

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

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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 October 1,  
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:**     Mike Bartholomew (CLC Transit)  
10                               Louis Grijalva (CLC Public Works)  
11                               Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)  
12                               Larry Shannon (Town of Mesilla)  
13                               Aaron Chavarria (NMDOT)  
14                               Dale Harrell (NMSU)  
15                               Debbi Lujan (Town of Mesilla)  
16                               Carl Lukesh (DAC Flood Commission) (departed 4:30)  
17                               Willie Roman (CLC Transportation)  
18                               Todd Gregory (LCPS)

19  
20   **MEMBERS ABSENT:**     Rene Molina (DAC Engineering)  
21                               Bill Childress (BLM)

22  
23   **STAFF PRESENT:**       Tom Murphy (MPO Staff)  
24                               Andrew Wray (MPO Staff)  
25                               Michael McAdams (MPO Staff)  
26                               Sharon Nebbia (MPO Staff)

27  
28   **OTHERS PRESENT:**     Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

29  
30   **1.     CALL TO ORDER (4:09 p.m.)**

31  
32   Bartholomew: Good afternoon. I'd like to call to order the October 1st meeting of the  
33                               Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory  
34                               Committee. I'd like to start by having the Committee members introduce  
35                               themselves and throughout the meeting if you would please state your  
36                               name when you make comments so that the recording secretary knows  
37                               who made those comments. And also if some of you are not aware I  
38                               believe you're, we're limited to about three mics being on at one time here  
39                               so after, if you're not speaking please turn your mic off. So I'll start on my  
40                               far right down there if you could please introduce yourself.

41  
42   Shannon:     I'm Larry Shannon with the Town of Mesilla.

43  
44   Lujan:        Debbie Lujan, Town of Mesilla.

45  
46   Chavarria:    Aaron Chavarria, NMDOT.

1  
2 Howie: Stephen Howie, Elephant Butte Irrigation District.  
3  
4 Grijalva: Louis Grijalva, City of Las Cruces Public Works Department.  
5  
6 Harrell: Dale Harrell, University Engineer, New Mexico State University.  
7  
8 Gregory: Todd Gregory, Las Cruces Public Schools.  
9  
10 Herrera: Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.  
11  
12 Roman: Willie Roman, Administrator, Street and Traffic Operations in Las Cruces.  
13  
14 Bartholomew: Mike Bartholomew, City of Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit  
15 Administrator.  
16  
17 Lukesh: Carl Lukesh, Dona Ana County Flood Commission.  
18  
19 Bartholomew: Thank you everyone.  
20

21 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

22  
23 Bartholomew: The first item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. Are there any  
24 corrections from staff or Committee members to the agenda?  
25

26 Murphy: No changes.  
27

28 Bartholomew: If there are none if I could get a motion to approve the agenda.  
29

30 Herrera: So moved.  
31

32 Grijalva: Second.  
33

34 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor of approving the agenda  
35 please say "aye."  
36

37 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.  
38

39 Bartholomew: Opposed? Motion passes.  
40

41 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

42  
43 **3.1 September 3, 2015**  
44

1 Bartholomew: Next item is the approval of the minutes from September 3rd, 2015.  
2 Does anyone have any corrections to the minutes? And if there are none  
3 could I have a motion for approval?  
4

5 Grijalva: I make a motion to approve the minutes of September 3rd.  
6

7 Gregory: I'll second that.  
8

9 Bartholomew: Thank you. It's been moved and seconded. All in favor of approving the  
10 minutes of September 3rd please say "aye."  
11

12 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.  
13

#### 14 4. PUBLIC COMMENT 15

16 Bartholomew: Next we have a public comment period at, anybody from the public wish  
17 to speak at this point? You don't have to. And if you could please state  
18 your name too for the record.  
19

20 Bachman: Yes. Good afternoon. My name is Kari Bachman. I'm the coordinator of  
21 Dona Ana PLACE MATTERS and I have been working with the MPO the  
22 last couple of months on issues related to health equity and so this is my  
23 first opportunity to be at one of your meetings so I appreciate the chance.  
24 Just to tell you a little bit about what we do, we're very interested in social  
25 determinants of health and many of those are environmental. Many of  
26 those have to do with transportation and the roads and surfaces and  
27 sidewalks and everything around us and so we're quite interested in  
28 working both at the County and the City in terms of making those  
29 resources as health-promoting as they possibly can be. So I have some  
30 contact information if you're interested. Thank you very much.  
31

