



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

SERVING LAS CRUCES, DOÑA ANA COUNTY, AND MESILLA

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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

The following is the agenda for the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting to be held on **August 19, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.** in the **Doña Ana County Commission Chambers, 845 Motel Boulevard**, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Meeting packets are available on the [Mesilla Valley MPO website](#).

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** _____ **Chair**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** _____ **Chair**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** _____ **Chair**
 - 3.1. July 15, 2014 _____
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** _____ **Chair**
5. **ACTION ITEMS** _____
 - 5.1. Amendments to the 2014-2019 TIP _____ **MPO Staff**
6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS** _____
 - 6.1. Bicycle Friendly Community Certification Renewal Discussion _____ **MPO Staff**
 - 6.2. Soledad Canyon Project Presentation _____ **Bohannon-Huston Staff**
7. **COMMITTEE and STAFF COMMENTS** _____
 - 7.1. Local Projects update _____ **CLC, DAC, TOM, NMSU Staff**
 - 7.2. NMDOT Projects update _____ **NMDOT Staff**
8. **PUBLIC COMMENT** _____ **Chair**
9. **ADJOURNMENT** _____ **Chair**

1 **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

3 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
4 Advisory Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
5 which was held July 15, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana
6 County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.
7

8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** George Pearson, Chair (City of Las Cruces Citizen Rep)
9 Jolene Herrera (NMDOT Rep)
10 Carlos Coontz (Pedestrian Community Rep)
11 Albert Casillas (proxy - Dona Ana County Rep)
12 Leslie Kryder (Bicycle Rep)
13 Scott Farnham (City of Las Cruces Rep)
14 Karen Rishel (Las Cruces Community Bicycle Rep)
15 Mark Leisher (DAC Citizen Rep)
16 David Shearer (NMSU – Environmental Health & Safety)
17 Ashleigh Curry (Town of Mesilla)
18 VACANT (Town of Mesilla, Citizen Rep)
19

20 **STAFF PRESENT:** Andrew Wray (MPO)
21

22 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Kleitz, EMTS-DA, Recording Secretary
23

24 **1. CALL TO ORDER**
25

26 Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
27

28 Pearson: Why don't we just go around the table and announce everybody who is
29 here, so we get it on the record.
30

31 Shearer: David Shearer for NMSU.
32

33 Curry: Ashleigh Curry, Safe Routes to School.
34

35 Farnham: Scott Farnham, City of Las Cruces.
36

37 Curry: I'm actually here representing the Town of Mesilla.
38

39 Kryder: Leslie Kryder, Community Member.
40

41 Leisher: Mark Leisher, Dona Ana County Citizen Member.
42

43 Coontz: Carlos Coontz, Pedestrian Community Representative.
44

45 Herrera: Jolene Herrera, New Mexico Department of Transportation.
46

1 Pearson: George Pearson, City of Las Cruces Representative and Chair.

2

3 Wray: Andrew Wray, MPO staff.

4

5 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

6

7 Pearson: Okay, next item is the approval of the agenda. Any changes to the
8 agenda? Hearing none, I call for a motion to approve the agenda as
9 presented.

10

11 Shearer: I move.

12

13 Leisher: Second

14

15 Pearson: It's moved and seconded, all in favor of approving the agenda as
16 presented, aye? Any opposed? Hearing none, that passes.

17

18 All approved.

19

20 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

21

22 **3.1 May 20, 2014**

23

24 Pearson: Next item is approval of the minutes. Any discussion on the minutes of
25 May 20th? What I noticed is "Members Absent" we had Sean Higgins
26 listed, but also under "Members Present" we had Albert Casillas as proxy
27 for that position. So I would like to entertain a motion to amend ... to
28 delete Sean Higgins from the "Members Absent" since he was
29 represented ... that position was represented. And also, there is a vacant
30 position that's not listed, so if we add just a vacant, the position that's
31 vacant, then we can add up to all the Committee members both present
32 and absent. That's the only thing that I noticed in the minutes. Anybody
33 else have any?

34

35 Shearer: Excuse my ignorance, who is the vacant position supposed to represent?

36

37 Pearson: It's the Town of Mesilla's Citizen Representative. So if somebody will
38 make a motion with those amendments?

39

40 Shearer: I move that the minutes be approved.

41

42 Pearson: With the amendments?

43

44 Shearer: With the amendments.

45

46 Herrera: Second.

1
2 Pearson: It's been moved and seconded, all in favor of approving the minutes as
3 amended? And any opposed nay? That passes.
4
5 All approved.
6
7 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment
8
9 Pearson: Next item is Public Comment. We have no Public Comment. We have
10 Albert Casillas joining our meeting so we have everybody that is a
11 member present.
12
13 Leisher: One question before we get out of the Public Comment period. What is
14 the procedure for replacing Karen Rishel if she isn't gonna do this
15 anymore? Do we need to get someone to step forward and...
16
17 Wray: Mr. Chair, Mr. Leisher, the ... there is a procedure in the by-laws regarding
18 a member replacement or removal and replacement. I don't want to quote
19 chapter and verse because I don't have it memorized, I don't remember it
20 completely off the top of my head, what I can do is I will review those
21 tomorrow probably send an email to George. I do have to be hesitant
22 about going too far with it as I'm only acting MPO officer at the moment.
23
24 Leisher: Understood.
25
26 Wray: So I'll need to wait until Tom gets back, but there is a process to go
27 through. There is a process to go through, and I believe it is at the
28 decision of the Chair as to whether that process needs to go forward. So
29 I'll leave it at that.
30
31 Herrera: I guess that the thing (*inaudible*) three meetings, right? If they're absent
32 three ... three consecutive, unexcused absences.
33
34 Wray: There is a provision in there regarding absence. So Ms. Rishel would
35 definitely fall under that at this point.
36
37 Pearson: So we should probably bring that up at our next meeting (*inaudible*). We'll
38 figure out what to do at the next meeting.
39
40 Leisher: I'll try to get word to her.
41
42 Pearson: Is she a public representative or...?
43
44 Leisher: Dona Ana, no Las Cruces Community Rep, yeah public.
45
46 Pearson: Okay.

1
2 Leisher: I talked with her husband once in a while, I'll have him pass the message
3 on.
4
5 Pearson: *(inaudible)* to the Policy Committee for *(inaudible... Mr. Pearson wasn't*
6 *using the mic)*
7
8 Wray: That's correct Mr. Chair.
9
10 Shearer: So should we be looking to replace the vacant position for the Mesilla
11 Citizens Rep?
12
13 Pearson: We have been asking for a long time.
14
15 Curry: Who does that?
16
17 Pearson: The Mayor. No, the Policy Committee appoints the citizen
18 representatives. So if anybody's interested, they can come to the Policy
19 Committee, so long as they meet the qualifications, which is lives in
20 Mesilla and interested in the issues we address.
21

22 **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

23 **5.1 Every Biker Counts Report Discussion**

24
25
26 In May 2014, the League of American Bicyclists released the results of a data tracking
27 project in a report titled Every Bicyclist Counts. This item is to discuss that report.
28

29 Pearson: Okay. So the next item is Discussion 5.1, Every Biker Counts Report
30 Discussion.
31

32 Andrew Wray gave a short introduction about the discussion item.
33

34 Pearson: What kind of performance measures are you looking at? At safety or at ...
35 I've heard performance measures used a lot, and there are guidelines for
36 the motorized, but I don't know what they are, but I know that they exist.
37

38 Wray: Broadly speaking Mr. Chair, right now I think we are still in the information
39 gathering phase. I ... I ... there's been no conversation on MPO staff yet,
40 settling down on specific performance measures. It's obviously been
41 something that has come up frequently, but not with a decision type of "we
42 have decided that these are going to be..." So right now we're very much
43 just soliciting feedback from various stakeholders and, including this
44 Committee, as to performance measures that the Committee feels to be
45 appropriate. But I guess also I should say definitely safety would be one
46 of the potential measures under consideration.

1
2 Herrera: If I can add to that, through the State long range plan process that we're
3 going through at NMDOT, we are looking at non-motorized modes as well,
4 and trying to figure out if there can be separate performance measures for
5 that, or how, we're, we're wondering how we're gonna handle that
6 because we haven't had any guidance from the federal level about how to
7 handle non-motorized modes and performance measures specifically. But
8 it is something that we want to be ahead of the curve on and not behind,
9 so.
10
11 Pearson: Yeah, I'm aware that at the federal level those perform... non-motorized
12 performance measures are missing from MAP21 and there's talk and
13 pressure to get those included. But what those would actually look like is
14 beyond what I am familiar with. I don't know is it just counting number of
15 miles? Facilities that are in place? Are we counting, I guess safety
16 accidents?
17
18 Herrera: We really don't, at this time we don't have any speculations on what those
19 would look like either. We know that safety is a big issue and a big factor
20 so obviously it would have something to do with creating safer conditions,
21 but what that means and to whom, I really don't know.
22
23 Leisher: I think we can start by breaking down bicycling into three, at least three
24 categories: safety, transportation, and recreation. Where we have
25 transportation people riding in the street, recreating riding on the multi-use
26 paths and then safety, of course, which applies to both or actually could
27 be broken out safety for recreational and safety for transportation. What
28 other performance measure? We also ... well obvious ones are things like
29 how many cyclists are we seeing on which facilities? But those are ...
30
31 Pearson: On motorized side what type of performance measures do you look at
32 there, do you know?
33
34 Herrera: Yeah, we'll be looking at a lot of safety stuff there, so something like on
35 rural roadways we're gonna try to reduce fatalities by 20% or something
36 like that. They would be pretty general.
37
38 Leisher: Twenty percent per what? Miles overall? Per state?
39
40 Herrera: Per year, per state.
41
42 Pearson: Number of incidents probably.
43
44 Herrera: Right, the number of incidents. So I think we're looking at it more on a
45 type of facility breakdown rather than kind of a mode, is kind of the feeling
46 that I'm getting and then...

