

1 **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **POLICY COMMITTEE (PC) MEETING**

3
4 Following are the minutes from the Mesilla Valley MPO Policy Committee (PC) meeting
5 held on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the Dona Ana County Commission
6 Chambers, 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

7
8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilor Olga Pedroza (CLC)
9 Commissioner Billy Garrett (DAC)
10 Councilor Gill Sorg (CLC)
11 Trustee Linda Flores (Town of Mesilla)
12 Commissioner Leticia Benavidez (DAC)
13 Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)
14 Councilor Nathan Small (CLC)

15
16 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla)
17 Trustee Sam Bernal (Town of Mesilla)
18 Commissioner Wayne Hancock (DAC)

19
20 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO)
21 Andrew Wray (MPO)
22 Chowdhury Siddiqui (MPO)
23 Orlando Fierro (MPO)

24
25 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
26 Harold Love (NMDOT)

27
28 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

29
30 Commissioner Garrett called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

31
32 **2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY – No conflicts of interest**

33
34 **3. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment**

35
36 **4. CONSENT AGENDA***

37
38 Trustee Flores motioned to approve the consent agenda.
39 Councilor Sorg seconds the motion.

40
41 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle

42
43 Doolittle: Yes

1
2 Murphy: Trustee Flores
3
4 Flores: Yes
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6 Murphy: Commissioner Benavidez
7
8 Benavidez: Yes
9
10 Murphy: Councilor Sorg
11
12 Sorg: Yes
13
14 Murphy: Councilor Small
15
16 Small: Yes
17
18 Murphy: Councilor Pedroza
19
20 Pedroza: Yes
21
22 Murphy: Commissioner Garrett
23
24 Garrett: Yes
25
26 Motion passes 7 – 0 (3 members absent).
27

28 **5. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

29
30 **5.1 *February** – minutes approved under the consent agenda vote.
31

32 **6. ACTION ITEMS**

33
34 **6.1 *Resolution 14-04:** A Resolution Adopting updated MPO Bylaws –
35 approved under the consent agenda vote.
36

37 **6.2** Resolution 14-05: Recommending local governments appoint staff to
38 coordinate bicycle and pedestrian issues.
39

40 Tom Murphy gave a presentation.
41

42 Small: This sounds like obviously it's a great idea and also very sensitive to fiscal
43 and financial issues, so it's exciting to see it move forward. I guess one

1 quick question, perhaps even with the City perspective, would these then
2 be appointed by the local bodies or would it be an administrative or is that
3 really each jurisdictions prerogative?
4
5 Murphy: It would be each jurisdictions prerogative; I would assume that it would
6 come down through the manager or the clerk beyond their administrative
7 duties.
8
9 Small: Motion to approve Resolution 14-05.
10
11 Sorg: Second.
12
13 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle
14
15 Doolittle: Yes
16
17 Murphy: Trustee Flores
18
19 Flores: Yes
20
21 Murphy: Commissioner Benavidez
22
23 Benavidez: Yes
24
25 Murphy: Councilor Sorg
26
27 Sorg: Yes
28
29 Murphy: Councilor Small
30
31 Small: Yes
32
33 Murphy: Councilor Pedroza
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35 Pedroza: Yes
36
37 Murphy: Commissioner Garrett
38
39 Garrett: Yes
40
41 Motions passes, vote 7 - 0 (3 members absent).
42
43

1 **6.3** Resolution 14-06: A Resolution Amending the 2014-2019 TIP

2
3 Tom Murphy gave a presentation.

4
5 Sorg: When you say pavement preservation, what does that amount to? Is that
6 chip and seal or something else?

7
8 Herrera: Good afternoon, Jolene Herrera NMDOT. Yes it's a chip seal and we did
9 make sure to convey to our maintenance folks who typically handle this
10 kind of work that, that route is heavily used by cyclists so that we need to
11 take it the full width of the roadway. So we are aware of that.

12
13 Sorg: Okay. Help me, where does this actually begin?

14
15 Herrera: It begins at the Texas state line and it's going to come all the way into
16 town.

17
18 Sorg: How far is into town? Which street does it cross?

19
20 Herrera: I should have probably printed a map out. Trent do you happen to know
21 where 30.

22
23 Sorg: How far does 28 go?