32 Bartholomew: Okay. Thank you. And, and would you leave that with the MPO and we  
33 can get that from the MPO as well. Thank you.  
34

#### 35 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS 36

##### 37 5.1 Performance Measure Implementation Presentation 38

39 Bartholomew: First discussion item, 5.1 is Performance Measures Implementation.  
40 Thank you Tom.  
41

42 Murphy: Thank you Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee.  
43

44 Tom Murphy gave his presentation.  
45

46 Bartholomew: Go ahead.

1  
2 Grijalva: Is there a way to track bicyclists or bicyclist counts or something?  
3  
4 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Mr. Grijalva. That's, that's something that's been very difficult.  
5 We've, in the past we've tried arranging our tubes in the manner that, that  
6 we're counting the bicycle lanes. That wasn't very successful. I think the,  
7 mostly we've, we've determined that, more, we, I think we observed a lot  
8 of people avoiding them cause they don't, you know you're on a, on a  
9 bike, you don't want to run over a tube cause you, you see things and you  
10 miss it. We also have the, we also have a video camera on there but it's,  
11 and we've used it on, on US 70 in a, you know kind of a, we had a specific  
12 request to evaluate bicyclists' use on that facility but the, to use it, it, to, to  
13 have the video monitored by a computer with algorithm that's proprietary  
14 and it's a rather steep cost to do that so I don't, I don't think that's  
15 something that we can afford to do on a systematic basis. I think we can  
16 look, look at it case by case, if we have a, a request we can do that.  
17 We're, it's not that much video time that we're, we're asking to process or  
18 we have a, or, or we've somehow managed to find engineers in training,  
19 student co-ops or, or other people to, to sit and watch the video and do  
20 those counts exactly but, but in a air-conditioned office rather, rather than  
21 outside. So I think we're still looking at ways to better, best capture  
22 bicycle use but we're, we're not there yet. I think as, as a kind of a related,  
23 a related topic is how do we track pedestrian use and I've, I've, been  
24 enlisting Mr. Roman on trying to figure out is there a way we can capture  
25 you know pedestrian activity out there, out on the streets via the call signal  
26 then, yeah I, I, I think we have a lot of work to, to try and do it. We're  
27 trying to but we don't know of anything in place right now that, that will  
28 allow us to capture those, those things.  
29  
30 Grijalva: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Murphy. How does, how does the trail monitors work  
31 or ...  
32  
33 Murphy: The, the trail monitor operates on an infrared beam and we're able to  
34 locate them in such a manner that we point them away from, from the  
35 adjacent traffic lanes so it doesn't pick up the cars. If we had pointed it  
36 towards the, if we had pointed it towards the roadway we would, we would  
37 pick up the automobiles going by as well so that, we're able to count the  
38 trails in the, by how we position it.  
39  
40 Herrera: Mr. Chair. If I can maybe add a little bit to that. NMDOT is right now  
41 researching how to better count cyclists too and so we're, we've sort of  
42 been working with the MPOs, not telling them to hold off but saying, "You  
43 know if you're looking at investing in some technology let us do it first  
44 because we have more money." And we can really make sure that, that  
45 they work before the MPOs use their money to purchase so we hope to  
46 have some counters here in Fiscal Year 2016 but of course depending on

1 sort of what happens and if we can get the technology on our approved  
2 products list and all that kind of stuff, we'll see. But we're definitely  
3 working on that and we hope to pass down whatever we learn to the  
4 MPOs.  
5

6 Bartholomew: Thank you. Any other comments about the suggested performance  
7 targets? I had a question and, and it, I mean I, these are all really good  
8 measurements and everything and I notice the title of the slide is "Targets"  
9 so will it be some process then to determine you know what is a target that  
10 we should be looking for on these measurements?  
11

12 Murphy: Mr. Chairman. Yes. I do expect us to you know kind of make this a  
13 process where, where we, and we're at the beginning where we're  
14 investigating the initial targets of what we should look, what we should  
15 look at to you know, do these express the values of, of our region. Once,  
16 once we settle on the "what" I think then we start with the discussions of,  
17 of the "how much." So you know, I think you know, and I apologize for all  
18 my "you knows." We know that we have at least one year for the DOT to  
19 set their measures after the USDOT comes down with the final rules and  
20 then the MPO has 180 days after that to develop our targets so I think  
21 we're look at a point where we have at least a year and a half where we  
22 can have some good discussions about what our targets, what our  
23 measures should be and what our targets should be set at so.  
24

