

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 November 6,
6 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 700 North Main Street, Las
7 Cruces, New Mexico.

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9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Bartholomew (CLC Transit)
10 Louis Grijalva (CLC Public Works)
11 Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
12 Willie Roman (CLC Traffic)
13 Harold Love (NMDOT)
14 Bill Childress (BLM)
15 Greg Walke (NMSU)
16 Rene Molina (DAC Engineering)

17
18 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Larry Altamirano (LCPS)
19 John Knopp (Town of Mesilla)
20 John Gwynne (DA Flood Commission)
21 Luis Marmolejo (DAC)
22 Jesus Morales (EBID)
23 Jack Valencia (SCRTD)
24 Debbi Lujan (Town of Mesilla)

25
26 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO Staff)
27 Andrew Wray (MPO Staff)
28 Orlando Fierro (MPO Staff)
29 Michael McAdams (MPO Staff)

30
31 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

32
33 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

34
35 Bartholomew: I'm going to go ahead and call the meeting to order. We have a quorum
36 now for the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee meeting of November 6
37 and its 4:08 in the afternoon. I'll start with just with starting off on my right
38 over here and have everybody give their name. Just remind everybody
39 that when they speak if they can also say their name for the record for the
40 minutes being recorded. I'll start with Louis.

41
42 Grijalva: Louis Grijalva, Public Works.

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44 Roman: Willie Roman, Traffic Engineering, City of Las Cruces.

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46 Herrera: Jolene Herrera, NMDOT Planning.

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Love: Harold Love, NMDOT District One.

Walke: Greg Walke, New Mexico State University

Bartholomew: Mike Bartholomew, City of Las Cruces, Roadrunner Transit

Childress: And Bill Childress, Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces District office.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bartholomew: First, thank you everybody. The first item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda itself. Mr. Murphy is there any changes before we do this?

Murphy: No changes.

Bartholomew: No changes. Do I have a motion to approve the agenda?

Walke: So, so moved.

Childress: I'll second it.

Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor please say "Aye".

All Approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 September 4, 2014

Bartholomew: Next is the approval of the minutes from the meeting of September 4th, 2014. Is there anybody have any modifications or corrections for those minutes? Seeing none, do I have motion to approve the minutes?

Grijalva: Approve the minutes, motion to approve the minutes.

Herrera: I second.

Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor of approval of the minutes of September 4th please say "Aye". Opposed?

All Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment

1 Bartholomew: Next is public comment. I really don't see any public out there today so
2 I'll go ahead and move on.

3
4 **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5
6 **5.1 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update**

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8 Bartholomew: Item number five is the Metropolitan Planning or Transportation Plan
9 Update.

10
11 Murphy: Thank you Mr. Chair. I guess first off, is everyone's screen working? I
12 have the screen here, but nothing is showing up over your heads and on
13 this front.

14
15 *(Sidebar discussions about screen displays).*

16
17 Bartholomew: While we're waiting for everybody's screen to come up, we had one more
18 member of the Committee join us. If you could state your name and
19 where you're from?

20
21 Molina: Rene Molina representing Dona Ana County, Engineering.

22
23 Murphy: So if everyone's, everyone's...

24
25 Bartholomew: It looks like we're ready to go here.

26
27 Murphy: Okay. I will, I will proceed then. Okay, as you are aware the MPO staff is
28 in the midst of the update for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan,
29 commonly known as Transport 2040. The update is due this June, or
30 June to July. We need to have a final document approved through the
31 committees and by our Policy Committee to send, to send on up the, up
32 the ladder. So what we're going to do today is kind of give you a, to give
33 you a briefing of what we've done so far and then look for guidance.
34 We're also going to make your December meeting of the TAC as a, as a
35 work session to really kind of, to really dive into the issues that have been
36 identified and ones that you may help us identify.

37
38 Tom Murphy gave a presentation.

39
40 Murphy: That concludes my presentation. I'll open it up for any questions,
41 thoughts, comments. Is there things that, that we need to look at that I did
42 not cover?

