're, we're making some good progress now that we've got some good weather and got through the initial, initial hump of getting started, so it's good to see some progress out there.

We also have a drainage project a little bit outside of this MPO's boundary but we have a drainage project down in Anthony working on excavating for some ponds, actually started contract time last week so we're in the very early stages of that project. More specifically here in town, we are finishing up the concrete barrier project out on US 70, just got a few little things to do with some painting and cleanup. We should be finished with that one here real quickly. I know I keep saying that, but we had some weather issues and, and whatnot but we are making progress and I, I hope that we can get that one closed up pretty quick. That is US 70, correct?

The other one that we have in town is the reconstruction project on North Main. We continue to make really good progress on that one. Contractor, we had, we did have a few design issues on that one tied to slopes and grades of the roadway. Ultimately we've worked through that but again we're making some really good progress on that project. Again the delays on that one seem to be very minimal, surprisingly, you know when you're impacting downtown traffic with no signals and it being a fairly short project, traffic seems to flow very well through that project.

The other thing that you've probably seen around town is we're doing some deck sealing on a lot of our bridges, a lot of the older bridges that we've got that we haven't replaced recently, we're sealing the deck, doing some concrete repair, basically just bridge maintenance on them. We are about finished with that. That was some additional Federal funding, I mean I'm sorry, some additional State funding that we have to have spent by October 15th, so you'll, you won't see any more impacts on those bridge projects, at least the maintenance portion as of next week.

That's, that's currently all of our ongoing construction projects in the area. I do want to give some brief updates on some upcoming projects: Our Missouri bridge, which is a full replacement of that project is scheduled to go to bid October 17th. My expectation is it will take about two months for us to award the contract so that's you know December or so. We'll probably have a 60- to a 90-day ramp-up time on that one, so you can expect to see some work on Missouri sometime in the spring. But as we get closer we'll do with all of our other urban projects, we will have some public meetings before we ever get started so everybody's aware of

1 the schedule and I'll be able to provide you more specific details after we
2 get a contractor on board.

3 The other one that is going to affect your travels on the interstate,
4 we are going to do some work at what we call "Ramp E," it's basically the
5 Union/I-10 interchange. That's the, kind of the awkward interchange there
6 at South Main/Valley/University. We're doing some bridge rehabilitation
7 there. We're widening it out to make the on ramp, the acceleration ramp,
8 a lot safer. Right now you come up on the interstate and you really can't
9 get up to speed because of the grade so we're going to extend that ramp.
10 Ultimately, the initial part of that project was to address bridge issues but
11 we're going to make the whole interchange a little bit safer. That project is
12 currently scheduled to be bid in February, so that one you can expect to
13 see some construction in the summer. I was talking to Councillor Sorg,
14 once we get those two finished hopefully we're finished with bridge
15 projects in downtown Las Cruces. That should buy us about 50 years so,
16 so hopefully we can, we can get out of the way at least when it comes to
17 the bridge issues. Wanted to provide an update on the West Mesa Phase
18 1B. I know it came up earlier. The General Office has indeed moved that
19 funding, so currently there is no funding for the Phase 1B. As an update,
20 Phase 1A study there was a request at the last Policy Board meeting to
21 get a copy of that and I believe that Jolene sent that out shortly after that
22 meeting so everybody should have a copy. If you don't feel free to let me
23 or Jolene know and we can get you one. The one thing that I will share
24 with you is there was a request to have a presentation to provide an
25 update and a kind of a summary of the Phase 1A, ultimately because that
26 funding was moved, the consultant that was on board to prepare Phase
27 1A, there isn't a mechanism for us to pay them, so we're trying to work
28 through another, another mechanism either internally or a, an amendment
29 to a contract or some small type funding so that we, you can have a formal
30 presentation. But at this point there is no, no funding for a 1B or a
31 presentation itself.

32
33 Sorg: Could I as a question as long as we're touching upon that Phase?