24
25 Doolittle: It actually ties in, if you remember the city just to the heat (inaudible)
26 project basically from the Avenida de Mesilla bridge just south past the
27 hotels and Harley Davidson. We are actually going to tie into where the
28 city limits pick up New Mexico 28.

29
30 Sorg: Oh okay.

31
32 Doolittle: It will run all the way through the Town of Mesilla.

33
34 Sorg: Oh okay, so therefore it's on the south side of I-10.

35
36 Doolittle: Yes

37
38 Sorg: Okay. Thank you....The justification for this project and why is it presented
39 so late, is there some connection there?

40
41 Herrera: Yeah. It's fiscal year 2014 funding and we need to send it, we don't want
42 to lose it and give it back to the Santa Fe office. So, this is a really good
43 place spend the funding because work is needed on that road.

1
2 Sorg: Okay, so it was in line for resurfacing or how do you call it? Pavement
3 reservation in your future anyway?
4
5 Herrera: Yes, and the way the chip/seal program works..... and Trent if you
6 want to jump in at any time is that, is it's on a rotation as so this road
7 wouldn't have been addressed for about two or three more year out, but
8 since we have the funding available now and the maintenance works did
9 do all prep work already this fiscal year, we decided to go ahead and put
10 some resources on it.
11
12 Sorg: Sounds real good. Thank you Jolene, thank you Mr. Chairmen.
13
14 Herrera: Sure.
15
16 Doolittle: Mr. Chair?
17
18 Garrett: Yes
19
20 Doolittle: If I can...just expand a little bit on that. Jolene exactly right, in the past
21 our chip/seal program has been on a 7-8 year rotation based on funding
22 and the number of lane miles that we're doing now, we're on a 13-14 year
23 rotation. This section of 28 we were having some problems with the
24 heavy rains that we had in September and we were having some
25 problems with it starting to deteriorate. Recently in town...actually last
26 year we were removing and replacing some of the pavement markings in
27 the Town of Mesilla during the water blasting process. Basically we
28 experienced the road just not holding together at all. So because we were
29 able to do some prep work through the patrols rather than wait the two or
30 three years and lose that prep work, we've decided to go ahead chip/seal
31 it now rather than waiting 2 or 3 more years because I'm not so sure it will
32 last that long.
33
34 Garrett: Let me just follow up. You know there's that part of 28 that I was
35 concerned with because I had some constituents' call that it was so rough
36 near La Mesa. Would this be addressed by that area?
37
38 Doolittle: All of 28 will be addressed.
39
40 Garrett: Okay, because I think there had been some preliminary work and that was
41 part of the issue was that it was just really not comfortable to drive over,
42 so this will clean that up?
43

1 Doolittle: Right. Typically the blade patch process, which is the preparation for the
2 chip/seal is not as smooth because we use a blade not a lay down
3 machine for instance. The chip/seal process is actually much more
4 consistent process, all of our secondary routes are chip/seal, so it will
5 address that rough ride.
6
7 Garrett: And when would this start?
8
9 Herrera: We're looking at once it's approved through this process, we'll have to do
10 a STIP amendment, so we're probably looking at July or August for a start
11 date.
12
13 Garrett: Very good.
14
15 Sorg: Motion to approve.
16
17 Doolittle: Second.
18
19 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle
20
21 Doolittle: Yes
22
23 Murphy: Trustee Flores
24
25 Flores: Yes
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27 Murphy: Commissioner Benavidez
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29 Benavidez: Yes
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31 Murphy: Councilor Sorg
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33 Sorg: Yes
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35 Murphy: Councilor Small
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37 Small: Yes
38
39 Murphy: Councilor Pedroza
40
41 Pedroza: Yes
42
43 Murphy: Commissioner Garrett

1
2 Garrett: Yes

3
4 Motion passes, vote 7 - 0 (3 members absent).

5
6 **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7
8 **7.1 COMMITTEE BRIEFING (INTERAGENCY COORDINATION)**

9
10 Andrew Wray gave a presentation.

11
12 Pedroza: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairmen. Andrew in the renewed attendance from
13 our MPO to El Paso MPO would it be proper for somebody from the policy
14 committee to also.....I'm not saying that I have an awful lot of time, but
15 from time to time, I might be able to attend and I would certainly always be
16 interested if possible in attending a meeting of the El Paso MPO. I think
17 that in the future things are going to be probably drawing us closer and
18 closer together. I may be wrong, but that's my impression so I guess it's
19 just a question for you and also the policy committee as well.