43
44 Walke: I, could you talk a little bit more about what you mean by multi-modal plan
45 as opposed to the, the other plan that we had?
46

1 Murphy: As opposed to the Silo? Okay. Previous, previous incarnations of the MT,
2 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan had, had distinct elements for
3 thoroughfare with basically your car, car element, it had a separate bicycle
4 element. None of that will be in, actually any of the papers that we have.
5 And they had distinct policies for each element you know like for say
6 bicycles we had, we had, bicycle facilities need to be provided on, on all
7 new roadway constructions. Well we were seeing that you know people
8 are coming in, people coming in building roadways in the area, they're
9 looking at the thoroughfare section and they had no idea that this policy
10 existed in the, in the bicycle section, so they, they only, people only looked
11 at what they were interested in. So I think by combining it we have, we
12 have all of our policies in one place. So if you want, if you want to build a
13 road and you want to look at and see what the MPO's plan says about
14 that, you're not going to find okay well how do I build for cars and be able
15 to ignore all the rest, you'll have to actively try to ignore some things.
16

17 Walke: Thank you Tom.
18

19 Bartholomew: Any other questions? Ms. Herrera?
20

21 Herrera: Mr. Chair, so what is it that you're looking for from us at this meeting?
22 You just wanted to introduce it so we can start thinking about things for
23 December or?
24

25 Murphy: That, that is the main objective here is to introduce it.
26

27 Herrera: Okay.
28

29 Murphy: Get, get everyone thinking. Come to December's meeting with ideas. If
30 it's something that you don't think's going to need to wait until December,
31 that you will go to sleep and it'll go away, feel free to send us an e-mail.
32

33 Herrera: Okay and have you coordinated some of your, your projections and things
34 with Claude as far as population growth and if you're using a growth factor
35 for your financial stuff, have you coordinated any of that?
36

37 Murphy: They were supposed to get the financial information, I think their
38 consultant was supposed to finalize that November 1st. I have not had
39 that reported back to me yet. As far as the population growth, we both got
40 our numbers from the, from BBER, the Bureau of Business and Economic
41 Research, so I'm assuming that, that we're consistent there.
42

43 Herrera: Okay, thank you and I'll make sure to check with Claude on that financial
44 data. Thank you.
45

1 Bartholomew: Any other comments? And I just, I just, for the record add, as we were
2 discussing prior to the meeting too, you know I'll be happy to work with
3 you to get you some, some of the transit data that needs to be updated to
4 be a little bit more current in there and will be happy to provide whatever
5 information you need for that.
6

7 Murphy: Thank you.
8

9 Herrera: Mr. Chair, sorry I have one more question. The stuff that you bring with
10 you to the December meeting is that going to show updated things, for
11 instance there's like the bike plan and the trail plan and that kind of stuff.
12 Are you going to show what's been constructed on that since the original
13 maps came out, so that we know exactly what it is we're looking at?
14

15 Murphy: I think we have, we have some people working on updating our GIS shape
16 files but yeah the aim is to have everything updated, you know kind of give
17 you the most current information.
18

19 Herrera: Right and do you think that it would be possible for us to have that
20 information a little bit before the meeting so that we can look it over and
21 come to the meeting, it wouldn't have to be a whole lot of advance but
22 even just a few days to look it over would be helpful.
23

24 Murphy: We should probably be able to do that at least when we send the packets
25 out.
26

27 Herrera: Okay, great. Thanks Tom.
28

29 Bartholomew: For the December meeting, when we have the actual work session with
30 it, is it going to be at, like are we going to be sitting down, down around
31 the tables, is it going to be, we need to allot a little bit more time perhaps
32 for?
33

34 Murphy: I don't think we need to allot any additional time. We are trying to get one
35 of the upstairs meeting rooms to kind of have a more, a room that's more
36 conducive to sitting around working rather than having, having everybody
37 up on a dais and speaking down or trying to gather around one of these
38 little tables and drawing a map. So we're working on getting a different
39 room and we'll let you know.
40