34
35 Garrett: Yes.

36
37 Sorg: Could you describe very briefly, what a 1B Phase would be, involve? Very
38 briefly, anything?

39
40 Doolittle: I'll have to ask either Jolene or Harold maybe to come explain the
41 specifics of a 1B study.

42
43 Herrera: I'm Jolene Herrera, NMDOT. So the Phase 1B looks at the alternatives
44 that were laid out in Phase 1A and narrows them down to a preferable
45 alternative.
46

1 Sorg: If I may repeat what you just said cause I had my microphone on and I
2 didn't hear, hear very well. In other words all the alternatives in 1A would
3 be evaluated and you'd pick one of them?
4

5 Herrera: Basically yes.
6

7 Sorg: Okay, thank you.
8

9 Garrett: Let me just follow up on that one, that question. What, what's the
10 assumption in terms of the significance of completion of 1B? I mean these
11 are standard 1A, 1B, these are, these are traditional pieces, steps you go
12 through to move into eventually construction of, of something. So what's
13 the assumption in terms of once you finish a 1B study?
14

15 Doolittle: Mr. Chair, are you talking about once we develop a, an alignment how do
16 we move forward with construction?
17

18 Garrett: What, what's, in other words when, when you get to the point where
19 you've got a preferred alternative, at that point you can also, is there a
20 cost estimate that goes with that?
21

22 Doolittle: We actually have Mr. Chair, preliminary costs tied to alignments in the
23 Phase 1A, but we would be able to tie down a more specific estimate.
24 One benefit of these studies and again this is why we're pursuing
25 additional studies in the border area tied to 136, you know a study for New
26 Mexico 404 over the Anthony Gap, is once we have these types of
27 studies, it provides more data for us to pursue a TIGER application, for
28 instance. But at this point you know I think the point was made last month
29 is anything that is approved or, or considered as part of the West Mesa,
30 there is no funding at this point for construction.
31

32 Garrett: But, the assumption is that once you finish a 1B study that the next step
33 would actually be to look for money to, to start you know acquisition of
34 right-of-way and, and, and moving forward on that, right?
35

36 Doolittle: Yes.
37

38 Garrett: Okay. So I, I'm still comfortable with where we are because we still have
39 the option once we get additional information about the 404 option to say,
40 "Okay now maybe we can have a comparison and look at the larger
41 implications of this and then move forward as, as appropriate." But, very
42 good. I have a question, I think at a couple of our meetings we've talked
43 about having champagne celebrations, ribbon cuttings, balloons, you
44 know on some of these projects, you know Avenida de Mesilla and I-10,
45 we need mariachis out there. The, the important work that was done on,
46 on US 70 with the concrete barriers, is there, I'm, I'm pulling your leg a

1 little bit, but I think the idea of celebrating these accomplishments because
2 these are major changes for the community, it's important to recognize
3 that they're finished and, and give a chance to explain why they were
4 done and to recognize those that were involved. So any thoughts to some
5 ribbon cuttings?
6

7 Doolittle: Absolutely. I did actually talk to Bridget Spedalieri a little bit earlier to get
8 her input. She thought it was a good idea, but honestly we haven't got
9 into the details. We've been dealing with some flooding issues you know
10 elsewhere in the district. You know I apologize for not making it a priority,
11 but that is certainly something that we tend to overlook because they
12 either are small, small dollar amounts or you know low-impact, those types
13 of things, but I, I think we agree with you, it's just a matter of tying down
14 the details and getting those scheduled.
15

16 Garrett: Okay and I would just say that I, I think that the, the County and the City,
17 you know have capacity to help with, with events. I'm not going to make
18 any commitments for Mesilla. You, you know I don't know what situation
19 you're all in but I'm, you want to add?
20

21 Flores: I was just going to ask if you were doing something for Avenida de Mesilla
22 that you'd coordinate with Irene Parra so that she might invite some
23 business owners to come out, so ...
24