25 Bartholomew: Okay.  
26

27 Murphy: We absolutely are going to have this back.  
28

29 Bartholomew: So, so like for example on the passengers per revenue hour that would  
30 be something we'd want to probably look at, like even on a route-by-route  
31 basis to get, if we're going to set targets to maybe establish the, the  
32 viability of a route if we really should be, if that's the best investment for  
33 that we run the route.  
34

35 Murphy: Exactly.  
36

37 Herrera: Mr. Chair.  
38

39 Bartholomew: Mr., Ms. Herrera.  
40

41 Herrera: Just a general comment on performance measures. It's really good that  
42 we're looking at this and the 2040 Plan which is now what our long-range  
43 plan is being called was approved by Secretary Church. It went live today.  
44 It has performance target goals in it but it does not have the targets like  
45 Mr. Murphy stated. One thing that we do need to be aware of is when we  
46 are setting targets as a DOT and as an MPO we need to make sure that

1 they're targets that are reachable because a lot of them, especially the  
2 bridges and pavement condition types of things have funding tied to them  
3 and so if we are not able to meet those targets we could potentially be  
4 penalized by FHWA. Of course the final rule-making all hasn't come out  
5 on how that's going to play out but just something to keep in mind when  
6 we actually get more into the numbers part of it, is just we need to be  
7 careful about the numbers that we set. Thanks.  
8

9 Bartholomew: Thank you. Then I'd also comment to that I, I know that we're, the MPO's  
10 helping us get automatic passenger counters in a couple of our buses so  
11 that might in, I, I notice that you list both RoadRUNNER Transit and South  
12 Central Regional Transit District and they probably aren't really going to  
13 have the ability to look at passenger miles yet but that would be kind of an  
14 interesting, because I, I could imagine that their passengers per revenue  
15 hour are going to be lower just because they're going to be serving rural  
16 areas but, but they're going to have a lot of passenger miles being built up  
17 in a system like that.  
18

19 Murphy: The, exactly right Mr. Chair. And then, and then I, I had deleted this off of  
20 one of the long texts on the previous slides but we are allowed to, to do  
21 separate targets for rural versus urban areas and I think the RTD's going  
22 to operate more in rural areas so they would have, they would have  
23 different targets than RoadRUNNER, but as long as each system is, as  
24 Jolene says you know has, has a reachable target that, that, I think that's  
25 a, a, will, it'll help us make some constructive decisions and not jeopardize  
26 any funding.  
27

28 Bartholomew: Thank you. Any other questions? I guess seeing none, thank you Tom.  
29

## 30 **6. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

### 31 **6.1 City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Town of Mesilla, Las Cruces 32 Public Schools, RoadRUNNER Transit, and SCRTPD Project Updates**

33  
34  
35 Bartholomew: Next is the, the Committee and staff comments and the, the first part is  
36 basically to allow the various entities to just update this Committee on any  
37 items of interest that they would like to. I, I don't believe there's a  
38 requirement that, that you have anything but if you have something and  
39 like to share it please do.  
40

41 Grijalva: Mr. Chair.

42  
43 Bartholomew: Mr. Grijalva. Oh, go, go ahead Willie.  
44

45 Roman: Mr. Chair. Yesterday we, yesterday we had a public meeting with the  
46 residences and, and, the residents and the school, the schools for

1 Alameda north of Picacho. And the reason for that meeting was we were  
2 considering a striping change along that road, potentially a three-lane  
3 section, right now it exists as a two-lane section. The consensus at that  
4 meeting was overwhelmingly to leave it as a two-lane section but to add  
5 bike lanes onto the road. A typical section might be maybe 12 to 13 feet  
6 with the bike lanes about five to six feet. Potentially we are considering a  
7 buffer as well. So at this point it looks like we're going to be headed in that  
8 direction. I want to extend my gratitude for the MPO being present which  
9 was a, of, of great help for us. So I just wanted to let you know because  
10 we did ask Tom Murphy to, to have the proposal be sent out to the BPAC  
11 and we did get some responses from them and, and they were also there  
12 at the meeting last night so that was a successful meeting and I wanted  
13 just to let everyone know what the result was and, and offer that gratitude.  
14

15 Bartholomew: Thank you. Any other comments? Mr. Grijalva.

16  
17 Grijalva: Mr. Chairman. Just a quick update on Control Number LC00130 which is  
18 the El Paseo Safety Road project. It's currently under the procurement  
19 process. We should be opening bids next week. If all goes well we  
20 probably should be starting construction within a month.