41 Bartholomew: Okay and I might just suggest too cause knowing that we're kind of right
42 in the middle of the holiday season with the next one too is just kind of
43 play up the work session a little bit in advance maybe, more than one time
44 just to get a little better attendance at it.
45

46 Murphy: If you don't show up at the work session you don't get to have your input.

1
2 Walke: Is there, can you give us an example of the kind of feedback that you'd
3 like at the December meeting?
4
5 Murphy: I guess, (*Inaudible*) this is specific to, this is with a very specific public
6 comment that I had received. A person ... let me see if I can pull up the
7 thoroughfare map here. It appears to be working exceptionally.
8 Everybody ... Okay. Can everyone see the crosshairs on the, on the
9 map? Is that showing up for you? I can't figure out how to make the hand
10 show up on here, but if you would focus your attention north of the Las
11 Cruces International Airport. And we're showing a proposed extension of
12 Engler Road which carries on across Valley, Valley Road from existing
13 Engler Road, crosses the Rio Grande, goes north of Picacho Hills and
14 then around the airport and ultimately into I-10. That's often referred to as
15 a northwest loop road for, for the region. It's something that in one shape
16 or form is kind of, has been on the MPO plans for probably the last 20
17 years. And I was asked at one of the public meetings, is you know is this
18 roadway being built? And my answer was, well not in the next five years
19 it's not going to be built and you know it's doubtful if we'll, probably
20 doubtful if it's going to be built in the horizon of the plan. So the answer
21 back was, what was the, what was the purpose for having this on line?
22 Well mainly it's about right-of-way preservation which is what most, most
23 of the, most of the dotted lines on our maps mean. Well the answer back
24 was, well if you have no, if you're not going to build it, and you're not sure
25 it's ever going to be built, does it need to be on the map? Couldn't it, if it
26 becomes apparent as a need five years from now, then be put on the
27 map? And I said well, that's one way of doing things and it would, it would
28 certainly take the, take the input of all of our committees as whether we
29 would remove this line from the map. So on kind of input on those types
30 of questions all the other dashed lines on the map, you know things of that
31 nature.
32
33 Childress: I guess also you would like to, to know if the current situation and
34 conditions have changed that would warrant reconsideration for a route to
35 either be constructed or maintained. I guess looking at your example, first
36 thing that comes to mind is it's probably within the new Organ Mountain
37 Desert Peaks National Monument. That blue line I think is just north of the
38 Picacho Hills subdivision?
39
40 Murphy: Yes.
41
42 Childress: And, and probably in very close proximity to Picacho Peak which is part of
43 the new national monument, and other segments may be as well as you
44 move to the west. So we probably ought to look at these maps and see if
45 conditions have changed and provide that as comments. Is that correct?
46

1 Murphy: Absolutely, yes.

2
3 Childress: Okay. Thank you.

4
5 Bartholomew: Mr. Walke were you just about ready, did you have a comment you were
6 going to ... Okay, any other comments at this point in time? It looks like
7 we just need to, to get ready for the work session next month and start
8 thinking about it.

9
10 Murphy: Thank you.

11
12 **6. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

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14 Bartholomew: Are there, we're to Section 6 of the agenda right now. Are there any
15 comments from Committee, Committee members at this point in time?

16
17 Childress: I would just like to make sure that the committee is aware that the Bureau
18 of Land Management is, is working with Dona Ana County and the Federal
19 Highway Administration and looking at a proposal to pave the remaining
20 portions of Dripping Springs Road as it goes up towards our Dripping
21 Springs natural area, and the last couple of miles of Baylor Canyon Road.
22 Those two roads are, are gravel and as the roads get closer to I-70 or I-25
23 they're paved, and so we're working with our County here and the Federal
24 Highway Administration and working through the public process to do
25 NEBA. It has become quite controversial. Just so you're aware, we're
26 having to look at some, a variety of options, but one of the perceptions out
27 there is that this is a route and it's designed to be a bypass from I-25 over
28 to I-70, and that's not the intentions whatsoever. Speed limits won't be
29 conducive to that with low water crossings and such. It won't be
30 conducive for that. But there is that perception out there and we're
31 working through that to resolve that. So committee members if you hear
32 about it, have questions feel free to get a hold of me or the County and
33 we'll try to answer questions that might be out there that your constituents
34 may be concerned about. That's it.