25 Garrett: Okay, and I would, I'm, I'm sort of extending the idea that if, if you want
26 some help from the County, you know Bridget could talk to Jess Williams
27 and you know, so I, I just think we can all work together on this.
28

29 Doolittle: Mr. Chair, the one thing I will tell you is we, we throw a good party down
30 here.
31

32 Garrett: Oh, okay.
33

34 Doolittle: So once we do that, it, it, it truly is a low cost, you know Bridget has her
35 contacts through the media to get the word out. We have all of the tents
36 and PA systems ultimately to have the event. Typically what we're looking
37 for are volunteers for, you know a band for national anthem or
38 entertainment type of deal, and then snacks and refreshments are
39 typically you know the only cost. So I appreciate the offer and we will
40 certainly be contacting the entities if we, if we move forward.
41

42 Bernal: Mr. Chair. Yeah Mr. Doolittle, Bridget talked to me a couple days ago
43 saying the extra expenses were going to come out of you. Is it true?
44

45 Doolittle: She must have the checkbook this month.
46

1 Garrett: Member Benavidez?
2
3 Benavidez: Mr. Chair, thank you. One of the things that you might want to consider is
4 to have a, a high school's band or orchestra, I, I, I'm, I'm thinking that the
5 bands would, maybe they would be willing to you know participate
6 because they're always looking for you know PR work like that. So Las
7 Cruces High School and Mayfield High School I guess are in that area, so,
8 and any high schools in that area that would be willing to participate too.
9 Thank you.
10
11 Garrett: Yeah and Onate for, for US 70, yeah. Okay, anything else in terms of
12 updates?
13
14 Doolittle: Mr. Chair, I do have one more that I wanted to share with you all. We
15 recently provided some funding to the El Paso MPO, \$425,000 to do traffic
16 modeling and, and I bring that up because once we get that data, more
17 specifically to Dona Ana County, that kind of information will be available
18 for southern Dona Ana County, the towns of Anthony, Sunland Park, those
19 types of things, so again that's an opportunity, \$425,000 seems like a
20 fairly substantial amount, but in all reality compared to what TEXDOT and
21 the other entities provide for that same type of activity it's another, another
22 example of we're going to get a large benefit out of a fairly small amount
23 of funding, so I share that with you. As, as a Dona Ana County
24 Commissioner we'll have another option for some data for the County.
25
26 Garrett: I very much appreciate that. Thank you. Anything else, any questions,
27 comments? Thank you for the, for the briefing.
28
29 **7.4 Advisory Committee Updates**
30
31 Garrett: Advisory Committee updates.
32
33 Murphy: Mr. Chair, one announcement for Advisory Committee updates, the, the
34 October meeting for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Advisory
35 Committee has been moved one hour forward. It'll be, it'll be taking place
36 at, at 4:00 p.m. and I believe that's, I believe the date's October 21st. I
37 forgot to check. It's the third Tuesday of the month.
38
39 Wray: It is the 21st.
40
41 Murphy: Thanks and the reason for that was there is a, a, the County set up
42 meeting on some of the improvements being made on, on Dripping
43 Springs and Baylor Canyon Road. That is starting at 6:00 and we figured
44 that there were, there were people that were interested in both meetings,
45 so we moved ours up in order to facilitate people wanting to attend both.
46 That concludes my Advisory Committee update.

1
2 Garrett: Any questions by the Committee? Thank you.

3
4 **8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

5
6 Garrett: Committee and staff comments. Mr. Sorg.