21 Another update on Control Number LC00190 which is the Las  
22 Cruces Dams Trails project. We got some TAP funding for that. Again  
23 that's another one that's under the procurement process, opening bids  
24 next week and hopefully we should be under construction within a month  
25 after you know all the processes and approvals by NMDOT.  
26

27 Bartholomew: Thank you. Any, any projects at Dona Ana County, anybody from Dona  
28 Ana County here? Okay. Town of Mesilla, any items? Go ahead.  
29

30 Lujan: Mr. Chair. We are having a public information meeting on October 15th at  
31 the Mesilla Community Center from 7:30 to 8:30 for the University study.  
32

33 Bartholomew: Okay. Thank you. How about Las Cruces Public Schools?  
34

35 Gregory: Yes. This is our International Walk to School Day, well really Week.  
36 We're doing stuff today, Friday, next Tuesday, next Wednesday and all of  
37 our elementary schools, so we had 25 elementary schools sign up for it so  
38 they're all participating and all of them are actually participating from a  
39 distance away from the school and walking either to the school or  
40 somewhere in the community. One school was doing something on  
41 campus. So that's actually a pretty good note that every school is doing  
42 something and signed up which is, we've always had a pretty high rate of  
43 participation but that, that is you know almost, that's 100% really of, of  
44 participation of getting a lot of kids walking and staff members  
45 participating.

1 We're continuing to do our education in the elementary schools and  
2 we're actually stepping up to look at more in the middle schools,  
3 specifically a lot of the middle schools have to, either their busing  
4 distances are a little further so we do have a little more students walking  
5 and we, we do have a little bit of issues with teaching them how to cross  
6 the street safely and so we're trying to focus on that and had one of our  
7 champions actually kind of observe the middle schools and give us some  
8 data on the movement there so that we can start doing some education or  
9 even talks, assemblies at those schools. So it's, it'll be a pretty busy week  
10 for us now but it's just staying very active with, with kids biking and walking  
11 to school so this is a busy week for us. Thanks.

12  
13 Bartholomew: Very good. And for RoadRUNNER Transit, but we're still working with  
14 the MPO to bring forward the new Service Plan to, for City Council  
15 adoption of the plan. We're going to have a meeting next week with the  
16 Budget Office because we've estimated that all, although the number of  
17 revenue hours are, are going to be staying the same initially in the plan  
18 there is a cost of converting to the new, new Service Plan and, and we  
19 need to find, work with the City to find budget to, to do that conversion.  
20 And once we get something settled on that then I, then hopefully within a  
21 month we'll be bringing that forward to City Council for, for adoption of the  
22 plan.

23 And as far as support equipment we're continuing to get the, some,  
24 we were really hurting in our Dollar, Dollar Ride fleet. We had a lot of old  
25 vehicles that were having a lot of mechanical problems and, and we've  
26 finally been getting some of those vehicles in and we're pretty happy that a  
27 little more stability now in the Dollar Ride operations.

## 28 29 **6.2 University Ave. Study Corridor Update, Missouri Ave. Study Corridor** 30 **Update, Short Range Transit Plan Update**

31  
32 Bartholomew: Let's see. The next item is the University Avenue Corridor study update  
33 and is this going to be talked about by Andrew? Okay. Yeah. You're on  
34 Andrew.

35  
36 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. As Ms. Lujan referenced we are having the meeting  
37 on October the 15th in Mesilla. I just want to add to what she said. There  
38 are some flyers for that meeting sitting on the, the welcome table back  
39 there so feel free to take some of those.

40 Regarding the Missouri Avenue project we have last month, or was,  
41 yeah last month, it's now October, last month we went around and had  
42 some meetings with various stakeholders and we're in the process of  
43 starting to arrange a public input meeting. We're hoping to have it at the  
44 Farm and Ranch Museum but we don't have a date for that yet. At this  
45 point I would probably have to assume it's probably going to be November  
46 at the earliest. Yeah. Probably be November at the earliest.



1  
2 Bartholomew: And this is for the corridor for, up to Roadrunner Parkway or, or ...

3  
4 Wray: The, the Roadrunner ...

5  
6 Bartholomew: Sonoma Ranch or whatever, yeah.

7  
8 Wray: Yeah. Exactly.