1
2 Pearson: So that's where this report also talks about urban versus rural.
3
4 Herrera: Right.
5
6 Pearson: So that's in the MPO area; that applies because we have both types.
7
8 Herrera: Right. So that kind of stuff and then we can also, in the MPO look at level
9 of service too if we want that to be somehow included in performance
10 measures. Again, I don't know what that would look like, but it might be
11 worth looking at.
12
13 Leisher: Did we ever discuss level of service with regard to cycling in Las Cruces?
14 I have a vague recollection we might have.
15
16 Pearson: I remember using the term, I don't remember that we defined it or picked
17 out things.
18
19 Leisher: Yeah.
20
21 Pearson: At this point I'd like to introduce our other Committee member.
22
23 Rishel: Who's just been absent for a while.
24
25 Pearson: We talked about you.
26
27 Rishel: You talked about me and you said we're going to let, we're gonna make
28 her go.
29
30 Leisher: We were gonna send roses, flowers.
31
32 Pearson: Just identify yourself for the record.
33
34 Rishel: Karen Rishel, City Rep. Good to be here.
35
36 Pearson: The level of service.
37
38 Leisher: Level of service, type of facility, projected use of facility, safety on those
39 facilities.
40
41 Pearson: And interaction with other modes I think would be.
42
43 Leisher: Oh yes.
44
45 Pearson: That's where the crashes happen, are intersections and up in Santa Fe
46 with trains.

1
2 Herrera: I really think like you had a good idea about looking at the different types
3 of cycling that's happening. When we do projects we try to keep that in
4 mind, who's using the road; is it commuters, is it recreational?
5
6 Leisher: Yeah.
7
8 Kryder: I think it would be also interesting if there was some way to find out what
9 types of adherence to traffic rules by cyclists. So, I see a lot of breaking of
10 traffic rules. I don't know if there's some way to measure that as far as
11 educational need.
12
13 Pearson: Well your traffic counters are video cameras, right?
14
15 Wray: Mr. Chair we have one video counter. It can be used for cycling count,
16 however I have only heard one reference in staff conversations that it
17 might be used that way. The main bike-ped counters that we have are
18 infrared based.
19
20 Leisher: Is it possible to get various community organizations to do community
21 service by sitting on ... next to facilities with a clicker counting cyclists as
22 they go by?
23
24 Wray: Such things have been discussed, yes. I don't know that we could
25 necessarily utilize community organizations for that. But there has, I'm
26 sure most of you are aware of the "Picturing El Paseo" project, and then
27 the ongoing work with that. There ... due to the partnership between the
28 City of Las Cruces and the University there is some talk of utilizing student
29 help to count cycle and pedestrian traffic on that corridor, but that's in a
30 very specific context of that partnership between the City and the
31 University.
32
33 Pearson: There is nationally every month in September, I think, Let's Count Cyclists
34 Day. I don't remember what it's called? It's an annual...
35
36 Leisher: It's not a national holiday?
37
38 Pearson: It's not a national holiday. There's a national effort, one weekend, so two
39 counts I think is what they try to do. One is during the weekday and the
40 other is on the weekend. Try to get some metrics of some sort, and that's
41 not anything that we've participated in here. I don't know that we have
42 any metrics, usable metrics to compare from year to year for bicycle
43 counts.
44
45 Rishel: When you're discussing and talking about students, I mean that ...
46 because I'm at the University that's the first thing that comes to mind and

1 utilizing students in various different programs who have an interest, and
2 we have quite a few actually to ... you know if ... I know funding's always
3 an issue, but you know if there's any way to find any funding, they, you
4 know, student help and a student oriented research project, or many of
5 them such as the one Carlos did, and his bikeability could have significant
6 impact and potential, and so what students are you referring to?
7

8 Wray: The ones in particular for the El Paseo project are engineering students. I
9 again have re-emphasize that that is related to a particular project. We
10 couldn't just go and utilize students willy-nilly for our ends. We can't do
11 that. If there was some specific project that was a partnership between
12 the MPO or the City and the University, and the University volunteered to
13 do that then we could go down that path, but it has to be within ... it's my
14 understanding it has to be within the specific constraints of that particular
15 ... I mean we just ... we couldn't borrow students for our own ends.
16

17 Rishel: Right, right. Well you know, and I'm wondering if there's actually, is, there
18 a crossover with so many different disciplines and so many different
19 colleges at the University. There are, you know the intercollegiate
20 research grants as well that are available when multiple partners, multiple
21 colleges get together. And, you know Carlos' was from geography and
22 you know I'm in the College of Health Services and Social Sciences and
23 so, and engineering, and so right now, you know I'm thinking "wow" there
24 are so many different disciplines. I mean maybe that is an avenue that's
25 untapped.
26

27 Shearer: Geography (*inaudible*) the University that's done pedestrian studies and
28 so on in the past that I've seen. One of the seminars we saw at NMSU
29 recently was through the University of Berkley and UCLA and Sacramento
30 were ... and this was a consultant came in and actually used the internet
31 to poll, again this was along the lines of safety, but asking for groups of
32 riders if they could get their members to respond to a Survey Monkey,
33 telling them how much they road per day, some idea of the areas that they
34 covered, and on the line of safety, where they saw conflicts on the streets
35 to try and put ... but again it takes somebody to put these down, but they
36 basically ended up finding spots around these universities and marking
37 them down, and also getting some numbers on the, you know, where the
38 conflicts might be, that this investigation, but also getting some idea of
39 how much riding was being done from riders telling how often they ran,
40 and how far they run, that sort of thing. So...

41
42 Rishel: So could we do something perhaps similar?
43

44 Shearer: I mean I'm not saying that this would give you all you're asking but it might
45 be something that could be done. But...
46

1 Rishel: I mean it sounds pretty simple.
2
3 Shearer: Again you'd need really some group to sort of design it and get it rolling
4 and get it out there, but that would be use of social media.
5
6 Wray: It's definitely something we could look into.
7
8 Pearson: Something that might be worthwhile on the National Bike Count Day.
9 Maybe counting bike traffic that's coming to and leaving the University
10 since that's a good destination. Give valid information. Give us some
11 baseline information of traffic that's on Espina, traffic that's on Locust. I
12 don't know what else. There's the main entrance for bicycles onto
13 campus.
14
15 Shearer: Okay. From the safety office one of the things that we have noted at the
16 University is the ... the organizations, charter organizations have some
17 requirements for community hours directed towards supporting the
18 University. So something like that for an idea that might be able
19 (*inaudible*) some of the other organizations to go out and stand with a
20 clicker.
21
22 Rishel: That's right. Right. Right. And right, there are so many in each college.
23 I'm actually, I'm an advisor for an honor society for the College of Health
24 Sciences and all of our members are required, we have about 50 I believe,
25 are required to do community service. So that's a great idea.
26
27 Curry: I just wanted to throw out the idea would it be a possibility to look at other
28 communities around the country? What they have as far as infrastructure
29 goes for biking? Whether it be in lane or multi-use paths and things like
30 that and see how that compares, how many cyclists they have, cause I
31 sort of feel like studying how much traffic we have along, for example El
32 Paseo, it's kind of a "If you build it they'll come." If there are bike paths,
33 they'll use it. If there are no bike paths, they're not using it, and then we'll
34 say, well nobody's using it, so we shouldn't build it. So if we look at other
35 you know, weather wise, size wise, university wise, communities around
36 the country, can we get a comparison maybe they're a little bit ahead of us
37 in some of the infrastructure, and we could base what we might do on
38 what other communities have done.
39
40 Pearson: I was interested in the video counting of bicycles, not knowing what's
41 involved with that. What I was hoping is if we get some baseline numbers
42 on like Valley or you know all the way from city limits to Main Street,
43 especially since there's gonna be a big project coming up, NMDOT has
44 some knowledge that this is well used by bicyclists. Anecdotally I see new
45 and different bicyclists out there all the time and that's a roadway I would
46 never get myself on.