7
8 Sorg: I'll be brief. I'd just like to, because the Safe Routes to School Program
9 really was started here in the MPO staff and so forth, now it's been taken
10 over by the schools and New Mexico Health Department. I just wanted to
11 comment on the fact that it's really going well. There's over 280 students
12 that walked to school this morning to Jornada Elementary School. The
13 staff has gotten out so many celebrities to join in this walk and bike to
14 school. For example the cheerleaders and a small group of cheerleaders
15 from NMSU including Pistol Pete was there. Miss, Miss Las Cruces was
16 there and finally as the students got to the school, Mickey Mouse even
17 greeted them as they came to the school. Anyway it's a very good
18 success and I'm really pleased that the program is progressing so well. A
19 big thanks to the whole staff at, at the schools and the Health Department.
20 Thank you.

21
22 Garrett: Thank you, other comments? Just a, more of a question, have the staff
23 been having some meetings regarding the map, the, the transport 2040
24 map or am I confusing that with something else?

25
26 Murphy: That, that is correct. We had some meeting, we had some meetings and I
27 was going to, to go over that.

28
29 Garrett: Okay. Go ahead.

30
31 Murphy: Okay. Alright I will start with that one, last week and the week before we
32 had five meetings around the MPO area. We had, we had two meetings
33 at the Farmers' Market, one on Wednesday and one on Saturday, get, get
34 both types of crowds. We also had a meeting in Radium Springs, down at
35 the Del Cerro/Vado Community Center, and one at the Dona Ana Branch
36 East Mesa Campus. The turnout was, was, we're, staff was disappointed
37 in the turnout. We did get some, some folks out there. We did get
38 Channel 22 News on one of the days, so hopefully that's going to you
39 know spread the word. We've invited people to you know to ask, ask us to
40 come to their individual group if they desire. We pointed the, you know,
41 we have all the information on the website and we'll be continuing to, to
42 take comments throughout, throughout the winter and as we begin work
43 on writing the draft plan which we plan on rolling out, rolling out sometime
44 February for, for June, June adoption, and we'll have another round of
45 public meetings once we do have that draft document ready for release.

46

1 Garrett: Thank you, any comments or questions about that? Just one and, and
2 that is: How is our process of updating that map going to be coordinated
3 with the development of the preferred or the recommended scenario out of
4 Viva Dona Ana?
5

6 Murphy: We will have to have a, have a meeting with, with County staff, as, as, as,
7 as the Viva Dona Ana map takes form. Ours we really haven't even
8 started to look at what, what adjustments are. We're right now in the
9 process of just taking in comment, so any changes, any changes that that
10 process wishes to, to recommend we're fully capable of taking that input
11 bringing it before our committee structure and then amending that if the
12 committees would agree with that.
13

14 Garrett: Let me suggest that the MPO staff talk with the staff that are working on
15 the Viva Dona Ana. We may want to try to do something like a, a
16 workshop that's a public meeting because as we've gotten further and
17 further into the, the regional planning it's, it's very obvious that where we
18 have roads and what kind of roads we have is going to have a huge
19 impact in terms of the future development pattern for the entire area and,
20 and I think that that, evaluating what our current structure looks like
21 compared to one that maybe optimizes support for the direction that we're
22 getting from the public would be helpful. So I, I just would say that as we
23 move further along and of course that's being done with some consulting
24 folks and, and we'd have to figure out how they can be incorporated in this
25 but does that make sense generally to the, to the committee? Okay.
26

27 Murphy: So I think, I think that'd be great and staff would love to participate in, in
28 such a workshop. Reminder you that the, that the MTP is also, also
29 policy-oriented and we want to get, we want to get input on policies as
30 well.
31

32 Garrett: Absolutely, yep. And the other thing is, is simply that you might be able to,
33 we might be able to piggyback on the, the work that's been done by Viva
34 Dona Ana in terms of engaging the public in some of the meetings. We've
35 had some pretty good participation in some of those sessions so. And I,
36 I'd want to recognize Harold and thank you for, I was at a meeting the
37 other day that has to do with some concerns that have been raised about
38 traffic at Fairacres Elementary School on Picacho and I just some, some
39 concerns about the fact that it gets congested and dangerous at times
40 when you've got a lot of people being dropped off and a lot of people
41 leaving so, appreciate your, your involvement in that, that effort. Any
42 other, anybody have any thoughts, remembered anything you want to
43 bring to our attention? Do we have a new staff member? Do we have,
44 staff, do you have anything else you want to announce?
45