20
21 Doolittle: I guess I have one comment. Ultimately I do sit on two committee's there.
22 I would suggest if you have time to attend maybe want to review the
23 agenda. Ultimately it's a good opportunity to see how they work with a
24 very large board, but honestly if there's not a DOT item on there, a lot of
25 times it makes for a long morning, but by all means you know they do
26 have a lot of public come in and just sit and observe through the MPO, but
27 I can certainly even through Andrew, I'm sure we can get you copies of
28 the agenda.

29
30 Pedroza: Thank you. That was my next question, how would I see the agenda
31 ahead of time so that I could see whether there was something that would
32 be more drawing in order to you know make time to go.

33
34 Doolittle: I can either forward it or I don't know if Tom and Andrew get copies of that,
35 but we can certainly find a way to get you a copy of the agenda.

36
37 Pedroza: Thank you very much. Mr. Chair, would that be something proper to do?

38
39 Garrett: To attend?

40
41 Pedroza: Yes

1 Garrett: Certainly. The county does have a representative on.....that's
2 Commissioner Garcia.
3
4 Pedroza: Okay. Thank you.
5
6 Sorg: I would confer with Mr. Doolittle. Sharon Thomas and I did attend one of
7 their meetings once and he is right. It's a large committee in a small room,
8 right? And if there is some public comments it gets very crowded, in fact a
9 lot of people were standing that day. I don't know if it's common that way,
10 but yeah I would strongly recommend you look over the agenda to see if
11 there's something.....
12
13 Pedroza: Okay. Thank you
14
15 Garrett: One question I have in terms of the coordination is where the Town of
16 Mesilla feels you're adequately plugged in, because there's a lot of stuff
17 here about the City of Las Cruces and County. I mean I know you have
18 limited staff and so forth, but I was just curious.
19
20 Flores: Actually I read a little note here with the regional planning and I see that
21 the quarterly meeting between the DOT, the City, the County and the
22 MPO staff and I noticed that Mesilla was missing and I was going to make
23 a comment about that it would be nice to be included if we are going to be
24 regional planning. Mesilla is in a very strategic place. I think we need to
25 be included, so thank you for noticing that too.
26
27 Doolittle: If I can expand on that a little bit. The quarterly meetings that we have
28 with Dona Ana County and the City of Las Cruces, tend to focus more on
29 very specific issues and because they're a larger group, they tend to have
30 more issues.....we actually just met with the Town of Mesilla a month
31 ago probably, separately, but we can certainly include if there are specific
32 items or if you went through Debbie Lujan you know as the next DOT
33 employee, we have very good communication with her any time they want
34 to meet with us we do meet more frequently than that, but that is the
35 formal coordination meeting. Actually, City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana
36 County are the only entity that we meet with on more than an annual basis
37 unless it's requested. We just can't afford to go a full year without meeting
38 with them, but we do hold that meeting with Mesilla and we communicate
39 much more informally with Mrs. Lujan than a lot of the other groups as
40 well. We have a great relationship with Mesilla actually.
41
42 Garrett: That might be worth noting on the power point, is that's another piece of
43 information. That there are those meetings, but there on an as needed or

1 as requested basis. I would just.....appreciate the effort that's gone
2 into this and the information that we've heard, there's a part of this that
3 has to do with the fact that, that right now things are sort of in a balance
4 and so I'm not at all surprised to hear that people are.....it's okay the
5 way that it is. I think that the challenge has to do with whether or not there
6 are any missed opportunities, that by having much of this be sort of an at
7 hawk basis that there are things that just aren't getting done, because
8 we're not actually coordinated well enough to be able to do that. I will say
9 that I'm very concerned with the south part of the county, and the degree
10 to which our interests in development and the communities that are down
11 there and that's part of Dona Ana County and part of New Mexico, and it's
12 nice to have a nice relationship with El Paso, and I think we need to
13 actually figure out how we could do a better job of doing that. But at this
14 point I certainly do not assume that their top priority is looking out for our
15 interests. So in that sense.....I know I'm kind of getting a Segway into
16 one of the next pieces, but I think it is important to look at.....just to
17 constantly have a critical eye not in the negative sense, but in the sense of
18 is there something we can do better. I will say that Viva Dona Ana
19 Regional Leadership Committee is at this point talking about what
20 happens at the end the project, and how do we.....do we continue on
21 and within what frame work and a part of that does have to do with
22 questions of authority. That's always a big one when you start trying to
23 figure out how to pull things together and to be affective. There's strength
24 in numbers but it also can get cumbersome, so just letting you know that,
25 that's part of an ongoing discussion right now.