1
2 Leisher: I'll only do it on my mountain bike, I won't do it on the road bike, because I
3 need to be able to get out of the way quickly.
4
5 Rishel: Is that what it is?
6
7 Leisher: Yeah.
8
9 Pearson: And there's plenty of right-of-way, we've discussed before that maybe that
10 should be a segregated bike path on, bike lane, and if we have some
11 numbers we could justify that.
12
13 Leisher: Yeah, I think with the elevated speed, speed limit on the, on the sections
14 of that road a segregated bike path is a good idea, if possible.
15
16 Herrera: I think we're kind of going in circles. That goes back to we need the data
17 to justify the funding. Cause if we're talking about performance measures
18 we're gonna have to meet certain criteria, and so we're gonna have to put
19 the funding where we're meeting those criteria for the feds, and then in
20 turn the MPOs gonna have to do the same thing. So right now it's really
21 important to focus on how to collect the data that we need to justify all of
22 these things that we're talking about I think.
23
24 Rishel: I have a quick question then so where, where is the funding coming from
25 that we can access? What are the potential sources?
26
27 Herrera: For...
28
29 Rishel: Collecting data.
30
31 Herrera: Data collection? That's something that we're struggling with right now,
32 even as the State DOT
33
34 Rishel: Darn it.
35
36 Herrera: I know. Well they're, they're giving us all these performance measures
37 and all these requirements that we have to meet but with no additional
38 funds. So they call them unfunded mandates, and we have done and
39 we're passing them along and it's not fair to anybody but...
40
41 Pearson: And then you don't get the funding for projects unless you have...
42
43 Herrera: Right. The data.
44
45 Pearson: ...done the unfunded portion.
46

1 Herrera: It's a vicious circle, it really is. And we struggle with it as well as the DOT.
2 It's not just local governments and MPOs either.
3

4 Kryder: On a slightly different tack as far as how to determine interest in, or need
5 for a particular bike path or whatever. Would there be a way to create a
6 database of people who actively cycle in the city? I would think people
7 who cycle would be interested in participating, and then use that as a
8 source for surveys, saying, you know, given the choice of upgrading these
9 three roads which one would you use most? Something along those lines.
10

11 Coontz: We've actually discussed that a lot in the lab I work at. Because we had,
12 we played some part with No Throw app for BLM, and we've actually
13 considered, but again funding, making an app where users, bicycle users
14 can input data, input issues, put their stats in there, and we've
15 contemplated that quite a bit. But again, funding. And BLM did it with
16 their No Throw app, I don't see why we couldn't do something like that to
17 collect stats and issues and get input and all that.
18

19 Pearson: Okay.
20

21 Leisher: Yeah, I might be able to track down somebody who would want to develop
22 that app for free, if they had all the data available that needs to go into the
23 app.
24

25 Coontz: And if that was possible, I'm pretty sure our lab could store the, that data
26 in our server.
27

28 Leisher: Okay.
29

30 Coontz: Cause we're currently doing that for BLM right now, in the meantime until
31 they figure out what they're gonna do.
32

33 Leisher: In other words for the next 10 years?
34

35 Coontz: Yeah.
36

37 Leisher: Well maybe we need to just buy a bunch of GoPro cameras and strap
38 them to trees all over the city and get someone to sit and look at the video
39 all day.
40

41 Pearson: Well that's part of the question of the traffic control signals are video
42 controlled and if there was enough extra that you could see what's going
43 on in those intersections, but I guess there's no connectivity from those so
44 it's just a very localized thing.
45

1 Wray: Mr. Chair. We have actually had a number of conversations in the past
2 trying to figure out ways to utilize the city's traffic signal cameras. Not
3 necessarily specifically with an eye to cycling issues, we were mainly
4 trying to utilize it for the, the traffic count program. Unfortunately, in theory
5 it's an idea that sounds wonderful, but when you get down to in practice,
6 the whole thing kind of falls down. We've had three aborted attempts to
7 try to get something like that off the ground. A large part of the problem
8 speaking specifically of cycling issues, is most of the cameras would not
9 adequately cover cycle lanes in their view. That's just speaking from
10 personal experience of having looked at the views of the cameras, they're
11 mostly focused right down on the, stop line for the cars, and I don't know
12 whether the views could really be adjusted very much for the purposes of
13 doing that, but it would be a rather large undertaking to be able to do
14 something, or even investigate whether or not it would be possible ... well I
15 guess finding out whether or not it would be possible would be fairly
16 simple, but doing the undertaking would be a pretty large project.
17 Personally I think there are probably easier avenues available utilizing the
18 video camera that we have now in strategic points, possibly purchasing
19 another video camera should the utility of the first one prove warranted.
20
21 Pearson: So that begs the question about whether those traffic signals actually see
22 bicyclists when they're coming into those intersections.
23
24 Wray: I can't speak to that.
25
26 Pearson: The claim that I've heard is that, that will happen, but we would have to
27 ask somebody from traffic engineering.
28
29 Farnham: Question on the BLM app, is that something, what is that? Can you
30 explain a little bit more?
31
32 Coontz: It's basically just a, it's a No Throw app, just like you've seen in the
33 advertisement, you show up to a location, you see some garbage out on a
34 trail and you click a picture and you send it to BLM. If we were to develop
35 an app similar to collect data for cyclists it'd be the same sort of thing.
36 You'd have access to, I don't know features to input your route on any
37 problems you see, how many times you ride a week, I mean it's limitless.
38 I mean...
39
40 Farnham: It seems to me that the options that have been discussed that an app such
41 as that would provide you the best available data from the people that are
42 actually riding, where the clickers are more geared toward that specific
43 spot and might be used as kind of a check, but that is only one location
44 out of how many square miles that we have to kind of collect this
45 information. And it's the bicycle riders that are kind of forging their own
46 trails, which routes they're trying to get to, whether that's recreational or

1 actually trying to get to a destination. So it seems like the app would be
2 something that really could make a difference.
3
4 Leisher: Did BLM develop that app in house?
5
6 Coontz: Yes, they did. And the reason they're housing it with us is because they
7 have, you know they have their own IT administrative boundaries they had
8 to get around, so that's where we came into play.
9
10 Farnham: It's seems like an app is simple. It's at least an app. The data is being
11 collected and already going into a database that you can get immediate
12 results versus having to count bikes on a video or the infrared and try to
13 segregate the data that way.
14
15 Rishel: I think the trick would be to figure out exactly what you want to collect.
16 That's gonna be the hard part because you have to know that exactly
17 before your design it.
18
19 Leisher: We know ... everything.
20
21 Rishel: Oh, you do? Okay. Well the other thing I was just gonna mention, I was
22 in another meeting on a totally different topic this afternoon and someone
23 mentioned that there is a class at NMSU that teaches how to develop app,
24 and that possibly some of these could become class assignments or
25 projects for the students, so there's a possible option.
26
27 Curry: I just want to also keep in mind we probably need to find a way to reach
28 an indigent population cause only the people who have smart phones are
29 gonna have that, and I think there's a big segment of the population who
30 needs the safety on the roads who won't have a phone that they can snap
31 a picture of. So be it I fully support the idea of an app, I think we've also
32 got to be able to reach people who wouldn't have that connection.
33
34 Leisher: I will step in here and say that I have seen a rather unusually large
35 number of indigent who have smartphones. I talked with one. I talked
36 with one three weeks ago who said that some lady felt sorry for him and
37 gave him her, her I-Phone, and he has managed to scrounge enough
38 money to keep it going for two years. So, and he says a lot of his friends
39 have them as well, various kinds of smart phones.
40
41 Pearson: So they're ahead of me, because I am not a smart phone person. But that
42 was the point I...
43
44 Leisher: It's entertainment, information, they use it to find friends, they email and
45 text message between each other for places to stay, so. I don't know how

1 far it penetrates, but at least in the New Mexico community, down here in
2 Las Cruces there's a fair number of them anyway.
3
4 Wray: Ms. Curry's point though is well taken. It is ... that is an aspect that we
5 could not ignore. And that anecdotal evidence aside is something that we
6 would have to take into consideration.
7
8 Casillas: One quick question though.
9
10 Coontz: Yes.
11
12 Casillas: Since the implementation of the No Throw app, how effective has it been?
13 How many hits have you guys been getting, let's say per week, per month,
14 or?
15
16 Coontz: You know, I don't know. We haven't had a meeting since it kind of lifted
17 off the ground. So I don't know that.
18
19 Casillas: Okay.
20
21 Coontz: I don't know that at this time.
22
23 Leisher: I will state publicly at this point that that picture that has me in it lies.
24
25 Pearson: But the self-reporting type of surveys are gonna be skewed in certain
26 directions so that's why ... for safety aspects I think we need something
27 passive, counting of some sort.
28
29 Rishel: You're absolutely, I agree, and couldn't agree more. I just wanted to
30 reiterate that I think there ... you know we, you know well that would come
31 with research design and data collection, but it would be you know to
32 everyone's advantage to actually design data collection and research in a
33 way that we can access all of the portions of the population so
34 everybody's represented and that's, that's...
35
36 Pearson: There's certainly a value to using an application where people are actively
37 reporting and engaging the community in reporting potholes or where they
38 want to ride or whatever. But I think more for the safety aspect we need
39 the passive thing. Because that's how, that's what the safety performance
40 measures are gonna be based on, I think.
41
42 Rishel: And the indigent person that say, is using a bicycle for purposes of
43 commuting to get you know from point "a" to point "b", they're not gonna
44 necessarily have the resources to you know report.
45

1 Pearson: Or why would they stop and pull out their iPhone in the middle of a, of their
2 route.
3
4 Rishel: If they had one. If they knew, the same woman that, right?
5
6 Coontz: Who is she?
7
8 Rishel: Can we all have her number?
9
10 Leisher: I asked. She wouldn't give it up. I guess one of the things that we need to
11 do then is just figure out what we want to know to ... for performance
12 measures. Safety, of course passive counting.
13
14 Pearson: I guess my question to staff is, have you picked up enough in this
15 discussion that you can continue on?
16
17 Wray: I believe so Mr. Chair. This is obviously, since the writing of this is an on-
18 going process, this is probably going to be ... a discussion similar to this is
19 going to be a regular item on your meeting agendas until, well about a
20 year from now.
21