1 Murphy: Just as mentioned earlier in the meeting I'm, I'm sending around now the
2 draft letter we have to send to the other, to the members, the New Mexico
3 members of the El Paso Board. If everybody is good with this we will, we
4 will put the proper names on the top of it and route it for the, for the Chair's
5 signature or you know take recommendations for how to amend it.
6

7 Garrett: Let me just ask you this, do you want to just take a minute to, to, to scan
8 this quickly so we can get this taken care of?
9

10 Small: Mr. Chair.

11

12 Garrett: Yes, Member Small.

13

14 Small: Always the, the suggestion of the tilde over the or the ñ.

15

16 Murphy: That yeah I, I noticed that, at the, I have to, when I do it on my computer, I
17 have to open up a special thing so as always, that always occurs in final
18 edit.
19

20 Small: That's a, and I always, I always just copy and paste from the internet, so
21 you're, you're two steps ahead of where I am.
22

23 Garrett: Yeah and Viva Dona Ana also has an exclamation point at the end of it.
24 Great and it's always Billy G. Garrett.
25

26 Murphy: Trying to save myself on some ink and I have one, one last staff comment.
27

28 Garrett: Just before we leave on, anything else on the letter? Yes Member
29 Pedroza?
30

31 Pedroza: It's not so much on the letter but would it be possible and not too much
32 work to send us either at the same time that you send this out or at least
33 before they come, the names of all of the New Mexico members? Who is
34 it going to be addressed to, because I'd, I'd like to, I know Dr. Garcia is,
35 but I can't remember the rest of the people, so I would love to know ahead
36 of time.
37

38 Murphy: Absolutely. In fact, I, I think we'll, we'll cc the rest of the Committee on this
39 letter.
40

41 Garrett: Okay.

42

43 Pedroza: Thank you.

44

45 Garrett: Yes, Member Flores.
46

1 Flores: On the last paragraph it says, "Please inform staff of your availability." I'm
2 assuming that you mean our staff and maybe it would be helpful to have a
3 particular person's name.
4

5 Garrett: Yeah, maybe a name and a telephone number.
6

7 Murphy: I will put my name in there.
8

9 Garrett: And if you will provide me with, well, I'll get the, the names, I'll follow up
10 and, and make a call to each of the people to make sure that they know
11 that they're, this isn't just a paper exercise so, okay? Yes, Mr. Doolittle.
12

13 Doolittle: Mr. Chair, I, I, I understand that we're inviting them to the MPO Policy
14 Board but I, I wonder what the intent is. Are we going to have some sort
15 of tentative agenda, I mean what is the, what are we going to focus on as
16 part of the study? Is it, is it enough that a work session is more feasible as
17 opposed to them attending the TPB? You know I, I don't really know. I
18 understand it's important to improve communication but I don't know what
19 the intent or the focus is going to be if they're here and kind of what the,
20 what the process is going to be for us to have that kind of open discussion
21 with them.
22

23 Garrett: Member Pedroza.
24

25 Pedroza: I certainly agree and I think that it may be necessary to have a, a meeting
26 before the November 12th in order to set the agenda so that they don't
27 just come in and watch us discuss our ordinary business. And possibly
28 making November 12th dedicated to discussing some issues and who's
29 going to present, etc. etc. So, yeah, I think that it'd be really really
30 important to decide on an agenda for the meeting.
31

32 Garrett: Member Flores.
33

34 Flores: I, if we're going to do that, I would like to add something so that they could
35 maybe present an agenda item or feel free to add what's important to
36 them or something.
37

