

1 **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

3
4 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the
5 Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which was held August 6,
6 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces,
7 New Mexico.
8

9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
10 Harold Love (NMDOT)
11 Rene Molina (DAC Engineering)
12 Greg Walke (NMSU)
13 Bill Childress (BLM)
14 Debbi Lujan (Town of Mesilla) (arrived 4:04)
15 John Gwynne (DA Flood Commission)
16 Willie Roman (CLC Transportation) (arrived 4:11)
17 Jesus Morales (EBID)
18

19 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jack Valencia (SCRTD)
20 Mike Bartholomew (CLC Transit)
21 Luis Marmolejo (DAC)
22 Louis Grijalva (CLC Public Works)
23

24 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO Staff)
25 Andrew Wray (MPO Staff)
26 Michael McAdams (MPO Staff)
27

28 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary
29

30 **1. CALL TO ORDER (4:02 p.m.)**
31

32 Love: Okay I guess we'll go ahead and get started. I guess we'll start with a roll
33 call starting to my left.
34

35 Childress: Bill Childress, Bureau of Land Management.
36

37 Walke: Greg Walke, New Mexico State University.
38

39 Love: Harold Love, NMDOT.
40

41 Herrera: Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.
42

43 Morales: Jesus Morales, EBID.
44

45 Gwynne: John Gwynne, Dona Ana County Flood Commission.
46

1 Molina: Rene Molina, Dona Ana County Engineering.
2

3 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
4

5 Love: Next is approval of the agenda. Looking for a motion.
6

7 Walke: I move approval.
8

9 Gwynne: Second.
10

11 Love: Approved and second. All in favor.
12

13 MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
14

15 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
16

17 **3.1 June 4, 2015**
18

19 Love: Okay, next item approval of the minutes.
20

21 Herrera: Move to approve.
22

23 Molina: Second.
24

25 Walke: Second.
26

27 Love: Approved and second. All in favor.
28

29 MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
30

31 Love: Okay.
32

33 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
34

35 Love: Then we'll move into the action items. Oh, public comments. Yeah, I
36 stand corrected, next item is public comment. Do we have anybody from
37 the public? Okay, no public comment.
38

39 **5. ACTION ITEMS**
40

41 **5.1 Recommend Approval of Amendments to the 2016-2021**
42 **Transportation Improvement Program**
43

44 Love: We'll move onto the next item, our action items. Recommend approval of
45 the amendments to the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program
46 to be presented by MPO staff.

1
2 Andrew Wray gave presentation.

3
4 Love: Any comments? And we're looking for a motion to approve.

5
6 Molina: Motion to approve.

7
8 Gwynne: Second.

9
10 Love: Approved and seconded. All in favor say aye.

11
12 MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13
14 **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

15
16 **6.1 Functional Classification Discussion**

17
18 Love: Next item is discussion items, 6.1 functional classification discussion by
19 MPO staff.

20
21 Tom Murphy gave presentation.

22
23 Molina: I've got something. Having heard all that my recommendation would be
24 to, if, if possible is the second is advise the individual to actually approach
25 us and, and we're the, we're the individuals that, Engineering Department
26 at Dona Ana County would be the individuals that they'd have to talk to
27 and we could've come up with something that's amenable to, to all
28 involved I believe. That would be my, that would be my approach. That,
29 that's all I've got. Thanks.

30
31 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I agree. I think the first step is a developer or a citizen can't
32 submit a functional reclassification request. I mean it's got to go through
33 whoever owns the roadway or you know maintains the right-of-way, so
34 they would need to contact the County first anyway if the County owns this
35 section of road. Second of all I think there has to be a more thorough look
36 at how it's functioning, that's what functional classification is, it's not about
37 really what we want it to be, it's how it's functioning currently. So if it's
38 functioning as an arterial then I think we need to leave it as an arterial, but
39 that's really for the County to look at when they're approached.

40
41 Walke: Mr. Chair. I, I had a question about right-of-way widths. You mentioned
42 that the, the functional classifications don't set right-of-way widths and yet
43 they were listed there. What, are they set or not at 100 feet?

44
45 Murphy: Mr., Mr. Chair, Mr. Walke these are, these are excerpts of a County
46 document. Likewise the City has similar documents so it's the City and

1 the County that are establishing the widths for the right-of-way. The, the
2 MPO and the functional classification process itself does not do that.

3
4 Walke: Oh, okay.

5
6 Murphy: And that's ...

7
8 Walke: But somebody does.