22 5.2 Bicycle Friendly Community Certification Renewal Discussion

23
24 The City of Las Cruces designation of Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the
25 League of American Bicyclists expires in mid-2015.
26

27 This item is to discuss the status of the renewal process.
28

29 Pearson: Okay. Okay, so I think we'll move on to the next item them. Bicycle
30 Friendly Community Certification Renewal Discussion.
31

32 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. It is my painful duty to report to the BPAC that we
33 have yet, MPO staff has yet to receive any significant support from the
34 City of Las Cruces in this endeavor. We have received some flickers of
35 support from the cycling community in the area, as I like to make the point,
36 the Mesilla Valley MPO is not the entity that's being designated as "bicycle
37 friendly", it's the City of Las Cruces. And the NMDOT representative is
38 sitting right here next to me, and she can tell you that we can't do the
39 process for the City of Las Cruces. We just cannot do it. So, I was
40 specifically directed by Tom to ask this question of the BPAC, of "Is it the
41 will of the BPAC for MPO staff to continue attempting to jump start this
42 process at the City, or does the BPAC think that there may be a message
43 that needs to be sent and MPO staff can find other things to do with its
44 time?".
45

46 Leisher: I'm not sure if that's a choice.

1
2 Pearson: Well I guess it would be nice to hear an answer from the City. I wonder if,
3 can MPO staff, would it have to be addressed through the Policy
4 Committee or is it something that you could just go to the City Manager
5 and say "Hey there's this issue here can you address that?" And just get
6 some response.
7
8 Wray: I'm not sure of the answer to that question to be completely candid. I'm
9 not sure I really want to give a detailed explanation as to why I'm not sure
10 as to how to answer that either.
11
12 Pearson: I have a good idea.
13
14 Wray: Well, there are some things that we know that I can't say out loud. So the
15 thought that we had is that we are going to make sure that this is brought
16 to the attention of Policy Committee at the August meeting which is their
17 next meeting. There are City Councillors who sit on that committee. Like I
18 said, City staff has not been responsive, been resistant is actually
19 probably a good word to use. Beyond on that, I'm honestly not sure what
20 more, what further steps MPO staff can take. We really kind of have not,
21 among ourselves, looked beyond, well we can take this to the Policy
22 Committee and make them aware of it.
23
24 Pearson: Yes, you should do that, especially, but that is, you have an agenda item
25 for committee updates for the Policy Committee and so that should be the
26 update is that we need, that this is an item that would behoove the City of
27 Las Cruces that MPO, I don't want to say had previously inappropriately
28 driven that, but ...
29
30 Wray: Let's not phrase it that way.
31
32 Pearson: But it needs a proper designated person in the City of Las Cruces or that
33 designation is gonna be lost and just leave it to them.
34
35 Kryder: Mr. Chair, through what department have the inquiries been made at the
36 City?
37
38 Wray: It's been through the Public Works and Transportation Departments.
39
40 Herrera: Mr. Chair, I would suggest that we go through the Policy Committee. And
41 it might be helpful to have a member of the BPAC, if they can, attend that
42 Policy Committee meeting and maybe stress the importance of what it is
43 we're trying to achieve with this. It might, I don't know, maybe it'll make
44 more of an impact.
45

1 Wray: If I may ask an impertinent question. Ms. Herrera, you meaning
2 somebody other than yourself?
3
4 Herrera: Yes, somebody other than myself.
5
6 Leisher: Out of curiosity is this resistance mostly based on a view of this being a
7 nuisance? Or is there some other...
8
9 Wray: I'm not sure I want to answer that question.
10
11 Leisher: Okay.
12
13 Wray: But I will say that there is also probably no small amount of uncertainty as
14 to who should be taking this mantle up on the part of the City.
15
16 Leisher: Okay. Alright, I was trying to gauge whether it would be worthwhile to
17 actually bug cyclists that we know to contact their City Councillor.
18
19 Pearson: That would be worthwhile, because that's, that is how things will happen.
20 If they, if City Council hears it enough they, City Council will direct staff to
21 do something, because, well City Council has one employee, and that one
22 employee gets to tell everybody what to do. So if the City Council tells
23 that one employee then things will happen because that becomes City
24 policy. And that's effectively how we got the bicycle designation the first
25 go around. City Council decided in their strategic plan, that Las Cruces
26 would become a Bicycle Friendly Community. That was a listed goal. So
27 that became a metric for the City Manager, so that happened. It's not at
28 that level anymore, so it's not happening. We sent through our
29 recommendation to the Policy Committee that each entity appoint a bike-
30 ped contact, and especially important for the City but that hasn't happened
31 at the City.
32
33 Curry: I just wanted to ask what the timeline is for the renewal.
34
35 Wray: The renewal expires ... or the current certification expires in July. I am still
36 unclear.
37
38 Curry: This month?
39
40 Wray: Next year, next year. Sorry '15. I am unclear as to what the timeline as
41 far as submitting the renewal is. I keep getting differing interpretations. I
42 don't know, maybe someone at this table will have a clearer
43 understanding. But it may be that we would need to have the application
44 submitted as early as next February. But I don't know if the Chair or
45 anyone knows more.
46

1 Pearson: The League of American Bicyclists has two application periods per year. I
2 did have an email discussion with the BF, Bicycle Friendly America
3 person, July 2015 would be the drop dead application date. So we could
4 go a cycle earlier, but the July 1 would be the last one. So they happen
5 about every six months. So February and July are probably the two.
6

7 Kryder: So if members of the BPAC were to encourage other cyclists to talk with
8 their City Councillors what specifically should they be encouraged to ask
9 for?

10

11 Wray: As MPO staff I'm not sure we can make that suggestion. I think the ... I
12 think the cyclists will need to figure out what they want to say themselves.
13

14 Pearson: As not MPO staff, I think ask for... While staff backs up.

15

16 Wray: The DOT person's sitting right here next to me remember.

17

18 Kryder: Is the issue that a person needs to be designated as a point person or that
19 something else?
20

21 Pearson: Yes.

22

23 Kryder: You need a designated point person.

24

25 Pearson: The City doesn't have anybody designated that would fill out that
26 application. That would be the one piece that would be needed. They
27 need to decide that they're gonna apply and who's gonna do the
28 application.
29

30 Kryder: Okay.

31

32 Wray: With the clear understanding that MPO staff is not eligible for either one of
33 those occupations and that, I think, is going to be an issue. I probably
34 shouldn't have said that.
35

36 Herrera: You should have said that. That needs to be made clear.
37

38 Pearson: Well that came up in the FHWA audit of the MPO, that it's very clear that
39 MPO is doing too much City stuff.
40

41 Herrera: Yes and MPO staff ...

42

43 Pearson: That was, it wasn't quite a, was ... is a finding? It wasn't a finding, it was
44 a determination or whatever the...
45

46 Herrera: Recommendation.

1
2 Pearson: Recommendation.
3
4 Herrera: Or something to look at but just....
5
6 Pearson: But something that could rise to a finding if they kept on doing it.
7
8 Herrera: Right. Just so the rest of the Committee is aware, I don't know if we've
9 ever had this discussion but when, when the Federal Highway
10 Administration came to kind of audit this MPO they did find that MPO staff
11 was doing a lot of work for the City. And although they are housed in the
12 City and that's their fiscal agent they are not City employees. They work
13 for the Policy Committee that's paid by federal funds and...
14
15 Kryder: So we need a City employee to be designated to fill out the application.
16
17 Herrera: Right. Yes.
18
19 Pearson: And of course the confusion is, is that ultimately the City Manager is the
20 boss of the MPO employees because he's the boss of City employees and
21 they're under the City Human Resources but they're not paid by the City.
22
23 Herrera: It's very confusing.
24
25 Rishel: Let me ask, has that discussion ever taken place as to who, or why, would
26 you know, be in charge of taking care of things?
27
28 Herrera: I think we tried to kind of bring that up.
29
30 Rishel: I mean and not for free.
31
32 Pearson: I think we tried to do that with our resolution.
33
34 Rishel: Not, not necessarily, I mean you know maybe as a paid position instead of
35 a volunteer position?
36
37 Herrera: You mean for the cycling stuff specifically? Or...
38
39 Rishel: Well I mean for, you know, anything that has to do with bicycling,
40 pedestrian, facilities, you know, structures.
41
42 Herrera: Right, and I think that's what Mr. Chair was kind of talking about is we, the
43 BPAC tried to do that through that resolution. Unfortunately, it hasn't gone
44 anywhere in the City I don't think, but we were trying to make it clear that it
45 can't be MPO staff but that somebody at the City needs to be responsible
46 for these types of things.