35
36 Bartholomew: Any other comments from the Committee members at this point in time?
37 Just, just for the information of the Committee too, I'm not you know, not
38 part of, or I'm not a representative of South Central Regional Transit
39 District but as you know since the initiative didn't pass, I was, was advised
40 by Mr. Valencia yesterday that the demonstration routes that are currently
41 running will be ceased on the 14th of November, and he's supposed to be
42 issuing an official notice about that this week. So I just wanted to advise
43 folks of that. And that we've, from Roadrunner Transit, we've been getting
44 a lot of concerned comments from our customers because they, they feel
45 it, what's going to happen now to Roadrunner Transit. It, there was a lot
46 of confusion about what Roadrunner Transit was doing and what the

1 SCRTD was trying to do with demonstration routes and we're trying to get
2 the word out to our customers that what we're doing now is, it's outside of,
3 nothing was funded by SCRTD through the demonstration project and our
4 current levels of service are planning on at least continuing them at the
5 current levels. Any other comments from other Committee members, any
6 NMDOT updates?
7

8 Herrera: No, Mr. Chair, unless there are any questions from the Committee
9 members about anything specifically.

10

11 Murphy: I had one. I was in a meeting earlier today with NMSU and they had a
12 question about, or I guess somebody came to them about using some of
13 their property for, for fill and told them that they were the successful bidder
14 on the Missouri bridge project and we weren't, I wasn't sure if that had bid
15 out or been accepted and is that moving forward yet?
16

17 Herrera: Yes, that is the case. We have let the project and I believe that there's
18 been an award made.
19

20 Murphy: Okay. So I can, I can let NMSU know.
21

22 Herrera: Yes.
23

24 Bartholomew: On the North Main project, is everything still pretty much on schedule and
25 everything for how that's going? That's obviously really affecting our
26 services.
27

28 Herrera: Yes and the last that I heard from our construction crew is that everything
29 is on schedule for that. It's just a really long construction timeline because
30 of the type of work, so.
31

32 Bartholomew: Do you know roughly when the phase south of Madrid is going to be
33 mainly completed and they'll be moving to north of Madrid?
34

35 Herrera: I don't have that right in front of me, but I'm sure I can get that information
36 for you and e-mail it to you tomorrow.
37

38 Bartholomew: Okay, thank you.
39

40 Herrera: I'll do that.
41

42 Bartholomew: Any other comments, seeing none, are there any staff comments? Has
43 Mr. McAdams ever been, has he attended one of the TAC meetings yet or
44 been introduced?
45

1 Murphy: Oh, I guess this is his first TAC meeting. To introduce the MPO's new
2 Associate Transportation Planner, Michael McAdams. He's going to
3 concentrate on, on transit issues for us. Do you want to come up here
4 and say hello Mike?
5

6 McAdams: My name is Michael McAdams. I'm very pleased to serve with the
7 Committee. I've been almost here a month and have been sort of
8 baptized by fire into the, in the look at working the Short Range Transit
9 Plan which is now undergoing. And please let me know if I can be of
10 assistance to you, to the Committee any way and I'm very pleased to be
11 here and working for the MPO.
12

13 Bartholomew: Thank you Michael. Any other staff comments at this time Tom? Okay.
14

15 **7. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comments**
16

17 **8. ADJOURNMENT**
18

19 Bartholomew: I would entertain a motion for adjournment.
20

21 Herrera: So moved.
22

23 Love: Second.
24

25 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor of adjourning please say
26 "Aye".
27

28 All approved.
29

30 Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.
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36 Chairperson
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