9
10 Murphy: Yeah, the, the City or the County through their design standards does but
11 I, I think part of this, this educational presentation is to clear up the, the
12 misperception on the applicant, on the requesters part, I'm not sure what
13 the, what, how, how to refer to them as, but he, he believes that it's the
14 MPO sets those right-of-way widths which the MPO does not and we need
15 to educate our Policy Committee on this as well.

16
17 Walke: Good. Thank you.

18
19 Love: Any other comments?

20
21 **6.2 Short Range Transit Plan Update**

22
23 Love: Okay our next discussion item is the Short Range Transit Plan update.

24
25 Michael McAdams gave presentation.

26
27 Love: Will, will this plan require purchasing of new buses?

28
29 McAdams: No, the first phase will not. The other phase may in, have further
30 purchases. Also if we go to expand the hours and the, the days, we have
31 to accordingly expand the Dial-A-Ride service too because they're, they're
32 paired together. So there were that's, the new, the other phases may
33 include new buses.

34
35 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I have a question about, I'm sure that you guys probably
36 coordinated with the other transit providers.

37
38 McAdams: Yes.

39
40 Herrera: So this won't have any negative impact on the people traveling on Z-Trans
41 or using the Park 'N Ride that come from El Paso?

42
43 McAdams: I don't, I don't think they, right now you know the RTD is in process of flux
44 of starting their, their bus system. They will not comment with schedules
45 till next month. I'm aware of the stops. I'm almost in daily, not daily but
46 weekly contact with members of RTD. As far as that don't, I don't think

1 there'll be any process, any problem with coordination of the Park 'N Ride.
2 If there is of course we will accommodate it. Because it, it's, it's in our
3 best interest. Well the whole MPO is urbanized, make sure we have
4 coordinated service. The, the only, the only aspect that's changed
5 recently was the discontinue of the Rio Grande service from Hatch and
6 Elephant Butte and that will end September the 30th. So there, there's
7 other efforts to accommodate that service in that, but that's still in process.
8 So yes, we're very much aware of the stops, but I won't know till next
9 week about the exact schedule of the buses. And right now we have not
10 finalized these schedules or the, we're working, we work with them the
11 bus system so we're timing the routes right now to make sure they're,
12 they're 60, or 50 minutes in length but the actual schedules have not been
13 determined yet.

14
15 Herrera: Okay.

16
17 McAdams: Thank you.

18
19 Herrera: I, I just wanted to make sure that, that those are being coordinated
20 because a lot of people come in on the Park 'N Ride and quite a few
21 people do come in from Alamogordo on Z-Trans and so we need to make
22 sure that they're not ...

23
24 McAdams: Oh exactly.

25
26 Herrera: Sitting at a bus stop.

27
28 Murphy: Let me, if I can interject. Yeah we'll be, we'll be retaining all those
29 common stops with New Mexico Park 'N Ride and Z-Trans. If anything
30 this will, will enhance their experience as well. If you know they, they
31 came in on the Gold Route and hopefully we can offer them a, and if they
32 transfer to RoadRUNNER there hopefully now they have a one seat ride
33 to their final destination if in case, you know we're, we're working on
34 reducing transfers on, on the end, on this end of it, so it should, it should
35 make for a better experience for those customers as well.

36
37 Herrera: Great. Thank you. Oh, Mr. Chair, sorry I thought of one more thing. It's a
38 little bit not directly related I guess to the stop, the, the actual rides but is
39 there any mention of upgrading the stops anywhere, like adding shelters
40 and benches and things where there aren't any in this plan?

41
42 McAdams: I think that's, that's in process. I think that one, we'll, that's really the
43 details that we get once we have the routes established we can determine
44 where the stops are going to be and whether shelters will be best too.
45 And even after the, the system is in place we can still move around the
46 stops and the shelters, yeah it's a good question but we have to get the

1 routes established to our satisfaction, then we really can talk about
2 shelters and, and stops. But again that, even after the routes are
3 established we can, we can play around with that.

4
5 Herrera: Right. Great. Thank you.

6
7 McAdams: You're welcome.

8
9 Love: Any more discussion?

10
11 **7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

12
13 **7.1 City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Town of Mesilla, Las Cruces**
14 **Public Schools, RoadRUNNER Transit, and SCRTD Project Updates**

15
16 Love: Then we'll move on to committee and staff comments.

17
18 Murphy: Okay, Mr., Mr. Chair, this I guess this is where we ask each of you to give
19 every, each other updates on your own projects. I don't think we have,
20 have the relevant staff here from City of Las Cruces for the HSIP or the
21 Dam Projects. So I think if, if Mr. Molina you want to give us an update on
22 the, on the Dona Ana County projects.