1
2 Pearson: Right. I think we were pretty, in our discussion, we were pretty clear that it
3 doesn't have to be a paid position, it doesn't have to be dedicated staff
4 only bike-ped, it can be additional duties. So it doesn't have to be, it
5 doesn't have to be separately funded is the ultimate, we're talking about
6 dollars.
7
8 Shearer: It has to be an employee, of the City?
9
10 Pearson: Yeah.
11
12 Shearer: That's correct?
13
14 Pearson: We'd have to have, I believe, that would be my interpretation. I mean who
15 else would do it?
16
17 Rishel: I think you can get a university employee you know. I'm just kidding. Is
18 there anyone that was mentioned that, or in conversations that could do
19 something? I mean this has been like an ongoing thing forever.
20
21 Wray: As far as that particular resolution goes I don't think the MPO staff and the
22 Policy Committee included felt it appropriate for the MPO to be making
23 specific comments like that.
24
25 Herrera: So basically when we sent, when the BPAC sent the resolution kind of up
26 it was with the understanding that each of the jurisdictions would pick who
27 they thought was most appropriate. So the City would pick someone, the
28 Town of Mesilla would pick someone, and Dona Ana County would pick
29 someone. But that MPO staff or I guess any of the committees wouldn't
30 be saying "We think you should pick this person."
31
32 Kryder: Have the County and Town of Mesilla picked someone?
33
34 Herrera: I don't know.
35
36 Wray: Albert?
37
38 Casillas: Regarding that issue, can the MPO assist, if the City ever appoints
39 somebody? (*inaudible*) expertise and knowledge to help out with the
40 application?
41
42 Wray: We can certainly assist. The issue is that in the past the MPO, I don't
43 want to use the metaphor "driver's seat" because it's slightly inappropriate,
44 but we were pedaling, we were pedaling the bicycle. We can't pedal the
45 bicycle.
46

1 Curry: So back to the question of community, cycling community members
2 asking for something from the City Council. Should it be more along the
3 lines of we want to support the Bicycle Friendly Community certification
4 renewal or do we need a bike-ped coordinator or some variation thereof?
5 Is it the second?
6

7 Pearson: Both.
8

9 Curry: Okay.
10

11 Pearson: Yeah, I think it's both because we need one to get the other.
12

13 Curry: Right.
14

15 Pearson: Or effectively we'll have the, if they decide to do the Bicycle Friendly
16 Community they're gonna have to pick somebody that is in charge of it.
17 So that doesn't necessarily become the bike-ped contact, but it effectively
18 becomes the bike-ped contact because it becomes a job duty.
19

20 Wray: Mr. Chair if I can interject a little relevant tangent. I spoke with Mr. Keith
21 Wilson up at the Santa Fe MPO, as it was discussed at this Committee
22 last October I guess it would have had to have been. City of Santa Fe
23 was designated as a silver level friendly community last September I
24 believe it was. And at that time, I believe it was the October committee,
25 the BPAC asked staff to make some inquiries up to Santa Fe as to what
26 happened up there and I spoke with Keith regarding this, and Keith
27 indicated that the member of the City of Santa Fe staff, and I do want to
28 point out that Santa Fe MPO had nothing to do with that application. I
29 asked Keith that question, he said they had nothing to do with it. It's my
30 recollection that the person who spearheaded that application on behalf of
31 the City of Santa Fe is not one of their bike-ped people, it was somebody
32 else, who did work in the Transportation Department but did not
33 necessarily have bike and ped as their specific task. So while I agree with
34 the Chair that it's quite likely that speaking in the City's context, that
35 somebody who did end up being tapped to head the application process
36 probably would end of being sort of the bike-ped person just from the
37 experience of Santa Fe, it's not necessarily, does not necessarily have to
38 be the case.
39

40 Pearson: In our other discussion about when we sent up the resolution, we wanted
41 to make clear, we didn't want one person picked because that person
42 goes away, we wanted a position designated so that there are job duties
43 so that the job continues no matter who the current person is.
44

45 Leisher: Maybe we just need someone to prod them and remind them that
46 resolution is around.

1
2 Pearson: So as far as talking points it might be easier just to say we need to iterate
3 that we need to do the reapplication for Bicycle Friendly Community, and
4 then they can figure out the rest. Because if City Council, like I say if you
5 get four votes it's says this is our policy, then it's up to the City Manager to
6 decide how to implement it, and however he implements it is fine.
7
8 Rishel: Pardon my ignorance, but has this ever been discussed at City Council?
9 Or approached as a, an item that we need?
10
11 Pearson: In open City Council meeting? Not that I know of. I mean another thing
12 that would be worthwhile is just showing up at City Council public input
13 and say our Bicycle Friendly Certification is running out and what are you
14 gonna do about it? And having, if you've got two or three cyclists that
15 showed up for that, it's not me, because they will expect that from me.
16 And I have spoken to the Mayor about this and got no response
17 effectively.
18
19 Rishel: Could we ... is it possible to put it, to have it somehow be put on the
20 agenda of a meeting?
21
22 Pearson: That's very difficult.
23
24 Wray: Putting, putting things on the City of Las Cruces Council agenda is very
25 difficult as the Chair indicated.
26
27 Pearson: It's not necessary for this type of thing. It just needs four councillors to say
28 yeah we should do this. And having that said you know using public input
29 would be a mechanism that could cause that to happen.
30
31 Kryder: Mr. Chair is there a cyclist group that could be encouraged to come
32 forward with I don't know, 20 signatures or something too?
33
34 Pearson: Well the group that I'm, I'm a lead cycling instructor and we're doing
35 education, and we're purposely trying to stay away from advocacy. So
36 we'd be happy to do a class, we do a special class for City Council. We
37 do all those good things, but as that group of LCIs, that's not what we're
38 doing. We need, need to have an advocacy organization, there' Mesilla
39 Valley Bicycle...
40
41 Leisher: *(inaudible)*. Oh you mean Catrina Winters ...
42
43 Rishel: Right, how, what about...
44
45 Pearson: But that's been silent for the past year or two.
46

1 Leisher: Oh yeah, she hasn't been around.
2
3 Rishel: Right. So that's one of the issues, and in the other area of cyclists in the
4 community, it you know I think, and everyone would probably share the
5 same experience that every time you, one tries to get a group of cyclists
6 together, yes it sounds good in theory but you know to get them there and
7 to get them doing something they've got you know, homes and families
8 and this and you know so it's very very difficult to do.
9
10 Leisher: There is one sure way to do it, make sure there's beer there.
11
12 Rishel: I was gonna say offer food. I could see that at City Council, let's bring
13 beer to City Council right. Strike that please.
14
15 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I just wanted to point out to the BPAC members that you said
16 that all it takes is four City Councillors to get something done, well three of
17 them sit on the MPO Committee. So I think if we take it through the Policy
18 Committee, make them aware, make them aware that maybe somebody's
19 gonna speak at the City Council.
20
21 Pearson: As a committee we should do that. But as members of the public who
22 would be interested, can do the other part.
23
24 Herrera: Yeah.
25
26 Pearson: It's like a typical marketing thing, if you hear it once you ignore it, hear it
27 twice, well I thought I heard about it before; hear it three times, well maybe
28 I should do something; Four times, five times, six times, well then you
29 might start getting something done.
30
31 Curry: Maybe the cycling community can just send out some emails via you
32 know, Bike and Chowder and Zia Velo and whoever else and pick a date
33 and say we're gonna show up at the City Council meeting, whoever can
34 come, come in your helmets and we can just speak out. And of course
35 you know we'll have at least a handful of people who could show up for
36 something like that. I think in the past it's been a while, but in the past
37 when things like that have been proposed, we needed the cycling
38 committee to stand up and say something, it seems like there's been a
39 good turn out.
40
41 Shearer: And it gives me a year in advance to prepare, to get that application in.
42
43 Pearson: Now is the time that we need to be working on this cause as the speed of
44 government. And we don't want to have another fatality to drive this type
45 of meeting because that's kind of what's happened in the past, and that's

1 not the way to have these kinds of discussions. We need to have the
2 discussions in the environment we're having now.

3
4 Leisher: Pro-act not react.

5
6 Pearson: Okay so we have some direction for staff and some good discussion.

7
8 **5.3 BPAC Annual Report Discussion**

9
10 This item is a continuation of a related discussion at the May BPAC meeting.

11
12 Pearson: The next item BPAC Annual Report Discussion

13
14 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. This item is on the agenda at the request of the
15 Chair of the Committee. MPO staff regrets that we didn't really have any
16 conversations on a staff level regarding this item. In our defense, every
17 single one of us was on vacation at some point over the past month. So
18 it's been very rare that all of us have been in once place. I am looking at
19 the minutes, I looked through the minutes and the relevant portions that
20 discussed this and the one item that did seem to be left up in the air at
21 least from my reading over it that was left distinctly up in the air was the
22 timing. The BPAC asked the staff to discuss when would be a good time
23 for this report to be submitted to the Committee. Like I said, we just, we
24 didn't discuss this item at all. So unless the Chair has more, I don't have
25 anything further.

26
27 Pearson: Well, we've got August and October meetings still for the rest of the year,
28 so I think we want to have this kind of report. It should be very, pretty
29 easy, just pull together things from number of miles, bike lanes, just some
30 basic metrics. MPO staff has their monthly newsletter so you can pull out
31 some of the action items that happened from there, just kind of a little
32 narrative of what the Committee's been doing, and that would pretty much
33 cover the report I think.

34
35 Wray: Well I think that this item ties very directly into the conversation we had
36 under 5.1, as far as performance measures. Basically the things that you
37 listed are under consideration as performance measures. So...