26
27 Doolittle: Mr. Chair, if I may, we do have Dr. Garcia who represents the County on
28 the committee, we also have Mayor Perea in Anthony, I mean out of
29 Sunland Park. The City of Anthony also has a seat on the committee.
30 Honestly they are not represented hardly at all honestly. I think it's
31 important that those entities and those groups are vocal and participate
32 and attend those meetings, especially with the MPO. Based on our
33 involvement I think through Jolene and though Mike Medina, they do a
34 pretty good job representing the district. I mean the south part of the
35 County, you're exactly right, if you go to those meetings 99.9% of the
36 discussion is tied to Tex DOT and the Texas side, but I think Mike
37 specifically and his staff recognize the fact that Sunland Park is going
38 through a transition. Anthony has only been a city for a very short amount
39 of time. I think he recognizes that and he does a really good job
40 supporting this. Certainly much more then he probably should, based on
41 the involvement of the communities, but I think it's important, you're
42 exactly right we need to stay involved. Jolene does really good job
43 making sure that we have voice and participating and I don't know if

1 Jolene has anything to expand on that but you're exactly right. If we don't
2 speak up and act as one, we tend to get forgotten but the staff, the El
3 Paso MPO staff does a good job recognizing the fact that we do exist. We
4 tend to get forgotten, but they do a good job keeping us on the radar.
5

6 Herrera: Mr. Chair, if I could kind of expand on what Trent said. For the amount of
7 money that NMDOT provides to El Paso MPO, they do an outstanding job
8 of planning for us. They make sure to outreach specifically to the New
9 Mexico communities. An example of that was recently with the functional
10 classification update. We're doing it in New Mexico, the Texas side is not
11 doing it, and so they've had several meetings in New Mexico to engage
12 the communities about that specific issue. Also we're updating or state
13 long range plan, they're involved in that process with the Southern
14 community specifically, so there really is a lot of interaction. I think it's
15 behind closed doors more so and it's not as visible as maybe the policy
16 board at the MPO, but there's quite a bit of outreach there for the amount
17 of money that we give them. Like I said they really do a great job for
18 planning. I think were a lot of the issues come up, just from what I've
19 heard in the past is that Dona Ana County sees Tex DOT kind of with all
20 this money and they're wondering why they don't get any of that money,
21 and it's specifically because that money is Tex DOT money. It cannot be
22 spent in New Mexico. NMDOT has a tiny budget compared to what Tex
23 DOT has and so that's where a lot of the smaller communities feel like
24 they're really left out of the process. But really when it comes down to it,
25 the MPO is a planning organization. They're not there to kind of award
26 projects, so that's I think where the confusion comes in, is planning versus
27 construction funding. I hope that kind of helps a little bit.
28

29 Garrett: Sure. It does, and actually you some of the discussion that we've had, I
30 think more in the context of Viva Dona Ana and the regional planning
31 effort. I'm very concerned with making sure that the planning that's going
32 on for the transportation infrastructure is something that's going to
33 complement development in Southern New Mexico and that in fact
34 were.....it's in a form where it hooks in with what's happening in El Paso
35 as well as what's happening in New Mexico.
36

37 Herrera: Right.
38

39 Garrett: And that we are able to use the planning as a way of leveraging the
40 money that's need for implementation. I mean that.....I understand that
41 there's not a lot of money, but we need to be able to take the planning
42 information, go to the Senators, go to our Congressmen, go to everybody
43 and do everything we can to get the kind of infrastructure in place. I think

1 we're lagging behind and it takes years to get.....I mean the design work,
2 the clearance work, before we even get to construction. So I think we're
3 behind the curb and so part of this is that I'm expressing, is making sure
4 that we got the planning in place, that we're in fact in a position to be fairly
5 aggressive about getting the stuff built that needs to be built.
6