9  
10 Bartholomew: Okay.

11  
12 Wray: The Roadrunner/Sonoma Ranch/Missouri study corridor but yes. But we'll  
13 keep everyone in the loop regarding any meetings and updates regarding  
14 that project.

15  
16 Bartholomew: Okay. And I guess we did a, I did the short-range Transit Plan. I jumped  
17 in ahead of you there. Okay.

### 18 19 **6.3 NMDOT Projects Update**

20  
21 Bartholomew: And then the last discussion items I guess are the NMDOT projects.

22  
23 Chavarria: Our first project is LC00100, I-25 over Missouri. Right now we, mid-  
24 September we switched traffic over to the southbound lanes which are  
25 nearly constructed and we began construction on the northbound lanes of  
26 that bridge. That project is on time. We're hoping maybe it will be done  
27 ahead of schedule towards the end of this year, early next year but it looks  
28 like it's going to be completed on the regular schedule which is 320 days,  
29 equates to approximately 16 months. So we're on schedule with that one.

30  
31 Bartholomew: Could I, could I ask a question on that too? Is Don, Don Roser going to  
32 be, stay closed for a while longer yet or is it going to be open soon?

33  
34 Chavarria: I am not sure. The roadway portion has been completed. There's some  
35 work that's going to happen on that channel that's keeping it closed for  
36 now. I don't know when that's going to happen. They had to do some  
37 redesign on that channel.

38  
39 Bartholomew: Oh. Okay. Thank you. Yeah I, I ask because that, that's a real choke  
40 point for our transit routes cause it's hard getting under the bridge now and  
41 then we were using Don Roser in, in, instead of Triviz and now we can't  
42 use either one really very well.

43  
44 Chavarria: Our next project, 1100830 is I-10 over Union. That project started May  
45 15th. Westbound bridges have been demolished and construction of

1 those two new bridges westbound has begun. It's a 240 working day  
2 project, approximately 12 months. That one seems to be on schedule.

3 Next project, LC100150 is a pavement preservation project on I-10  
4 from mile marker 133 to 146. That's roughly from US 70 interchange to  
5 the I-10/I-25 interchange. That one has a mandatory completion day of  
6 November 2016 and no work has begun on that one.

7 Next project is Control Number 1100620. That one is an I-10 also  
8 and that one goes from mile marker 146 to the Texas line. That project  
9 will be let in December of this year. It's going to be a 120 working day  
10 project, approximately six months. We're potentially looking at a start,  
11 construction start of spring 2016 if things go well with that one.

12 Our final project, LC00160 is our Valley Drive project, NM 188 from  
13 Avenida de Mesilla to Picacho. We're continuing the study phase on that  
14 one, should be wrapping up pretty soon and that one has a letting day of  
15 May 19th 2017 so possibly construction will begin fall of 2017.

16  
17 Bartholomew: Thank you. And, and that's, that stretch that's the one that the DOT's  
18 working with the City on who's going to maintain the road or, is that  
19 correct?

20  
21 Chavarria: Yes.

22  
23 Bartholomew: How about North Main where we, is it, everybody asks me that, well my  
24 staff?

25  
26 Chavarria: North Main, we're still looking at the end of October to be completed. That  
27 finish date has been moving back quite a bit but we're still hoping end of  
28 October is the true, true day for us.

29  
30 Bartholomew: Thank you. Any ...

31  
32 Herrera: Mr. Chair.

33  
34 Bartholomew: Yeah.

35  
36 Herrera: If I can just add to the North Main. Just be aware as you're coming into  
37 town on 70, traffic control is switching to close the, the right lane and the  
38 left lane so as you come down and hit the intersection of Solano just be  
39 aware and be careful because it is switching back and forth between  
40 lanes. Thanks.

41  
42 Bartholomew: Okay. Thank you.

1 **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

2  
3 Bartholomew: And anybody from the, anybody from the public want to talk again, I  
4 guess. There's one member of the public I would, that's okay. You don't  
5 have to talk again.  
6

7 **8. ADJOURNMENT (4:46 p.m.)**

8  
9 Bartholomew: If there's nothing else I guess we can, I can ask for a motion for  
10 adjournment.  
11

12 Herrera: So moved.

13  
14 Grijalva: Second.

15  
16 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor of adjourning please say  
17 "aye."  
18

19 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

20  
21 Bartholomew: Thank you.  
22

23  
24  
25  
26   
Chairperson