38
39 Pearson: Yeah, so it should be, in some ways it's just a place where we can have
40 this as a metric so we can go back and easily find this. Because a lot of
41 this information shows up, like traffic, or the pedestrian, the trail counts
42 that we've had, we've had a report that someplace. There's a nice little
43 map someplace. But where can you find that? If you have one place
44 where we can have this. As far as timing, I guess, well we have two more
45 meetings and if it's gonna be an annual report that means we would close

1 it at the end of December. So, I don't know if it's appropriate then that we
2 actually approve it in the January meeting.
3

4 Wray: Mr. Chair part of, I think the ... I don't want to use the word "disagreement"
5 but I've gone blank, part of the question was whether we wanted to tie it to
6 the fiscal year or the calendar year. And that, although, given the fact that
7 the BPAC, the last meeting is in October, that sort of, if you wanted it to be
8 fort that current year then that would be both of them at the same time.
9 But I don't want to speak for Tom as far as making that our decision on
10 that.
11

12 Herrera: Mr. Chair if I could maybe suggest, the MPO has to submit an annual
13 performance and expenditure report every year at the close of the fiscal
14 year. They have 90 days after the close of the fiscal year to submit that to
15 NMDOT. But maybe if we just made this kind of like a part of that report
16 and then got an overall report on it in ... at the January meeting like you
17 suggested earlier that would maybe make it easier for staff. I'm not sure
18 Andrew what you think about that, or Tom does.
19

20 Wray: I'm not the one to give an opinion on that probably.
21

22 Herrera: Yeah.
23

24 Pearson: Yeah because that, it's a combination. We want to have good data that
25 we can repeat year to year, so we want to pick one ending date. And if
26 that's fiscal year that makes sense to me.
27

28 Wray: Mr. Chair if I can just see if I'm accurately picking up on a nuance of what
29 you said, it sounds like you would like to have a report for this, for '14, is
30 that correct?
31

32 Pearson: I think in October. We should start with...
33

34 Wray: Okay. I can say that maybe we use this year as a test case to see what
35 kind of report staff is able to generate and whether the BPAC likes it, and
36 then, I'm sure there will be suggestions for changes and go from there.
37

38 Pearson: Yeah because it's, like I said, I think we want something with some metrics
39 that shows the number of lane miles, bicycle lanes, so, cause now we
40 don't have anything to compare with. We don't know if we've made any
41 progress, compared you know from 10 years ago. I know we've made
42 some progress from two years ago. We know that we've had a couple of
43 road diets go in, but we don't have any metrics that say we've added 20%
44 to lane mile lengths because of those. So that's just where, that's where
45 the kind of metrics come from that I'd like to see. And then anything else
46 would just kind of a narrative of like we passed the resolution

1 recommending to the Policy Committee for the bike-ped coordinator or
2 contact, things like that. So do you want to have something for October as
3 a preliminary and then we can have a discussion item in October that
4 shows the report, and in January for a final or?
5

6 Wray: Mr. Chair we'll need to bring this back in August. I will let Mr. Murphy
7 know what said but I'm not the decision maker.
8

9 Pearson: Okay, so I think, I think we probably have enough information for you so
10 we can make these decisions next meeting. Or make these
11 recommendations, because we don't make decisions on discussion items.
12 Okay.
13

14 **6. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

15
16 **6.1 Local Projects update**
17

18 Pearson: Local projects update.
19

20 Casillas: I'm still trying to get a hold of those construction plans and drawing plans
21 and striping plans for Dripping Springs Road. I haven't been able....
22

23 Pearson: So is it Dripping Springs or Soledad Canyon?
24

25 Casillas: Dripping Springs.
26

27 Pearson: So what part of Dripping Springs?
28

29 Casillas: I believe it's gonna be all the way up, all the area that's not paved right
30 now.
31

32 Pearson: Okay, you're talking about the part that's the federal, the Federal Lands.
33

34 Casillas: Yes.
35

36 Pearson: Okay, cause there's also another project under discussion that they had a
37 meeting with about Soledad Canyon.
38

39 Casillas: Okay.
40

41 Pearson: And I did talk to I think was Bohannan Huston was the, I suggested that
42 they should come to our meeting and talk about that but I'm not sure what
43 kind of monies are involved with that, if they money. But they were
44 talking, they're doing some additional planning and looking at drainage
45 issues. I think drainage is gonna be their biggest problem to start with,
46 and at that meeting there was some discussion of putting up some sort of

1 bike signage. I don't know if was "Share the Road" or "Watch for Bikes",
2 or whatever. The County traffic engineer for maintenance, I'm not, I can't
3 remember who it was, he was at that meeting. So there might have been
4 some signage put up already from what it sounded like.
5
6 Casillas: I'll inquire about that. I wasn't about Soledad just Dripping, Dripping
7 Springs.
8
9 Pearson: Okay. But the Dripping Springs one, I, cause that's Central Federal
10 Lands, and so that, is the County kind of the contact person on that or?
11
12 Casillas: Yeah. They're the ones doing all the engineering work on that.
13
14 Herrera: Yeah and the County actually receives capital outlay funding as a, I guess,
15 to supplement the design of that so, there's I guess \$800,000, I think, of
16 State funding that the County received for that.
17
18 Wray: I believe that was what was on the TIP.
19
20 Pearson: So are there gonna be public meetings on that project coming up?
21
22 Casillas: We're gonna get those worked out. I mean they were planning on having
23 meetings. They're probably just waiting on having a final design on it
24 before they get started going out there and getting input from the public,
25 well not a final but a preliminary design.
26
27 Pearson: On the Soledad Canyon they did have some proposed designs, every last
28 one had a bike lane of some sort in it. Some had different drainage issues
29 with different width bike lanes, different, some with sidewalks, some
30 without, multi-use lane, or multi-use path, things like that, so it would be
31 nice, I would kind of hope that we'd see those kind of design process with
32 this other project but, that's just a hope.
33
34 Herrera: Mr. Chair, that's probably what they're doing right now because from, this
35 is all just kind of what I heard about the project. I don't know how much of
36 it is accurate but we needed to get the funding put into the TIP right away
37 because they wanted to start kind of preliminary I guess alternatives
38 analysis in May. And so we're in July now, I would assume that they've
39 been working on that for a while and hopefully they would come forth with
40 some different alternative, alternatives for the public to look at. It's part of
41 the NEPA process. It's gonna be a pretty extensive environmental
42 document. It's not just gonna be something simple like a categorical
43 exclusion, so they've got to have some public input at some point in the
44 process or it's illegal.
45

1 Pearson: Gauging by the amount of public interest at the Soledad Canyon meeting,
2 there's gonna be a lot of public interest on the Baylor Canyon meeting.
3

4 Herrera: Right. So again, I think the County's working on it and we're trying, DOT
5 is trying to find contact information and do what we can, so we'll definitely
6 keep everybody aware of any information that we hear.
7

8 Pearson: Okay and I guess, did the County do, redo Snow Road with a chip seal or
9 something? Has anybody been on there since that's happened? Is it, I'd
10 heard some kind of complaints. Is it a good road or is it, maybe it was
11 earlier before it was finished what I heard something about.
12

13 Curry: Yeah, it's just up to the, to the Town of Mesilla county line, and it is chip
14 seal, it's kind of rough.
15

16 Casillas: Which road was that?
17

18 Curry: Snow.
19

20 Casillas: Snow.
21

22 Pearson: So that's probably all we have on the local updates?
23

24 Casillas: I guess, probably for future meetings what I'll do is I'll inquire with the
25 Roads Department, try and get a, their schedule of maintenance, and see
26 what roads are being planned on getting paved or chip sealed or
27 whatever, and I'll bring up those (*inaudible*).
28

29 Curry: I'll also just add in just a little bit on behalf of Safe Routes to School, we've
30 started the infrastructure updates at all the ongoing \$500,000.00 project
31 that we've done through the NMDOT, and those will be, they start July 15.
32 Is that today? And then it'll go through mid-October. So I can't think off
33 the top of my head, it's about roughly 10 elementary and middle schools
34 that will have some pedestrian and mostly signage and ramp access to
35 ADA access and that kind of thing. So those projects will be happening
36 around the district. If you want any more information, let me know.
37

38 Farnham: The City has about 30, 35 capital improvement projects scattered
39 throughout the city, that's going to be designed and into construction over
40 the next 30 years. Most of these are in residential type street areas but
41 they will be addressing the ADA type ramps and updating a lot of those
42 that don't meet the current code and some locations that don't even have
43 any ramps at this point. There's probably only one project that I'm aware
44 of right now on Elks Drive widening that will probably put some bike lanes
45 associated with that too.
46