23
24 Molina: Sure. Excuse me. Dripping Springs and Baylor Canyon as you all may
25 have heard or know by now, that project got a lot of debate and the
26 direction we're moving forward in is Dripping Springs will be paved.
27 Baylor Canyon will be a graveled roadway. We're moving forward on this
28 project. We're anticipating start of construction in December and possibly
29 ending construction October 2016.

30 Moving onto Camino Real at Dona Ana School Road project. That
31 project is in the right-of-way acquisition phase. The design is
32 approximately 90% complete. We're looking at again right-of-way
33 acquisition and that's kind of where we've been for, for some time but
34 we're looking at moving forward. That's all I've got.

35
36 Murphy: Thank you. And for Town of Mesilla, Ms. Lujan if you, unless you want to
37 jump in I can, since this is a co-town/MPO project if you want me to go
38 through on it.

39
40 Lujan: That's fine.

41
42 Murphy: Okay. We've recently held the, the public meetings on the University
43 Avenue Corridor. Our consultant is getting ready to, to come out with a
44 final two preferred recommendations based on public meeting and, and
45 meeting with the BPAC. I think we just, we just saw the, the, the cross
46 section today. I didn't have it electronically yet but we can certainly

1 disseminate that to all of you by e-mail, we'll probably post it up on our
2 website as well. The, if the Town would like to add anything? Okay. And
3 we don't have public schools or RoadRUNNER Transit here, so I think that
4 would conclude our, our jurisdictional updates.
5

6 **7.2 Missouri Ave. and University Ave. Study Projects update**

7
8 **Murphy:** And then if you want me to jump to 7.2 Mr. Chair. Okay. Well part of that
9 we, we covered the University Study area. For Missouri and we had the,
10 we had the kickoff meeting with the stakeholders this afternoon and we
11 got some good feedback. The MPO staff is going to go over the, with the
12 consultant meeting notes and then we hope to have, go have a public
13 meeting for, for the corridor study by the beginning of October, so we'll, I
14 would hope to be able to announce time and location at your September
15 TAC meeting so you're all aware of, of the timing of that meeting. And I'll
16 stand for any questions.
17

18 **7.3 NMDOT Projects update**

19
20 **Love:** Next we'll, we'll hear discussion on NMDOT projects.
21

22 **Herrera:** I guess that's me. Okay I'll just go down the list. The first one, the I-10
23 mill and inlay project, that's from the I-10/I-25 interchange to the Texas
24 state line. That one is scheduled for a December 2015 letting, so we're
25 looking at probably construction starting some time in March on that.

26 The next project 1100830 is the I-10 bridge replacement project at
27 Union and Ramp E. I didn't, I wasn't able to get an update from the, the
28 project manager but what I can tell you is that it is under way, there is, be
29 careful when you're out there because there is traffic control. The
30 contractor has 240 weather working days to complete it but they hope to
31 be done before that.

32 The next project is the I-25 bridge replacement. If you've driven by
33 it they're moving phenomenally fast on that project. They hope to be done
34 by December of this year which is well ahead of, of their schedule and at
35 the rate that they're going now they should be able to accomplish that.

36 The I-10 pavement preservation project milepost 133 to 146, that's
37 from the Jackrabbit interchange all the way through town to the I-10/I-25
38 interchange. That one is scheduled to let this month. We are aware that
39 part of that project overlaps with the Union project and so we'll be
40 coordinating that through our construction crews to make sure that you
41 can safely navigate through those work zones so watch for that one,
42 probably construction starting sometime in October or November.

43 The New Mexico 188, Valley Drive reconstruction project is still in
44 the, the design phase. The, the consultant gave an update to BPAC last
45 month at their meeting. It was very interesting to see some of the
46 proposed cross sections and things and Tom I don't know if there's any

1 plans to present to this committee at all but we're, we're still in the
2 development phase of that, it's scheduled to go to production and letting in
3 fiscal year 2017.

4 And the last two are railroad projects and unfortunately I wasn't
5 able to get updates from our, our rail manager but I haven't heard that any
6 delays are happening there so everything should be on schedule.

7
8 Love: Any questions?

9
10 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

11
12 Love: Next item, public comment. Seeing none.

13
14 **9. ADJOURNMENT (4:46 p.m.)**

15
16 Love: Look for a motion to adjourn.

17
18 Herrera: So moved.

19
20 Molina: Second.

21
22 Love: All in favor.

23
24 MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

25
26 Love: We are adjourned.

27
28
29
30
31
32
33 Chairperson