38 Garrett: Okay. So, we can add some language that let, let me, let me, let me take
39 this in two bites. The first thing is, could I have two other people volunteer
40 to work with me on the agenda for that particular session and with Tom,
41 and, and what I'm, what I'm thinking is, this is really about where we have
42 the overlaps and you know Member Pedroza you're involved with Viva
43 Dona Ana also, and you know, you want to be involved, Member Flores?
44 Okay. And, actually I'm just going to say Mr. Doolittle if you've got any
45 insights you want to share with us that would be good. Cause what I think
46 partly we want to do is, is to make the case for having this be a, that, that

1 we need for them to be aware of what we're working on and, and where
2 there's this overlap, and talk about how to make sure that our interests in
3 the South Valley are then conveyed to the El Paso MPO cause they're you
4 know other than, than, well, Trent's part of that, but, but it's basically,
5 we're looking for that sort of group to carry forward our message in that
6 larger discussion. Does that make sense Mr. Doolittle?
7

8 Doolittle: Yes and, and one thing I would like to add now, I did talk to, again Mayor
9 Perea and Dr. Garcia, and one of the things I asked them to start thinking
10 about is what they felt Dona Ana County and New Mexico benefited from
11 the El Paso MPO both financially and, and, you know support what we get
12 from them. So I, I've asked them to do a little bit of homework and thought
13 process on their end to come prepared a little bit as well.
14

15 Garrett: Very good. Yes, Mayor, Member ...
16

17 Pedroza: And past, no ...
18

19 Garrett: Member Pedroza.
20

21 Pedroza: Possibly also on the, on the opposite side, what they would see, what they
22 would like to see is a result of communications, what problems they see
23 that might be, that might be susceptible to our planning, etc.
24

25 Garrett: Very good. We straight?
26

27 Murphy: I think, I think we got it. Just to kind of, I checked with, I checked with
28 Jolene, I, I, at this moment I don't think we're anticipating any, any TIP
29 amendments coming up so we can devote the entire agenda to, to joint
30 issues, we can work on some presentations on, on what we're doing. I
31 would probably, probably ask that we see if we can get a good
32 presentation on Viva Dona Ana to you know to, to give, you know, give
33 them a well-rounded update or summary of what's going on with that and,
34 and we could you know, essentially turn the next regular meeting date
35 into, you know into a work session.
36

37 Garrett: Great. That okay with everybody? Great, okay, so I will be back in touch
38 with Members Flores and Pedroza, we'll set up a time and then my
39 suggestion is that unless Mr. Doolittle has time, that what we do is we'll
40 work on something and then get in touch with you and and sort of fold you
41 in or if you want to send me any ideas in advance.
42

43 Doolittle: Sure and when you schedule the meeting if you let me know I will certainly
44 be willing to attend.
45

46 Garrett: Okay, very good.

1
2 Murphy: One last staff ...
3
4 Garrett: I beg your pardon?
5
6 Murphy: I have one last staff ...
7
8 Garrett: One last staff, okay.
9
10 Murphy: I'd like to introduce to you our, our new Associate Transportation Planner,
11 Michael McAdams. He began with us on, on September 22nd. He brings
12 with him many of years of transportation planning experience. He has, he
13 has taught transportation planning at several universities and has also
14 worked in the public transit industry. If, if, Michael you'd like to introduce
15 yourself.
16
17 McAdams: Just briefly. Good to meet you today and I'm just saying I'm very pleased
18 to be here and getting started. I'll primarily be doing transit work but other
19 modeling as well, so anything I can do to serve this committee please let
20 me know.
21
22 Garrett: Thank you and welcome and congratulations on your job, anything else,
23 Mr. Murphy?
24
25 Murphy: No.

26
27 **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**
28

29 Garrett: Okay. Going to go and ask one more time if there's any public comment?
30 Okay. In that case, without objection, we've completed the agenda, so we
31 are adjourned.
32

33 **10. ADJOURNMENT**
34

35 Meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

43
44 _____
Chairperson
45