1 Pearson: The City's doing their annual grind down the roadway and replace it, I
2 forget what the project is, they let that Cutter, whatever the contractor is,
3 Cutler, and there are a couple of projects that, one is on University so
4 when they do that they lower the roadway and then replace the asphalt
5 and so there's an opportunity to restripe. And I was just on University, I
6 wonder if there's an opportunity to do better work with the bicycle lanes
7 there. There's a place where there's a right turn only and there's, cause
8 there's that really wide travel lanes there, there must be 16 foot travel
9 lanes on part of that roadway. So there might be an opportunity even to
10 put in a five-foot bike lane with a two-foot buffer between the bike lane and
11 the travel lane, and that might help with the, with lowering the speeds.
12 Speed mitigation. Not necessarily in that part of town but something that
13 could help. That's ... I wonder if that's been thought about at the...
14
15 Farnham: Well Mr. Chair I can definitely look into it, if you could maybe send me the
16 location.
17
18 Pearson: Well all locations are on, in the City Council packet for the Cutler projects.
19 They were just let at the last, or the previous, or recent City Council
20 meeting. Not the last one, the one before, well maybe this, maybe first in
21 July. And the other one, piece that's on there is Idaho, from El Paseo to
22 Main, and that seems like a candidate for a road diet. Cause especially, I
23 don't know what the road counts, the traffic counts are there. They're not
24 doing the segment from Solano down to El Paseo on this pass. Ideally
25 you'd do the whole thing as a road diet, but, but they certainly are having
26 speeding problems down there because they've got a flashing light for the
27 crosswalk there. So if that was a road diet that would improve safety for
28 pedestrians also.
29
30 Rishel: Mr. Chair, I just have a question, an inquiry. The Solano road diet, do we
31 have any data that has been collected that shows that it has in fact made
32 a difference?
33
34 Wray: It depends on what you mean made a difference.
35
36 Rishel: In far as, insofar, well, I, let me leave that open, in any aspect. What has it
37 done?
38
39 Wray; I don't know, off the top of my head. I know the traffic volumes were
40 broadly similar. It's made, it's not had an impact on the, the utility of the
41 roadway for vehicles. Anecdotal evidence, so take it with a grain of salt,
42 but I have seen more cyclists on the portion of Solano that had the road
43 diet so it's been beneficial for cyclists as well. As far as crashes, I'm not
44 the crash data guru so I don't have those numbers in my head to just pull
45 out. But I can look into that and bring that back to the Committee.
46

1 Pearson: Cause that was a discussion that been happen, that happened shortly
2 after they did that. It's like well it's gonna improve safety, it's gonna
3 reduce the number of rear end crashes, and okay, let's have a traffic study
4 and find out, or hear the traffic reports. I've never heard the results that
5 verify that that's true or not. Anecdotaly I would say sure, it's much safer
6 but there's no data that, I mean there should be data collectable from the
7 traffic reports, from the accident reports that might have them.

8
9 Rishel: And the, the DOT has, you have FARs data right?

10
11 Herrera: Yes.

12
13 Rishel: And access to all of it?

14
15 Herrera: Yes.

16
17 **6.2 NMDOT Projects update**

18
19 Herrera: Is it my turn now?

20
21 Pearson: It's your turn now.

22
23 Herrera: Actually, everything's on schedule. It really is. I don't know if anybody
24 has questions specifically about any of the ongoing construction. Be
25 careful when you drive through it. Everything's on schedule. There's a lot
26 of construction kind of around the city. Does anyone have specific
27 questions on anything or want updates on anything in particular?

28
29 Curry: Do you mind giving an update on 28, Hwy 28?

30
31 Herrera: Sure. It's done. The project is done. And so I drove it the other day, it
32 was right after they finished the sweeping, and it seems like it's pretty
33 smooth for a chip seal road. We did go with the smaller chips as
34 referenced in the AASHTO bicycle design guide. So we did use that. And
35 it's funny, the project manager, he said that he's been chasing down
36 cyclists that he's seen on the roadway to ask them about their riding
37 experience on it, and that he hasn't heard anything negative really about
38 the chip seal.

39
40 Leisher: Same from Zia Velo, no negative reactions so far.

41
42 Herrera: Okay great. And I think it probably helped a lot that we did have the public
43 meetings beforehand and let everyone know kind of what was gonna be
44 happening, but I can say that we're pretty pleased with the way that it
45 turned out. So hopefully you all are too.

46

1 Pearson: Yeah the only, I talked, or got an email with somebody that was down
2 there, and I guess they weren't, didn't see the improvement that they
3 thought they might have. It's still kind of the way it was so it's not really a,
4 it wasn't a resurfacing, it was just a chip seal, so.
5
6 Herrera: Right. And that's, yeah, that's really the main thing that we try to get out
7 is, it was a maintenance project. It was purely to extend the life of the
8 roadway. It was not to make any sort of geometrical changes or
9 upgrades.
10
11 Pearson: Yeah, I think the expectations of some people were different than what
12 was reality that was gonna happen.
13
14 Herrera: Yeah.
15
16 Leisher: A lot of people I knew expected something like North Valley to show up.
17 No, not quite yet.
18
19 Herrera: Yeah. And I mean that's kind of you know in the works. It's kind of our
20 long term goal, but for right now we needed to do something.
21
22 Pearson: So the only part that I was on was somewhat outside of the Town of
23 Mesilla limits into the Town of Mesilla, and there's no shoulder lane
24 striping. Is that a different project or, and also into Town of Mesilla where
25 there's the right turn lanes for University or whatever it's called there, and
26 ... I forgot what the name of the road is, the one that's past the Bean,
27 Calle del Norte, the next one that turns down, turns into Motel eventually.
28 Yeah those, there's no lane striping's for the turn lanes so it's, there's still,
29 what, cause that wasn't supposed to be part of the NM 28 chip seal
30 project, but there's another project that went through there somehow I
31 guess, or something happened.
32
33 Herrera: Yes, ok, so that originally wasn't supposed to be part of the chip seal
34 project but there was enough funding to extend the chip seal project all the
35 way into where you're talking about, so I guess when I said it's done I
36 mean the chip seal part is done. There's still some things, some striping
37 and some other things. We also talked about adding some additional
38 signing to the roadway. You know "Share the Road", "Be Aware of
39 Cyclists", that kind of thing. So hopefully that will be coming here in the
40 next few weeks. I don't know for sure. I should get an update on that.
41
42 Pearson: Okay, so they're still gonna put in the shoulder lane?
43
44 Herrera: Yeah.
45

1 Pearson: So that's something you might address, discussion that we've had
2 previously is how to address those at intersections, whether they should
3 be dashed or? Has your traffic engineer been able to look at that or can
4 we address that?
5
6 Herrera: Yeah we actually did look at that with this project specifically. Some of the
7 engineers felt like it would cause more, maybe not more collisions, but it
8 would cause more confusion for vehicles if they did a dashed line up to the
9 intersection, because in, I guess in the traffic engineer mind that means
10 that the vehicles are allowed to use the shoulder as part of their driving
11 lane. So that was kind of where their thought process came from.
12
13 Pearson: But I think that would be appropriate at a turn lane.
14
15 Herrera: And my argument was it lets everybody know that there's mixing of
16 modes, and so it's an ongoing discussion, I guess.
17
18 Pearson: Right. Okay. I guess. Well you might bring, maybe we can get a
19 consensus from the Committee is that, we feel that a dashed line with an
20 open space is appropriate.
21
22 Leisher: For right turn?
23
24 Pearson: For a right turn. So if you can bring that to your...
25
26 Herrera: I let them know that we had had this discussion at BPAC meetings,
27 multiple BPAC meetings.
28
29 Rishel: And the data supports that as well, doesn't it?
30
31 Herrera: Yeah.
32
33 Pearson: Because the METCD's kind of vague on this.
34
35 Herrera: Well and it says engineering judgment and unfortunately I mean, who,
36 whichever engineer is in charge gets to use their judgment on that.
37
38 Pearson: Right, so that's any influence from here to help their judgment would be
39 good.
40
41 Herrera: I'm trying, I'm trying. I just have to explain it in a way that makes sense to
42 the traffic engineer brain.
43
44 Pearson: You can invite them to our meeting too.
45
46 Herrera: Yeah, I could.

1
2 Leisher: We'll learn 'em.
3
4 Herrera: No, I do think that it is new, but the engineers are willing to listen. They
5 really are, it's just, it has to make sense to them what they're doing, and
6 they also have to look at not only the cyclists, but the vehicles too. As so
7 they're looking all modes and, but I will say that the mentality seems to be
8 changing and they seem to be more open to even having this kind of
9 discussion.
10
11 Pearson: It strikes me as the worst thing to do is continue the line lane, lane line all
12 the way up to the intersection which puts the bicyclist next to the vehicle
13 that's gonna make a right hand turn into the bicyclist.
14
15 Herrera: Well I will talk to the project manager again, actually tomorrow morning
16 and before hopefully we get the striping out there and see what he
17 decided.
18
19 Leisher: You're talking about doing it at the last minute.
20
21 Pearson: So we had some discussion of the Valley Drive project. That's still off in
22 the future? Is there any change on that?
23
24 Herrera: Yes, there is. We have selected a consultant. It is Molzen Corbin. They
25 do a really good job for us and they will be having stakeholder meetings.
26 We're still kind of doing some paperwork internally, so I don't know exactly
27 when those will be but they have been made aware that this Committee is
28 a stakeholder and so they will be inviting someone from the BPAC directly.
29 Also, Jerry Paz, he's great to work with, he's well aware of the cycling
30 issues and discussions that are happening in the city.
31
32 Leisher: So this is the stretch from the north edge of the city to...
33
34 Pearson: No, from Picacho to Avenida de Mesilla.
35
36 Leisher: Oh, Picacho to Avenida, ok, right.
37
38 Herrera: Yeah, right, and as part of that we added that little section that goes from
39 Avenida to I think it's Hickory, where our current project stops. So it's
40 gonna look weird when we get done with Avenida, there's gonna be a
41 partial bike lane. It'll stop right there, but with this Valley Drive project,
42 we'll pick that up and continue it.
43
44 Pearson: Is there a chunk of City responsibility in there or is that in the DOT around
45 the corner?
46