7 Doolittle: Mr. Chair, if I can just expand on that also. I was just at a ribbon cutting
8 press conference with the Governor on Monday tied to you know the
9 development of the border, the completion of the Strauss Road. It's
10 coming and I agree with you 100%, if we're not vocal with what's
11 happening at the border, the development.....I met with the developer
12 last week who's putting in a 950 unit facility just off of New Mexico 273.
13 It's in Dona Ana County but there's talk with Sunland Park incorporating
14 that into their limits. It's coming and New Mexico 273 is not ready for 950
15 homes. It's not ready for 5-700 truck per day on New Mexico 136. It's here
16 and you're exactly right, we need to be vocal. We're actually in the
17 process of working on an RFP to do kind of a border issue, not just for the
18 Dona Ana County, but New Mexico 11 at Columbus and Antelope Wells.
19 We don't have any of that data, we don't have plans, and it's not in our
20 planning STIP because they're huge projects. \$40 million dollars to do 9
21 miles at 136, how do we fund that and we need to be vocal or it's going to
22 be here on top of us and it's going to be too late.
23

24 Herrera: Right. And just to add to that it's.....one other thing that we find
25 especially in the Southern County the Sunland Park, Anthony, the cities
26 are very new. They don't have a lot of local funding, so as far as receiving
27 federal dollars, it's really hard to come up with a match. So that's
28 something that we try to work with the local communities as much as we
29 can when there's funding opportunities that are 100% reimbursable. We
30 ask them to try to apply for those programs, but it's something that really
31 needs to be thought of long term. Is how do we provide local match for
32 federal dollars to get those projects that we need.
33

34 Garrett: I don't know if NMDOT has considered this, but it would be interesting if
35 you all were really engaged with the Viva Dona Ana over the next year at
36 least, because there are specific things you're bringing up that.....we got
37 border economic development plan that's being developed, well how can
38 we talk about that without actually having the infrastructure. We're
39 concerned with the quarter plan goes right down 28 and further down and
40 so there's a connection there. We're going to certainly be looking at the
41 systems that have to do with transportation and the (inaudible) and
42 not.....see one of the problems that we get to with implementation
43 is that we don't have the information about.....for example; the problems

1 with the match. We don't know how to overcome that, or see if there are
2 ways of doing that. I mean the County might be in a position to do some
3 things....I don't know, or certainly the County could be in a better place to
4 provide the advocacy because they don't have the staff to go out and do
5 this sort of stuff, so we have to figure out how we're actually going to be
6 able to work together and not just say, well they're an incorporated area
7 too bad, or it's on them. Okay, well, so I'm not sure what they next steps
8 out of this thing but maybe what I would just say is that this briefing
9 highlights the importance of the interagency coordination and probably
10 need to be doing some thinking about things that we could take steps on
11 to either clarify or tighten up and make things more affective. Right now
12 for me it's the South is the biggest area where there's a gap. I think we're
13 doing pretty well locally. Thank you very much. Did you send this out to
14 us this power point?

15
16 Doolittle: No Mr. Chair, it wasn't in the packet. Would you like it?

17
18 Garrett: Yeah. I always like that kind of thing.

19
20 Doolittle: We'll send it out this afternoon.

21
22 Garrett: That'd be great thanks.

23 24 7.2 EL PASO MPO DRAFT AGREEMENT

25
26 Tom Murphy gave a presentation on creating a formal agreement with the FHWA to
27 deal with planning issues and who's to be responsible for planning activities and what
28 jurisdiction.

29
30 Sorg: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I couldn't help but notice in the sample MOU, in
31 Texas there between the Capitol area and the San Antonio, Bexar County
32 area. They have for long range transportation plans, that the San Antonio,
33 Bexar County area accepts the responsibility for long range planning and
34 programming aides of the San Marcos Urbanized areas. Now I don't
35 know where these things are, I'm assuming that some of this area that
36 they describe here is in the MPO for the Capitol areas. Do you know?

37
38 Murphy: I did look at a map of the area. San Marcos itself would be in the Capitol
39 area.

40
41 Sorg: Okay.

1 Murphy: And then the urbanized area extends down into Guadalupe County, which
2 is in the San Antonio, Bexar County.
3

4 Sorg: Okay, that's all I wanted to know. If I got this right. In this case then, that
5 one MPO is taking the responsibility of part of an area of another MPO,
6 which fits us.....I assume that why you're doing this. It fits us pretty well,
7 would this MOU between us and El Paso would that possibly, be a
8 possibility that we'd accept the responsibility for planning our Southern
9 part of the County?
10

11 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Councilor Sorg. From what I understand on the federal
12 regulations is that it is possible for us to enter into an agreement with the
13 El Paso MPO to divide up the planning responsibilities, however which
14 way the two entities decide is more appropriate.
15

16 Sorg: So, okay. Either we would take over full responsibility or perhaps we
17 might have a subcommittee between.....with members of both MPO's to
18 do that. I mean.....are you opening this to many possibilities?
19

20 Murphy: I think there are a lot of possibilities, I think.....absolutely, we can
21 make it whatever works best for our region, including El Paso as part of
22 our region. It's in their interest as well to make sure that we do the
23 planning in that area in the best possible way. I would imagine that any
24 sort of arrangement right now is open for discussion.
25

26 Sorg: Okay. Very good. Thank you Mr. Chairman.
27

28 Pedroza: Thank you Mr. Chair. Tom I think I need a little bit of history, and it doesn't
29 have to be today, but I'd like to know who it came to be that El
30 Paso.....seemed to be given not only the jurisdiction, but also the
31 funding for the Southern part of Dona Ana County. It that something we
32 need to address, be concerned about, because I think that if it's part of our
33 County but we do not have access to funding for it then it's very hard to do
34 planning, and so we are somewhat at the mercy of the person or the
35 County that does have the funding for it. Which seems to be El Paso, so
36 I'd like to know.....I don't like to speak without being based on
37 something concrete and true, so if you could at some point, it could either
38 be privately or an email or whatever, but give me some idea how it came
39 about that Dona Ana County does not control Dona Ana County.
40

41 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Councilor Pedroza. I can send out...I can work up something
42 pretty detailed and send that out to the entire committee, but just kind of a
43 quick overview answer, is the funding is distributed by states. New

1 Mexico gets a certain amount roughly based on population, Texas gets
2 another amount roughly based on population. It doesn't cross over, so
3 and the also there's another category which determines the type of
4 funding and that's the urbanized areas. Urbanized areas are determined
5 by the U.S. Census, and it just happens that the El Paso Urbanized area
6 crosses that state border. So there are larger urban funds that New
7 Mexico get that are eligible to be spent in Southern Dona Ana County
8 because they're part of the El Paso Urbanized area and that's one of the
9 things that Jolene and Trent had spoken to you about being able to have
10 the match for these federal funds, so it's not that Texas El Paso MPO and
11 Texas are withholding funds from Dona Ana County, it's more of a matter
12 of vocally we've not organized well enough to get the match and we're not
13 taking advantage of those, and I think that's probably enough detail for just
14 right now, but we'll go ahead and we'll work out a more detailed paper on
15 it.

16
17 Pedroza: I would appreciate that. Thank you Tom.

18
19 Garrett: Thank you.

20
21 Doolittle: Mr. Chair. I'm not a planner, but I understand it to be a little bit different
22 and what I would encourage Tom to do is make sure you're keeping
23 Jolene in the loop. I was under the impression that the Las Cruces,
24 Mesilla Valley MPO cannot just take over the duties and the assignments
25 of the El Paso MPO. I don't know that for sure but I would encourage, I
26 would like to be a little bit more informed also on how this came about and
27 so maybe if you'll work with Jolene, rather than an email, maybe we can
28 get a presentation or some working session or something, because I'd
29 also like to understand that a little bit more too.

30
31 Murphy: Then Mr. Doolittle if I did this.....I didn't mean to infer that we could
32 take over the duties down there. I think we could negotiate with the El
33 Paso MPO and divide up the duties however both of us see fit. I hope I
34 didn't misstate that.

35
36 Doolittle: Maybe that's the clarification as non-planners, I mean Jolene has to
37 frequently clarify to me what we can and can't do and I think that would be
38 helpful if understood how the MPO interacts with you guys and what the
39 roles and responsibilities are tied to air quality and you know funding and
40 those types of issues. Now I don't know why Berino Road in considered
41 the boundary, you know why isn't further north or South, I don't
42 understand that.