1 Herrera: It's, it's us, all around there.
2
3 Pearson: Because it changes. There's, I guess there's another section further south
4 then that must be City and then NMDOT picks up again.
5
6 Herrera: Yes. But because that's close enough to I-10, that whole stretch is ours.
7
8 Pearson: Any other questions on that? Shall we go on to public comment?
9
10 Wray: Actually Mr. Chair, we really out to reorganize the agenda, make it more
11 clear that staff gets to comment at this time too. I have a fairly important
12 announcement, it is with regret that I must announce to the Committee
13 that Mr. Chowdhury Siddiqui resigned from, Dr. Chowdhury Siddiqui I
14 should actually say, resigned his position with us effective last Friday. So
15 we are short staffed again. The position, HR has moved with
16 commendable speed and the position is posted, and is open until the 28th
17 of this month. However, as the Chair referenced the speed of government
18 combined with speed of HR, I don't anticipate having the position actually
19 filled until early September at the earliest. So that is what it is.
20
21 Kryder: The position is a traffic planner?
22
23 Wray: It's associate transportation planner. So we are short staffed for at least a
24 month or two probably so just a FYI to everyone on that. The other
25 important announcement is we are gearing up for our second round of
26 public involvement meetings. We're looking at September but no specific
27 dates have been set yet, so I will keep everyone posted. There'll be at
28 least one meeting between now and then of this group. So maybe we'll
29 know a little bit more definite at that point, no promises though.
30
31 Pearson: But on which project? Public input on...?
32
33 Wray: The MTP.
34
35 Pearson: Okay. Okay any other?
36
37 Wray: Nope, that's it for staff.
38
39 Pearson: Committee member comments?
40
41 **7. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment**
42
43
44
45
46

1 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

2

3 Pearson: So, anybody move to adjourn?

4

5 Curry: Can we just talk about when our next meeting dates are?

6

7 Pearson: August and October and I don't remember. It's gonna be the...

8

9 Wray: The next meeting is August 19th.

10

11 Herrera: In here?

12

13 Pearson: Yes they are.

14

15 Wray: Yes, BPAC meetings are always at the County. Well, this year they're
16 always at the County. I see no circumstances that would arise to change
17 that, but you never know.

18

19 Jolene Herrera motioned to adjourn.

20

21 All in favor.

22

23 Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

24

25

26

27

28

29

30 _____
Chair



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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF August 19, 2014

AGENDA ITEM:

5.1 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

ACTION REQUESTED:

Review and recommendation for approval to the MPO Policy Committee

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

TIP Amendment Spreadsheet
 Email from Jolene Herrera, NMDOT Planner

DISCUSSION:

On May 8, 2013, the MPO Policy Committee approved the 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The following amendment(s) to the TIP have been requested:

CN	FY	Agency	Project & Termini	Scope	Change
1100830	2015	NMDOT	I-10 MP 141-143	Bridge Rehab & CCTV Installation	Update scope to include: Roadway & Ramp Reconstruction, Acceleration Lane extension, ADA Improvements, and lighting
LC00150	2016	NMDOT	I-10 MP 133-143.2	Pavement Preservation	Move project to FY2015, Amend EOP to 146, add \$5.9M
1100620	2016	NMDOT	I-10 MP 146-164	Pavement Preservation	Add \$4.7M to project
LC00240	2016	NMDOT	US 70 MP 162-170	Shoulder Widening, Guardrail	New Project

				Replacement, Drainage Structure Extensions, CWB Replacement	
1100820	2015	NMDOT	West Mesa Road	Phase 1B Engineering Services	Added PE phase to TIP, no construction funding identified
LC00230	2015	NMDOT	Various CLC Streets – RR Crossings	Signal Upgrades	New Project
LC00210	2014 & 2015	NMDOT	Goathill Road at BNSF Crossing #019679L	Design and install new lights and gates	Add \$30K to construction phase in FY2015, \$30K in FY2014 for design
LC00220	2014 & 2015	NMDOT	NM 226 at BNSF Crossing #019744P	Design and construct new crossing surface, lights, and gates	Add \$10K to construction phase in FY2015, \$30K in FY2014 for design

This amendment will not affect any other projects currently listed in the TIP.

CN	FY	Route	Termini	Scope	Funds listed on TIP	Project total	Change
1100830	2015	I-10	MP 141-143	Bridge Rehab & CCTV Installation	\$7,605,016	\$7,605,016	Update scope to include: Roadway & ramp Reconstruction, Acceleration lane extension, ADA Improvements, and lighting
LC00150	2016	I-10	MP 133-143.2	Pavement Preservation	\$5,000,000	\$10,900,000	Move project to FY2015, Amend EOP to 146, add \$5.9M
1100620	2016	I-10	MP 146-164	Pavement Preservation	\$9,000,000	\$13,700,000	Add \$4.7M to project
LC00240	2016	US 70	MP 162-170	Shoulder Widening, Guardrail Replacement, Drainage Structure Extensions, CWB Replacement	\$0	\$4,362,000	New HSIP project-NASA Road to Dona Ana County line
1100820	2015	West Mesa Road		Phase 1B Engineering Services	\$0	\$305,000	Add PE phase to TIP, no construction funding identified
LC00230	2015	Various CLC Streets	Various RR Crossings	Signal Upgrades	\$0	\$1,026,000	New HSIP RR project
LC00210	2014/2015	Goathill Road	at BNSF Crossing #019679L	Design and install new lights and gates	\$250,000	\$280,000	Add \$30K to construction phase in FY2015, \$30K in FY14 for design
LC00220	2014/2015	NM 226	at BNSF Crossing #019744P	Design and construct new crossing surface, lights, and gates	\$320,000	\$330,000	Add \$10K to construction phase in FY2015, \$30K in FY14 for design

From: Herrera, Jolene M, NMDOT <JoleneM.Herrera@state.nm.us>
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2014 4:13 PM
To: Andrew Wray
Subject: TIP Amendment
Attachments: FY2015 TIP Amendment 1.xls

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Andrew,

Please see the attached TIP/STIP Amendments for FY2015-FY2017. We are currently preparing for our submittal of the FY2015 STIP baseline to FHWA. Will you please add the attached spreadsheet and this email to the upcoming BPAC, TAC, and PC meetings as an action item?

I will be available at all three meetings to answer any questions that may arise.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jolene Herrera
Urban & Regional Planner D1 & D2
NMDOT South Region Design
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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF August 19, 2014

AGENDA ITEM:

6.1 City of Las Cruces Bicycle Friendly Community Certification Discussion

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

None

DISCUSSION:

The City of Las Cruces designation of Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists expires in mid-2015.

This item is to discuss the status of the renewal process.



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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF August 19, 2014

AGENDA ITEM:

6.2 Soledad Canyon Project Discussion

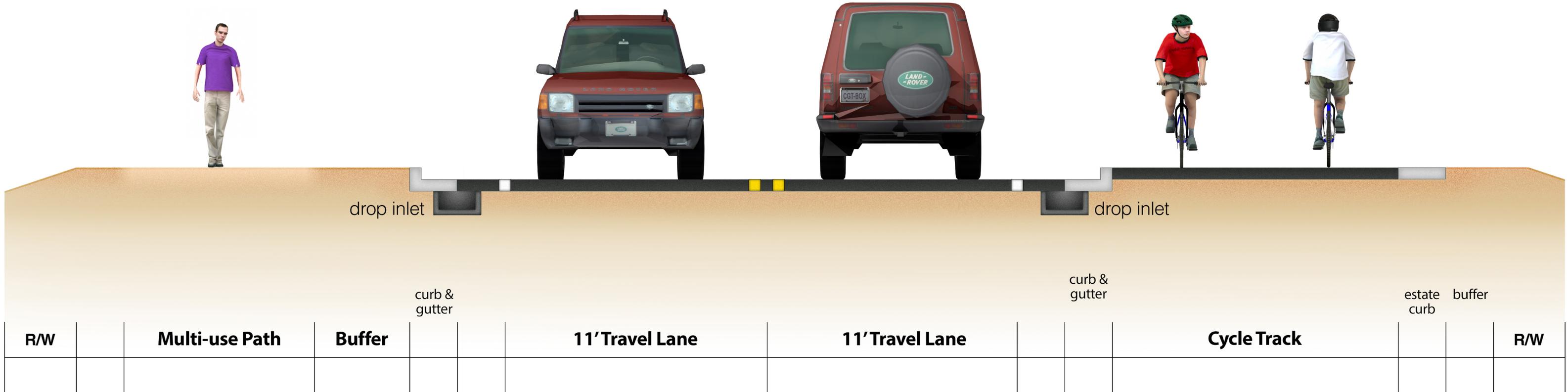
SUPPORT INFORMATION:

Road Cross sections from Bohannan-Huston

DISCUSSION:

Bohannan-Huston Staff will present on the Soledad Canyon Project.

1



2