1 Pedroza: Mr. Chair. Thank you. In particular when you're doing that and I really
2 appreciate the fact that you and Jolene I imagine that you're going to be
3 helping to prepare this explanation paper. If you could also put a little bit
4 of the history and the statistics about Sunland Park population, area,
5 maybe some idea of their GDP maybe, because it seems as if just North
6 of Sunland Park is where Santa Teresa is, am I correct?
7

8 Murphy: Yes.
9

10 Pedroza: And Santa Teresa is possibly less well positioned to make its own
11 decisions than even Sunland Park and Sunland Park seems to be in a
12 little bit of a weak position, so as a resident of Dona Ana County I think
13 that Dona Ana County does have some amount of responsibility for what
14 goes on regardless of how close the two entities, Sunland Park, Santa
15 Teresa are to a major urban area, which is in Texas. If you could do that
16 as well. Thank you.
17

18 Garrett: If I could just do a slight version of that in terms of a suggestion. Not
19 everyone on the committee.....I'm not going to assume that any one
20 does or doesn't know but I'm not sure that we all do understand what goes
21 on in the Southern part of the County as it relates to the El Paso MPO
22 boundary. Does that take in Chaparral? Yeah, that's what I thought. See
23 I think that being able to take Chaparral, Anthony, Santa Teresa, and
24 Sunland Park as an area get a sense of what's actually going on there.
25 What's incorporated, what's not and so you have that sort of that as a
26 reference point. I think that would be helpful and I'm sure that County staff
27 could make a presentation on that. And then it would be helpful then to go
28 into what the planning is. What's the El Paso MPO planning? I mean how
29 does that relate to the roads that are down there and their road priorities
30 and projects and so forth. I think we need to talk about the question of this
31 kind of a partnership and if I'm not mistaken this is.....the need for this
32 came out of an evaluation. Is that correct Tom?
33

34 Murphy: That's correct.
35

36 Garrett: That's what I thought, and so it'd be interesting to know what their time
37 frame is and you know what's behind the request for this relationship.
38

39 Herrera: Thank you Mr. Chair. The time frame that they're looking at is June, late
40 June. Their next federal certification review is I believe the 22nd thru the
41 25th, so they're looking to kind of tie up a lot of these loose ends that were
42 suggested three years ago. Now, if I could just explain a little bit, it
43 sounds like they haven't been doing anything for those three years, but

1 actually they have. They've been developing their new long range plan.
2 Mesilla Valley MPO is in the process of doing theirs now, so El Paso MPO
3 just recently completed that. They have a lot of modeling that they have to
4 do with regard to air quality and all kinds of different things. For a lot of
5 the statistics that you were talking about earlier councilor the El Paso
6 MPO long range plan contains all that information for the New Mexico
7 portion.....well, for the Texas portion as well, but they single out New
8 Mexico, and as far as interaction with the County. There's County
9 representatives on their technical committee, Mr. Jorge Castillo, he
10 actually attends all of the meeting and the technical meetings for El Paso
11 MPO as the planning representative. He's very involved with the
12 functional classification, he's got a lot of interaction with El Paso MPO and
13 then with us DOT District 1 as well. A lot of that information is out there, I
14 just don't think that it's been brought to this committee and really pointed
15 out, so we can definitely do a better job of that.

16
17 Pedroza: I would appreciate that thank you.

18
19 Herrera: Okay. Thanks

20
21 Garrett: The only thing I would add to this is that, again going back to the question
22 of our interests being represented and so forth. If I understand correctly
23 the Northeast Parkway was discussed and considered, but then the policy
24 committee has decided not to pursue that, is that correct? For El Paso?

25
26 Murphy: It's my understanding that at least on the Texas side, they are still
27 pursuing the Northeast Parkway. We in New Mexico, because they
28 needed to move forward with their EA (environmental assessment) and
29 we don't have any plans or funding to four lane 213, 404 new interchange
30 at 404-910. Ultimately we were preventing them from moving forward with
31 their EA, so they asked us if we would withdrawal from that portion of the
32 EA and we agreed to do that. So they are moving forward on the Texas
33 side with the environmental assessment.

34
35 Garrett: Okay. See that's a good example of something that in terms of policy
36 making and being able to affect change and it's like okay that's on us then,
37 and how do we interface with what they're doing in order to get political
38 muscle basically to get some of this stuff in place. You know, I mean at
39 least to have study and so forth. I think that the interesting dimension of
40 this has to do with decision making in terms of what's, where
41 does.....there's the planning and there's the decision making in terms of
42 priorities and approvals and all that sort of stuff and I think that's going to
43 be.....sounds like we've got two months. We have a meeting in May and

1 then we would have a meeting in June, before they hit their deadline. In
2 order to get this thing put together, so we don't have a lot of time.

3
4 Herrera: Right Mr. Chair, and they're not going to force this MPO to do anything
5 that you're not comfortable with, so if they don't meet the deadline then,
6 they don't meet the deadline and it's brought up in their next review. It's
7 not.

8
9 Garrett: Okay.

10
11 Herrera: It's not something they're really pressuring this MPO to do, but they did
12 want to bring it up as a point of discussion and if I could just say, that
13 NMDOT we fully support this document, well not this specific document,
14 but one like it.

15
16 Garrett: It sounds like there's.....that this would be a good thing for us to
17 actually get worked out, and timing would be in our interest if we can move
18 it along. Probably need to figure on spending some significant time,
19 maybe figuring out how to lay out the options and the issues so that we
20 can have almost like a work session discussion at the next meeting, and
21 try to come to some decisions and then have a clean copy brought to us in
22 June. Give it a shot.

23
24 Herrera: Mr. Chair and Tom. For the NMDOT portion of that, I think that Claude
25 wants to move forward with state long range plan presentation as quickly
26 as possible just to keep everybody in the loop, but that should only take
27 about 10 – 15 minutes. It's not going to be a long presentation. The
28 policies and procedures manual, we can push that one back, if we need
29 to.

30 31 **7.3 NMDOT UPDATES**

32
33 Trent Doolittle presented NMDOT updates

- 34
35
- 36 • I-10/Avenida de Mesilla project – Currently working on the concrete
37 pavement on Avenida De Mesilla underneath, we continue on the
38 westbound ramp work and installation on conduit and bridge footings on
39 the west side.
 - 40 • North Main project – From Chestnut to almost Three Crosses.
 - 41 • Pavement rehabilitation project – Over the hill near Organ
 - 42 • US 70 – A lot work on US 70.
 - 43 • Concrete wall barrier project – The very last safety project from I-25 to
Organ.

- Cable Barrier project – From Organ into town.
- Vado/Mesquite Interchange project – Currently working on detours and utility work.
- Paving project – It is complete, from the river west to Fairacres.

7.4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES – No updates

8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

Murphy: The City of Las Cruces is planning on submitting for a Tiger Planning Grant, to develop an intelligent transportation systems or ITS plan and we're going to be asking each of your jurisdictions to write a letter of support for the Cities application. Staff will put together some resolution language that you can run through your boards and also a draft letter for the head of the governing body to sign and just to kind of what I know of this, this is a the first step. It help leverage some money that they got from the legislature, to upgrade some of the signals and it's.....modernizes a lot of the traffic signals within the region. It'll help do some signal priorities, signal preemption. This particular one will just get the implementation plan in place to put all those future improvements, and I think one of the things, you know the city is the hub of the region and the cities street maintenance, I think they do maintain the signals for a lot of jurisdictions outside their own. So there will be some benefit to each of your jurisdictions as well. We really ask that you do consider on your boards passing resolution to support this application. There is.....hopefully working quickly on there, I understand that the deadline for the Tiger Grants is April 25th.

Wray: Direct the attention of the Committee to page 52 of the packet. This is to advise the committee that there have been administrative adjustments made to the TIP. The two changes were.....fell under the qualified for administrative adjustments under the rules that govern the TIP, so there's no action on this, that it's to notify the committee that these two changes have been made.

Sorg: Could somebody tell me what this agency is The Central Federal Lands. What is that any way?

Herrera: Mr. Chair, Councilor Sorg. It's a division of the Federal Highway Administration and they handle public lands.

Sorg: Highway or road or transportation issues on federal lands.

1 Herrera: Right, they're a transportation only division, but it's a part of the Federal
2 Highway Administration.

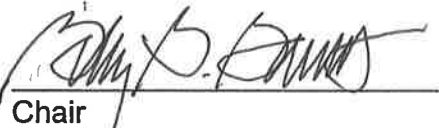
3
4 Sorg: Okay. Thank you.

5
6 Herrera: Sure.

7
8 **9. PUBLIC COMMENT - No public comments**

9
10 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

11
12 Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

13
14 
15 _____
16 Chair

17